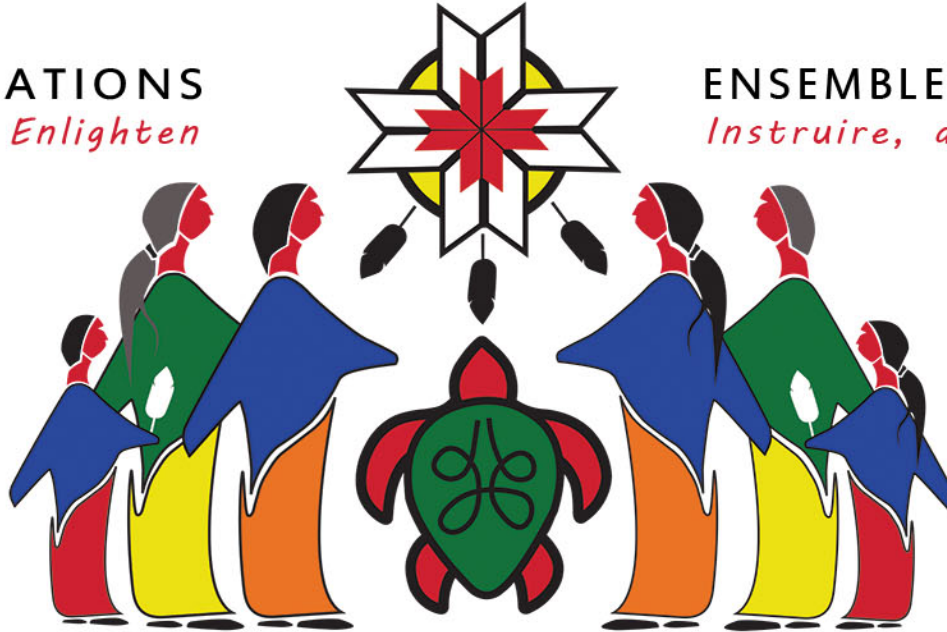


**Assembly of First Nations  
35th Annual General Assembly  
July 15-17, 2014**

**Assemblée des Premières Nations  
35<sup>e</sup> Assemblée générale annuelle  
Du 15 au 17 juillet 2014**

**TOGETHER AS NATIONS**  
*Educate, Empower, Enlighten*

**ENSEMBLE COMME NATIONS**  
*Instruire, autonomiser, éclairer*



**Action on Non-Insured Health Benefits**



# AFN National First Nations Action Plan on Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)



- ✓ With direction and input from the Chief's Committee on Health (CCOH) and the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN), the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has proceeded with a renewed campaign to heighten the profile of the crisis in NIHB.
- ✓ This campaign has included:
  - strategic sessions with the NFNHTN and CCOH,
  - an action oriented session on NIHB at the December 2013 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly,
  - 10 Regional Roundtables, hosted by regional First Nations organizations, meant to identify regional issues and most importantly regionally supported action items, and
  - a National Strategy Forum on NIHB, held March 19-20, 2014, to hear back from the regional roundtable sessions, share strategies and insights and inform the creation of this National First Nations Action Plan on NIHB.
- ✓ The AFN has, and continues to ensure that the development of the action plan is directed by the regions, in adherence with AFN's governance and accountability processes and through the various national and regional forums.



# Goal 1 – Access

## Eliminate barriers and support improved access and coordination of health service delivery across jurisdictions

### Actions for the AFN include:

- Facilitate information sharing and, at minimum, one meeting of the NIHB navigators.
- Advocate for Jordan's Principle to ensure that clients receive immediate medical care as needed.

### Actions for Regions/Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTOs)/Communities include:

- Develop a compendium of services available through the provincial/territorial system and through NIHB (similar to Quebec GPS tool) and distribute to communities.
- Develop a list of registered service providers who do not require upfront payment of services and distribute to communities.

### Demands of the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) include:

- Ensure access to health care for First Nations equal to that of the general Canadian population – incorporate under the Health Canada Act that First Nations have access to quality care without financial barriers.
- Incorporate NIHB navigators in decision making/ appeal process for clients as a regular process.



# Goal 2 – FNIHB Accountability

## Ensure that FNIHB is held accountable to the FNIHB Strategic Plan and to the First Nations population they serve

### Actions for the AFN include:

- Develop a strategic framework for joint accountability (First Nations and FNIHB).
- Explore the option of a First Nations Ombudsman office for Health.

### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Work with regional FNIHB office to develop a cultural sensitivity training manual for all of their NIHB (and FNIHB) employees.
- Work with FNIHB (regional office) to ensure proactive measures are taken to ensure First Nations inclusion prior to any policy changes, including drug listings and deletions.

### Demands of FNIHB include:

- Demand the development of a clear and transparent mechanism back to communities on NIHB accountability and follow through of provincial/ territorial services (as stated in Strategic Goal 1 of the document “FNIHB Strategic Plan: A Shared Path to Improved Health”).
- Develop a formal program evaluation mechanism to monitor effectiveness of NIHB program as opposed to cost containment.



## Goal 3 – Governance

### Supporting First Nations self-determination in health and governance and ensuring FNIHB honours First Nations inherent and Treaty right to health

#### Actions for the AFN include:

- Explore legislative and legal options for First Nations health.
- Outline the steps needed to develop regional/ national First Nations Health Authority(s).

#### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Pursue block funding agreements, using the AFN's block funding agreement as a best practice model.
- Host community discussions related to health governance models.

