



# Newsletter

## Update on the Additions to Reserve Policy

### Redesign

July 2025

This newsletter follows up on Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIRNAC) commitment to maintaining communication with First Nations on the progress of the Additions to Reserve (ATR) Policy redesign.

In the March 2025 Newsletter, we provided an update on important developments including the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) work on the implementation of the nine interim changes, the *Insights from Engagement* report being published online, and information regarding the caretaker convention the federal government maintained during the election period. As the election has concluded and the government was sworn in, communication activities will resume, including distribution of these newsletters.

### **Post Election Period**

The new Ministers have been sworn in. The Honourable Rebecca Alty is the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Honourable Rebecca Chartrand is the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. The Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty as the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada.

Two key documents have also been released that will frame the federal government's work moving forward. The Right Honourable Prime Minister Mark Carney has released a Mandate Letter on May 21, 2025, outlining seven priorities of focus for the federal government, which can be found [here](#). The Speech from the Throne, delivered by His Majesty King Charles III on May 27, 2025, outlines the government's agenda and can be found [here](#).

### **Interim Changes and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, [nine interim changes](#) to the ATR Policy were announced and are currently in effect. ISC is developing implementation guidelines through the TAC, which will soon be made available.

Discussions at the TAC have shifted to focus on the broader redesign of the ATR Policy, recognizing that the interim changes are not enough to overcome the challenges faced by First Nations in the ATR process. These discussions concentrate on identifying options to address the challenges and causes of delays with the ATR process as identified by First Nations.

Central to this redesign is the need to simplifying the procedural requirements of the ATR process, which are often seen as complex and duplicative, leading to prolonged timelines and uncertainty. Equally important is the need to tackle capacity constraints experienced by many communities, such as limited staffing, expertise, and funding, which have contributed to delays and difficulties in



navigating the current system. The policy must also better align with the priorities of First Nations by respecting their values, land uses, economic goals, and governance structures. This requires a more flexible and responsive ATR Policy developed through meaningful collaboration with First Nations.

## **Results from Engagement and Looking Forward**

CIRNAC is committed to redesigning the ATR Policy through First Nation-led engagement. Through a Call for Proposals (CFP) process, we have received 48 reports containing a total of 672 recommendations to improve the ATR Policy and process. These recommendations were analyzed and summarized in the *Insights from Engagement* report that has been posted online [here](#).

CIRNAC is now focusing on the Policy redesign and setting a plan forward for the next phase. Updates will be provided via newsletters and on the departmental website, which can be found [here](#). Focused conversations with First Nations are also available upon request. Please contact us using the email addresses shared below.

Further engagement is planned for fall 2025. This will include the distribution of the draft redesigned ATR Policy and will give First Nations the opportunity to provide feedback and ensure the Policy accurately reflects First Nation recommendations. Information on how to participate in these engagement will be shared in the coming months.

## **Work on the ATR Policy**

We are currently incorporating the recommendations received from First Nations and First Nation organizations into the redesigned ATR Policy in collaboration with the TAC. We thank all those who contributed their valuable input. The recommendations and analysis will be published online in the coming weeks to ensure transparency.

The recommendations cover a wide range of topics such as capacity support and resource planning, process and procedures, evaluation, oversight, reporting, and changes to land management practices. They are central to streamlining and providing flexibility to the ATR Policy and process and ensuring it reflects First Nations' priorities.

Work is also underway in exploring options to address capacity needs, including preliminary discussions on the creation of a First Nation-led ATR organization to support First Nations in the ATR process.

## **Contact Us**

We remain available to provide updates and to engage in further discussions related to the ATR Policy redesign upon request.

Anyone with input, questions or concerns regarding the various aspects of the ATR Policy redesign is encouraged to reach out to any of the following emails:

- For questions relating to engagement efforts, previous newsletters, or any input or other general questions about the policy redesign including requests for discussions, please reach out to [politique.aar-policy.atr@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:politique.aar-policy.atr@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

- For questions relating to the Technical Advisory Committee, please reach out to [cct-tac@rcaanc-cimac.gc.ca](mailto:cct-tac@rcaanc-cimac.gc.ca).