

Indigenous Health Equity Fund

Update on Design and Implementation



Purpose

- Provide an update on the implementation of the Indigenous Health Equity Fund
- Overview next steps, including:
 - Development of implementation plans
 - Terms and Conditions
 - Reporting
- To hear more from you on next steps

Timeline for the Indigenous Health Equity Fund



February 7, 2023

The Government of Canada announced plans to increase health funding to provinces and territories by \$196.1 billion over 10 years, including \$46.2 billion in new funding.

- \$2B top-up to the Canada Health Transfer and an additional \$17.3B over 10 years stemming from a 5% escalator in the first 5 years;
- \$25B to provinces and territories to advance shared health priorities;
- \$1.7B over 5 years to support hourly wage increases for personal support workers and related professions;
- \$150M over 5 years for the Territorial Health Investment Fund;
- \$2B over 10 years to address the unique challenges Indigenous Peoples face when it comes to fair and equitable access to quality and culturally safe health care services.

March 2, 2023

The Prime Minister announced that the new Indigenous Health Equity Fund will be distributed to ensure support to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

- Over the coming months, the Government of Canada will work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners across the country, as well as provinces and territories, on the design and implementation of the Fund, ensuring alignment with Indigenous-led regional and community health priorities.

Spring - Summer

ISC supported a range of bilateral engagements with national and regional Indigenous partners on the design and implementation of the Indigenous Health Equity Fund, including the following:

- Métis National Council's Joint Committee on Health
- Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Health
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's National Inuit Committee on Health
- Self-Governments and Modern Treaty Holders
- Yukon First Nations Health and Social Development Commission
- Atlantic First Nations Health Partnership
- Northwest Territories Council of Leaders
- Northwest Territories Métis Nation
- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
- Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
- National Association of Friendship Centres

Fall - Winter

- ☐ Confirm regional allocations.
 - Pending confirmation of final allocations, continue to engage regional Indigenous partners to support the development of regional implementation plans.
- ☐ Submit Treasury Board Submission and distribute distinctions-based funding based on implementation plans.
- ☐ Continue to engage with national and regional Indigenous partners on reporting and next steps for formalizing the new program.

What we have heard to date: Principles, objectives, and parameters

Key Principles

- **Supporting Indigenous self-determination in health:** First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners will take the lead in planning, prioritizing, and evaluating health-related projects, programs, and services that affect their members and citizens, regardless of where they live.
- **Working together:** First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners will be responsible for initiating collaboration with provincial and territorial health partners, with support from Canada if desired, to promote greater coordination and integration of services between Indigenous health and provincial/territorial health care systems.
- **Transparency:** The implementation of the Indigenous Health Equity Fund will support the principles of transparency and accountability to Indigenous communities and Canadians.
- **Maintaining Integrity:** The Indigenous Health Equity Fund will support Indigenous-led approaches to increasing access to quality and culturally safe health care, separate from existing federal funding and existing provincial and territorial funding for Indigenous health.
- **Flexibility:** Recognition that priorities will shift over time and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners will have the flexibility adjust to changing circumstances and priorities related to increasing access to quality and culturally safe health care services.

Objectives

- The objective of the Indigenous Health Equity Fund is to support distinctions-based, Indigenous-led approaches to increasing access to high quality and culturally safe health care.

Parameters

Recipients eligible to receive funding through the Indigenous Health Equity Fund:

- **First Nations** (e.g., governments, communities, bands, districts, tribal councils, associations and their organizations serving First Nations living on and off reserve);
- **Inuit** (e.g., hamlets, councils, associations and land claim organizations);
- **Métis** (e.g., Governing Members, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis communities within the Northwest Territories and the Métis Settlements in Alberta and their organizations and governments); and
- **National Indigenous organizations, Non-governmental organizations, provincial and territorial governments**, including educational institutions, and health authorities (e.g. for cost-shared projects). *

*For funding through distinctions-based allocations, these recipients would receive Funding at the discretion of Indigenous partners.

Accessing the Indigenous Health Equity Fund: Implementation Plans

- It is expected that all funding recipients, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, will access funding through implementation plans that will provide information on their priority areas for investment, expected outcomes, and indicators for measuring progress.
 - This is consistent with the Government of Canada’s plan for “Working Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians,” which is providing \$25 billion to provinces and territories through tailored bilateral agreements to advance shared health priorities. Under this plan, provinces and territories are being required to submit action plans that detail specifically how new federal funding will be spent, expected outcomes and what measures will be tracked.
 - FNIHB is currently developing a template that could be used as a tool for your reference, but remains flexible on the format of final “implementation plans” that are submitted.
- These implementation plans will support ISC’s reporting on distinctions-based, and Indigenous-led investments made through the Indigenous Health Equity Fund, including a description of:
 - Planned initiatives and health priorities;
 - Whether investments are for new health care related services, or whether they are being used to supplement existing ones;
 - Results and reporting strategy;
 - The extent to which investments are supporting community-based health services;
 - The extent to which these investments are supporting partnerships with provincial and territorial health systems;
 - GBA+ considerations; and
 - Description of service delivery populations.

Funding:

- While exact funding allocations remain to be determined, it is expected that the funding methodology for the Indigenous Health Equity Fund will be consistent with the Indigenous Community Support Fund.
- Pending confirmation of precise funding methodology and regional allocations, it is imperative that work begins to develop their implementation plans for this new investment.
 - For First Nations, this funding is further divided into regional amounts, factoring in 2021 on reserve and Crown land populations derived from the Indian Registry System with adjustments for community size and remoteness using the Modified Berger Formula.
- Precise and final allocations are expected later in Fall.

Reporting:

- The Indigenous Health Equity Fund will provide \$2 billion over ten years, which will provide a measure of predictability. In order to build on success into the future, strong mechanisms for measuring progress and reporting on outcomes will be key.
- FNIHB is also seeking your ongoing support in developing a results strategy. Implementation plans will provide details of planning and expected results, however, this will be at a disaggregated-level.
- Opportunities to report on broad outcomes:
 - Co-developing distinctions-based results frameworks that go beyond investments made by priority area and outcomes, truly reflecting the distinct needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples in health; and
 - Making strategic linkages with other initiatives to provide a more holistic perspective on Indigenous health, including health human resources, Indigenous health legislation, mental wellness, epidemiological capacity, and other areas.

How can we work together to develop a results strategy that respects self-determination and accountability?

Next steps

In the short-term (fall to winter)...

- Implementing the new program (i.e., securing approvals) and rolling out funding
 - FNIHB to consolidate and process information collected through implementation plans
 - Continued engagement on reporting strategies

Medium-term (over the coming months)...

- Continued engagement to establish new Terms and Conditions for the Indigenous Health Equity Fund that enable flexibility for the Fund and solidify self-determination

Longer-term (over the coming years)...

- Strategically leverage the Health Equity Fund to identify priority gaps in services
- Identify innovative, Indigenous-led approaches to improving health outcomes
- Inform future funding reforms that seek to address gaps, simplify administration and support greater Indigenous self-determination in health

Questions for you

- How do you see the development of Implementation Plans taking place? What tools and resources would be helpful to support your development?
- How do we collaborate with provinces and territories?
- How can collaborative and systems-based initiatives be supported? What can ISC do to facilitate?
- What are your thoughts on co-developing results frameworks for the Indigenous Health Equity Fund?
- How would you like to be engaged in the development of terms and conditions for the Fund? Do you have any initial thoughts on how the program can be managed in the long term?