



June 25, 2024

Dear Alberta First Nations Chiefs,

RE: Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Funding for 2024-25

Thank you for inviting me to present on May 13, 2024 at the All Chiefs Summit meeting on Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC). A copy of the presentation is enclosed.

As a follow up to our discussions, I am writing **to confirm the direction needed from First Nations Leadership in Alberta to advance the 2024-25 IELCC Alberta regional funding allocation which totals \$69,552,385**, and respond to your interest in amending the funding formula in place since 2019-20. A consensus decision regarding the funding allocation formula is needed to enable federal departments to advance 2024-25 funding and mitigate the risk of funds lapsing. I encourage you and your technicians to confirm a multi-year regional funding formula, in order to support funding predictability and long-term strategic planning.

Background on the IELCC Initiative

Guided by the co-developed [IELCC Framework](#), the IELCC Initiative is an Indigenous-led initiative with the ultimate goal of transferring control of IELCC to First Nations authorities. IELCC funding is permanent and ongoing, which means First Nations can develop long-term strategic plans and First Nations-led systems. Decisions on funding allocations, workplans and priorities are to be made by First Nations Leadership. I would like to highlight that dedicated funding for governance and partnership activities is available to support the building or strengthening of First Nations led ELCC systems and governance.

A. For Decision: IELCC Funding Envelopes (Program/Services, Governance & Transformative Action Fund):

In February, ESDC communicated to the Senior Technical Table (STT), that the Government of Canada is seeking direction on the Alberta regional funding allocation method for the 2024-25 Alberta First Nations ELCC funding (outlined below). Confirmation of the funding distribution will allow federal departments to advance funding.

IELCC Funding envelope: ¹	Alberta First Nations 2024-25 allocation	Seeking Leadership Direction
Programs/Services	\$52,202,742	September 30, 2024 or sooner
Partnerships/ Governance	\$3,440,064 ²	
Transformative Action Fund	\$779,000	
Capital	\$13,130,579	July 15, 2024 and September 30, 2024 (see additional information in section below)
TOTAL	\$69,552,385	

To-date, funds have been advanced based on Treaty level priorities identified by First Nations in 2019. **Updated strategic plans are required** addressing all funding streams: a) programs/services, b) governance/partnerships and c) the Transformative Action Fund and d) capital to access 2024-25 funding once a regional allocation formula is identified. Federal officials are available to work with technicians to support this process.

Note: there are **specific planning requirements for capital funds** outlined below.

B. For Decision: 2024-25 Major Capital Funding

The **2024-25 IELCC major capital allocation for First Nations in Alberta is \$13,130,579³**. To support the timely advancement of this infrastructure funding, we are seeking direction from First Nations Leadership in Alberta confirming if First Nations will take decisions on capital or if an alternative mechanism is required by **July 15, 2024**. In other words, will it be First Nations Leadership who determine which body or organization will make decisions on project selection/funds allocation, how funding will be administered, and how projects will be overseen (e.g., central delivery through one recipient/body; through a third party; etc.).

I would like to draw your attention to an existing resource that may support decisions on the use of capital funding, specifically Nation level facility assessments funded through IELCC Repairs and Renovations AHSOR funding.

¹ These funds are in addition to legacy funding for AHSOR, AHSUNC, and FNICCI which remain and are ongoing.

² As per Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Resolution R#01/2024/04/10 (attached), \$200,000 was advanced from the 2024-25 IELCC governance funding to the Blackfoot Confederacy ISC-FNIHB agreement to support a May 2024 All-Chiefs IELCC Summit.

³ As per Assembly of First Nations direction of the Executive Committee Motion 5 to employ the interim First Nations ELCC funding model for 2024-25 major capital funding.

Capital plans are requested by **September 30, 2024** to NC-IELCC-AGJEA-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca. We have shared the attached capital checklist with Alberta First Nations IELCC technicians to support planning (e.g., project identification and prioritization approach, identification of operating funds, outline project oversight/management, and addressing risk management).

