

Summary of 2015 Election Commitments on First Nations

While not all parties have responded to the FNLC questions, all federal parties have made various commitments to First Nations. A quick summary of Party commitments to this point in the campaign that may be relevant to First Nation communities can be found in the chart below. Commitments in *italic* made at this summer's AFN AGA.

				
First Nations Priorities	Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic Party	Green
National inquiry into missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls		Immediately launch a national public inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, <i>with the process of developing the inquiry being inclusive and done in collaboration with First Nations.</i>	Within 100 days of assuming office, call an inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. <i>Will work in full collaboration with First Nations to develop the process including the terms of reference.</i>	In consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, immediately adopt recommendations from the TRC report, including a national inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women.
Relationship Going-Forward/Reconciliation	Review the 94 recommendations released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.	Establish a Federal Reconciliation Framework, created in full partnership with First Nations, which will include mechanisms to advance and strengthen self-government, as well as resolve grievances with Treaty implementation and	<i>NDP priority to develop a new nation-to-nation relationship.</i> Ensure that all new legislation abides by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Take action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations on a priority	Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Review all existing federal policies on self-government and amend laws to recognize Indigenous approval of natural

		<p>modern land-claim s agreements.</p> <p>Conduct a full review of legislation unilaterally improves on indigenous peoples by the Harper government.</p> <p>Enact the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Repeal changes to the Elections Act that might make it harder for indigenous peoples to vote.</p> <p>As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau would also meet with First Nations leaders each and every year of his government's mandate to facilitate progress on shared priorities.</p>	<p>basis established in consultation with Indigenous communities, starting with a funding contribution of \$8 million over four years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.</p> <p>An NDP Government will work together to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations on a priority basis, established in consultation with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Uphold the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous peoples on decision-making that may impact them, consistent with the Canadian Constitution, legal obligations and the principle of free, prior and informed consent as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>resource project as equivalent in weight to federal government approval.</p> <p>Ensure that self-government negotiations do not lead to extinguishment of aboriginal title and rights or assimilation.</p> <p>Fully implement the recommendations of the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.</p> <p>In consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, immediately adopt recommendations from the TRC report, including a national inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women.</p> <p>Establish a Council of Canadian Governments. This body will bring together governments</p>
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				<p>representing the provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous Peoples so that all parties will be able to work towards solutions to the challenges facing their people.</p> <p>Build a new, nation-to-nation partnership based on mutual respect and understanding with First Nations</p> <p>Establish a Council of Canadian Government to bring together representatives of the provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous Peoples, to meaningfully engage First Nations as full partners in intergovernmental decision making.</p>
Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights		<i>Will establish a mechanism to redesign how Canada negotiates treaties.</i>	Creation of a cabinet-level committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, to ensure federal government decisions respect treaty rights, inherent rights and	Work with aboriginal groups to create an Aboriginal Lands and Treaties Tribunal Act that deals with land

		<p><i>Develop a mechanism to advance/strengthen self-government framework.</i></p> <p>Development of a “Federal Reconciliation Framework” with mechanisms to resolve grievances associated with existing historical treaties and modern land-claims agreements.</p> <p>Will recognize and respect Aboriginal title and rights in accordance with Canada’s Constitutional obligations, and further those enshrined in the <i>United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>.</p>	<p>Canada’s international obligations.</p> <p>An NDP Government will fix our country’s broken treaty process and deal with unresolved land claims.</p>	<p>claims, negotiations, etc.</p> <p>Immediately implement land claims agreements already negotiated and that may have stalled due to lack of funding.</p> <p>Ensure that governments and corporations honor and abide by the Sparrow Decision (which recognizes the aboriginal right to fish), the Haida Decision, as well as the Tsilhqot’in ruling, which recognizes aboriginal title.</p> <p>Negotiate and legislate primary hunting, fishing, trapping, and logging rights for aboriginal peoples on traditional lands.</p> <p>If pushed by First Nations, work to scrap the <i>Indian Act</i>.</p>
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2005 Kelowna Accord		<i>Will ensure that the 2005 Kelowna Accord is fully embraced and implemented/Implement the Kelowna Accord “in a manner that meets today’s challenges.”</i>		Restore the \$5.1 billion commitment and specifics of the Kelowna Accord.
Bill C-51	Passed Bill C-51	Make amendments to anti-terrorism Bill C-51 by: limiting the sharing of personal data to 17 government departments and agencies with national security responsibilities; eliminating CSIS’s new power to obtain court warrants to break the law in some cases to disrupt suspected terrorists; adding a three-year sunset provisions on some parts of the law and mandatory parliamentary reviews of the extraordinary security measures.	Repeal Bill C-51, which puts a chill on legitimate protests, and restore civil liberties in Canada.	Will repeal Bill C-51, which violates the privacy of all Canadians and Aboriginal peoples, and may target First Nations who engage in nonviolent protest.
Education	\$200 million for First Nations education and schools. \$500 million toward building and renovating schools on reserves.	<i>A new mechanism for funding including amounts will be immediately unrolled. Funding will exceed that promised but not</i>	The New Democrats fully support regional approaches to education and we will support the renewal of the BC agreement in consultation with First Nations.	Support and extend the commitments established in the Tripartite Education Framework Agreement in consultation with

