

PROTECTED B - AT79

BRIEFING NOTE

DATE: October 3, 2002
TO: Minister
SUBJECT: Labrador Innu Child and Family Services Agreement

SUMMARY

- One of the centerpieces of the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy (LICHS) is for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to fund Child and Family Services (CFS) for the two Innu communities of Sheshatshiu and Davis Inlet/Natuashish.
- The federal government has decided to continue with the province as a service provider through its agency, the Labrador Health Corporation. In the longer term, the Innu will deliver these services directly.
- Unlike education and social assistance, the federal government has agreed to fund CFS once an agreement with the province is in place rather than awaiting reserve creation. This is part of Canada's response to the Innu gas sniffing crisis which most recently came to national prominence in November 2000.
- It is recommended that the Minister sign the agreement on behalf of the federal government.

OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

INAC has negotiated a CFS agreement with the province in accordance with our commitments under the LICHS. This agreement will see that the province continues to deliver these services for the time being until the Innu have developed sufficient capacity to take over delivery.

A CFS program committee with federal, provincial and Innu representatives is meeting regularly to discuss how to improve the delivery of the CFS in the two communities and how to increase Innu involvement in the process.

INAC is currently in discussions with the province for similar funding and service delivery agreements in the area of education and social assistance. These will be effective upon reserve creation in the respective Innu communities.

Under this agreement, funding will provide for significant enhancements of services for these two communities as well as trigger "leave on the table" funding from the province.

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Total funding under the agreement is up to a maximum of \$5,389,715 for the fiscal year 2002-2003. The agreement is retroactive to June 1, 2002.

CONSIDERATIONS

Three provincial Ministers have already signed the agreement: the Ministers of Health and Community Services, Intergovernmental Affairs and Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister sign the agreement on behalf of the federal government.

ORIGINATOR:

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