

FIRST NATIONS FORUM

Status of Legal and Political Recognition

Implementing the Crown/Indian Nations
Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework

*A submission to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime
Minister of Canada, for the First Nations-First Ministers'
Meeting, October 26, 2026*

Senator Sol Sanderson

Senate of the FSIN and First Nations Forum

“Nations make Treaties; Treaties do not make Nations.”

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.

October 2026

Contents

Covering Letter.....	2
Executive Summary.....	4
The Position of the Senate of the FSIN.....	6
Attachment 1. The Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework.....	11
Attachment 2. Fiscal Relations and Financing of Indian Nations Governments	19
Attachment 3. Inherent Sovereignty, Inherent Rights by Sector and Inherent Title.....	28
Attachment 4. The Spirit and Intent of the Treaties.....	34
Attachment 5. Implementation through Unique and Special Laws.....	37
Attachment 6. Terminating Empire and Canadian Colonial Policies.....	45
Attachment 7. Senator Sol Sanderson.....	49
Attachment 8. Exhibits.....	50
Sources.....	52



FIRST NATIONS FORUM

Sol and Associates
SENATOR SANDERSON

P.O. Box 262
Muskoday First Nation, SK
S0J 3H0
CELL 306.960.3023
sesand@sasktel.net

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow

October 8, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Attention: National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Assembly of First Nations

Re: The high-level political agenda for the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting, October 26, 2026, Implementing the Crown/Indian Nations Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework

Dear Prime Minister:

I write to ask that the Crown/Indian Nations Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework be placed on the agenda of the First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting on October 26, 2026.

The Framework provides legal and political recognition of the inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations and our national powers of governing and national powers of treaty-making; of our inherent rights by sector; and of our inherent title to lands, resources, water and air, with the sovereignty of our Nations remaining intact to all of the titles. It is governed by the inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations; the Crown's assumed sovereignty; our inherent rights and title; Treaties One to Eleven; the Royal Proclamation of 1763; the Constitution Act, 1867, section 91(24); the Constitution Act, 1982, sections 25 and 35; the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (2021); the Organization of American States Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016); the Jay Treaty; and international conventions that still apply. It recognizes our inherent rights and title, and our Treaties and Treaty rights, by sector.

The Framework is implemented through eight relations, political, Treaty, judicial, economic, fiscal and international relations, together with inherent rights and title relations and Treaty and Treaty rights relations. These must be carried out through Government to Government relations and processes, not consultation, and with free, prior and informed consent.

Implementation requires:

- Schedules of "unique and special" laws, both of the Governments of Indian Nations and of the federal government, by sector;
- Economic relations that build the inter-tribal economy of Indian Nations;
- Fiscal relations under an Indian Nations Finance Administration Act, alongside the federal *Financial Administration Act*, for Governments of

Indian Nations at every level, implemented by government to government fiscal agreements;

- International relations that complete the unfinished Treaty business of the Crown, including the novation of the Crown's Treaty obligations and the Jay Treaty; and
- Implementation of Treaty rights, inherent rights and title, and annuities.

I respectfully ask that you share the enclosed Framework and charts with Cabinet, the Clerk of the Privy Council and the Premiers, and that we meet in Saskatoon with First Nations leadership to discuss implementation. Whether or not the Framework is accepted for the agenda, this letter serves as formal notice of it, and of the need for that meeting.

I would welcome your answers to two questions: Will Canada place the Framework on the October 26 agenda? And will Canada commit to implementing it through government to government agreements by sector?

Respectfully,

S. Sanderson

Senator Sol Sanderson

Senate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
First Nations Forum

cc: National Chief, Assembly of First Nations; the Premiers of the Provinces and Territories; the Clerk of the Privy Council; the Senate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations; Chiefs; FSIN Executive; Councillor Dane Sanderson, Chakastaypasin

Enclosure: Status of Legal and Political Recognition, Implementing the Crown/Indian Nations Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework

Executive Summary

To: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada; National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak, Assembly of First Nations; and the First Ministers of the Provinces and Territories

From: The Senate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, and Senator Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum

For: The First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting, October 26, 2026

Purpose

To ask that the **Crown/Indian Nations Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework** be placed on the agenda of the October 26, 2026 Meeting and formally recognized, legally and politically, as the basis for implementing Crown/Indian Nations relations. Whether or not it is accepted, this submission gives formal notice of the Framework and of the need for a meeting to begin implementation.

The position in brief

1. **The Framework is to be recognized today.** It identifies the historical, current and future relationships between the Crown and Indian Nations, implemented through political, Treaty, judicial, economic, fiscal and international relations.
2. **Our inherent sovereignty, rights by sector and title come from the Creator.** They pre-date Canada and come from no constitution, Treaty or colonial law. Each Nation identifies and defines them in its own language and laws.
3. **Nations make Treaties; Treaties do not make Nations.** Treaties One to Eleven reserved, recognized, confirmed and guaranteed our inherent rights and title. Their spirit and intent are implemented by giving them legal effect by sector.
4. **Two schedules of “unique and special” laws are required.** One of the Governments of Indian Nations, and one of the Crown and federal government, clearly identifying federal legal jurisdiction and fiscal and trust obligations.
5. **Fiscal relations make it real.** Multi-year, government to government fiscal agreements, under Indian Nations and federal Finance Administration Acts, replace program contribution agreements.

- 6. Colonial and devolution policies must be terminated.** Five hundred years of Imperial policy and 150 years of Canadian policy continue today through devolution to provincial jurisdiction.

Requests

1. Place the Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework on the agenda of the October 26, 2026 Meeting.
2. Meet with Senator Sanderson and First Nations leadership in Saskatoon to begin implementation.
3. Share the Framework and its charts with Cabinet, the Clerk of the Privy Council and provincial and territorial governments.

Attachments

No.	Attachment	Expands on
1	The Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework	The relationships recognized; the relations and how each is implemented; precedents in force
2	Fiscal Relations and Financing of Indian Nations Governments	Government to government fiscal agreements, institutions, the social safety net transition
3	Inherent Sovereignty, Inherent Rights by Sector and Inherent Title	Source, content, duties, validation and implementation. They are granted to Indian Nations and Peoples by the Creator.
4	The Spirit and Intent of the Treaties	Nations make Treaties; status of the Treaties; what they provide by sector
5	Implementation through Unique and Special Laws	The two schedules; the 15 sector schedule; traditional and contemporary systems of government
6	Terminating Empire and Canadian Colonial Policies	The Doctrine of Discovery to devolution, and their impact
7	Senator Sol Sanderson	Biography: seventy years of service
8	Exhibits and Sources	Charts and references

It is critical at this time of reconciliation that these relationships be formally validated, to achieve mutual recognition, respect and honour.

Senator Sol Sanderson

The Position of the Senate of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

1. The Framework is to be formally recognized today

The Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework governing Crown/Indian Nations relations is to be formally recognized, legally and politically, today. A new framework does not need to be negotiated: the existing framework, made up of inherent rights and title, Treaties One to Eleven, the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and international law, already identifies the lawful and political mandate.¹ What is missing is recognition, followed by implementation.

The Framework identifies the historical, current and future relationships between the Crown and Indian Nations: Crown/Indian Nations relations, sovereignty and Treaty relations, Nation to Nation and government to government relations. It is implemented through **political, Treaty, judicial, economic, fiscal and international relations**, together with inherent rights and title relations and Treaty and Treaty rights relations. These must be carried out government to government, not through consultation, and with free, prior and informed consent. *See Attachment 1.*

2. Inherent sovereignty, inherent rights by sector and inherent title

Our inherent sovereignty, inherent rights by sector, and inherent title to lands, resources, water and air are granted to our Nations and Peoples by the Creator. They come from no other source, and the sovereignty of Indian Nations remains intact in all titles. They include our national powers of governing, internal, external, international and inter-tribal, and our national powers of treaty making.

Each Nation identifies and defines these rights in its own language, customs, traditions, practices, values and beliefs, with the individual and collective duties and responsibilities that go with them, and validates them through its own laws. Canada's courts have recognized that Aboriginal title derives from prior occupation, not a Crown grant,² and in 2024 the Supreme Court upheld federal legislation affirming the inherent right of self-government under section 35.³ *See Attachment 3.*

¹United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14.

²Calder v. British Columbia (Attorney General), [1973] S.C.R. 313.

³Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, 2024 SCC 5.

3. The spirit and intent of the Treaties

Nations make Treaties; Treaties do not make Nations. Our inherent sovereignty, rights and title are reserved, recognized, confirmed and guaranteed by our national powers of treaty making and by the international Treaties One to Eleven, which together form one major treaty. We therefore hold both inherent rights and Treaty rights in every sector.

The spirit and intent of the Treaties is implemented by giving legal effect to inherent rights and title, and to Treaties and Treaty rights, by sector, through traditional and contemporary systems. Neither the Governments of Indian Nations nor the Crown in right of Canada has yet enacted the laws required. This is outstanding Treaty business, and the honour of the Crown requires that it be completed.⁴ *See Attachment 4.*

4. Two schedules of unique and special laws

Implementation requires two schedules of “unique and special” laws, sector by sector:

- a schedule of laws of the **Governments of Indian Nations**, under their inherent legal systems and jurisdiction; and
- a schedule of laws of the **Crown and the federal government**, clearly identifying federal legal jurisdiction and the federal fiscal and trust obligations for inherent rights and title, and Treaties and Treaty rights.

For example, education is implemented through a traditional and contemporary education system under a Traditional and Contemporary Education Act of the Nation, with a matching federal Act. Senator Sanderson’s schedule covers fifteen sectors, from health and education to justice, lands, resources, and housing. *See Attachment 5.*

5. Fiscal relations

Government to government fiscal agreements, based on the lawful capacity of both parties under their respective Finance Administration Acts, will replace current contribution agreements. Funding will come from all federal ministries and departments, not only Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations, through grant funding, direct transfers, annual indexing and total population. Indian Nations will establish Departments of Finance and Revenue, Treasury Boards, auditing and accountability. *See Attachment 2.*

6. Terminating colonial and devolution policies

Five hundred years of Imperial colonial policy, from the 1493 Papal Bull and the Doctrine of Discovery to the 1830 detribalization policies, and 150 years of

⁴R. v. Badger, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771 (the honour of the Crown is always at stake in its dealings with Indian people; Treaties are to be interpreted in a manner that upholds that honour).

Canadian colonial policy, from the 1947 plan to liquidate Canada's Indian problem within 25 years, to the 1969 White Paper and the 1985 "Buffalo Jump," continue today through devolution: the transfer of Indian programs to provincial jurisdiction and provincial corporate entities. Under section 91(24) and section 35, provincial governments have no jurisdiction to make laws for Indians and lands reserved for the Indians. These colonial and devolution policies must be terminated. *See Attachment 6.*

7. Why this serves Canada now

The Framework is not only a matter of rights. It offers the Government of Canada what its own agenda needs.

- **Certainty for nation-building.** The Government's major-projects agenda under the *One Canadian Economy Act*⁵ runs through Treaty territory. At the Prime Minister's July 2025 summit, First Nations Rights Holders made clear that projects without recognition bring uncertainty.⁶ Recognized Indian Nations governments, with clear jurisdiction and laws, give investors and governments a lawful partner and a predictable process.
- **Less litigation, fewer delays.** Unfulfilled Treaty obligations are resolved today in the courts, one case at a time, at great cost to both sides. The honour of the Crown and the duty to consult already bind Canada;⁷ implementation by agreement is faster and cheaper than implementation by court order.
- **Fiscal discipline and accountability.** Multi-year, government to government fiscal agreements replace hundreds of short-term program agreements with predictable transfers, Indian Nations financial administration law, Treasury Boards and Auditors General.
- **A proven model.** Parliament has already legislated self-government for Whitecap Dakota, the Anishinabek Nation and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. The Framework scales an approach Canada already uses.
- **A legal commitment already made.** Canada has committed in law to align its laws with the UN Declaration.⁸ The Crown/Indian Nations Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework is a practical way to meet that commitment for Treaties One to Eleven.
- **Shared prosperity.** Treaty lands hold much of the resource wealth that Canada's economic strategy depends on. Indian Nations with their own economic and fiscal institutions become partners in that growth, and reduce long-term social costs.

⁵One Canadian Economy Act (Bill C-5, including the Building Canada Act), Royal Assent June 26, 2025.

⁶Prime Minister of Canada, "Prime Minister Carney engages First Nations Rights Holders on the Building Canada Act," news release, July 17, 2025.

⁷Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), 2004 SCC 73.

⁸United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14.

A Crown/Indian Nations Political and Protocol Accord

We propose a Political and Protocol Accord between the Crown and Indian Nations, implementing:

- the Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework governing Crown/Indian Nations relations;
- sovereignty and Treaty relations;
- Nation to Nation and government to government relations;
- reconciliation implementation agreements; and
- decolonization implementation agreements.

8. Requests and next steps

1. Place the Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework on the agenda of the October 26, 2026 Meeting.
2. Meet with Senator Sanderson and First Nations leadership in Saskatoon to begin implementation.
3. Share the Framework and its charts with Cabinet, the Clerk of the Privy Council and provincial and territorial governments.

