

First Nation/Inuit Child Care Initiative (FNICCI) Considerations

*National Engagement on Early
Learning & Child Care (ELCC)*

July 12, 2017

Toronto, ON

FNICCI Considerations for the Future of Early Learning & Child Care

What is needed in a federal ELCC approach in terms of supporting the on-reserve and urban child care needs of First Nation communities, learners, employees and community members?

What program elements will create stronger ELCC delivery?

What should universal ELCC look like?

Is there a need to streamline the variety of ELCC initiatives across federal departments?

First Nation/Inuit Child Care Initiative

- Administered under the AHRDS in 1998; more-or-less a flow through arrangement
- Historic issues regarding the Halifax formula are yet unresolved
- Initial funding model allocated \$6,000 per child care space
- A modest child care space and funding increase occurred in 2003
- In 2007, temporary supplemental funding was provided, which allowed programs to respond to capital/facility, equipment and staff capacity development needs
- The ASETS began in 2010, permanently embedding the supplemental resource into the FNICCI model
- The current authorities of the ASETS enable a maximum of \$6,500/space to be spent on child care operations

Considerations

Program Resourcing

- Funding and supports need to reflect actual needs for quality child care service delivery in both on-reserve and urban environments

Service Reach & Capacity

- Child Care space capacity increases are necessary in order to keep up with growing needs, in all delivery environments

Authorities & Structure

- Child Care, Aboriginal Head-start, On-reserve and Urban elements and other early learning initiatives need to flow to First Nation entities through an effective mechanism

Program Resourcing

Cost per space funding methodology needs to be developed considering program realities, as well as the need for growth and quality improvement.

Inflation has eroded the purchase power of the dollar.

- **Staff Retention and Development:**
Operational salaries, incentives, professional development and training, preparation of a local workforce

Program Resourcing Cont.

- **Special Needs Children:** Assessment capacity is needed, as well as the ability to support children living with unique situations
- **Capital Investments:** Facility replacement, repair, renovation and equipment replacement
- **Northern Cost:** Additional funding needs in northern and remote areas exist due to the elevated cost of doing business in the north
- **Transportation:** Mobility continues to be a barrier for parents and access to service

Program Resourcing Cont.

- **Standard and Regulation Implementation:** Monitoring and professional second level supports are needed to regulate formal daycare operations against quality standards
- **Design and Development:** Programming for quality child care services

Service Reach & Capacity

A greater number of fully resourced child care spaces is needed for true responsiveness.

- **Population Growth:** Rate of First Nation population increase and a young demographic
- **Employment Programming:** Increased investment in on-reserve foundational and skill development programming
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Increasing support for community-based infrastructure projects creates employment

Service Reach & Capacity Cont.

Capacity is needed within First Nation infrastructure to support development of Child Care service delivery frameworks, where needed.

Authorities & Structure

Alignment between Child Care service delivery and a First Nation Labour Market Strategy is necessary to support forward movement of First Nation citizens and communities.

- Child Care accessibility is critical in forming a complete case management continuum for parents preparing for the workforce.
- Access to quality Child Care services continue to be a challenge that often impedes participation in the workforce.

Authorities & Structure Cont.

A permanent national process, within First Nation infrastructure, is required for vetting Early Learning and Child Care business.

- Potential liaison with government
- Communication mechanism
- Table for sharing of best practices, delivery model successes and troubleshooting

Authorities & Structure Cont.

The ASETS has been an effective mechanism to flow First Nation/Inuit Child Care Initiative funding to on-reserve child care programs and has maturity in terms of reporting, accountability and transparency with government and First Nation stakeholders.

There is a need for a predictable, reliable, capable (and known) infrastructure to support the ELCC authority.