		<p><i>delivered by the Harper government.</i></p> <p>Ensure that First Nations have control over First Nations education.</p> <p>Promising to spend \$2.6 billion in core funding over the next four years on First Nations education.</p> <p>Make an initial, and immediate new investment of \$2.6 billion in core First Nations K-12 education over the next four years, as well as \$500 million in new funding over the next three years for First Nations education infrastructure.</p> <p>We will invest \$50 million in additional annual support to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program.</p> <p>Will work with residential school survivors, First Nations,</p>	<p>Will remove the 2 percent cap that applies to social transfers including post-secondary education funding.</p> <p>Work with First Nations through a meaningful collaborative process to develop new education policies and laws based on the principle of Indigenous self-government.</p> <p>Make a new investment in First Nations education of \$1.8 billion over the next four years to immediately begin the work of ensuring every Indigenous child gets the educational opportunities afforded to every other child in Canada.</p> <p>Continue this work with annual increases over the long term based on an escalator so that the increase to First Nations education amounts to \$4.8 billion over 8 years.</p> <p>Provide skills training by working with Indigenous partners to renew and improve the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy and ensure its</p>	<p>First Nations, to ensure every First Nations child has access to quality educational opportunities based on expressed cultural, political, and social priorities.</p> <p>Remove the 2% funding cap on First Nation education and fully fund the program back log (\$424 million).</p> <p>Abolish tuition fees by 2020 for post-secondary education and skills training</p> <p>Eliminate any existing or future student federal debt above \$10,000</p> <p>Abolish charging interest on new students loans</p> <p>Increase available funding for post-secondary bursaries</p> <p>In accordance with</p>
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		<p>the Métis Nation, Inuit communities, provinces, territories and educators to find ways for educational curricula across the country to incorporate Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, residential schools, and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Canada.</p> <p>Renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASET), and invest \$50 million more per year in the program.</p>	<p>long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Work with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to deliver a Canada-wide quality early childhood education and childcare program where parents pay no more than \$15 a day.</p> <p>Deliver \$250 million in additional investment to federal student groups, ramped up over four years, focusing on helping students who need it most, including Indigenous students.</p> <p>Immediately begin phasing out interest on federal student loads, eliminating it completely in seven years.</p> <p>Work with the provinces, human rights commissions and others to promote anti-racism education.</p>	<p>TRC recommendations:</p> <p>Eliminate the education funding discrepancy for First Nations children on and off reserve</p> <p>Develop new aboriginal education legislation in partnership with aboriginal peoples, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient funding to close educational gaps - Improving educational success - Cultural appropriate curricula - Protecting and teaching aboriginal languages - Enabling parental and community participation,
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				responsibility, control, and accountability - Respecting Treaty relationships
Children and Families	Pledged \$93.5 million over five years for on-reserve shelters through the Family Violence Prevention Program	<p>Equitable funding for child and family services on reserve.</p> <p>We are open to extending the Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach for child-welfare funding to British Columbia, if that is the approach BC First Nations themselves decide would best meet their needs.</p>	<p>Provide the federal Shelter Enhancement Program – an initiative that provides money for building and maintaining shelters for victims of family violence- with \$40 million in new funding over 4 years to go to shelters on reserves and to restore funding for off-reserve shelters.</p> <p>The NDP will work with local child services organizations to reduce the number of Indigenous children in care.</p> <p>Implement Jordan’s principle and commit to an equitable funding formula to address current funding inequities for child and family services.</p>	<p>In partnership with Aboriginal communities, the Green Party will work to implement programs designed to resolve the socioeconomic issues underlying the systemic seizure of Aboriginal children by the federal government.</p> <p>Provide culturally appropriate child care services and education to Aboriginal communities</p>
Health			Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to develop a plan to close the gap in health outcomes, and ensure quality	Assist in the delivery of health care in way that incorporates traditional practices

