

ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

SPECIAL CHIEFS
ASSEMBLY



ASSEMBLÉE DES
PREMIÈRES NATIONS

ASSEMBLÉE
EXTRAORDINAIRE
DES CHEFS

FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

DECEMBER 4-6, 2018



DU 4 AU 6 DÉCEMBRE 2018

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY



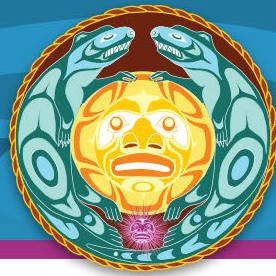
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Welcome and Introductions

Presenters

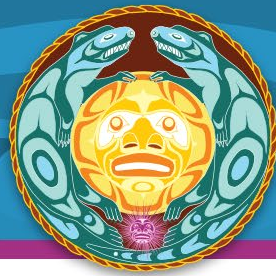
- Jonathan Thompson, Director, Social Development, AFN
- Employment and Social Development Canada Representative
- National Expert Working Group on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Representatives



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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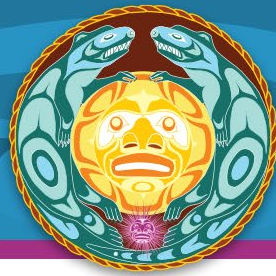


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Background on Early Learning and Child Care

- 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

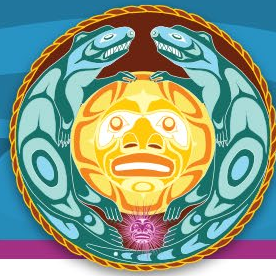
- Purpose:
 - Guide for communities, program administrators, service providers, policy makers and governments to achieve shared vision that all Indigenous children experience high quality, culturally strong ELCC.
 - Distinctions-based priorities, principles and goals that are based on the rights, interests 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:

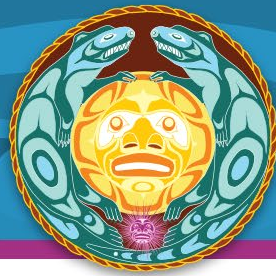
- Budget 2016, 2017 and 2018 have committed up to \$7.5 billion over 11 years to ELCC in Canada broadly (including Provinces and Territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis).
- At the National Indigenous ELCC Framework Announcement, up to \$1.02 billion over 10 years was specifically allocated to “envelope”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

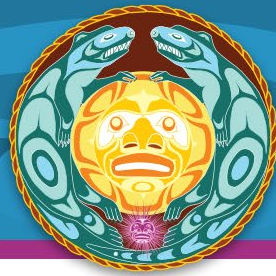
- \$72.5 million allocated each year for Years 1-4, with 10% earmarked for Partnerships and Governance.
- To enable First Nations-led decision-making. The regional split of this funding has not been prescribed at the federal level and Canada is, instead, looking to First Nations to determine the regional 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?