



Miles Richardson

2018 NATIONAL CHIEF CANDIDATE FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

For Immediate Release July 20, 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

**Former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec and
AFN National Chief *Matthew Coon Come* Endorses Miles Richardson in upcoming AFN Election**

Vancouver - In the week ahead of the July 25th Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief election, Matthew Coon Come, former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec and AFN National Chief, has endorsed Miles Richardson, former President of the Council of the Haida Nation, for the position of National Chief.

"I am happy to pay tribute to Miles Richardson and his character. He has transformed the way First Nations view themselves and their place within Canada. He provides key insights into political activism strategies and how to manage the media", says Coon Come.

"We both share views on the use and control of land. Across Canada, Aboriginal people are pressing for an expanded share—a fair share—of lands and resources, proper dialogue and revenue sharing, promotion of sustainable resource development, and a cessation of clear cutting," he continued. "I know Miles Richardson's achievements and qualifications will contribute to the remarkable rise of native empowerment with new rules of engagement for resource development and for winning outcomes."

Richardson's platform is centred on three core actions that are fundamental to proper Nation-to-Nation relationships between First Nations and Canada:

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

"I am deeply honoured to have the support of former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec and AFN National Chief Matthew Coon Come for my run for National Chief," said Richardson. "Matthew has achieved so much for our Peoples, to leading the Cree's participation in drafting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to negotiating with Canada, Quebec and New York on major hydro development proposals and support for needed infrastructure in his People's territory, to championing the assertion of Cree self-determination in relation to Quebec separatism."

"Matthew ran and won, getting 50% support on the first ballot, on a campaign to ensure the AFN is more than a bureaucratic arm of Indian Affairs and plays the strong advocacy role it is intended to play for our nations," Richardson said. "Like Matthew, I believe that for the AFN to play its proper role as an advocacy voice for our Peoples, we must stop tinkering to merely improve the colonial Indian Act system designed by the federal government. Instead we must focus on rebuilding our nations and resetting our relationships with the federal government on a Nation-to-Nation basis. We are feeling huge momentum building on our campaign and our confident we will mobilize this support on election day."

For more information and details on Miles Richardson's 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 25th, 2018.

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