

UNCLASSIFIED – WEBCIMS #AT1548

INNU ROUND TABLE MEETING #25
Halifax, NS - Barrington Hotel - Sackville Room
October 17, 2019

PARTICIPANTS**INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA**

- Christopher McDonnell, Regional Director General , Regional Operations
- Rory O'Connor, Associate Regional Director General, Regional Operations
- Debra Keays-White, Regional Executive, First Nation Inuit Health Branch
- Teresa Joudrie, Director of Education, Social, Governance Programs and Individual Affairs
- Geoff Cole, Interim Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships
- Tom Keagan, Senior Advisor
- Forrest McWade, Community Development Officer
- Lindsay Cary, Regional Program Development Advisor
- Jillian MacIsaac, Manager of Social Programs
- Annie Randell, Manager of Child and Family Services Reform

FEDERAL SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Eric Maldoff

INNU NATION/INNU ROUND TABLE SECRETARIAT

- TBD

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- TBD

AGENDA**1. Introductions**

Innu Round Table Secretariat Meeting Chair

2. Review Agenda

Innu Round Table Secretariat Meeting Chair

3. Review Notes/Decisions/Actions Items from previous meeting

Action Items – Income Support Committee: *Innu Round Table and Newfoundland and Labrador to coordinate next steps on the Income Support Policy Paper.*

Update from Innu Round Table: Letter from Innu Leadership and Newfoundland and Labrador prepared for Deputy Minister Jean-Francois Tremblay and submitted February

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19, 2019. Response received on April 25, 2019, supporting legislative amendment to exempt Innu Trust payments from Income Support benefits.

Action Item – Justice & Policing Committee: *Innu Round Table Secretariat to plan a Justice and Policing Sub-Committee meeting prior to Innu Round Table meeting. Date to be determined.*

Update from Innu Round Table: Justice and Policing Sub-Committee meeting to be held in Halifax on October 15, 2019.

Action Item – Justice & Policing Committee: *Innu to consider alternate ways to advance the plans for restorative justice and policing.*

Update from Innu Round Table: Innu allocated some internal financial resources to advance initial research and planning work. An outline of the plans will be presented at the Justice and Policing Sub-Committee meeting October 15, 2019.

Action Item – Justice & Policing Committee: *ISC to continue to consider the funding proposal submitted to operate the Justice and Policing Sub-Committee*

Update from Innu Round Table: April 29, 2019 ISC letter received by Innu Round Table Secretariat/Executive Director with no additional funding to support operation of sub-committee.

Update from ISC-Regional Operations: Refer to April 2019 letter from Christopher McDonnell to Ms. Germaine Benuen.(Refer to section 6c)

Action Item – Child, Youth and Family Services: *ISC to notify Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation/Shushepsehipan Ishpitentamun Mitshuap team as soon as possible on the balance of the Emergency Placement Homes project funding for 2019-2020.*

Update from Innu Round Table: Funding confirmation received from ISC for 2019-2020 funding for the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation / Shushepsehipan Ishpitentamun Mitshuap duplex Emergency Placement Home project and the plan is being implemented.

Update from ISC-Regional Operations: The total capacity development funding requested by Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation and Shushepsehipan Ishpitentamun Mitshuap for the two Emergency Placement Homes was \$1.2 million. Of this, \$250,000 was allocated in early February 2019, while the remainder was confirmed and allocated in March 2019.

Action Item – Child, Youth and Family Services: *Innu Round Table and Mushuau Innu First Nation Planning team to coordinate follow up conference calls and discussion with Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development and ISC on the budget and service agreement.*

Update from Innu Round Table: Meetings completed, budget established and service agreement was finalized by the Mushuau Emergency Placement Homes and Group Homes Inc. Board. The Natuashish Emergency Placement Home was operational on April 1, 2019, with a Level 4 Service Agreement with Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development. Children have been placed in the home since early April 2019.

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Action Item – Federal Special Representative Update: *Federal Special Representative is requested to advise the Innu leaders and Innu Round Table Secretariat Office as soon as the Federal Special Representative is appointed.*

Update: The Federal Special Representative has been in place since May 22, 2019. Steve Carron, ISC-Headquarters contacted Grand Chief Gregory Rich via phone and Mushuau Innu First Nation, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation and Deputy Grand Chief Etienne Rich by email.

