

NEWS RELEASE

ELECTION CALL ENDS DEBATE ON BILL C-23; FIRST NATION PROponents REMAIN COMMITTED TO INITIATIVE

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (May 27, 2004) - Debate in the House of Commons on the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act* (Bill C-23) officially ended with the election call on Sunday by the Prime Minister. The federal election will be held June 28, 2004.

C.T. (Manny) Jules, spokesperson for the First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative (FNFI), regretted to see the debate on Bill C-23 end by the election call, but remained extremely optimistic about the Bill's prospects.

"This legislation remains vitally important to First Nations and Canadians. We have been at this for many years and we will be ready to go when the election is over. The need for economic development in our communities is still there. We still need the infrastructure, the jobs, the investment."

The Bill was first introduced in the House of Commons on December 2, 2002. Debate on the bill resumed at Report Stage on April 26, 2004.

First Nation proponents of the legislation remain firmly committed to the First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative. They are also encouraged by National Chief Phil Fontaine's call for the AFN to respect the diversity of views among its members, at the recent Confederacy of Nations meeting in Saskatoon.

The First Nation proponents of the FNFI view the federal election as an opportunity for the political parties to outline their respective positions on Aboriginal issues, particularly with respect to increasing economic development opportunities on-reserve.

The proposed First Nation Fiscal Institutions include a finance authority, a tax commission, a financial management board and a statistical institute. The tax commission and finance authority will build upon the established reputations and expertise of the existing Indian Taxation Advisory Board and First Nations Finance Authority.

These institutions will provide First Nations with the access to capital markets available to other governments. They will further strengthen the First Nations



FNFA • AFPN



FMB • CGFPN



FNSI • ISPN



FNTC • CFPN

First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative
Initiative sur les Institutions fiscales des Premières nations

real property tax system and provide greater representation for taxpayers. They will develop appropriate financial standards and increase financial management capacity. Finally, they will serve to fill the current gap in First Nations statistics.

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For more information on the proposed institutions, please contact:

First Nations Tax Commission - www.fntc.ca

First Nations Finance Authority - www.fnfa.ca

First Nations Financial Management Board - www.fnfmb.com

First Nations Statistics - www.firststats.ca

[Backgrounder - First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative](#)