

Here's what it looks like.

9–10
YEARS

Life expectancy gap. First Nations on reserve live nearly a decade less than non-Indigenous Canadians. Inuit gap: up to 17.7 years.

Statistics Canada

53.8%
CHILDREN

Of all foster children in Canada are Indigenous. They are 7.7% of all kids. Alberta has the **worst disparity** in the country.

Statistics Canada · 2021 Census

12×
WOMEN

Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women in Canada. **61%** have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

National Inquiry into MMIWG · Statistics Canada

10×
INCARCERATION

Indigenous adults are 4.3% of the population, 33% of prisoners. Indigenous women: **half** of all federally sentenced women.

Statistics Canada · January 2026

6×
YOUTH
SUICIDE

First Nations youth die by suicide at six times the rate of non-Indigenous youth. Indigenous adults are **8.4×** more likely to die of accidental opioid poisoning.

Statistics Canada · Indigenous Services Canada

2×
POVERTY

Indigenous poverty rate versus non-Indigenous. Despite billions in federal spending, the gap has **not closed** in 5+ years.

Statistics Canada

These are the results 150 years of Ottawa rule has delivered.

This is the system a federally appointed judge has ruled Albertans cannot vote to change.

www.letstalkalberta.com

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Let's Talk Alberta · Box 105 · Mirror, Alberta T0B 3C0

AN HONEST CONVERSATION

What if independence is the path Indigenous Albertans have been waiting for?

46%

of First Nations respondents said they would vote YES to Alberta independence.

That's **higher** than the general Alberta population, where YES support sits at **roughly 1 in 3.**

Mainstreet Research · 3,000 Albertans · April 19–29, 2026

"Indigenous communities are not one voice. Albertans are not one voice. That's the whole point of a vote."

Let's Talk Alberta.

A pamphlet about First Nations & the case for change.

www.letstalkalberta.com

THE POLL

What Indigenous Albertans actually said.

First Nations Albertans — YES to independence

46%

General Alberta population — YES to independence

33%

Mainstreet Research — A-rated Canadian pollster.

Sample: 3,000 Albertans, weighted to census demographics.

Field dates: April 19–29, 2026.

Released: May 8, 2026.

Margin of error: ±1.8% (full sample, 19 times out of 20).

Commissioned by: Act For Alberta.

"Treaties were meant to free people. Ottawa made them chains instead."

— **Christopher Scott**

Activist chiefs claim to speak for a unified Indigenous opposition. The data shows nearly half of First Nations Albertans want a different future.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Why do the activist chiefs love the status quo?

\$2.7M **Stoney-Nakoda Nation** paid its 3 chiefs & 14 councillors \$2.7M in one year — **tax-free.**

\$265k **O'Chiese Chief Darren Whitford** took salary + expenses while leading a band of 842.

10x **Fort McKay's chief** earned ten times the average band member income.

Alberta pays the highest chief compensation in Canada. The transparency law that disclosed these numbers was **suspended in December 2015** at the AFN's request — you haven't seen the numbers since. **Who benefits from the opacity?**

THE HONEST ANSWERS

What about the treaties?

Doesn't independence violate Treaties 6, 7, and 8?

A federally appointed judge has already addressed this. In December 2025, Justice Colin Feasby wrote:

"This case has not decided that First Nations have a veto over Alberta independence."

Treaties survive jurisdictional change — they survived the HBC, Confederation, and the 1930 NRTAs. **An independent Alberta would inherit every Crown obligation in full.**

What about the May 13, 2026 ruling?

A federally appointed judge ruled Alberta cannot ask its citizens — **including its First Nations citizens** — a question without first getting permission from a handful of chiefs.

We agree consultation matters. We do *not* agree consultation should precede the asking of the question itself. A referendum is not separation — it is democracy in action for all 4.5 million Albertans, First Nations included.

Several chiefs now refuse to consult on anything, on any terms — turning "duty to consult" into a **permanent veto** on Alberta's right to ask its own people a question. The same federally appointed judges who claim to protect First Nations have presided over the system that produced every number on the other flap.

What about reserve lands and the Indian Act?

The Indian Act of 1876 has failed. An independent Alberta could end it entirely — replaced with self-government **negotiated nation-to-nation**, not imposed by Ottawa.

Every treaty right — annuities, reserve protections, hunting and fishing — entrenched in Alberta's founding constitution at protection equal to or stronger than Section 35.

The law doesn't change the question that needs answering: What has 150 years of federal control done for Indigenous Albertans?

A DIFFERENT FUTURE

What independence could mean.

End the Indian Act.

A 150-year-old colonial statute — ended. Replaced with self-government negotiated nation-to-nation, not imposed from Ottawa.

Opportunity *AND* Revenue Sharing.

Not just federal transfers subject to political change — **constitutional revenue sharing** plus the freedom for Indigenous nations to build, develop, and prosper on their own terms.

The Fort McKay model, scaled.

Indigenous communities with real economic agency have built genuine prosperity. Make that the rule, not the exception.

Constitutional treaty protection.

Treaties 6, 7, and 8 entrenched in Alberta's founding documents at strength equal to or greater than Section 35.

Systems designed here.

Health, justice, and child welfare — built for the people who actually live here, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, together.

Better than 150 years of Ottawa *isn't* a high bar.
It's a moral one.