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Hello & Welcome!

Recognizing that the Long-Term and Continuing Care engagement and co-development process is moving quickly, Indigenous Services Canada will use a news blast keep you updated on the latest information as it becomes available.

This first edition will take a step back and provide a background of where we are in this process, what is currently being developed, and what are the next steps and expected timelines.

Updates on Engagement Process

In an effort to better address the specific Long-Term and Continuing Care (LTCC) needs of First Nations and Inuit people, funding was announced in 2019 to begin co-developing distinctions-based policy options for a new LTCC framework. Indigenous Partner-led engagement activities focused on uncovering LTCC service gaps and documenting how those gaps effect people accessing the services, as well as identifying community-led solutions to improving programming. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 most partners had to put activities on hold until it was safe to resume engagement. Although the pandemic created many obstacles and a timeline shift, engagement was completed by all First Nations and Inuit partners in 2022!

Several First Nations organizations and care providers participated in engagement activities. All the information gathered was turned into 33 regional reports. This past winter, after a competitive process, the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA) and Northern Ontario Research Development Ideas and Knowledge Institute (NORDIK) was selected to co-lead the work of merging all 33 reports into one First Nations focused National Summary Report. ONWAA/NORDIK also organized a validation event in February where non-government First Nations organizations and individuals offered feedback and recommendations based on the report. We are excited to announce that the First Nations section of the Final Summary Report is complete and can be found here: <https://www.onwaa.ca/posts/national-community-engagement-in-long-term-and-continuing-care-report>

From an Inuit perspective, regional engagement activities wrapped up in fall 2022, producing 4 regional reports that were rolled up into an Inuit LTCC Engagement summary report by the engagement lead, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK).

Co-Development: Assembly of First Nations



Figure 1: Key topics identified in the First Nations Summary Engagement Report

Since January 2023, a Long-Term and Continuing Care (LTCC) technical working group was formed with members from Indigenous Services Canada and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Social Development and Health sectors. The AFN and ISC are working in collaboration toward the shared goal of co-developing options for a LTCC framework that promotes client and community centered, holistic and culturally safe approaches to care. The working partnership between the AFN and ISC is guided by the respect for the individual mandates of both parties involved, including the principles of joint leadership, trust, transparency, and mutual accountability.

The AFN has reviewed the National Summary Report and is identifying First Nations priorities for program reform, as well as corresponding policy recommendations based on this report. Next, the AFN will be hosting regional sessions to share these recommendations with First Nations for feedback and validation.

Short-Term Capacity Strengthening Projects

In Fall 2022, targeted funding was announced to support the development of short-term capacity strengthening projects. These projects will compliment the Long-Term and Continuing Care (LTCC) engagement activities already completed. The projects will be small first steps towards acting on some of the recommendations from the engagement.

Existing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis engagement partners were invited to submit project proposals by the May 23, 2023 deadline. The received proposals are now being processed. Since these projects are short-term they will be insufficient in permanently closing service gaps. However, the project guidelines are broad which we hope will encourage limitless project creativity. Once project proposals are approved, you could see capacity strengthening projects begin in your community as early as Summer 2023.

Co-Development: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) also began co-development planning with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) in January 2023. The working partnership between ITK and ISC is guided by respect for the individual mandates of both parties involved, and will follow the Inuit-Crown co-development principles outlined for the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee and beyond, including the principles of active leadership, joint design and delivery, working in good faith, consensus-based approach, respect for governance and decision-making, and recognizing resourcing requirements.

To date, ISC has provided an update on the LTCC work so far and an overview of the co-development process to the National Inuit Committee on Health.



Figure 2: Key topics identified in the Inuit Summary Engagement Report

Co-Development: Regional First Nations Process

Leveraging the expertise of regional colleagues, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has also been identifying different mechanisms for further outreach with First Nations, including self-government and Modern Treaty agreement holders, independent communities, and those that are not represented by the Assembly of First Nations.

Regional ISC representatives have been working to identify existing health and social tables and forums through which further co-development discussions can take place. ISC will present at these various regional meetings and will also be seeking feedback, with the goal of continuing the co-development of policy recommendations for a more holistic Long-Term and Continuing Care framework.

Métis Engagement

New funding has recently been provided specifically for the inclusion of Métis partners in the co-development of an Indigenous, distinctions-based Long-Term and Continuing Care (LTCC) framework. Métis partners have begun to plan their participation in Métis-led engagement activities. As with Inuit and First Nations partners, Métis partners will tailor engagement processes to reflect region-specific priorities, ensuring all needs within the continuum of care are adequately captured.

Results from these engagement activities will inform the Métis component of the distinctions-based, Indigenous-led LTCC framework



If you would like to learn more about how to provide your input on recommendations for a new Long-term and Continuing Care Framework, or share any questions/comments via email, please send your feedback to the following mailbox:

ltengagement-scmobilisation@sac-isc.gc.ca