



Penticton Indian Band

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BC Assembly of First Nations is holding a Special Chiefs Assembly at the Penticton Lakeside March 4 & 5, 2026.

BCAFN It functions as a regional office for the national Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

History on how the Assembly of First Nations was established:

First established was the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) in 1970. Over time, concerns grew that the NIB did not fully represent all Status First Nations across Canada.

This became especially clear in 1979, when 300 Status First Nations leaders and Chiefs traveled to London, England, to oppose the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution. The constitutional struggle highlighted the need for major organizational change. As a result, in 1982 NIB was restructured and renamed to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was established under the leadership of Dr. David Ahenakew in Penticton, B.C.

The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) is a Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO) established to represent the interests of First Nations in British Columbia. It focuses on promoting Indigenous title & rights, policy development, and self-determination while working collaboratively with the provincial and federal governments.

- The national Assembly of First Nations was created in Penticton in April 1982, at a conference held at the Peach Bowl (now the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre).
- PIB Chief and Council in April 1982 was Chief Morris Kruger, and Councillors Emory Gabriel, Louise Eneas, Joe Pierre and Greg Gabriel. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip was Band Manager at the time.
- (News Clip Photo bottom left) Louise Gabriel served on Council between 1952 and 1968 - and is, mother of Chief Greg Gabriel



OPENING CEREMONY *April 20/82*

The sights and sounds of native singing, dancing and drums filled the Peach Bowl Monday evening for the opening ceremony of a convention of Indian people from

across Canada. About 500 chiefs are gathered here this week to reshape the National Indian Brotherhood. In the lower photo is Percy Paul

centre who was chosen for the honor of bearing the talking stick. At the left is Louise Gabriel of Penticton. (Miller Knutson photos)





First Row: Willie Thomas, Spallumcheen Band; Chief George Leonard, Kamloops Band; Councillor Gus Gottfriedson, Kamloops Band; Chief Charles Drainey, Deadman's Creek Band; **Councillor Louise Gabriel, Penticton Band;** Col. H. M. Jones, Ottawa; Mrs. Joan MacKenzie, Stenographer, Kamloops; Louie Charlie, Lower Nicola Band; Chief James Antoine, Coldwater Band; Henry Thevarg, Cayoosa Creek Band; Councillor V. Adolph, Fountain Band. **Second Row:** Councillor Bob Allison, Lower Similkameen Band; Chief William Arnouse, Little Shuswap Band; Chief Daniel Manual, Upper Nicola Band; Chief Charles Walkem, Cook's Ferry Band; Councillor Daniel Logan, Okanagan Band; Chief Wilfred Matthew, North Thompson Band; Chief William Oldman, Seton Lake Band; Chief Charles R. Brown, Lytton Band; Superintendent R.J. Meek; Superintendent G.E. Sharpe. **Third Row:** Chief Manuel Louie, Osoyoos Band; Councillor Louie Capilo, Shuswap Band; Chief Johnny Pierro, Bonaparte Band; Chief Michel Anthony, Adams Lake Band; Councillor Basil Andrew, St. Mary's Band; Chief Charlie Tom Johnson, Alkali Lake Band; Chief Ernest Thomas, Boothroyd Band; Chief Eddie Dixon, Canim Lake Band; W. S. Arneil, Indian Commissioner; Charlie Alphonse Secretary, Anaham Band. **Fourth Row:** Superintendent F. A. Clark; H.W. Ellis, Assistant, Indian Agency; Superintendent J. S. Dunn; E. Underwood, Assistant, Indian Agency; Superintendent William Christie; R.J. Dickson, Assistant, Indian Agency; Superintendent D.M. Hett; C.I. Fairholm, Ottawa; L.L. Brown, Ottawa; Chief Antoine Peeps, Soda Creek Band



**BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
22nd ANNUAL SPECIAL CHIEFS MEETING
MARCH 4 & 5, 2026**

**In person at Penticton Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre,
SnPink'tn Territory and online Via Zoom
– DRAFT AGENDA –**

