



Indigenous Communities: A Path Built on Results

Statement adopted by the CGP in 2026

1. Issue

Indigenous Canada is not one community but many — First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples spread across more than 600 First Nations, making up roughly 5% of the population, with over half of First Nations people now living off-reserve. Circumstances differ just as widely: some communities are thriving, while others still go without essentials the rest of the country takes for granted — clean drinking water chief among them.

Alongside these gaps sit long-standing questions around treaty negotiations, on-reserve housing and property rights, and the legacy of residential schools. This document sets out where a Common Good Party government would focus, and why.

2. Facts

Indigenous peoples hold a unique place in Canada's constitutional order. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, and with them come inherent claims to self-government and to a fair stake in traditional lands and resources.

The money is not the problem. Federal spending on Indigenous affairs nearly tripled in a decade, rising from about \$11 billion in 2015 to roughly \$32 billion by 2025 — a total confirmed in the federal Main Estimates, split between about \$21 billion for Indigenous Services Canada and \$10.9 billion for Crown-Indigenous Relations.

Yet gains in everyday living standards have been far more modest; independent analysis attributes much of the limited improvement to a general family-benefit program available to all Canadians rather than to targeted Indigenous spending. Where communities have instead won real control over their own land, resources, and governance, stronger outcomes have tended to follow. The lesson is plain: more money through the same Ottawa-centred machinery has not worked, because decisions made far from the communities they affect rarely fit them.

3. Where We Stand

The past cannot be undone; what we can do is build something fairer from here. That work has to rest on three things: genuine mutual respect, faithful adherence to Canada's constitutional and treaty commitments, and a clear-eyed sense of what actually changes lives — clean water that runs, homes that stand, services that work, and real economic opportunity.

We treat self-determination not as a gift to be granted but as a right to be honoured, and as the most practical route to lasting improvement.

4. Our Plan

Guided by our principles of Economic Common Sense, Social Justice, Sovereign Identity, and Freedom, a CGP government will:

- ✓ Put the essentials first. Hold safe drinking water, sound housing, and dependable health and education in Indigenous communities to the same standard Canadians expect everywhere else.

- ✓ Break the cycle of dependency. Replace the paternalism of the Indian Act with a framework of equal rights and responsibilities, built around real self-government and community self-reliance.

- ✓ Keep faith with the Constitution and treaties. Honour Section 35 and existing treaties, ground resource and infrastructure decisions in meaningful consultation, and design major projects so affected communities hold a genuine ownership stake.

- ✓ Hand communities the controls. Let Indigenous communities run the services they depend on, working alongside other levels of government rather than under their instruction.

- ✓ Tie dollars to outcomes. Audit Indigenous spending so funds reach the communities in greatest need and are measured by results on the ground — not by the size of the bureaucracy moving the money.