4. Opening Comments from Innu Round Table Members:

Key Messages

- From Innu Leaders
- ISC First Nations Inuit Health Branch – Debra Keays-White
- ISC Regional Operations – Chris McDonell
 - I offer my thanks to Chief Nui and Chief Hart, as well as to Grand Chief Gregory Rich and Deputy Grand Chief Etienne Rich for their thoughtful comments.
 - I am pleased to be here representing Canada along with Debra Keays-White and others.
 - I am also pleased to welcome Mr. Eric Maldoff to this meeting in his role as Federal Special Representative.
 - And of course, as we are all aware, we are in the midst of a federal election which will take place on October 21, 2019. For federal public servants this is a critical period and we are all subject to the “Caretaker Convention”. This simply means heightened vigilance to ensure there are no decisions or statements made which could be perceived as being partisan in nature.
 - I would like to express my condolences to all family and friends of the late Mary Jane Nui, she will be missed as both a leader and friend.
 - It is good to see we have a very full agenda and there is much work being completed successfully in many areas.
 - It is clear that we still have much work to do and the partnerships we form are essential to achieving our common objectives.

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- The progress being achieved by the Innu in many areas is commendable. The progress is significant and will play a large part in strengthening the Innu communities.
- Some of these include:
 - ❖ Community-led projects (early in process) which includes a Teacher's Assistant Training Program for Innu community members, a safety program for Mushuau Innu First Nation and focused work on water and wastewater for Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation
 - ❖ Children, Youth and Family Services - Group Homes (Sheshatshiu)
 - ❖ Child, Youth and Family Services - Enhanced Prevention Homes (Natuashish/Sheshatshiu)
 - ❖ CBCL Engineering and Environmental Design and Consulting - Contracts – Water and Asset maintenance (Natuashish)
- In the field of Education, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Innu School Board and the communities as they work to address the challenges associated with training, staffing and retention. The efforts being made to recruit and retain professional support will go a long way to address the needs in both communities. In addition, the commitment of the Innu leaders to support the development of teacher assistants through the Community-led Project will assist considerably in building capacity within the Innu School Board to deliver quality education and building future community leaders.
- In relation to the terms of reference for the Innu Round Table and the Sub-Committees, I would like to suggest that it is a good time to review these documents to make sure we continue to focus on the right things in the right ways.
- This is not to suggest we have it wrong. I think it's just the opposite. The Innu Round Table/Innu Round Table Secretariat have achieved many successes in several areas.
- It's just to suggest that it's always a good idea for any organization or process to assess and adjust, but only if it's the right thing to do and fully supported by the Innu leadership.
- It's also a good time to do this with the engagement of the Federal Special Representative.
- I look forward to discussing these items further at today's meeting.
- Thank you

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- **Provincial Representatives**
- 5. **Federal Special Representative – Introduction, Mandate**
- 6. **Action List Updates**
 - a. **Innu Round Table Financial Statements – 2018-2019**

Innu Round Table Secretariat Meeting Chair
 - b. **Innu Round Table Workplan & Budget – 2019-2020**

Innu Round Table Secretariat Meeting Chair
 - c. **Income Support**
 - **Program Implementation**
 - **Income Support Sub-Committee**

Program Implementation**Background**

Transfer of delivery for the Income Support Program from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to the Innu Round Table Secretariat commenced April 1, 2016. Terms of the transfer specified that the Innu Round Table Secretariat would agree to follow provincial standards and practices when delivering the Income Support Program. A transition plan was established and completed in 2016-2017, and the Innu Round Table Secretariat has been fully delivering the Income Support Program since April 1, 2017.

As of March 2019, 399 clients were receiving income support benefits compared to 351 clients in March 2018. Given the high compliance rates of previous reviews (97%), ISC and the Innu Round Table Secretariat have agreed not to pursue compliance reviews but will instead focus on ensuring annual program reviews and on developing a risk management framework.

Since the Innu Round Table Secretariat has taken over the delivery of the Income Support Program, there has been an increase in program awareness and accessibility for community members, resulting in increased client uptake. The yearly increase has made it difficult to project financials moving forward. In 2018-2019, the program's initial allocation was \$900,000. An additional \$712,000 was allocated to the program to meet the requirements under basic and special needs, for a total contribution of \$1.6 million. In addition to program funding, \$475,000 was allocated to the Innu Round Table Secretariat for service delivery, resulting in an overall total contribution of over \$2 million in 2018-2019 for the Income Support Program.

