

WORKING TO DEFEAT



ON-RESERVE POVERTY

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C, M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa,
ON K1A 0A2

Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: 2021 Budget

I am writing to you today to outline our concerns regarding the budget that you released on April 19, 2021.

The National Coalition of Chiefs ("NCC") is committed to defeating on-reserve poverty by working with the natural resource industry, speaking out in support of responsible development and by creating a forum for discussion between First Nation Chiefs and leaders from the Natural Resource Industry of Canada.

We are pleased to see the increased expenditures to support First Nation communities. In particular we support the expansion of funding to support infrastructure in our communities, education, and money to support the upcoming MMIWG Action Plan. We still need to see more investment in First Nation communities so that Indigenous peoples are not going hungry, have suitable housing, feel safe and have hope in getting a good job.

While this increase in investment from the federal government is welcomed the government cannot defeat on-reserve poverty by itself. Resource development is key to the sustainability of many First Nation communities. Continued investment in this sector needs to be encouraged to support mutually beneficial partnerships that drive Indigenous prosperity.

The NCC was seeking to see significant monies in the budget to support natural resources investment to support the Canadian COVID economic recovery, protect Canadian domestic security and help the world to move to a lower carbon future. We wanted to see further support for the development of the critical mineral industry, drive exports of LNG to displace coal energy production and further aid the oil industry to make investments to improve their carbon competitiveness.

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I encourage you to further consider initiatives to support resource development that will support Indigenous communities and Canada.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Swampy', is written over a white rectangular background.

Dale Swampy
President, National Coalition of Chiefs



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