



Income Assistance Administrators Regional Quarter Meeting

December 10 & 11, 2019

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

The Willows Golf & Country Club

382 Cartwright St E, Saskatoon SK S7T 1B1

Chair: Lacey Kaysaywaysemat, Program Coordinator

Present:

ISC Representatives:

- Joanne Harper, ISC FSO
- Jason Yew, ISC - Regina
- Stacey Venna, ISC FSO
- Alan Leader, ISC FSO

IA Workers and Admins:

- Rob Bear, Muskoday FN
- Fran Oksasikewiyin, Sweetgrass FN
- Dorothy Roberts-Charles, Grandmother's Bay
- Crystal Baptiste, Poundmaker
- Lori Buffalo-Delaronde, Whitecap
- Donna Mantee, Piapot FN
- Elaine Moosomin, BATC
- Bernadette McKay, Cumberland House CN
- Roseanna Crookedneck, Black Lake
- Julie Constant, Black Lake
- Grace Keepness, Pasqua FN
- Judy Constant, James Smith
- Jessica McIntyre, English River
- Patricia Joyea, Whitebear
- Lorraine Cameron, Beardy's & Okemasis
- Maurice Nokusis, Peepeekisis
- Cheryl Vermette, Wahpeton
- Sheila Knife, Ahtakakoop
- Vanessa Dawatsare, English River
- Calla Moore, MLTC
- Rose Ann Iron, MLTC
- Edwina Kennedy, Pheasant Rump
- Stephanie Bouvier, WCFN
- Janelle Chief, Ministikwan
- Jennifer Gamble, Maka Sahgaiehcan
- Mary M, Hatchet Lake
- Carma Jimmy, Thunderchild
- Tracy Benjamin, Buffalo River
- Laurel Head, Red Earth
- Charlene Lumberjack, Kinistin
- Barb Paddy, Thunderchild
- Glenda Littlewolfe, Onion Lake
- R. Buffalo, Wollaston Lake
- Joan Catarat, Buffalo River
- Tina Derocher, FDFN
- Angela Shingoose, One Arrow
- Patricia Daniels, Mistowasis
- Charlene Bear, Little Pine
- Gloria Genaille, Keeseekoosie
- Jackie Agecoutay, Zagime
- Jeanette M, Birch Narrows
- Tim Standingready, Oceanman
- Alyssa Arcand, Muskeg Lake

SFNFCI Staff and Elder: Shelley Thomas Prokop - Program Director, Jocelyn Kakakaway - Program Consultant, Lacey Kaysaywaysemat – Program Coordinator, Melanie Sunchild- Program Assistant, Elder Ernestine Starr

9:00 am – Opening Prayer, Elder Ernestine Starr – Moosomin First Nation

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Review of Agenda – Accepted

Review of Terms of Reference – Accepted

Review of September 19, 2019 Meeting Notes – Accepted & posted to www.sfnfci.ca website

9:30 am – ISC updates with Jason Yew

- Released new policy manual update in September 2019. If you do not have the new policy manual ask your FSO – All PDFs' are in the manual and ready for use.
- Lots of forms in the updates now- one form in the back is not ours- INCOME LIVING SUPPORT ASSESSMENT is only available from the province, if you use this form please contact the province for this.
- Chapter 10 is no longer in manual. It is now replaced with SAET.
- Manual did not change to SIS model. Our policy does not align with the province yet. There is a need for more analysis as their system is different from ours. If you need a copy of the SIS Manual you can obtain it online.

Q: Why is there so many changes to the forms in the manual?

A: ISC made the forms electronic and PDF fillable. This will hopefully make it easier for the worker to fill out and complete. A Compliance team worked with IA administrators to see what forms are needed and suggested. These are created to help the IA worker. You do not have to use ISC forms if you have your own developed.

Q: When trying to refer a client from on reserve to off reserve and vice versa- There is only one number to call and the wait times are ridiculous, and they are not receiving referrals in the provincial office. Who exactly do our referrals go to if we cannot speak with the provincial workers?

A: Jason will discuss this with the Province to get clarification onto why this is happening. It needs to happen quicker. TEA is managed out of the Regina office. Jason getting calls for referrals. The province is giving out Jason's number to give referrals which should not be happening.

ACTION ITEM: Jason to follow up as to why only one call center is accepting referrals.

The province will not contact the First Nation to see if a client is receiving assistance on reserve. This sometimes results in a client receiving assistance from both the province and on reserve program. The province now wants to be notified when we do cross checks and we get confirmation on a client claiming assistance elsewhere. How can we stay in contact with the province when there is only one number?

RECOMMENDATION: Invite the province to your next meeting to discuss referral and cross check processes.

Some Off-Reserve clients from the provincial program needing comfort allowance to go into treatment center. The province is telling members to go to band for this assistance. Workers are not getting answers from Province as to why they are not covered as it falls under their jurisdiction for off-reserve members.

RECOMMENDATION: Invite the province to the next meeting to discuss program and assistance coverage, why is the province sending off reserve members to get assistance from on-reserve IA program.

Q: Is there anything in the province that says they have to come back to the band for rent and damage deposit?

A: Absolutely not.

Q: If a client was to appeal and they get denied what's the next step?

