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**ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS
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APC Newsletter for the month of May 2010

Welcome to the tenth edition of our APC Newsletter for the month of May 2010. Our intent is to provide you with the most up-to-date information and events at APC.

Update from the Executive Director, John G. Paul for the Month of May 2010.

The past month has been very busy working with First Nations (FN's) impacted by the Snow Crab crisis and engaging the Federal government to make the issue a priority and focus on the immediate and serious needs of the impacted communities. This has involved many meetings with officials, the media and the Minister's of Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Government of Canada) (DIAND). Our efforts to advocate the specific needs of the FN's impacted and to look toward a longer term approach to allow the full participation of the FN's in all the aspects of resource management, the Science related to the Snow Crab and to use this work as a foundation to greater direct FN's inclusion in all aspects of the Atlantic Fishery.

Through the assistance and cooperation of all the communities and the various FN fisheries organizations we were able to clearly detail the concerns and press for action by the DFO. Work will continue in the coming days with the other Federal departments to ensure all actions detailed are fulfilled to assist the First Nations.

On May 19th and 20th, our Chiefs met in Moncton and adopted the following resolutions for action and follow-up. There were five resolutions passed which will be forwarded to the Chiefs for their information.

Resolution #2010-09-Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) Position Paper
Resolution #2010-10-Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy Steering Committee
Resolution #2010-11-Bill S-4: Matrimonial Real Property On-Reserve (MRP)
Resolution #2010-12-Community Based Project Impacts Study (CBPIS) Position Paper

At the session, our Co-Chair Noah Augustine thanked the Chiefs for his participation in the efforts of the APC and the need to continue moving in positive directions for all the First Nations.

At the session, I provided an overview of a number of critical issues facing our First Nations communities in the coming months. In particular, the new programs to be implemented from the Budget 2010 still were not fully operational and First Nations still did not have all the details and the funding identified. I identified key issues raised in the Budget about the long term directions of FN Infrastructure, options for post secondary, and implementation of the new Treasury Board policy.

The new Treasury Board policy will set out a process to assess the capacity of First Nations to make a determination on the type of funding agreement of 1 to 5 years based on a set number of performance measures. I encouraged that a regional session be conducted with all FN's and organizations to fully discuss the implications of the assessment process and the implementation and the impacts on all the organization and each of the FN.

I noted that we had asked the Minister of DIAND to move sooner than later on our Legislative proposal for Election reform. Chiefs stressed the importance of the Chiefs economic strategy and the need for more investments and direct support by DIAND and other key Federal agencies and Provincial governments. A lack of support of the Chief strategy has raised serious concerns as well as serious problems with the reporting and claims process.

In housing and Infrastructure, the work continues collaboratively with Tribal Councils and the FN's to solidify the work of the network and focus on key initiatives and priorities of the Chiefs. The gaps in capacity in funding continue to persist and the effort to ensure data supports the case for additional investments to meet current and future needs of FN's.

In health, the Chiefs continue to focus on the key priorities and strategies detailed through the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB). Improvements in the process will be addressed as part of an evaluation process of MMAHB to improve inclusion and communications. The Chiefs have requested the Minister of Health to come to the region to see the excellent work and results being done in the region by the various FN.

For DIAND, the implementation of the Treasury Board Policy and the development of a new Intervention Policy will have direct impacts on FN's dealing with financial and other issues. There is a great need to ensure the processes and the discussion are completed in an open, transparent and inclusive manner to clearly determine and address the long term implications on all our FN's in the region.

Nationally and regionally, the new Aboriginal economic development framework moves toward implementation and a number of new initiatives for DIAND are being implemented. Additionally, consultations and discussions are underway to determine the focus and scope of all DIAND programming at DIAND. There is a great need for engagement and for our FN's to detail the future focus of efforts. First Nation's input will be important in the coming months to ensure the positive work in economic development continues for all the First Nations in the region.

