



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)

Ottawa est située sur le territoire non cédé et non abandonné du peuple algonquin.



DIALOGUE SESSION

Continuing Income Assistance Program Reform Through Implementation Dialogue Session and Technical Update

*Monday, December 4, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST
Room 102, Shaw Centre*

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This dialogue session will provide a technical update on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) work on the Income Assistance (IA) Program reform. The session will include dialogue on defining First Nations' priorities for reform of the IA Program, informing next steps for costing the First Nations-developed policy recommendations, and providing an overview of the proposed path forward. A draft resolution to seek support for the AFN and the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) to continue to advance advocacy to reform the IA Program will be discussed.

Background:

AFN Resolution 07/2022, Reform of the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program, supported the First Nations-determined policy recommendations to reform the IA Program, that include: higher income assistance rates to meet needs, expanding case management and pre-employment supports as well as administrative supports, strengthening wrap around supports for client wellbeing, and encouraging First Nation determination/governance over the program with traditional knowledge embedded to meet First Nations' needs. Further, this resolution called on Canada to use the First Nation-created policy recommendations for their Memorandum to Cabinet and directs the TWGSD to conduct and oversee costing the implementation of the First Nations-developed policy recommendations. In January 2023, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) submitted the First Nations-determined policy recommendations to Cabinet; however, Budget 2023 did not include investments to implement reform.

SPEAKERS:

Sempúlyan Gonzales, Knowledge Keeper
Stephanie Wellman, Director, AFN Social Development
Torri Weapenicappo, Senior Policy Analyst, AFN Social Development



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)

Ottawa est située sur le territoire non cédé et non abandonné du peuple algonquin.



DIALOGUE SESSION

AGENDA:

Monday December 4, 2023		
Time	Agenda Item	Leads
5 min.	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Sempúlyan Gonzales
5 min.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Facilitator Stephanie Wellman AFN Director, Social Development
5 mins	Overview of IA Program Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of AFN's advocacy and mandates on IA Program Reform and the First Nations-determined policy recommendations	Torri Weapenicappo Sr. Policy Analyst, AFN Social Development
10 mins	Next Steps for IA Program Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of proposed next steps and First Nations' priorities for IA Program reform, including costing of reform• Presentation of Draft Resolution 08/2023, Support for the Technical Working Group on Social Development to Continue Income Assistance Program Reform	Torri Weapenicappo
25 mins	Discussion, Questions and Answers	Stephanie Wellman
5 mins	Closing Remarks	Stephanie Wellman
5 mins	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Sempúlyan Gonzales