

**From:** [Dutton, Sean](#)  
**To:** [Bailey, Bev](#); [Barnes, Joanne](#)  
**Cc:** [Harvey, Brian](#); [Gover, Aubrey](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Current Situation in Natuashish  
**Date:** Friday, November 2, 2012 5:15:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [2012\\_11\\_02\\_15\\_10\\_02.pdf](#)

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Joanne: Please share with the Minister.

Bev: please TRIM.

Sean

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunt, Deanne  
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 3:53 PM  
To: Companion, Lori Anne  
Cc: Dutton, Sean; Hunt, Michelle  
Subject: FW: Current Situation in Natuashish

Lori Anne,

Attached is the correspondence which was sent to Carol Chafe today regarding the current situation in Natuashish.

Sean - this is for your information please.

Michelle - for you for file for Minister as per Lori Anne's request.

Thanks,

Deanne

Deanne Hunt  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Deputy Minister  
Department of Child, Youth & Family Services  
95 Elizabeth Avenue  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6  
Tele: (709) 729-0958  
Fax: (709) 729-1049  
E-Mail: [drhunt@gov.nl.ca](mailto:drhunt@gov.nl.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunt, Deanne  
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 3:17 PM  
To: Chafe, Carol  
Cc: Meaney, Colleen  
Subject: Current Situation in Natuashish

Hi Carol,

Attached please find a letter from Lori Anne Companion, Deputy Minister, in response to your October 11, 2012 correspondence. The original will be sent to you via the mail.

Thanks,

Deanne Hunt

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

2012\_11\_02\_15\_10\_02.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Child, Youth & Family Services  
Office of the Deputy Minister

November 2, 2012

Carol A. Chafe  
Child and Youth Advocate  
The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate  
193 LeMarchant Road  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 2H5

*Carol*  
Dear Ms. Chafe:

**Re: Current Situation in Natuashish**

The following is a response to your questions on children and youth in Natuashish sent to our Department on October 11, 2012.

1. Updated statistics since September 25, 2012:

- Natuashish Innu Children/Youth In Care:
  - Total as of October 19, 2012: 43
  - An increase of two Innu children in care from the previous stats reported.
  - Both children entered care due to solvent abuse.
  - One child was placed in OPP at Ranch Ehrlo in Saskatchewan.
  - The second child is in an emergency foster home placement in Happy Valley Goose Bay.
  - < 10 years of age: Increase from 21 to 22 children from September to October 2012.
  - 11-18 years of age: Increase from 16 from 17 in OPP's from September to October 19, 2012. Solvent abuse is an issue for 13 of the 17 children/youth.
- Natuashish Innu Children on Protective Intervention Programs(PIP) receiving services at home:
  - Total as of October 19, 2012: 83
  - An increase of seven Innu children from Natuashish on PIP from the previous statistics reported
  - Solvent abuse is an issue for all seven of these children/youth.

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2. Updated statistics since September 25, 2012. (Please note the numbers referenced in your letter dated October 11, 2012, for the number of children on protection and the number of children in care, were inverted. This has been changed below to reflect the correct numbers noted in the e-mail from Sheree MacDonald on September 25, 2012.):
  - Total number of children from Natuashish on protection:
    - August 2011: 61
    - September 2012: 76
    - October 19, 2012: 83
  - Total number of children/youth from Natuashish In Care:
    - August 2011: 49
    - September 2012: 41
    - October, 19 2012: 43
  - Total children on protective intervention caseload for solvent abuse:
    - August 2011: 11
    - September 2012: 13
    - October, 19 2012: 20
  - Out of Province Treatment for Solvent Abuse:
    - August 2011: 19
    - September 2012: 12
    - October 19, 2012: 13
3. Yes, there is a newly hired social worker for Natuashish. She commenced work on October 1, 2012.
4. Orientation provided to the newly hired social worker in Natuashish:
  - The first week of hire was general orientation to Labrador and the community of Natuashish and specific orientation to the Innu culture and community. The employee commenced this orientation in Sheshatshui and went to Natuashish for four days with the Zone Manager for Innu Zone and the Social Worker Assistant who provides service to Natuashish. The Social Worker was orientated to basic office operations and to upkeep and maintenance of living accommodations. She was also introduced to community partners, including RCMP, health, mental health and addictions services, and community contacts with the Mushuau First Nation. She was also re-introduced to community elders as this Social Worker lived in the community of Davis Inlet as a child for nine years.

