

10.21.09

Subject: Moving Forward on Housing and Homelessness

Purpose: Backgrounder on Federal Consultation and Chief Directives

Brief Background: On September 30, 2009, the federal government facilitated a consultation session regarding funding for Homelessness and Housing initiatives. None of the 14 Yukon First Nations were made aware of this. The Council of Yukon First Nations attended, after contacting the 14 First Nations offices and informing them of the consultation. Some First Nations sent their own representatives.

This writer drafted up consultation recommendations, as well as some formulated questions.

A private meeting was acquired by this writer between the federal representatives and participating First Nations Chiefs. Subsequent to the consultation, the writer informed leadership as to the unfolding issue and it was agreed that participating Chiefs would attend the meeting set for the next day.

The next day, it was noted that framework, funding allocation and program development has not been put in place for the years 2011-2014 regarding Canadian Homelessness and Housing dollars. Leadership directed this writer to draft letters to Prime Minister Stephen Harper as well as Guido Weisz (who is the main contact for the initiative) regarding our input and thoughts regarding the above-noted issue. It was directed that these letters were to include signature blocks from all 14 Yukon First Nations, as well as a definitive statement that the Yukon First Nations require to be involved in every level of this pending initiative's framework development.

The letters were drafted and circulated to Yukon Chiefs for their review, approval and/or input. The attached letters are the final draft in feedback received.

Current Issues: None.

Recommendation: Letters to be signed and sent.

Political Support Required: See above.

Financial Implications: Inclusion of off-reserve funds for initiatives regarding homelessness and housing issues – regardless of “On” or “Off” reserve criterion.

*A full briefing report, including recommendations and ALL First Nation funding sources, is available upon request.