



Assembly of First Nations

Accountability for Results ~ Transforming Accountability Relationships for First Nations Governments

AFN Spring 2011 Planning & Dialogue Forum
March 8, 2011

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Accountability for Results

- Previously (2005), AFN and GoC had entered into a joint process to examine accountability measures with a view to ensure greater transparency and reciprocal accountability for First Nations governments in their relations with Canada, and with their citizens
- Initiative was cancelled – but can provide a foundation for moving forward

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Accountability for Results

- Shared Principles:
 - Primary accountability of any government is to its citizens
 - For policies, programs & services to First Nations, primary objective is to improve results for First Nations citizens
 - Accountability is shared between GOC and FN governments
 - Accountability is mutual between GOC and FN governments

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Accountability for Results

- Auditor General of Canada's 5 Principles for accountability
 - Roles & Responsibilities must be clear to parties
 - Performance Expectations, and restraints such as resources, must be agreed between them
 - Responsible party/parties must have the capacity to deliver
 - Must produce credible & timely information
 - Must build in review, feedback & response to fix problems & amplify successes

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Tools to Transform the Accountability Relationship

- **Tools & conditions needed to apply AG's 5 principles effectively**
- **Getting the Federal House in Order**
 - Enable Transformative Change
 - Machinery changes
 - FN Citizen Focus
- **First Nations Preparedness**
 - Capacity Development
 - FN Institutions
 - Management Agreements

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Getting the Federal House in Order

- Enable Transformative Change
 - Review fiscal mechanisms and move towards per capita based transfers with agreed-to thresholds and escalators
 - Move away from punitive 3rd party measures to supporting governments
- Machinery changes
 - Structural change necessary to embody new accountability relationship & reduce redundant reporting
 - New mechanisms such as a FN ombudsperson or auditor general
- First Nation Citizen Focus
 - Accountability centered on outcomes for First Nation citizens

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Support for First Nations

- FNs at different levels of preparedness, but universally support need for:
 - Capacity Development: governments' planning processes and HR development for an effective public service PLUS clear mechanisms for support when communities face financial challenges
 - FN Institutions: to support standards and certification, financial management, data generation and tracking

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Moving Forward

- First Nations calling for need to drive accountability initiatives and counter myths about lack of accountability
- AFN advocacy and advancing working group
- AFN SCA highlighted Auditor General's work over the past 10 years
- Resolution 50-2010 reaffirms First Nation governments' commitment to transparency and directs Canada to work with First Nations in the genuine interest of accountability
 - Supports joint efforts towards the development of specific First Nation governance institutional capacity such as a First Nations ombudsperson, independent officer of Parliament and / or Auditor-General function

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