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Expenditures for client benefits in the Income Support Program increased 42% between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

For 2019-2020, the initial program allocation for basic and special needs is \$1.6 million. The Innu Round Table Secretariat has indicated they believe this amount will be sufficient to meet the program requirements for this fiscal year. In addition, \$475,000 was allocated for service delivery, resulting in a total contribution of over \$2 million in 2019-2020 for the Income Support Program.

There are three key issues with service delivery in the Income Support Program from the Innu's perspective:

- 1) The identified recovery of an ineligible amount of \$73,348.67 in December 2016, when the Innu leadership instructed the Innu Round Table Secretariat to exempt the Innu trust payouts from income calculations for income support recipients.
- 2) The request for additional funding for service delivery to support salary increases, a full time employee in Natuashish and other increased operating costs.
- 3) The Innu Round Table Secretariat is completing a review of the income support rates to ensure they are comparable with other remote communities.

StatusRecovery

The Department has set aside the recovery of \$73,348.67 to allow time for a national review of the Income Support Program and the treatment of trust fund payments across Canada. The Innu have made it clear that they will not repay this amount. It is important to note the Innu trust payouts received by income support clients in December 2017 were calculated as eligible income and income support payments were adjusted accordingly.

The Innu leadership and the Innu Round Table Secretariat formally requested that the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador amend the provincial regulations pertaining to Innu trust payouts and previously sent a written request to Minister Philpott, asking her to disallow the recovery of these funds.

On February 19, 2019, ISC Deputy Minister Jean-Francois Tremblay received a letter from Deputy Minister Aubrey Gover and Grand Chief Gregory Rich. In the letter, Minister Gover proposed an interim solution to address Elders' payments and Christmas payouts to Innu Nation members in relation to the Income Support Program's terms and conditions. The letter stated that the Province will amend the *Income and Employment Support Regulations* to exempt the two categories of payments relating to Innu trust payouts. In a response letter to Minister Gover and Grand Chief Gregory Rich, Deputy Minister Tremblay stated that Indigenous Services Canada will fully support the proposed interim solution to amend the regulations. The Income Support Program terms and conditions stipulate that the program must be delivered in alignment with the rates

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and eligibility criteria of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The proposed provincial regulatory amendment will enable the Innu Round Table Secretariat to meet this requirement. The Provincial amendment is under development and will soon be provided to the Innu Round Table Secretariat for review.

Service Delivery

In January 2019, the Innu Round Table Secretariat submitted a proposal to the ISC Atlantic Regional Office, requesting an increase to their service delivery funding for the Income Support Program. At the Innu Round Table Secretariat Working Committee meeting in February 2019, ISC notified the Innu Round Table Secretariat that an increase in service delivery funding was not likely, as their service delivery funding currently accounts for approximately 29% of expenditures under the Income Support Program. This is much higher than the Province, as well as other First Nations in the Atlantic region.

Following the February 2019 meeting, the Innu Round Table Secretariat provided ISC with additional substantiation for the requested increase. This included provincial salary levels for income support staff and associated benefits, such as Labrador Allowance and Travel Allowance for each position.

After analyzing the request for additional funding for service delivery, an official response was provided to the Innu Round Table Secretariat in July 2019, advising that ISC is unable to provide additional service delivery funding at this time. The Innu Round Table Secretariat was also advised that the Department will be addressing service delivery through the development of a national service delivery formula in partnership with First Nation communities.

Income Assistance Rates

Departmental representatives from Headquarters and the Atlantic Region were interviewed in August 2018 by the researcher hired by the Innu Round Table Secretariat to review income assistance rates in both Innu communities, as well as to complete a comparison of rates for a basket of goods with other remote and non-remote communities across the province and elsewhere. The Department is waiting for a copy of the results.

Key Messages

- **We wish to recognize the high quality service approach demonstrated by the Innu Round Table Secretariat in the delivery of the Income Support Program.**
- **At this time, the recovery of the ineligible expenditure from December 2016 has been set aside until the national program review is completed. We also understand that the Province recently proposed an interim solution to amend the Income and Employment Support Regulations to exempt payments**

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relating to Innu trust pay outs. Indigenous Services Canada supports the proposed amendment.

