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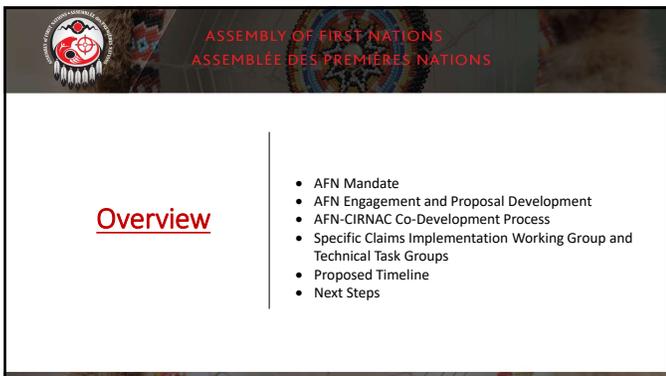
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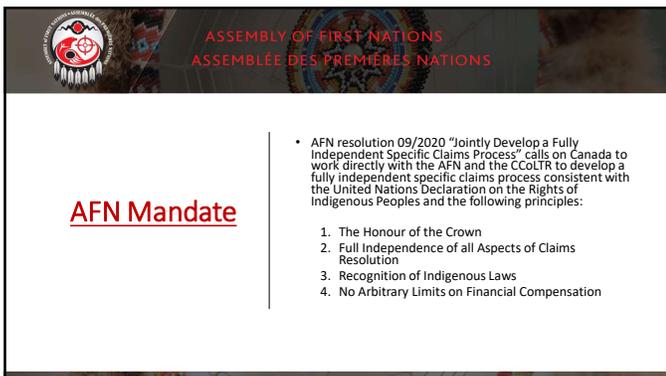
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ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS  
ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

**AFN  
Engagement  
and Proposal  
Development**

- AFN planned and carried out a comprehensive engagement process in the fall of 2019 with First Nations nationally seeking input into what a fully independent specific claims process should look like.
- This engagement led to the development of a draft AFN Proposal based on First Nations input and rigorous peer review.
- The AFN published the finalized Proposal on the AFN website in May 2022.
- The AFN Proposal reflects a First Nations position on specific claims reform – it is not a joint Proposal.

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ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS  
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**The Centre:  
Core Functions**

- The AFN Reform Proposal envisions an independent Centre for the resolution of claims which would operate as an independent entity entirely separate from SCB with 5 core functions:
  1. Registrar
  2. Funder
  3. Resource Hub
  4. Commission
  5. Adjudication (Current Tribunal)
- The Centre will be created by federal statute and require a 5-year legislative review

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**Negotiation as  
the Preferred  
Form of  
Resolution**

- The AFN Reform Proposal envisions negotiation being the preferred form of claims resolution.
- First Nations must continue to have access to the Tribunal where necessary to resolve their claims through adjudication.

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### AFN-CIRNAC Co-Development Process

- In July 2022, CIRNAC received a Cabinet Mandate to co-develop an independent centre for the resolution of specific claims with the AFN.
- In November 2022, the AFN and CIRNAC held a public ceremony in Halifax, NS to formally establish the Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG).
- The SCIWG has the following structure:
  - Senior representatives from the AFN and the SCB.
  - A series of technical task groups that will address specific issues/elements of reform.
  - Political oversight to resolve disputes and impasses that arise.

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### Specific Claims Implementation Working Group

- The mandate of the SCIWG is to co-develop and implement a reformed specific claims process that includes a Centre for the resolution of Specific Claims.
- The work of the SCIWG is without prejudice to claims that are proceeding through each existing stage of the Specific Claims process.
- Technical Task Groups (TTGs) bring together expert practitioners from Canada and First Nations in order to develop recommendations to the SCIWG on reform components.

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### Engagement and Dialogue

- The SCIWG will build on the engagement processes that have already taken place (2019 National Dialogue, 2019-2022 development and publication of AFN Reform Proposal)
- The SCIWG will be used as a vehicle to engage broadly during the co-development process and ensure that the Center proposal has broad support from First Nations and relevant federal departments and agencies.

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## Transition

- The SCIWG will discuss how the transition to an independent process could impact existing claims under development, under review, in negotiation, or at the Specific Claims Tribunal.
- The SCIWG will ensure that the transition from the current specific process will not adversely impact any existing claims.

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## Proposed Timeline

- **Fall 2022:** Establishment of the Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG).
- **Winter 2024:** Development of options for consideration by Cabinet, including a consensus-based Centre model.
  - Any options developed must go to First Nations-in-Assembly before moving forward.
  - SCB will seek direction on options from Cabinet.
- **Summer 2024:** Beginning of legislative drafting process.
- **Spring 2025:** Royal Assent for any legislation developed.

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## Next Steps

1. Joint co-development and legislative drafting process.
2. Review of options by First Nations-in-Assembly and Federal Cabinet.
3. Joint implementation.

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