
Assembly of First Nations

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca



Assemblée des Premières Nations

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808
www.afn.ca

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 108/2017

TITLE: Case Management Services for Income Assistance Recipients

SUBJECT: Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief Arnold Paul, Temagami First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Proxy, George E. Daniels, Long Plain First Nation, MB

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the area of education, employment vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security;
- B. The Department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) On-Reserve Income Assistance program is to ensure individuals and families on-reserve have access to essential income assistance when in need. This is done within an integrated framework that actively supports individuals achieving greater financial and economic independence where this is possible.
- C. In 2006, the Social Development Policy Framework was co-developed with First Nations and the Department and outlines a need to assist On-Reserve Income Assistance recipients to achieve greater economic independence. The framework emphasizes an Active Measures approach towards the implementation of the On-Reserve Income Assistance program, that utilizes a system of integrated case management that includes assessment and pre-employment programs, life skills, intervention and diversion programs such as keeping students in school, access to day care and training and employment incentives for employers both on and off reserve.
- D. The Department has extended funding for case management services (formerly the Enhanced Service Delivery initiative) within the On-Reserve Income Assistance program for 2017-18.

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- E. While the current case management initiative targets youth aged 18-24, it has a limited reach, serving only 110 First Nation Bands through 28 First Nation service delivery organizations.
- F. The Ontario Works program, which provides income assistance services for First Nations in Ontario, offers case management and pre-employment supports to an additional 79 First Nation Bands.
- G. Despite the limited scope and reach of the case management initiative, there have been indications from those delivering services that this approach is effective in supporting income assistance recipients to achieve greater economic independence.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to extend funding for case management services within the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program for 2018-19 to ensure ongoing support for income assistance recipients to achieve greater financial and economic independence
2. Direct the AFN to call upon ISC to support a First Nation engagement process that will consider and gather best practices and approaches, input from key income assistance administrators and recipients for the development of policy recommendations that support long term, sustainable, and expanded case management services for income assistance recipients.
3. Direct the AFN to call upon ISC to work collaboratively with First Nations and the Ontario Government to enhance and expand the Ontario Works program, supporting long term, and sustainable client focused services for income assistance recipients.

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