

UNCLASSIFIED - 9999

INNU ROUND TABLE SECRETARIAT
CHILD YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PROPOSALS
 Information for the Director General

DATE: September 23rd, 2015**SUMMARY**

- On June 1, 2015 August 19, 2016, the Innu Round Table Secretariat has tendered submitted two several proposals for funding consideration for fiscal year 20156-20167: the first is for the Sheshatshiu Group Home Transition Plan - \$352,000 to redesign the SUFB group home toward a staffed level four care facility; the second is for a Framework to Create Placement Opportunities - \$200,000 to meet the common objective of accredited community-based placements, including expanding Foster Homes; the third is for Innu Care Approach Practice Framework - \$120,000 for the development of a framework to guide day-to-day actions in prevention services and placement operations; and the fourth Prevention Regime Development - \$408,000 requesting two teams of a social worker and a prevention worker. These teams will work with all partners to refine, plan and deliver prevention programs to Innu children, youth, and their families. Using the Innu Care Approach, this will complement the implementation of the Innu-NL/CYFS Working Relationship Agreement, and provide support to community staff, children and families involved in all stages of child care services and placement.
- a contract of \$67,000 with the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) to conduct a needs assessment in the two Labrador Innu communities and to develop a strategic business plan for improved prevention programming and service coordination \$50,000 to help fund the position of a CYFS Transition Coordinator to develop and implement an Innu child protection prevention program; the second is for \$50,000 to help fund the position of a Child Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Transition Coordinator to implement an Innu child prevention program in the two Innu Communities a contract with the Child Welfare League of Canada to conduct a needs assessment in the two Labrador Innu communities and to develop a strategic business plan for prevention.
- The two These proposals are intended to be linked and build upon the work planning that has been done in previous years to address persistent child protection and welfare issues in the Innu communities. It is imperative however that we move beyond planning to implementation of solutions.
- We recommend funding to support the first proposal to support capacity development activities related to the proposal in the amount of \$352,253. Additionally, we recommend funding for the fourth proposal to support the immediate resourcing for four additional workers; two social workers and two prevention workers in the amount of \$145,017. We do not recommend funding for the second and third proposal as much of the work to implement an effective, efficient prevention structure can be developed by the social work resources funded above. To maintain the momentum in tripartite work, to identify opportunities for service coordination and move towards prevention programming for better outcomes in First

UNCLASSIFIED - 9999

Nations Child and Family Services that has been developed in this area, it is recommended that these two proposals be funded for the work to be completed in 2015-2016.

BACKGROUND

- The development of options to introduce a prevention based model for child and family services in the two Innu communities of Labrador has been ongoing for the past several years. During this time, the Province, the Innu Round Table Secretariat and AANDC have agreed in principle on a service delivery mechanism and basic accountability framework that could be employed in the delivery of both protection and prevention services.
- On June 1, 2015, the Innu Round Table Secretariat submitted two proposals for funding consideration for fiscal year 2015-2016: the first is for a contract of \$67,000 with the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) to conduct a needs assessment in the two Labrador Innu communities and to develop a strategic business plan for improved prevention programming and service coordination; the second is for \$50,000 to help fund the position of a Child Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Transition Coordinator to implement an Innu child prevention program in the two Innu Communities. INAC funded both proposals in 2015/2016.
- These two proposals are linked and build upon the work that has been done in previous years to address persistent child welfare issues in the Innu communities. To maintain momentum in tripartite work, to identify opportunities for service coordination and move towards prevention programming for better outcomes in First Nations Child and Family Services, it is recommended that these two proposals be funded for the work to be completed in 2015-2016.
- The dDevelopment of options to introduce of a prevention-based model for child and family services in the two Innu communities of Labrador has been ongoing for the past several years. During this time, tThe Province, the Innu Round Table Secretariat and AANDC have agreed in principle on a service delivery mechanism and basic accountability framework for that could be employed in the delivery of both protection and prevention services.
- Over the past number of years sSerious child protection issues in the Innu communities have led the Province and the Innu to work concertedly on developing joint strategies and approaches. The two parties have been -ironingdeveloping-out an MOU to-on this joint work-together-in-CYFS.
- Currently, tThe Province continues to provides protection services in the two Innu communities as per its legislation and jurisdictional responsibility. The Innu, through the IRT Secretariat, are seeking ways to move towards more to-implement-a complementary prevention programming that will-aims at reducinge the incidence of Innu children coming into care and being removed from their communities.
- Over the past two years, the AANDC Atlantic regional office of AANDC have-has provided \$50,000 for the Transition Coordinator position on a year-by-year basis. This position has been instrumental in working with the Province and with AANDC to

