

**Chiefs Summit Indigenous Early Learning & Child Care (IELCC) 2024**  
**Blackfoot Treaty, Treaty 6, Treaty 7/G4, Treaty 8**  
**Red Deer, AB**  
**Day 1**  
**Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

MORNING:

Summary:

The meeting began with a prayer led by the Blackfoot Confederacy, expressing gratitude to the elders of Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 for conducting a pipe ceremony. The meeting then resumed with a message of thanks and a request for everyone to continue with their activities. The meeting section involved the preparation for a grand entry, with discussions about the IELCC initiative and the participation of chiefs and proxies.

The meeting continued with acknowledgments and thanks to the diverse cultures present. The agenda for the adoption was reviewed, and the importance of the Indigenous early learning and child care discussion was emphasized.

The meeting section focused on the importance of developing institutions for early learning and childcare, with leadership emphasizing the significance of making decisions for the benefit of children and future generations. Bruce Ironshirt, Director of the Family and Community Support Services Department of the Blood Tribe Administration, provided an update on the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) and the funding models for First Nations early learning and child care. The discussion focused on the representation and responsibilities of the AFN, with concerns raised about the lack of a regional chief and the role of the NEWG/AFN. The meeting section focused on the IELCC Initiative, discussing the need for decisions to be made on various issues, including funding and the impact of the new legislation (Bill C-35) on IELCC.

The presentation focused on the IELCC Framework, emphasizing the federal government's commitment to self-determination and collaboration with Indigenous leaders. It highlighted the framework's objectives, funding allocations, and strategic considerations for governance and administration. The meeting section provides an overview of the funding for First Nation early learning and child care, including the history of investments, emergency responses during the pandemic, and incremental funding provided through budget 2021. The discussion focused on the allocation of governance funding in Manitoba and New Brunswick and how the Chiefs can direct the funds to build capacity.

The meeting section discusses the ongoing funding for IELCC and the need for clarity and direction on a funding allocation methodology. It also highlights the importance of supporting budgets and work plans for child care workers and the need for recommendations and formulas to be presented to chief and councils regarding ongoing funding. The meeting concluded with closing remarks from a speaker expressing gratitude to colleagues, technicians, and chiefs, followed by an introduction of federal representatives. The speaker also acknowledges the traditional territory and elders present.

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AFTERNOON:

Summary:

Leadership emphasized the importance of respecting the land and honoring treaty obligations, protecting resources for future generations, and leaving a positive legacy. Chiefs and Proxy Chiefs also highlighted the ancestral treaties and agreements of their tribe, expressing disappointment in the American and Canadian governments for not honoring them. The Blackfoot Confederacy's continued commitment to honoring these agreements was stressed, and the meeting concluded with plans for caucuses.

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**Day 2**  
**Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

MORNING:

Summary:

The meeting was led by Chairs: Cam Alexis and Clayton Blood, the focus on the allocation of Indigenous early learning and child care funding for the year 2024-2025 and beyond. The meeting began with a prayer and welcome, followed by a detailed recap of the previous day's events and an outline of the agenda for the current day's discussions. The meeting delved into the complexities of funding agreements and treaty areas, with discussions centered around the effectiveness of different models and options. The meeting also highlighted the significance of maintaining quorum and reaching recommendations from the treaty areas to ensure fair distribution of funding.

IELCC technicians provided an information binder to leadership which provided comprehensive information supporting recommendations on Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare, emphasizing the urgency to ensure fiscal year funding is provided to First Nations in a timely manner. The recommendation included:

**1. To rescind AoTC OFFICIAL MOTION M#3/2019/06/12 Indigenous Early Learning Child Care Funding Allocation**

- a. **Recommendation:** Each Treaty Region make agreement (accountability), an agreed upon funding allocation with any Aboriginal Head Start Urban Northern Community (AHSUNC) that has identified their First Nation child registered at an AHSUNC site.

