



Assembly of First Nations

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DIALOGUE SESSIONS



Additions to Reserve (ATR) Redesign: Advancing First Nations Priorities Policy

Policy Reform One Pager: Indigenous Services Canada Barriers

To start the discussion, here is a list of considerations that Assembly of First Nations (AFN) technicians have generated following interviews with Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) Regional Representatives, Crown-Indigenous Relations (CIR) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

In full coordination with First Nations, the Government of Canada could take steps to:

1. Create Guidelines to inform land selection including advance notice from Public Services and Procurement Canada when federal land inventory becomes available.
2. Formalize systems to plan, prepare and budget the actual costs of completing an ATR in full coordination with First Nations and across all necessary federal departments.
3. Formalize early engagement to understand First Nations priorities, capacities and needs to inform ISC and CIR annual budgeting processes and inform next steps.
4. Organize and carry out skills and capacity based learning workshops on a regular basis.
5. Jointly design the early communication plan for engagement with the provinces for the purposes of informing the timeliness of parcel title searches and the identification of registered third party interests.
6. Clarify applicable environmental standards to be met, standards of remediation, terms of indemnity, and ways to integrate First Nations with environmental land codes.
7. Identify and address all legislative and policy gaps concerning subsurface interests including the limitations of the 1951 Mining Act and Regulations and the lack of federal surface rights legislation. Formally establish a subsurface roundtable across all regions to address systemic challenges.
8. Sequence the negotiation of a municipal service agreement to meet the needs of the First Nation. Formalize the principle that a municipality has no veto.
9. Publicly clarify the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate to provide clear statements of scope, priority, and outcome with First Nations.
10. Clarify existing policy considerations that have been eliminated or revised.