Implementation plan

Item	Action	Deliverable	Required
Framework	Table at the October 26 Meeting	Agreement in principle to implement	Prime Minister; First Ministers; AFN
Federal lead	PCO names a lead official	Joint work plan with First Nations Forum	Clerk of the Privy Council
Recognition	Legal and political recognition of inherent sovereignty, rights and title	Recognition instrument	Prime Minister; Justice Canada; Indian Nations
Schedules of laws	Draft Indian Nations and federal schedules of unique and special laws	Schedules by sector	Justice Canada; Nations' legal counsel
Fiscal relations	Joint fiscal working group	Multi-year G2G fiscal agreements, by sector	Finance Canada; ISC; CIRNAC; FSIN and Nations
Social safety net	Begin the 10-step transition	Phased transfer over 1 to 3 years	ISC; Nations; tribal councils; FSIN
Colonial policies	Formal law review	Termination of colonial and devolution policies	FSIN and First Nations; federal and provincial representatives
Churches	Reconciliation	Rescinding of the 1493 Papal	Holy See; Canadian

Item	Action	Deliverable	Required
	implementation agreement	Bull; signed agreement	churches; Indian Nations
Treaty review	Annual Meeting in Council	Ratified implementation report	Crown and Treaty Nations

Our sovereignty, inherent rights and title, Treaties and Treaty rights are ours to protect for future generations, and to keep our way of life as our Creator taught us. It is time to take responsibility and define our own system of governance, laws and jurisdiction.

The way forward

If there is to be real change, the peoples of Canada, Parliament, the provincial legislatures, Members of Parliament, the Senate, and Members of Provincial Legislative Assemblies must be prepared to identify and legislate the changes required to lawfully and politically recognize sovereignty/Treaty relations, and the special and unique inherent rights and title, Treaties and Treaty rights of Indians, in every sector. They must enter into bilateral, government to government relations, with meaningful processes to implement all eight relations.⁹

This can pave the way to serious reconciliation: long-overdue, respectful relationships between Indian Nations and Canada, and social, economic and political sustainability for Indian Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Senator Sol Sanderson

⁹Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (Ottawa, 1996), vol. 2, Restructuring the Relationship.

Attachment 1. The Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework Governing Crown/Indian Nations Relations

Moving forward with Crown/Indian Nations relations begins with the Framework. It is to be formally recognized, legally and politically, identifying the historical, current and future relationships between the Crown and Indian Nations.

Governed by

Instrument	Relevance
Inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations	Granted by the Creator, and existed before the Crown and Canada. It includes our national powers of governing and our national powers of treaty making, and it remains intact.
The Crown's assumed sovereignty	The sovereignty the Crown assumed over our lands. The Supreme Court of Canada has held that Treaties “serve to reconcile pre-existing Aboriginal sovereignty with assumed Crown sovereignty.” ¹⁰
Inherent rights and title	Inherent rights by sector, and inherent title to lands, resources, water and air, granted by the Creator, with the sovereignty of Indian Nations remaining intact to all of the titles.
Treaties One to Eleven (1871 to 1921) ¹¹	Nation to Nation agreements; our position is that they are international treaties.
Royal Proclamation, 1763 ¹²	Recognizes Indian Nations and their lands; referenced in section 25(a) of the Constitution Act, 1982.
Constitution Act, 1867, s. 91(24) ¹³	Federal jurisdiction over “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians”; provinces have no jurisdiction to legislate for Indian Nations.
Constitution Act, 1982, ss. 25 and 35 ¹⁴	Section 25 shields Aboriginal and Treaty rights from the Charter; section 35 recognizes and affirms them. ¹⁵
UN Declaration and UNDRIP Act (2021) ¹⁶	Federal commitment to align Canadian laws with the Declaration, including Article 37 on Treaty observance.
American Declaration (OAS, 2016) ¹⁷	Regional human-rights standard.

¹⁰Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), 2004 SCC 73, at para. 20.

¹¹Treaty No. 6 between Her Majesty the Queen and the Plain and Wood Cree Indians and other Tribes of Indians (1876), Library and Archives Canada.

¹²Royal Proclamation, 1763, R.S.C. 1985, App. II, No. 1.

¹³Constitution Act, 1867, 30 & 31 Vict., c. 3, s. 91(24).

¹⁴Constitution Act, 1982, Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (U.K.), 1982, c. 11, ss. 25 and 35.

¹⁵R. v. Sparrow, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 1075.

¹⁶United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14.

¹⁷American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, OAS AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) (2016).

Instrument	Relevance
Jay Treaty (1794) ¹⁸	Rights of passage and trade across the Canada and U.S. border.

Recognizing the relationships

- Crown/Indian Nations relations
- Sovereignty/Treaty relations
- Nation to Nation relations
- Government to Government relations, including bilateral relations
- Inherent rights and title relations
- Treaty and Treaty rights relations

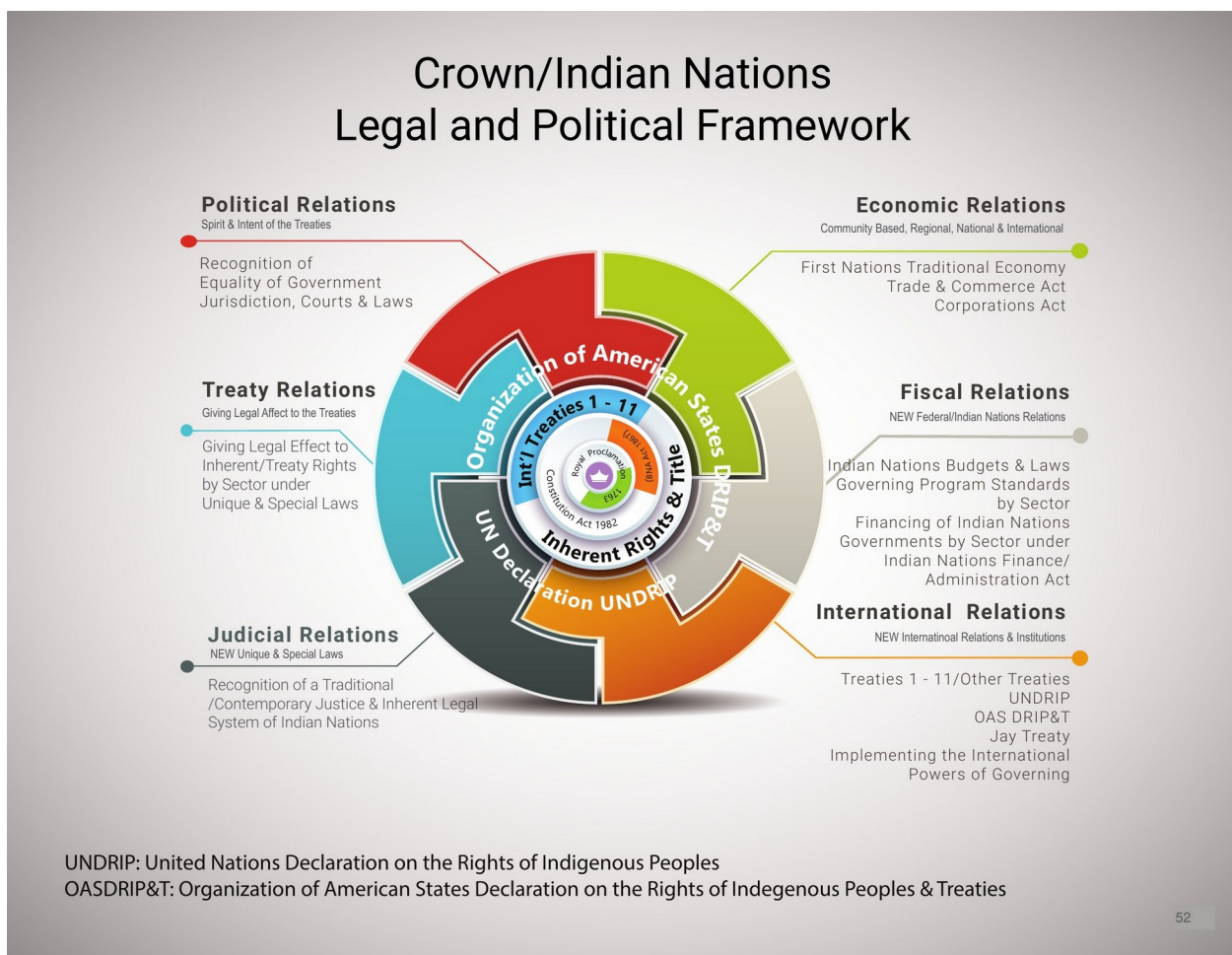


Exhibit 1. Crown/Indian Nations Legal and Political Framework

¹⁸Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation (Jay Treaty), 1794, Article III.

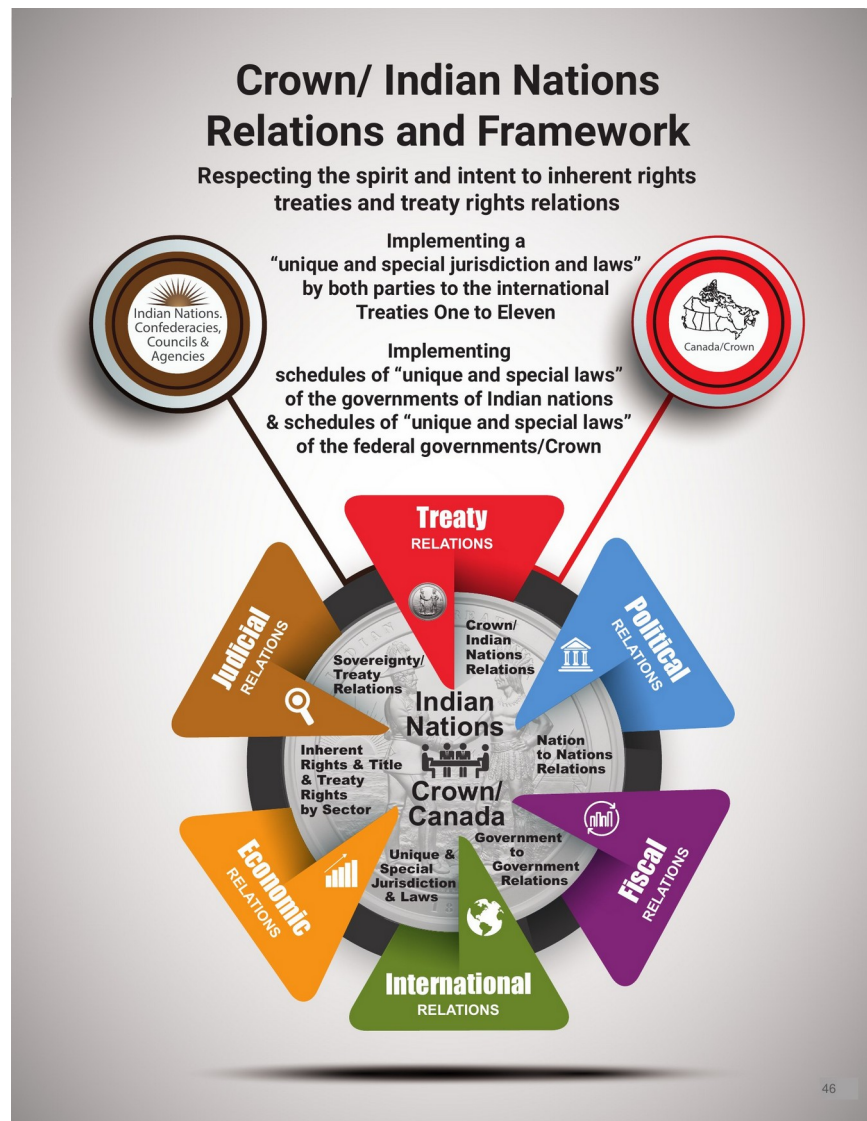


Exhibit 2. *Crown/Indian Nations Relations and Framework*

The format of implementation: the relations

Recognition must be followed by implementation: political relations require recognition of Indian Nations as governments with jurisdiction and laws; judicial relations require institutions capable of applying Indian Nations legal orders; economic and fiscal relations require authority, legislation and stable financing.

Relation	What it means in practice
1. Political	Equality of governments; jurisdiction, courts and laws; Nation to Nation engagement on mandates and shared decision-making.
2. Treaty	The relationship between the Treaty parties: review and renewal through Meet in Council; completing the Crown's unfinished Treaty business.
3. Judicial	A traditional and contemporary justice and legal system of Indian Nations;

Relation	What it means in practice
	enforcement through Indian Nations, federal and judicial processes.
4. Economic	A community-based, regional, national and international economy; Indian Nations Trade and Commerce and Corporations Acts.
5. Fiscal	Indian Nations budgets and laws by sector; multi-year financing under an Indian Nations Finance Administration Act, financed through government to government fiscal agreements.
6. International	The Treaties within international standards: the UN and OAS Declarations and the Jay Treaty.
7. Inherent rights and title	Recognition and implementation of inherent rights by sector, and of title to lands, resources, water and air, with the sovereignty of Indian Nations remaining intact to the titles.
8. Treaty and Treaty rights	Implementation of specific Treaty rights by sector, and of inherent and Treaty annuities.

1. Political relations

Relations must be conducted government to government, through processes that respect free, prior and informed consent, not through consultation on decisions already made.¹⁹ Indian Nations have the inherent right to self-determination, sovereignty and self-government: to select and remove their officials, make decisions according to their traditions and customs, conduct internal and external affairs, and make laws, implementing the equality of sovereignty, with the equality of governments, jurisdiction, laws and courts.