**2. IELCC Funding Allocations from 2024-2025 and beyond:**

- a. **Recommendation:** New IELCC Funding Allocations that determined by an equitable allocation process (i.e. population as a priority)
- b. **Recommendation:** IELCC Funding Allocations be determined by either Yearly and/or multi-year options
- c. **Recommendation:** Implementation of a facilitated process for a Alberta Specific Allocation Model, funding allocations that are equitable and fair to the Treaty areas of Blackfoot Treaty, Treaty 6, Treaty 7, Treaty 8.
- d. **Recommendation:** Using the most up to date **Indian Registry Population numbers 2022**

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3. **IELCC Regional Representation** – a representative that is responsible for the dissemination of local, regional, and national information on the IELCC Framework, ensuring that all First Nations receive information in a timely manner.
  - a. **Recommendation:** guidance and direction from Treaty Chiefs leadership.
4. **IELCC Senior Technical Table**
  - a. **Recommendation:** the IELCC table remains a collaborative and informative body; continuing to report and provide recommendations. With guidance and direction from own respective Treaty area leadership. Working in partnership with integrity, respect and honoring the sovereignty and autonomy of all 48 First Nations which includes: Blackfoot Treaty, Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8.

AFTERNOON:

Summary:

The meeting focused on resolutions and funding allocation, with Chief Fox proposing to fine-tune a draft resolution and put it to a vote to expedite the decision-making process. The Chiefs discussed the importance of asserting sovereignty and not relying on the failing AFN process, emphasizing the need for flexibility in creating a funding formula that works for each region and treaty area. They also discussed the impact of their decisions on children and neighboring First Nations, emphasizing the collaborative approach taken by some communities to support others within Treaty 8. The group expressed frustration over the influence of the national level on their decision-making process, particularly in the context of serving children.

The section of the meeting focused on a draft resolution addressing Indigenous early learning and child care funding allocations, stressing the urgency to secure funding for the 24-25 fiscal year. The resolution suggests funding allocation based on population and allows each treaty region to negotiate separate agreements with AHS UNC entities for funding allocations. There is a strong emphasis on the need for flexibility to address the unique needs of each treaty area or region, particularly in urban settings, and to ensure that First Nations children are supported based on their respective sites.

The meeting also discussed the quorum count and the withdrawal of a motion due to the lack of quorum. The group acknowledged the obstacles faced in decision-making and the impact on the best interests of the children. A passionate plea was made by a member on behalf of the younger generation, drawing attention to the lack of support and space for children and grandchildren of the group. The meeting concluded with a recommendation for better attendance and commitment

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from leaders in future meetings, with Chief Fox urging for improved participation and dedication from leaders.

Overall, the meeting highlighted the challenges faced by Treaty First Nations people and governments in decision-making processes, particularly in the context of serving children. The group emphasized the need for flexibility and collaboration to address the unique needs of each treaty area or region, and the importance of asserting sovereignty and not relying on the failing AFN process. The meeting also underscored the obstacles faced in decision-making and the impact on the best interests of the children, with a call for better attendance and commitment from leaders in future meetings.

#### Quorum and Motion Withdrawal

The discussion revolved around the quorum count and the withdrawal of a motion. There was uncertainty about the quorum count, with conflicting information about the number of attendees. Ultimately, the motion was withdrawn due to the lack of quorum, as confirmed by Chief Fox from the Kainai/Blood Tribe.

#### Quorum and Decision-Making

Chief Jacko addresses the completion of business conducted in the last day and a half, but expresses concern over the loss of quorum, which has hindered progress on important decisions for the children. The chair emphasizes the lack of progress since 2019 and the challenges in achieving unity and due process, highlighting the frustration in moving forward. Chief Fox also expresses disappointment in the lack of importance placed on making important decisions, leading to the withdrawal of a motion due to the absence of a quorum.

#### Advocating for the Young Generation

In a heartfelt plea, a member speaks on behalf of the younger generation, highlighting the challenges faced by children and grandchildren of the group. The speaker expresses frustration at the missed opportunity to take action to support the young people due to the absence of a quorum, thanking those present and emphasizing the need for collective effort to address the issue.

#### Discussion on Treaty-based Funding and Leadership Responsibilities

Chief Roy Fox and Proxy Chief Little Light express concerns about the welfare of young people in the treaty areas and the need for positive leadership. They discuss the importance of addressing treaty-

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based funding and the lack of representation at important meetings. The meeting concludes with a recommendation from Stoney Nakoda and a call for better attendance and commitment from leaders in future meetings.

\* Importance of addressing the needs of children and youth