Chair: Harold Tarbell

March 4	
9:00 AM	OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emory Gabriel, Elder • Whitney Cardenas, Song
9:20 AM	OPENING BLESSING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gwendolyn Point, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper • Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper • Harvey McLeod, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper
9:30 AM	OVERVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Tarbell
9:40 AM	WELCOME AND ADDRESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Greg Gabriel, Penticton Indian Band • Mayor Julius Bloomfield, City of Penticton • Regional Chief Terry Teegee
10:00 AM	UPDATE FROM BCAFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlups te Secwépemc • Chief Don Sam, ?Akisqnuq First Nation • Chief Jerry Jack, Mowachah/Muchalah First Nation • Brian Assu, We Wai Kai Nation • Chief Maureen Luggi, Wet'suwet'en First Nation
10:15 AM	ADDRESS FROM BCAFN YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal Starr-Lewis, BCAFN Female Youth Representative • Peyal Laceese, BCAFN Interim Male Youth Representative

10:40 AM	<p>ADDRESS FROM BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ REPRESENTATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orene Askew, BCAFN 2SLGBTQQIA+ Representative
11:00 AM	ADDRESS FROM NATIONAL CHIEF CINDY WOODHOUSE-NEPINAK
11:45 AM	<p>ADDRESS FROM BCAFN WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chief Cheryl Rule, Coldwater Indian Band <p>RESOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01- Endorsement of the BCAFN Women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People's Dialogue Session 'What We Heard Report' and Support for the Implementation of it's 105 Recommendations
12:15 PM	LUNCH
1:15 PM	<p>COMMEMORATION OF THE 1982 NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD CONFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video • Regional Chief Terry Teegee
2:00 PM	<p>JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kory Wilson, Chair, First Nations Justice Council (Via Zoom) • Regional Chief Terry Teegee
2:45 PM	<p>UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Don Sam, ?Akisqnuq First Nation • Graeme Reed, AFN Senior Policy Advisor, Chair of Local Communities for COP (Via Zoom)
3:15 PM	<p>CLIMATE ISSUES – GLACIER SOURCE WATER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Joseph Shea, UNBC • Patricia Rojas, BCAFN Policy Analyst <p>RESOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 – Support for First Nations-led Glaciers, Snowpack and Water Security Initiative
4:00 PM	ADJOURNMENT



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The BCAFN office is located on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh

March 5	
9:00 AM	<p>OPENING BLESSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gwendolyn Point, Knowledge Keeper • Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper • Harvey McLeod, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper • Emory Gabriel, Elder
9:10 AM	<p>CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kukpi7 Helen Henderson, BC Commissioner, National Children's Chiefs Commission • Deb Foxcroft, Co-Chair, National Children's Chiefs Commission • Mary Teegee, Our Children Our Way
10:00 AM	<p>EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Issac, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (Via Zoom) <p>RESOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 - Allocation of First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Funding
10:30 AM	<p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (COE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chief Harlan Schilling, CEO of COE
11:15 AM	<p>BC'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DRIPA AND INTERPRETATION ACT (In-Camera)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Chief Terry Teegee • Merle Alexander, BCAFN Legal Counsel (via Zoom) • Laura Beaudry, BCAFN In-house Legal Counsel
12:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK
1:00 PM	<p>ADDRESS FROM MINISTER NIKI SHARMA, BC ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER SPENCER CHANDRA-HERBERT, INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION (via Zoom)(In-Camera)</p> <p>RESOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 - Opposition to Amending the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or Interpretation Act
2:00 PM	<p>FISHERIES AND WILD SALMON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Chamberlin, First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance • Regional Chief Terry Teegee



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	<p>RESOLUTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 – Require Meaningful Consultation on Aquaculture Regulations, Licence Conditions and Close Containment Definitions • 06 – Reject the Use of “Semi-Open” Fish Farms as Acceptable Transition Technology • 07- Demand Federal Release of “What We Heard Report” and Restart of the Open Net Pen Transition Planning Process • 08 – Rebuilding Wild Salmon as a Nation Building Project • 09 – Call to Ban Trawling in Pacific Coastal Waters • 10 – Immediate Removal of Open Pen Net Fish Farms from the Pacific Coast
2:40 PM	RESOLUTIONS
3:15 PM	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Chief Terry Teegee <p>CLOSING BLESSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gwendolyn Point, Knowledge Keeper • Sempulyan Stewart Gonzales, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper • Harvey Mcleod, BCAFN Knowledge Keeper
3:30 PM	ADJOURNMENT



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