

A SOVEREIGN BRIEFING · DRIPA

\$11.2 billion above trajectory. *The gap widened.*

Canada's reconciliation spending tripled. The Indigenous child-welfare disparity got worse during exactly those years.

THE CONTRADICTION

The consensus said more
spending
would close the gap.

The data says it didn't.

From 2015 to 2022, federal Indigenous spending rose **\$11.2 billion above its historical growth trajectory** — the steepest increase in Canadian history. The headline numbers went the other way.

SOURCE: FRASER INSTITUTE, MACINTOSH & EISEN, 2021

THE NUMBER

14.1×

2021 DISPARITY RATIO – INDIGENOUS - TO - NON -
INDIGENOUS
FOSTER - CARE RATE .

It was **12.4×** in 2011. The gap widened during exactly the years DRIPA and UNDRIPA were passed and the federal spending tripled.

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA CAT. 41-20-0002, 2024 – 2011 & 2021
CENSUS COMPARISON

WHY THIS MATTERS

Spending is *not* the bottleneck.

The framework is not producing the outcomes it was sold to produce. The architecture of consultation and grievance consumed eleven billion dollars and moved the gap in the wrong direction.

That is the empirical claim. It is defensible. It is the single most important fact in the DRIPA debate.

EVIDENCE I · DRINKING WATER

40

LONG-TERM DRINKING WATER ADVISORIES
STILL ACTIVE IN 38 FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES
(INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA, MAY 6, 2026)

Trudeau's 2015 promise: end all long-term advisories by March 2021. **Unmet.** The First Nations Clean Water Act died on the order paper in January 2025.

EVIDENCE II · THE SILENCE

2019

YEAR OF LAST COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS SUICIDE DATA (KUMAR & TJEPKEMA,
STATCAN)

A reconciliation framework that does not publish current
Indigenous suicide data, five years into its operation, is not a
framework *measuring its own outcomes seriously*.

EVIDENCE III · THE OTHER DOOR

\$45B+

CAPITAL UNDER FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS
COALITION ADVISORY
ACROSS 18 ACTIVE PROJECTS (2024 PORTFOLIO)

Cedar LNG — **Haisla 50.1%** majority-owned, a world first.
Coastal GasLink — 16 nations, 10% equity. Westcoast pipeline
— **38 BC First Nations**, \$736M, May 2025. *Where ownership
replaced consultation, outcomes moved.*

THE TURN

Two doors inside *one law*.

DOOR A

**Rights ·
Consultation ·
*Grievance***

Indigenous communities as bearers of rights to be consulted. The Crown owes duties. The strongest political resource is the assertion of victimhood.

Yields: \$11.2B, wider gap.

DOOR B

**Ownership ·
Fiscal Autonomy ·
*Sovereignty***

Indigenous communities as investors, owners, governments. The Crown opens fiscal and jurisdictional space. The relationship is reciprocal.

Yields: \$45B portfolio, equity, jobs.

Same architecture. Different door. Different country.

THE VERDICT

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We're tired of managing poverty. It's time we now manage prosperity.

— CHIEF CRYSTAL SMITH
HAISLA NATION



SOVEREIGN BRIEFING · DOSSIER N° 02

The Two Frameworks Inside *DRIPA*.

19 pages · 60+ sources · the honest receipts

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