Please note, if we do not receive direction from First Nations Leadership in Alberta by the dates noted above, the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs resolution M#3/2019/06/12 (attached), and recent regional First Nations leadership direction⁴, will be applied to all 2024-25 funding, including major capital (see annex). For 2024-25, federal departments will use existing Treaty and community level contribution agreements with ISC and Service Canada to advance IELCC funds.

Alberta First Nations IELCC Contacts & Continuation of the STT

Canada currently provides information on IELCC via the STT, as directed by AoTC resolution M#3/2019/06/12, and will continue to do so until a new resolution is in place with direction to work in a different way. We are open to new ways of working together, while noting the need to secure regional consensus and decisions on the IELCC regional funding formula for First Nations in Alberta. Please confirm direction, including lead IELCC representatives for ongoing implementation.

My federal colleagues and I look forward to receiving direction to ensure IELCC funding reaches communities and continues to support First Nation children and families in Alberta. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Cheri Reddin
Director General
Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat
Employment and Social Development Canada

C.C. Dr. Tom Wong
Chief Medical Officer of Public Health
Indigenous Services Canada

⁴ See annex.

Dr. Parminder Thiara
A/Regional Executive Officer
Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region

Mark Nafekh
Director General
Public Health Agency of Canada

Althea Williams
A/Director General
Service Canada

Robert Allen
Director General, Western Canada and Territories
Service Canada

Enclosed:

- 1. Presentation: Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC): A Briefing for Alberta All-Chiefs Summit*
- 2. Capital Checklist (“Guidance to inform the development of workplans and advance associated funding in support of new IELCC Infrastructure Investments”)*
- 3. Assembly of Treaty Chiefs resolution M#3/2019/06/12*
- 4. Annex: Application of Status quo First Nations IELCC Funding Formula for new and existing funding.*

Annex: Application of Status quo First Nations IELCC Funding Formula for new and existing funding

If we do not receive alternative direction from First Nations Leadership in Alberta by the dates noted above, the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs resolution M#3/2019/06/12 (attached), and recent regional direction⁵, will continue to guide funding allocations, including for major capital funding, in fiscal year 2024-25, as outlined below.

Programs/Services (Budget 2017 & 2021):	From each Budgets 2017 and 2021, \$75,000 per Nation plus proportional population and remoteness factor (children ages 0 to 6 from 2018 IRS figures). 12 AHSUNC sites receiving \$35,000 per site with \$420,000 under Budget 2017 plus \$420,000 under Budget 2021 = \$840,000
Governance/ Partnerships, including 2023-24 capital planning funds:	\$75,000 for STT, rest split equally among Treaties 6, 7, 8. Treaty 7 amount split equally between Blackfoot Confederacy and G4. ⁶ Note: As per Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Resolution R#01/2024/04/10 (attached), of the total 2024-25 allocation, \$200,000 was advanced from the 2024-25 IELCC governance funding to the Blackfoot Confederacy ISC-FNIHB agreement to support a May 2024 All-Chiefs IELCC Summit.
Transformative Action Fund	A base of \$10,000 per Nation plus proportional population and remoteness factor (children ages 0 to 6 from 2018 IRS figures).
Capital funds 2024-25	A base of \$75,000 per Nation plus proportional population and remoteness factor (children ages 0 to 6 from 2018 IRS figures). ⁷

⁵ Email, September 6, 2023, STT IELCC Acceptance Letter Budget 2023-2024; Email, December 12, 2023, Direction on 2023-24 Transformative Action Fund and capital planning funds; Email, July 29, 2022, Alberta IELCC Budget for 2022-2023; Email, September 29, 2021, Year 4 (2021/2022) Status Quo – Letter from STT IELCC and Supporting documents – includes Resolution R#04/2019/11/20; Letter from STT, January 2022, Direction on Fall Economic Statement and Budget 2021 funds; other incoming direction available on request.

⁶ As per TCVI Tribal Council Resolution 2023/2024-20240308-2, Canada has been direct by TCVI Nations to advance governance funds to Tribal Chiefs Employment & Training Services Association for member Nations. Unless otherwise directed, funding would be advanced based on Assembly of Treaty Chiefs resolution M#3/2019/06/12.