

Parliamentary Relations
Assembly of First Nations
Spring 2018 Report

Introduction:

The AFN provides timely information to First Nations on the activities of Parliament, including legislative and committee business. To accomplish this, the AFN conducts extensive federal parliamentary monitoring and analysis on matters which have direct impact on First Nations. Priorities in these areas include, but are not limited to, Indigenous language revitalization, the justice system, First Nation veteran's affairs and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples.

The Government passed 71 bills during the 42nd session of Parliament, 14 of which gained royal assent during Spring 2018. The Liberal government has passed some substantial legislation including

- [Bill C-45](#): The Cannabis Act
- [Bill C-70](#): An Act to give effect to the Agreement on Cree Nation Governance between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Canada, to amend the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts

AFN Participation:

During the Spring 2018 session, the Assembly of First Nations monitored the following studies and reports:

House of Commons:

- ACVA (Veterans Affairs):
 - [Needs and Issues Specific to Indigenous Veterans](#)
 - [Barriers to Transition and Measurable Outcomes of Successful Transition](#)
- CHPC (Canadian Heritage):
 - [Indigenous Participation in Sport](#)
 - [The State of Canadian Museums](#)
 - [Cultural Hubs and Cultural Districts in Canada](#)
- CIIT (International Trade):

- [Potential Canada-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement](#)
- ENVI (Environment and Sustainable Development):
 - [Clean Growth and Climate Change in Canada: Built Environment](#)
 - [Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts](#)
 - [Bill C-374, An Act to amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act \(composition of the Board\)](#)
 - [Bill C-57, An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act](#)
- FEWO (Status of Women):
 - [Barriers Facing Women in Politics](#)
 - [Indigenous Women in the Federal Justice and Correctional Systems](#)
 - [Economic Security of Women in Canada:](#)
 - [Effect of Budget 2018 on Women and Girls in Canada](#)
 - [Violence against Young Women and Girls in Canada](#)
- FINA (Finance):
 - [Subject Matter of Bill C-74, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 27, 2018 and other measures](#)
 - [Pre-budget Consultations in advance of the 2019 Budget](#)
- FOPO (Fisheries and Oceans):
 - [The Oceans Act's Marine Protected Areas](#)
 - [Bill C-68, An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence](#)
- HESA (Health):
 - [Diabetes Strategy in Canada and abroad](#)
- HUMA (Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities):
 - [Experiential Learning and Pathways to Employment for Canadian Youth](#)

- INAN (Indigenous and Northern Affairs):
 - [Long-Term Care on Reserve](#)
 - [Fire Safety and Emergency Management in Indigenous Communities](#)
 - [Bill C-262, An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
 - [Subject Matter of the Supplementary Estimates, 2017-2017: Votes 1C and 10C under Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Votes 3C, 7C and 13C Under Department of Indigenous Services Canada](#)
 - [Subject Matter of the Interim Estimates 2018-2019: Vote 1 Under Canadian High Arctic Research Station, Votes 1, 5, 10, L15 and L20 under Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Votes 1, 5 and 10 Under Department of Indigenous Services Canada](#)
 - [Specific Claims and Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements](#)
- JUST (Justice and Human Rights):
 - [Bill C-75, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts](#)
 - [Human Trafficking in Canada](#)
 - [Bill C-375: An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(presentence report\)](#)
- OGGO (Government Operations and Estimates):
 - [Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business](#)
 - [Small and Medium Enterprises and Federal Procurement](#)
- PACP (Public Accounts):
 - [Spring 2018 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada](#)
 - [Oral Health Programs for First Nations and Inuit—Health Canada, of the Fall 2017 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada](#)
 - [Preparing Women Offenders for Release—Correctional Service Canada, of the 2017 Fall Reports of the Auditor General of Canada](#)
- PROC (Procedure and House Affairs):
 - [Use of Indigenous Languages in Proceedings of the House of Commons](#)

- [An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and other Acts and to make certain consequential](#)
- RNNR (Natural Resources):
 - [Current State and Future of National Energy Data](#)
- SECU (Public Safety and National Security):
 - [Indigenous Peoples in the Correctional System](#)
 - [Rural Crime in Canada](#)
 - [Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms](#)
 - [Bill C-59, An Act respecting national security matters](#)
- TRAN (Transport, Infrastructure and Communities):
 - [Bill C-64, An Act respecting wrecks, abandoned, dilapidated or hazardous vessels and salvage operations](#)

Senate:

