

## WHY WE PROTEST OCTOBER 26TH! THE FIRST NATIONS-FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING



111 Sussex Drive, Green Island, Ottawa, (John G. Diefenbaker Building)  
Location of October 26<sup>th</sup> First Nations-First Ministers' Meeting

### THIS MEETING IS BEING SOLD AS “HISTORIC”

October 26 is being sold as a “*historic opportunity*.”

For grassroots First Nations Peoples, it is a moment of danger — and a moment of power.

### WHY THIS MEETING IS DANGEROUS

Governments are using this meeting to advance policies that weaken our First Nations. These policies:

- deny the international right of self-determination
- reinterpret and erode historic Treaties
- use land claims to extinguish or modify Aboriginal Title and end ongoing Treaty obligations
- push First Nations toward municipal or corporate status on fee-simple lands

This is not reconciliation. This is **termination** dressed up as progress.

For decades, governments have relied on legal tools like the 1990 *Sparrow* court decision to justify limiting our rights:

*“Section 35 rights are not absolute and can be justifiably infringed ... and section 35 does not revive rights that have been extinguished.”*

This framework has been used to restrict, redefine, and diminish our Inherent and Treaty rights ever since.

### WHAT WE STAND TO LOSE

#### 1. Aboriginal Title & Treaty Rights

Governments continue treating Title and historic Treaty rights as something negotiable, extinguishable, or overridable. If this continues, future generations will inherit **less land, fewer rights, and weaker Nations**.

#### 2. The Right of Self-Determination

Federal policy since 1990 has denied First Nations the international right of self-determination, replacing it with:

- delegated authority
- municipalization
- fee-simple land regimes
- “*Indigenous governments*” without sovereignty

This is not Nationhood. It is administration.

### 3. Land, Territory & Resources

Without Title, Treaties, and self-determination, First Nations cannot:

- **restore lands**
- **seek restitution**
- **protect territories**
- **benefit from resources**
- **stop unwanted development**

The result is deeper dependency on federal and provincial governments — exactly what colonial policy intends.

## WHY THE AFN’S ROLE IS A PROBLEM

The Assembly of First Nations is **only an invitee** to a meeting of First Ministers — the Crown governments recognized under Canada’s constitution.

This is not like the constitutionally mandated talks of the 1980s. This meeting is **not required** to address First Nations rights. It is controlled by federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

A “**Reference Group**” of government officials and **selected invitees** is setting the agenda — not First Nations rights holders.

**AFN Resolution 9/2026** calls for constitutional discussions and a First Nations–Crown table. But AFN is also negotiating renewal of the **AFN-Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism**, which aligns with federal plans to:

- **end the Indian Act**
- **expand colonial, one-sided, unfair, modern treaties and self-government agreements**
- **promote “*economic reconciliation*” tied to incurring dept and resource extraction**
- **implement a federal Rights Definition Framework (White Paper 2.0)**

This is the same federal plan shown in the 2021 **CIRNAC chart** — a plan that keeps all “***paths out of the Indian Act***” under federal control. (see below)

Whatever declaration or communiqué comes out of October 26 will advance this plan, not First Nations sovereignty.

## WHAT OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> MUST SAY—LOUDLY!

### To Governments

We demand:

1. **Recognition of Aboriginal Title, inherent rights, all Treaties, and self-determination.**
2. **A new rights-based policy and legislative framework grounded in rights — not delegated authority.**
3. **Restoration of, and restitution for, lands taken without free, prior, and informed consent.**

### To Chiefs and First Nations Leaders

We expect:

- **transparency**
- **accountability**
- **no termination-style agreements**
- **no municipalization**
- **no fee-simple land conversion**
- **no extinguishment of rights**

## To Each Other

We remind ourselves:

- We are still Nations.
- We still have sovereignty.
- We still have responsibilities to future generations.
- We still have power —when we stand together.

## WHY WE MUST ACT NOW

Art Manuel reminds us:

**“Indigenous peoples controlling only 0.2 per cent of the land... you don’t have to have a doctorate in economics to understand who will be poor and who will be rich.”**

**This dispossession is the root cause of our impoverishment — and governments use it to keep us too weak to fight back.**

**October 26 is our moment to change the future.**

## CALL TO ACTION—OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026

### In Ottawa

- Gather at the FN-FMM venue
- Bring banners, drums, songs, speakers
- Make our demands visible and unavoidable
- Show unity across Nations

### Across Canada

- Local rallies and marches
- Teach-ins and cultural gatherings
- Peaceful highway and bridge demonstrations
- Social media amplification

The message must be unmistakable:

**We will not allow extinguishment. We will not accept municipalization. We will not let governments define our future. We will defend our lands, our Treaties, and our sovereignty.**

**Decisions made here will shape First Nations’ legal and political status for generations.**

## TRUTH BEFORE RECONCILIATION NETWORK

**We work to ensure Crown governments and Canadian society confront the real truth: colonial policies under the Constitution Act 1867 and unilateral federal rights-definition frameworks under section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 that continue to dispossess First Nations today.**

**Reconciliation without truth is just another form of denial.**

# THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

October 26<sup>th</sup> is not historic because government's say so. It is historic because **you** have a chance to reshape the future.

