



# Miles Richardson

2018 NATIONAL CHIEF CANDIDATE FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **2015 Mrs. Universe Ashley Callingbull Endorses Miles Richardson in upcoming AFN Election**

Vancouver – Indigenous Youth Leader and former Mrs. Universe winner Ashley Callingbull is pleased to endorse Miles Richardson, former President of the Council of the Haida Nation, as the next National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Ashley has passionately maintained her place as an advocate and role model in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities throughout North America and internationally. Ashley was the first ever Indigenous and Canadian woman to win the Mrs. Universe title in 2015, and has won many other titles, performance credits, and other accolades, which have garnered her a strong national and international prominence and following. Ashley has since used her success and vast following to advance important social and political issues facing Indigenous peoples and Canadians alike.

Having taken a stand for Indigenous Peoples from her platform as Mrs. Universe, Callingbull endorses Richardson's plan to take a lead role in helping transform the relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples from a colonial relationship under the Indian Act framework to an equitable partnership amongst nations, stating "I support Miles Richardson in his campaign for National Chief and his plan to implement Nation-to-Nation relationships between First Nations and Canada. On an equitable footing, in a proper relationship with Canada, Indigenous Peoples are poised to thrive, innovate, and create."

Miles Richardson's platform (<https://milesrichardsonfornationalchief.com/platform/>) is centred on three core actions, fundamental to a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship between First Nations and Canada:

1. Recognition and affirmation of First Nations inherent Aboriginal and treaty rights.
2. Closing persistent socio-economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.
3. Ensuring First Nations reap a fair share of economic activity in their respective territories and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Richardson noted "I am grateful to receive the support of Ashley Callingbull. She showed courage as a young Indigenous woman on standing up on the international stage to call out the injustice and disrespect she saw toward our Peoples. She could have stayed silent and received international renown, but chose to use her voice to stand for our Peoples. I commend her for taking a stand, using her voice, and showing pride in who she is as an Indigenous woman."

Richardson continued, "Ashley sees the capacity of our Peoples for achieving our dreams and the importance of building proper Nation-to-Nation relationships with Canada to achieve those dreams. For too long, our destinies have been shaped by Canada's colonial policies and approach to our Peoples. In a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship, in which our inherent Aboriginal and treaty rights are respected, our nations will receive their fair share from economic activities in their territories, close social gaps, and achieve economic self-sufficiency. The colonial relationship has kept our Peoples in poverty and struggle. A proper Nation-to-Nation relationship will put our Peoples in the position where our ingenuity will provide the keys to our futures, as it has enabled our peoples to survive and thrive for millennia."

Other endorsers to-date have included Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band, Chair of the International Inter-Tribal Trade and Investment Organization Wayne Garnons-Williams, Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand River, and former National Chief of the AFN and Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec Matthew Coon Come. The campaign will be announcing several more endorsers in the coming days.

For more information and details on the platform, please visit

<https://milesrichardsonfornationalchief.com/platform/>

The election for the next National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations will take place at the 2018 AFN Annual General Assembly in Vancouver on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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