
From: Gover, Aubrey
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Hunter, Karen
Subject: Fw: MOU and child protection services in Natuashish

Please TRIM.

Aubrey Gover
Deputy Minister
Indigenous Affairs

This email is PRIVILEGED and contains confidential information intended only for the person(s) named above. Any other distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by return email and delete the original message.

From: Judith Rae <jrae@oktlaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Gover, Aubrey; Walsh, Susan (CSSD); Whelan, Jackie; Downey, Dana
Cc: Chief John Nui - Mushuau Innu First Nation (john.nui@mifn.ca); Nick Paradisis (nick.paradisis@mifn.ca); 'Kathleen Benuen'; Germaine Benuen (gbenuen@irtsec.ca); Lyla Andrew; Mary Jane Edmonds (manishanedmonds@gmail.com)
Subject: MOU and child protection services in Natuashish

Good afternoon NL / CSSD,

About child protection services in Natuashish, I am writing to provide an update, following an internal call we just had.

I know that Lyla & Kathleen had a call last week with Jackie, and in addition Chief Nui had a call I think yesterday with Susan and Dana. The message I am conveying now will probably not be a surprise given those discussions you have already had.

The Innu response team providing emergency child protection services further to the MOU is in need of relief. They continue to do an excellent job. But as you know, the child protection system is not an Innu system. Being the face of that system in the community is draining at the best of times. The past few days has turned into something closer to the worst of times. Plus, the team is down to 4 instead of 6, which has increased the pressure on remaining team members. They are reaching the end of their ropes.

It would be best for CSSD to make arrangements to resume bringing in its social workers as soon as possible.

There remain important details to work out about what the rotation will look like. MIFN Council will consider, at its next meeting which will likely be early next week, whether a 14-day isolation will remain required for the CSSD workers, or whether another form of medical clearance could be acceptable. At this point we ask you to

plan a return assuming that 14-day isolation will remain required, and we will update you if that changes. While we recognize that this point will make a key difference for CSSD's planning, we also recognize that implementing these transitions takes time and it is important to get this process started to provide the local workers some relief more quickly. Even if isolation is required, the ability of the CSSD social workers to take more of the calls and do most of the "phone work" during their isolation would provide important relief for the local response team.

From our perspective, the longer that CSSD social workers can remain in the community at a time, the better. We look forward to hearing from you what CSSD proposes.

Best,
Judith

Judith Rae
Partner, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP
250 University Ave, 8th floor, Toronto, ON, M5H 3E5
T: 416-981-9407 C: 416-998-0995 F: 416-981-9350
jrae@oktlaw.com
www.oktlaw.com