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During that time, the Social Worker also received an introduction to some case files.

- The Department offers a one day Basic Orientation and 9 day pre-CORE training to new social work hires. The date of this training is October 22 to November 2, 2012 which our newly hired social worker for Natuashish is attending.
  - Basic Orientation is an awareness building session that provides an introductory knowledge of the core programs and a social worker's role within those programs. It also provides new staff with an awareness of expectations on a personal, professional and organizational level.
  - The pre-CORE trainings consist of Basic CRMS, Legal Aspects, Documentation Skills, Risk Management and Risk Management/CRMS. The Legal Aspects and Risk Management trainings provide specific knowledge and skill development in the areas of intake, assessment and risk management. In the Documentation Skills Session, new social work hires are trained using the *Documentation Guide*, which is included in the Child Protection and In-Care Policy and Procedures Manual. In addition CYFS considers training in CORE modules to be mandatory for all front line Social Workers as they become available. Presently four modules are offered through the CYFS Training Unit with the remaining three modules will be rolled out in 2013.
5. Supervision will be provided by the Zone Manager and clinical program supervisor of the Department of CYFS who works closely with the community of Natuashish.

Mentoring and support for the social worker:

- Program supervisor and Zone Manager are providing ongoing consultation via telephone and are presently rotating travel to Natuashish weekly pending variables such as weather and availability of flights into the community. This promotes face to face mentoring, consultation and supervision.
- Regular contact and consultation between social worker and the community service worker via telephone and in person at Natuashish office.
- Mentoring, collaboration, consultation, coverage and support will take place between the social worker assigned to Natuashish with the social worker assigned to Sheshatshiu.
- We are in the process of recruiting a second social worker for Natuashish.

6. The overall plan by the Department that seeks to address immediate issues related to solvent abuse in Natuashish which will facilitate change in the long term:
  - CYFS is taking immediate action on the ground to ensure the safety of children by responding to referrals and working with individual families on our caseloads. The new employed social worker for Natuashish is actively engaging in this process with the support of her program supervisor. The police have also indicated that they are regularly seeking out children/youth who may be gas sniffing and returning them to their parents and making referrals to CYFS as appropriate.
  - CYFS is taking action to provide supports to parents in the community and has been in discussions with the Health Commission about bringing in someone from Woods Homes to provide parenting information on the solvent abuse issue. CYFS, the Healing Lodge, the mental health therapist for the Band and Woods Homes are partnering on this initiative and the Healing Lodge will be offering a parenting program in Natuashish on November 11, 2012. This will be a three week program with the Healing Lodge and mental health therapist with the Band, facilitating the first two weeks and a representative from Woods Homes facilitating the third week of the program.
  - CYFS also has a strategic plan to address the long term and pervasive nature of this issue by engaging the Innu (and Inuit) in designing a new service delivery model for aboriginal communities. The essence of this new model, which began development in 2010, is establishing an MOU where CYFS will share all our client information with the Innu through a formal process called the Planning Circle. CYFS and Innu members on this Circle will jointly analyze trends, plan projects (such as parenting supports), generate options for specific cases and coordinate the resources both the Band and CYFS have on the ground. Apart from the general benefits that will stem from these activities, the process will bring both parties to the table to be responsible together and will allow both to become more knowledgeable about what may work in the communities. The draft MOU has been sent to the Innu Chiefs for ratification and signing is planned for November 6, 2012.
7. Programs in the Community of Natuashish for children who engage in behaviours that place them at risk such as solvent abuse:
  - Aboriginal Head Start Program for children from infancy to six years of age which include culture and language, education, health promotion, nutrition, social support programs.

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- The National Youth Solvent Abuse Program (NYSAP) for First Nations and Inuit youth with chronic solvent abuse problems.
  - Child Care Centre
  - The Healing Lodge
  - Recreational facilities and activities in the community:
    - Gymnasium
    - Stadium
    - After school sports
8. Evidence that the children and families are engaging in the above programs in the past two weeks is not a question that this Department could answer with any accuracy as the above programs are not administered by CYFS. You will need to contact the Mushuau Innu First Nations to access this information. CYFS is collaborating with the Healing Lodge and is sharing names of parents who may be willing to take part in a parenting program to be offered by the Healing Lodge on November 11, 2012.

Sincerely,



**Lori Anne Companion**  
**Deputy Minister**