

Executive Summary

On Tuesday, May 4, 2010, Mr. Grant Britton called the Chair of the On-reserve Shelter Committee to request a Business Plan for the meeting with INAC on May 11, 2010.

The Alberta On-reserve Shelters have requested a meeting with INAC representative to discuss funding cuts as stated in a letter from Mr. Jim Sisson.

The Alberta On-reserve Shelters consist of shelters from the communities of Wabasca, Morley, Hobbema, Fort Chipewyan, and Enilda. These shelters are located on reserves and they are funded by INAC. The new On-reserve shelter on the Blood reserve is currently not represented on the Committee.

Bigstone Cree, Eagle's Nest, Ermineskin, Paspew House and Sucker Creek Shelters are members of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS).

History of Funding to Alberta On-Reserve Shelters

In 2004, five Alberta On-Reserve Shelters formed the Alberta First Nation Voice for Women's Shelter (also known as the Alberta On-Reserve Shelter Committee). The objective of the Committee is:

Families, children, and communities can live in happiness if:

- Everyone has an adequate livelihood (physical)
- Everyone is guided by "love thy neighbour" (spiritual)
- There is equality for everyone (social/emotional)
- World leadership is caring and works for people (social/mental)

In 2005, ACWS and the Alberta On-Reserve Shelters did a comparison of funding with other off-reserve shelters in Alberta. The finding was that the On-Reserve Shelters were receiving approximately 50% less than what other shelters were receiving. This discovery only confirmed why the On-Reserve Shelters were struggling to keep up with operating their shelters. The shelters were running on a 'basic needs' only basis, meaning that they were only providing accommodations, food, clothing and referrals.

Between 2004 and 2006, the Alberta On-Reserve Shelters have had many discussions with INAC to increase funding to Alberta On-Reserve Shelters. The On-Reserve Shelter Committee has communicated the need to have parity with other shelters in Alberta.

July 31, 2006 – Recommendations are made from the 'Johnston Report'. Johnston Research Inc. submits to INAC: 'Shelter Funding Methodology for the Family Violence Prevention Program'. The Alberta On-Reserve Shelters are in agreement with the recommendations stemming from the Johnston Report.

October 24, 2006 – Minister, INAC, the Honourable Jim Prentice announces a one-time funding of \$6 million to provide immediate relief to existing On-reserve Shelters across Canada.

June 22, 2007 – Minister, Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, the Honourable Bev Oda, announces a five-year investment of approximately \$56 million to provide programs and services to On-reserve Shelters.

July 11, 2007 – meeting with Carol Schimanke and On-reserve Shelter Committee:

Excerpts from minutes from ORC minutes:

The funding allocation to the Alberta region, during the fiscal period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 is as follows:

\$475,000 for the 1st installment (will be released August 1, 2007)

\$700,000 (estimated) for the final installment (will be released in fall)

For distributing the funding to on-reserve shelters, the funding formula will be the same as last year.

Therefore, for the 1st installment \$475,000 will be distributed based on the number of units each shelters has. First of all, \$475,000 is divided by the number of units Alberta has, which is 18 units (1 unit equals 4 beds). On-reserve shelters will receive \$26,389 for each unit that they have. The break-down of units per shelter is as follows:

Eagles Nest	5 units
Sucker Creek	4 units
Ermineskin	4 units
Bigstone	4 units
Paspew House	<u>1 unit</u>
	18 units

In the fall when the final installment is released, the breakdown will be same for all on-reserve shelters in Alberta. For example: the final installment is approximately \$700,000. Based on the funding formula, each on-reserve shelters will receive \$38,889 for each unit that they have.

May 29, 2008– meeting with Carol Schimanke and On-reserve Shelter Committee:

Excerpts from minutes from ORC minutes:

Carol brought in a sheet that showed how the funding formula was arrived at using the Johnston Report. The Blood reserve will be included in the formula in 2009, however, this will be “new” monies. There was some discrepancies with the funding formula and the number of units & beds for each shelter. ORC will have to go back to HQ to make changes.

February 27, 2009 – meeting with Carol Schimanke and On-reserve Shelter Committee:

Excerpts from minutes from ORC minutes:

INAC Update. Carole Schimanke and Rachel Bouchard from INAC gave an update. INAC is currently preparing funding agreements. The funding is “status quo” and there are no increases. There may be adjustment factors for annual increment in June.

There are five new on-reserve shelters opening across Canada: 2 in Ontario and 1 each in Manitoba, BC and Alberta. The shelter opening in Alberta is on the Blood Reserve. There is no funding, at this time, for a Regional gathering.

There was a question regarding the ‘short change’ of funding with the formula, will the formula be fixed and the Alberta region receive more funding? INAC informed that the formula will NOT be fixed for this ‘round of funding’. Alberta On-reserve shelters can make a case to have the formula fixed when the multi-year funding is renewed. There will be no Retro-active funding.

Does INAC take into consideration, ‘stacking of funds’ when they fund the shelters? No, INAC does not take stacking into consideration, any donations received will not be considered.

Is there funding available for evaluation of on-reserve shelters? Carole informed that a funding request was submitted to HQ and they have not received any response back regarding the proposal.

March 25, 2010 – Alberta On-reserve Shelters receive letter from Mr. Jim Sisson informing them that the funding will be cut for the fiscal year 2010/11.