

From: [Harvey, Brian](#)
To: [Downey, Claudia](#)
Subject: FW: Child Youth and Family Services
Date: Friday, January 17, 2014 2:01:00 PM
Attachments: [Minister Paul Davis.doc](#)

TRIM

Brian RM. Harvey
Director - Aboriginal Affairs
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
(709) 729-1487 (w)
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From: John Higham [<mailto:John.Higham@chignectogroup.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 1:48 PM
To: Harvey, Brian; O'Brien, Donna
Subject: FW: Child Youth and Family Services

Folks I was just advised of the action below and attached letter. Courtesy copy to you two, in case you have not yet seen. JOHN

Begin forwarded message:

From: Prote Poker <[HYPERLINK "mailto:ppoker@innu.ca"ppoker@innu.ca](mailto:ppoker@innu.ca)>
Date: January 17, 2014 at 11:04:01 AM AST
To: [HYPERLINK "mailto:pdavis@gov.nl.ca"pdavis@gov.nl.ca](mailto:pdavis@gov.nl.ca)
Cc: [HYPERLINK "mailto:nickmcgrath@gov.nl.ca"nickmcgrath@gov.nl.ca](mailto:nickmcgrath@gov.nl.ca), "[HYPERLINK "mailto:apenashue@sifn.ca"apenashue@sifn.ca](mailto:apenashue@sifn.ca)", "[HYPERLINK "mailto:apenashue@sifn.ca"apenashue@sifn.ca](mailto:apenashue@sifn.ca)", Gregory Rich <[HYPERLINK "mailto:kanikue@gmail.com"kanikue@gmail.com](mailto:kanikue@gmail.com)>, Jeremy Andrew <[HYPERLINK "mailto:jandrew@innu.ca"jandrew@innu.ca](mailto:jandrew@innu.ca)>, [HYPERLINK "mailto:jpenashue@sifn.ca"jpenashue@sifn.ca](mailto:jpenashue@sifn.ca)
Subject: Child Youth and Family Services

Minister Davis,
Attached letter is a follow up of meeting on December 4, 2013.
Thank you

Prote

January 17, 2014

Honourable Paul Davis
Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

By E-mail: padavis@gov.nl.ca

Re: Meeting of December 4, 2013

First, I wish to extend the thanks of Innu leadership for making the time during our visit to St John's in mid-December to meet with us. All of us in attendance were heartened to know that you share our priority for improving the health and safety of Innu children.

As I noted, the high number of children in care means that every Innu family is touched in some way by child welfare issues. A big piece of our healing strategy is to reduce the risk to children, lower the number in care, heal families so that they can reunite with their children, and to bring children back to their home communities wherever possible. Your commitment to consider how we might create cooperative processes to identify and address family barriers to getting their children back, and the possibility of using the group home as a safe and supported transition place back into the community – is very supportive of our goals.

Our discussions noted that we were all disturbed to hear that various warning signals might have been missed before the recent death of a very young child in Sheshatshiu. In order to better prevent any similar future situation, we would support a joint Innu-Province investigation into the circumstances of the child in question. Since our meeting Innu staff have provided your staff with some of the details of this matter and we now look forward to your response on this suggestion.

The creation of the Planning Circles under the two MOU's, were raised. It is our opinion that these have good potential to improve service delivery on many fronts, but that they need to operate as two separate Circles to achieve that potential. We also note that the Innu have no funds to cover travel costs for Circles, and would appreciate some financial assistance for direct costs of our involvement in the Circles.

The meeting also explored the state of negotiations with Canada on an Enhanced Prevention Funding Arrangement (EPFA). An EPFA would replace the old and insufficient funding formula for on-reserve child welfare expenses with funding based on actual costs of most services and add a new set of

funding for prevention activities. The Innu have been seeking this type of arrangement since 2009 and it is now nearing completion in a process involving both the Innu and the Mi'kmaq of Conne River. However, we noted two main concerns with prevention calculations of Canada; one that it may not count eligible-to-be-registered but not yet registered children as part of the EPFA formula and two, that it needs to include the full costs of CYFS's new fly-in fly-out staffing method is included in future years funding calculations. It is our impression that these would also be concerns of the Province, and that the Minister might need to make contact with Canada to assist in a timely resolution.

Your staff noted some concern with the present plan that that under the EPFA reimbursement of eligible provincial costs would flow from the Innu organization instead of from Canada as it now does for the Innu zone. We explained that Conne River has reimbursed the province like this since 1983 and that in PEI, EPFA funds have been flowing through the First Nations organization for several years. Similar to the plan here, PEI First Nations deliver prevention services and reimburse provincial protection costs.

I also want to remind you that there has been a longstanding commitment between the Innu , province and Canada to fully devolve federal funding Child welfare funding to the Innu . That outcome requires a separate agency that is fully delegated under provincial law to provide child welfare services to the Innu communities. Nearly a decade ago the province and Innu were considering an MOU to build such a structure. One of the products of that effort was the creation of the Innu Zone in Labrador and the hiring of Lyla Andrew, a Sheshatshiu resident to manage it. This was seen as a capacity building step toward a future Innu child welfare agency reporting to the province. After the EPFA is complete, we suggest this mutual objective of devolution should be revisited.

I end with noting that we were encouraged by your plan to visit the two communities. I understand that weather and agendas did not allow this happen before Christmas. However, please know that the Innu would be pleased to have you come into the communities and if my office can be of help in making this happen soon, do not hesitate to contact me. We were able to fit a great deal in the short time we had together and look forward to future sessions that can help reduce the risks to Innu children.

Nin,

Signed by

Prote Poker
Grand Chief
Innu Nation

CC

Honourable Nick McGrath
Chief Andrew Penashue
Chief Gregory Rich
Deputy Grand Chief Jeremy Andrew

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