
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 24, 25 & 26, 2018, VANCOUVER, BC

Resolution no. 28/2018

TITLE: Support for the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Social Development

SUBJECT: Social Development

MOVED BY: Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, ON

SECONDED BY: Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation, BC

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (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 areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
- B. Call to Action #55 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:
- i. The number of Aboriginal children - including Métis and Inuit children - in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.
 - ii. Comparative funding for the education of First Nations children on and off reserves.

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PERRY BELLEGARDE, NATIONAL CHIEF

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- iii. The educational and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.
 - iv. Progress on closing the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in a number of health indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.
 - v. Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in youth custody over the next decade.
 - vi. Progress on reducing the rate of criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization and other crimes.
 - vii. Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice and correctional systems.
- C. In 2006, the Social Development Policy Framework (Framework) was co-developed with First Nations, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and Indian and Northern Affairs (as it was referred to then) and outlines a number of policy recommendations for social programming and services, including First Nations Child and Family Services, Family Violence Prevention, Income Assistance, Assisted Living programming, and Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples.
- D. Most of these social programs and services were overseen by the former Chiefs Committee on Social Development (CCSD). Due to federal funding cuts to the AFN Social Development Sector in 2009-2010, the CCSD has not convened since 2008 and these services and programs have not been addressed by a national advisory body in ten years.
- E. In September 2017, the federal government provided funding to establish a Data Collection Instrument (DCI) Working Group to hold two national meetings and several teleconferences. The DCI Working Group met with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in 2017 to discuss ISC's regional engagement processes (held between October 2017-April 2018) regarding ISC's proposed changes to the Income Assistance Program DCI.
- F. The 2018 federal budget announced that the federal government would provide \$8.5 million over 2018-2020 to fund regional engagements regarding ISC's proposed changes to the Income Assistance Program in order to make it more responsive to the needs of First Nations clients and First Nations service providers. The 2018 federal budget also announced an additional \$78.4 million over 2018-2020 to fund pre-employment supports

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and case management services to help First Nations income assistance clients transition from income assistance to education and employment.

- G. ISC has proposed a number of other operational and policy changes to the programs and services outlined under the 2006 Framework beyond the Income Assistance Program, namely, new funding and reporting models for the Assisted Living Program.
- H. ISC's changes to the 2006 Framework must be directed and consented to by engagement with First Nations. Establishing a Technical Working Group on Social Development comprised of community and technical experts in the field of social development, including, but not limited to income assistance, assisted living services and family violence prevention is required in order to transform social programming for First Nations.

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

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call upon the Government of Canada to provide funding for the establishment of a national Technical Working Group on Social Development (Technical Working Group) comprised of First Nations technical experts in social development from each region across Canada.
2. Direct the AFN Executive Committee to ensure their respective regions are represented on the Technical Working Group.
3. Direct the AFN to develop a Terms of Reference in coordination with the Technical Working Group with a mandate to oversee and advise on the numerous policy and operational changes Indigenous Services Canada has proposed to the Income Assistance and Assisted Living Programs, and any other policy and/or operational changes to the social programming outlined in the 2006 Framework (excluding First Nations Child and Family Services programming).

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