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**From:** Harvey, Brian </O=PSNL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIANHARVEY>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** Downey, Claudia  
**Subject:** FW: DM Steering Committee on Aboriginal Initiatives  
**Attachments:** Information Note Natuashuish Nov 2013.doc

TRIM

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From: Gover, Aubrey  
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:23 AM  
To: Harvey, Brian  
Subject: FW: DM Steering Committee on Aboriginal Initiatives

FYI

Aubrey Gover

Assistant Deputy Minister (Aboriginal Affairs)

Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

St. John's, NL

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From: Hanson, Udloriak  
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:02 AM  
To: Gover, Aubrey; Dooling, Genevieve (Gig); Vivian-Walsh, Janet; Cooper, Bruce; Williams, Geoff; Noble, Paul; Mullaley, Julia; Chippett, Jamie; English, Tracy  
Cc: Bailey, Bev; Hunt, Deanne; Griffiths, Sharon; Manuel, Sue; Hoddinott, Fanny; Bennett, Pam; Nippard, Melissa; Jarvis, Carolyn B.; Heath, Daisy  
Subject: DM Steering Committee on Aboriginal Initiatives

Please find attached CYFS' Information Note on Natuashish. Gentle reminder to circulate your Information Note, or send them to me so that I may circulate, amongst your DM counterparts before the Steering Committee meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Also, please note Bruce Cooper has graciously agreed to chair the meeting.

Thank you,

Udlu

Hello,

Please find attached the draft agenda for the DM Steering Committee on Aboriginal Initiatives. You will notice that the focus of the meeting is primarily on Natuashish.

In order to understand and coordinate the Province's efforts in Natuashish with the federal government and the Mushuau Innu First Nation, Deputies are asked to prepare a memo that briefly outlines the programs and services their respective departments provide to Natuashish, particularly, in the area of social programming or services. Please, also be prepared to speak to your memo during the Roundtable.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could have your memos prepared by the 13th of November in order to give Deputies time to read and review. I can distribute the memos if you wish.

Should you have any comments or additions to the agenda please send them to me.

Happy Halloween!

Thank you,

Udlu

1702

**Information Note**  
**Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)**

**Title:** CYFS Service Delivery in Natuashish

**Issue:** The purpose of this note is to provide an overview of CYFS's plan to ensure the provision of child protection services to the Mushuau Innu First Nation in Natuashish.

**Background and Current Status:**

- Child protection services in NL are administered by CYFS in keeping with the *Child and Youth Care and Protection Act*. The Federal Government provides certain health and social programs and funding directly to the Innu of Labrador through the Mushuau Innu Health Commission and the Sheshatshiu Innu Social Health Division. It also provides direct funding to the Government of Newfoundland Labrador to deliver child protection services. In 2012, CYFS signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Mushuau Innu First Nation (MIFN) and the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation (SIFN) to improve planning around the safety and well-being of children and youth, as well as enhance service coordination and delivery in the two Innu communities. These MOUs resulted in the formation of a joint Innu Planning Circle between CYFS and the Innu.

Human Resources

- It has always been difficult to recruit social workers to coastal communities in Labrador, such as Natuashish. In particular, Natuashish has been exacerbated by a shortage of housing and a high volume workload. CYFS is actively pursuing recruitment strategies for Natuashish. Recently, the special advisor at Cabinet Secretariat, for Aboriginal Affairs and Artic Opportunities has been engaged in dialogue to assist CYFS in their efforts for recruitment potential.
- At present, there is one permanent social worker and two community support workers in Natuashish. The community service workers are permanent residents of Natuashish and fluent in the language. These community service workers provide essential support to social workers in the delivery of child welfare services in the community.
- Since October 7, 2013, social workers and clinical supervisors from various parts of the province have been providing service to the community by flying in on a weekly basis (i.e. one supervisor and two social workers). Finding staff to volunteer to fly-in is becoming increasingly difficult. While this has provided interim relief, it presents challenges for the families on our caseload, the permanent CYFS staff in the community, as well as the other professionals in Natuashish who are essential to collaborative practice and cooperation.
- An Expression of Interest to recruit two (2) Clinical Supervisors and two teams of (2) Social Workers per team to fly-in and fly-out on a rotational two (2) week basis as a pilot project for six (6) months has resulted in the successful recruitment of one (1) clinical supervisor and four (4) social workers. The anticipated start of the rotation is December 2, 2013. It is

anticipated that CYFS will be successful in identifying the second supervisor and efforts to recruit permanent staff will continue.

