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DAVIS INLET

KEY MESSAGES

1. Governments are cooperating and coordinating their efforts.

The Federal Government and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador are engaged in a joint process to ensure that solutions to the circumstances and issues at Davis Inlet are developed and implemented in a cooperative and coordinated manner.

Ministers from both levels of Government have spoken and instructed their officials to expedite solutions on both a short and long term basis.

2. Governments are working with the community for solutions.

Whatever solutions are developed must be done so in concert with the community of Davis Inlet. Governments realize that externally imposed solutions will not and have not worked. To this end it is the intention of both levels of Government to meet with community leadership and the Innu Nation to discuss short and long term strategies.

Governments and the Innu will go to such meetings with options. Decisions will not be made without consultation with the community. Options will not be discussed with or through the press.

3. The issues of Substance Abuse and Community Relocation require separate strategies.

The many problems at Davis Inlet will require significant and separate solutions. There is no panacea. The immediate crisis of treatment for affected children for example will involve a different strategy than the longer term need for a community based substance abuse prevention program.

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Relocation of the community may well be part of the longer term solution for Davis Inlet and governments are certainly willing to explore this option.

However, neither the governments nor the community leadership are interested in simply relocating the current problems in the community to a new site.

Planning for relocation in addition to the physical planning aspects, will have to include social, health and economic strategies to promote community wellness and prosperity.

4. Short term options will be presented to the community.

Substance Abuse - Immediate treatment issues:

- (i) External Treatment - Children in crisis, some parents and translators will be given the option of an external treatment program.
- (ii) Community Treatment - Funds for hiring an expert in the design and implementation of substance abuse prevention programs will be available to the community immediately.

Infrastructure - Existing Site

In recognition that relocation even if all parties agreed will take some significant time to implement, the state of the existing infrastructure needs to be dealt with on an urgent basis.

- (i) A Home Repair Program to address existing housing deficiencies will be implemented immediately.
- (ii) A Family Relocation Option will be made available immediately to enable any family that wishes to relocate to another established community to do so now. This will not preclude them to relocating to the new community at a future date.

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(iii) Funding to enable the community to begin planning activities relative to relocation will be available immediately.

5. Long Term Options will be presented to the community.

Governments are willing to be involved in a cooperative planning process in conjunction with the community's consultant to ensure that ongoing health and treatment programs are available to community residents.

Governments are willing to work with the community for relocation planning. To this end funds to develop a comprehensive strategy to address issues of social, health, economic, and physical planning will be made available to the community.