2. Treaty relations

- **Meet in Council:** an annual meeting of the Treaty parties to review implementation, with outcomes ratified by both.
- **Unfinished Treaty business:** the Treaties were made with the Crown of England and Ireland. The transfer of the Crown's Treaty obligations from the Imperial Crown to the Crown in right of Canada (the novation of the Crown) was never agreed to by the Treaty Nations. There is a great deal of unfinished Treaty business affected by the novation of the Crown and the transfer of the Treaties.
- **Annuities:** implementation of inherent and Treaty annuities, and the salaries of Chiefs and Headmen, on terms that reflect their present value.

The interface of jurisdiction and laws

Indian Nations continue to exercise their inherent sovereignty, and the Crown in right of Canada continues to exercise the assumed sovereignty of the Crown.

¹⁹United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, G.A. Res. 61/295 (2007), Articles 3, 4, 26, 37.

Political and judicial relations therefore require an interface of jurisdiction and laws among:

- Canada's English common law;
- the Civil Code of Quebec (French law); and
- the inherent legal systems and laws of Indian Nations.

This implements the equality of governments, jurisdiction, courts and laws of the Governments of Indian Nations, the federal government and the provincial governments, by community, regionally, nationally, inter-tribally and internationally.

3. Judicial relations

The Treaties committed the parties to maintain peace and good order. Indian Nations have the inherent right to establish their own justice systems: Indian Nations courts and justice institutions, with reciprocal arrangements for extradition between Indian Nations and Canadian jurisdictions. The current approach is costly and does not work: incarceration of Indian Nations citizens remains disproportionately high, at a cost of roughly \$120,000 to \$150,000 per inmate per year.²⁰ A federal Minister of Justice, addressing the FSIN Legislative Assembly in Prince Albert, agreed with this approach.

There is a fundamental difference between the two systems. The Canadian system is **punitive justice**: offenders are fined or incarcerated but never required to take ownership of the harm, provide restitution, or help heal the individuals, families and communities affected, and victims are left without support. The Indian Nations inherent justice system is **restorative justice**, focused on maintaining harmony and balance. The offender takes ownership, restores respect and trust through restitution, and takes part in healing with the family, extended family and community, during and after serving time. Indian Nations will establish traditional and contemporary justice systems under a Traditional and Contemporary Justice Act, with new institutions and governing structures.

4. Economic relations

The Treaties guaranteed the continued livelihood of the Nations, and inherent economic rights include sovereign title to lands and resources, trade and commerce, and the right to raise revenue.

- **Legislation:** an Indian Nations Trade and Commerce Act and a Corporations Act, so that Indian Nations enterprises are incorporated under Indian Nations law rather than provincial law.
- **Resources:** resource revenue sharing and co-management on Treaty lands; through the UN Treaty Council process, recognition that the 1930 Natural

²⁰ Correctional Service Canada publishes the average annual cost of maintaining a federal inmate, which exceeds \$120,000; the figure is cited as reported in a national documentary.

Resources Transfer Agreements²¹ were made without the consent of Indian Nations, and that the United Nations therefore declared the NRTA invalid.

- **Information and communication technology:** a First Nations ICT Council (one equal share for each First Nation government), with policy governance and data governance commissions, and data centres built in four phases: community, regional, national and international. Data governance follows the OCAP® principles.²² Federal economic plans for cloud and data centres identify strong growth in the industry.

5. Fiscal relations

Fiscal relations, implementing “government to government fiscal agreements,” are set out in full in Attachment 2.

6. International relations

Article 37 of the UN Declaration recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to the observance and enforcement of Treaties.²³ Article III of the Jay Treaty protects the right to pass the border freely and carry on trade.²⁴ The Supreme Court held in 2001 that the Jay Treaty was never implemented in Canadian law.²⁵ We therefore ask Canada to patriate the Jay Treaty and implement it in legislation.

7. Inherent rights and title relations

These relations implement Attachment 3: recognition of inherent rights by sector and of our sovereign title to lands, resources, water and air, with the individual and collective duties and obligations that go with them, through Indian Nations laws in every sector.

8. Treaty and Treaty rights relations

These relations implement Attachments 4 and 5: each Treaty right by sector, under the two schedules of “unique and special” laws, and the implementation of inherent rights and Treaty annuities on terms that reflect their present value.

Precedents already in force

Canada has already recognized Indian Nations governments with jurisdiction, laws and fiscal arrangements. The Framework asks that this approach be applied across Treaties One to Eleven, rather than one agreement at a time.

²¹ Constitution Act, 1930, 20-21 Geo. V, c. 26 (U.K.), confirming the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

²² First Nations Information Governance Centre, The First Nations Principles of OCAP® (ownership, control, access and possession).

²³ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, G.A. Res. 61/295 (2007), Articles 3, 4, 26, 37.

²⁴ Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation (Jay Treaty), 1794, Article III.

²⁵ Mitchell v. M.N.R., 2001 SCC 33.

Agreement	Year	What it shows
Whitecap Dakota Nation Self-Government Treaty ²⁶	2023	A Saskatchewan First Nation with recognized law-making authority and a fiscal arrangement outside the <i>Indian Act</i> .
Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement ²⁷	2022	Recognized governance and law-making by a group of Nations acting together.
Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement ²⁸	2017/2018	Nation-level governance, with Cree Nation Government jurisdiction and financing.
Nisga'a Final Agreement ²⁹	2000	A British Columbia Nation with constitutionally protected law-making authority, lands and resources.
James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement ³⁰	1975	Canada's first modern treaty (Quebec): lands, harvesting rights, self-governing institutions and compensation.

²⁶Self-Government Treaty Recognizing the Whitecap Dakota Nation / Wapaha Ska Dakota Oyate Act, S.C. 2023, c. 22 (in force September 1, 2023).

²⁷Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act, S.C. 2022 (Royal Assent June 2022).

²⁸Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement (2017), implemented by federal legislation in 2018.

²⁹Nisga'a Final Agreement (2000); Nisga'a Final Agreement Act, S.C. 2000, c. 7.

³⁰James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975); James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act, S.C. 1976-77, c. 32.

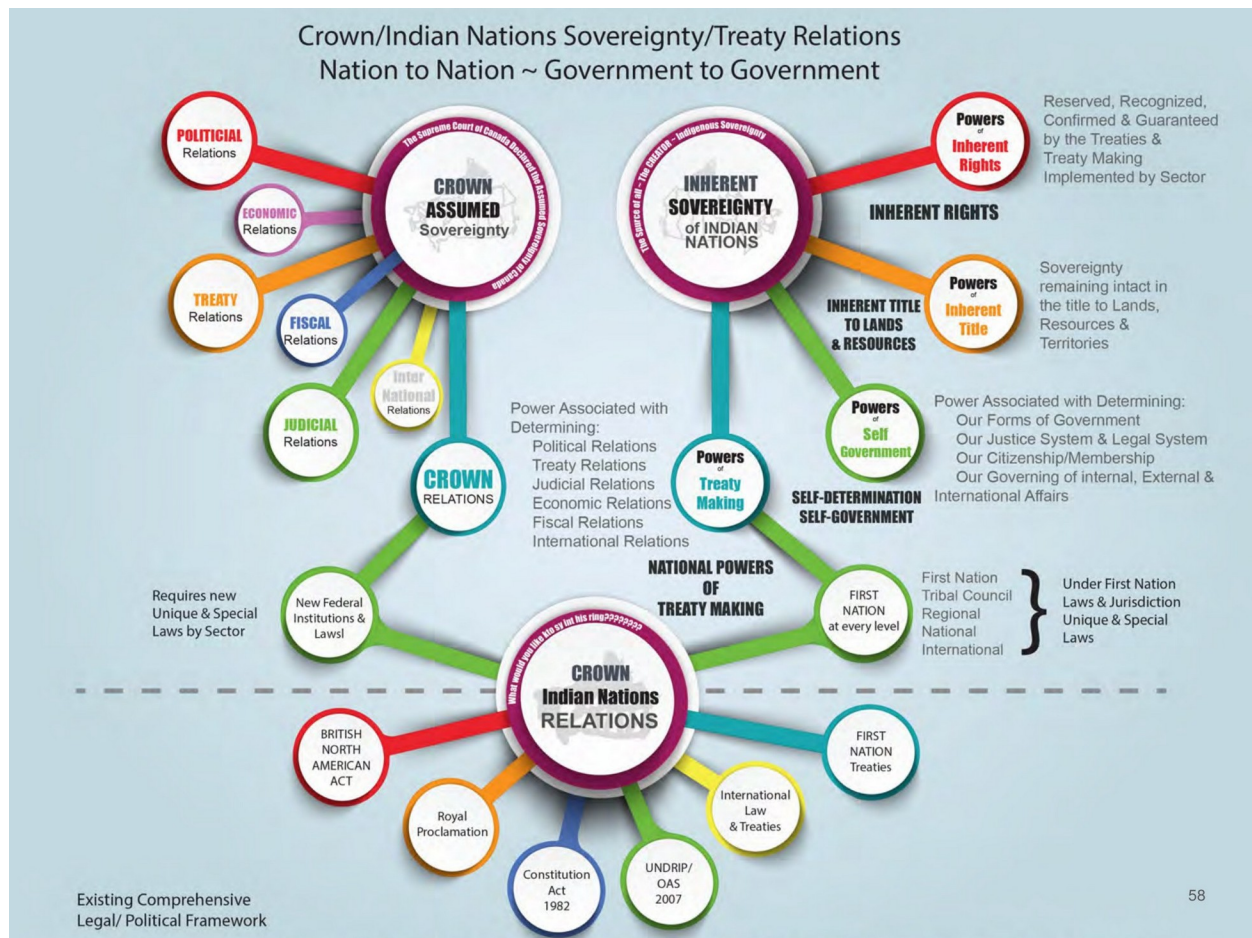


Exhibit 3. Crown/Indian Nations Sovereignty/Treaty Relations: Nation to Nation, Government to Government

Attachment 2. Fiscal Relations and Financing of Indian Nations Governments

Government to government fiscal relations

Current funding flows through program contribution agreements set by federal departments. The Framework replaces these with multi-year, government to government fiscal agreements, negotiated sector by sector and administered by the Governments of Indian Nations at the band, tribal council and federation levels. Section 35(1) provides for accessing funds from all federal ministries and departments, including Finance and Treasury Board, not only Indigenous Services Canada and Crown and Indigenous Relations.

Sector	Scope
A. Political	Government operations, legislative assemblies, councils, intergovernmental relations.
B. Economy	Government development, banking, energy, trade and commerce, business, high technology, free trade, training.
C. Community Development	Community planning and services.
D. Fiscal Relations	Treasury Board, finance and revenue, auditing, banking.
E. Human Resources and Community Services	Education, health, social development, environment and conservation.
F. Public Works and Infrastructure	Housing, infrastructure, capital.
G. Resource and Revenue	Lands, resources, revenue; inherent and Treaty rights.

Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels
(Band, Tribal Councils and FSIN)

Sector / Program	Multi-Level Funding	Federal Funding Source and Consolidation of all Funding
Sector A: First Nation Political Organizations and Implementation of First Nations Governments		
Program 1: Political Funding		First Nations Governments and Federal Government • New fiscal relations and a new fiscal agreement based on the framework and of Inherent rights, treaty rights, Treaties, Royal Proclamation of 1763, and the BNA Act of 1982. • Consolidation of all federal funding. • First Nation General Development and concurrent community based implementation of Inherent rights and Treaty rights by sector.
Program 2: First Nations Government Development		
Program 3: Executive Management		
Program 4: Inherent Rights, Treaty Rights and Treaty Implementation		
Program 5: First Nations Government Offices and Complex		
Program 6: Development of First Nations Law, Policies & Public Admin		
Program 7: High Tech and Communications Program 8: Institutional Development		
Program 9: First Nation Government Specialists		
Sector B: First Nation Economy		First Nations Fiscal Relations Establish a First Nations Department of Finance and Revenue. • Develop and Implement First Nations Budgets. • Invoice all Treaty Annuities • Develop First Nations Finance & Administration Law and Policies • Develop and Establish a First Nations Auditing System • Implement First Nations Fiscal Relations
Program 1: First Nations Trade and Commerce		
Program 2: First Nations Government development		
Program 3: First Nations Banking		
Program 4: First Nations Energy and Resource Development		
Program 5: Trade and Commerce		
Program 6: Business and Industry		
Program 7: High Tech and Telecommunications		
Program 8: Free Trade		
Program 9: Training and Employment		
Sector C: Community Development		
Program 1: Treaty Protocol		
Program 2: Political Sector		
Program 3: Education Sector		
Program 4: Social Development Sector		
Program 5: Health Sector		
Program 6: First Nations Economy		

19

Exhibit 4. Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels (Band, Tribal Councils and FSIN), Sectors A to C

