

Communique

Approach to Upstream Investments

March 31, 2015

The FNHA has recently received inquiries about funding for 2016/2017 associated with the following programs:

- Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative;
- National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy; and,
- Maternal and Child Health Program.

These programs were developed as part of a national effort targeted at ‘upstream investments’ and were originally scheduled to sunset across the country at the end of this fiscal year. This funding was protected in BC through negotiation of the *British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nations Health Governance*.

The funding provided to communities in BC for these three programs has a total value of \$9.6 million annually. The programs were originally established through proposal-driven processes, and resulted in inequities in funding across regions and between larger organizations and more remote communities. These inequities conflict with the instructions from leadership to “leave no community behind.”

As a result, and as per the FNHA Summary Service Plan, we will be reviewing the approach to the \$9.6 million upstream investment in the coming year. Health Funding Agreements for these programs had an end date of March 31, 2015; however, the FNHA has extended these programs in their current form for one more year through to March 31, 2016. We hope to have a renewed approach to these programs for the 2016/17 fiscal year.

It is important to note that the review will not result in a reduction in funding for communities with existing programs.

The intention of the review and renewal process is to truly bring an ‘upstream’ and wellness-focused approach to this upstream investment funding. The review will consider options to support greater equity across communities and regions in upstream investment funding. The review will also support greater efficiency and value for investment through examining current program strengths and successes and emerging best practice. Finally,

the review will consider opportunities to implement enhanced flexibilities in the use of these funds to support alignment of these funds with community and regional priorities and to ensure sustainability of programs.

Communities will be invited to inform this renewal process by identifying gaps in programming, best practices, and key successes that align with an upstream and wellness-based approach. Maternal and early childhood development, mental wellness, and chronic disease prevention are priority health issues in BC First Nations, and as your wellness partner, FNHA looks forward to working with you to transform these important programs.

If you have further questions, please contact Diana Clarke, Director – Funding Arrangements at 604-693-6812 or Diana.Clarke@fnha.ca.