

Aylward

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) 8.12.16 RR

Preface Note: The Native Council of PEI would prefer during any questions it be referred to as "The Native Council." As it is important to be distinguished and recognized as a distinct entity from the Mi'kmaq Confederacy (MCPEI).

On December 2nd, 2016 during question period—the Premier answered a question posed by the Leader of the Third Party—and claimed his government provided "modest" funds to the Native Council regarding mental health & addictions. This is not true. The funding to the Native Council was not for "mental health & addictions" and the amount was so small, it would not effectively contribute to any program/service let alone one as significant as mental health & addictions.

In the same answer, the Premier claimed "civil servants" assisted the Native Council on their funding proposal. Again, this is not true. There was no assistance as both the Native Council Director and President & Chief filled out the proposals (AMHAP & SAFE). In an exchange of emails between the Native Council & Aboriginal Affairs department over a span of many months, there is no indication of support or assistance when it comes to mental health and addictions.

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

Question 1:

With the Federal funding removed from the Native Council's National Native Alcohol and Drugs Abuse Program (NNADAP), why did the Province follow suit in removing this critical program's funding, instead of supporting this continuation?

Question 2:

Why is this government sitting on the sidelines and not advocating on behalf of the Native Council to the Federal government to continue providing funding for such a critical program? Continuing to leave the off-reserve aboriginal peoples in a jurisdictional wasteland.

Question 3:

Why is this government not stepping up to provide new funding for a program of similar scope?

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

Question 4:

Why is this government removing their share of the (NNADAP) program funding, approx. \$44,000 when the Native Council and public sees funding being provided by the Province to the Mi'kmaq Confederacy (MCPEI), in the amount of \$618,918.00 in the 2015/16 fiscal year?

Question 5:

The latest UKAN report (2011) claims 80% of Aboriginal people live off-reserve on PEI. Does this government not think it is unreasonable to fund over \$600,000 to an organization (MCPEI) that represents approx. 20% of the aboriginal population, when the Native Council is only requesting a fraction of this amount to provide needed services to its much larger community?

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

Question 6:

The Native Council applied for two proposals once (NNADAP) funding was removed. These two proposals: Aboriginal Mental Health and Addictions Program (AMHAP) & Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively (SAFE) were both rejected for “no funding” purposes. **Question**, why does the Native Council have to work so hard and tirelessly beg this government to partner and support the off-reserve aboriginal community?

Question 7:

The off-reserve Aboriginal community is a community that is the fastest growing on PEI and a community that is continually forgotten, marginalized and often the least supported when it comes to critical issues like mental health and addictions. **Question**, why does this government proclaim no funding is available to support the off-reserve Aboriginal community when we see MCPEI is continually handed large sums of money for things like e-gaming and new buildings? – Money not helping the community, let alone transparent or accountable.

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

Question 8:

Whenever there are minster meetings (both federal and provincial) regarding aboriginal issues, why does this government not invite the Native Council to the table?

Question 9:

Does this government not think the voice of the off-reserve aboriginal people is important?

Question 10:

Does this government recognize the Native Council as a distinct Aboriginal Representative Organization (ARO)?

Question 11:

Will this government commit to renewing its funding with the Native Council to help provide programs and services to the off-reserve aboriginal population?

Questions from the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI)

Question 12:

Will this government take the lead (show leadership), and advocate on behalf of the off-reserve Aboriginal peoples; and lead the tripartite agreements, and not continue to leave them in a jurisdictional wasteland?