



The First Nations Social Development Society

FNSDS Resource Centre

Field Communiqué # 2, July / 2008

NCB, GFA & BSDW Training Questions and Answers

- Q. Why is it necessary to report to INAC the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) that Income Assistance families receive? How do I get the NCBS information from IA clients?**
- A.** The NCBS that IA families receive is reported to INAC, either on a monthly or quarterly basis (depending on the particular Nation's funding arrangement) in order for INAC to provide the reinvestment funds to First Nations for community-based programs and services to meet the needs of low income families on-reserve. Each July families receive a Statement of Benefits from Canada Revenue Agency which outlines the amount of benefits received. Request a copy of this statement from your IA families and place on the client file. If the client is unable to provide a copy of this statement a consent to release information form can be signed and faxed to CRA to obtain the required information.
- Q. Since there is a requirement to report the NCBS, is there a quick reference sheet outlining the maximum amounts that IA clients could be receiving?**
- A.** Yes. A quick reference sheet is attached to this communiqué outlining the 2008/09 maximum NCBS that families could receive. This is a sheet for reference only and should not be used as the sole source of information regarding NCBS received by IA families.
- Q. Has the Family Bonus Top Up amount changed for 2008/08?**
- A.** No. For 2008-09 the Family Bonus (FB) Top up allowed for income assistance families that are receiving a lesser amount of Canada Child Tax Benefits (CCTB) or are not receiving the CCTB; when eligible the FB Top up remains at \$123.50 per dependence child.
- Q. I understand that the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) has made changes to the Child In Home of a Relative (CIHR) program, incorporating background screenings on all adults residing in the home of a relative. Does this mean the Guardian Financial Assistance (GFA) program will change too? If so, When?**
- A.** Yes. In order to maintain comparability between CIHR and GFA, INAC is required to implement similar provisions for screening checks on all adults living in the home or a relative as part of the GFA application process. The goal is to have a system for screening checks in place in the near future where the caregivers of all new on-reserve applicants to GFA and adults living in their household—would undergo screening checks. A definite time-line as to the roll out of this process has yet to be determined.
- Q. I received the SD Policy & Procedures Manual Amendment #02—2008/09 (July 2008), however section 5.6 pages 3 & 4 are missing. Is this an error?**
- A.** Yes. During print production of the manual amendment pages 3 & 4 of section 5.6 were omitted by error. Please add the attached section 5.6 pages 3 & 4 (July 2008) to your SD policy & procedures manual. (You will notice that page 4 of section 5.6 is blank—this is not an error).
- Q. Has consideration been given to the impacts that the new screening requirements might have for people living on reserve?**
- A.** Yes. INAC recognizes that the decision to require screenings for GFA could impact families and households on reserve. For this reason, INAC is working with the First Nations Social Development Society and the Province, and are launching a pilot project with some First Nations in the summer of 2008. The pilot project will allow First Nations to test the changes in their communities and provide input on the best way to implement the GFA screening process.
- Q. In prior years FNSDS has provided training for Band Social Development Workers for the most part in Vancouver. Will there be training available in other areas of the province?**
- A.** Yes. FNSDS staff are pleased to announce that our training sessions have gone regional! Both the Level 1 and 2 training modules are now being offered in strategic geographical areas of the province. A schedule has been attached for your convenience.

FOR FURTHER INFO & SUPPORT CONTACT:

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