Upcoming Meetings:

APC Executive Committee Meeting Dates

June 9th, 2010 – APC Head Office,
October 28th, 2010 – APC Head Office
February 17th, 2011 – APC Head Office

APC All Chiefs Forum Meeting Dates

All Chiefs Forum - May 19th & 20th, 2010 - Crown Plaza, Moncton, New Brunswick
All Chiefs and Council - September 28th, 2010 – Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth, NS
All Chiefs Forum - September 29th, 2010 - APC Head Office
All Chiefs Forum - January 26th & 27th, 2011 – APC Head Office

**Section 1 - Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network,
Simon Osmond - Senior Policy Analyst, Norah Ward, Senior Policy Analyst**

Wastewater Systems Effluent regulations (WSER) Update

The publication in the Gazette initiates a formal 60-day public comment period. The proposed regulations have been developed under the Fisheries Act. See link for details on the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2010/2010-03-20/html/reg1-eng.html>.

The deadline for the comment period is May 19, 2010. However, there is still time to provide written comments on the proposed regulations to EC-HQ.

The Regional committee met on May 27th, 2010 for purposes of information sharing specific to the WSER and provided opportunity for discussion on the proposed regulations thus serving as the basis for a consolidated comments report reflecting the Atlantic First Nation outstanding questions & concerns on the regulations.

Wastewater Facilities – Atlantic Region First Nations – update provided by DIAND

An update was provided by DIAND on the wastewater treatment systems located in First Nation communities in the Atlantic Region along with the status of certification of operators related to these facilities.

Currently, there are 18 wastewater facilities of various types in the region (7 in NB, 6 in NS, 3 in NL, 2 in PE) and the majority of these systems are lagoons which discharge its' effluent to rivers, lakes, etc. The classification of these systems is as follows; of the 18 facilities, 5 of these are classified level 2 while the rest (13) are classified level 1. However, it was noted that the information on which the classification were based on the wastewater facilities may be outdated.

The certification level and training of wastewater operators is of major concern, it was noted that only 6 wastewater operators are certified in wastewater collection level 1 and none of the operators are certified in wastewater treatment.

Implementation:

- EC will administer the regulations for wastewater systems under federal government operations, and located on federal lands and on Aboriginal land.
- Publication of the final regulations in Canada Gazette, Part 11 (late 2010);

APC will be developing a comments report on the WSER based on this meeting noted above. This report will be made available as soon as possible. The First Nations regional committee members were also encouraged to provide comment on the proposed regulations.

AFN distributed a consolidated comments report on the draft Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations on May 17, 2010 to all First Nation Chiefs, Tribal Councils and PTO's.

For questions on the proposed regulations in the Atlantic region contact MT Grant at 902-426-9558 or via email mt.grant@ec.gc.ca.

Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations Update

The purpose of the fuel storage tank regulation is to reduce fuel leaks into the environment and to reduce the impact of such spill events. In turn, the regulation is intended to protect the health & welfare of communities, environment and resources. These regulations are covered for both aboveground and underground storage tank systems (2500 litres) and apply on Aboriginal & federal lands, also included privately owned fuel tanks.

Timeframes to meet the regulations:

- June 12, 2008 – leaking storage tank systems must be withdrawn from service;
 - Reporting release of all systems;
 - New systems – need to meet technical requirements, product transfer area requirements and emergency plans
- June 12, 2009 – Storage tank systems identified to EC;
- June 12, 2010 – leak detection test completed, ongoing leak detection or monitoring program in place;
 - All high risk systems removed;
 - Spill containment at product transfer areas in place for all systems.

Based on an update provided May 28th, there are 22 tanks that have been identified. EC indicated that Enforcement is likely to start conducting inspections this summer 2010. Environment Canada plans to hold at least one information session per province in the fall.

For questions on the proposed regulations in the Atlantic region contact Anne MacKinnon at 902-426-5104 or via email anne.mackinnon@ec.gc.ca.

Simon Osmond, Senior Policy Analyst
Phone: 506. 523-1921

Norah Ward, Senior Policy Analyst
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Section 2 – Krista Brookes, Senior Policy Analyst/Legal Advisor

Senate Committee Election Reform Study & Federal Legislative Initiatives

Election Reform Study by the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

On May 13, 2010, the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples released their study entitled, “**First Nations Elections: The Choice is Inherently Theirs.**” The study is based on testimony to the Committee during public hearings. APC Co-Chairs presented to the Committee in October of 2009. The report suggests that the existing two-year term of office imposed on First Nations by the Indian Act is too short to provide political and economic stability, often creating deep divisions in communities.

