

NDP Response

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2025 priorities of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is law in Canada. And yet even today, many First Nations are living without access to drinking water, access to education or healthcare, safe and affordable housing and without essential infrastructures and services. We need to change that, now.

New Democrats will continue to work with First Nations leaders in Manitoba to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, respond to the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Calls for Justice from the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We are firmly committed to passing legislation that criminalizes residential school denialism.

There is a genocide against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Victims and survivors of violence deserve justice, and Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people deserve to live their life safely. We will expand the Red Dress Alert to ensure it covers the entire country. This important measure will ensure the public is notified when an Indigenous woman, girl, or gender-diverse person goes missing so they can be brought home safely.

We will ensure full gender equality for First Nations, including the right to pass on the ability to qualify for Indian status registration.

The NDP will push to replace mere consultation with a standard of free, prior and informed consent, including for all decisions affecting constitutionally protected land rights, like energy project reviews. Opportunities and benefits of projects should go to the indigenous communities that want them, not the CEOs and billionaires who force them through.

And we will push for First Nations leadership to be at the table in trade negotiations with Trump to ensure Indigenous Treaty rights are never sacrificed.

New Democrats recognize and respect treaties, and we support any Nations building or re-building their governance structures.

First Nations should not have to fight the government in court to have their right to clean drinking water honoured. Lawyers hired by the Liberal government are fighting 59 First Nations in court over their failure to provide clean drinking water, claiming that [First Nations don't have a right to clean drinking water](#) and that statements made by the Liberal Ministers aren't to be taken as true. All long-term boil water advisories on First Nations must end, but too many communities are still waiting for support despite previous federal governments promising to lift them. To do this Canada

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needs to make new investments in clean water infrastructure and support Indigenous-led water management training programs. We will also support funding on-reserve emergency management and prevention, including firefighting.

New Democrats believe the federal government can do better to build the infrastructure First Nations' communities in Manitoba need. This means investing in all-weather roads and high-speed internet access to keep communities connected. We also support funding for the following local infrastructure projects:

- Airport in Wasagamack
- Flood mitigation infrastructure in Peguis
- Buskeh Banoon Healing Centre in God's Lake Narrows
- Building of a recreation complex in Cross Lake
- Youth recreation and community centre in Oxford House
- Hospital in Island Lake

New Democrats believe in ensuring long term sustainable development of the incredible resources in our communities. First Nations communities must be consulted on economic development plans from the start to make sure that there are clear investments in communities and that jobs and training for youth and young people are available. The NDP will work with First Nations to sell our critical minerals to the world and ensure sustainability and Indigenous rights are at the heart of our strategy.

Too many First Nations families – including children – live in overcrowded, unsafe and moldy homes on reserve, where the federal government is responsible for the buildings. Having a decent home improves peoples' mental health, grows the local economy, and helps young people find work in their community. Sustainable, long-term funding is needed to end the housing crisis for Indigenous families and communities. The NDP forced the Liberals to invest \$4 billion over seven years into Indigenous housing. It's a good start. New Democrats will continue to push to end the on-reserve housing crisis. We also fought for, and secured, an additional \$4.3 billion for First Nations people living in urban areas away from home.

We will step up to close the health care gap in First Nations communities. Indigenous First Nations peoples have an equal right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, with a right to access traditional medicines. New investments in healthcare infrastructure, medical supplies and diagnostic equipment will help meet people's needs in their communities.

The NDP will work in partnership with First Nations leadership in Manitoba to push for:

- Improved access to mental health and addiction treatments

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- Investments in indigenous healing centres and traditional healers
- An action-plan to prevent suicide
- Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate home care and long-term care is available for Elders, in their home communities and languages.
- Funding recreation programming

We will end discrimination against First Nations children, young people and families by fully implementing the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal orders regarding chronic underfunding of child welfare. This includes fixing the broken First Nations children's program, Jordan's Principle, which has a 140,000-case backlog, by investing in more staff and better case management, and working with other levels of government to ensure equitable access to health services and educational supports for all children.

To fully implement Jordan's Principle, we will support the direction from First Nations' rights holders in their establishment of the National Children's Chiefs commission and negotiate the necessary long-term reforms of First Nations Child and Family Services.

We will ensure that every child has a safe place to learn, and we will implement Shannon's Dream so that no student is forced to learn in a dangerous environment. And we will work to incorporate traditional knowledge into our contemporary education system.

We will tackle barriers which prevent Indigenous learners from accessing post-secondary education and training. This will include financial assistance and increased opportunities for children who grew up in care, and improved distance education. And New Democrats will respect, support and resource First Nations' jurisdiction over child welfare systems.

To shield Canadians from the worst effects of Trump's trade war and to combat the affordability crisis, the NDP is committing to push for:

- Reforming Nutrition North so the subsidy goes directly to northerners, not to corporate chains like the North West Company
- Capping grocery prices on essential items while cracking down on price gouging by corporate giants
- Use every dollar collected from retaliatory tariffs to directly support impacted workers
- Removing GST from essentials like home heating and from Canadian-made vehicles, saving families hundreds annually while boosting domestic industries

To recap, New Democrats will ensure equitable access and self-determination over land, culture, language, housing, childcare, income security, employment, education, and physical, mental, sexual, and spiritual health.

Sincerely,

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The NDP Team