

The chiefs were informed that ISC funding would be more flexible for First Nations. March 31 will no longer be the mandatory deadline for spending if the communities can provide a proper justification.

The AFN received an offer from the federal government to work together on the development of a new waters act to replace the old one that does not satisfy the First Nations.

The content of a National Housing Strategy (FN) is currently being developed by a joint working group. The AFN is the lead. A few days of meeting have been held until now with a few upcoming soon. We expect to submit the First Nation strategy to the Cabinet in September 2018 and manage to include First Nation issues in the National Housing Strategy. AFNQL has some concerns regarding the NHS. Until now, The First Nation were not really consulted in the development of this strategy although Off-Reserve First Nation members are concerned. The CMHC Innovation Fund has a 40M\$ envelope and it would be fair if a certain proportion of the available funds would go to improve the living conditions of the Off-Reserve members.

The group is also working on a concrete strategy to provide a national overview on housing needs in order to correctly identify the required financial resources; currently, only a few provinces have valid data on this. By fall 2018, consultants will be establishing this overview in collaboration with FNs.

For ISC: A symposium for water treatment operators is currently held in Montréal. Great stability people-wise, but succession will also need to be ensured.

Budget allocation issue: Methodology used varies from one program to the next.

ISC budgets:

Water: \$22.3 million. Roughly half of the usual funds

Schools: \$4.2 million Lac Simon and Manawan

Building Canada Fund: \$1.7 million

Housing: \$15 million to Quebec out of the \$200 million of additional funds for 3 years allocated annually for all of Canada. Deadlines will be crucial. June 15 is the deadline to submit a regional submission to the ISC Central Office. Confirmation of the funds allocated should come mid-July (Holiday period). The projects could then start quite late. We have already in Quebec some projects for 35M\$ on the contingency list. The programmes should look alike the ones for Budget 2016.

Ministerial loan guarantee: All the guides were reviewed. ISC Central Office has tightened a little their requirements. Requirements have changed and some clarifications are needed in regard to some of the new requirements. Asking for clarifications. To be continued.

June 4. Announcement by Minister Philpot in Manawan in regard to the 10 modular homes delivered in Manawan under Budget 2016.

Submission of a document explaining the changes at ISC (see attached document).

CMHC: In regard to inspection services, OZHI has a contract with CMHC until September 2018. CMHC can also terminate the contract by giving a month's notice. The timeline for the Mamuitun proposal has not been precisely set yet.

Budgets 2018-2019:

Section 95: About 94 units in Quebec.

Renovations: Social Infrastructure Fund. The full amount has been spent in Quebec for 2017-2018 and we were able to get an extra \$1 million elsewhere in Canada. After two years of the Social Infrastructure Fund, the renovation budgets for 2018 are returning to the pre-Fund level (About \$1 million). For next year, the budgets are not defined, the RRAP Extension segment (around \$500,000) may not be renewed. A reflection on the allocation of the renovation budget was started at CMHC.

Capacity development: \$500,000 (Quebec). Also access to national funding to help us provide support to the CEGEP Garneau students and the community of practice (CoPH).

Youth internship: \$600,000 (Quebec) Some 55 interns

Ongoing national initiatives:

-Keeper of My Home, modules on home maintenance for First Nation students.

-Housing manager initiative. A small FN working group is currently thinking about the likely certification and the creation of a national professional association for housing managers.

National Housing Strategy: Also applies to First Nations. There are some concerns about the FNs' current capacity to easily fill out applications on the website. The Co-investment Fund was recently launched. Other initiatives to follow in the upcoming years.

Follow-up and acceptance of the draft of the regional housing and infrastructure strategy

The strategy was accepted by the Chiefs at a meeting in May 2018. A logic model was added to the strategy (see attached document). This is based on what was heard during the FN engagement session in Trois-Rivières.

The three main axes of the regional strategy are: greater skills and capacity, more funding and options, and more independence. Based on these three main pillars, the different steps required to achieve these goals will continue until 2020.

This approval by the Chiefs is important. We can now go ahead with the development of this strategy. The draft of the strategy is now integrated in the RTHC action plan.

Presentation of the new generation of the 2018-2020 Action Plan

The 2018-2020 plan was submitted for discussion and adoption (see document). It aligns with the three previously mentioned axes. The skills axis must come first (second quarter of 2018) in preparation for the upcoming two other axes. A mandate and terms of reference will be defined by the RTHC Operational Committee between now and September 2018, and potential providers will be identified to move forward on this top issue.

A follow-up of the mandate and validation by First Nations are planned at various steps during the implementation of this initiative. Already, stakeholders could be consulted to assess their interest in becoming active partners in the phased implementation of this axis (Market Housing Fund, First Nations Adult Education School Council, some AFNQL commissions ...)

The other axes will be processed the same way; the immediate priority of the plan would be capacity development. The other two axes will be implemented starting in the third quarter (before the last quarter of 2018-2019). It would be beneficial to include key partners from the start. ISC could use budgets dedicated to housing reform to support the action plan.

A meeting should be held early on in the process with all the potential partners who could help move the plan forward. The meeting could be held in Wendake in the offices of the AFNQL. This inclusive approach will facilitate the achievement of the 2018-2020 plan and allow all the experts to contribute ideas from the onset of the process.

DAY 2

Reference framework and communications strategy

The reference framework, which was last updated in June 2012, will be reviewed based on the new action plan adopted yesterday. The framework will be adjusted to correctly reflect the new issues.

2018 regional meeting and engagement

There will be a lot of content for our regional meeting. The objective will definitely be to ensure a follow-up of the engagement session in Trois-Rivières and to inform FNs about our regional strategy. Also, ISC wants to organize a second engagement phase this fall. To avoid any confusion, this should be aligned with the upcoming AFN national consultations.

We can also include the topics suggested by members at the last regional meetings. In regard to the work on the skills axis, the hired consultant could report on the progress of their mandate. Also, we could use the meeting to identify capacity development needs in Quebec.

The meeting will be held in November. The actual date will be communicated later.

Annual report

The Operational Committee presented the RTHC 2017-2018 annual report, which also includes the key directions for 2018-2019. See the attached document. Adopted with changes made.

Housing Connection

Content and publication date to be determined soon. We are looking at publishing in the fall of 2018.

Miscellaneous

Inuit housing: For information, 144 units were allocated by ISC, but there was a disagreement about the operating expenses payable by the Province of Quebec. A short-term solution was found, but this opens a wider debate on who is responsible in the long term for these projects' operating expenses.

Climate change: Oumar informed us about a project, led by the FNQLSDI in co-operation with a few partners, which looks at housing resiliency in the face of climate change. This issue is increasingly relevant in the communities.

Next meeting

September 18 and 19, 2018, at the ISC offices in Québec.