			<p>and accessible health services for Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Invest in community-based health clinics, including the development of mobile clinics that improve access to health care providers in rural and remote locations.</p> <p>Create a new training and recruitment grant to help provinces hire more than 7,000 needed doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses, including recruitment grants to increase the number of health professionals in remote communities and the number of Indigenous doctors and nurses.</p> <p>Work with Indigenous communities and the provinces to improve urban Indigenous health outcomes with a new investment of \$120 million over four years.</p> <p>Invest in a \$100-million Mental Health Innovation Fund for Children and Youth, with an additional \$5 million per year for a suicide prevention strategy to serve at-risk populations,</p>	<p>and recognizes the role of extended families and elders</p> <p>Support the implementation of the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework.</p> <p>Work to identify gaps in mental health services for Indigenous Peoples and to address them in consultation with First Nations.</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive, federally funded mental health strategy that recognizes the increased vulnerability of Indigenous communities to mental health challenges as a legacy of the multigenerational abuse faced by residential school survivors.</p> <p>Extend the Mental Health Commission of</p>
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			<p>including First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.</p> <p>Establish a \$30-million Palliative Care Innovation Fund, including culturally appropriate care for elders and others in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Make a prescription drugs accessible to all at little or no cost, and work with the provinces and territories to deliver a universal drug plan.</p> <p>Make federal health agencies like Health Canada and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIBH) more responsive and accountable to Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Increase access to affordable and nutritious food in northern, isolated communities by investing \$32 million to fix and expand Nutrition North, and work with Indigenous communities and Northerners on culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions to food insecurity.</p> <p>Work with Indigenous</p>	<p>Canada’s mandate and increase funding transfers for non-institutionalized mental health patients to provide community-based support, outpatient, and inpatient care by mental health practitioners, especially in Indigenous communities and in rural Canada.</p> <p>Invest in harm reduction, following the successful Insite model.</p> <p>Implementation of the TRC recommendations on health, “to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.”</p> <p>Expand of culturally</p>
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			<p>communities on a National Diabetes Strategy with an initial investment of \$20 million over four years.</p>	<p>sensitive home care and assisted-living services to support those with chronic care needs, including many seniors who wish to stay in their own homes and communities.</p>
Language		<p>New Funding to promote, preserve and enhance languages</p>	<p>Support initiatives to revitalize Indigenous languages by establishing, in consultation with Indigenous communities, a National Indigenous Languages Revitalization Fund and a National Indigenous Languages Institute with a total new investment of \$68 million over four years.</p>	<p>Promote Aboriginal culture, language, and history as a fundamental source of Canadian identity.</p> <p>Support the development of Aboriginal education curricula that are language and culture specific.</p>
Housing			<p>Immediately address housing needs in remote communities by targeting \$100 million of critical infrastructure funding to double the number of new houses built and renovated on-reserve in the first year.</p> <p>Invest \$2.7 billion over four years in affordable housing and homelessness across Canada, including creating and</p>	<p>Advocate for the inclusion of a clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that provides for the right to safe shelter or affordable housing.</p> <p>Implement a National Housing Strategy based on Housing First</p>