Sector / Program	Multi-Level Funding	Federal Funding Source and Consolidation of all Funding
Sector D: First Nations Fiscal Relations		
Program 1: First Nation Budgeting Strategy		
Program 2: Finance and Administration		
Sector E: Human Resources and Community Services		
Program 1: First Nation Social Safety Net		
Program 2: First Nation Justice System		
Program 3: First Nation Education System		
Program 4: First Nation Health System		
Program 5: First Nation Social Development		
Program 6: First Nation Child and Family Services		
Program 7: First Nation Youth Development		
Program 8: First Nation Facilities and Planning		
Program 9: First Nation Schools, Institutes and Colleges		
Program 10: First Nation Specialists		
Program 11: First Nation Environment and Conservation		
Program 12: First Nation Custody		
Program 13: Training and Employment		
Sector F: First Nations Public Works and Infrastructure		
Program 1: Department of Public Works & Infrastructure		
Program 2: First Nation Government Development		
Program 3: First Nation Banking		
Program 4: First Nation Energy and Resource Development		
Program 5: Trade and Commerce		
Program 6: Business and Industry		
Program 7: High Tech and Telecommunications		
Program 8: Free Trade		
Program 9: Training and Employment		
Program 10: Engineering and Technical Services		
Program 11: First Nation Environment and Conservation		
Program 12: Housing		

20

Exhibit 5. Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels, Sectors D to F

Sector / Program	Multi-Level Funding	Federal Funding Source and Consolidation of all Funding
Sector G: Resource and Revenue		
Program 1: First Nation Revenue		
Program 2: First Nation Capital		
Program 3: Resource Sharing		
Program 4: Revenue Sharing		
Program 5: Tax Convention		
Program 6: Fiscal Relations		
Program 7: FN Taxation Regime		
Program 8: FN General Developments		
Program 9: FN Social Safety Net and Supplementary Funding		
Program 10: FN Economy Production and Revenue Generation		

Exhibit 6. *Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels, Sector G*

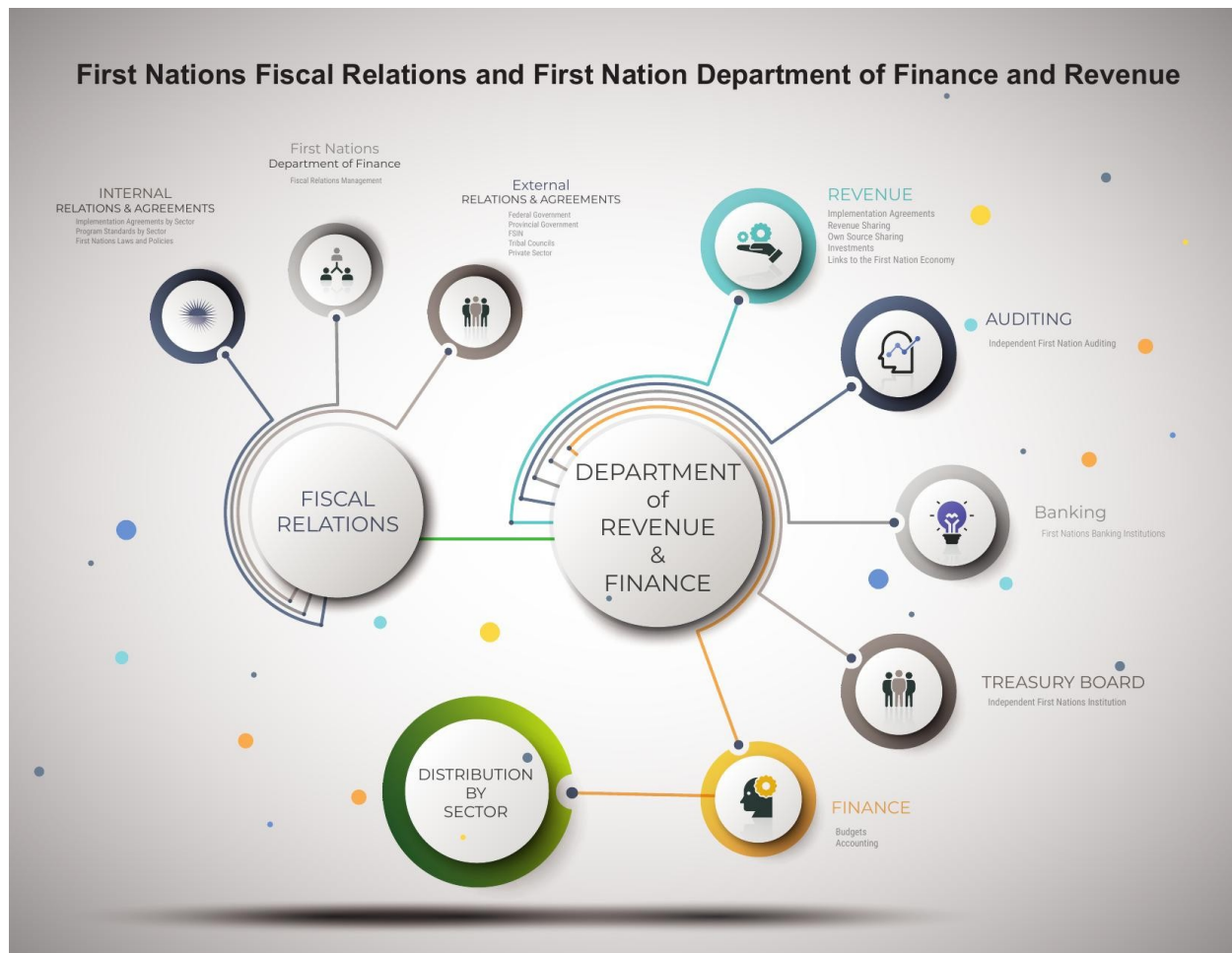


Exhibit 7. *First Nations Fiscal Relations and First Nation Department of Finance and Revenue*

- **Institutions:** an Indian Nations Finance Administration Act operating concurrently with the federal *Financial Administration Act*; a First Nations Council for Fiscal Relations with Treasury Board, Finance and Revenue, Auditing and Banking functions; and Departments of Finance and Revenue established by the Governments of Indian Nations.
- **Revenue:** federal transfers based on Treaty and trust obligations; a share of resource revenue from Treaty lands; own-source revenue, including taxation by Indian Nations governments and an Indian Nations fee on resource development; financing based on total population, with indexing and direct transfers.
- **Taxation:** the Treaties treated access to lands and resources as a prepayment. Only an Indian Nation government has jurisdiction to tax its citizens; the protections in sections 87 and 89 of the *Indian Act* are a matter of Treaty immunity, not exemption. Our sovereignty and the Treaties provide for tax immunity and tax exemptions that are portable, by community, regionally, nationally, internationally and inter-tribally.
- **The social safety net:** a phased transfer of health, social, post-secondary and income-security programs over one to three years, in ten steps, from formal

structuring and budgeting through to Indian Nations social safety net laws and data centres for administration. Today Indian Nations receive only public health funding, not primary health and health care funding, which goes to provincial governments.



Exhibit 8. Sources of Revenue and Fiscal Relations between Canada and First Nations/Indigenous Governments

The Federal/Indian Nations Social Safety Net: transition process

A phased transition over one to three years (Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum, and JD Miller, First Tech, 2020):

1. Formally structure the Federal/Indian Nations social safety net.
2. Identify the framework and format for the social safety net.

3. Identify the formal transition and fiscal transfers.
4. Identify the new institutions and structures required at the band, tribal and agency council, and FSIN levels.
5. Identify the budgeting at all levels.
6. Identify the new fiscal relations and the financing of the transfers.
7. Stage the annual implementation of the transfers.
8. Formalize the Federal/Indian Nations social safety net at all levels.
9. Implement the unique and special social safety net laws of the Governments of Indian Nations and of the federal government.
10. Develop information and communication technology and data centres for administration.

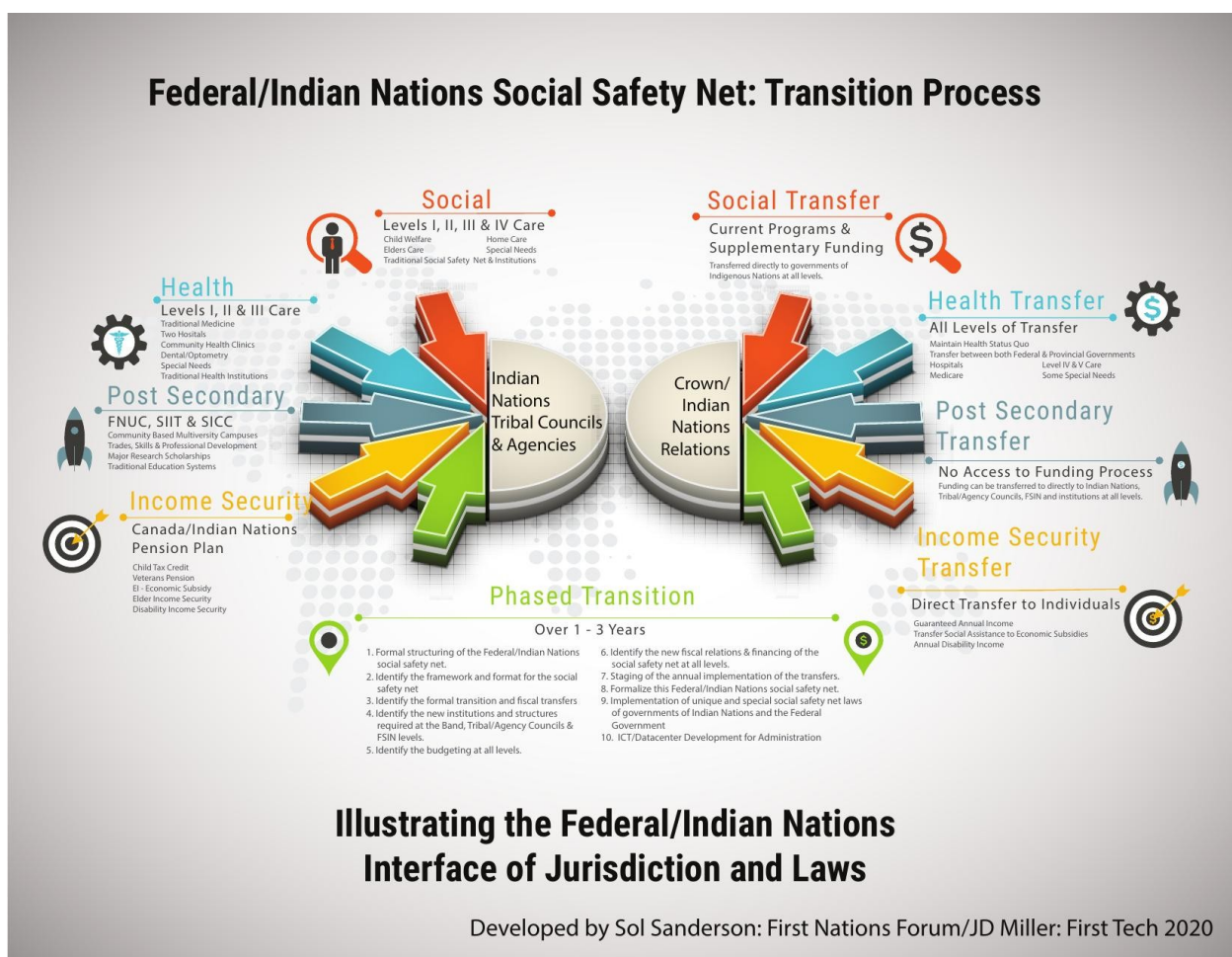


Exhibit 9. Federal/Indian Nations Social Safety Net: Transition Process

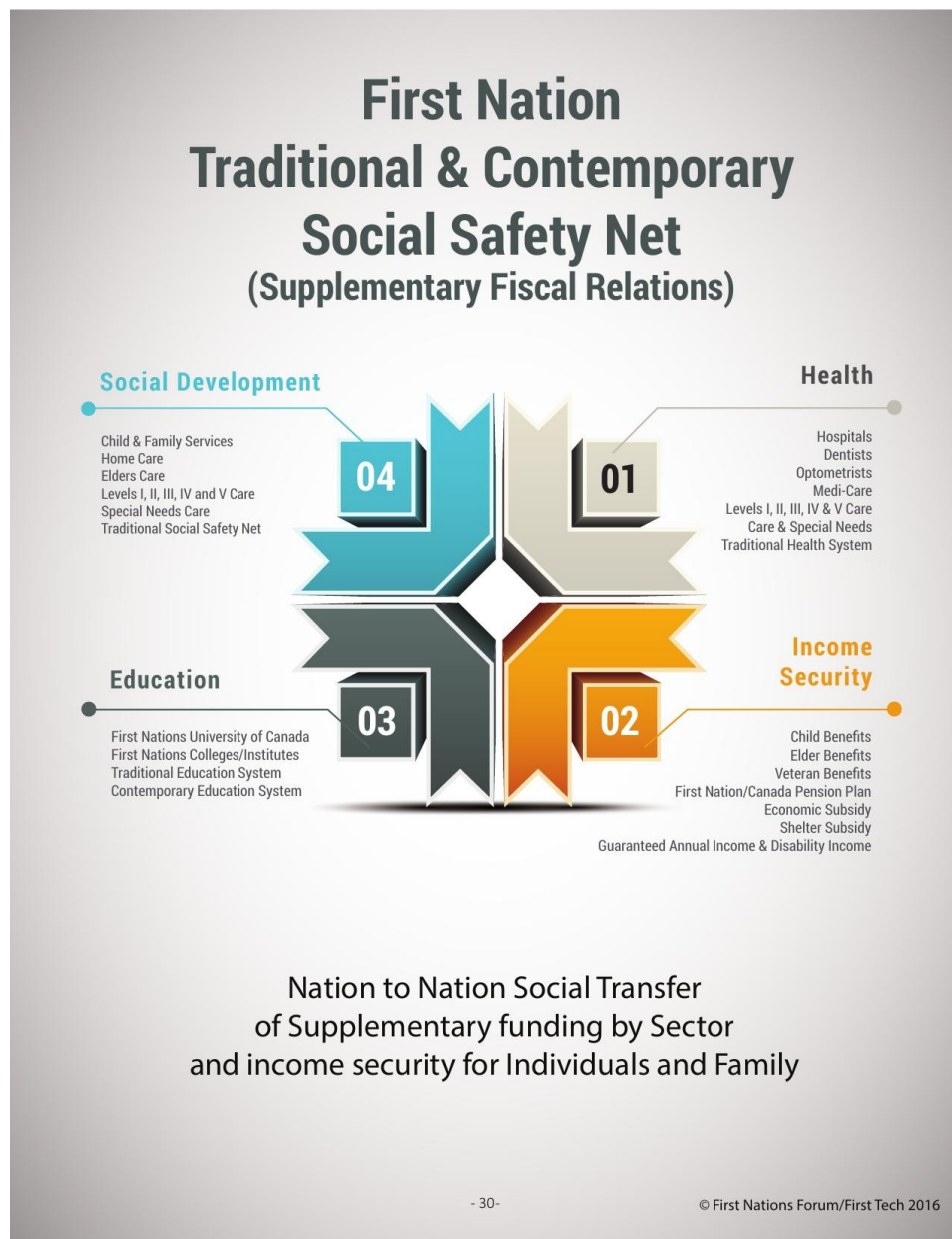


Exhibit 10. First Nation Traditional and Contemporary Social Safety Net: Nation to Nation Social Transfer