### Housing

- The Mushuau Innu Band Council has been very cooperative in assisting CYFS to obtain additional housing for staff in the community and at present, CYFS has three trailer units available to them. One is owned by CYFS, and the Band has provided an additional two units that CYFS will rent. The RCMP has generously allowed CYFS to use one of its trailer units to house interim CYFS staff.
- It would be beneficial if Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs could assist in obtaining land within the community so that CCYFS could establish permanent residences for employees.

### Composition of Caseload

- 57 children and youth in care (9 children with solvent abuse issue)
  - 0-9 yrs: 42 children in care
  - 10-16 yrs: 15 children in care (9 children with solvent abuse)
    - 7 of the 9 solvent abuse children are in out-of-province placements
    - 2 of the 9 solvent abuse children reside outside Natuashish
- 149 children on protective intervention (from 77 Mushuau Innu families)
  - 19 children with solvent abuse issue
    - 11 of the 19 solvent abuse cases are almost ready for closure as a result of the services now in place and indications that solvent abuse has ceased. There have been no further referrals on the 8 remaining cases, but for other protection concerns they will continue to be monitored.

### Planning Circle

- There have been two Innu Planning Circles in the past six months. July 3, 2013 and October 23, 2013.
- The issues discussed at the most recent meeting included:
  - Terms of reference for the planning circle had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Innu agreed with the terms in principal but were not prepared to commit to funding for travel and expenses associated with the meetings as was agreed by the government and leaders when the Memorandums of Understanding were signed in November 2012. They suggested that CYFS or the Innu Round Table be asked to consider absorbing these costs.

- There was considerable discussion on ways and means CYFS can communicate more effectively with Innu communities on their policies/practices, and roles/responsibilities. Suggestions included the use of their local radio station for getting information out and the use of community information sessions.
- The role of the planning circle to ensure case conferencing occurs between the front-line workers of both organizations was explored.
- Both parties agreed to circulate their respective organizational charts to gain a more thorough understanding of resources each had to offer.
- Discussion took place on the challenges of placing newborns who come into care in both communities. There was some exploration of using safe houses as emergency placements for infants and their mothers. Each band council agreed to work with Wendy White to develop a proposal for consideration by CYFS. It is envisioned that the proposal will be ready for CYFS review in December.
- The mental health counsellor was running a parenting program in Natuashish for several parents referred by CYFS beginning the end of October. CYFS has since learned that only one parent showed up so the program did not proceed. The parenting program is funded through Health Canada.
- [REDACTED] provided an overview of the Solvent Abuse Training Action Plan developed at the leadership training in Happy Valley Goose Bay. This plan was to strengthen the proposal earlier submitted regarding the use of Border Beacon as a residential treatment option. Considerable discussion on the logistics took place. CYFS will seek further clarification on details respecting this proposal.
- [REDACTED] provided an overview on the progress of the tripartite discussions on the Enhanced Prevention Framework the next steps include the costing model for prevention and protection services.

#### **Other Action and Next Steps:**

- Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations and Service Delivery went to Natuashish on October 24, 2013 and met with staff of CYFS, the RCMP, the mental health counsellor from Labrador Grenfell Health to discuss the importance of collaboration and regular held meetings among the front line professionals to discuss common issues and develop strategies to ensure maximum cooperation and support to one another and the community. CYFS will take the lead on this initiative in January, once the two additional teams have completed at least one rotation of the fly-in model.
- The Minister and the Deputy Minister will be holding a teleconference with all employees who have been providing service to Natuashish over the past year to discuss the experience and to strategize on ways and means of providing more effective service that will assist in building capacity within the community.

- The Minister and Deputy intend to visit Natuashish early in the new year to meet with leaders and staff.
- The next planning circle is scheduled for January 23, 2013 in Natuashish.
- There is a leadership election scheduled for November 15, 2013 in Natuashish.

Prepared by: Wanda Lundrigan, ADM

November 13, 2013