**The future is your responsibility. The power is in your hands.**

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

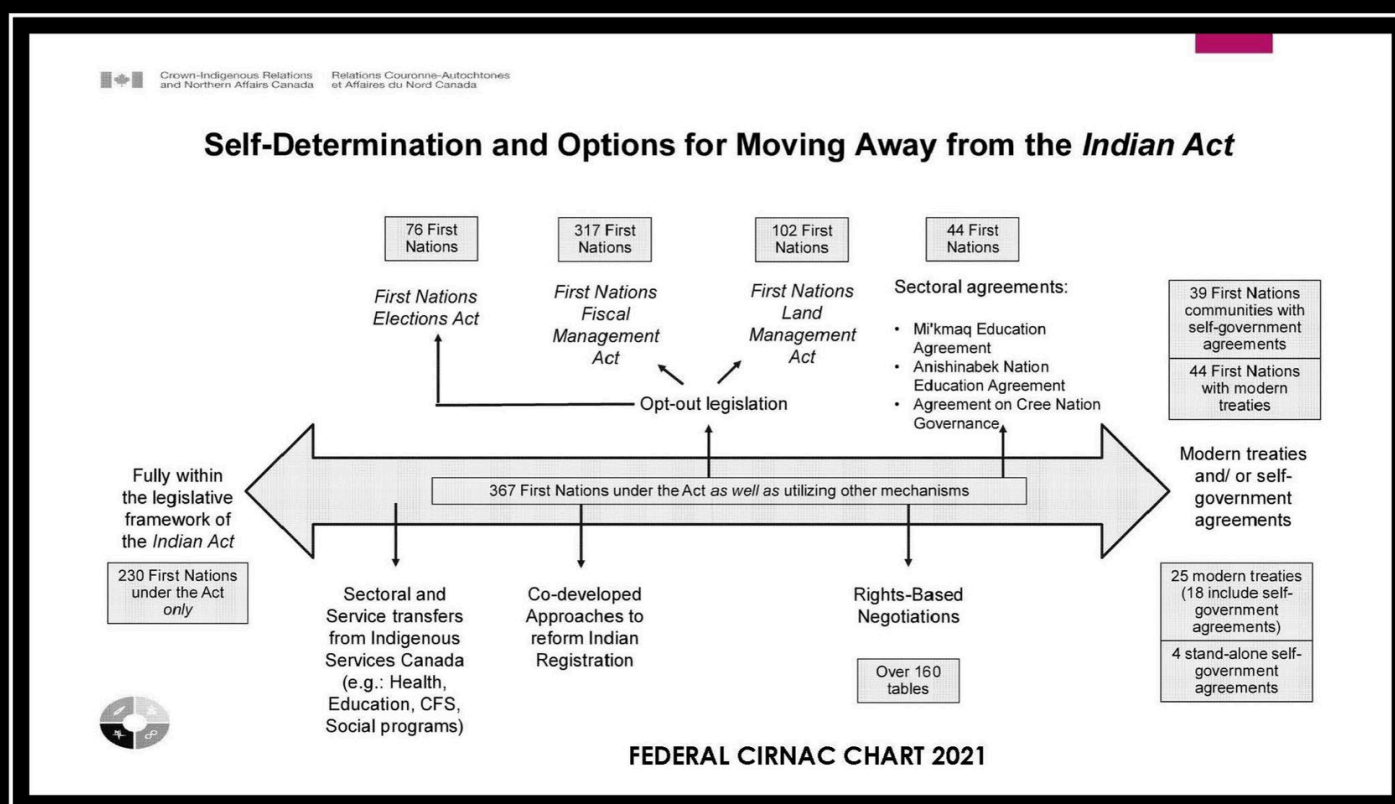
LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE JOINING US IN OTTAWA AT THE GRASSROOTS PRE-MEETING  
OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> (2:30-6:30 PM) AT THE ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 172 GUIGUES AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN  
OTTAWA, OR OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> AT THE SITE OF THE FN-FMM, 111 SUSSEX DRIVE, OTTAWA.

OR IF YOU'RE PLANNING A LOCAL EVENT ACROSS CANADA!

CONTACT US: Truth Before Reconciliation Education & Advocacy Network

**E-Mail:** [russdiabo@rogers.com](mailto:russdiabo@rogers.com)

**Website:** [russdiabo.com](http://russdiabo.com)



## THIS IS THE FEDERAL TERMINATION PLAN, SO YOU'RE EITHER RESISTING OR ASSISTING!

THE FEDERAL PLAN TO END THE INDIAN ACT—SHOWN IN THE GRAPH ABOVE—WAS PRESENTED IN OCTOBER 2021, TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL, MARY SIMON, BY DEPUTY MINISTERS OF CIRNAC & ISC, FOLLOWING THE ROYAL ASSENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ACT (UNDA) BILL C-15 IN JUNE 2021.

THE NATIONAL ACTION-PLAN TO IMPLEMENT UNDA (BILL C-15) AND END THE INDIAN ACT WAS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 20, 2023.