- APPA (Aboriginal Peoples):
 - [Bill C-70, An Act to give effect to the Agreement on Cree Nation Governance between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Canada, to amend the Cree-Naskapi \(of Quebec\) Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts](#)
 - [The subject matter of Bill C-45, An Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts, insofar as it relates to the Indigenous peoples of Canada](#)
- ARCT (Special Committee on the Arctic):
 - [Consider the significant and rapid changes to the Arctic, and impacts on original inhabitants](#)
- CSSB (Special Committee on the Charitable Sector)
 - [The impact of public policy on charities and non-profit organizations, and of the voluntary sector](#)
- LCJC (Legal and Constitutional Affairs):

- [The subject matter of those elements contained in Parts 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14 of Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act](#)
- SECD (Security and National Defence):
 - [Bill C-211, An Act respecting a federal framework on post-traumatic stress disorder](#)
 - [The subject matter of Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act, insofar as it relates to Canada's borders](#)
- Transport and Communications):
 - [Bill S-245, An Act to declare the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project and related works to be for the general advantage of Canada](#)

Testimony

The AFN provided witness testimony at the following meetings during Spring 2018:

- **February 14, 2018- the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN)** welcomed B.C Regional Chief Terry Teegee to speak on the subject matter of [Bill C-64, An Act respecting wrecks, abandoned, dilapidated or hazardous vessels and salvage operations.](#)
- **March 27, 2018 – the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN)** heard from National Chief Perry Bellegarde on [Bill C-262, An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- **April 26, 2018- the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC)** saw testimony from National Chief Perry Bellegarde, accompanied by Roger Jones, Special Advisor to the National Chief and Miranda Huron, Director of Languages on the [Use of Indigenous Languages in Proceedings of the House of Commons](#)

Written Submissions

The AFN also participated in the session by submitting the following brief:

- [Submission to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security RE: Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms May 31, 2018](#)

Status of Government Bills the AFN is Actively Monitoring:

Note: LEGISinfo, maintained by the Library of Parliament, provides comprehensive information on all legislation.

- **Bill C-55:** An Act to amend the Oceans Act and the Canada Petroleum Resources Act (sponsored by the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard)
 - Status: **First Reading in the Senate (2018-04-26)**
- **Bill C-58:** An Act to amend the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (sponsored by President of the Treasury Board)
 - Status: **Second Reading in the Senate (2018-06-06)**
- **Bill C-64:** An Act respecting wrecks, abandoned, dilapidated or hazardous vessels and salvage operations (sponsored by the Minister of Transport)
 - Status: **Third Reading in the House of Commons (2018-06-20)**
- **Bill C-68:** An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence (sponsored by the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard)
 - Status: **Introduction and First Reading in the Senate (2018-06-20)**
- **Bill C-69:** An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (sponsored by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change)
 - Status: **Introduction and First Reading in the Senate (2018-06-20)**
- **Bill C-71:** An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms (sponsored by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness)
 - Status: **Concurrence at Report Stage in the House of Commons (2018-06-20)**
- **Bill C-75:** An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (sponsored by the Minister of Justice)
 - Status: **Second Reading and Referral to Committee in the House of Commons (2018-06-11)**
- **Bill C-76:** An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and other Acts and to make certain consequential amendments Minister of Democratic Institutions
 - Status: **Second Reading and Referral to Committee in the House of Commons (2018-05-23)**
- **Bill S-212:** An Act for the advancement of the aboriginal languages of Canada and to recognize and respect aboriginal language rights (sponsored by Senator Serge Joyal, Liberal)
 - Status: **Second Reading in the Senate (2016-12-01)**

- **Bill S-245:** An Act to declare the Trans Mountain Pipeline Project and related works to be for the general advantage of Canada (sponsored by Senator Douglas John Black)
 - Status: First Reading in the House of Commons (2018-05-24)

- **Bill C-262:** An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (sponsored by Romeo Saganash, NDP)
 - Status: **Introduction and First Reading in the Senate (2018-05-31)**

- **Bill C-369:** An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act and the Canada Labour Code (National Indigenous People Day) (sponsored by Georgina Jolibois, NDP)
 - Status: Introduction and First Reading in the House of Commons (2017-10-16)

- **Bill C-375:** An Act to amend the Criminal Code (presentence report) (sponsored by MP Majid Jowhari, Liberal)
 - Status: Committee Reporting the Bill with an Amendment in the House of Commons (2018-05-10)

- **Bill C-391:** An Act respecting a national strategy for the repatriation of Aboriginal cultural property (sponsored by MP Bill Casey, Liberal)
 - Status: Second Reading and Referral to Committee in the House of Commons (2018-06-06)