



The Assembly of First Nations is pleased to present

# AFN COVID-19 VIRTUAL FORUM 2021

*Sharing Lessons Learned and Supporting  
a New Path Forward*

September 16, 21 and 23, 2021 11:00am – 3:00pm ET

## FORUM AGENDA

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is hosting this virtual gathering as an opportunity to share and celebrate community resilience, lessons learned and on-going challenges, as well as to talk about what is needed to build a new path forward for First Nations. The goals of the Gathering are: to share community-led responses to the pandemic; to highlight the strengths of partnerships; to identify opportunities for working with and supporting populations who were most impacted by the pandemic; to talk about what 'building back better' means for First Nations; and, to hear from Indigenous Services Canada on their pandemic response and recovery work.

DAY 1 – September 16, 2021	
Time	Activity
10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Participant Log in
10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	AFN Youth Council COVID-19 Video
11:00 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Land Acknowledgment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Cedric Gray Lahoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	<b>Opening Prayer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</li> </ul>
11:10 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	<b>Welcome from the Forum Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
	<b>National Chief's Welcome Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Chief RoseAnne Archibald</li> </ul>
	<b>AFN COVID-19 National Task Force Co-Chair Message</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Chief Marlene Poitras (AB)</li> </ul>
	<b>Overview of Forum Program/Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
11:35 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Building on Culture and Community:</b> <i>Sharing community and regional responses to the pandemic, emphasizing lessons learned and innovative responses</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. JC Catholique, Lutsel Ke Dene First Nation</li> <li>Ms. Kelly Holley, Unima'ki Program, Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq</li> <li>Mr. Jean-Claude Therrien Pinette, COVID-19 Strategic Task Force for Innu Nation communities in Quebec</li> </ul> <i>Live Chat Q&amp;A period</i>
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Break



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DAY 1 – September 16, 2021	
Time	Activity
1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	<b>Strengths in Partnerships:</b> <i>Sharing regional responses to the pandemic, with an emphasis on how relationships with Provinces, Territories, health authorities and support organizations were part of the response strategy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Carmen Jones, Chiefs of Ontario</li> <li>• Ms. Jocelyne Formsmma, National Association of Friendship Centres</li> <li>• Dr. Marcia Anderson, University of Manitoba</li> <li>• Dr. Shannon McDonald, First Nations Health Authority</li> </ul> <i>Live Chat Q&amp;A</i>
2:20 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	<b>Indigenous Services Canada’s Pandemic Response and Lessons Learned</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Valerie Gideon, Associate Deputy Minister at Indigenous Services Canada</li> </ul>
2:50 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.	<b>Summary Recap of the Day/Overview of Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Prayer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</li> </ul>
3:00 p.m.	End of Day 1

DAY 2: September 21, 2021	
Time	Activity
10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Participant Log in
10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	AFN Women’s Council COVID-19 Video
11:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Land Acknowledgment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Cedric Gray Lahoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	<b>Opening Prayer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</li> </ul>
11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Key Themes of Day 1/Overview of Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	<b>COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sarah Minwanimad Funnell, Ottawa Public Health and Queen’s University</li> </ul> <i>Live Chat Q and A</i>
Time	Activity



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DAY 2: September 21, 2021	
11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p><b>Building on Innovation</b> <i>Recognizing Opportunities: Identifying innovations, opportunities for working with and supporting populations who were most impacted by the pandemic</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>COVID-19 Communications: Protect our Elders and Your Health, Our Strength</b> - Chief Tony Alexis, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation</li> <li><b>Youth, COVID-19 and Mental Health</b> - Ms. Autumn Larose-Smith, We Matter</li> <li><b>Supporting Homeless First Nations during COVID-19</b> - Nakuset, Executive Director, The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal</li> <li><b>COVID-19 response:</b> Carey O'Soup, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations</li> <li><b>Considerations For First Nations Living With Disabilities During The Pandemic</b> – Mr. Ryan Mckay, Eagle Urban Transition Centre, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs</li> </ol>
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition to Concurrent Workshops</b>
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	<p><b>Concurrent Workshops</b> <i>Participant discussion: what successes have you seen? What gaps? What did you learn?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>COVID-19 Communications: Protect our Elders and Your Health, Our Strength</b> - Chief Tony Alexis, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Moderated by Dr. Margo Greenwood, Academic Lead, National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health</li> <li><b>Youth, COVID-19 and Mental Health</b> - Ms. Autumn Larose-Smith, We Matter</li> <li><b>Supporting Homeless First Nations during COVID-19</b> - Nakuset, Executive Director, The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal</li> <li><b>COVID-19 response:</b> Carey O'Soup, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations</li> <li><b>Considerations For First Nations Living With Disabilities During The Pandemic</b> – Mr. Ryan Mckay, Eagle Urban Transition Centre, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Ms. Marie Frawley-Henry, Assembly of First Nations</li> </ol>
2:15 p.m.- 2:25 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition to Plenary</b>
2:25 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	<b>Report back from Concurrent Workshops</b>
2:50 p.m. – 2:55p.m.	<p><b>Summary Recap of the Day/Overview of Day 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</li> </ul>
2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</li> </ul>
3:00 p.m.	<b>End of Day 2</b>



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DAY 3: September 23, 2021	
Time	Activity
10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Participant Log in
10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	AFN Knowledge Keepers Council COVID-19 Video
11:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Land Acknowledgment</b> • <i>Mr. Cedric Gray Lahoux, Forum Chair</i>
11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	<b>Opening Prayer</b> • <i>Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</i>
11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Key Themes of Day 1 and Day 2/Overview of Day 3</b> • <i>Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</i>
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>National Chief's Remarks</b> • <i>National Chief RoseAnne Archibald</i>
11:30a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Transforming the Future:</b> <i>Discussing what 'building back better' means for First Nations and what is needed for a new path forward</i> 1. <b>Role of Data Governance</b> – Dr. Jonathan Dewar, First Nations Information Governance Centre 2. <b>Mental Wellness: Culture as Foundation</b> – Dr. Carol Hopkins, Thunderbird Foundation and Dr. Brenda Restoule, First Peoples Wellness Circle 3. <b>Emergency Management Transformation</b> – Mr. Stacey Doore, Siksika First Nation 4. <b>Economic Recovery</b> - Ms. Tabatha Bull, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition to Concurrent Workshops</b>
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshops</b> <i>Participant discussion: Share your recommendations for what is needed for recovery and a new path forward</i> 1. <b>Role of Data Governance</b> – Dr. Jonathan Dewar, First Nations Information Governance Centre 2. <b>Mental Wellness: Culture as Foundation</b> – Dr. Carol Hopkins, Thunderbird Foundation and Dr. Brenda Restoule, First Peoples Wellness Circle 3. <b>Emergency Management Transformation</b> – Mr. Stacey Doore, Siksika First Nation 4. <b>Economic Recovery</b> - Ms. Tabatha Bull, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
2:00 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition to Plenary</b>
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Report back from Concurrent Workshops</b>
2:45 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.	<b>Forum Wrap Up</b> • <i>Mr. Cedric Gray Lehoux, Forum Chair</i>
2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Prayer</b> • <i>Knowledge Keeper Ed Sackaney, AFN Knowledge Keepers Council</i>
3:00 p.m.	<b>Forum Adjourned</b>