
TITLE: Federal Investments in First Nations Police Services

SUBJECT: Policing, Public Safety

MOVED BY: Chief Darcy Gray, Listuguj Mig'maq Government, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, ON

DECISION Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
 - i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. First Nations police services are essential services similar to any other provincial or municipal police force. As such, First Nations police services shall be recognized as essential services and should be funded adequately in order to serve their full purpose.
- C. In September 2016, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, on behalf of the Government of Canada, committed, to consulting respectfully with First Nations and to being responsive to interests and priorities of First Nations in order to achieve tangible progress in priority areas, such as security and police services in communities to improve the security of their citizens.
- D. The Government of Canada has committed to bringing reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples through a renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government and Crown-First Nation relationship, focused on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

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- E. Many of the contribution agreements for police services in First Nations communities are ending on March 31, 2018 with future funding dependent on the renewal of the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP), which the Government of Canada has committed to renewing.
- F. The 2017 federal budget proposed an investment of \$102 million over 5 years, starting in 2018-19, to address the most immediate needs of Indigenous police forces, while the federal government examines ways to increase the effectiveness of this program. However, very little information has been made available to date regarding the implementation of Budget 2017 commitments and the renewal of the FNPP.
- G. The lack of timely information from the federal government concerning the renewed approach reduces the importance of the privileged relationship between First Nations and the Crown and conveys to First Nations that ensuring peace and order in our Nations is not as important as the public safety services for Canadians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to communicate with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and remind the Government of Canada of its obligation to engage with First Nations to address the public safety of First Nations citizens.
2. Direct the AFN to urge the Government of Canada to ensure that First Nations police services are viewed as essential community services and that they are supported equitably with municipal and provincial police forces.

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