- **As Indigenous Services Canada moves forward in the development of a national service delivery formula, our goal is to engage organizations and communities to determine a service delivery formula that best meets the needs of our First Nation recipients. The areas identified by the Innu Round Table Secretariat will form part of the information gathering that will be utilized to support the assessment of our current service delivery funding approach. When more information becomes available on the engagement, we will be in contact with you.**

Income Support Sub-Committee**Background**

The Income Support Sub-Committee will be meeting on October 16, 2019.

d. Justice Sub-Committee

- **Update Justice & Policing (Innu Round Table)**
- **Status of 2019-2020 Funding (Indigenous Services Canada)**

Justice and Policing Funding**Background**

In November 2017, the Innu Round Table requested funding to establish a Justice and Policing Sub-Committee. This file was transferred from the Land Claims/Treaty and Aboriginal Government table at the request of the Innu Nation, Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, as the Innu are no longer pursuing self-government in justice and policing at this time. The Justice and Policing Sub-Committee will provide support and guidance to Sheshatshiu and Natuashish.

Status

The Justice and Policing Sub-Committee includes representatives from Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Mushuau Innu First Nation, ISC-Regional Operations, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Justice Canada, Public Safety Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

ISC funded initial planning sessions in February and November of 2018.

ISC received a proposal from the Innu Round Table Secretariat requesting funding for annual operational costs of the sub-committee, in the amount of \$220,000.

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Neither Public Safety Canada or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador have been able to commit to funding the activities of the sub-committee on an ongoing basis. Both parties have indicated a willingness to participate in the sub-committee meetings and work plan implementation.

A letter was forwarded to the Innu Round Table Secretariat advising that ISC has not been successful in identifying a source of additional funds for the Justice and Policing Sub-Committee.

The latest sub-committee meeting is being held October 15, 2019. *Refer to Section 6a and 6b for previous minutes and agenda.*

Status of 2019-2020 Funding

Refer to April 2019 letter from Christopher McDonnell to Ms. Germaine Benuen, in section 6c.

- e. Child and Youth Family Services (Newfoundland and Labrador, Innu Round Table and Indigenous Services Canada)**
 - **Development/Operation of Placement Resources**
 - o **Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation Group Home/Emergency Placement Homes**
 - o **Mushuau Innu First Nation Emergency Placement Home**
 - **Sub-Committee Update**
 - **Children and Youth Care and Protection Legislation Implementation**
 - **Status of Inquiry**

Innu Placement Resources Update**Background**

Since 2016-2017, funding has been provided to support capacity development of the Innu to manage the placement facilities in each Innu community.

The placement facilities' services will be delivered through a service agreement between the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Child, Seniors and Social Development and an Innu organization in each of the communities, which will be created to manage placement services. ISC will reimburse the operational costs for these two new organizations (\$1 million annually) and maintenance costs of the placement facilities directly to the province under its funding agreement.

Status

To date the following funding has been provided for four of the five proposed placement facilities:

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- Group home in Sheshatshiu became operational as a level 4 placement home in August 2018. A total of \$1 million was provided in both 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 for capacity building. The annual operational costs of this facility is \$1 million.
- Emergency placement home in Natuashish opened on April 1, 2019. A total of \$1 million was provided for capacity building in both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The annual operational costs of this facility is \$1.5 million.
- Capacity development funding of \$1.2 million was provided in March 2019 to Sheshatshiu for two emergency placement homes, which are scheduled to become operational in January 2020.

Sub-Committee Update

The Child, Youth and Family Services Sub-Committee meeting will be held in Halifax on October 16, 2019.

In March 2019, all parties of the sub-committee agreed they would begin meeting once a month via teleconference in order to move some discussions along. These teleconferences are organized and facilitated by the Atlantic Regional Office and include representation from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Meetings of this group did not take place during the summer of 2019.

Status

To date, there have been two meetings. Items discussed include:

- Overall budget to Innu since 2014-2015 to 2019-2020 (Refer to section 4.a)
- Funding request for Innu Representative based on provincial legislation.
- Transition of the Innu to an Agency.
- Creating a technical working group under the Child, Youth and Family Services Sub-Committee for regular discussions and increasing collaboration.

All these items were discussed at the June 7, 2019, meeting. The funding request for the Band Representative was identified as the most important issue.

