



FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To: *Jan Reimer, ACNS
Provincial Coordinator*

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From: *SUSAN TAYLOR
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Date: *September 16, 2010*

Pages including cover:

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Jan,
Please find attached a letter from me, addressed to you, regarding the Administrative Reform Agreement.

Susan Taylor

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Government of Alberta

Children and Youth Services

Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Division

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September 16, 2010

Ms. Jan Reimer, Provincial Co-ordinator
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
320, 10310 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2W4

Dear Jan:

Further to your e-mail of April 3, 2010, and our subsequent meeting on July 21, 2010, we are pleased to respond to the questions you raised regarding the Administrative Reform Agreement and the revenues that the Province receives from the Federal Government for women ordinarily resident on-reserve that access shelters off-reserve.

The Administrative Reform Agreement between Canada and Alberta is primarily a financial billing arrangement between the two governments regarding certain social services provided to Indians in the Province. It does not address constitutional or jurisdictional matters. In the case of women's shelters, it simply obligates Canada to reimburse Alberta the cost of services provided to persons ordinarily resident on a reserve who access off-reserve shelters, and allows on-reserve shelters to bill Alberta for person's accessing their shelters that are ordinarily resident off-reserve.

In our view, shelters located on reserves in Alberta are a Federal jurisdiction and cost responsibility. As such, Alberta does not have the authority to provide funding or redirect the funding received from the Federal Government to such shelters. Given this and the fact that the Administrative Reform Agreement can not override Parliament's exclusive jurisdiction in relation to Indians and lands reserved for the Indians, the Agreement should have no impact on the Federal funding provided to on-reserve shelters. Canada funds these on-reserve facilities directly, and any concerns about the sufficiency, durability, or predictability of funding or the operation of these shelters should be directed to the Federal Government.

Responses to your questions outlined in the April 3, 2010 e-mail and the July 21, 2010 meeting are as follows:

Questions 1 and 2:

1. The provincial breakdown and rationale for the revenue transfer of approximately \$4.1 million dollars from the Federal Government to the Province under the family violence program including the total client specific costs for on-reserve status Indians, direct administrative and indirect administrative costs over the last five years.
2. The amount requested and the actual amount reimbursed by the Federal Government.

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Response to Questions 1 and 2:

For the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2009-2010, Children and Youth Services, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, has billed the Federal Government \$24.2 million for costs related to women normally resident on-reserve that have accessed shelters off-reserve. The billings are based on the funding formula set out under the Administrative Reform Agreement. Please refer to Attachment 1 for a breakdown by year and formula component.

As at March 31, 2010, Children and Youth Services have received payment of \$19.5 million of the \$24.2 million that has been billed to the Federal Government. The funds received by Children and Youth Services have been deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

Question 3:

If those dollars are considered departmental revenue to offset provincial shelter operations or as general revenue to the province?

Response:

The Federal funding received from INAC, for women's shelter services provided to women and children ordinarily resident on-reserve goes to the General Revenue Fund and is reported as revenue from the Government of Canada in Children and Youth Services' and the Province's financial statements. This revenue is not dedicated to offsetting the expenses incurred by the Province to fund the women's shelters.

The total annual expenditure budget, as reported in the Government Estimates, and approved by the Legislature, includes the gross amount of funding provided to the women's shelters, irrespective of whether the beds are used for women normally resident on-reserve or not. Most services provided by Government departments are gross budgeted, which provides a department with an annual expenditure authorization for each vote. Revenues deposited in the General Revenue Fund have no effect on the Ministry's expenditure authorization and therefore are not available to the Department to spend.

Question 4:

The current shelter per diem rates charged by province?

Response:

Per diem rates for off-reserve shelters vary depending on the individual shelter size and contract value.

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The per diem rates charged by the Province to the Federal Government are calculated as follows:

- Annual Contract Amount between the Province and the Shelter / Number of Bedrooms as provided by the Shelter in the Contract's Schedule A / 365 days = Per Diem Rate

The per diem rates for fee for service agreements with on-reserve shelters (as requested in your July 21, 2010 email) are calculated based on single and family rates: \$114.45 for a single client; \$344.40 for a family.

Question 5:

The actual numbers of women in shelter who were normally resident on-reserve over the last five years and their percentage of the total number of women served.

Response:

Data from the Women's Shelter Information System (WSIS) for the last five years (2005/06 – 2009/10) indicates that 4,891 normally resident on-reserve women were served at off-reserve shelters. This represents 16.6 per cent of the total number of women served in Alberta's shelters during that same time period. The table below provides a yearly breakdown:

Year	On-reserve clients	% of clients that left reserve to seek shelter
05/06	958	15.49%
06/07	958	15.30%
07/08	938	15.70%
08/09	939	17.13%
09/10	1098	19.92%
Total	4891	16.63%

Question 6

What expenses are included in the funding formula under Direct and Indirect Administration?

Response:

Direct administration costs cover those expenses incurred by Alberta related to the prevention of family violence and bullying programs only.

Indirect administration costs include administration costs not directly linked to the prevention of family violence and bullying programs, but support these programs, such as the Ministry's Executive, communications, human resources, information technology, financial services, corporate administration, etc.

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As indicated at our July 21, 2010 meeting, Children and Youth Services will continue to work with the ACWS and the Federal Government to address funding for on-reserve shelters in Alberta.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kathleen Gorman, Senior Manager, Services Support Branch, at 780-422-6492, or by e-mail at Kathleen.gorman@gov.ab.ca or myself at 780-415-8907, or by e-mail at susan.taylor@gov.ab.ca.



Susan Taylor
Executive Director

cc: Barb Young, Board President
Dorothy Sam

Attachment 1

**Department of Children & Youth Services
On-Reserve Invoicing to the Federal Government
2005 - 2010**

Fiscal Year	Total Days that Women Normally Resident on Reserve Used Shelters Off Reserve	Total Number of Women's Emergency Shelter Days for Both On and Off Reserve Residents	Total Client Expenses Related to Women Normally Resident on Reserve	Direct Administration Costs	Indirect Administration Costs	Total Invoice Amount
2005-06	9,611	69,453	\$ 2,596,048	\$ 1,263,695	\$ 240,333	\$ 4,100,076
2006-07	10,088	77,639	\$ 2,591,842	\$ 1,529,619	\$ 191,496	\$ 4,312,957
2007-08	8,852	69,228	\$ 2,516,295	\$ 1,411,305	\$ 229,183	\$ 4,156,783
2008-09	10,462	65,522	\$ 3,204,279	\$ 1,775,362	\$ 267,114	\$ 5,246,755
2009-10 ***	12,187	65,828	\$ 3,847,846	\$ 2,297,536	\$ 285,990	\$ 6,431,372
			\$14,786,310	\$ 8,277,517	\$ 1,214,116	\$ 24,247,943

*** A final billing will be provided to INAC by the end of September, 2010 for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

As at March 31, 2010 Children and Youth Services has received payment of \$19.5 million of the \$24.2 million that has been billed to the Federal Government.