First Nations Forum
Governance Institute

Fiscal Relations between the Crown and Governments of Indian Nations

A three-day working conference on the most complex and most urgent governance challenge facing First Nations today.



CREE NATION LEADER · CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECT · TREATY 6

SENATOR SOL SANDERSON

ZOOM OPTION NOW AVAILABLE!

Designed and delivered by Senator Sol Sanderson - the man who negotiated the first government-to-government fiscal agreement in Canadian history.

AUGUST 10-12, 2026

PRINCE ALBERT, SK
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306.980.7285

IN-PERSON - $1250
ZOOM OPTION - $800

www.firstnationsforum.ca



First Nations Forum

Governance Institute

Fiscal Relations between the Crown and Governments of Indian Nations

Presented by Senator Sol Sanderson

August 10–12, 2026

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

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About Senator Sol Sanderson

CREE NATION LEADER · CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECT · TREATY 6



Senator Solomon Sanderson began in First Nations politics at age 15 — when it was still illegal under the Indian Act for First Nations people to assemble. He has never stopped.

As FSIN Chief from 1979 to 1986, Senator Sanderson orchestrated the constitutional lobby that secured Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 — the first constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights in Canadian history. His campaign in London before the British House of Lords was decisive.

In 1982 he chaired the inaugural World Assembly of First Nations, convening delegates from 33 countries. He established the first First Nation-controlled school in Canada at Chakastaypasin Cree Nation in 1973, co-authored Indian Control of Indian Education in 1972, and drove the creation of First Nations University of Canada, SIIT, and SICC.

He has served as Senator of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations since 1986. The work is not a quarter done.

Conference Overview

FISCAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CROWN AND GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN NATIONS

The relationship between the Crown and the Governments of Indian Nations continues to evolve through the recognition and implementation of inherent rights, treaty rights, and fiscal relations. This three-day executive conference brings together Chiefs, Councillors, senior administrators, and Indigenous professionals to examine the constitutional, legal, and financial foundations of Indigenous governance.

Drawing on the teachings and experience of Senator Sol Sanderson, participants will explore practical approaches to strengthening government institutions, advancing nation-to-nation relationships, and building long-term fiscal capacity for future generations.

The conference will explore:

- **Inherent sovereignty, rights and title**
- **Treaty implementation and Section 35**
- **Crown–Indian Nations relations**
- **Government-to-government fiscal relations**
- **Indigenous governance and fiscal institutions**
- **Finance administration and accountability**
- **Indigenous laws and implementation**
- **Nation-building and long-term fiscal sustainability**

Conference Agenda

Over three days, participants will explore the constitutional, legal, and fiscal foundations of First Nations governance. Through presentations and discussion, attendees will examine how inherent rights, treaty rights, and fiscal relations support strong Indigenous governments and long-term Nation-building.

Day One – Foundations of First Nations Fiscal Sovereignty

- **Inherent sovereignty, rights and title**
- **Treaty and constitutional foundations**
- **Section 35 and fiscal relations**
- **Government financing and fiscal agreements**

Day Two – Nation-to-Nation Governance & Fiscal Institutions

- **Crown–First Nations relations**
- **Governance and fiscal institutions**
- **Finance administration and accountability**
- **Budgeting, revenue and fiscal systems**

Day Three – Implementing Strong Fiscal Governance

- **Indigenous laws and implementation**
- **Financial management and auditing**
- **Administrative capacity and reporting**
- **Nation-building and future planning**

*Agenda subject to refinement prior to the conference.

Day One – Foundations of First Nations Fiscal Sovereignty

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM - Opening Prayer & Introductions

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM - Foundations of Inherent Sovereignty

- Inherent sovereignty
- Inherent rights by sector
- Inherent rights and title

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM - Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM - Understanding Inherent Rights & Title

Explore how inherent rights and title are granted to First Nations by the Creator and legally recognized through treaties and constitutional law.

Topics include:

- National powers of governing
- National powers of treaty making
- Identifying inherent rights and title
- Defining inherent sovereignty and rights by sector
- Special legislative frameworks recognizing inherent and treaty rights
- Section 35(1) & (2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 as the constitutional framework providing access to federal fiscal and revenue authorities
- Individual and collective duties and responsibilities
- Strategic planning
- Developing laws supporting implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM - Lunch (Provided)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM - Implementing the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties

Discussion on implementing traditional and contemporary governance systems by sector to enforce:

- Inherent rights and title
- Treaty rights

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM - Coffee Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM - Fiscal Relations & Budgeting

Topics include:

- First Nations Finance Administration Act
- Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982
- Government-to-government fiscal agreements
- Fiscal agreements versus contribution agreements (contracts)

Day Two – Nation-to-Nation Governance & Fiscal Institutions

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Legal & Political Foundations

Understanding the legal and political framework governing Crown–First Nations relations.

Topics include:

- What lawfully governs the relationship?
- Inherent sovereignty of First Nations
- The Crown's assumed sovereignty
- Inherent rights and title
- Treaties and treaty rights
- Royal Proclamation of 1763
- Constitution Act, 1982
- UNDRIP
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- Current United Nations conventions

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM - Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM - Recognition of Nation-to-Nation Relationships

Topics include:

- Sovereignty and treaty relations
- Crown–First Nations relations
- Nation-to-nation relations
- Government-to-government relations
- Bilateral government relationships
- Inherent rights and title relationships
- Treaty rights relationships

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM - Lunch (Provided)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM - Information & Communications Technology

Overview of a multi-purpose cloud data centre and privacy considerations supporting modern First Nations governance.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM - Coffee Break

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM - Building Modern Fiscal Institutions

Topics include:

- First Nations Finance Administration Act
- Federal Government Finance Administration Act
- Government-to-government fiscal agreements
- Comprehensive budgeting for:
  - Inherent rights and title
  - Treaty and treaty rights
- First Nations fiscal cycle and debt financing
- Legal and trust obligations of First Nations governments
- Crown legal, jurisdictional and trust obligations
- Establishing Finance and Revenue Departments
- Financial administration, auditing and accounting systems under First Nations fiscal governance

Day Three – Implementing Strong Fiscal Governance

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Building Fiscal Governance Systems

Topics include:

- Establishing Finance and Revenue Departments
- Finance Administration Act
- Accounting processes
- Auditing processes
- Laws governing program standards

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM - Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM - Financial Administration & Accountability

Topics include:

- Accounting department processes
- Financial reporting capacity
- Implementing the Finance Administration Act
- Annual budgeting cycle (April–March)
- Debt financing processes

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM - Lunch (Provided)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM - Education & Capacity Building

Identifying future education and training opportunities to strengthen First Nations fiscal relations and governance capacity.

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM - Coffee Break

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM - Looking Ahead

Review of current federal devolution processes and reconciliation plans leading toward 2030.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM - Closing Remarks

Registration

Attend In-Person

$1,250 CAD per person

Attend Via Zoom

$800 CAD per person

Registration includes:

- Conference Sessions
- Participant Materials
- Refreshments and Meals
- Networking Opportunities

Who Should Attend?

- Chiefs and Council Members
- Executive Directors and Band Managers
- Governance and Treaty Staff
- Legal and Policy Advisors
- Program Managers and Administrators
- Community Leaders and Future Leaders

Sponsorship Opportunities

Your sponsorship directly supports an event dedicated to strengthening Indigenous governance and helping Nations prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

LEGACY SPONSOR – $20,000+

- Exclusive recognition as Presenting Sponsor
- Premier logo placement on all conference materials
- Recognition during opening and closing ceremonies
- Opportunity to provide welcome remarks
- Full-page inside cover advertisement
- Corporate banners displayed at venue
- Six complimentary registrations
- Featured sponsor profile on website and social media
- Recognition in all media releases
- Exclusive acknowledgement supporting the celebration of Senator Sol Sanderson's 70 years of leadership

PLATINUM SPONSOR – $10,000+

- Premier logo placement on conference materials
- Full-page conference program advertisement
- Four complimentary registrations
- Recognition during opening and closing ceremonies
- Promotional material distribution opportunity
- Website and social media recognition

Sponsorship Opportunities

GOLD SPONSOR – $5,000

- Prominent logo placement
- Half-page conference program advertisement
- Two complimentary registrations
- Website and social media recognition
- Conference recognition

SILVER SPONSOR – $2,500

- Logo placement on conference materials
- One complimentary registration
- Website and social media recognition

BRONZE SPONSOR – $1,000

- Recognition in conference materials
- Website and social media recognition

IN-KIND SPONSORSHIP

Organizations may also contribute through:

- Printing Services
- Promotional Products
- Catering and Refreshments
- Transportation
- Accommodations
- Venue Support
- Professional Services
- Other Event-Related Contributions

Sponsorship Contributions

Sponsorship contributions may be made by cheque or e-transfer.

Cheques Payable To: West Flat Citizens Group Inc.
E-Transfer: wfcc@sasktel.net

West Flat Citizens Group Inc. is assisting with the administration and delivery of this event on behalf of Senator Sol Sanderson and the First Nations Forum Governance Institute. All sponsorship funds received will be used to support conference expenses, including venue costs, participant materials, meals, speaker support, and event operations.

Sponsorship Contact

Dane Sanderson
Sponsorship Coordinator
First Nations Forum Governance Institute
Phone: (306) 980-7285
Email: dane@firstnationsforum.ca

First Nations Forum
Governance Institute

Conference Registration Form

Please complete all required fields to reserve your seat at the **First Nations Forum Conference on Fiscal Relations**.

Registration is confirmed upon receipt of payment. A confirmation email and receipt will be sent once payment has been received.

Online Registration Available

Complete your registration quickly and securely at: **www.firstnationsforum.ca/conference**

Registrant Information

Full Name: _____

Title / Position: _____

First Nation / Organization / Company: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Country / Region: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Province / Territory: _____

Postal / ZIP Code: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Accessibility or Accommodation Requirements: _____

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone Number): : _____

Additional Comments: _____

_____

_____

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Registration Type

☐ **Attend In-Person** – **$1,250 CAD** per person

☐ **Attend via Zoom** – **$800 CAD** per person

Payment Method

☐ E-Transfer

☐ Cheque

☐ Invoice Requested

If you require an invoice prior to payment, please indicate this above or contact the Conference Coordinator at dane@firstnationsforum.ca

Registration Includes

✓ Three Days of Conference Sessions

✓ Conference Materials

✓ Daily Refreshments & Lunch

✓ Networking Opportunities

Payment Information

Registration is confirmed upon receipt of payment.

E-Transfer

Please send payment to: **wfcc@sasktel.net**

Please include the registrant's **name** and **organization** in the message field.

Cheque

Please make cheques payable to: **West Flat Citizens Group Inc.**

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Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 5P2