The Innu are seeking \$1.2 million annually to support a Band Representative as outlined in the new provincial legislation. (They are basing their model on the Ontario First Nation model.) The key issues with this request are:

- Canadian Human Right Tribunal orders regarding paying on actuals for band representatives are only for Ontario First Nations.
- There is currently no other funding for this other than the proposal based funding under the Child and Family Services Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative. This funding is currently sun-setting in 2023 and is only for on-reserve populations.
- There is \$2.5 million available for Newfoundland and Labrador under the Child and Family Services Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative. The Innu are

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already receiving \$1.6 million of annual funding for prevention social workers (i.e., they are not a First Nation agency hence, do not have any prevention budget as other First Nation agencies).

- The proposal for \$1.2 million submitted appears to be duplicating funding that is already paid for under the role of prevention social workers.
- The province has indicated that it does not have any funding to support this funding request at this time.
- The Innu Round Table sent the \$1.2 million proposal (previously sent to Child and Family Services Reform, to First Nations Inuit Health Branch under the Jordan's Principle program. The proposal has been approved by FNIHB for \$1.2 million for the fiscal year of 2019-2020.

Key Message

Indigenous Service Canada is continuing to work with the Innu on this matter.

Status of Inquiry**Background**

On July 5, 2017, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the leaders of the Innu Nation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in support of an inquiry into the treatment, experiences and outcomes of the Innu in the Province's child protection system.

Since April 2018, Canada has communicated that they would participate in the provincially constituted inquiry by :

- Applying for standing to participate at the inquiry.
- Providing documentation that is requested by the parties to the Inquiry and is in our possession and control.
- Providing potential witnesses with knowledge of the federal role in the provincial child protection services.
- Ensuring that a senior representative is present at all proceedings.
- Working collaboratively with the parties to address the Inquiry's recommendations.
- Providing financial support for the coordination of the Innu's participation, travel expenditures, administration and professional costs and healing services for the community during and after the Inquiry.

Status

The Department hosted a teleconference of senior officials on March 19, 2019, at which time the provincial senior officials requested Canada to reconsider paying for the legal costs for the representation of Innu parties to the Inquiry and for translation/interpretation costs. The Innu Nation has sent a letter to both Premier Ball and Minister O'Regan, on April 19, 2019, seeking a resolution on this issue. The Department has not tasked any request for ministerial response.

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On April 17, 2019, ISC Atlantic Regional Operations confirmed to the Innu Nation the \$242,000 requested in 2019-2020 for salaries for the coordination of the Innu participation and for travel expenses for the Innu to participate in preparatory meetings and to the Inquiry's hearings. A second proposal is expected for healing services.

The leadership of the Innu Nation sent a letter to the Minister O'Regan and Premier Ball on June 17, 2019, requesting all parties start working together to resolve funding for legal services and translation for the Inquiry. On August 27, 2019, the Minister responded, confirming Canada's participation in the provincial Inquiry and approved additional funds in the amount of \$769,000 that will flow over the next two years once the Inquiry is underway (refer to section 4.b.). ISC Atlantic Child and Family Services will fund \$469,000 and First Nations Inuit Health Branch will fund \$300,000 for healing services.

Key Messages

- **Canada's position regarding funding on the provincial Inquiry remains the same. Canada will apply to participate in the provincial Inquiry under the procedures established by the Inquiry's commissioners once it is established and ISC will collaborate on the recommendations.**
- **A total allocation of \$1.1 million has been approved for the Inquiry over the next two fiscal years, once the Inquiry is underway.**

f. Federal Special Representative (Indigenous Services Canada)**Background**

Over the past twenty years, the Innu Nation has engaged Federal Special Representatives to support the implementation of the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy and the Labrador Innu Targeted Healing Program, as well as to advance other files as required.

After the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Innu Nation leaders agreed to an inquiry into the treatment, experiences, and outcomes of the Innu in the child protection system, it highlighted a need for more effective coordination between all parties.

Minister Philpott agreed to the appointment of a Federal Special Representative during a meeting with the Innu Nation on January 24, 2018.

Status

The Federal Special Representative contract has been signed and in place since May 22, 2019.

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The first meeting of the Federal Special Representative, ISC Atlantic Region, and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador took place on August 15 and 16, 2019. The Federal Special Representative is planning engagement meetings with each Innu Chief at the Innu Round Table meetings in October 2019.

