

Parliamentary Relations – Spring 2020 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 introduced 82 bills during the 43rd Parliament's 1st session, 11 of which gained Royal Assent. The following is a table of bills the AFN will continue to monitor the legislative progress on; click the Title of the bill to be directed to the text of the legislation.

Number	Title	Sponsor	Last Stage Completed
C-4	An Act to implement the Agreement between Canada, the United States of America and the United Mexican States	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Chrystia Freeland	Royal Assent
C-5	An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Criminal Code	Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, David Lametti	Second Reading; In Committee
C-6	An Act to amend the Citizenship Act (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 94)	Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, David Lametti	First Reading
C-13	An Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19	Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau	Royal Assent
C-14	A second Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19	Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau	Royal Assent
C-15	An Act respecting Canada emergency student benefits (coronavirus disease 2019)	Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough	Royal Assent
C-17	An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures	Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough	First Reading
C-20	An Act respecting further COVID-19 measures	Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau	Third Reading
C-201	An Act to develop a national school food program for children	Don Davies – NDP	First Reading
C-207	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (presentence report)	Majid Jowhari – Liberal	First Reading
C-213	An Act to enact the Canada Pharmacare Act	Peter Julian – NDP	First Reading
C-215	An Act respecting Canada's fulfillment of its greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations	Kristina Michaud – Bloc Québécois	First Reading
C-230	An Act respecting the development of a national strategy to redress environmental racism	Lenore Zann – Liberal	First Reading
C-232	An Act respecting a Climate Emergency Action Framework	Leah Gazan – NDP	First Reading
C-237	An Act to establish a national framework for diabetes	Sonia Sidhu – Liberal	First Reading
C-240	An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (voting age)	Don Davies – NDP	First Reading
S-208	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (independence of the judiciary)	Senator Kim Pate	First Reading
S-212	An Act to establish International Mother Language Day	Senator Mobina S.B. Jaffer	First Reading
S-214	An Act to amend the Criminal Records Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to repeal a regulation	Senator Kim Pate	First Reading
S-217	An Act to establish the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Youth in Canada	Senator Rosemary Moodie	First Reading

AFN Participation:

During the Fall 2019-Spring 2020 sitting, the Assembly of First Nations appeared as witness in the following committee meetings:

House of Commons:

- CIIT (International Trade)

CIIT Meeting No. 7: On February 20, 2020, the House Standing Committee on International Trade conducted a meeting on Bill C-4, An Act to implement the Agreement between Canada, the United States of America and the United Mexican States. This included testimony by AFN Representative, Judy Whiteduck. 12:05:45 is the time Mrs. Whiteduck's presentation begins.

- FINA (Finance)

FINA Meeting No. 3: On February 4, 2020, the House Standing Committee on Finance met from 11:03AM-1:55PM in Room 025-B, West Block to conduct a meeting on Pre-Budget Consultations 2020. This included testimony by AFNQL Regional Chief, Ghislaine Picard. 12:54:10 is the time Chief Picard's presentation begins.

FINA Meeting No. 5: On February 5, 2020, the House Standing Committee on Finance met from 3:39PM-9:08PM in room 025-B, West Block to conduct a meeting on Pre-Budget Consultations 2020. This included testimony by AFN Representative, Dan Wilson. 15:51:25 is the time Mr. Wilson's presentation begins.

FINA Meeting No. 17: On April 8, 2020, the House Standing Committee on Finance met from 2:13 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 035-B, West Block to discuss the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde, AFNQL Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, and National Chief of the Dene Nation Norman Yakelaya appeared as witnesses. National Chief begins his presentation at 14:14.

- INAN (Indigenous and Northern Affairs)

INAN Meeting No. 7: On May 8, 2020 the House Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) met at 2:00PM to discuss the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde appeared as a witness. National Chief begins speaking at 14:09.

INAN Meeting No. 10: On May 22, 2020 the House Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) will meet from 2:00PM to 4:00PM to discuss the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. AFN Regional Chief Ghislain Picard will appear as witnesses along with representatives from the First Nations Housing Authority.

INAN Meeting No. 16: On June 12, 2020 the House Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) met from 11:03AM to 1:00PM via videoconference to discuss the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. AFN Regional Chief for Alberta, Marlene Poitras, appeared as witness. Regional Chief Poitras begins speaking at 11:07:27.

- SECU (Public Safety and National Security)

SECU Meeting No. 8: On July 23, 2020 the House Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) met from 11:05AM-13:31PM to discuss Systemic Racism in Policing Services in Canada. AFN Regional Chief for British Columbia, Terry Teegee, appeared as witness. Regional Chief Teegee starts speaking at 11:10:37.

SECU Meeting No. 9: On July 23, 2020 the House Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) met from 2:05PM-4:00PM to discuss Systemic Racism in Policing Services in Canada. AFN Regional Chief for Quebec and Labrador, Ghislaine Picard, appeared as witness and began speaking at 14:03:50.

Other committees the AFN Research and Policy Coordination Sector closely monitors are:

- ENVI (Environment and Sustainable Development)
- FOPO (Fisheries and Oceans)
- HESA (Health)
- CHPC (Canadian Heritage)
- RNNR (Natural Resources)
- JUST (Justice and Human Rights)
- APPA (Senate – Aboriginal Peoples)
- AGFO (Senate – Agriculture and Forestry)
- OLLO (Senate – Officials Languages)
- POFO (Senate – Fisheries and Oceans)
- RIDR (Senate – Human Rights)
- ENEV (Senate – Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources)