



ALLIANCE OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS (A.I.N.)
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July 17, 2026

Graeme Truelove, Clerk INAN
Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Terry Sheehan Member of Parliament
Chair, Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs INAN
Constituency Sault Ste. Marie—Algoma
102-369 Queen St. East, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario P6A 1Z4

Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament
Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs INAN
Constituency 68 McLaughlin Road, Unit #1, Lindsay, Ontario K9V 6B5

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree, Member of Parliament
Minister of Public Safety / Former Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
Constituency Scarborough—Guildwood—Rouge Park
3-3600 Ellesmere Road, Toronto, Ontario M1C 4Y8

Re: The Legal Standing of the Alliance of Indigenous Nations (AIN) International Tribunal and Canada's Binding Obligations Under International Law, Constitutional Law and SCC decisions.

This communication is in response to the exchange before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs regarding the legitimacy of the Alliance of Indigenous Nations (AIN) and its International Tribunal, referenced on YouTube as: https://youtu.be/nNY_CzfvGCI (Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, INAN Meeting No 10 17 57 39, November 5, 2025). During that session, the honorable Gary Anandasangaree characterized his December 13, 2024 correspondence to the AIN as a mere "courtesy" letter carrying no legal weight, and MP Jamie Schmale questioned the organization's legitimacy on the basis that it had not undergone the Crown's domestic recognition process. With respect, this framing misrepresents the legal foundation upon which the AIN Tribunal stands. The authority of the AIN International Tribunal does not derive from, nor is it contingent upon, any grant of recognition (s35 process) by the Crown.

As set out in the enclosed *AIN International Tribunal: Memorandum of Law* (MOL) June 14, 2026 [MOL-LINK](#), the Tribunal's jurisdiction rests on four interlocking pillars of binding law. **First**, Canada acceded to the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) in 1976; Articles 1 and 27 guarantee the right to self-determination and the protection of Indigenous institutional structures as binding treaty obligations. **Second**, the *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* (VCLT), Article 27, explicitly prohibits Canada from invoking its internal law—including the specific mechanisms of the Indian Act or Section 35 jurisprudence—as justification for failing to perform those treaty obligations. **Third**, UNDRIP Article 34, now enacted federally through Bill C-15, affirms the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain their own juridical systems as a pre-existing right, not one granted by settler states. **Fourth**, Sections 25, 35, and 52 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* create a constitutional architecture that actively shields Indigenous juridical systems from being overridden by inconsistent domestic statutes; under the supremacy clause, any law (or court rule) inconsistent with these protections is of no force or effect.

The AIN MOL further details those public officials who systematically deny these rights may face concrete legal consequences, including liability under Sections 122 and 380 of the *Criminal Code* (breach of trust by public officer & fraud) and, in cases of widespread or systematic denial, potential liability under Article 7(1)(h) (crimes against humanity) of the Rome Statute. Additionally, UNDRIP Article 18, incorporated into Canadian law through Bill C-15 and shielded by Section 25, 35 and 52 guarantees Indigenous peoples the right to be represented by a person of their own choosing—a binding obligation that no court in Canada may override by domestic rules of procedure.

Respectfully, the Committee is urged to review the enclosed Memorandum in its entirety and to ensure that its ongoing study of Indigenous policing and public safety is conducted in full alignment with Canada's Supreme Court decisions, binding international and constitutional obligations. The AIN endorses all tribe/nation's (not banded corporations) legitimate land claims. The question is not whether Canada should recognize the AIN — the question is when Canada will fulfil its existing legal obligations.

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Big Bear, AIN Grand Council Representative

Links:

- The AIN International Tribunal MOL1

[MOL-LINK](#)

- CIRNAC letter,

<https://allianceofindigenoussnations.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Minister-Letter-to-AIN.pdf>