#### Demands of FNIHB include:

- Respect and support the engagement protocols set out in the AFN – FNIHB Engagement Protocol document.
- Have First Nations representatives at FNIHB/ NIHB decision-making/ approval boards.



# Goal 4 –Privacy/ Data

## Ensure the use of First Nations data meets the highest legal and ethical standards including OCAP™ principles

### Actions for the AFN include:

- Conduct research on existing information and privacy acts/ legislation in the provinces/ territories/ First Nations so as to develop templates that can be used by regions/ communities if they choose to pursue their own First Nations privacy laws.
- Work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and First Nations institutions/ organizations to develop an NIHB data management protocol.

### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Work with First Nations institutions that organize/ collect/ protect data to develop regional data management protocols.
- Host workshops at the community/ regional level on data privacy and the Canadian legal privacy context (Privacy Act).

### Demands of FNIHB include:

- In collaboration with First Nations/ AFN, review the policies related to information required for claims processing, third party insurance disclosure and process for breach of privacy.
- Develop a process that aids communities in accessing their own data aimed at evidence based policy development.



# Goal 5 - Sustainability

Ensure NIHB resources match real expenditures including health needs, population growth, and inflation.

## Actions for the AFN include:

- Develop a business case articulating the costs of early health interventions versus inaction (i.e. prevention vs. treatment).
- As per AFN Resolution 2012-56, examine the Indian Health Envelope and international human rights mechanisms.

## Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Develop and utilize a network of First Nations/ First Nations friendly service providers to explore new/ best methods of practice that address the unique needs of First Nations population (video medicine for remote communities, First Nations run medical transportation coordination centres, etc.).
- Review service needs for northern/ remote/ isolated First Nations.

## Demands of FNIHB include:

- Require FNIHB share their long term vision/plan for NIHB.
- Commit to transparency on financial and administrative aspects of NIHB.



# Goal 6 – Processes/ Standards/ Policy

## Ensure consistent interpretation/ application of NIHB National Directives across provinces/territories

### Actions for the AFN include:

- National Review on comparable processes across regions regarding policy interpretations.
- Develop and advocate for a regionally based appeal board model, whereby each region has an appeal board made up of representatives from regional/ national FNIHB office, local service providers and First Nations health technicians/ directors.

### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Identify and report on regional variances in the interpretation of National Directives.
- Utilize the mapping tool to identify which communities deliver their own health promotion and education programs and provide the information to AFN to assist in advocating for further devolution of these programs to communities.

### Demands of FNIHB include:

- Streamline prior approvals process to reduce the burden of paperwork and increase response time.
- Re-visit the policy to provide service regardless of residency and for students and international coverage; portability of rights.





# Goal 7 – Relationships/ Partnerships

## Develop partnerships with allied organizations to leverage political support for NIHB transformation

### Actions for the AFN include:

- Work with professional organizations to increase awareness of NIHB challenges and the best way to navigate the system.
- Develop a core curriculum/ template on First Nations health for regions/communities to build awareness in service providers/ professional regulating bodies/ universities/colleges.

### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

- Develop relationships with provincial/territorial professional organizations and stakeholders to leverage political support.
- Develop reciprocal accountability agreements with service providers.

### Demands of FNIHB include:

- Establish a monitoring system/ liability reporting (at no detriment to clients) so that FNIHB can take professionals to task when they submit fraudulent claims. Develop a regulatory body for dental providers to ensure against fraudulent dental claims.
- Ensure First Nations are included/ invited to meetings/ conversations with professional organizations.



# Goal 8 – Communications

## Increase awareness of NIHB issues, and in turn public pressure to urge FNIHB to make NIHB improvements

### Actions for the AFN include:

- Develop a broad communications strategy (individual, community, regional, national) - share it.
- Develop an awareness campaign to educate service providers/ associations on First Nations specific issues - the needs and prevention approaches to mitigate risks of other illnesses due to limiting policies of NIHB.

### Actions for Regions/ PTOs/ Communities include:

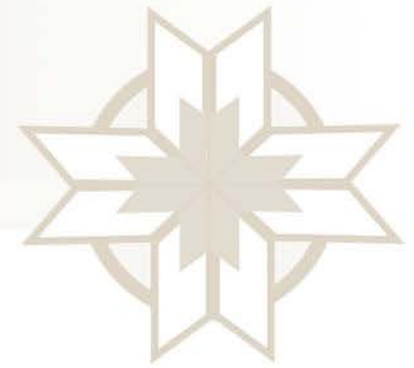
- Engage with provincial/ territorial health ministers to build solidarity in demanding the federal government fulfill its obligations to First Nations health..
- Increase awareness of jurisdictional disputes through numerous communications avenues (radio, newspapers, local news, etc.).

### Demands of FNIHB include:

- Work with FNIHB to develop an NIHB communications plan specific to FNIHB internal and external communications.
- That FNIHB provide a communications flow chart regarding policy decision to indicate flow of information to service providers/ communities/ First Nations organizations.



# Moving Forward



- NIHB AGA Dialogue Session
- July 16, 2014

- NIHB AGA Plenary Discussion
- July 17, 2014

- Regional NIHB Development Sessions
- September – November 2014

- Regional Caucus Sessions on Regional NIHB Action Plans at Special Chiefs Assembly
- December 2014

- Presentation and ratification of final National First Nations NIHB Action Plan
- April 2015

**National NIHB Action Plan**  
✓ Communications Strategy  
✓ Implementation Plan

Community Toolkit

Regional Action Plans and Toolkit

National Toolkit