A: There is a Regional and Provincial appeal committee. They make the final call on whether an appeal is accepted or not. Clients can get assistance while in appeal process – this is at the discretion of the worker.

10:30 am – Refreshment Break

Continue with Q&A with Jason

Provincial Tier different programs like TEA and SAP are not cross checking with the on-reserve program but are requesting our cross checks.

A: Please continue to send in requests and cross checks.

ACTION ITEM: SFNFCI to invite ISC – Randine to next meeting to discuss prevention costs covered by ISC compared to IA program costs

What treatment centers are covered by FNHIB?

ACTION ITEM: SFNFCI to invite FNHIB and how to access treatment centers and what is covered

Personal Network Sharing

- Admin to Admin Mentorship
- Idea of a chat room or online network of the IA workers to be able to network and have conversations
- Suggested IA Admin Training
 - Interoffice training is currently being done in some communities but there is not enough time to properly train people
 - LKH Consultants- will come in and help clean up files for compliance reviews also could assist in developing admin training.

SaskPower Working Group-

- There is value for admins to attend the group. More IA Workers need to attend. Travel expenses are not covered however; there is strong encouragement to attend the meetings.
- They will accept invitations to FN communities for presentations
- Sask. Power working group meeting moved to January 9th 2020
- Solar Panel Project and implementing into IA program
 - Some found extreme cost and to be high risk.
 - Sask. First Nation Power Authority – Guy Lonechild started pilot project for Incentives to get the Solar Panels in FN communities, he would have more information regarding the project.

12 noon - Lunch

1:00 pm - Kelly Quewezance – ISC- Assisted Living – Q&A

Programs update

- Transition of funding and eligibility criteria: Must be eligible for IA in order to receive assistance.
- Pension recipients can be covered by IA, level of care (assisted living) costs can top up living expense and living expense included while in home.
 - How is this determined?
 - Based off of income (pension amount must be put towards living expense before assisted living dollars are used.
- Comfort Allowance of \$265 is now called personal allowance.
- Level of care assessments are obtained from doctors.
- Clothing allowance must have doctors' orders (ie: weight loss due to health issue can result in IA covering a 1 time annual amount of \$250 for clothing)

1:30 pm - Canada Revenue Agency- Tim Eremondi

Handouts provided will be attached.

Benefits and Credits

Climate Action Incentive-

- up to \$609 per family extra 10% out of Saskatoon and Regina – Schedule 14
- \$305 for a single person- additional \$152 for second adult - \$76 per child

CCTB- Canada Child Benefit

- Tax Free Payment
- Payment Chart
- By default the payment is made to the mother
- Meet the criteria
- Criteria to apply as just a caregiver- School, parent, doctor
- ½ time custody- split payment
- Automated Benefits Application- Vital Statistics form- check box to share information with CRA
- Using My Account- apply for CCTB
- RC66 way – using paper – provide letter and form
- If child is born out of Canada or year later then you must provide Birth Certificate

Child Disability Benefit

- If you have a child who is eligible CDB have a doctor or Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse. It's paid monthly on the same day as the CCTB.

Disability Tax Credit

- Credit – Changes the tax you pay
- Apply up to \$8,235 in non-refundable tax credits
 - Registered Disability savings Plan – money matched on what you save
- Only way to apply right now is the T2201 form

GST/HST

- Tax Free Payment based on Family net Income
- Pay the benefit quarterly

Canada Workers Benefit

- Fill out Schedule 6
- Paid in the form of a refund

Contact the CRA if any of the following occurs:

- Moved
- Marital Status
- Direct Deposit information has changed or is new
- Death
- number of dependants change
- Start or stop sharing custody
- Residency Status has changed
- Any CRA letter- out of date

Direct Deposit is highly recommended to receive benefits

- Safer way to go
- Faster than getting a cheque mailed to you

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Have people in your community register as a tax volunteer and submit your taxes on your behalf
- Training offered is free of charge
- Training for “simple” tax returns.

Outreach Program

- Available to come to your community to discuss the different types of programs and services – Free of Charge.

2:30 pm – Refreshment Break

2:45 pm – Service Canada Presentation – Donna Paget

Handouts provided will be attached

Canada Pension

Outreach Services offered:

- Information Sessions
- Internet Search Workshops
- Booths at Trade Shows
- On Site Services

Accessing Our Services by the following:

- Canada.ca
- 1 800 0 Canada
- Visit a Service Canada Office

Youth Web Page

- Job search
- Resume Writing
- Budgeting

My Service Canada Account

- Call 1 877 454 4051 to get Access Code
- Can also get On site access code or use a partner sign in through online banking
- Request a GC Key in the mail

Can check EI status through the “My service Canada account” along with:

- ROEs
- On site SIN Clinics

RESP

- Anyone can open a RESP for any child
- Grow interest and is tax free

Canada Learning Bond- available to children born after 2004

- Low income families
- Don't have to put in any money
- Initial payment of \$500
- Retro Active
- For more information on the services provided please contact Service Canada.

3:45 pm – Closing remarks

Next Meeting date: TBA suggested 1st or 2nd week in March 2020. Duration: TBA

Review of Day 2 Agenda

Closing Prayer – Elder Ernestine Starr, Moosomin First Nation