			<p>strengthening housing agreements with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Create local jobs training and contracts for Indigenous businesses as part of housing and renovation projects.</p> <p>Implement sustainable development standards for housing construction, including the use of mould-free materials, energy-efficient building techniques and the use of locally harvested lumber.</p> <p>Work with First Nations to overhaul and restructure the First Nations Market Housing Fund to actually create more and better on-reserve housing.</p> <p>Provide \$500 million in incentives for the construction of affordable rental housing across Canada.</p> <p>Pass the <i>Affordable Housing Act</i> recognizing housing as a right.</p>	<p>principles, quickly providing people experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness with the stable housing they need.</p> <p>Dramatically increase social housing transfers provincial, territorial, and municipal governments through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)</p> <p>Build 20,000 new and 8,000 rehabilitated affordable housing units each year for the next decade.</p> <p>Provide rent supplements or shelter assistance for an additional 40,000 low-income households per year, for ten years.</p>
Capacity Building	\$215 million to provide skills development and training for	Immediately lift the two percent cap on funding	Contribute federal funds to build an all-weather road for the Shoal	Committed to \$800 million in new annual

	<p>aboriginal peoples</p> <p>\$30 million for a land management scheme aimed at helping economic development on reserves.</p> <p>Commit \$567 million over five years for Aboriginal and northerners to help build “stronger communities.”</p>	<p>for First Nations programs, and establish a new fiscal relationship with First Nations – one that provides them with sufficient, predictable, and sustained funding to support the priorities of First Nations communities.</p> <p>While on a pre-campaign stop in Winnipeg, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau vowed to contribute the federal funding needed to build a road for the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation</p> <p>Immediately reengage with Indigenous communities in a renewed, respectful, and inclusive nation-to-nation process to advance progress on critical issues such as housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education.</p>	<p>Lake 40 First Nation.</p> <p>Reduce poverty, improve educational outcomes and increase opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada.</p> <p>An NDP government will ensure that AANDC has an adequate budget that actually reflects the needs of your communities. To establish a new fiscal relationship, we will start by removing the punitive 2 per cent funding cap on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Canada social transfers to Indigenous communities that was put in place by the Liberals and maintained by the Conservatives.</p> <p>Will review best practices on the use of Aboriginal Capital Corporations, equity funds and economic development funds and we’ll consult with First Nations with the goal of ensuring that Indigenous communities and businesses get an equitable share of new and existing economic development funds applied in an effective delivery system.</p>	<p>federal funding for First Nations education, safe drinking water, and improved housing until 2020.</p> <p>Establish a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI), which will provide a regular payment to every Canadian, at a level above the poverty line, to ensure every Canadian has the means to live with health and dignity.</p> <p>Provide federal funding to construct an all-weather road for the Shoal Lake 40 first Nation.</p> <p>Lift the two per cent funding cap on social transfers to Indigenous communities.</p>
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		<p>The Liberal Party of Canada has endorsed the recommendations in the Eyford report in their entirety and is committed to working in partnership with First Nations to fully implement them. We will look to First Nations' leadership for guidance when making decisions on where investments should be made.</p> <p>A Liberal government will work in partnership with First Nations communities to address their significant capacity shortfalls in emergency response and public safety, increase investment in prevention and mitigation measures and ensure First Nations are at the table to help set priorities and develop long term plans.</p>	<p>An NDP government will review the impact of recent cuts by the Harper government to First Nations Service Organizations. This review will be conducted in consultation with affected First Nations. The goal of the review will be to reinstate funding in a way that seeks to achieve goals agreed upon in the consultative process buy the service organizations and impacted First Nations.</p> <p>An NDP Government will work with First Nations to develop comprehensive strategies to tackle on-reserve poverty and economic development including housing, public health care, education, skills training, as well as the development of economic and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Work with Friendship Centres and urban Indigenous organizations to renew and ensure the long-term sustainability of the Urban Aboriginal I Strategy.</p> <p>Address the needs or urban First Nations, Inuit and Métis people</p>	
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			<p>transfer, dedicate \$96 million more over four years and long-term funding of \$800 million over 20 years to support infrastructure projects for Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Working with Indigenous communities to ensure local jobs, training and contracts for Indigenous businesses are part of critical infrastructure projects, including allocating \$5 million in grants annually to Indigenous governments and municipalities to create 1,250 youth apprenticeships each year in federally funded local infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Make Employment Insurance more fair and accessible by improving benefits for workers in seasonal industries and add five extra weeks of benefits in regions where unemployment is high and work is hard to come by.</p> <p>Work to establish revenue sharing frameworks for resource development projects that provide benefits for Indigenous communities through a</p>	
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			<p>consultative process, including Indigenous communities, provincial governments and territories.</p> <p>Support opportunities for Indigenous contractors and workers with investment in infrastructure, training and innovation.</p>	
Energy and Environment	<p>Approved the Enbridge Northern Gateway oilsands pipeline that would run from Alberta to the coast of Kitimat, BC; support the proposed TransCanada Energy East project, a west-to-east oil pipeline from Alberta to New Brunswick; support proposed TransCanada Keystone XL oilsands pipeline from Alberta to U.C. Gulf Coast.</p>	<p>Continue to oppose proposed Northern Gateway pipeline; support Energy East and Keystone XL pipelines.</p> <p>Introduce an environmental review process with more “teeth.”</p> <p>Increase the amount of Canada’s protected marine and coastal areas to five per cent by 2017 and 10 per cent by 2020.</p> <p>Phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.</p> <p>Undertake a full review of regulatory law, policies, and operational practices, in full</p>	<p>Continue opposing the Northern Gateway pipeline; it initially supported concept of west-east pipeline but says Energy East can’t be approved without more stringent environmental review processes; opposes Keystone XL pipeline.</p> <p>Redirect \$1 billion a year from fossil fuel subsidies to investment in the clean energy sector.</p> <p>An NDP government will work with the FNLC to ensure equitable participation in Canada’s stewardship of the environment and resource development and seek to implement the principle of free prior informed consent.</p> <p>As part of our climate change</p>	<p>Accelerate construction of green infrastructure, ensuring a majority of Canada’s energy needs come from renewable sources by 2025.</p> <p>Will work to give funding priority to small-scale projects to restore and enhance wild fish stocks, especially those involving Aboriginal peoples and traditional fishing communities using traditional technologies.</p> <p>The Green party supports a moratorium on new open-ocean net-pen salmon farms</p>