On August 12, 2019, the Innu legal team met with Eric Maldoff in Toronto, with the Innu Chiefs participating via teleconference.

ISC provided a briefing to Mr. Maldoff on August 15 and 16, 2019 in Halifax.

7. Health Update

- **Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) & Working Groups Report**
- **Summary of 2018-2019 Project Reports**
- **Status of Capacity Development Projects 2019-202**

8. Other Business (All)**Terms of Reference – To be raised by Rory O'Connor****Background**

As discussed at the last Innu Round Table meeting, it may be a good time to review and update the Terms of Reference for the Innu Round Table, as well as the sub-committees.

The Innu Round Table Secretariat has already done a lot of work in this area over the years.

There are important foundation documents in place which would support any work in this area, such as the Innu Round Table Articles of Incorporation.

Status

If the parties agree, we could set up a small working group for further follow up.

Key Messages

- **ISC would be willing to participate in this initiative if the other parties are supportive.**
- **The Federal Special Representative could also play a key role in supporting this initiative.**

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UNCLASSIFIED – WEBCIMS #AT1548**Mushuau Innu First Nation Update**

Mushuau Innu First Nation has extended their contract with Price Waterhouse Cooper and the intention is to review the contract with council after the election.

9. Next Innu Round Table Meeting (All)

Date and location for the next Innu Round Table meeting will be confirmed at the October 17, 2019 meeting.

UNCLASSIFIED – WEBCIMS #AT1548**Additional Information****ISC – Child and Family Services Reform (Bill-92 Technical Briefing)****Background**

The co-development of federal legislation is the culmination of intensive engagement which took place over the summer and fall of 2018 with First Nations, Inuit and Métis, as well as Treaty Nations, provinces and territories, experts, and those with lived experience. Over 65 engagement sessions with Indigenous partners were held, with nearly 2,000 participants.

On November 30, 2018, Minister Philpott, together with national Indigenous leaders, announced that the Government of Canada would introduce co-developed federal legislation on Indigenous Child and Family Services in early 2019.

The proposed co-developed legislation will :

- Affirm the jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples in relation to child and family services.
- Set out guiding principles applicable on a national level, by all agencies (provincial, territorial or delegated agencies) delivering child and family services to Indigenous children. The principles include: best interests of the child, cultural continuity (now including family unity) and substantive equality (now including non-discrimination).
- Not interfere with existing rights, self-government agreements, laws or policies enacted by Indigenous governing bodies regarding child and family services;
- Adopt a child-centered approach.
- Recognize the distinct and diverse rights, histories and practices of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.
- Produce a range of models that can be freely determined by Indigenous peoples through their own representatives and governments.
- Leave undisturbed any past decisions rendered in relation to child and family services involving Indigenous children.
- Benefit all Indigenous children and families as soon as its provisions come into force.

Status

On February 28, 2019, the first reading of Bill C-92 took place in the House of Commons of Canada. On April 9, 2019, the bill was presented to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. Chief Prosper, from the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and Marilyn Birch, from the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island presented to the standing committee.

Technical briefings with provinces and Indigenous partners took place across Canada. ISC Atlantic Region Operations and First Nation communities participated in these technical briefings.

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Bill C-92, the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families* received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019.

On September 10, 2019, the Minister of ISC announced that the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families* will come into force in its entirety on January 1, 2020.

ISC Atlantic Child and Family Services had an information sharing plan confirmed with the communities for this fall, however; once the election was called, the dates were cancelled. ISC is now working with the communities to establish new dates. ISC Atlantic Child and Family Services will be hosting a conference in Moncton on November 26 and 27, 2019, and are working with ISC National Headquarters to secure an expert to present on the Act during the conference.

Key Messages

- **Bill C-92, as it is today, is the product of broad and diverse engagement at all levels.**
- **Bill C-92 is meant to enable a system shift from apprehension to prevention with priority given to services that promote preventive care and support families.**

Our departmental leads will provide an overview of the legislation and respond to questions with the Innu at a date agreed upon by ISC and

Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education (after the Innu Round Table meeting)**Education Transformation****Background**

In 2019-2020, the Government of Canada implemented a new regional funding formula for First Nations elementary and secondary education as a result of a new Education Transformation policy framework.

The Education Transformation policy framework was co-developed with the Assembly of First Nations and transforms the way Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) funds First Nations elementary and secondary education.

