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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pelly Banks Dena Sponsors Uncontended Application for .indigenous — Building a Global Indigenous Namespace, Together

One of only 16 community applications worldwide; sole community-based applicant from Canada

Pelly Banks, Yukon — October 9, 2026 — On October 7, 2026, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) published 1,615 applications from the 2026 global gTLD round; among them — **.indigenous**.

Filed on behalf of the sponsoring community, Pelly Banks, a distinct Kaska Dena community in the Yukon, the **.indigenous** application stands uncontended. No corporation, no consortium, no community or other entity applied for the string.

If the application succeeds through evaluation, **.indigenous** will become a top-level domain — the equivalent of .com or .ca — ***owned and governed by Indigenous peoples***, serving Indigenous Nations, governments, organizations, and businesses worldwide.

For the Pelly Banks Dena, who have maintained their identity, language, and governance since a 1956 forced amalgamation into neighbouring First Nations, this application turns a history of administrative erasure into an act of digital reclamation.

"We are not merely seeking a seat at someone else's table — we are building our own," said Dorothy Smith, Pelly Banks' Wolf Clan Leader. "But this is only the first step. We cannot do this alone. It will take the support of the global Indigenous community to build the **.indigenous** namespace as a step toward collective Indigenous data sovereignty."

A Journey That Requires Community
The Pelly Banks Dena are leading this application — but they do not intend to continue this journey alone. Community accountability and input are fundamental to developing the domain, and the application embeds a revenue-sharing model directing registry income back to Indigenous community benefit through an Indigenous community advisory body.

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Now the real work begins — collectively shaping the namespace *with* Indigenous peoples worldwide.

"Had another Indigenous community applied, we would have worked alongside them toward a jointly governed namespace," said Erika Gilson, a Director of the applicant entity. "Whether in the comment period or after delegation, the heart of this project is community voices shaping what comes next. This is about Indigenous Nations controlling how their identity and data appear in the digital realm — *together*."

ICANN's public comment period is scheduled to begin following String Confirmation Day on November 17, 2026, and will run through March 16, 2027 (104 days). This is where the voice of Indigenous Nations, organizations, and communities can directly strengthen the application's community standing. Participation matters — letters of support, comments, and engagement from Indigenous communities are imperative to carrying this through evaluation and delegation.

STAND WITH US
Indigenous Nations, governments, organizations, and communities are invited to join this journey — through letters of endorsement, participation in the upcoming public comment period, and community engagement as the namespace takes shape. A namespace built *by and for* Indigenous peoples is only possible if Indigenous peoples build it, *together*.

QUICK FACTS

- **Applications published this round:** 1,615 worldwide
- **Community-based applications:** 16 worldwide; the .indigenous application is the only one from Canada
- **Applicant Support Program:** one of 56 approved worldwide (1 of 24 non-profit/charity; 1 of 14 North America)
- **Contending parties for .indigenous:** None — the string is uncontended

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