



IROQUOIS CAUCUS

Iroquois Caucus signs agreements during AFN General Assembly

For Immediate Release

(Ohiarihkó:wa/July 2026) The Iroquois Caucus (IC) is proud to announce the signing of two significant agreements with the Atikamekw Nehirowisiw Nation (Atikamekw) and the Blackfoot Confederacy during the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario.

A renewed signed resolution agreement between the IC and the Blackfoot Confederacy seeks to strengthen the longstanding relationship between the two parties while advancing a joint economic implementation plan. An agreement was previously established between two parties though had remained inactive for several years. This revitalizes these efforts and sets a clear path toward implementation, and economic collaboration while reducing trade barriers.

The agreement focuses on fostering various opportunities in sectors of online gaming, exports and trade, tourism, information technology sharing, resource management negotiations, and other areas of mutual economic development. It also commits both to agree in appointing individuals to the ‘Joint Economic Action Committee’.

“Strong partnerships create strong Nations, today marks an important step forward in renewing our relationship with the Blackfoot Confederacy,” said Chair of the Iroquois Caucus Cody Diabo. “This agreement reinforces our commitment to supporting one another as we pursue shared opportunities for our peoples.”

“The Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs are pleased to commence the work of the Joint Economic Development Action committee with the Iroquois Caucus. This work involves exploring potential joint economic initiatives that will benefit both our confederacies and serve to exercise our sovereignty and territorial integrity,” reads a statement on behalf the Chiefs of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

“This alliance agreement strengthens our economic relationship, and its implementation will advance common issues and offers an opportunity to pursue creative and mutually beneficial projects for our communities,” said Tyendinaga Chief, R. Donald Maracle.

“Signing this agreement demonstrates the power of true nation-to-nation relationships, collaboration, and uplifting our communities,” added Chief Sherri-Lyn Hill of Six Nations of the Grand River.

During the Assembly, the IC also took the opportunity to meet with Treaty Chiefs from across Treaties 6, 7, and 8. The discussion marked the beginning of what could become a meaningful new alliance, grounded in shared priorities and mutual respect. The IC welcomes the opportunity to continue these conversations and looks forward to meeting again to further strengthen this emerging partnership and advance common goals together.

Additionally, the IC and the Atikamekw signed the ‘Agreement of Peace, Reciprocity and Sovereign Alliance’ marking a historic step forward in the mutual relationship between the two parties. Through this agreement, the Atikamekw and the IC formally affirm their alliance and commitment to cooperation.

This signing not only recognizes and acknowledges the historic tumultuous relationship both have experienced but also highlights the role colonial policies played in fostering division among First Nations peoples.

By openly recognizing this shared history, both reaffirm that past conflicts do not define their relationship and commit instead to building a future based on respect, reciprocity, and solidarity. Through this alliance, both commit to establishing an ‘Inter-Nations Peace Keeping Process’ composed of elders, and holders of traditional knowledge.

“This signing reaffirms that our future is stronger than the challenges of our past,” added Diabo. “This is a testament for both Nations as we move forward in collaboration, advancing economic development, and reinforcing Nation-to-Nation relationships.”

"We know the history of our relations with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy because our grandparents told us about it. These relations have not been cordial, and we must acknowledge that colonization, with all its implications, contributed to creating this reality,” said Grand Chief Constant Awashish. “Without forgetting the past, it is important today to look toward the future. It is essential to build bridges and support one another in defending our rights and interests. I am pleased that everyone at the Atikamekw Sipi General Assembly was in favor of a peace treaty.”

The Iroquois Caucus is an independent organization comprised of the elected leaders from Akwesásne, Kahnawà:ke, Kanesatá:ke, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga), Oneida Nation of the Thames, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Wahta Mohawks.