

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
TO
CREATE A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
(FIRST NATIONS, METIS & INUIT)
THROUGH
DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL RIGHTS BASED POLICY
June 30, 2019**

- October 2015: Liberals win a majority government, partly based on an Indigenous Policy Platform.
- December 2015: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces the creation of **Bilateral Mechanisms** (Cabinet Committees for 3 National Indigenous Organizations, including the Assembly of First Nations) to meet to develop policy on shared priorities, and monitor progress going forward.
- Similar meetings with key Cabinet Ministers will take place at least twice each year.
- This December 2015, announcement was also about **establishing a two-track approach to Indigenous Policy**: 1) closing the socioeconomic gap between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians, and 2) making foundational changes to laws, policies and operational practices based on the federal recognition (definition) of rights to advance (federal interpretation of) self-determination and self-government.
- June 2016: At a public event organized by “The Economist” magazine in Toronto in the summer of 2016, the interviewer asked the Prime Minister how his government was going to liberalize and deregulate inter-provincial trade within Canada. Trudeau responded:
- “The way to get that done is not to sit there and impose, the way to have that done is to actually have a good working relationship with the Premiers, with municipal governments, with Indigenous leadership, because **Indigenous governments’ are the fourth level of government in this country.**”*
- June 2016: Government of Canada establishes a new approach to negotiations with partners (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) on section 35 rights through **Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables**. These discussions are conducted outside the **Comprehensive Land Claims Policy** and the **Inherent Right Policy** and focus on the priorities of the respective Indigenous community.
- July 2016: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett signs a **Memorandum of Understanding on Fiscal Relations** with AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde.
- August 2016: Federal government establishes the **National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Women and Girls**.
- December 2016: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces to an AFN Special Chiefs’ Assembly, the establishment of a **Ministerial Working-Group on Law & Policies related to Indigenous Peoples** and that Minister of Justice & Attorney-General, Jody Wilson-Raybould, will lead the process aimed at de-colonializing Canada’s laws and policies.
- February 2017: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau formally announces the creation of the **Ministers’ Working-Group on policy & law related to Indigenous Peoples**. The Working Group of Ministers responsible for the review will examine relevant federal laws, policies, and operational practices to help ensure the Crown is meeting its constitutional obligations with respect to Aboriginal and treaty rights; adhering to international human rights standards, including the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and supporting the implementation of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's** Calls to Action...As its first order of business, the Working Group will develop a rigorous work plan and principles, which will reflect a whole-of-government approach that addresses all Indigenous Peoples.

- April 2017: **Canada-Metis Nation Accord** signed.
- June 2017: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signs a **Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities** with AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde.
- July 2017: Federal Minister of Justice, Jody Wilson-Raybould issues **10 Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples**.
- August 2017: As part of a Cabinet shuffle Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces the eventual **dissolution of the Department of Indigenous Affairs and replacement with two new federal departments** (Indigenous Services & Crown-Indigenous Relations) with the changes to be overseen by two Ministers.
- August 2017: Jane Philpott is named Minister of Indigenous Services and Carolyn Bennett is named Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Each Minister is given a **Mandate Letter** from the Prime Minister.
- December 2017: **First Nations, Inuit Health Branch** formally transferred to the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC).
- December 2017: Two new Fiscal Relations policies (**Indian Act & Self-Government**).
- February 2018: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a Statement in the House of Commons regarding a **Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework**. This was a major announcement by the Trudeau government that it intended to introduce "Framework" legislation into Parliament in 2018 and passing it into law by 2019.
- In summary, the Prime Minister announced:
- A new **Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework** that will include new ways to recognize and implement Indigenous Rights.
 - This will include new **recognition and implementation of rights legislation**.
- July 2018: During a July 2018, cabinet shuffle a **Cabinet Committee on Reconciliation** was created by the Trudeau government and Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould was sidelined from the law and policy review process.
- September 2018: **AFN holds a National Policy Forum**: Affirming First Nations Rights, Title and Jurisdiction.
- Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett releases a document at the AFN Forum entitled: **Overview of a Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework**. The document is widely rejected by Chiefs and delegates to the AFN Forum.
- November 2018: CBC News reports the **Federal Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework** legislation will be delayed until after the next federal election. But a statement from the office of the Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett that the **"Government is committed to advancing the framework, and to continue actively engaging with partners on its contents... We continue to make substantial progress in accelerating the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights through policy changes and the**

development of the Recognition of Rights and Self-Determination Tables... We look forward to continue working with our partners on developing more of this crucial framework.”

- January 2019: In her last act as Justice Minister & Attorney-General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould issued the **The Attorney General of Canada's Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples**, essentially instructions for federal lawyers when considering litigation regarding Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- January 2019: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shuffles Cabinet and demotes **Jody Wilson-Raybould** to Veteran Affairs, transfers **Jane Philpott** to President of Treasury Board and promotes junior Minister **Seamus O'Regan** to Minister of Indigenous Services.
- January 2019: **Canada's Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy – Final Draft.**
- January 2019: Crown-Indigenous Relations, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Joe Wild, begins distributing a document to First Nation organizations entitled: **Developing a New Rights-Based Policy: Summary of Current Approaches** and a Graph showing a process to **replace the existing Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and the Inherent Right Policy with a new rights-based policy, by June 2019**, “based on the lessons learned from the over 75 Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables, as well as about 50 active modern treaty and self-government negotiation tables (as of December 1, 2018).”
- April 2019: Federal government introduces an Omnibus Budget **Bill C-97 An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 19, 2019 and other measures** (First Reading April 8, 2019), buried in the Bill is legislation to dissolve the Department of Indian Affairs and create two new federal departments (Indigenous Services & Crown-Indigenous Relations).
- May 1-2, 2019: **AFN Policy Forum on First Nations Led Processes: The Four Policies** (‘Inherent Right’, Comprehensive Land Claims, Specific Claims, Additions-to-Reserves).
- May 21, 2019: **Directive for Federal Officials on the Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights – For Discussion Only.**
- June 10, 2019: **Joint Indigenous Services Canada-Assembly of First Nations Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations** presents Draft Report and 24 Recommendations to Minister of Indigenous Services, Seamus O'Regan, & AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde.
- June 2019: **Bill C-262 An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, a Private Member's Bill by Romeo Saganash fails to pass through the Senate due to Conservative Senators procedural delays.
- June 21, 2019: **Bill C-91** on Indigenous Languages, **Bill C-92** on Indigenous Children Youth & Family, **Bill C-97** an omnibus Budget Bill containing legislation dissolving the Department of Indian Affairs and creating two new Departments (Indigenous Services Canada & Indigenous Crown Relations & Northern Affairs Canada), are proclaimed into law.
- June 27, 2019: The federal **Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Carolyn Bennett**, signed “self-government” agreements with three provincial groups of the “Métis Nation” in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- July 23-26, 2019: **AFN Annual General Assembly** to be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick.