



**National Forum
on Income Assistance**
From Surviving to Thriving

**Forum national
sur l'aide au revenu**
De la survie à la prospérité

Overview of Income Assistance Program Reform

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

9:40am – 10:00am MST



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Background

- Developed in 1964 to provide income support for individuals on-reserve to afford basic needs.
- Does not account for unique needs of First Nations or current socio-economic realities.
- Indigenous Services Canada has committed to program reform through a co-development process to make the program more responsive for First Nations.



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Technical Working Group on Social Development

- AFN Resolution 28/2018, *Support for the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Social Development.*
- Regional representatives appointed by the AFN's Regional Chiefs.
- Provide regional considerations and identify key emerging priority areas to inform the AFN's advocacy.



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Mandates for Reform

- AFN Resolution 89/2019, *Continuing First Nations Income Assistance Reform.*
- AFN Resolution 07/2022, *Reform of the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program.*
- AFN Resolution 85/2023, *Support for the Technical Working Group on Social Development to Continue IA Program reform.*



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Policy Recommendations

1. Develop and implement needs-based funding structure to account for factors such as remoteness, inflation and cost of living.
2. Align provincial, territorial and federal disability programming with the needs of Income Assistance clients.
3. Increase resources to promote First Nations-determination including:
 - a. Additional case managers and administrative staff.
 - b. Resourcing and resources to promote self-determination.



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Policy Recommendations (continued)

4. Support First Nations to strengthen data collection, storage, access and reporting to support evidence-based funding
5. Adequate infrastructure to deliver programs and services and support First Nations governance.
6. Explore options to build a First Nations social safety net model to support First Nations with holistic, wrap-around supports to decrease poverty and support thriving First Nations.



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Next Steps

- Assessment of the long-term financial investment required to fill the gaps in the IA Program.
- The development of an implementation framework policy document.
- Continuing the journey from ***surviving to thriving***.



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Thank You