



NAN Coordination and Oversight Team (“COT”)

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NAN Coordination and Oversight Team (“COT”)

- There is a need for planning, coordination, mobilization, and oversight to ensure child welfare reforms succeed in addressing discrimination against First Nation children, youth, and families in a good way.
- To address these important issues, NAN has taken preliminary steps to develop a Coordination and Oversight Team (“COT”).
- The COT has been designed to ensure the citizens of NAN First Nations are supported and set up for success in the context of the overhaul of the child welfare system.
- To tackle these issues, the COT will bring together stakeholders from across NAN territory to develop plans and strategies to support NAN First Nation communities.



FNCFS Reforms

- As a result of the ongoing child welfare case before the CHRT, many reforms directed at ending the discrimination in the FNCFS program have already rolled out, and more are expected in coming months and years.
- The reforms include new funding streams available to First Nations for developing programs to support communities (i.e. prevention, post-majority supports, etc.).
- The reforms also include supports for agencies to better serve First Nations, alternative dispute resolution and funding review mechanisms, and other program enhancements.
- However, the scale and volume of reforms present significant challenges for NAN First Nations, Tribal Councils and communities.



Examples of Reforms: FNCFS Funding Streams for First Nations

Prevention	Post-Majority Support	First Nation Representative	Top-Ups	Remoteness	Capital	Housing
Community and family centered prevention services and activities, guided by First Nations based on their unique needs, circumstances, and lived realities.	Supports and services for First Nations youth transitioning out of care and young adults who were formerly in care.	Strengthening First Nation capacity to meet the cultural and related needs when children, youth, and families are involved or at risk of involvement with the child and family services system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty Emergency Fund Information Technology Results 	Upward adjustments applied to funding streams to account for the increased costs associated with remoteness.	Funding for eligible costs related to capital assets that directly support delivery of at least one of the FNCFS Program funding streams.	Funding for First Nation housing-related needs associated with involvement or risk of involvement with the child and family services system.



Past Successes: NAN Covid-19 Task Team

- The challenges associated with the ongoing CHRT child welfare reforms will require a coordinated response, similar to the NAN Covid-19 Task team.
- In response to the crisis brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, NAN developed the Task Team to coordinate and oversee measures to protect NAN First Nation communities.
- Through the COT, NAN will build on the legacy of the COVID-19 Task Team, which brought together expertise and resources to inform, develop, and implement a COVID-19 response strategy amid unprecedented challenges.



Community-Informed and Evidence-Based

- Like the COVID-19 Task Team, the membership of the COT will include knowledge keepers and other experts with the resources and cultural competence to address the challenges associated with child welfare reforms in a good way.
- The COT will also bring together Tribal Councils, First Nations, Band Reps and FNCFS agencies to coordinate responses and monitor issues as they arise.
- The COT presents a unique opportunity to train and mobilize Band Reps, as the first points of contact, on the reforms and how they can support successful implementation.
- Through the COT, NAN and NAN First Nations will be better resourced to build on long-term reform efforts to prevent future discrimination against NAN First Nations children, youth, and families.



Goals of the COT

- Developing community-informed and evidence-based plans to ensure the successful rollout of child welfare reforms;
- Coordinating within NAN territory to understand current and future community needs regarding reforms;
- Mobilizing NAN, NAN First Nations leadership, and NAN communities to address challenges and respond to community needs;
- Ensuring NAN First Nations community members, including the most vulnerable, are safely supported to ensure they are prepared for the reforms being introduced; and
- Reinforcing long-term reform efforts to prevent the recurrence of discrimination against NAN First Nations children, youth, and families.



Multi-Year Approach

Tackling the issues associated with the coming and expected child welfare reforms will require a three-phased approach:

Phase 1 – Immediate: Pre-Rollout Planning, Engagement, and Capacity Building

Phase 2 – Short-Term: Rollout Outreach, Coordination, Supports, and Emergency Management

Phase 3 – Long-Term: Post-Rollout Ongoing Support, Management, and Reform



NAN Winter Chiefs Assembly

- A resolution will be put forward at the Winter Chiefs Assembly, February 6-8, 2024, seeking a mandate from the NAN Chiefs in Assembly to pursue the COT initiative.
- If the resolution passes, NAN will move forward with establishing the COT as expeditiously as possible.



Discussion Questions

1. What barriers or challenges have you experienced in accessing these new funding streams (capital, post-majority, band rep on and off reserve)?
2. How can NAN support you in eliminating barriers for accessing funding and building up programs?
3. Do you have any suggested improvements that would make these processes more accessible?
4. How are you developing prevention programs in your community with the new prevention funding? How can NAN support you in the development of these prevention programs?
5. How are you working with different service providers in the community to deliver programming with these new funding opportunities?
6. What role would you like to see NAN play in supporting your access to and implementation of these new funding opportunities?