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Innu Round Table Meeting #21
February 8th, 2018 Hotel North Two, Happy Valley – Goose Bay

Parties in Attendance:

Innu: Deputy Grand Chief Etienne Rich, Innu Nation
Chief Eugene Hart, SIFN
Chief John Nui, MIFN

Canada: William McGillivray, Department of Indigenous Services Canada
Chris McDonell, Department of Indigenous Services Canada

Province: Judy White, NL/LAAS (by Phone)
Susan Walsh, NL/CSSD

Note: a complete list of participants is attached

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The IRT Sec Executive Director and Chairperson for the Meeting, Natasha Hurley convened the meeting @ 9:30 am.

The Chair noted Grand Chief Rich of Innu Nation offered his regrets to the group due to a family emergency.

All parties present noted in attached list.

2. REVIEW AGENDA

Agenda was accepted with following change:

Executive Director/IRT Chair corrected item 3 of the Draft agenda noting the meeting notes/action items to be reviewed were from Main IRT Principals meeting held in Ottawa on Oct 2017 instead of February 2018.

3. REVIEW NOTES/DECISIONS/ACTION ITEMS PREVIOUS MEETING

Chris McDonnell said there was a good dialogue between Innu leaders and Minister Philpott a couple of weeks ago (Jan 24th in Ottawa). There was agreement to move forward and support the appointment of a Federal Special Representative (FSR). Minister Philpott's office will be collaborating with the Innu Leaders for the appointment.

Jackie Whelan noted PRIDE sessions were held in Natuashish in October, unfortunately there was a low turnout. CSSD is coordinating plans to offer another session in March. The session in Sheshatshiu in October was attended by 9 participants. A second Pride training session is scheduled to be held in Sheshatshiu March 1-2. CSSD is partnering with Innu health staff in both communities with Innu taking on the role as co-facilitators.

Susan Walsh spoke indicated all is going as planned with the Group Home in Sheshatshiu and the planning work on Emergency Placement Homes in both communities.

William McGillivray indicated there was no further update from what ADM Gideon noted at the last IRT Meeting regarding the renewal of Innu Healing funding after March 31st, 2018. He noted he was hopeful on what the new Federal budget will contain.

4. OPENING COMMENTS

Chief Hart welcomed everyone to the IRT Meeting and indicated how pleased he was to be at the table again with Federal and Provincial partners. Chief Hart noted that he felt there was a lot of progress being made on many fronts but also acknowledging there was a lot of work ahead. Chief Hart also acknowledged the support he felt from the Province of NL during a meeting between Innu Leadership and DISC Min Philpott on the item pertaining to Innu Child Welfare.

Chief Nui welcomed everyone to the IRT Meeting indicating his gratitude to have everyone at the table again in efforts to create healthier Innu Communities. Chief Nui made a special note to acknowledge previous leadership, whom he felt advocated for their people and, for current Innu Leadership to have the opportunity to continue on with the work. Chief Nui also reminded everyone at the table that Natuashish continues to look to its partners in finding ways to improve the delivery of Daycare, Education and Security within Natuashish.

Deputy Grand Chief Rich also welcomed everyone to the table. DGC Rich indicated this would be his 2nd IRT meeting since being elected in office and continues to learn about the many different items being discussed at the table. DGC notes he is in contact with the Executive Director of the Innu Round Table Secretariat on a regular basis.

Chris McDonnell expressed support for the IRT process and described how the new Indigenous Services department was under reorganization. He feels these talks have strengthened the relationships and he sees Innu progressing on many fronts. Chief Hart encouraged DISC officials to communicate these positive messages in the communities.

Judy White indicated the province is very pleased with how the relationship with the Innu is developing. She noted the organizational changes in DISC and that NL hoped to be able to help maximize the results.

5. IRT Status Updates

a. IRT Workplan & Budget 2017/18

The Chair reported the IRT Sec Board currently has 5 out of the 6 Board of Directors in place, currently awaiting a new appointment to be made by the Mushuau Innu First Nation due to the recent resignation of Virginia Collins. The 2017/18 Workplan is on target. Hurley noted the IRT Sec AGM scheduled for January 17 has been postponed to March 14th, 2018.

Note: Annual Members Meeting for the IRT Sec Inc has been rescheduled for April 25th.

Natasha reviewed the 2017/18 financial forecast updated Feb 06, 2018 and noted - total revenue for the fiscal year (INAC, HC and NL-CSSD) is at \$4.3M with an additional projection of \$360k required for IS benefits to reflect a balanced budget. The year- to-date consolidated revenue/expenditure report shows a remaining balance of \$1.9 M.

