



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS  
**Special Chiefs Assembly**

December 5-7, 2023

Shaw Centre – Ottawa, Ontario

*Ottawa is located on the unceded unsundered  
Territory of the Algonquin People.*

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS  
**Assemblée extraordinaire des Chefs**

Du 5 au 7 décembre 2023

Centre Shaw - Ottawa ( Ontario)

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# First Nations-Created Policy Recommendations for a Wholistic Long- term and Continuing Care Framework

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

*Torri Weapenicappo*

*Jonathan Luke Dunn*



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## Objectives

- Overview of the work on the Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care (LTCC) Framework.
- Draft policy recommendations.
- Draft resolution and next steps.



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# The Journey to Care: LTCC Timeline

1983 – AL Program Created

- Non-medical home care supports for minimal levels of care.

1999 – FNIHCC Program Created

- Medical home care services.
- Nine elemental services.

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010





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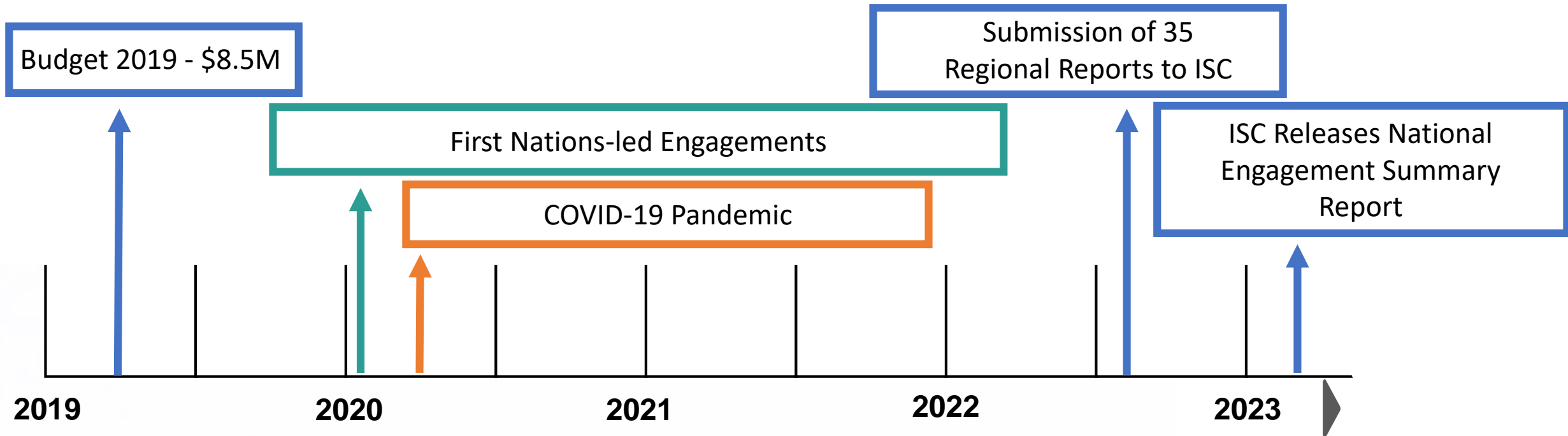
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# The Journey to Care: LTCC Timeline (cont.)





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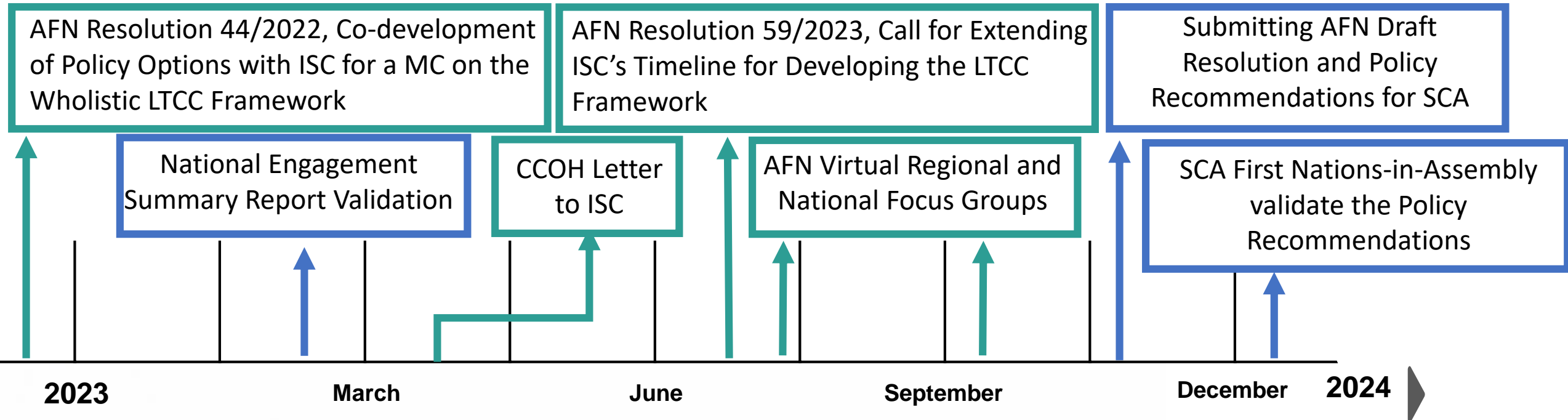
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# The Journey to Care: LTCC Timeline (cont.)





