



WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

2nd Session, 65th General Assembly

Legislative Assembly of PEI

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Question number: 1069	Question date: December 8, 2016
Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock	
Question asked of (<i>department</i>): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)	
Question answered by (<i>Minister</i>): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan	Date received by Clerk's Office: MAR 08 2017

QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) is a federal initiative to set up and operate addiction programs that reduce and prevent alcohol, drug and solvent abuse in Aboriginal communities. The program's goal is to help fund First Nations and Inuit-run initiatives. The program is funded by Health Canada's National Anti-Drug Strategy. PEI's Addiction Services provides a range of programs and is closely aligned with Mental Health Services to ensure that individuals living with an addiction and a mental health disorder receive coordinated care. The Lennox Island and Abegweit Reserves both have trained and certified NNADAP counselors with Lennox Island actively providing NNADAP services to its citizens. All members of the Native Council who live on PEI are able to receive addiction services through Health PEI.



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Question number: 1070	Question date: December 8, 2016
Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock	
Question asked of (<i>department</i>): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)	
Question answered by (<i>Minister</i>): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan	Date received by Clerk's Office: MAR 08 2017 <small>Office Use Only</small>

QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The Government of PEI has had a long relationship with the Native Council and, along with the federal government, has supported the organization as it has re-developed its organizational capacity over the past two years. At the request of the Native Council, provincial officials reached out to Health Canada as recently as August 2016. Health Canada reiterated that the Native Council is not eligible for NNDADP funding. The Native Council's membership, the broader PEI Indigenous population, and all Islanders have equal access to all programs and services provided by Health PEI.



WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

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Question number: 1071

Question date: December 8, 2016

Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock

Question asked of (*department*): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)

Question answered by (*Minister*): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan

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QUESTION: Why is this government not stepping up to provide new funding for a program of similar scope [to the NNADAP]?

ANSWER:

The Province provided capacity funding for FY15-16 and during this time the Native Council may have strengthened its capacity to deliver mental health and addictions programming. Government officials have met several times with NCPEI to help further position for success in program applications in health and mental health.



WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

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Question number: **1072**

Question date: **December 8, 2016**

Question asked by: **James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock**

Question asked of (*department*): **Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)**

Question answered by (*Minister*): **Hon. Wade MacLauchlan**

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QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program is a federal program. Health Canada determined that the Native Council is not eligible for NNADAP funding. Certified NNADAP counselors provide the service on Reserve, and all other Islanders, including the Native Council's membership, have access to provincial mental health and addictions services. The Native Council is encouraged to contact Health Canada with further questions regarding its NNADAP program.



WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

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Question number: 1073

Question date: December 8, 2016

Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock

Question asked of (*department*): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)

Question answered by (*Minister*): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan

Date received by
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QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The Native Council has had significant governance and capacity challenges over the last two years, including questions arising from its financial statements. During that time, the Province has been supportive of the organization's restructuring process and, along with the federal government, has helped the Native Council focus on strengthening its capacity so as to provide a voice for its membership.



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Question number: **1074**

Question date: **December 8, 2016**

Question asked by: **James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock**

Question asked of (*department*): **Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)**

Question answered by (*Minister*): **Hon. Wade MacLauchlan**

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QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The Provincial government must make well-informed and prudent decisions on financial expenditures to ensure the best value for taxpayers. The Native Council's AMHAP and SAFE proposals were evaluated on their own merits and did not meet provincial standards. The Government of PEI values its long standing relationship with the Native Council; regular communication between elected leaders and officials has over the decades given the Native Council an established voice. The Government of PEI stood by the Native Council during its time of re-structuring and continues to work with the Native Council as they strengthen their capacity.



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Question number: **1075**

Question date: **December 8, 2016**

Question asked by: **James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock**

Question asked of (*department*): **Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)**

Question answered by (*Minister*): **Hon. Wade MacLauchlan**

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QUESTION: 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.

ANSWER:

The Government of PEI has for decades had a strong relationship with the Native Council including regular meetings between elected and senior officials, cost-shared project-funding with Canada, a land lease for cultural activities at Panmure Island, support for Native Council representation at the Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, and a conveyance of lands in western PEI. The Native Council sits on the Department of Education's Indigenous Education Committee as well as the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee and, along with the Aboriginal Women's Association and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy, was involved in the design of cultural courses delivered to health care professionals at Health PEI.

The Province is proud of its record of working with the PEI Mi'kmaq to build a positive and constructive inter-governmental relationship with the First Nations. The Mi'kmaq Confederacy, acting on behalf of the Lennox Island and Abegweit Bands, has a strong and proven track record of offering programs and services of the highest quality. The Province has also had a longstanding and positive relationship with the Native Council. In recent years, when the Native Council was unable to deliver its programs due to significant governance and financial challenges, the Province worked with the federal government to provide the Native Council with capacity strengthening funding.



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Question number: 1076	Question date: December 8, 2016
Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock	
Question asked of (<i>department</i>): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)	
Question answered by (<i>Minister</i>): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan	Date received by Clerk's Office: MAR 08 2017

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

ANSWER:

Provincial officials, including the Premier and several Deputy Ministers have had meetings with the Native Council. The Province respects the bilateral relationship the Native Council maintains with the federal government.



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Question number: 1077

Question date: December 8, 2016

Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock

Question asked of (*department*): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)

Question answered by (*Minister*): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan

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

ANSWER:

The government of PEI values the opinions of all Islanders, including all Aboriginal people. NCPEI has had regular meetings with the Premier, as Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, as well as ready access to officials across government.



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Question number: **1078**

Question date: **December 8, 2016**

Question asked by: **James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock**

Question asked of (*department*): **Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)**

Question answered by (*Minister*): **Hon. Wade MacLauchlan**

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

ANSWER:

The federal government recently transitioned its terminology to "Indigenous Representative Organization"; the Government of PEI will follow in respect of Canada's lead.



WRITTEN QUESTIONS FORM

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Question number: 1079

Question date: December 8, 2016

Question asked by: James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock

Question asked of (*department*): Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)

Question answered by (*Minister*): Hon. Wade MacLauchlan

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

ANSWER:

The government of PEI is open to receiving funding proposals from the Native Council for the delivery of programs and services that benefit its membership. All proposals submitted to the Province are reviewed carefully and funding decisions are based on merit.



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Question number: **1080**

Question date: **December 8, 2016**

Question asked by: **James Aylward, MLA for Stratford-Kinlock**

Question asked of (*department*): **Executive Council Office (Aboriginal Affairs)**

Question answered by (*Minister*): **Hon. Wade MacLauchlan**

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QUESTION: 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?

ANSWER:

The Province has and continues to welcome engagement with the federal government and Native Council on setting goals for FY16-17. At the province's suggestion, officials from the three parties met in January 2017.