The study supports APC’s proposed legislative model on most reform areas by making the following recommendations:

- (1) **DIAND assist First Nations who currently hold elections under the Indian Act to revert to “customary” or community-based codes.** The committee believes that enabling First Nations to design and affirm the details of their self-governance regime is the best way to achieve lasting solutions;

- (2) **DIAND create a national or regional First Nations Electoral and Appeals Commission(s)**. According to the committee, establishing an independent body empowered to hear First Nations elections appeals, replacing the current cumbersome and costly process managed by DIAND, could strengthen and promote increased electoral capacity for First Nations and help develop effective, transparent, and accountable First Nations governments and election practices;
- (3) Calls on First Nations Leadership to **ensure appropriate consultation mechanisms are used to make certain all community members** can meaningfully contribute to the development and implementation of community-based codes;
- (4) DIAND, in collaboration with interested regional First Nations organizations, **establish pilot projects to develop and implement First Nations-led electoral initiatives and to guide policy or legislative development in this area;**
- (5) DIAND **ensure that sufficient funding** also be made available for First Nations currently under the customary method of leadership selection to **update their codes** in accordance with standards of procedural fairness, consistency with Canadian law and with effective governance practices;
- (6) DIAND **establish clear targets and timelines for the reversion to community-codes** and underscores that sufficient funding be made available for First Nations currently under the customary method of leadership selection to update their codes to be consistent with Canadian law and effective governance practices;
- (7) DIAND **undertake a review of the Band Support Funding Program** to ensure that First Nations elections, whether conducted by custom or pursuant to the Indian Act, are **appropriately resourced**; and that adequate funding for elections continue to be made available to First Nations once they revert to a community-designed leadership selection process; and
- (8) DIAND provide an **annual progress report to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples** at the end of each fiscal year on the number of First Nations that have reverted to community-based codes in that year and the amount of money the Department has transferred to First Nations to assist them in moving to community-based codes.

To read the full report and list of recommendations, please visit the committee website: www.senate-senat.ca/abor-autoch.asp. The study will be presented to the House of Commons in the near future for the Government of Canada (DIAND) to respond to the report's recommendations.

Update on Federal Legislative Initiatives

(a) Bill C-3 (Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act)

Bill C-3 is the federal government's response to the BCCA ruling in the **Mclvor v. Canada** (Bill C-31) case. The Bill was introduced in Parliament on March 11, 2010 and after second reading on March 29th. On April 29th, 2010, the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples filed its Report on proposed amendments and referred the Bill back to the House of Commons (HOC). The Speaker of the House ruled the 2 out of the 3 proposed amendments from the Committee were beyond the scope of the Bill and ordered the Bill reprinted for third reading. The HOC debated proposed amendments (as reported from the Standing Committee) to Bill C-3 on May 25th, 2010. The next day in which the Bill can be debated again is May 31st, 2010.

First Nation and organizations across Canada have expressed serious concerns with the proposed Bill, but the primary concern is that the bill is too limited in scope (only responds to the very narrow ruling of the BCCA) and will not address all the discrimination that exists in the registration provisions of the **Indian Act**. Other concerns relate to: (1) estimates/projected numbers of new registrants are unclear; (2) no funding has been committed by the Government of Canada to off-set the additional costs to First Nations of new registrants; and (3) no compensation or damages will be awarded (Clause 9 of Bill removes liability).

The federal government was granted an extension by the BCCA and now has **until July 5, 2010** to amend the registration provisions of the Indian Act (pass Bill C-3 into law).

(b) Bill S-4 (Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act)

On March 31, 2010, the federal government introduced [Bill S-4](#), a Bill regarding Matrimonial Real Property On-Reserve. 2nd reading was held on May 5th, 2010 and then the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Human Rights to do a clause by clause review and hear submissions from interested parties on the Bill/proposed amendments. The Standing Committee only held hearings for a few days, with the final day of hearings on May 31st, 2010. Due to limited hearing dates and lack of advance notice of confirmation from the Committee, the APC will present their concerns with the Bill via written submission.

Bill S-4 seeks to address issues related to MRP on-reserves by providing that a First Nation has the power to enact laws relating to the 'use, occupation and possession of family homes on its reserves and the division of the value of any interests or rights held by spouses or common-law partners in or to structures and lands on its reserves.' If a First Nation does not have such laws in place, the federal rules in the Bill will apply.