The 2016/17 Audit has been posted on the IRT Sec Website including an updated Workplan for 2017/2018 along with financial reports.

b. Income Support Program

Kylie Rose reported the current Innu IS caseload is at 184 files with 165 representing Sheshatshiu and 18 for Natuashish, in total 305 clients being assisted. YTD IS assistance issued is at \$755,000. Rose projected expenditures for 2017-2018 to reach \$1,036,000.00. A few of the statistics collected showed a 46% employability rate with the majority of client benefits going to families. The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) position in Natuashish continues to be vacant. Chief Nui expressed his concern regarding the funding to support this position is for part time only. He requested for more effort to be made in reaching potential clients in Natuashish and the funding to support a position in Natuashish be reviewed to allow for a full time position.

Action Item:

- IRT Sec IS Manager to plan to visit to Natuashish and offer community information sessions on the IS Program.
- IRT Sec and DISC to discuss possible funding increase to establish full time CLO position in Natuashish.

Chris McDonnell spoke to the outstanding recovery issues regarding trust payments from Dec 2016. Philpott has decided to “set aside” the recovery of these payments until the program is reviewed and the Province completes their process of possible program and legislative changes regarding the treatment of Innu Trust Payments as exempt income. Chris will follow up on the letter that is expected to detail the terms of the set aside decision.

Note: Letter from Minister Philpott received on Mar 1st, 2018.

c. Child Youth & Family Services

Natasha Hurley reported that the Innu Care Approach was now produced into a practice framework (operational guide) on how to work with Innu families and children. Lyla Andrew said the guide was now being used in training of staff at the SIFN Group Home and is being used in the on-going community work on prevention activities. The guide provides all service providers with the Innu vision of how to care for Innu children. The approach is incorporated in PRIDE training and will be presented to foster parents. William McGillivray suggested presenting it to Provincial and Federal levels.

Action Item:

- IRT Sec to coordinate information sessions and training on the Guide regarding the Innu Care Approach with Provincial and Federal Departments.

Lyla Andrew presented statistics on Innu children involved within the Provincial CSSD system. As of December 2017, a total of 153 Innu children were in care/custody of CSSD, 96 of those children are from Sheshatshiu and 57 of those children are from Natuashish. Andrew noted the majority of Sheshatshiu children are in a continuous care arrangements and in Natuashish, the numbers showed continuous care and interim care arrangements were close to equal. More than half of the children in these arrangements are under the age of 9. Although statistics show in-care/custody arrangements have gradually decreased in the last few years, it is recognized recent resources established focusing on prevention and reintegration activities, including the work around establishing emergency placement homes in both Innu communities need to continue. Chief Hart and Chief Nui expressed concern regarding the number of Innu children whom continue to be placed outside of the communities, particularly in the community of Roddickton, NL. Chiefs requested the Province to give this matter immediate attention with regards to reviewing other placement options as the Innu were not impressed by the comments indicating “Innu Children in care brought economic benefits to Roddickton, NL” made during a story covered by CBC noting “there was an economic benefit” in the community of Roddickton due to the number of Innu children in care. Susan Walsh agreed and suggested that a meeting be convened to discuss a plan to address the matter.

Action Item:

- IRT Sec to coordinate a meeting to discuss alternate placement for Innu children.

Prevention Services continues to work out of Sheshatshiu and Natuashish with the Social Worker position in Natuashish vacant, but being staffed. Mary Jane Edmonds has led two walking expeditions for women and children in Natuashish so far and has another coming up in March. One of the main areas of focus has been work around trauma and making this more meaningful in the history of Innu experience.

Lyla Andrew raised the issue of the CYCP Legislative Review. The Innu remain hopeful that when the Provincial Legislature reopens that this will make its way forward. Lyla noted that the Innu have significant reason to believe that they have been heard and the requests for changes have also been taken into consideration.

The Innu are also patiently waiting for the Federal government to come on board regarding the Inquiry. Leadership is hopeful that the Canada will be a full partner in this very significant process.

It was noted that MIFN does not have the Social Workers that support the Working Relationship Agreement as SIFN does. MIFN will be seeking similar capacity. Chief Nui inquired how many of the children in care were still in Roddickton. Susan Walsh estimated the number and suggested a small group meet to consider specifics on each case.

Action Item:

- MIFN will prepare a proposal to secure financial resources for dedicated Social Workers support for implementation of the Working Relationship Agreement in Natuashish.
- MIFN/Chief Nui to discuss Roddickton placements of MIFN children with CSSD/Susan Walsh.

