



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

**Submission to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of Budget 2025**

Submitted July 31, 2024

Required Investments Summary – Budget 2025

Program	Over 5 Years (\$ millions)
Additions to Reserve	\$81
Specific Claims	\$175
Land Rights and Jurisdiction	\$119
Freshwater Stewardship	\$275
Marine Stewardship	\$322
Revitalizing First Nations Languages	\$3,907
First Nations-led Coordination on UNDA Implementation	\$815
The New Fiscal Relationship	\$10,077
MMIWG Calls to Justice	\$539
Policing	\$3,000
Justice Reform and Reclamation	\$1,400
Emergency Management Assistance Program	\$626
Climate Action	\$1,250
Conservation and Biodiversity	\$2,000
Sustainable Fisheries and Environmental Health	\$994
Mental Wellness	\$3,952
Community-Based and Traditional Care and Human Resources	\$261
Closing the First Nations Infrastructure Gap	
Education	\$5,250
Community Infrastructure	\$59,510 ^(*)
All-Season Roads	\$35,500 ^(*)
Drinking Water Advisories	\$670 ^(*)
Housing	\$135,120 ^(*)
Accessibility Retrofits	\$1,590 ^(*)
Connectivity	\$5,200 ^(*)
K-12	\$10,783
Post-Secondary	\$10,696
Jordan's Principle Post-Majority Supports	\$2,469
Ending Homelessness	\$3,900
Program Integrity	\$2,992
TOTAL	\$362,855

^(*) 7-year figures, as per co-developed research quantifying the investments required to Close the Infrastructure Gap by 2030.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern.

Canada is grappling with crises in housing, labour force productivity and participation, climate change and wildfires, strained health systems, surging public debts, and debt service costs. These crises mirror those experienced by First Nations due to underfunding, neglect, and failed legal obligations.

First Nations have long called for redress on the housing crises in their communities. They have called for access to education, skills training, and digital connectivity infrastructure to participate in the modern, global economy. They have called for all-season roads to access to the physical economy, affordable goods, construction materials, and support for emergency management and public safety.

First Nations have sought safe drinking water, the return of lands, and the right to care for their children. Canada's failure to meet these needs resulted in accelerating legal proceeding and settlement costs. Litigation is the worst-case scenario. It exudes broken promises and blatant human, Inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional rights violations.

The Federal Budget must reflect true Economic Reconciliation.

Economic Reconciliation is not achieved by simply including First Nations in procurement strategies and revenue-sharing agreements. It must be rooted in respect for First Nations' jurisdiction over their lands, territories, and resources and seek to address policies that continue to legitimize an economic system built on the structural dispossession of First Nations from their lands and waters.

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) committed Canada to take "necessary steps" and "effective measures" to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration. These include, at minimum, immediate dedicated investments for implementing UNDA Action Plan Measures (APMs).

Partnership and decisive investment is needed to close the socioeconomic and infrastructure gaps between First Nations and Canada so that everyone may prosper.

➤ Additions to Reserve (ATR)

Creating new reserve lands to meet economic and growing population needs.

ATR Program Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renew Budget 2021 funding envelope for ATR implementation and expand capacity building. Extended to five years and adjusted for inflation. 	ISC	\$67
ATR Policy Re-Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renew Budget 2021 funding, extended to five years and enhanced to account for substantial engagement needs and inflation. 	CIRNAC	\$14

➤ Specific Claims

Investments to support the resolution of specific claims, and joint legislative and policy reform, including to establish an Independent Centre for the Resolution of Specifics Claims.

Claims Research and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renewal and needs-based enhancement of 2023 Fall Economic Statement funding for specific claims research and development, extended to five years. 	CIRNAC	\$150
Policy Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New funding for policy reform including transitioning control to the Independent Centre. 		\$25

➤ Land Rights and Jurisdiction

Investments for spaces to advance Nation-to-Nation discussions on land rights and self-determination.

Rights-Based Negotiations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$20 million/year over 5 years to enhance and extend Budget 2024 funding to ensure First Nations can access discussions. 	CIRNAC	\$100
APM 23 & 24 Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New funding to develop Comprehensive Land Claim and Right to Self-Government policy replacements. 		\$19

➤ Freshwater Stewardship

Strengthen First Nations-led water stewardship, including research and monitoring, and engagement on freshwater legislation, policies, and programs.