When married couples divorce, the division of matrimonial property, both real (land and houses) and personal is determined according to provincial law. However, in the case of *Derrickson v. Derrickson*, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that courts cannot rely on provincial law to order the division of MRP on-reserves because the Parliament of Canada, pursuant to section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, has **exclusive legislative authority with respect to "Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians."**

The absence of any provisions in the Indian Act or elsewhere governing the division of matrimonial real property on-reserve has resulted in a ``legislative gap.``

First Nation communities and organizations across Canada spoke out against this Bill's predecessor, Bill C-8. In May of 2009, APC, pursuant to a resolution passed by the Chiefs rejecting Bill C-8, undertook efforts to raise awareness with MPs about our concerns/issues with the Bill and seeking them to vote against the Bill. Once again, the APC Chiefs passed a resolution at their meeting in May 2010 rejecting Bill S-4 for the same reasons as its predecessor. As mentioned above, APC will present its concerns with this Bill to the Standing Committee via written submission the week of June 1st.

(c) Bill S-11 (An Act respecting the safety of drinking water on first nation lands)

On May 26th, 2010, the Government of Canada introduced Bill S-11 in the Senate. This legislation would make it possible for the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to move forward on development of federal regulations that will provide a comparable level of protection for drinking water in First Nation communities as enjoyed by other Canadians. At the same time, the Government of Canada announced the two year extension of the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan.

While legislation for drinking water and wastewater has been developed in provinces and territories, **legislation governing drinking water and wastewater in First Nation communities does not currently exist**. Although the federal government has a [Protocol for Safe Drinking Water for First Nation Communities](#) which sets out clear standards for the design, operation and maintenance of drinking water systems, and the Procedure Manual for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities based on the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, there is no legislative framework to ensure compliance with the protocol.

The federal government would review the provincial and territorial regulations to identify areas that can be adapted into federal regulations, while at the same time, allowing for regional differences, and recognizing the unique water challenges facing many First Nation communities.

The proposed bill would:

- provide First Nation communities with drinking water and wastewater standards comparable to provincial or territorial standards off reserves;
- provide more opportunities for First Nation communities and municipalities to work together in areas such as training and sharing systems;
- establish a common base to evaluate the effectiveness of the operation, design and maintenance of water and wastewater systems; and
- allow for regional flexibility, as federal regulations could vary from province to province and territory to territory.

The AFN National Chief's response to the Bill is that it will not, in its current form, meet the stated objective of ensuring First Nations have access to safe drinking water. It does not specify how First Nations will be equipped with the facilities, skills and resources to meet those regulations. First Nations need infrastructure, training and support to meet the requirements of the new regulations.

The AFN has stated that regulations without the capacity and financial resources to support them will only set up First Nations to fail and to be punished for this. The Bill must address the 'capacity gap' as well as the 'regulatory gap'. In addition, it does not include a plan to reduce the unacceptably high numbers or the duration of First Nations drinking water advisories; does not help to license operators; does not provide resources to improve operations and maintenance; does not lower the number of water and wastewater treatment systems currently at risk; and could negatively impact First Nations water rights.

This legislation has also failed to take advantage of the recommendations made by the government's own Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water in 2006. It provides a solid starting point to address First Nations water issues.

There is also a national audit that assesses the capacity and needs for clean drinking water in First Nations communities that is current underway and is near completion. This is an important piece of information that all parties must have in order to have a full understanding of the current situation as a baseline of information.

Once the legislation receives Royal Assent, the Government of Canada states it will undertake further consultations with First Nations, regional First Nation organizations, provinces and territories, and other stakeholders on the development of the federal regulatory regime.

Please check out our website for regular updates and related information: www.apcfnc.ca. Should you have any questions, comments, feedback or require further information, please contact Krista.Brookes@apcfnc.ca by email or phone: 1-877-667-4007.

Section 3 - AAEDN; Economic Development, RPMAC - Cheryl Knockwood, Senior Policy Analyst, Penny Polchies, Economic Development Policy Analyst

Economic Development Portfolio Monthly Report for May 2010

For the month of May, APCFNC Economic Development staff coordinated the following numerous conference calls and meetings:

May 11th, 2010 - Staff organized a Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting where 38 projects were reviewed by the committee.

May 14th, 2010 - Staff organized a conference call for Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Developers Network (AAEDN) to discuss community success stories and next steps on Strategy implementation.

