

THE HONOURABLE KIM PATE
SENATOR FOR ONTARIO
ALGONQUIN ANISHINABE AKI
HOMELAND OF THE ALGONQUIN ANISHINABEG NATION



L'HONORABLE KIM PATE
SÉNATRICE DE L'ONTARIO
ALGONQUIN ANISHINABE AKI
TERRITOIRE DE LA NATION ALGONQUIN ANISHINABEG

News Release

AFN Votes to Support Tona's Law, Eliminate Mass Incarceration & Uphold Self-Determination

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, JULY 17, 2026—The Assembly of First Nations Chiefs-in-Assembly today adopted a resolution in support of [Tona's Law, Bill S-205](#) and additional action to eliminate the mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples in line with Canada's Truth and Reconciliation commitments.

Tona's Law acknowledges and responds to the ongoing and discriminatory mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women—who represent half of women in federal prisons and virtually all women in the harshest and most restrictive conditions of isolation.

Tona's Law consists of safeguards tirelessly advocated by Tona Mills, a survivor of more than 10 years in solitary confinement who succumbed to terminal cancer in February 2026. Notably, the bill would encourage use of existing options to transfer funds and resources out of federal prisons to communities who wish to welcome incarcerated members home and support their community integration.

Tona's Law has been passed by the Senate and now awaits a second reading vote in the House of Commons.

"Tona's Law is an opportunity to decolonize," said Senate sponsor, Senator Kim Pate. "These measures can help return people and resources to First Nations and uphold inherent rights to self-determination on issues of justice and public safety."

"Canada promised to eliminate mass incarceration of Indigenous Peoples by 2025," said House sponsor, MP Leah Gazan. "The federal government failed to meet that deadline. Tona's Law represents an overdue, urgently needed step toward honouring Canada's commitments to reconciliation."

- 30 -

For more information:

Office of Senator Pate: Emily Grant, emily.grant@sen.parl.gc.ca, 613-995-9220

Office of MP Gazan: leah.gazan@parl.gc.ca, 613-992-5308