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# Policy Recommendations

## 1. Culture as the foundation for Long-term and Continuing Care (LTCC) Services to First Nations

- i. Recognize and support First Nations healers, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers as integral staff in care settings, planning, and programming.
- ii. Fund and provide access to First Nations traditional healing practices in the delivery of continuing care.
- iii. Allocate resources for First Nations-designed care services and standards.
- iv. Encourage mandatory cultural competency and trauma-informed care training for all healthcare and social staff in First Nations.
- v. Allocate resources for First Nation language accommodation and collaborate on an anti-racism strategy in healthcare.



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# Policy Recommendations

## 2. Wholistic Care from Preconception to End of Life

- i. Fully invest in all FNIHCC services to ensure access to both essential and supportive services.
- ii. Fully invest in palliative and end-of-life care to ensure pain management and comfort care is available for First Nations living at home or in facility-based settings.
- iii. Foster collaboration between all levels of government to affirm First Nations-designed care services and standards.
- iv. Support health promotion and cultural wellness programs that address the diverse stages of life, offering preventative and early diagnostic care, wholistic support, and improved wellness across the lifespan.



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# Policy Recommendations

## 3. Restructuring and Advancing Infrastructure in First Nations

- i. Ensure sustainable invests in First Nations infrastructure including, wellness centres, accessible homes and communities, retrofits, and technological upgrades.
- ii. Facilitate and support partnership initiatives to build wellness centres, accessible homes, and technological upgrades.
- iii. Cover capital, operational, and management costs.
- iv. Invest in First Nations for the *Accessible Canada Act* implementation and ensure immunity from penalties due to resource limitations.





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# Policy Recommendations

## 4. Scalable and Sustainable Resources

- i. Integrate both formula-based and needs-based funding mechanisms, in collaboration with First Nations, to ensure flexibility and responsiveness to current First Nations populations, inflation, socio-economic realities, and cost increases.
- ii. Streamline reporting and administrative process to reduce burden in accessing funding.



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# Policy Recommendations

## 5. Building and Supporting Health and Social Human Resources

- i. Facilitate and support partnership initiatives to increase First Nations healthcare and social support staff.
- ii. Eliminate pay discrepancies, particularly between on-reserve and off reserve positions, and provide incentives for professional development.
- iii. Allocate resources for First Nations to train and certify community support workers (e.g. respite care, escorts, personal support workers, caregivers, etc.).
- iv. Expand nurse practitioners' roles to provide a wider range of healthcare services.



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# Policy Recommendations

## 6. Governance and First Nations-determination

- i. Recognize First Nations inherent and treaty rights and uphold the Treaty Right to Health.
- ii. Ensure broad and flexible programming parameters to align with community priorities, plans, and systems, including the principle of portability.
- iii. Facilitate tri-partite communications between federal, provinces, territories, and First Nations to define First Nations LTCC service standards, accountability mechanisms, roles, authorities, and responsibilities.



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# Policy Recommendations

## 7. Equitable Access to Services Across Canada

- i. Allocate resources to assist First Nations in developing equitable access comparability measures.
- ii. Increase capacity for First Nations to provide language services, hearing, and vision-impaired services in LTCC settings.
- iii. Remove the income means test in the AL program.
- iv. Include an exceptional circumstance clause in AL and FNIHCC programs to ensure timely access to all care needs from other programs.
- v. Collaborate to reform the Non-insured Health Benefits program to fill gaps in accessing medications, assistive devices, medical and wellness transportation, dental care, vision, mental health support, etc.
- vi. Invest in First Nations-led data systems, respecting data sovereignty and aligning with OCAP® Principles.



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## Draft Resolution

1. Seeks support for the First Nations-created policy recommendations.
2. Calls on Canada to use the First Nations-created policy recommendations for their Memorandum to Cabinet in the Winter of 2024 on AL and FNIHCC Program reform, including recommendations developed through individual First Nations and their regional decision-making processes.
3. Calls on the Chiefs' Committee on Health to provide recommendations regarding an assessment of the long-term financial investments required to develop an LTCC Framework within the AL and FNIHCC Programs.



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**Thank you**