May 14th, 2010 - Staff organized a Goal 4- Sub Committee Pilot Project conference call to discuss roll out and next steps on the Pilot Project.

AAEDN Co-chair Sacha Labillois gave an update on AAEDN activities and the Strategy to the All Chiefs Forum in Moncton on May 19th, 2010. A resolution was passed by the Chiefs supporting the Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy Steering Committee.

May 26th, 2010 - Staff coordinated a Regional Program Management Advisory Committee (RPMAC) where numerous issues were discussed related to program funding; the ranking score card and next steps.

May 27th, 2010 - Staff coordinated a Goal 1 Lands and Resources Committee conference call. The committee discussed possible funding sources Land and Resources Management Tool Kit.

For further information on any of the above mentioned initiatives please contact Cheryl Knockwood at Cheryl.knockwood@apcfn.ca, Penny Polchies at penny.polchies@apcfn.ca or Oasoeg Milliea at Oasoeg.milliea@apcfn.ca.

For a listing of upcoming meetings, please check the APCFNC website at www.apcfn.ca.

Section 4 - The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP - Gillian Austin, AAEDIRP Research Co-ordinator, John Sylliboy, AAEDIRP Research Assistant

Professional Development

Darcy Pirie attended the Methods in Immersion Teaching course offered through Saint Thomas University on May 15-16, 2010. This course is one of thirteen credit courses offered in the Native Language Immersion Teacher Training Certificate Program. For more information about the program please contact your Education Director or Andrea Bear Nicholas, Chair in Native Studies at Saint Thomas University, (506) 452-0429.

John Sylliboy started a new course “Contemporary Perspectives of Life Long Learning” at Mount Saint Vincent University. John is working on obtaining his Master of Education degree in Educational Foundations.

Research Projects

Four of the AAEDIRP research projects are complete and the final reports will be available on the APC website in the next few weeks. For the research dissemination phase of the projects, the AAEDIRP will be hosting workshops to seek input on the best ways and formats to get results to all stakeholders including community members and leadership.

Completed projects include:

- A Study of the Atlantic Aboriginal Post-Secondary Labour Force
- Critical Success Factors in the First Nations Fishery of Atlantic Canada: Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Perceptions * IS ON THE APC WEBSITE
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies
- Examining Business Partnerships Arrangements between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses
- Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success: This project is at the peer review stage and is expected to be release in June.

Research Projects in Progress:

The Social Impacts of Economic Development

This project is lead by St. FX University and focuses on case studies with three APC communities, Millbrook First Nation, Tobique First Nation and Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River). It will be completed in winter 2011.

Best Practices and Challenges in Mi'kmaw and Maliseet Language Immersion Programs

This project is lead by St. FX University. Strong educational attainment goes hand in hand with robust economic development. The immediate goal of this study is to build knowledge in Mi'kmaw and Maliseet communities around implementing and cultivating successful immersion programs. There is urgency to this research because of the imminent demise of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet languages. The project will be completed in winter 2011.

Immersion Update from Darcy: The research team met in Moncton on May 19th, 2010. The meeting was to go over the data collected for objectives 1 & 2 of the project which is to document the successes and challenges of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet immersion programs so they can be shared in our own and other communities and to explore the impact of the immersion programs on student identity, fluency, and academic achievement. The literature review is well underway and an interim report will be submitted to AAEDIRP next month.

Newly Funded Research Project: More than Wind: Evaluating Renewable Energy Opportunities for First Nations in the Atlantic Region.

Provincial governments in the Atlantic Provinces are adopting aggressive renewable energy targets and strategies to meet those targets. Are First Nations participating in the renewable energy sector? If not, what are the barriers to that participation and how can we overcome those barriers. Several First Nations have begun to identify renewable energy opportunities and are working to meet renewable energy targets set by their respective provinces. What can we learn from them?

This project has the following objectives:

1. To assess renewable energy targets for the Province of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia;
2. To identify how First Nations can participate in the economic benefits from investment in renewable energy;
3. To assess the capacity of our First Nations to participate in new development opportunities;
4. To identify new renewable energy technologies and how are they applied;
5. To clarify the role of the federal, provincial, and First Nations governments;
6. To clarify the role of industry;
7. To identify opportunities/challenges First Nations may face in participating in renewable energy development; and
8. To provide recommendations for greater participation.

