



House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

an organization

Organization name: _____

or

an individual

Name: Cameron Alexis, Regional Chief, Treaties 6, 7 & 8

Topic: Aboriginal peoples

***Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.**

Increase investments in shelters in First Nation communities: Indigenous women & girls are 5 times more likely to experience violence than any other population in Canada. A 2013 Statistics Canada report notes the rate of self-reported violent victimization against Aboriginal women was 2.5 times higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal women - for spousal violence, as well as violence by other family members, friends, acquaintances & strangers. There are currently 41 on-reserve shelters for 634 communities, as well as a need for family treatment and culturally appropriate services.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

\$10 million-\$99.9 million

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

AANDC's 2012 internal evaluation identifies that current levels of investment are not sufficient to respond to existing needs. Investments in prevention and family support services will translate into significant cost savings. Budget 2013 identifies an investment of \$24 million over two years to the Family Violence Prevention Program. However, this is merely a renewal of funding, keeping the program at the same funding level (~\$30M/year) as it has been for the previous 6 years, despite a 23% growth in First Nations population coupled with an increased demand for services.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Appropriate and sustainable investments in family violence prevention will directly benefit First Nation families and communities, by ensuring that adequate services and infrastructure are in place to support First Nation women and children. Supporting families and children experiencing and exposed to violence will ensure further future savings in costs of child welfare, policing and corrections.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Increased investments in the FVPP will result in long term financial savings in child welfare, health and justice. A 2012 Justice Canada report identifies the total cost of intimate partner violence in Canada as \$7.4 billion per year - which does not include costs associated with sexual assault or the extreme cases that result in death & disappearance. Doubling current investment to \$60 million annually & providing support & prevention services for First Nations would accrue significant cost savings along with measurable increases in child & family wellbeing & outcomes.

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Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

First Nation Police Services (FNPS) play a critical role in ensuring public safety & in keeping the peace in First Nation communities. Policing generally is considered an essential service within provincial laws - no similar legislative base exists for FNPS, resulting in sporadic, inadequate funding that threatens the ability of FNPS to deliver high quality police services, ensure safety & deal with emerging issues such as tobacco and gang activity. Federal, provincial & First Nation governments commit to long-term sustainability, viability, capacity & equity with other police services.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

\$10 million-\$99.9 million

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The First Nation Policing Policy (FNPP), a discretionary & non-statutory transfer payment program is inadequate and assumes that First Nation policing is an enhancement to existing policing services. This leads to chronic levels of under-funding, fewer training opportunities and infrastructure gaps. Some First Nation police services are reporting that their operational budget for this fiscal year will not maintain their service until December 2013, leaving communities at risk.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

First Nation communities and the general public across Canada will benefit from stable, predictable, sustainable and culturally appropriate policing services.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

First Nation policing that is more culturally appropriate, sustainable and reflective of the essential needs of communities they serve will greatly enhance safety and security in First Nation communities and for the general public, as well as reduce costs associated with criminal proceedings.

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Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Increased investment in community-based justice programming: the over-representation of First Nation citizens in the correctional system is at crisis levels and it is important that the federal government invest in initiatives that support First Nation governments in taking greater responsibility for justice administration and rehabilitation.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

\$10 million-\$99.9 million

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

A federal investment in sustainable, culturally appropriate First Nation justice programming will result in significant cost-savings. The financial and human costs of the justice crisis in First Nation communities can be alleviated through community-based, culturally appropriate justice programs. Programs funded under the Aboriginal Justice Strategy have been shown to reduce recidivism, support victims & promote reintegration and community healing. New investments will allow expansion of these programs into additional communities as well as enhanced service offerings.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

First Nation individuals, families, and communities will benefit greatly from community-based justice programming through enhanced community safety and well-being. Canadians in general will benefit from reduction in crime and greater levels of productivity.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Direct costs of keeping a person in prison are over \$113,000 per year, and there are many indirect financial costs from lost productivity as well as social costs to families and communities. Preventing crime and ensuring better reintegration and lower rates of re-offending will have both economic and social impacts for First Nation communities and all Canadians.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided

