

AT997

**INNU ROUND TABLE (IRT) SECRETARIAT MEETING
DELTA BARRINGTON, HALIFAX, NS
FEBRUARY 9, 2017**

PARTICIPANTS**INAC**

- Chris McDonell, Regional Director General – Atlantic
- Tom Keagan, Senior Advisor – Innu
- Lindsay Cary, Capital Program Officer
- Diane Wade, Manager Infrastructure & Community Planning

OTHER

- Anastasia Qupee, Grand Chief Innu Nation
- Chief John Nui, Natuashish
- Chief Eugene Hart, Sheshatshiu

CONTEXT/FEDERAL OBJECTIVES

- Quarterly meeting of the Innu Round Table Secretariat (IRT).

AGENDA

1. Updates on Action Items from October, 2016 Meeting
2. Update Child and Youth Family Services (CYFS)
3. Update IA Devolution
4. Update ICA

1. Updates on Action Items from October, 2016 Meeting

Nil action items for INAC.

2. Child and Youth Family Services (CYFS) Prevention-Based Proposals**Status**

- Prevention proposals have been funded in the amount of \$933,373 in the current fiscal year.
- In addition INAC has provided the Innu Round Table Secretariat (IRTS) with \$25,000 to enable them to do further work, identifying their particular needs in this area.

AT997

Key Message

- The Innu led prevention strategy will complement provincial child protection work and result in better outcomes for Innu children and families.

3. Update on IA Devolution**Status**

- A program review for Q3 was completed in the week of January 16–20, 2017 in Sheshatshiu. The preliminary findings show a steady and marked improvement in the quality of the files which overall, are very well done. Ninety-nine percent of files were deemed to be full and complete, and corresponding expenditures were eligible.
- A notable exception is the potential ineligibility of overpayments made to clients who received Innu trust payouts in December. As per the provincial policy, trust payouts are considered income. It was noted that all files indicated the amounts to be deducted from client cheques if provincial practice had been applied, as well as copies of a directive from the IRTS board to disregard the trust payouts as income for the month of December. The total amount of ineligible payments to clients, if the provincial policy was applied, would be \$71,566.61.
- Another issue that may arise is the IRTS request for INAC to consider flowing National Child Benefit Reinvestment (NCBR) funding for this year and for past years when the province administered the Income Assistance program directly to the Innu communities.
- A letter has been drafted for the signature of the RDG stating that the NCBR program has been terminated and replaced by the increase to the Canada Child Benefit, and that the provincial reinvestments over the past decade have been available to Innu on the same basis as other citizens of the province. Therefore; INAC is not entertaining giving the IRTS funding for this program, either in the present, going forward, or for years past.

Key Messages

- We will work through the IA sub-committee to ensure clarity around INAC expectations regarding program standards and policies.
- INAC program authorities are aligned to provincial policy and practice. In this case the trust payouts are considered as income.
- The NCBR program has been terminated and INAC is not entertaining further requests for funding in this program area.
- Provincial NCBR programs were available to all residents of the province on an equal basis in the past. Therefore there is no question of retroactive NCBR funding.

4. Update ICA**Status**

- INAC Atlantic is piloting an approach to working with First Nations, the Integrated Community Approach.
- An approach that is relationship focussed with a vision of working in partnership with First Nations to achieve common objectives.

[APG]

AMHERST#644222 - v4

CAN006549_0002

AT997

- The vision includes a forum where First Nation leadership, the Government of Canada (as a whole) and provincial and private stakeholders come together to share information, discuss strategy and set priorities.
- An effective method of integration that aligns the operational priorities of all stakeholders to build one common agenda.
- Attention is focussed on communities in a manner that allows each partner to see the others point of view.
- An innovative approach that can be used as a tool to measure progress and share information.

Key Messages

- INAC Atlantic has appointed Tom Keagan as the Department's representative on the Innu ICA team.
- Much of the focus to date has been working with the Mushuau Innu due to a number of challenges faced by the community of Natuashish.
- This role is expanding as INAC reprioritizes internal resources to allow for a more integrated and comprehensive approach to supporting the Innu communities of Labrador.

OTHER ISSUES**1. Solvent abuse****Status**

- Health Canada has the lead on substance abuse and addiction programs.
- INAC has provided about \$700,000 to the Innu Round Table Secretariat in this fiscal year for Child and Family Services prevention initiatives, including funding to hire additional front line staff to work with the province and with the Health Directors in each community on cases involving children and youth who might be participating in this type of activity.

Key Messages

- INAC is supporting the Innu Round Table Secretariat with an additional \$700,000 of prevention funding to help address child protection issues in the communities and assist the Innu to develop Innu-based capacity to work with the Province on child protection issues.

[APG]