

## **Chronology – Events and actions around Chief Theresa Spence’s Hunger Strike**

**December 4, 2012:** At the Special Chiefs Assembly, Chief Theresa Spence announced that she would go on a hunger strike within two weeks if the National Chief did not receive a response from the Crown to an urgent appeal on Treaties.

**December 6, 2012:** Chief Spence met with senior officials during the SCA and advised that the hunger strike would be imminent.

**December 10, 2012:** Chief Spence met with senior officials from the AFN to discuss her plans and formally made the announcement to media on the steps of Parliament Hill.

**December 11, 2012:** Chief Spence began her hunger strike on Victoria Island.

**December 11, 2012 – ongoing:** AFN staff support for Chief Spence and other hunger strikers and their helpers on Victoria Island, including direct delivery and coordination of supplies such as firewood and a teepee, information sharing, organizing visits from a health professional, logistics assistance including calls for donations, organizing media availabilities, and providing office space. During this time, National Chief Atleo and members of the AFN National Executive made numerous visits to Chief Spence and her supporters to provide support and participate in ceremony.

**December 16, 2012:** AFN National Executive sends open letter to the Prime Minister and Governor General urging them to meet with First Nations leadership, as requested by Chief Spence.

**December 17, 2012:** The Open Letter from the AFN National Executive to the Prime Minister and Governor General urging a meeting with First Nations leaders is hand delivered to both the Prime Minister's Office and Residence by First Nations leaders and Chief Spence's supporters.

**December 19, 2012:** AFN National Executive sends a letter to Chiefs and Councils stating support for Chief Spence and the grassroots actions across the country. The National Chief stressed that leaders are working together to press for a meeting to take place in the near future, so that the fundamental issues can be addressed by First Nation leaders, the Prime Minister, and the Governor General.

**December 21, 2012:** Rally on Parliament Hill.

**December 28, 2012:** National Chief Atleo meets with Chief Spence’s team to discuss next steps. AFN coordinates invite to MPs and Senators to meet with Chief Spence on December 30, 2012.

**On December 29, 2012:** Letter to all First Nation leaders outlining AFN's continued support of Chief Spence and Elder Raymond Robinson, pressing the Government of Canada, the Prime Minister and the Governor General to engage as Treaty partners in good faith and to up hold the Honour of the Crown. The National Chief and Executive also reaffirm their support of the Idle No More movement and direct action to advance First Nation interests and rights.

**December 30, 2012:** Open house with Parliamentarians on Victoria Island.

**December 31, 2012:** Conference call and meeting among leadership to determine strategy and next steps.

**January 1, 2013:** Invitation issued to Prime Minister Harper and the Governor General to commit to a meeting with First Nation leaders, including Chief Spence, on January 24, the anniversary of the Crown First Nation Gathering.

**January 3, 2013:** National Chief Atleo and other AFN Executive Members meet with Chief Spence and Elder Raymond Robinson. At that time they clarify that they will continue the hunger strikes until the meeting takes place, and cannot wait until January 24.

**January 3, 2013:** The National Chief does national media to publicly urge the Prime Minister and Governor General to meet urgently and as soon as possible, as per the direction of Chief Spence.

**January 4, 2013:** The Prime Minister agrees to meet with a delegation of First Nation leaders on January 11, 2013. AFN continues efforts to ensure that the Governor General join the meeting, as per Chief Spence's direction. First Nation leaders make it very clear that David Johnston, the Governor General needs to participate in the meeting given his role as the representative of the Crown and thereby party to the treaties that were signed between First Nations and the Crown.

**January 4, 2013:** National Executive Conference Call to commence planning for the meeting with the Prime Minister. Executive agrees that focused planning meetings will take place to seek consensus the following week in Ottawa, among Treaty leadership (led by Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde) and among leadership working on inherent right and title issues, including the Chiefs Committee on Comprehensive Claims (led by Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould). Work continues to get the Governor General to also commit to a meeting.

**January 8 – 9, 2013:** AFN convenes meetings among Treaty leadership and leaders working on inherent rights and title, including the Chiefs Committee on Comprehensive Claims, to seek consensus for meetings with the Prime Minister and Governor General. A consensus agenda is adopted around eight key areas.

**January 9, 2013:** AFN Executive meets to discuss consensus agenda.

**January 10, 2013:** Following many efforts by the AFN Executive Committee, the Governor General issues an invitation to Chiefs to participate at a ceremonial meeting at Rideau Hall, following the meeting with the Prime Minister on January 11, 2013. The AFN and Chiefs continue to request that the Governor General join the meeting with the Prime Minister as per the original request.

**January 11, 2013:** AFN National Executive meets to discuss approach to meetings with the Prime Minister and the Governor General.

**January 11, 2013:** A delegation of leaders and the National Chief meet with the Prime Minister and members of the federal Cabinet.

**January 11, 2013:** First Nation leaders, along with Chief Spence, attend a ceremonial meeting with the Governor General.