



## Information Sheet

# Federal Budget: 2016

## First Nations Child and Family Services

March 22, 2016

### Introduction

The Federal Government of Canada funds First Nations child and family services on reserve through the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs [INAC] (previously the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada). INAC requires that First Nations child and family service agencies on reserve comply with provincial/territorial child welfare laws as a condition of funding. Within its First Nations Child and Family Services Program, INAC uses four child welfare funding approaches: 1) funding for provinces and territories; 2) Directive 20-1; 3) the Enhanced Prevention Focused Approach [EPFA]; and 4) the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement in Ontario.

In 2007, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations filed a complaint alleging that INAC's provision of First Nations child and family services was discriminatory pursuant to the *Canadian Human Rights Act* (CHRT 7008/1340).

On January 26, 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found that each of the federal government's funding approaches to child and family services were discriminatory and ordered the federal government to immediately cease its discriminatory practices.

The CHRT further ordered the parties to make submissions on immediate relief. The federal government's submission suggested there may be some funding announced in the 2016 Budget.

### Child Welfare Budget

The 2016 federal budget allocated an overall figure of \$634.8 million with annual allocations as follows:

Fiscal Year	16/17	17/18	18/19	20/21	21/22
\$ (million)	71	99	126	162	177
% of 634 value (rounded)	11	15.5	19.8	25.5	27.8

There are no details on how the \$71 million was calculated or how it will be allocated. A 2012 presentation authored by INAC showed the shortfall in child and family services to be 108.13 million dollars or about 113.3 million in today's dollars when adjusted for inflation. This amount was shown to be an underestimate. The amount allocated for this year falls \$42.3 million short of what INAC said was required in 2012. It falls \$129 million short of the approximate \$200 million the Caring Society had hoped for in immediate relief while longer term reform was worked on.

The parties will file reply submissions with the CHRT on immediate relief on March 31, 2016.