



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

MAR 29 2016

Ref. #: EXE-044951

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, MP
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
1650 Yonge Street, Suite 103
Toronto ON M4T 2A2

Email: carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Bennett:

Re: Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA): Newfoundland and Labrador

I am writing further to the letter to your office from the Chief of the Mushuau Innu First Nation and Chief of the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nations dated March 9, 2015. I had the great pleasure to meet with Innu leadership and senior officials and community leaders on March 7, 2016. This meeting was very productive, and I affirmed my government's support for their interest in pursuing EPFA funding in order to develop and implement a range of prevention services in child welfare in their communities. I understand from the Innu leadership and my officials there has been significant developmental work completed to date and am requesting that you give every consideration to their request to approve EPFA funding for NL First Nations.

If approved, the EPFA will be an important step forward to assist in supporting planning for devolution of child protection services in these communities in the coming years. Please be assured that Child, Youth and Family Services is committed to collaborating with the Aboriginal leadership related to the development and implementation of prevention services to support families. Newfoundland and Labrador is one of the only remaining jurisdictions in Canada that has not been approved for EPFA funding. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is very encouraged by the public commitment of your government to strengthen services for Aboriginal communities. The provision of funding to support prevention services for the Innu Nation in Labrador is a very important step in making progress to address community concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Gambin-Walsh".

SHERRY GAMBIN-WALSH, MHA
Placentia – St. Mary's
Minister

cc Hon. Premier Dwight Ball
Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee
Chief Eugene Hart
Chief Gregory Rich