William McGillivray said there have not been many requests from the Innu communities regarding Jordan's Principle. He would like to make sure there's a focus on the program and assist to get the information out into the community by working together. Both communities now have coordinators in place. It was suggested that the IRT look to a group to coordinate efforts and address improvements. The first step might be to establish a Terms of Reference.

Action Item:

- The IRT Sec will coordinate development of a draft Terms of Reference for a Jordan's Principle Working Group.

Anastasia Qupee presented an update/progress report on the Group Home Transition Plan in Sheshatshiu. Twenty participants are undergoing training as potential Child and Youth Care Workers and staff at the facility. They have completed staff orientation, First Aid, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCIF) and have commenced work on shift training. 11 people are now certified as TCIF trainers, 2 are also trained in ASIST. Curriculum has also been developed for the Innu Care Approach to be incorporated into the Child & Youth Care Program. All trainees will participate in 408 hours of comprehensive training; 60% of the time is dedicated to mentored work on shift training, 40% is coursework (Emergency First Aid, ASIST, TCIF, ICA-CYC). SIFN will soon be working with NL/CSSD on the operating budget to operate the Group Home under a Level 4 Service Agreement in FY 2018/19.

Chief Nui said the EPH planning in Natuashish is going well. The building designated for this use will be ready by end of March/18. The home has been renovated and work has been completed to meet CSSD standards. The Job posting is out for the Operations Manager position and staffing will be complete in March, while MIFN awaits the funding decision from DISC for 2018/19. He also mentioned that plans are in place to meet with Elders to get their view and explain how the Innu Care Approach will be implemented for MIFN children.

d. Justice Sub-Committee

Natasha Hurley noted that this has been an outstanding file for years. A planning meeting is set for Halifax on February 15th and 16th, with Innu, Federal and Provincial representatives. All parties are hoping that the committee will be up and running in the next fiscal year.

6. HEALTH UPDATE

IMC had its last meeting on Oct. 5, 2017. Thea Penashue was hired as the IRT Community Wellness and Systems Navigator in October. A community consultation workshop is happening in Natuashish on February 28th with a similar event planned for Sheshatshiu. Cynthia Hodgins has taken on the Co-chair role of the DWWG temporarily. Natuashish had an optometrist visit in Dec and dentist visit in Jan. The FASD WG is coordinating dates for the "FASD friendly school" visit in BC. The MHA WG has a reactivation meeting mid-February.

The HiM project is on-going with a workplan and funding in place. The Innu Youth Health Care Services proposal was approved and a contract is in place. A Youth Health community event is planned for Natuashish on February 28th. The Innu Historical Digital Timeline work is progressing - researcher and main consultants identified to complete the work. The FASD Prevention Strategy meeting held in October had a huge turnout. Youth Health Office Initiative is continuing.

June Fry – Innu Child Health Coordinator interchange is hoping to continue into the next fiscal year. Very positive feedback from all parties involved.

William McGillivray reiterated that there is nothing new on the LITH funding renewal plans since the IRT meeting Ottawa. He indicated that DISC/FNIH should be able to move quickly once budget 2018 announcements are out. He is optimistic about the go-forward plans. He also reported that a NIHB medical van has been ordered for Sheshatshiu and should arrive within the next couple of weeks.

A Suicide conference is to be held March 19-23.

Chief Nui inquired about the 2017/18 health funding agreement and ability for MIFN to move funds into the next FY. He also noted that the community had some issues with medical transportation in Goose Bay including local transportation and accommodations.

Action Item:

- Chief Nui and William McGillivray to meet to discuss the funding agreement medical transportation/logistic issues.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that the Innu wanted to develop Innu capacity with training Innu people as teachers and social workers that could work in the communities. It was noted that past efforts at this focused education to create professionals and had not developed beyond

initial discussions. Re-submission of these ideas was encouraged. John Higham suggested that the Innu Education Board be asked to assist with this initiative.

Action Item:

- The IRT Sec will follow up and approach the Innu Education Board (MTIE) with a request to create the professional development programs.

8. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the IRT Meeting #22 will take place on June 28th in Halifax, NS. Pre-meetings will be conducted on June 27th.

Note: Halifax Marriott Harbourfront has been booked for the IRT Meetings 27/28th June 2018.

Prepared By: Alicia Penashue

Approved by: Natasha Hurley

ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda

List of participants

IRT Sec Operational Workplan and Budget 2017/18

Innu Children CSSD Stats System Power Point

Income Support Power Point

SIFN EPH Progress Report Presentation

List of Participants

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Participating by Call in: Judy White