Fiscal institutions and financial administration

The First Nations Forum conference on Fiscal Relations between the Crown and Governments of Indian Nations (Prince Albert, August 10 to 12, 2026) set out the institutions required:³¹

- Departments of Finance and Revenue, under an Indian Nations Finance Administration Act;
- accounting and auditing processes, reporting capacity, an Auditor General and an independent accounting firm;

³¹First Nations Forum, Crown / Indian Nations Relations: Sovereignty, Treaty Rights and Governance, conference booklet (Prince Albert, August 2026).

- program standards set under the inherent legal systems and laws of Indian Nations;
- budgeting from April to March, with an additional three months for debt financing; and
- leadership development and training in Indian Nations fiscal relations, with reconciliation plans toward 2030.

Attachment 3. Inherent Sovereignty, Inherent Rights by Sector and Inherent Title

Our inherent sovereignty, inherent rights by sector, and inherent title to lands and resources are granted to our Nations and Peoples by the Creator.

Identifying our inherent sovereignty, rights and title

Legal and political recognition of three things:³²

- **The inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations**, with the national powers of governing, internal, external, international and inter-tribal, and the national powers of treaty-making exercised in the international Treaties One to Eleven;
- **The inherent rights by sector**, for example, the inherent rights to education, health and social development; and
- **The inherent title to lands, water, resources and air space**, with the sovereignty of Indian Nations remaining intact in the title to all lands, resources (renewable and non-renewable), water and air space.

Our inherent sovereignty, our inherent rights by sector, and our inherent title to lands, resources, water and air are granted to our peoples and Nations by the Creator. They come from no other source, not from a constitution, not from the Treaties, and not from colonial laws.

Senator Sol Sanderson, September 28, 2026

³²Sol Sanderson, Status of Legal and Political Recognition (First Nations Forum, September 28, 2026).

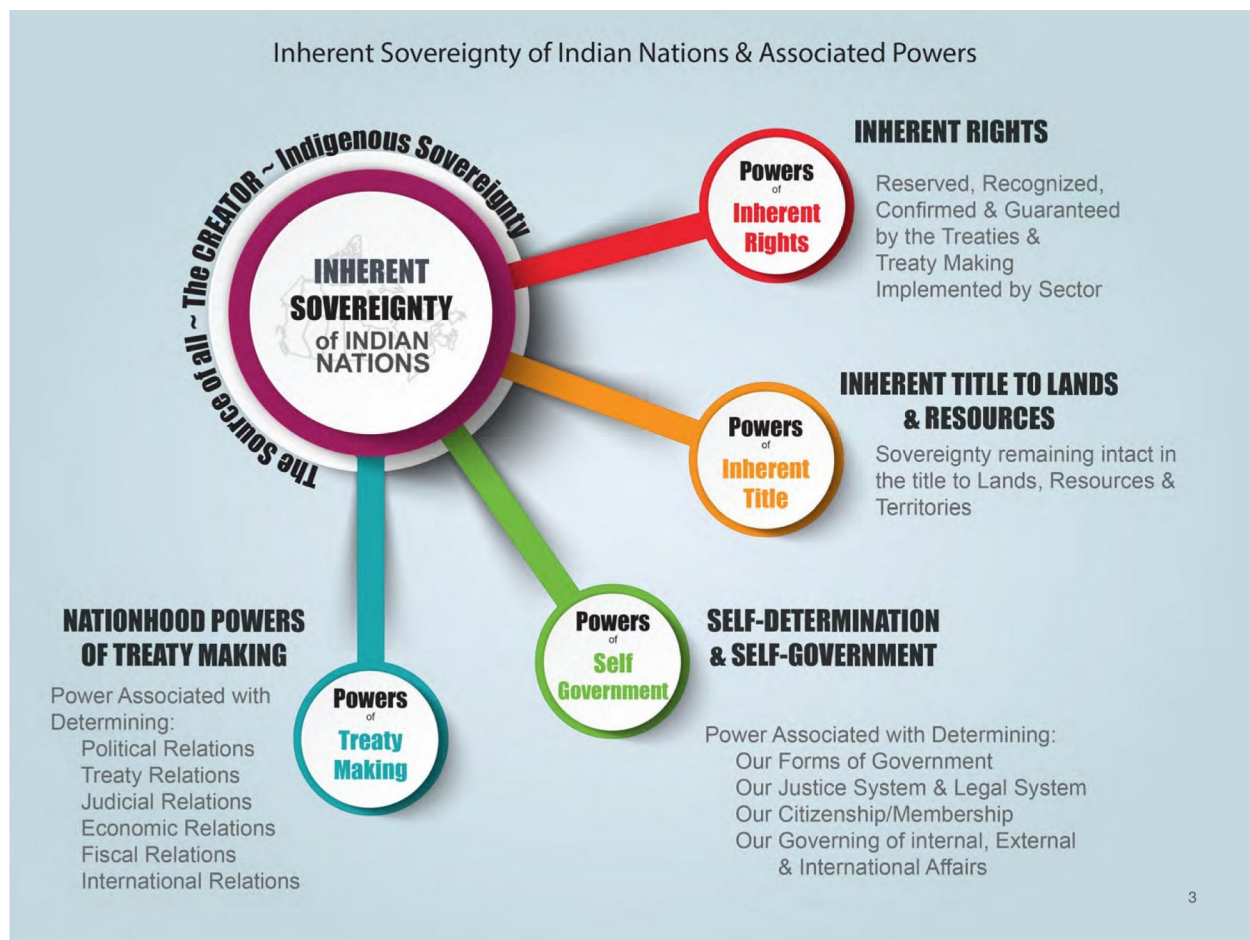


Exhibit 11. *Inherent Sovereignty of Indian Nations and Associated Powers*

Canada's own courts have moved toward this position. The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that Aboriginal title exists as a legal right derived from prior occupation, not from a Crown grant,³³ and has declared Aboriginal title to specific lands.³⁴ In 2024 it upheld federal legislation that affirms the inherent right of self-government as a right recognized and affirmed by section 35.³⁵ The UN Declaration, which Canada has committed in law to implement, recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and to the lands and resources they have traditionally owned.³⁶

The source of inherent rights

This part draws on "Inherent Rights of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island," prepared by Elsie Sanderson.³⁷

³³Calder v. British Columbia (Attorney General), [1973] S.C.R. 313.

³⁴Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44.

³⁵Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, 2024 SCC 5.

³⁶United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, G.A. Res. 61/295 (2007), Articles 3, 4, 26, 37.

³⁷Elsie Sanderson, Inherent Rights of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island (First Nations Forum, 2004; expanded edition).

- Inherent rights are gifts bestowed by the Great Spirit, our Creator, on the Peoples of our Nations. They flow from the Creator to the People, and are vested in the People individually.
- They are the national (collective) rights of our People and the individual rights of each citizen of our Nation.
- Our inherent rights are not acquired from any other source. No other nation, government, parliament or legislature can grant us our inherent rights. We are born with them intact, from generation to generation.
- They cannot be taken away by any government or institution, nor altered in any way, without our express consent.
- They exist independent of treaties, constitutions, and government laws and policies.

Born Indian

- We are born Indian, born with the rights of our Nation (Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Dakota and other Nations). We inherit these rights at birth by virtue of our nationality and ancestry, and our children and grandchildren inherit their parents' rights.
- As Nations, we are responsible to maintain and to use our inherent rights. They are comprehensive, and provide for the spiritual, social, economic and political requirements for the survival of our Nations and Peoples, including the full range of sovereign powers of nationhood.

Inherent rights by sector

Area	In the exercise of these rights, we have the right to:
Political	Self-determination; sovereignty; self-government in the customary form of our Nations; select and remove our officials; make decisions according to our traditions and customs; conduct internal and external affairs, including treaty-making; make laws, regulations and ordinances, implementing the equality of government, jurisdiction, laws and courts.
Economic	Sovereign title to our lands and resources; our own trade and commerce, economic customs, systems and institutions; water, air and air space; regulate economic activity through our own law and policy; determine conservation practices; conduct traditional pursuits; gather medicines and foods; raise revenue through taxes, excise and tariffs.
Social	Organize our societies; preserve and use our languages; determine citizenship and membership; shelter, safety and freedom from want; establish and regulate health and healing, justice, education, and child and family institutions; make social law and policy.
Spiritual and cultural	Ceremonies and prayers; forms of worship; songs and dances; practitioners; societies and lodges; oral traditions and customary law.



Exhibit 12. *Inherent Rights: the Creator as the source*

Duties and obligations

Each right carries **individual and collective duties and obligations**. We are responsible for the exercise and survival of each inherent right, and our responsibility extends to seven generations not yet born. Implementation therefore requires plans and strategies that identify the duties and obligations for inherent sovereignty, for each inherent right by sector, and for title to lands, resources, water and air, with sovereignty remaining intact in all titles.

Defining our rights in our own languages

Each Nation defines its inherent sovereignty, rights and title in its own language, according to its own customs, traditions, practices, values and beliefs. The Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakoda and other Nations each hold these definitions in their own words. These definitions, not definitions written for us by another

government, are the starting point for recognition and for the laws that implement our rights.

Elsie Sanderson's paper sets out the spiritual and cultural beliefs and values from which these rights flow, including their Cree terms. Each Nation completing its own definitions is the first step in implementation.

Validating our inherent sovereignty, rights and title

Indian Nations validate their inherent sovereignty, inherent rights by sector, and inherent title to lands, resources, water and jurisdiction for air space by:

1. Identifying a list of inherent sovereignty and powers of governing, inherent rights by sector, and inherent rights and title.
2. Defining them, with the sovereignty of Indian Nations remaining intact to the title, using each Nation's language, worldview, philosophy, customs, practices, traditions, values and beliefs.
3. Identifying the individual and collective duties and responsibilities that go with them.
4. Developing implementation plans and strategies for inherent rights and title and the sovereignty of the Nation.
5. Identifying the drafting instructions for the laws of the inherent legal system: "unique and special" laws giving legal effect to inherent sovereignty, rights and title under the jurisdiction and laws of each Nation. For example, a traditional and contemporary education system under a Traditional and Contemporary Education Act. This format is required in every sector.
6. Enacting a formal schedule of unique and special laws of the Indian Nation giving legal effect to inherent rights and title, and to Treaties and Treaty rights.

This implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework, through validation by Indian Nations and Peoples themselves.

Implementing our inherent sovereignty

Inherent sovereignty is exercised through two sets of national powers:

- **The national powers of governing:** internal, external, international and inter-tribal.
- **The national powers of treaty making:** exercised by our Nations long before contact, and in Treaties One to Eleven.

Our inherent sovereignty, inherent rights and inherent title are **reserved, recognized, confirmed and guaranteed** by these national powers of governing and treaty making, through the international Treaties One to Eleven.

Plans and strategies for implementation

Implementation requires, for each Nation and each sector:

1. Identifying and listing each inherent right, and our title to lands, resources, water and air.
2. Defining each right in our own language, customs, traditions, practices, values and beliefs.
3. Identifying the individual and collective duties and responsibilities that go with each right.
4. Drafting the “unique and special” laws of the Government of the Indian Nation for each sector.
5. Establishing the traditional and contemporary system, institutions and financing to carry them out.

Two examples of implementation

Sector	Traditional and contemporary system	Unique and special laws	Treaty basis
Education	A traditional and contemporary education system, with an Education Board and Department of Education governed by the Nation, teaching in our languages alongside contemporary curriculum.	A traditional and contemporary Education Act of the Indian Nation, and a matching federal schedule law setting out federal jurisdiction, trust and fiscal obligations.	Treaty 6: “Her Majesty agrees to maintain schools for instruction in such reserves.” Other reserves include land set aside for education.
Health	The Medicine Chest Society and traditional healers working with contemporary health services, under a Health Board and Department of Health of the Nation.	A Health Act of the Indian Nation, and a federal schedule law securing primary health and health care funding, not public health funding alone.	Treaty 6: the medicine chest clause, and assistance in time of pestilence or famine.