Community-Based Monitoring Stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New and extended funding to support freshwater stewardship through First Nations-led collaborative programs, including water quality research and monitoring for industrial impacts, data strategy development, capacity building, and related emergency management and early-detection programs. 	DFO, ECCC	\$225
Canada Water Agency (CWA)	ECCC	\$50

➤ Supplementary to Budget 2023 funding for engagement, co-development and gender-based analysis on CWA-related legislation, policies, and programs.		
---	--	--

➤ **Marine Stewardship**

Advance First Nations-led marine conservation and engagement in Crown-led conservation initiatives, advancing their commitment to protecting all forms of biodiversity.

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) Fund ➤ New funds to support First Nations marine conservation programs through a dedicated marine-related IPCA establishment fund and a capacity-building program.	DFO, PCA, ECCC	\$250 Itemized: \$200 (DFO) \$40 (PCA) \$10 (ECCC)
Marine Protected Areas (MPA) ➤ Additional funds for First Nations' meaningful participation in ongoing and future MPA processes, including to co-develop collaborative governance approaches and legal mechanisms.	DFO, PCA	\$72 Itemized: \$40 (DFO) \$32 (PCA)

➤ **Revitalizing First Nations Languages**

Investments to fully implement the *Indigenous Languages Act* and to reverse language decline outside of schools.

Language and Culture Programs ➤ <i>Indigenous Languages Act</i> Section 8 and 9 agreements, Indigenous Languages Component proposals, and a shift to ongoing programmatic funding.	PCH	\$3,800
International Decade on Indigenous Languages Activities	PCH, GAC	\$107

➤ **First Nations-led Coordination on UNDA Implementation**

Funding full participation in UNDA implementation oversight mechanisms, and targeted APM implementation activities.

Indigenous Partnership Fund ➤ Renew and expand funds to provide grants of \$250,000/year to each First Nation.	JC	\$793
Capacity Building ➤ Funding First Nations' regional representative organizations capacity building.		\$22

➤ **The New Fiscal Relationship**

Enhanced funding to resume First Nations jurisdiction of services for citizens. Governance funding has not risen more than 2% in any year since 1997.

Band Support Funding	ISC	\$6,996
Band Employee Benefits		\$1,456

Professional and Institutional Development		\$1,014
Tribal Council Funding		\$611

➤ **MMIWG Calls to Justice**

Investments to improve safety, security, and to provide culturally appropriate healing.

First Nations-led Implementation of the Calls for Justice ➤ Investments to support tri-lateral agreements and coordination between First Nations, Canada, and provincial and territorial governments to address jurisdictional barriers.	CIRNAC	\$539
--	--------	-------

➤ **Policing**

First Nations Policing Program ➤ Enhancement for: ❖ Establishing new forces ❖ Existing forces to achieve equity with federal services ❖ Wrap-around and culturally reflective services ❖ Gradual transition to legislation that recognizes First Nations jurisdiction, policing as an essential service, and equitable funding.	PS	\$3,000
---	----	---------

➤ **Justice Reform and Reclamation**

National First Nations Justice Strategy ➤ New investments to support the federal mandate to develop and implement an Indigenous Justice Strategy: ❖ \$750 million for revitalizing First Nations laws and legal systems ❖ \$650 million for parallel reform of Canada's legal system and legislation.	JC	\$1,400
---	----	---------

➤ **Emergency Management Assistance Program**

Foundational Community Capacity Investment ➤ Salary for community emergency management coordinators for the 379 First Nations without fully funded positions.	ISC	\$226
Emergency Management Climate Adaptation Priorities ➤ Improved mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities as identified in the AFN National Climate Strategy .		\$400

➤ **Climate Action**

Supporting transformative climate action through implementation of the AFN *National Climate Strategy*.

First Nations Climate and Emergency Coordinator Network ➤ Salaries for community-based (634) and regional (10) coordinators.	ECCC	\$640
Documenting Impacts, Adaptation, and Planning Solutions ➤ Includes emergency management and pandemic planning.		\$500

First Nations Climate Institute		\$15
Strategic Partnerships Initiative for Clean Energy		\$95

➤ **Conservation and Biodiversity**

Dedicated funding for First Nations-led conservation to act on key Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan themes:

Reducing Threat to Biodiversity	ECCC	\$950
Sustainable Use and Benefit Sharing		\$600
Tools for Implementing and Mainstreaming		\$450

➤ **Sustainable Fisheries and Environmental Health**

Enhancing access to nutritious and traditional foods, and sustainable food systems.

