



# Budget 2016 Infrastructure Investments in First Nation Communities

## Ontario First Nation Economic Forum

October 13, 2016



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## Budget 2016 Investments

- The Government of Canada is making historic investments to support Indigenous people and communities across the country.
- **\$8.4 billion** allocated in the first five years of its mandate to address infrastructure, social and health issues.
- Approximately **\$4 billion** was committed by INAC to water and wastewater, housing, education and other community infrastructure on reserves:
  - **\$1.833B** over **five years** for water and wastewater;
  - **\$416.6M** over **two years** for housing;
  - **\$969.4M** over **five years** for education facilities;
  - **\$331.9M** over **two years** for other community infrastructure – including cultural and recreation facilities; and
  - **\$408.9M** over **five years** for solid waste management.





## Budget 2016 Investments in Ontario

- As of the beginning of October, over \$122 million has been set aside from Budget 2016 in 2016-2017 to address infrastructure needs in Ontario in the following five categories:
  - Water & Wastewater - \$33.6 million
  - Housing - \$61.9 million
  - Education Facilities - \$13 million
  - Other Community Infrastructure - \$12.3 million
  - Solid Waste Management - \$1.8 million
- Ontario Region is providing First Nations with an additional \$183.4 million in non-Budget 2016 funding for on-reserve infrastructure.

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## Budget 2016 Investments in Ontario

- Ontario Region has worked with First Nations to invest Budget 2016 allocations. As of October 3, 2016, successes include:
  - 52 water and wastewater projects underway in 43 First Nations (24 of the projects are addressing long-term drinking water advisories in 19 communities);
  - 54 new housing projects underway in 54 First Nations building 424 new homes;
  - 15 school feasibility studies and two designs are in development;
  - Community infrastructure projects, such as community centres and athletic fields, with a total value of \$12.3 million are underway;
  - \$1.8 million has been secured for under the First Nations Waste Management Infrastructure Initiative and to advance solid waste practices on reserve.



## Accessing Infrastructure Funding

- Depending upon the type of infrastructure project a First Nation is pursuing, funding is accessed through a variety of INAC programs.
- INAC's Capital Management Officers (CMO) work with First Nations on planning for, and delivering infrastructure projects to meet their community's needs, and advise and assist First Nations with the Department's processes required for project approval and funding.
- Except for specialized funding programs, the first step to accessing infrastructure funding is the First Nations Infrastructure Investment Plan.





# First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP)

- The First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan (FNIIP) is used to access proposal-based funding for infrastructure projects that First Nations wish to undertake in their communities.
- FNIIP submissions are used by departmental officials to plan and prioritize infrastructure investments in First Nation communities across Ontario Region.
- Projects vary in size and scope from a water treatment plant upgrade to multi-unit housing or a school.
- First Nations are sent letters, forms and instructions annually inviting them to submit their proposed infrastructure projects by an end of September deadline.
- The Plan is divided into two components: formula-funded and project-funded allocations.

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## FNIP, cont'd

### Formula-Funded Allocations

- First Nations receive formula-based funding annually for the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure assets, and for investing in new infrastructure under cost-sharing agreements.
- Two FNIP types, depending upon funding agreements:
  - **Block funding:** the FNIP is approved for a five-year period, but is reviewed and updated annually. Full core capital funding may be used for infrastructure needs eligible under the Capital Facilities Maintenance Program (CFMP).
  - **Non-block funding:** the FNIP is reviewed and updated annually. The plan must outline expenditures to address Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) Health and Safety Deficiencies first. The balance can be used for other CFMP needs.
- Block and non-block funding reviews begin during the first week of October, starting with the initial program overview and followed by more detailed environmental review.





## **FNIP, cont'd**

### **Proposal-Funded Allocations**

- First Nations submit a list of community infrastructure project proposals requiring departmental funding.
- Projects are listed in order of importance or urgency to the First Nation's needs.
- Each project listed in the submission includes a concept description, outline of its rationale for funding, total estimated cost, cost-share amount or other sources of funding, as well as a cash-flow schedule.
- Proposal-funded activities must be submitted to INAC by November 15 each year.
- All concepts are reviewed beginning in January, ranked according to need across the Region, and approved based on funding availability for the coming fiscal year.







# First Nation Water and Wastewater Enhanced Program (FNWWEPP)

- This program provides funding to bring drinking water and wastewater operations in First Nation communities to a service level similar to those available to Canadians living in communities of similar size and location.
- FNWWEPP funds feasibility studies, the design and construction of new or upgrades to existing water and wastewater treatment systems, as well as operator training and supports.
- First Nations do not apply to the program – funds are available to support priority projects identified in the FNIIPs.



## Budget 2016 Housing Initiative

- Budget 2016's Housing Initiative is proposal based and national in scope, addressing the most pressing First Nations housing needs across the country.
- A letter and information package was sent to First Nations in May 2016, inviting each to identify their on-reserve housing infrastructure needs and submit funding applications by three deadlines: June 23, July 29 and September 30, 2016.
- In 2016-2017, First Nation submissions were prioritized using the criteria of remoteness, housing density, housing conditions and the number of community members on social assistance.
- The Government of Canada will engage with First Nation representatives over the coming year to develop an effective, sustainable and long-term approach to housing to adequately meet community needs on a continuous basis.

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# Budget 2016 Housing Initiative, cont'd

## 1. Immediate Needs Fund

- Focused on First Nations communities with high immediate needs for on-reserve housing.
- Funds are provided for new construction, renovation and lot servicing.
- Funding levels were made available in the information package sent to all First Nations, as well as the type of units eligible for funding. Eligible categories include:
  - Construction of multi-unit housing for social needs;
  - Renovation of Band-owned (rental) housing and additions for vulnerable groups;
  - Lot servicing.





# Budget 2016 Housing Initiative, cont'd

## 2. Capacity Development Fund

- This fund focuses on helping First Nations increase their ability to oversee and manage their on-reserve housing. Eligible categories include:
  - Governance development and training to assist in community and infrastructure planning and the development of housing policies.
  - Home maintenance training for housing managers, staff and tenants; community education on tenant roles and responsibilities; preventing and addressing mould; establishing asset-lifecycle maintenance plans.
  - Housing management tools, including:
    - Training in construction and renovation planning and execution, operation of housing maintenance programs, and basic accounting;
    - Developing and managing an on-reserve housing inventory and maintaining a status and needs assessment.

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# Budget 2016 Housing Initiative, cont'd

## 3. Innovation Fund

- Encourages First Nation communities to pursue innovative approaches to on-reserve housing management and governance that benefit the entire community. Eligible categories include:
  - Developing or using new on-reserve housing governance structures/models, which includes but is not limited to:
    - Creating a housing authority to manage, operate and administer funding and programs;
    - Bringing housing service delivery under one entity/organization;
    - Supporting mentorship opportunities for those who want to receive or give mentoring training from/to another First Nation.
  - Alternative funding models to support on-reserve housing needs such as creating a revolving-loan fund or providing seed funding for the financing of home ownership.

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## Transparency and Accountability

- We will work to provide you with updates and progress reports on our infrastructure spending.
- The regional Community Infrastructure Division team plan to attend as many events and large forums as possible to directly share infrastructure program information.
- We would appreciate and benefit from your insights and those of your operational/technical officials. Write, email, call, or reach out via your Tribal Council or PTO representatives, or speak to the Capital Management Officer assigned to work with your First Nation or Tribal Council.





Thank you. Miigwech.

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