

**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
FIRST NATIONS LABOUR MARKET STRATEGY
DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION – NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION
ISSUE PAPER 26 – First Nations Community-based and Client-centred**

DESCRIPTION:

To reaffirm as principles of good program and service delivery that programs and services be community-based and client-centred

OPTIONS:

To embed these principles in the program policy

RATIONALE:

First Nation governance and delivery models need to provide for community-based programming driven off of client needs and case managing clients along an individual road to sustainable employment and earnings. This approach allows practitioners to deal with the multiple dimensions of employment disadvantage and to mobilize community resources and networks in providing solutions.

Programs are not ends in themselves but tools to be used to assist clients. This approach does not exclude, for example, institutional skills training or subsidized work experience opportunities but puts them in context.

Canadian and international experience and evaluations support these principles which have been imbedded in the EI Act, LMDAs and results-based accountability frameworks.

CONSIDERATIONS:

High level policy should endorse these principles which then should be supported by delivery models, program and service offerings, case management systems and results frameworks.

Alternative approaches would be referring clients to institutional training or putting oneself in a program delivery mode instead of a case-management mode. Organizations cannot deliver an infinitely varied program menu, priorities need to be set and programs delivered but these decisions should be made at the community level in the context of local resources, networks and opportunity.

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

To embed these principles in the program policy

DECISION:

DATE AND VERSION: Draft 1, November 23, 2016