

Organization's Name	Assembly of First Nations (AFN)
Vision	Historically the First Nations have a unique and special relationship with the Crown and the people of Canada, as manifested in treaties and other historical documents. In essence, the special relationship is one of (negotiated agreement with a view toward) peaceful coexistence based on equitable sharing of lands and resources, and ultimately on respect, recognition, and enforcement of our respective right to govern ourselves. The AFN exists to promote the "restoration and enhancement" of this relationship and to ensure that it is mutually beneficial to the First Nations people. The Assembly of First Nations is a national aboriginal lobby organization.
Mission	The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national representative organization of the First Nations in Canada. There are over 630 First Nation's communities in Canada. The AFN Secretariat, is designed to present the views of the various First Nations through their leaders in areas such as: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Economic Development, Education, Languages and Literacy, Health, Housing, Social Development, Justice, Taxation, Land Claims, Environment, and a whole array of issues that are of common concern which arise from time to time.
Mandate	<p>The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. The AFN represents all citizens regardless of age, gender or place of residence.</p> <p>Excerpts from AFN's Charter:</p> <p>To protect our succeeding generations from colonialism;</p> <p>To reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of our First Nations large and small;</p> <p>To establish conditions under which justice and respect for</p>

the obligations arising from our international treaties and from international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life among our peoples,

AND FOR THESE ENDS,

To respect our diversity,

To practise tolerance and work together as good neighbours,

To unite our strength to maintain our security, and

To employ national and international machinery for the promotion of the political, economic and social advancement of our peoples,

SO, WE HAVE RESOLVED TO CONFINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH COMMON AIMS.

ROLE AND FUNCTION ARTICLE 3

The role and function of the Assembly of First Nations is:

- a) To be a national delegated forum for determining and harmonising effective collective and co-operative measures on any subject matters which the First Nations delegate for review, study, response or action.
- b) To be a national delegated forum of First Nations which, by virtue of their sovereignty, are the sole legitimate source for what it is, does or may become in the future.
- c) To be a national delegated forum for the purpose of advancing the aspirations of First Nations and to remain subordinate in strength power and resources to the First Nations jurisdiction for which it is established to serve.
- d) To perform and adhere strictly, as a sacred trust and duty, to the nature, scope and extent of the delegation granted from time to time by First Nations.
- e) To seek, utilize and distribute resources for the greater benefit of all First Nations in endeavours that are truly in form and substance national or international in nature and

scope and for which delegation has been granted by First Nations.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS
ARTICLE 7

1. The First Nations-in-Assembly is a forum for First Nations to conduct nation-to-nation discussions, consultations and deliberations and to collaborate on any matter within the jurisdiction of First Nations.

2. The First Nations-in-Assembly has power:

a) To discuss any matter related to the conduct or operations of any organ of the Assembly of First Nations and to make binding decisions regarding such matters.

b) To make decisions on any subject matter that chiefs of First Nations desire to initiate or undertake co-operatively and collectively through the Assembly of First Nations.

c) To delegate authority, mandates, tasks, responsibilities or duties to the Assembly of First Nations whenever such delegation is deemed necessary by the Chiefs of the First Nations.

d) To ensure that the positions and directions given by First Nations are implemented and to take disciplinary measures whenever the sacred trust and duty to perform and adhere to, in strict compliance with the delegation is deliberately breached.

e) To instruct the Executive Committee to proceed with a ratification process of its decisions regarding any subject matter of a fundamental nature that may affect the jurisdiction, rights and survival of First Nations.

f) To ensure that the Principles enumerated in Article 2 are maintained and put into practice in relation to the role and function of the Assembly of First Nations and all its regions.

g) To be, in general, the sole legitimate inherent source of what the Assembly of First Nations is, what it can do and what it may become in the future.

<p>Key Activities/ Current Projects</p>	<p>Policy Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFN Renewal Commission • AFN Youth • Communications Unit • AFN Women’s Council • Economic Partnerships • Education • Environmental Stewardship • Finance • (Fisheries) Access to Resources • Health and Social Secretariat • Housing • Improving the System of Justice • International Cooperation • Indian Residential Schools Unit • Languages • Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination (SPPC) • Recognition and Implementation of First Nation Governments • Resolving Land Claims <p>Visit AFN’s Web site at http://www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=23 to browse each Policy Area and AFN’s current activities.</p>
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<p>Web site</p>	<p>www.afn.ca</p>
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