

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

Assembly of First Nations takes Trudeau to task over racism, rights, and reconciliation | Story by Brett Forester, CBC

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/assembly-of-first-nations-takes-trudeau-to-task-over-racism-rights-and-reconciliation/ar-AA1vlqWl>

Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet then made his first-ever speech to the assembly, which elicited boos at one point.

Cody Diabo, grand chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, near Montreal, had taken the floor to tell Blanchet the territory "is still our land" that was never surrendered.

"My ancestors were there when your ancestors arrived on boats," said Diabo.

He then invited Blanchet to have a broader conversation about the relationship "and how your people can start packing up."

"We are all very aware that we arrived here by boat hundreds of years ago. But I was not there, and neither were you," Blanchet said, garnering jeers from the room.

Liberals, opposition leaders given chilly reception at Assembly of First Nations meeting | Story by Alessia Passafiume, National Post

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/trudeau-afn-first-nations-meeting>

After Singh spoke and the floor was opened up to questions, chiefs told him the Assembly of First Nations is not a campaign trail, and that reconciliation means action. Another chief said they have requested to meet with him but haven't received a response, which Singh apologized for.

Bloc Quebecois Leader Yves-François Blanchet addressed the assembly solely in French.

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke Grand Chief Cody Diabo confronted Blanchet, saying Quebec sees itself as a sovereign nation without respecting the sovereignty of First Nations.

"My ancestors were here while yours arrived on boats," said Diabo, to applause in the room.

"We can have a conversation about what our relationship should be, and how your people can start packing up."

Blanchet was booed when he told chiefs he is sensitive to the fact French people came to this land a few hundred years ago, but that they need to be aware of the current moment.

AFN Special Chiefs Assembly: Day 3 - Morning | APTN News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqdDvIJh6Y8>

Cody to Jagmeet @ 38:42

"I'm still waiting to hear back from you. I sent you an invitation back in July. I haven't got a response back. But if we're talking true nation to nation from Kahnawà:ke's stance, it's just get out of Kahnawà:ke's way and let us do what we have to do. You have many individual nations that are here. You need to meet with us directly and not just at an organizational level. So again, I invite you to Kahnawà:ke as well as to the Iroquois Caucus, and we represent ourselves at the end of the day."

Cody to Yves-François @ 53:52

"I am the Grand Chief for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, who currently, we'll say, houses many of the Quebecois on our unceded territory. It is still our land. Our ancestors were there, my ancestors were there when your ancestors arrived on boats. But I would like to have a conversation with you in a different form so we can discuss that in more detail. I know we're limited on time, so I want to give conversational points to my colleagues as well and fellow other Chiefs. But I welcome you to Kahnawà:ke, and we can have a conversation about what our relationship should be and how your people can start packing up."

Victor Bonspille to Trudeau @ 1:53:57

"Secondly, my Iroquois Caucus community would like to have you come to our next meeting, which we're having next month, January 15th to 17th, in Akwesasne Mohawk territory. So, we have an open invitation to you, Mr. Minister."

"Also, we'd like to demand a public apology for you putting your army against our communities of the Mohawk Nations during the Oka crisis. We would like an open apology and a written apology that you sent your army to attack our nation."