Attachment 4. The Spirit and Intent of the Treaties

Our inherent rights and title are recognized by the international Treaties One to Eleven and by Treaty rights. **We therefore hold both inherent rights and Treaty rights in every sector**, and both must be implemented together.

Nations make Treaties; Treaties do not make Nations

Long before non-Indians came to Turtle Island, our Elders and leaders exercised their national powers of governing and of treaty-making to enter into treaties between their respective governments and Nations. Our inherent sovereignty, our inherent rights by sector, and our title to lands, resources, water and air form our way of life, historically, today and for the future.

The Crown made Treaties One to Eleven with Indian Nations as nations. Treaty 6 itself is expressed as an agreement between the Queen “of the one part” and the Plain and Wood Cree and other Tribes “of the other part.”³⁸ The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that the Crown dealt with Indian Nations as independent nations when making treaties,³⁹ and a United Nations study has found that treaties with Indigenous peoples are international in character.⁴⁰

The recognition of Treaty 6 as an international treaty, and the finding that the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreements were illegal, arose from a separate process at the United Nations initiated by the Elders and Chiefs of the Maskwacis (formerly Hobbema) Nations with the Treaty Council.

The status of the Treaties

- **Treaties One to Eleven form one major treaty** between Indian Nations and the Crown. All the written and oral provisions of each Treaty apply to all the others. For example, the medicine chest clause of Treaty 6 applies to Treaties One to Eleven.
- **Both parties must give the Treaties legal effect.** Under the national powers of treaty making, both Nations, through their governments, must give legal effect to the Treaties in order to maintain their international status.
- **Modern treaties are domestic.** Modern treaties and comprehensive self-government agreements are given legal effect only under federal law, not by the Governments of Indian Nations. They therefore have domestic, not international, status.

³⁸Treaty No. 6 between Her Majesty the Queen and the Plain and Wood Cree Indians and other Tribes of Indians (1876), Library and Archives Canada.

³⁹R. v. Sioui, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 1025.

⁴⁰Miguel Alfonso Martínez, Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations, Final Report, UN Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/20 (1999).

- **Neither party has yet enacted the laws required.** Neither the Governments of Indian Nations nor the Crown in right of Canada has enacted the laws needed to give legal effect to the Treaties, Treaty rights, and inherent rights and title. This remains outstanding Treaty business.

A review is also required of the status and definitions of inherent rights and title, inherent human rights, Aboriginal status, and Treaty rights.

Indian Treaty Rights are ours to provide protection for future generations and to keep on our way of life as our Creator taught us. We cannot sell our lands and resources or give them away. We can share it with you in the spirit of co-existence. This is the position of the Indian Nations.

Senator Sol Sanderson

What the Treaties provide, by sector

The written Treaty texts do not capture everything that was promised. The Treaty Nations understood the Treaties as sacred agreements to share the land, not to surrender their way of life.⁴¹ The Treaty Commissioners' own record of the negotiations confirms the promises made.⁴²

What I have offered does not take away your way of life. You will have it then as you have it now, and what I offer is put on top of it.

Treaty Commissioner, Treaty 6, 1876

Sector	Treaty text (Treaty 6)	Spirit and intent
Education	"Her Majesty agrees to maintain schools for instruction in such reserves..."	Education as a Treaty right, delivered by the Nations.
Health	"That a medicine chest shall be kept at the house of each Indian Agent for the use and benefit of the Indians..."	Health and health care as a Treaty right.
Social assistance	"...being overtaken by any pestilence, or by a general famine, the Queen... will grant to the Indians assistance..."	The basis of the social safety net.
Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering	"...shall have right to pursue their avocations of hunting and fishing throughout the tract surrendered..."	Continued livelihood, including the gathering of food and of plants for medicines, "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow."

⁴¹Sol Sanderson, Inherent Rights and Treaties (First Nations Forum, July 2019).

⁴²Alexander Morris, The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories (Toronto: Belfords, Clarke & Co., 1880).

Sector	Treaty text (Treaty 6)	Spirit and intent
Justice	Commitment to maintain peace and good order	Indian Nations justice systems and reciprocal extradition.
Taxation	Assurance of no forced interference with the Nations' mode of life	Tax immunity and tax exemptions; taxation jurisdiction rests with Indian Nations governments, based on our sovereignty and the international Treaties.
Meet in Council	Treaty parties to meet and review	Annual review and renewal of the Treaty relationship. To maintain the international status of the Treaties, both parties must give them legal effect under the laws and jurisdiction of their respective governments.

How the Treaties must be interpreted

Canadian law supports our approach. Treaties and statutes relating to Indians are to be liberally construed, with doubtful expressions resolved in favour of the Indians.⁴³ The honour of the Crown is always at stake in its dealings with Indian peoples,⁴⁴ and it governs how the Crown must act toward Treaty Nations.⁴⁵

⁴³Nowegijick v. The Queen, [1983] 1 S.C.R. 29 (treaties and statutes relating to Indians are to be liberally construed, with doubtful expressions resolved in favour of the Indians).

⁴⁴R. v. Badger, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771 (the honour of the Crown is always at stake in its dealings with Indian people; Treaties are to be interpreted in a manner that upholds that honour).

⁴⁵Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), 2004 SCC 73. Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage), 2005 SCC 69.

Attachment 5. Implementation through Unique and Special Laws

Inherent rights and title, and Treaties and Treaty rights, are implemented by sector through traditional and contemporary systems, under two schedules of “unique and special” laws: one of the Governments of Indian Nations, and one of the federal government, identifying clearly federal legal jurisdiction and the federal trust and fiscal obligations.

Senator Sanderson’s seven principles

1. **Inherent Sovereignty**, with the National Powers of Treaty Making and the National Powers of Governing.
2. **Inherent Rights by Sector**, for example, Education, together with Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights.
3. **Inherent Title**, with the sovereignty of Indian Nations remaining intact in the titles to all lands, resources, water and air granted by the Creator.
4. These rights are **“Reserved, Recognized, Confirmed and Guaranteed”** by the National Powers of Treaty Making and the International Treaties One to Eleven.
5. **“Nations Make Treaties; Treaties Do Not Make Nations.”**
6. **Implementing the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties.**
7. **Traditional and contemporary systems** implementing and enforcing the sacred obligations for inherent rights and title, and Treaties and Treaty rights, under a schedule of “unique and special” laws of the Governments of Indian Nations, and a new schedule of federal “unique and special” laws by sector.

Schedules of “unique and special” laws

Inherent rights and title, and the Treaties and Treaty rights, must be implemented and enforced **concurrently**, through schedules of “unique and special” laws of the Governments of Indian Nations, delivered through traditional and contemporary systems.

The Crown and the federal government require a matching **new schedule of “unique and special” laws** that clearly identifies federal jurisdiction and the federal legal, fiscal and trust obligations for inherent rights and title, and for Treaties and Treaty rights, by sector. For example, education requires a traditional and contemporary education system under a traditional and contemporary Education Act. Every sector requires this format.

A complete list is required of inherent rights and title and of Treaty rights, together with the inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations, the national powers of government and the national powers of treaty-making.

The Treaties provide for more than the reserves on which people live. Treaty 6 sets aside reserves of one square mile (640 acres) for each family of five, or in that proportion, “due respect being had to lands at present cultivated by the said Indians, and other reserves for the benefit of the said Indians.”⁴⁶ These “other reserves” include hay meadows, fishing stations, timber berths, traditional and ancestral lands and resources, spiritual and ceremonial lands, and Treaty-making grounds. They allow inherent rights and title, and Treaties and Treaty rights, to be implemented and enforced by sector.

The Schedule of Unique and Special Laws, by sector

Senator Sanderson’s schedule sets out, for fifteen sectors, the inherent and Treaty right, the traditional and contemporary system, and the laws and fiscal arrangements required of each government.

Sector	Inherent and Treaty rights	Traditional and contemporary system	Indian Nation law	Federal law	Fiscal relations
1. Health	Inherent and Treaty rights to health	Traditional and contemporary health system	Traditional and Contemporary Health Act	Act respecting a traditional and contemporary health system	Fiscal relations for the health system, with public and primary health care funding
2. Education	Inherent and Treaty rights to education	Traditional and contemporary education system	Traditional and Contemporary Education Act	Act respecting a traditional and contemporary education system	Fiscal relations for the education system
3. Social development and Indian child and family services	Inherent and Treaty rights to social development and child and family services	Traditional and contemporary social development and ICFS system	Social Development and ICFS Act	Act respecting the social development and ICFS system	Fiscal relations for the social development and ICFS system
4. Social safety net	Inherent and Treaty rights to the social safety net	Traditional and contemporary social safety net	Social Safety Net Act	Act respecting the social safety net	Fiscal relations for the social safety net
5. Government (political relations)	Inherent rights and powers of government; Inherent and Treaty rights to government	Traditional and contemporary forms and processes of government, by community and inter-tribally	First Nations Convention and Convention Act	Recognition Act of First Nations Government	Financing of First Nations government, community based and inter-tribal

⁴⁶Treaty No. 6 between Her Majesty the Queen and the Plain and Wood Cree Indians and other Tribes of Indians (1876), Library and Archives Canada.

Sector	Inherent and Treaty rights	Traditional and contemporary system	Indian Nation law	Federal law	Fiscal relations
6. Justice and judicial system	Inherent and Treaty rights to justice (judicial relations)	Traditional and contemporary justice system	Justice Commission and Justice Act	Act respecting a traditional and contemporary justice system	Fiscal relations for the justice system
7. Financing of government and fiscal relations, including Treaty annuities	Inherent and Treaty rights to funding by sector	Funding arrangements by sector; new fiscal departments and institutes	Finance and Revenue Act; government to government fiscal agreements	Act respecting financing of First Nation government and new fiscal relations	Direct transfer payments for financing
8. Economy (economic relations)	Inherent and Treaty rights to economics	Traditional and contemporary economy, by sector	Acts respecting a First Nation economy	Act respecting a traditional and contemporary economy	Fiscal relations and financing of the economy
9. Citizenship and membership	Inherent and Treaty rights to citizenship and membership; Jay Treaty dual citizenship in North America	Traditional and contemporary citizenship and membership system	Citizenship Act and Membership Code (see the Indian Act membership codes, and section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982)	Act respecting the citizenship and membership system	Financing of the citizenship and membership system; Indian Canadian citizenship
10. Title lands	Inherent rights and title to territory and lands; Treaty rights to title lands	Traditional territory and lands; contemporary lands	Land Management and Land Use Act; an Act for Inherent Rights and Title to Lands and Resources	Act respecting traditional and contemporary title lands	Fiscal relations for land management and use
11. Title to resources	Inherent rights and title to resources, environment, water and air (non-renewable resources reserved by treaty making)	Management and use of renewable and non-renewable resources, air, air space and water	Resource Act; Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; Environment and Conservation Act	Act respecting a resource, environment, water and air management system	Fiscal relations for the management system
12. Culture, language and spirituality	Inherent rights to culture, language and spirituality	Traditional and contemporary culture, spiritual and language system	Culture, Spirituality and Language Act	Act respecting culture, language and spirituality	Fiscal relations for culture, language and spirituality
13. Inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty rights by sector	Identify and define inherent rights in the Nation's language; identify Treaty rights	Inherent rights through traditional systems; Treaty rights through contemporary systems	Laws and policies defining inherent and Treaty rights by sector	New laws recognizing inherent and Treaty rights by sector	New fiscal relations implementing inherent and Treaty rights
14. Housing (shelter) and public works	Inherent and Treaty rights to shelter and fuel	Traditional and contemporary housing, public works and infrastructure	Laws setting standards for housing, public works and infrastructure	New laws recognizing housing, public works and infrastructure	Fiscal relations for housing, public works and infrastructure

Sector	Inherent and Treaty rights	Traditional and contemporary system	Indian Nation law	Federal law	Fiscal relations
15. Information and communication technology	Inherent and Treaty rights to information, communication and data	Traditional and contemporary ICT systems; cloud and data centres	ICT and Data Governance Act (OCAP® principles)	Act respecting ICT systems and cloud and data centres	Fiscal relations for ICT systems and cloud and data centres

Source: Schedule of Special and Unique Laws, Crown/Indian Nations Legal and Political Framework, Senator Sol Sanderson (September 2026).

From the Indian Act to traditional and contemporary government

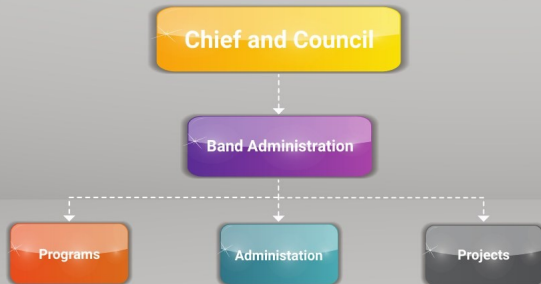
The self-determination charts by Senator Sanderson and JD Miller trace how governance was imposed, and how it must be restored:

- **1900 to 1956:** Chief and Council under the *Indian Act*, with Indian Agents in control, as local government.
- **1956 to 2026:** INAC self-administration structures, implementing local government and provincial jurisdiction and laws.
- **The transition:** a traditional and contemporary system of government, built on the kinship and clan system, with an executive branch, a legislative branch, a judicial branch, and operations and administration; departments of Education, Health, Welfare, and Finance and Revenue; and new institutions and structures for every sector, with the highly structured and disciplined societies in every sector, such as the Medicine Chest Society.