The funding approach should ensure that First Nations schools are supported by: 1) predictable base funding that is more directly comparable to what students enrolled in the provincial education system receive; and 2) the facilitation of Regional Education Agreements.

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Referred to as the “equity plus” model, the two additional funding enhancements include language and culture programming and moving from no kindergarten or half-day kindergarten classes to full-time kindergarten for children ages 4 and 5.

In addition to the new funding model, First Nations and organizations may opt to develop Regional Education Agreements that respond to their education goals and priorities.

The new policy framework is meant to respond to the unique needs of First Nations students and improve outcomes.

Status

In August 2018, as part of Regional Technical Tables discussion, the Department advised that there were delays in the completion of the Newfoundland and Labrador funding models and, as an interim measure, the New Brunswick model would be used to determine the funding allocation.

For Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education, in addition to the calculation of their 2019-2020 budget using the New Brunswick model, the application of a northern and remote formula resulted in approximately \$1.9 million in additional funding (The resulting 1.9 million was based on Ontario northern and remote model).

During 2019-2020, work continues on the Newfoundland and Labrador funding model.

On June 19, 2019, ISC shared a partially completed Newfoundland and Labrador narrative overview of the Newfoundland funding model, as well as provided questions covering several areas where ISC requires additional information from the Province.

On July 5, 2019, ISC Headquarters and Regional staff met with Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education indicates that teacher recruitment and retention efforts continue as there are vacancies in each community's school (end of September 2019). They also stated that retaining the Innu language, culture and way of life is a priority for both communities.

ISC's Education officials continue to provide support to Mamu Tshishkutamashutau's staff working in both the Board office and community schools as it pertains to ISC's systems, proposals, reports and day to day operations. There is also a growing relationship between capital and engineering staff working at ISC and the resolution of issues with the operations and maintenance of the education facilities.

Key Messages

- **I understand that you are concerned with implementing the New Brunswick comparability model as this model may not address your funding needs. With**

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the addition of funding specific to remote and northern communities, we are confident that your funding level is reasonably comparable to the Province.

- ISC looks forward to continued collaboration in the completion of a provincially specific comparability funding model, which we are confident will recognize and address your unique funding needs.
- (If raised) Prior to ISC facilitating a dialogue with Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education on a regional education agreement, the Board of Trustees' continued focus on the Integrated Management Action Plan (goals of increased accountability, financial health, governance, etc.) would be beneficial.

Education Partnership Program**Background**

The Education Partnerships Program has three components, each with its own proposal:

1. Partnership Advancement promotes collaboration between First Nations, provinces, ISC and other stakeholders through tripartite activities.
2. Structural Readiness is available to enhance the readiness of First Nation organizations to transition to school board type organizations and supports the capacity development of First Nations organizations to deliver services including enhancing their education systems.
3. Regional Implementation, linked to the new Education Transformation policy framework, supports regional and local diversity and implementing the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education. These dedicated, time-limited funds will support three main activities expected to result in a signed regional education agreement:
 - the delivery of information sessions
 - the establishment of regional technical tables
 - the development of regional education agreements

Status

In 2018-2019, headquarters approved deferred amounts of approximately \$16,171 under Partnership Advancement and \$348,719 under Structural Readiness was deferred to 2019-2020 for Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education.

In 2019-2020, Partnership Advancement funding for Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education was approved for \$262,105 and Structural Readiness funding was approved for \$335,177. Additionally, a regional implementation work plan was submitted requesting \$88,440, of which \$50,000 has been included in the region's budget plan (not communicated to the board due to the Caretaker Convention).

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Key Messages

- **A decision regarding Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education's request for Regional Implementation funding will be provided in November 2019. The Department looks forward to learning more of the Partnership Advancement and Structural Readiness activities and results. These investments should help the Board to stabilize, and then prepare for growth.**

High Cost Special Education**Background**

With the implementation of Education Transformation in 2019-2020, there are changes to the high cost special education program. Previously, proposals to access special education services were for those students with moderate, severe and profound education needs. Included in the new funding model is a component designed to support students having moderate exceptionalities. The Board's funding formula provides \$843,789 for Special Education students with mild and moderate needs, with no proposal required.

ISC continues to solicit proposals for students with severe to profound learning exceptionalities. The Board was provided with \$615,524 to support these students.

