

INAC wrote to the communities listed in COO's draft spreadsheet in order to provide them with information about the process. We understand now that the spreadsheet was a draft. We regret any misunderstanding that has been caused. The provision of information from the spreadsheet to the six communities that are not *Indian Act* bands does not reflect any change in the federal government's position with respect to recognition or funding of these communities.

All of us wish to keep this process moving as quickly as possible and we agree as set out in your letter of November 18, 2016, that it is acceptable to distribute funds through the Indigenous Representative Organizations and Independent First Nations. We understand that COO will be providing the updated figures this week to MCYS and INAC. Please note that funding will not be released by Ontario until confirmation of final community amounts is received. In addition, INAC has a total budget of \$30,000 to allocate among the grant recipients to assist with costs of distributing the funds this year.

In terms of next steps, INAC has up to a total of \$150,000 available this year to support the activities of the members of the tripartite Child and Family Services Working Group. Distribution of these funds can be discussed at the next working group meeting.

As we move forward, we would also like to discuss program reform options for longer-term changes to the delivery of First Nations child and family services.

We trust this information is of assistance, and look forward to continuing to work with you. Together, we can and will make real changes for children and families in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Anne Scotton
Regional Director General
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada



Darryl Sturtevant
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services

c.c.: Political Confederacy
First Nations Social Services Coordination Unit
INAC and MCYS Working Group participants

THIS IS EXHIBIT H TO THE
AFFIDAVIT OF Denise Stonefish
SWORN Dec - 16, 2016
..... Jimmy S
A COMMISSIONER ETC.

Secretariat Office
111 Peter Street, Suite 804
Toronto, ON M5V 2H1
416-597-1266
www.chiefs-of-ontario.org



Political Office
236 Frontenac Street
Batchewana First Nation, ON
P6A 6Z1
705-254-1477

December 5, 2016

To

Regional Director General of Ontario Region Anne Scotton
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Email: anne.scotton@aandc.gc.ca

And

Assistant Deputy Minister Darryl Sturtevant
Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ontario

Email: darryl.sturtevant@ontario.ca

Re: Distribution of immediate relief prevention funds, 2016-17

Dear Ms. Scotton and Mr. Sturtevant:

Thank you for your letter dated December 2, 2016. We again welcome the progress in the distribution of immediate relief funding for child welfare prevention, although it has taken longer than anticipated. As indicated in previous letters, our First Nations in Ontario are in need of these dollars and the funds must be forwarded as soon as possible. We have attached a spreadsheet which contains, from Chiefs of Ontario (COO)'s perspective, finalized numbers of allocations among First Nations. We have checked our calculations with Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) for accuracy, there were some minor corrections and refinements, which has resulted in the finalization of the attached spreadsheet.

Firstly, we appreciate the Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC)'s acknowledgement that they sent the letter prematurely to the First Nations utilizing the numbers from the draft spreadsheet. **We would request that INAC provide corrected letters to the First Nations, with the acknowledgment that the funding amounts you previously communicated were not final and that the numbers on the attached spreadsheet are utilized.**

Secondly, we wish for INAC to clarify the following:

- The mention in your letter dated December 2, 2016. COO did not participate in any decision that the "new" funding was to be used for *prevention only* in First Nations. INAC made that decision unilaterally and communicated it to us in a letter dated May 9, 2016. We trust that you will be clear in your communications and add that **COO did not participate in, nor was COO consulted about, the 2016-2017 budget funds being directed toward prevention services.** Nevertheless, COO agrees that if INAC has decided that the funding is directed toward prevention, that it should be used for prevention services by the recipients.

- In reference to the other funding offered, we would like to receive further information on what these dollars are to be utilized for.

(a) For the \$30,000, it states "*to allocate among the grant recipients to assist with costs of distributing the funds this year.*" We are clarifying that this is intended to **alleviate the administrative costs for PTOs and other groups** in distributing the \$5.83M budget investments and is available to those groups.

(b) For the \$150,000, it states that "*to support the activities of the members of the tripartite Child and Family Services Working Group.*" We are clarifying that this is directed at **funding COO and the Social Services Coordination Unit's participation in the meetings** to discuss funding for future fiscal years as well as other matters relating to the provision of Child and Family services.

- We also expect that you will clarify to Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations that **NAN will be distributing funding according to its own processes.**

Lastly, we hope to see these 2016-2017 budget funds distributed soon but remind you that we need to be involved in order to ensure that the messaging to First Nations is correct and appropriate. We welcome the opportunity to participate in joint communications to the PTOs and other funding recipients.

We look forward to your response on the above. Should you have any follow up questions, please contact Linda Sandy, Linda.Sandy@coo.org, COO Social Services Director.

Sincerely,
CHIEFS OF ONTARIO



Isadore Day, *Wiindawtegowinini*
Ontario Regional Chief

CC: Political Confederacy
Provincial Territorial Organizations
Working Group on Child and Family Services for Ontario First Nations
Social Services Coordinating Unit