



## Call For End To Indian Act A Good Sign August 6, 2010

### INTRO:

Hi, I'm Joseph Quesnel. The national chief of the Assembly of First Nations is calling for an end to the Indian Act. Why is that important? Find out on today's Frontier Centre commentary.

### SCRIPT:

The Assembly of First Nations recently held an annual general meeting in Winnipeg where National Chief Shawn Atleo declared his desire to see the end of the Indian Act.

The Indian Act is the piece of legislation from the 19th century that governs most aspects of reserve life.

Atleo said he would like to see the legislation replaced within five years.

This is a positive move as the Indian Act makes Native band councils subject to the Ministry of Indian Affairs for far too many aspects of life.

It also locks First Nations out of the modern economy by not allowing First Nations to control their own land and resources.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl should take Atleo up on his offer and begin negotiations to replace this oppressive piece of legislation immediately.

However, Ottawa must ensure that First Nations have the capacity to run their own communities after the Indian Act is gone and also guarantee that what replaces the Indian Act is democratic and respects individual rights.

Ottawa must ensure it does not simply replace one form of excessive control for another.

I'm Joseph Quesnel. Join the prairie's only independent think tank next week for more thinking on the Frontier. For more about aboriginal policy, visit our website, at [www.fcpp.org](http://www.fcpp.org).

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