



The First Nations Social Development Society

FNSDS Resource Centre

Field Communique # 2, August / 2009

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 2009/10 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 2009/10?**
- A.** No. For 2009-10 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 dependent 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 of 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 understand that the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) has increased the rates for Burial services. Has INAC increased the rates for Burial as well? If so, when?**
- A.** Yes. Effective July 1, 2009, where eligibility for Burial or Cremation service has been established, the Administering Authority will pay a basic rate for the funeral provider's service fee up to a maximum of \$1,285. The basic fee covers the cost of an immediate disposition of the deceased. When requested by the family additional services may be authorized up to a maximum of \$815. Refer to Policy Directive Letter No #1 2009/10 for further details.

FOR FURTHER INFO & SUPPORT CONTACT:

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