This is the first AAEDIRP project partnering with an Aboriginal graduate student. The project will be lead by Diana Campbell, Master of Resource and Environmental Management Candidate Spring 2010, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University. Diana is from Indian Brook First Nation and worked with provincial, federal, and First Nations governments in an intergovernmental capacity, and has worked in the private and non-profit sector.

Developing Research Projects: Seeking Input from Elders

The AAEDIRP is still working towards a project that will have Elders leading the way. The project will focus on how Elders would like to be consulted for research involving Traditional Knowledge and Aboriginal worldviews. Elders will determine the process and outcomes, which could include a guide or protocols on how to incorporate Elders in research projects and/or community economic development.

John and Gillian met with Albert and Murdena Marshall on May 3rd in Eskasoni to engage in discussions for Elder representation from the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. They also met with Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy in Waycobah on May 5th to provide him with an update of the Elder's project and to seek input from the Grand Council's perspective.

Research Dissemination: ANTEC

Darcy and John attended the Annual Native Teachers Education Conference on May 20-21, 2010. The conference was hosted in Memramcook, NB by Bob Atwin and the First Nations Education Initiative. Some highlights included a keynote address by AFN Chief Shawn Atleo; Eel Ground School Drama Club presented their award winning play “The Artistic Director”; an overview of the immersion program in Eskasoni; the SayltFirst Inc. program: language revitalization, and “The Leader in Me” presentation. Research assistants Starr Sock and Sherise Paul-Gould presented their work on **Best Practices and Challenges in Mi’kmaq and Maliseet Language Immersion Programs**. John Sylliboy and Research Assistant Pat Sark presented on the AAEDIRP, **A Study of the Atlantic Aboriginal Post-Secondary Labour Force** and the AAEDIRP had an information table.

University Partners/Research Networks

AAEDIRP staff held a meeting on May 17th at Dalhousie University to engage faculty on how research networks can be built at Dalhousie to support work with Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Martha Crago, VP of Research, is supporting this initiative and future meetings to discuss supports needed for Aboriginal students, how to increase the number of Aboriginal faculty and increasing Aboriginal course content at Dalhousie will take place.

Section 5 - Health Update – Phyllis Harlow, A/Senior Health Policy Analyst

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator

Of all the issues with First Nations clients regarding drugs and medical supplies, orthodontics is still the most difficult one to address as there are a lot of criteria that has to be met in order to obtain coverage.

A Community visit was held in Yarmouth (Acadia Band). It was attended by 10 people and we received good feedback in the conversation as well as in the evaluation sheets we collected.

There is a rise in cataract surgeries and problems. According to our First Nation clients, they are having cataract surgery using soft lenses as recommended by the eye surgeon. There is a cost associated with this (about \$300.00 per eye) and they are being charged after the fact. It has caused financial hardship and stress mainly on our Elders. We have addressed this issue with Health Canada and we are working with them to ensure that the surgeons are properly explaining the cost that comes with choosing soft lenses over hard ones (which are covered).

Mental Health Intervener Project (MHIP)

During the month of May, the Pictou Landing “Go Tos” had their orientation session which was a huge success. The group was so enthusiastic about the “Go To” program that they decided to meet every Monday evening as a group to discuss mental health and their community. Once the modules have been delivered to the master trainers on June 4th, we can then proceed with the training of the “Go Tos” on the 13 modules. First up for the training program will be Pictou Landing as the “Go Tos” felt that it would keep the momentum up as well as the enthusiasm of the group. The “Go To” list for Millbrook is still to be finalized. We are expecting to have an orientation session following June 4th and then roll right into the training modules as well. Indian Brook has held their orientation session and is set to take the module training after June 4th as well. Finalizing the training modules has been time consuming. The cultural advisory committee has met numerous times to ensure that nothing has been missed in regard to cultural appropriateness.

As well, the master trainers have met and have been working hard providing feedback on the modules to ensure that they are easily understood and easily taught, as well as ensuring the material is appropriate to the “Go To” program.

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF)

The AHTF Nova Scotia Aboriginal Health Framework committee met twice in the month of May. Both meetings were on the draft Framework and on the development of the briefing note from the province to the Chiefs. The Framework is almost complete and work has begun on the ratification process.

