

## 4. Review of Recent Shelter Impacts

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In 2007, a one-time \$6 million allocation to the Family Violence Prevention Program was provided to assist with immediate Shelter needs, over and above the five-year increase to \$28 million.<sup>26</sup> A review of the Alberta Shelters found that these additional funds improved the overall the quality of services provided for families who utilize the Shelter services and this enabled these Shelters to implement best practices as evidenced in the box below.

### **Service Enhancement Resulting from Increased Funding**

The increase in funding to Alberta On-Reserve Shelters has allowed the following:

- Shelters became more inviting, offering families a more nurturing environment to heal from family violence
- Shelters renovated in order to offer services such as Child Support and Outreach, better laundry facilities and increased security through the purchase of security cameras and security doors.
- Shelters enabled to offer Child Support, Outreach and counseling, and items such as personal items and basic hygiene in addition to basic services
- Shelters purchased new, safer transportation, critical to supporting women's safety
- Staffing stability achieved. Prior to funding staff were hired on a part time basis. Shelters can now offer a wage scale based on education & experience
- Staff training is happening. 15 students have been attending Portage College over the past year and a half which will provide them with a certificate in Crisis Counselling. The students were able to attend a week long workshop in Edmonton and laptops were purchased in order to complete the courses. Other training opportunities are now available.
- Family violence education/prevention workshops are now provided. Examples include: Group sessions, Suicide prevention, Traditional Parenting, Mediation & Conflict Resolution, Healthy Relationships, How To Parent Powerful Healthy Children, Traditional Teachings, Women's & Men's Groups, Mother & Daughter Workshops, Personal Empowerment as well as family bonding time through activities such as therapeutic horseback riding and family barbeques.

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<sup>26</sup> Indian and Northern Affairs, About INAC, Media Room, 2007 News Releases, *Canada's New Government Takes Action To End Violence Against First Nations Women*, 2-2899, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, June 22, 2007. <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/mr/nr/m-a2007/2-2899-eng.asp>.



## 4.1. INAC 2010 Review: Impacts of Additional Funding

The 2010 INAC Review further reiterates and supports the Alberta Shelter findings that the 2007 increase in funding resulted in a series of positive impacts across the entire shelter network.

The Review specifically remarked that, “It will be important to make certain that the operating budgets for the Shelters keep pace with the cost of living and provincial wages or the continuing benefit of the 2007 increase will disappear.”

In the INAC Family Violence Prevention Program Review published on-line on August 31, 2010, section 6.2 Impact of Additional Funds states,<sup>27</sup>

*“The positive benefits of augmented ongoing operating funding can be seen in the effect of the increase in funding experienced in 2007 and the significant positive benefits evident across the entire shelter network. It will be important to make certain that the operating budgets for the Shelters keep pace with the cost of living and provincial wages or the continuing benefit of the 2007 increase will disappear. Further study is required to confirm the reported unmet demand for more shelters. Increased investments for prevention projects would support measurable results in reducing violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children through multi-stakeholder, multi-year community driven prevention strategies.”*

## 4.2. Assessing INAC’s Ability to Impact Disparity

By examining the total funding of Alberta INAC shelters from 2005 to 2010, in comparison to provincial funding, these estimates strongly suggest that INAC has been moving further away from parity. Table 4.1, shows that INAC has continued to experience an increase in disparity between the amounts funded by INAC for on-reserve Alberta Shelters and that funded by the province of Alberta for provincial shelters. Since 2006, this has resulted in an increased annual deficit in reaching parity with provincial shelters of ~\$200,000/year.

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<sup>27</sup> New Economy Development Group Inc. Family Violence Prevention Program Review. Ottawa, Ontario. March 31, 2010. [http://inac0000.imatics.com/site/lj-il/fvpp-eng.asp#section6\\_1](http://inac0000.imatics.com/site/lj-il/fvpp-eng.asp#section6_1). Date Modified: 2010-08-31.



**Table 4.1: Alberta INAC and Provincial Funding of Shelters**

Fiscal Year	INAC Alberta Shelter Funding	Alberta Provincial Shelter Funding	Disparity
2005/06	\$1,276,752.00 <sup>28</sup>	\$2,327,360.00	\$1,049,608.00
2009/10	\$2,876,300.00 <sup>29</sup>		
2010/11	\$2,793,060.00 <sup>30</sup>	\$4,974,193.56 <sup>31</sup>	\$2,181,133.56
Net difference in 5 years			\$1,131,525.56
Net annual deficit since 2006			\$226,305.11

### 4.3. Examining the Impact of the 2006 New Funding Methodology Report

By examining the 2005 INAC FVPP evaluation conclusions, the 2008 INAC FVPP evaluation update, and the 2010 INAC FVPP Review in relation to the 2006 INAC commissioned the *Shelter Funding Methodology for the Family Violence Prevention Program*, prepared by Johnston Research Inc. (31, July 2006) and the fact that INAC claims it has implemented this report, it is evident that INAC is unable to operate within the new funding methodology. INAC has been unable, for the most part to act on the nine recommendations of the new funding methodology.

The following provides commentary to each of the recommendations made in the *Shelter Funding Methodology for the Family Violence Prevention Program* Report in relation to progress made to-date by INAC, in accordance to its various evaluation and reviews.

1. Introduce a new funding formula for Shelters that takes into account province of operation, size of the Shelter, and remoteness of the Shelter.

Not adequately implemented, as demonstrated throughout this report.

<sup>28</sup> Refers to the 5 shelters funded in 2005.

<sup>29</sup> Refers to the 6 shelters funded in 2009.

<sup>30</sup> Refers to the 6 2009 shelters. Amount estimated based on INAC Transfer Program Payments for 2010-11 and the distribution of FVPP umbrella funding in 2009-10.

<sup>31</sup> Requests were made for detailed data from the province, but were not secured for this report. This estimate is based on the Alberta government website provincially disclosed data, which may overestimate the amount given to the shelters they fund. The estimate is based on an average of \$829,032.26.