

ASSEMBLY OF  
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DES CHEFS

# FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

DECEMBER 4-6, 2018



DU 4 AU 6 DÉCEMBRE 2018

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# Welcome and Introductions

## Presenters

- Jonathan Thompson, Director, Social Development, AFN
- Employment and Social Development Canada Representative
- National Expert Working Group on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Representatives



# Welcome and Introductions

## Dialogue Session Goals

- To share information about the processes on the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Policy Framework, the National Indigenous ELCC Framework, and the funding to support this.
- To share information about the funding allocation recommendation proposed by the National Expert Working Group on First Nations ELCC.
- To facilitate discussion with leadership on the process to flow funds to support First Nations ELCC.



## Background on Early Learning and Child Care

- AFN Resolution 39/2016, *First Nations National Working Group on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)*:
  - Oversee regional engagement processes.
  - Identify and confirm key principles, priorities and actions for the First Nations ELCC Framework.
  - Develop an implementation plan that accounts for regional priorities, needs and circumstances.

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## Background on Early Learning and Child Care

- Regional input and direction was provided from all the AFN regions between June 2017 and August 2018.
- The National First Nations ELCC Policy Framework was drafted based on engagement and put forward to Chiefs-in-Assembly for ratification.



## Background on Early Learning and Child Care

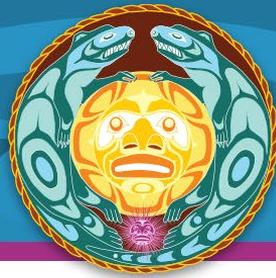
- AFN Resolution 83/2017, *Support for National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*:
  - Endorsed the National First Nations ELCC Policy Framework developed by the Working Group as the submission to the co-development process for the National Indigenous ELCC Framework.
  - Supported continued co-development of the First Nations ELCC Framework and implementation of the First Nations and broader Indigenous ELCC Frameworks – subject to First Nations' direction.
  - Directed the Working Group to continue the development work and implementation of the Frameworks, reporting back to the AFN and regional entities.
  - Called on the AFN to continue working with Canada for additional funding and new investments in ELCC to support capacity development, capital, and implementation at all levels.



# Background on Early Learning and Child Care

## National Indigenous ELCC Framework

- Purpose:
  - Guide for communities, program administrators, service providers, policy makers and governments to achieve shared vision that all Indigenous children experience high quality, culturally strong ELCC.
  - Distinctions-based priorities, principles and goals that are based on the rights, interests and circumstances of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
  - Support, coordinate and guide the design, delivery and governance of Indigenous ELCC.
- Co-developed based on broad engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners.



# Background on Early Learning and Child Care

## National Indigenous ELCC Framework

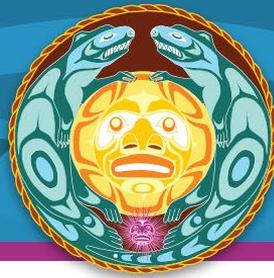
- Takes a distinctions-based approach to reflect First Nations, Inuit and Métis perspectives on ELCC.
- First Nations Distinction-Based Framework:
  - Reflective of principles, goals, strategic actions and flexibility in the First Nations ELCC Policy Framework.
  - Flexible and adaptable to meet First Nations children's and families needs.



## News in Early Learning and Child Care

### New Horizontal Terms and Conditions for ELCC

- New Terms and Conditions introduced to support flexibility in flow of funds to First Nations, Indigenous organizations and existing agreement holders:
  - Flexible allocation, spending and transfer if decision-making to First Nations.
  - Apply to Minister of Health, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister of Children, and Families and Social Development.
  - Allows for maximum flexibility within existing programs and agreements and/or the creation of new ones.



## Funding for First Nations ELCC

### Budgets and Announcements:

- Budget 2016, 2017 and 2018 have committed up to \$7.5 billion over 11 years to ELCC in Canada broadly (including Provinces and Territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis).
- At the National Indigenous ELCC Framework Announcement, up to \$1.02 billion over 10 years was specifically allocated to “envelope” for First Nations ELCC.



## Funding for First Nations ELCC

### First Nations Funding Envelope Specifics:

- Supports services enhancement and expansion: improve and increase ELCC services, flexible spending in any location, on various items related to ELCC consistent with Terms and Conditions.
- Includes dedicated funding for Partnerships and Governance, enabling First Nations-led decision-making and strengthening capacity.
- Transformative Action Fund, beginning in Year 5, to support strategic investments in evolving priorities.
- Incremental increases beginning in Year 5.



## Funding for First Nations ELCC

### Regional Allocation Options and Recommendation:

- \$72.5 million allocated each year for Years 1-4, with 10% earmarked for Partnerships and Governance.
- To enable First Nations-led decision-making. The regional split of this funding has not been prescribed at the federal level and Canada is, instead, looking to First Nations to determine the regional allocation.
- The Working Group has co-developed options for the funding split, and is bringing forward a recommendation to First Nations leadership for ratification.



## Funding for First Nations ELCC

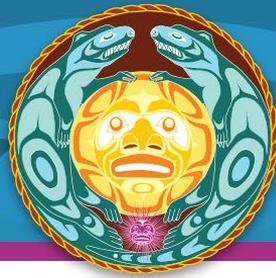
### Regional Allocation Options and Recommendation:

- Per capita funding approach, based on the Modified Berger Formula weighted for remoteness using the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Band Classification Manual.
- Based on the Indian Registration System counts of on- and off-reserve children aged 0-6 as of December 31, 2017.
- Calculates the weighted total number of First Nations children in a given region and the weighted total number of First Nations children in all regions, and produces a weighted proportion of funds to be allocated.
- Interim recommendation that will be revisited in short order.



## Proposed Resolution

- Endorse per capita approach recommended by the Working Group.
- Direct the Working Group to continue to support implementation of the First Nations and National Indigenous ELCC Frameworks.
- Direct the Working Group to conduct research, engagement and consultation to develop a more equitable and appropriate funding approach, and call upon the federal government to adequately resource this development separate from program and governance funding.
- Direct AFN to urge federal government to bring forward back-ended funds.
- Call upon all levels of government to work with First Nations to develop partnerships to support First Nations ELCC.



## What happens once funds are allocated?

### Process:

- Regional leadership identifies body to coordinate implementation within the region with a clear mandate.
  - Work with ESDC (and other partners) to make necessary arrangements to flow funds– either through existing agreement channels or new ones.
- Regions determine what agreements, programs, sites, organizations, etc., get funding under new Terms and Conditions according to regional priorities.
- Regional body continues to provide coordination and support.



## Discussion

1. Questions and answers from participants.
2. What communications/tools are needed to support sharing information on ELCC?
3. How is information on ELCC best shared to your First Nations, regions, and organizations?