Elections under the Indian Act - Local Government

INDIAN ACT 1900 - 1956

Implementing the "Indian Act"
Ended in 1956 when Indians could lawfully gather
in groups larger than 3s



Self Administration /Administrative Structure

1960 - 2000

Implementing the "1969 White Paper Policies"

- 1st Generation Devolution Policies
- 1980 Buffalo Jump
- 2nd Generation Devolution Policies
- Provincial Jurisdiction and Law



Implementing Federal Jurisdiction and Law

2000 - Today

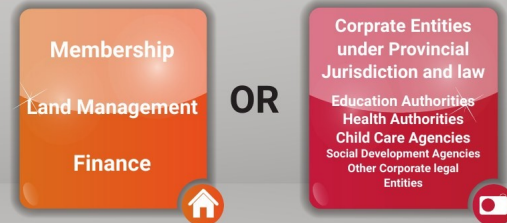


Exhibit 13. Elections under the Indian Act: local government, self-administration and devolution

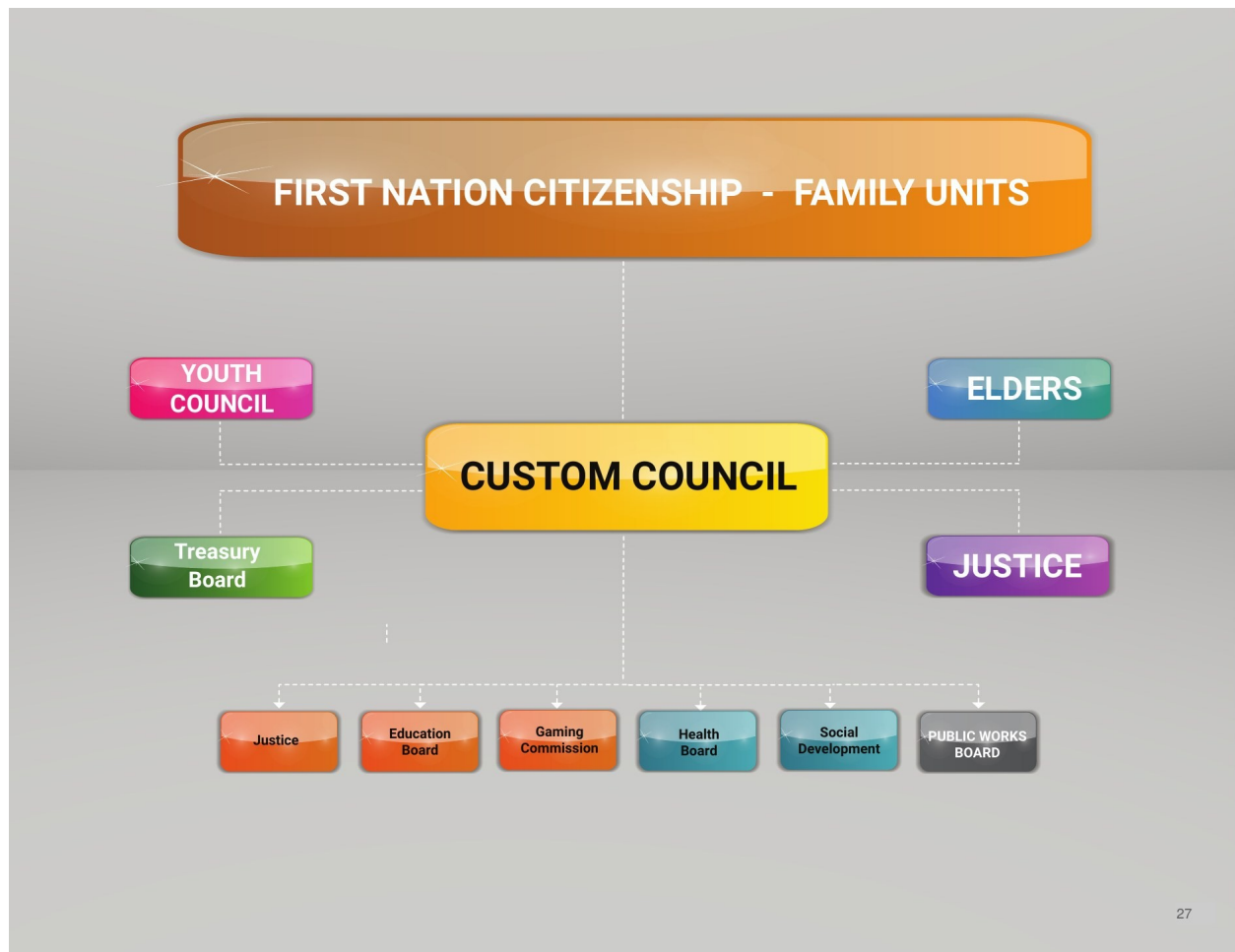


Exhibit 14. *First Nation Citizenship: family units and the Custom Council*

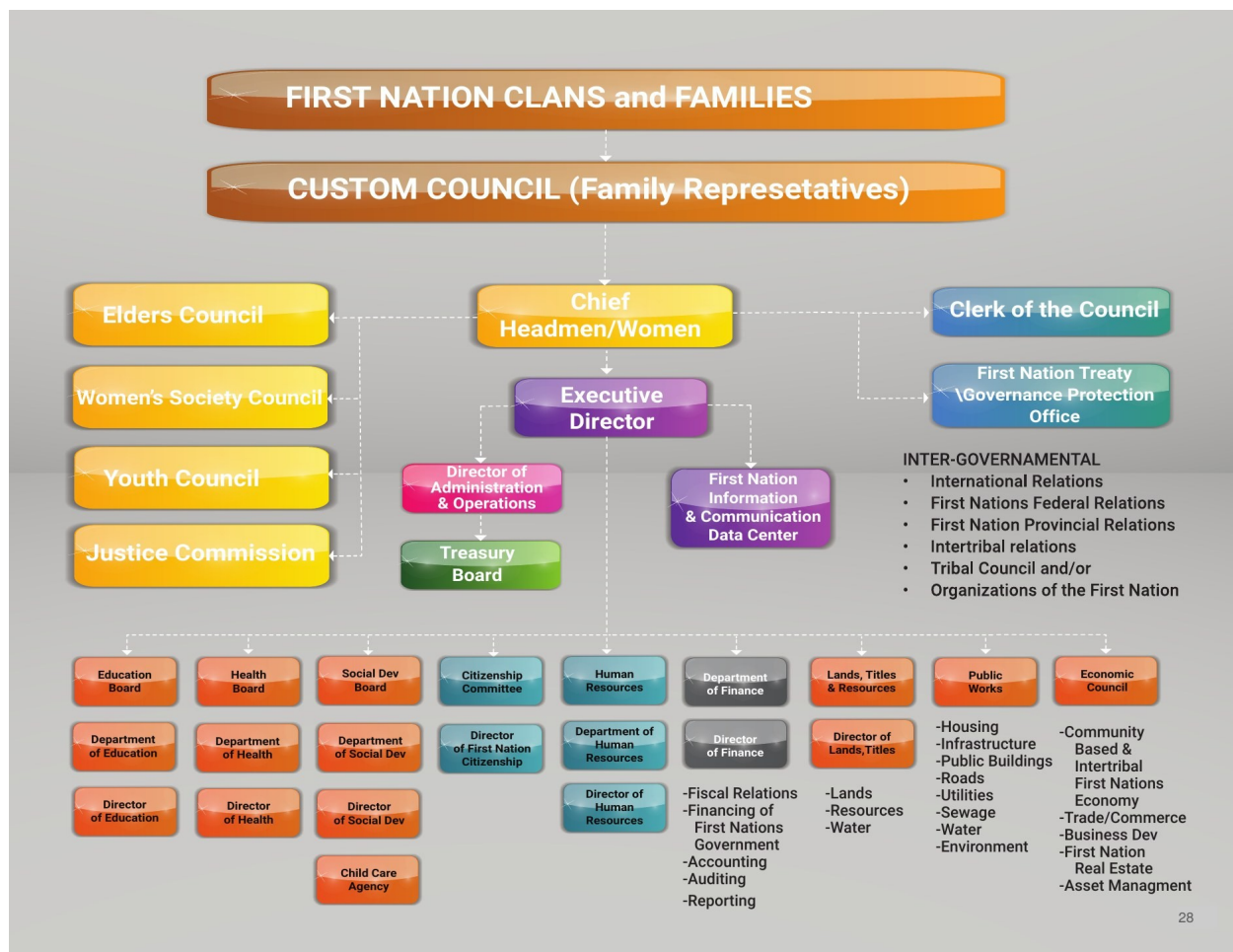


Exhibit 15. *First Nation Clans and Families: Custom Council structure and departments*

Traditional democratic institutions

Indian Nations governed themselves through democratic institutions long before contact. These systems were studied by newcomers: in 1988 the United States Congress formally acknowledged the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the United States Constitution.⁴⁷

Bands as political units of their Nations

Indian Bands are political units and communities of their respective Nations. Their political autonomy is reserved, recognized, confirmed and guaranteed by their national powers of governing and treaty making, with mutual terms and conditions that apply to all communities according to their customs and traditions. Each Nation's laws, including Anishinaabe, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda and Assiniboine, Cree, Saulteaux and Mi'kmaq laws, are implemented and validated by its own governments.

⁴⁷ U.S. Congress, H. Con. Res. 331, 100th Congress (1988), acknowledging the contribution of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of the United States Constitution.

Indian Governments of Saskatchewan

After receiving consent from their memberships, the Chiefs signed a Convention on April 16, 1982, restructuring the provincial governing body from a non-profit society into a Federation of Nations, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, now the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Canada's first Indian Legislative Assembly.⁴⁸ The FSIN Convention brings 74 First Nations together in Legislative Assembly. The Chiefs control the legislative, executive and administrative functions of government at the band, district and provincial levels.

For Treaty Six, we propose a Treaty Implementation Council of the Treaty Nations, supported by an Implementation Team, Treaty Six assets and seven Secretariats: Political, Treaty, Judicial, Economic, Fiscal, International, and Inherent Rights and Title. Treaty Six government to government bilateral relations and agreements are implemented by sector.

Both the Convention and the Convention Act of the FSIN have to be implemented and enforced by each Band, as a member under the FSIN Convention, and by each Tribal and Agency Council of the FSIN and the Federation of Nations of the FSIN.

⁴⁸Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Convention (April 16, 1982); FSIN Convention Act.

Attachment 6. Terminating Empire and Canadian Colonial Policies

This attachment sets out the five hundred years of Imperial colonial policies, the 150 years of Canadian colonial policies, and the devolution policies that must be terminated.

The objectives of Imperial and Canadian colonial policies are comprehensive. They target the spiritual, social, economic and political rights and interests of Indian Nations for termination. Canada's Parliament has recognized the residential school system as genocide;⁴⁹ the Truth and Reconciliation Commission described Canada's Indian policy as cultural genocide;⁵⁰ and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls concluded that Canada's actions amount to genocide.⁵¹

The 1493 Papal Bull and the Doctrine of Discovery

The 1493 Papal Bull issued by the Pope, and the Doctrine of Discovery built on it, treated Indigenous peoples as not human and not Christian; therefore without sovereignty or governments; without title to lands and resources; and without rights. The empires of England, Spain, Portugal and France applied these instructions through their governments to validate the illegal taking of Indigenous lands and resources worldwide. The Doctrine is a major source of the systemic racism, and of the third-world conditions, that Indians face on and off reserve today.

In March 2023 the Vatican repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery,⁵² but the 1493 Papal Bull has not been formally rescinded, and a statement alone will not bring corrective action. We call on the Pope to formally rescind the 1493 Papal Bull, and on the European churches to enter into a **reconciliation implementation agreement** that includes:

1. Recognition of the inherent sovereignty of Indian Nations, with their national powers of sovereignty and of treaty-making;
2. The Crown/Indian Nations comprehensive legal and political relations;
3. Implementation of inherent sovereignty, inherent rights by sector, and inherent title to lands and resources;
4. The international Treaties One to Eleven; and

⁴⁹House of Commons of Canada, unanimous consent motion recognizing the residential school system as genocide, October 27, 2022.

⁵⁰Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report (2015), and Calls to Action (2015).

⁵¹National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Reclaiming Power and Place: Final Report (2019).

⁵²Dicastery for Culture and Education and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Joint Statement on the "Doctrine of Discovery" (Holy See, March 30, 2023).

5. Implementation of inherent rights and title, and of Treaties and Treaty rights, by sector, through traditional and contemporary systems under “unique and special” laws of the Governments of Indian Nations. This is the key element of the agreement.

The 1830 detribalization policies

Colonial policies originate in the 1830 detribalization policies that the European nations used to colonize new lands. Their objective, then and now, is to terminate the special rights and status of the original peoples, to gain unfettered access to their territories, lands and resources. They are known as **liquidation, civilization, Christianization, integration and assimilation**. They were used to destabilize Indian Nations by destroying family units, societies and communities, and they are institutionalized today in Canadian law and policy in every sector.