		<p>partnership and consultation with First Nations to ensure that the Crown is full executing its consultation, accommodation, and consent obligations, including on resource development and energy infrastructure project reviews and assessments, in accordance with our constitutional and international human rights obligations.</p> <p>Conduct a wholesale review of the changes made by Stephen Harper’s government to critical environmental protections – including the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i> – and restore lost protections , and incorporate more modern safeguards. First Nations will be included in the reshaping of federal environmental laws and policies to</p>	<p>plan, target \$100 million towards clean energy development in remote communities that are dependent on diesel flow in for electricity generation.</p> <p>Reverse the dangerous damage done by Stephen Harper with omnibus budget bills C-38 and C-45 by putting teeth back into the environmental assessment process to protect our lakes and rivers.</p>	<p>and a phase-out of existing farms within ten years. While promoting the following of sea pens during wild-hatch salmon runs.</p> <p>Will reverse the Harper Conservative changes to the Fisheries Act made without adequate consultation and will restore habitat protection.</p> <p>Oppose and pipeline proposals that involve the shipping of diluted bitumen, including Kinder Morgan, Northern Gateway, Energy East, and Keystone XL.</p> <p>Ensure that the responsible development of Canada’s natural-resource wealth benefits all Canadians, beginning with the free, prior, and informed consent of</p>
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		<p>ensure respect of rights and to reflect Indigenous values.</p> <p>A Liberal government will deepen our commitment to working with First Nations communities and other governments to protect Canada's freshwater through education, geo-mapping, watershed protection, and infrastructure investments in the best waste water treatment technologies. This will include acting on the recommendations of the Cohen Commission on restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River.</p>		<p>the peoples on whose traditional territories they exist, as mandated by the UNDRIP, by enshrining these principles into law.</p> <p>Establish a price on carbon through a carbon fee and dividend system, which will return all revenues to the public while shifting our economy away from fossil fuels.</p>
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Sources: <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/federal-election-what-they-did-what-they-promise>

AFN AGA candidate speeches and Party Websites

Party's responses to FNLC Electoral Questions.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/an-indigenous-guide-to-the-2015-federal-election-1.3179421>

