



Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

December 3-5, 2024 • Rogers Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Dialogue Session

First Nations' Border Mobility Rights

Monday, December 2, 2024 • 10:30AM – 12:00 PM • Room 201, Rogers Centre

Session Description:

This dialogue session examines First Nations border mobility rights, looking at recent efforts by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to address some of the complex challenges surrounding border mobility for First Nations peoples. It will also provide an update on current AFN advocacy and technical work to support First Nations border mobility rights, including a draft resolution mandate being considered by First Nations-in-Assembly.

Article 36 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples articulates the minimum standards under international law for First Nations cross-border mobility rights. The Jay Treaty further recognizes First Nations mobility rights. Despite this, there remain a range of complex challenges surrounding border mobility for First Nations peoples.

First Nations leadership and technicians are invited to attend this Session and provide feedback on the federal approach to border mobility, sharing their experiences on border rights, ID challenges, and the impact of existing border policies.

SPEAKERS LIST:

- Knowledge Keeper Charles Hume
- Regional Chief Abram Benedict, ON
- Natasha Beedie, Director of Rights and Governance, AFN
- William Barquin, Kootenai Tribe, US
- Cynthia Pye, Acting Director, Indigenous Affairs Secretariat, Canada Border Services Agency
- Karen Clarke, Assistant Director, Indigenous Border Crossing Division, Intergovernmental Relations and Engagement, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
10:30 AM	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Charles Hume
10:35 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Regional Chief Abram Benedict
10:40 AM	AFN Update on Border Mobility A summary of Border Mobility challenges, recent AFN advocacy efforts	Natasha Beedie
10:50 AM	Jay Treaty Border Alliance Overview	William Barquin Regional Chief Abram Benedict
11:05 AM	Proposed and Interim Measures on Indigenous Border Mobility (IRCC Presentation)	Cynthia Pye Karen Clarke
11:20 AM	Draft AFN Resolution Mandate Review of AFN mandates on border mobility DR 11 Support for the Advancement of First Nations Self-Determined Solutions at the Canada – United States Border	Natasha Beedie
11:30 AM	Questions/ Discussions	Natasha Beedie
12:00 PM	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Charles Hume