First Nations Food Security Initiatives ➤ Enhancement to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund to ensure a minimum \$200,000/community	AAFC	\$634
First Nations Atlantic Salmon Recovery Fund ➤ New fund to protect wild Atlantic Salmon (APM 37).	CIRNAC	\$240
Inland First Nations Fisheries Framework ➤ Transform the Freshwater Fisheries Marketing Corporation to an entity led by First Nations fish harvesters.	DFO	\$68
Katiyik/Katew Glass Eel Research and Recovery Strategy ➤ New fund modeled on the Indigenous Habitat Protection Program (2019) for co-management of Katiyik glass elvers and supporting sustainable rights-based fisheries.	DFO	\$52

➤ **Mental Wellness**

Increase access to holistic, culture-based, and intergenerational trauma-informed interventions.

National Indigenous Healing Organization ➤ \$838 million (over five years) enhancement to current programming to establish an organization for existing mental wellness workforces including: ❖ Mental Wellness Teams ❖ National coordinator for implementing the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework ❖ Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program ❖ National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program	ISC	\$3,952
---	-----	---------

➤ **Community-Based and Traditional Care and Human Resources**

Enhancing the First Nations health workforce will bring accessible care closer to home.

Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative	ISC	\$125
---	-----	-------

➤ Needs-based enhancement to meet recruitment and retention needs.		
Midwifery ➤ New funding for program development and training, to reduce the need of flying out of community for care.		\$20
Anti-Racism in Health Care Ombudsman ➤ Establish regional offices modeled on the Saskatchewan First Nations Health Ombudsperson's Office.		\$64
Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Allied Health Services ➤ Three-phased investment to research, implement, and expand NIHB coverage of traditional healing and allied health services for First Nations.		\$52

➤ Closing the First Nations Infrastructure Gap

Education ➤ Capital investments to build, replace, repair, expand First Nations schools and teacherages, and eliminate overcrowding.	ISC	\$5,250(*)
Community Infrastructure ➤ Meet basic community infrastructure needs, including buildings, ports and wharfs, transportation infrastructure, and utilities.		\$59,510(*)
All-Season Roads ➤ Replace Canada's winter road network with all-season alternatives built to a gravel road standard.		\$35,500(*)
Eliminate Drinking Water Advisories ➤ Investment across the drinking water supply chain, including source waters, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution.		\$670(*)
Housing ➤ Address overcrowding, unit replacement, new lot servicing, repair needs, and on-reserve migration.		\$135,120
Accessibility Retrofits ➤ Meet <i>Accessible Canada Act</i> requirements.		\$1,590(*)

➤ Connectivity

Ensuring First Nations meet the standards outlined in Canada's *Federal Connectivity Strategy, High-speed Access for All*.

Connectivity Infrastructure Capital Funding	ISED	\$5,200(*)
--	------	------------

➤ K-12 Education

Concluding Regional Education Agreements ➤ To address actual costs above ISC funding.	ISC	\$4,600
Education Partnerships Program ➤ To address the \$11 million/year of unfunded eligible activities.		\$55
COVID-19 Learning Recovery ➤ Two-year funding for overdue tutoring intervention positions.		\$75
O & M Funding for Schools and Teacherages ➤ \$2.55 billion for schools, \$483 million for teacherages.		\$3,033

Education Transportation		\$1,070
Language Revitalization in K-12 Programming		\$1,950

➤ **Post-Secondary Education (PSE)**

Post-Secondary Student Support Program ➤ Additional \$22,234/student to meet actual costs, and \$34,234 for those who are qualified for PSE but currently unfunded.	ISC	\$8,870
Institutions and Community-Based Programming ➤ Additional \$29,959/student for institutional sustainability.		\$1,030
Negotiating and Implementing First Nations PSE Models ➤ For First Nations-led local, regional and Treaty-based models.		\$796

➤ **Jordan's Principle Post-Majority Supports**

Investments for First Nations youth to thrive through their transition into adulthood.

Extend Eligibility to Ages 18-26	ISC	\$2,469
---	-----	---------

➤ **Ending Homelessness**

First Nations-led Approaches to Addressing Homelessness ➤ Enhanced distinctions-based stream under <i>Reaching Home</i> ; funds flowed through HICC to First Nations' regional delivery organizations.	HICC	\$3,900
--	------	---------

➤ **Program Integrity**

Renew and enhance programs to ensure adequacy, adjustment for population growth, and inflation.

Early Learning and Child Care "Legacy" Programs ➤ Overdue top-ups for: ❖ Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve, Urban, and Northern Communities ❖ First Nations and Child Care Initiative.	ISC	\$100
Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples ➤ Extending Budget 2024's \$30 million/year to five years.		\$256
Assisted Living Program ➤ Program integrity funds while reform is underway.		\$326
Income Assistance ➤ Ongoing inflation relief benefits for First Nations clients.		\$2,310