The H1N1 Debriefing was held for PEI and NS on May 6/7 it was well attended and much was discussed along with the future of the business Continuity Plans (template) and communication issues.

Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB)

MMAHB's Primary Health Care and Public Health Committee met on May 6th in Bouctouche, NB. Discussion was again held on the ability of posting MMAHB minutes on the APC web site. Dr. Gillian Bailey discussed the Methadone Risk Management Project and the big issue was how is NNADAP personnel being trained or educated in order to deal with persons on Methadone treatment. Although treatment centres are not allowed to enroll persons who are on some types of medications (and this is one of those meds) it is possible to include them at some later date. The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) regulations may have to change nationally. Regionally, On-Reserve Home and Community Care under FNIH, is working on a business case to enable another person similar to the current FNIH position to be hired in NB. Eye Glass and Protocol for unclaimed eye glasses was discussed and as the National policy is to send them to third world countries. It was recommended that the Health Directors be reminded of the eye glasses and if they want to do anything such as having clients pick them up, this has to be done before August, at which time they will be send to a third world country.

Welcome to Lauren Ward, summer student, who is working on the Elder's Handbook, which is one of the priorities from MMAHB. She will be with us until the end of August.

Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)

AHHRI has been renewed for an additional two-year period; therefore, a new workplan has been developed. AHHRI has touched base with Actua (SuperNOVA, X-Chem, Worlds UNBound) and plans have begun for summer science camps/workshops in First Nations communities around the region. On May 17th, Joan attended a Research Networking Meeting at Dalhousie University which addressed the creation of new research networks for Atlantic Aboriginal People.

On May 20th, Joan, along with Kara Paul, the Aboriginal Health Sciences Initiative Coordinator at Dalhousie University presented information on AHHRI at the Atlantic Native Teachers' Education Conference (ANTEC).

Strategic Planning

The health planning process is back on track again following some confusion over the role APC plays. We are now working towards a Corporate Project Based Transitional Funding Agreement which would allow more long term funding agreement and more freedom to carry funds over from one fiscal year to the next and also use funds where they are most needed.

Youth Coordinator

The Youth Coordinator continued to work with Madeline Yakimchuk from Gryphon Media Productions to finalize the tool-kit film titled: First Nations Youth Guiding Youth: Accessing and Surviving Post-Secondary Education. This film was produced by MMAYC in conjunction with APC to encourage and motivate First Nations youth to start thinking about, accessing and accomplishing their educational goals at the post-secondary level.

MMAYC hopes to provide the film to all educators and youth through the First Nations Education Directors, First Nations guidance councilors working both on and off reserves, schools that have First Nations students and youth coordinators. The goal is to present the film at Career Fairs, youth rally's and school visits and to host facilitated discussions on what our First Nations communities could do more of to encourage and to help their students finish post-secondary. This would include a report that would be accessible to all First Nations Communities.

The Youth Coordinator attended Eskasoni's 3rd Annual Youth Rally & Career Fair, "Strive for self-healing!" featuring Red Power Squad on Saturday May 11th, 2010 to present the video. Ashley has showcased the tool-kit film at the 2010 A.N.T.E.C. (Atlantic Native Teachers' Education Conference) held in Memramcook, May 19th – 20th 2010 and at the All Chiefs meeting held at Crowne Plaza, Moncton New Brunswick, May 20th, 2010.

Other areas:

Planning for the Annual Atlantic First Nations Health Conference has begun. The conference will take place at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton October 19-21. This year's theme will be "The Cycle of Life: Journey to Health and Wellness." The APC staff is presently working with the suggestions from the Health Conference Planning Committee and the next meeting will be held via teleconference on June 18, 2010.

The next Health Directors meeting will be held at Abegweit First Nation in PEI on June 15-16. Some of the areas that will be covered are Family Health and Mental Health as well as a professional development session focusing on developing policies and procedures for Health Centres.

Section 6 - Indian Residential School Update - Georgianna Barlow, Policy Analyst & Vanessa Nevin, Policy Analyst

Outreach Residential School Atlantic Committee

The ORSAC consists of a partnership of survivors, First Nation leadership representation, academic representation, Government Agencies and First Nation Agencies and Organizations who wish to provide access and facilitate information to former students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in the Atlantic region. APC staff continues to gather feedback from ORSAC members and send electronic IRS updates to the committee members.