Canadian colonial policies

Policy	How it is carried out
1947 Plan to Liquidate Canada's Indian Problem within 25 Years ⁵³	Presented to a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons by Dr. Diamond Jenness, Dominion Anthropologist. It reinforced the 1830 detribalization policies.
1969 White Paper ⁵⁴	“First-generation devolution”: amending laws, or passing new ones, to eliminate the special status and rights of Indians and the programs unique to them.
1974 to 76 Native Policies	Local-government policies that reduce Indian Nation governments to municipal status under provincial law, and convert reserve lands to fee simple.
1985 “Buffalo Jump” ⁵⁵	“Second-generation devolution”: band governments administer poverty on funding formulas that exclude most members, while new federal laws remove federal Treaty, constitutional and legal responsibility for “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians.”

These policies affect Indians on and off reserve, and their objectives continue today. We cite recent federal laws on child and family services,⁵⁶ band membership, land management⁵⁷ and matrimonial real property⁵⁸ as current examples.

⁵³Diamond Jenness, “Plan for Liquidating Canada's Indian Problem within 25 Years,” evidence before the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to examine the Indian Act, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (Ottawa, 1947).

⁵⁴Government of Canada, Statement of the Government of Canada on Indian Policy (the “White Paper”), 1969.

⁵⁵Ministerial Task Force on Program Review (Nielsen Task Force), memorandum on Native programs, leaked in 1985 and known as the “Buffalo Jump of the 1980s.”

⁵⁶An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, S.C. 2019, c. 24.

⁵⁷Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act, S.C. 2022, c. 19, s. 121.

⁵⁸Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act, S.C. 2013, c. 20.



Exhibit 16. *Various Degrees of Sovereignty: Canada's policies for First Nations versus First Nations self-determination*

The impact

Together, these policies have produced a **total loss of control** by Indians in every sector. The symptoms are visible in poverty, poor health, family breakdown, high suicide rates, substance abuse and addiction, abuse of every kind, high rates of involvement in the justice and child-welfare systems, and low educational achievement and employment. This creates major racism and discrimination in the historical and current systems, institutions and laws of Canada.

Residential schools were **not** the only policy that destroyed Indian families, societies, communities and Nations. The plans are comprehensive, affect every aspect of Indian life, and are ongoing.

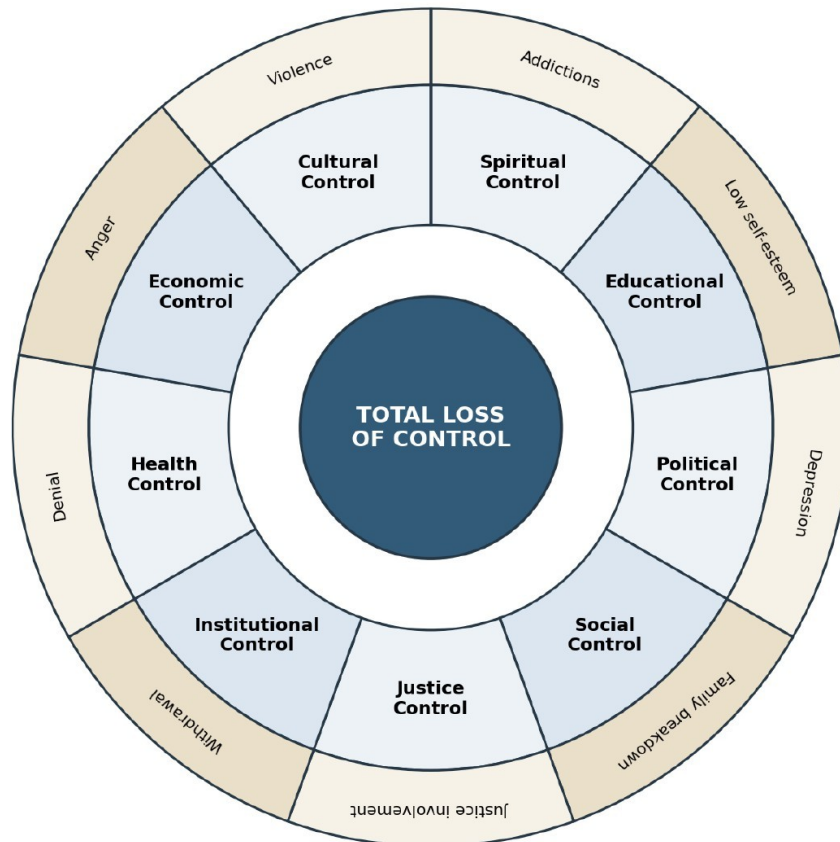


Exhibit 17. *Symptoms of the total loss of control*

Attachment 7. Senator Sol Sanderson

Seventy years of service to Indian Nations.

Senator Solomon (Sol) Sanderson was born on October 18, 1941, at James Smith First Nation, Treaty 6 territory, Saskatchewan.⁵⁹

Year	Service
1956	Began his service in Indian politics at the age of 15.
1969	Organized Indian leadership to oppose the federal White Paper.
1972	Helped create the national policy Indian Control of Indian Education.
1973	Established the first First Nation controlled school in Canada, at James Smith First Nation.
1979 to 1986	Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (now the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations). ⁶⁰
1979 to 1985	Implemented Indian Nations gaming and casinos.
1982	Instrumental in entrenching Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Constitution Act, 1982; led a delegation to London to lobby the British Parliament on behalf of Treaty Indians; chaired the World Assembly of First Nations, bringing together representatives of 33 countries.
1980s	Founding leader of the Assembly of First Nations; senior spokesperson at the First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal constitutional matters.
Ongoing	Chief of the Chakastaypasin Band for three terms; Chakastaypasin Lands and Claims Commissioner; Chair, Treaty 6 Implementation Task Team; Senator of the FSIN; Consultant, First Nations Forum. Presently chairs the AFN Treaties 1 to 11 process.
Throughout	Advanced First Nations control of schools and of three post-secondary institutions; prominent in the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement process; represented First Nations at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.
2024 and 2026	Honoured by First Nations University of Canada (honorary doctorate) and the University of Regina (honorary degree).

⁵⁹Prince Albert Grand Council, media release on Senator Sol Sanderson, June 14, 2024.

⁶⁰Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan, "Sanderson, Sol."

Attachment 8. Exhibits

Most of the charts in this submission are taken from the First Nations Forum conference booklet, *Crown / Indian Nations Relations* (August 2026).⁶¹ The charts were developed by Senator Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum, and JD Miller, First Tech.

No.	Chart	Attachment	Source
1	Crown/Indian Nations Legal and Political Framework	1	Conference booklet, August 2026
2	Crown/Indian Nations Relations and Framework	1	Conference booklet, August 2026
3	Crown/Indian Nations Sovereignty/Treaty Relations: Nation to Nation, Government to Government	1	Conference booklet, August 2026
4	Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels (Band, Tribal Councils and FSIN), Sectors A to C	2	Sol Sanderson / JD Miller
5	Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels, Sectors D to F	2	Sol Sanderson / JD Miller
6	Multi-Year Financing of First Nations Governments at all Levels, Sector G	2	Sol Sanderson / JD Miller
7	First Nations Fiscal Relations and First Nation Department of Finance and Revenue	2	Sol Sanderson / JD Miller
8	Sources of Revenue and Fiscal Relations between Canada and First Nations/Indigenous Governments	2	First Nations Forum / First Tech, 2016
9	Federal/Indian Nations Social Safety Net: Transition Process	2	Sol Sanderson / JD Miller, 2020
10	First Nation Traditional and Contemporary Social Safety Net: Nation to Nation Social Transfer	2	First Nations Forum / First Tech, 2016
11	Inherent Sovereignty of Indian Nations and Associated Powers	3	Conference booklet, August 2026
12	Inherent Rights: the Creator as the source	3	Conference booklet, August 2026
13	Elections under the Indian Act: local government, self-administration and devolution	5	Conference booklet, August 2026
14	First Nation Citizenship: family units and the Custom Council	5	Conference booklet, August 2026

⁶¹First Nations Forum, *Crown / Indian Nations Relations: Sovereignty, Treaty Rights and Governance*, conference booklet (Prince Albert, August 2026).

No.	Chart	Attachment	Source
15	First Nation Clans and Families: Custom Council structure and departments	5	Conference booklet, August 2026
16	Various Degrees of Sovereignty: Canada's policies for First Nations versus First Nations self-determination	6	Conference booklet, August 2026
17	Symptoms of the total loss of control	6	Conference booklet, August 2026
	Schedule of Unique and Special Laws (15 sectors), as a table	5	Senator Sol Sanderson

Sources

Source documents

Document	Author / publisher	Date
Status of Legal and Political Recognition	Senator Sol Sanderson	September 28, 2026
Letter to the Minister of Justice	Senator Sol Sanderson	June 24, 2024
Validating Inherent Sovereignty (working paper)	Sol Sanderson, Sol & Associates / First Nations Forum	May 20, 2026
Comprehensive Legal and Political Framework	Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum	Nov. 24, 2022; July 1, 2023
Crown / Indian Nations Relations (conference booklet)	First Nations Forum	August 2026
Briefing Notes and Executive Summaries	First Nations Forum	November 2017
Inherent Rights and Treaties	Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum	July 2019
Inherent Rights of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island	Elsie Sanderson, First Nations Forum	2004; expanded edition
Charts	Sol Sanderson, First Nations Forum / JD Miller, First Tech	2016 to 2026

References

All legal and public references cited in the footnotes are listed below.

- Treaty No. 6 between Her Majesty the Queen and the Plain and Wood Cree Indians and other Tribes of Indians (1876), Library and Archives Canada.
- Royal Proclamation, 1763, R.S.C. 1985, App. II, No. 1.
- Constitution Act, 1867, 30 & 31 Vict., c. 3, s. 91(24).
- Constitution Act, 1982, Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (U.K.), 1982, c. 11, ss. 25 and 35.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, S.C. 2021, c. 14.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, G.A. Res. 61/295 (2007), Articles 3, 4, 26, 37.
- American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, OAS AG/RES. 2888 (XLVI-O/16) (2016).
- Miguel Alfonso Martínez, Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations, Final Report, UN Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/20 (1999).

- R. v. Sioui, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 1025.
- Nowegijick v. The Queen, [1983] 1 S.C.R. 29 (treaties and statutes relating to Indians are to be liberally construed, with doubtful expressions resolved in favour of the Indians).
- R. v. Badger, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771 (the honour of the Crown is always at stake in its dealings with Indian people; Treaties are to be interpreted in a manner that upholds that honour).
- Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests), 2004 SCC 73.
- Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage), 2005 SCC 69.
- R. v. Sparrow, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 1075.
- Calder v. British Columbia (Attorney General), [1973] S.C.R. 313.
- Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44.
- Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, 2024 SCC 5.
- Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (Ottawa, 1996), vol. 2, Restructuring the Relationship.
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report (2015), and Calls to Action (2015).
- National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Reclaiming Power and Place: Final Report (2019).
- House of Commons of Canada, unanimous consent motion recognizing the residential school system as genocide, October 27, 2022.
- Dicastery for Culture and Education and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Joint Statement on the "Doctrine of Discovery" (Holy See, March 30, 2023).
- Diamond Jenness, "Plan for Liquidating Canada's Indian Problem within 25 Years," evidence before the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to examine the Indian Act, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (Ottawa, 1947).
- Government of Canada, Statement of the Government of Canada on Indian Policy (the "White Paper"), 1969.
- Ministerial Task Force on Program Review (Nielsen Task Force), memorandum on Native programs, leaked in 1985 and known as the "Buffalo Jump of the 1980s."
- Constitution Act, 1930, 20-21 Geo. V, c. 26 (U.K.), confirming the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation (Jay Treaty), 1794, Article III.
- Mitchell v. M.N.R., 2001 SCC 33.

- Self-Government Treaty Recognizing the Whitecap Dakota Nation / Wapaha Ska Dakota Oyate Act, S.C. 2023, c. 22 (in force September 1, 2023).
- Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act, S.C. 2022 (Royal Assent June 2022).
- Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement (2017), implemented by federal legislation in 2018.
- U.S. Congress, H. Con. Res. 331, 100th Congress (1988), acknowledging the contribution of the Iroquois Confederacy of Nations to the development of the United States Constitution.
- First Nations Information Governance Centre, The First Nations Principles of OCAP® (ownership, control, access and possession).
- An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, S.C. 2019, c. 24.
- Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act, S.C. 2013, c. 20.
- Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act, S.C. 2022, c. 19, s. 121.
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Convention (April 16, 1982); FSIN Convention Act.
- One Canadian Economy Act (Bill C-5, including the Building Canada Act), Royal Assent June 26, 2025.
- Prime Minister of Canada, “Prime Minister Carney engages First Nations Rights Holders on the Building Canada Act,” news release, July 17, 2025.
- James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975); James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act, S.C. 1976-77, c. 32.
- Nisga’a Final Agreement (2000); Nisga’a Final Agreement Act, S.C. 2000, c. 7.
- Correctional Service Canada publishes the average annual cost of maintaining a federal inmate, which exceeds \$120,000; the figure is cited as reported in a national documentary.
- Prince Albert Grand Council, media release on Senator Sol Sanderson, June 14, 2024.
- Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan, “Sanderson, Sol.”
- Alexander Morris, The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories (Toronto: Belfords, Clarke & Co., 1880).