Commented [g1]: Is the MOU developed? Would it be relevant to add to the note?

[APG]

AMHERST#601879 - v1
NCR#7816902 - v1
AMHERST#606754 - v1AMHERST#649673 - v1

UNCLASSIFIED - 9999

further the prevention services and cooperative work on CYFS. The Atlantic regional office will continue to fund this position - in 2015-2016.

- Child and youth issues persist in the Innu communities, with recent flare ups in Natuashish in particular highlighting the need for a more strategic, Innu-led prevention approach to child and family service provision.
- A great deal of momentum has been gained over the past several years through the involvement of the IRT Secretariat as an Innu service delivery agent working in concert with the Province.
-
- This year the IRT Secretariat has requested renewed funding for the Transition Coordinator, and they have also submitted a \$67,000 funding request for a prevention more comprehensive study and analysis that would inform all partners on best steps in completing the process study and planning project to be completed by the Child Welfare League of Canada. Similar work from the CWLC was conducted for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island in preparation for their highly successful Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach (EPFA) agreement.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Child and youth issues persist in the Innu communities, with recent flare ups in Natuashish in particular highlighting the need for a more strategic, Innu-led prevention approach to child and family service provision.
- A great deal of momentum has been gained over the past several years through the involvement of the IRT Secretariat as an Innu service delivery agent working in concert with the Province.
- The IRT Secretariat has identified Lyla Andrew as the new proposed Transition Coordinator. Ms. Andrew is currently a provincial employee with years of experience working in the Innu communities in the area of CYFS. She is an excellent choice. Her experience and her relationship with the Innu are great assets in undertaking this position.
- The CWLC proposal (see Annex A) is a good one (see Annex A) as the CWLC will conduct an environmental scan of the two communities to allow the mapping of existing services and programs to improve service coordination. The CWLC will also support the IRTS in the development of a Business Plan identifying opportunities for more prevention-based approaches, and it is important to note that their track record is very good.
- The concurrent hiring of Ms. Andrew and the conduct of this study will help coordinate the implementation of the products of the study.
- Over the past several years the Province has billed AANDC for upwards of \$8M in maintenance costs for Innu children taken into care, many of them outside their communities. A prevention strategy that could decrease the incidence of children being removed from their homes would translate to potentially huge savings in maintenance costs.
- Newfoundland and Labrador are funded under Directive 20-1 where some prevention funding is included in their operation budget. Working in collaboration

[APG]

AMHERST#601879 - v1
 NCR#7816902 - v1
 AMHERST#606751 - v1 AMHERST#649673 - v1

UNCLASSIFIED - 9999

with the Province and IRTS to improve service coordination and move towards more prevention-based programming will improve outcomes for First Nation children and families in that Province.

RECOMMENDATIONNEXT STEPS

- An IRT meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2015 in St. John's. At this meeting AANDC should commit to funding both the Transition Coordinator and CWLC proposals to ensure that momentum gained on this file is not lost.
- AANDC Atlantic region will fund the \$50,000 for the Transition Coordinator. AANDC HQ should provideis requested to consider providing the \$67,000 for the CWLC study and developmental work.

ANNEXES

Annex A: Child Welfare League of Canada proposal

[APG]

AMHERST#601879 - v1
NCR#7816902 - v1
AMHERST#606751 - v1AMHERST#649673 - v1