Communications Materials

In further efforts to promote the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and supports available to IRS survivors, their families and communities, APC has hired Vibe Creative Group to develop an IRS poster, brochure and other communication materials. Vibe completed a "branding session" with the ORSAC to collaboratively develop materials that would meet the needs of former IRS students / descendants & frontline workers. Furthermore, APC is working with Gryphon Media Productions to develop an IRS film that highlights the health supports available to former IRS students / descendants.

The key message to these materials is to let former IRS students / descendants that there is support for them as they journey through the various components of IRS Settlement Agreement. This video will discuss health supports under Health Canada's Resolution Health Support Program (RHSP) and include interviews with IRS survivors / descendants on the Indian Residential School issue in Canada and its impacts. The film will highlight the stories of survivors and their journey and the message that they convey is one of hope and healing. These communications tools are expected to be widely distributed throughout the Atlantic in June 2010.

Truth & Reconciliation Canada (TRC)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Community Event Proposal Guide is now posted on the TRC website. Community events provide an opportunity for communities to collectively contribute to the truth and reconciliation process. Community records or statement of community narratives will contribute to the TRC final report which will include recommendations to the Government of Canada, these records will then be included in the National Research Centre for future generations. Although funding for Community Events is limited, all communities are welcome and encouraged to create events and undertake activities that contribute to the truth and reconciliation process. Also, the Preliminary Draft agenda for the first National Event in Winnipeg from June 15th to the 19th can be found on the TRC website at www.trc.ca.

Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW)

APC is pleased to announce Connie Francis was the successful candidate for the NB RHSW staff position and she is starting June 1st. Connie will provide services role for IRS survivors & descendants living in NB, Gaspé region of Quebec, and USA. Connie can be reached by telephone at 1(877)667-4007. She will be working out of APC's Elsipogtog sub-office.

IAP Outreach Sessions

APC anticipates continuing on with community outreach in the Summer/Fall 2010 once confirmation of INAC funding for outreach is received.

IRS Free Legal Service

Heather McNeill from Dalhousie Legal Aid is providing free legal service for survivors making appeals under the Settlement Agreement, for example, a former IRS student attended a non-recognized school. Heather can be reached by email at hmcneill@dal.ca or by telephone at (902)423-8105.

Section 7 – Fisheries Update – Ian Wentzell

Fisheries Management System (FMS)

FMS team continues to provide online help and service support for the Fisheries Management Software. The Fisheries Network Team is always accessible for FMS support through the live help link and support link. Users can also send an email to FMSHelp@apcfnc.ca for immediate help or to schedule more specific FMS Module training. The team is currently in the early development stages for a new version of FMS. The new version will be built on web based technology which should allow users more flexibility with choice of operating system to run the software on.

For further information please contact Amy Moulton; amy.moulton@apcfnc.ca or Gerald Cloud, Gerald.cloud@apcfnc.ca phone 902-435-8021.

The Fishing Knowledge Network

We continue to work with the other AAROM's to assist the First Nation's communities impacted by the 63% quota cut to snow crab in the Gulf of St Lawrence, The APC and AAROMs met with senior officials from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on May 28th in Moncton at the Hotel Beauséjour (Delta). The conference was facilitated to follow-up with the previous meeting that was held in Summerside, PEI with the Honorable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The focus of the Moncton meeting was to address to DFO officials that FN communities have the solutions, capacity, science and an equal concern for conservation of the fishery resource.

The group indicated to DFO that First Nation's are interested in participating with the department in developing a model for co-management of the resource. The department must be open to resource management of the fishery from a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet & Passamaquoddy perspective.

For further information please contact Ian Wentzell; ian.wentzell@apcfnc.ca or phone 902-435-8021.

AICFI Component 2.4

The Fisheries Knowledge Network (FKN) works continuously to ensure that Training Plans are being utilized with aspects to training, according to the needs of the community, as described in detail in their training Plans. First Nation communities which have access to the AICFI Program benefit from the delivery of training within their respectful communities. Currently, there are mentoring deployments in the communities of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag, and Malicites de Viger.

For further information please contact Alden Paul; alden.paul@apcfnc.ca or phone (902)435-8021.

Additional Information:

Please feel free to contact the staff member below by phone/fax or email should you have any questions or concerns.

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