

This is a brief summary of REMIT 1 background information, and may not adequately explain the process as a whole. Please visit the United Church of Canada website [page](#) for more details if you have any questions.

BACKGROUND:

The Indigenous branch of the United Church of Canada has existed from the beginning in 1925. Since then they have evolved, struggled and adapted, and ultimately worked towards healing. For its' part, the United Church has worked to heal as well, issuing its' 1986 *Apology* and 1998 *Apology*. In 2015, The United Church issued a statement acknowledging the value of Indigenous spirituality, and committed to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

In 2019, under the new restructuring of the UCC, a document, "Calls to the Church," was created by the Aboriginal Ministries Council (AMC). This document was to help define their direction into a self-determining Indigenous church, founded on Indigenous knowledge and teachings, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. From this proposal a new branch of the United Church was created: the "National Indigenous Organization".

TODAY:

Currently the "National Indigenous Organization" operates in the same manner as a Regional Council, but it wants to grow into a more independent structure that fit its' goals AND still operates alongside the United Church. This evolutionary process is restricted by the approval process of REMITS (depending on the type of change requested or required).

This dynamic is also felt to be an uncomfortable reflection of past, colonial-style thinking and practices, which the United Church had promised to eliminate in their "1998 Apology". "...we are committed "to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority".

In 2022 the National Indigenous Organization brought a proposal to General Council 44, to identify the church in two parts: Indigenous and non-indigenous. In this dual branching, the National Indigenous Organization would become autonomous but still operate within the UCC. To their example, similar to "two canoes paddling down the same river".

This New Organization:

- Would have its' own structure to make changes and adaptations as they see fit, without the need for following current Remit processes currently required. (It has no proposed structure right now, but would work on development in conversation with General Council on the next stages, should the REMIT 1 pass.) Ultimately the structure would be entirely in the hands of the new organization.
- Would continue to follow the same doctrines and theologies followed by the United Church of Canada, with indigenous spiritual practices continuing inclusively.
- Would still be bound by THE MANUAL policies in UCC.
- Would continue to be funded by the United Church (communities of faith and staff at conference and general office levels). Most indigenous churches have not paid assessments because of limited local resources, but this may be revisited as part of an overall review of assessment.

SUMMARY of REMIT PROPOSAL:

Two branches would be created: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous. The Indigenous branch "National Indigenous Organization", would operate independently, but alongside the other, following the same theological and policy guidelines of United Church of Canada. It would be exempt from the REMIT approval process in order to evolve as an independent branch of the UCC. It will continue to be funded (as before) by the United Church. Its' future structure is still in planning stages and development will work in conversation with General Council. (end)