



Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly 2024

December 3-5, 2024 • Rogers Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

Dialogue Session

First Nations Poverty and Income Assistance

Monday, December 2, 2024 • 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM • Room 206, Rogers Centre

Session Description:

This dialogue session will provide Chiefs with an opportunity to learn about the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) work on Income Assistance (IA) Program reform and the First Nations-specific indicators of poverty and well-being. The session will include an overview of the status of IA Program reform and costing analysis, presentation on the poverty findings from the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD), and the proposed future of the work on poverty.

A resolution seeking support for the AFN and the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) to continue to advancing work on First Nations poverty and well-being will be discussed.

In 2019, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 98/2019, *Poverty Reduction for All First Nations in Canada*, which called for a study on First Nation-specific indicators and measures of poverty. The IFSD was contracted to lead research with First Nations to develop indicators of poverty and well-being, including understanding, measuring, and addressing poverty in First Nations. The AFN's TWGSD have been providing oversight of the study and has proposed next steps for the work to develop an evidence-based analysis to inform the development of a culturally appropriate poverty reduction strategy.

The AFN and the TWGSD have been involved in a co-development process on the reform of the IA Program with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), since the department committed to reforming their social programs in 2020. The AFN is mandated to conduct work on IA Program reform via AFN Resolution 89/2019, *Continuing First Nations Income Assistance Program Reform*, AFN Resolution 07/2022, *Reform of the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program*, and AFN Resolution 85/2023, *Support for the Technical Working Group on Social Development to Continue Income Assistance Program Reform*. The AFN and the TWGSD have been advocating for meaningful investments into the implementation of the First Nations-developed policy recommendations and have started the cost analysis for implementing IA Program reform.

Speakers List:

- Knowledge Keeper Mary Jane Jim
- Lauren Doxtater, Associate Director, AFN Social Development
- Torri Weapenicappo, Senior Policy Analyst, AFN Social Development
- Helaina Gaspard, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy, Director of Governance and Institutions



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
3:00 PM	Opening Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Mary Jane Jim
	Welcome and Introductions	Lauren Doxtater
	Background on Income Assistance (IA) Program Reform and First Nation-specific Indicators of Poverty and Well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the AFN's work• Findings from the study, <i>First Nation-specific Indicators of Poverty and Wellbeing</i>	Torri Weapenicappo (Moderator) Helaina Gaspard (IFSD)
	Proposed Next Steps for First Nation-specific Indicators of Poverty and Wellbeing <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing an evidence-based analysis to pilot the First Nation-Specific Indicators of Poverty and Wellbeing to inform the development of a culturally appropriate poverty reduction strategy.	Torri Weapenicappo
	Discussion/Questions	Torri Weapenicappo
	Next Steps	Lauren Doxtater
4:30 PM	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Mary Jane Jim