Since 2016-2017, the Atlantic Region has been provided with \$1.6 million more than the national distribution model described. The original plan was to correct the error in 2018-2019, however, some proponents appeared not to have been advised or understand the communique. The region was provided with the full amount in 2018-2019, resulting in a full year to prepare for the budget correction, with the last \$1.6 million overpayment being spread over three years (First Nation Special Education proponents agreed to the three year methodology):

2019-2020: 34% of \$1.6 million
2021-2022: 33% of \$1.6 million
2021-2022: 33% of \$1.6 million

At the end of 2021-2022 the \$1.6 million investment in High Cost Special Education Program will cease to exist.

Status

In preparation for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education was provided with five years of historical High Cost Special Education Program budgets with the most recent two years being \$1.677 million each. Information was also provided on the amount of funding included in the new funding formula for High Cost Special Education.

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The Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education's 2019-2020 High Cost Special Education Program proposal was valued at \$3,626,700. A regional assessment of the proposal resulted in \$615,524 being approved. The Regional assessment and total amount of funding approved was based on Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education's past funding proposals under the program and the amount of funding now part of the formula (\$843,789). Additionally, the Region's funding is limited to \$1.6 million in total for all proposals under High Cost Special Education.

Key Messages

- **For 2019-2020, the regional funding allocation for proposals under the High Cost Special Education Program is less than what was provided in 2018-2019. This decrease is attributed to a portion of funding previously under the Program being included in the new funding formula. Additionally, the decrease in funding results from the budget correction and the agreed upon methodology to realign the region's High Cost Special Education funding to the national distribution model.**
- **It is highly unlikely that any proponent would receive more funding when compared to previous years as funds are limited and other proponents would have to be awarded less funding.**

Innu Community-Led Project (after Innu Round Table meeting)**Background**

Beginning in 2018, the Professional and Institutional Development Program undertook Community-Led Planning Projects in order to demonstrate that investing in community-led planning and the associated supports strengthens governance capacity. Co-developed community-led planning pilot projects are intended to directly contribute to the modernization of the Indian Government Support Programs. Modernizing governance capacity programs to better meet the needs of Indigenous communities will allow them to move along the governance continuum on their path to self-determination and advances the objectives of the new fiscal relationship. This work will contribute to advancing the aspirations of Indigenous communities by Indigenous communities, while keeping in mind the ultimate objective of devolving these activities to Indigenous institutions.

Three initiatives identified during the January 2019 workshop attended by Indigenous Services Canada, Mushuau Innu First Nation and Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation were to be undertaken with the funding available for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020:

1. Education training for teaching assistants - \$1 million;
2. Mushuau Community Safety Capacity Building - \$300 thousand; and
3. Sheshatshiu Infrastructure & operators training - \$300 thousand.

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Status

To facilitate year one of this project, \$800,000 was allocated to Mushuau Innu First Nation in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Of this, \$100,000 was flowed and the remaining \$700,000 is pooled in the Atlantic Region. An additional \$800,000 is budgeted for year two of the Innu community-led project.

All three initiatives planned for the community-led pilot project were then deemed by headquarters as ineligible per the Community-Led Planning Projects Directive and Professional and Institutional Development Program Guidelines. The communities were disappointed with the decision and the Region worked to find a new solution.

In July, 2019 the Region received confirmation that they could retain the funds and proceed with the project through the Professional and Institutional Development Funding Program. Entitled the *Innu Education Leadership Capacity Development Project*, the project still focuses on increasing governance capacity and demonstrating movement along the governance continuum. The Mushuau Innu First Nation, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Innu Round Table and Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education Inc. will continue to lead the project.

Project areas that were selected by the Innu groups focus on the development of a teacher's assistant training program designed to increase availability for training to up to 24 community members; training and capacity support related to community health and safety for the Mushuau community; and water/wastewater capacity development in the community of Sheshatshiu. The community health/safety and water/wastewater projects are underway, and community project leads for the teacher's assistant training program are presently developing work plans and budgets.

Key Messages

- **We want to reiterate our commitment to building the capacity of Mushuau Innu First Nation and Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation as two of our identified communities in focus. The support to your communities is of utmost importance.**
- **We apologize for the confusion surrounding the identification of eligible projects under the Community-Led Pilot Project Initiative. The Atlantic Region continues to work with Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education Inc. and both Innu communities to move along the governance continuum through this important project.**

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