

SUMMARY

Dec. 2010

ROLL UP OF COMMON REVIEWS OF FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

During fiscal years 2005/06 to 2008/09, Internal Audit and Advisory Services conducted nine Common Reviews of First Nations Child and Family Services agencies on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada BC and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Individual reports documenting the results were prepared for each First Nations Child and Family Services agency. This report is a summary of common themes identified to assist First Nations Child and Family Services agencies in preparing for future Common Reviews.

The Common Reviews coordinated three types of reviews: Financial Compliance, Operational Review, and Case Practice Review. Internal Audit and Advisory Services was responsible for conducting the Financial Compliance Review and overseeing contractors performing the Operational Reviews, while Ministry of Children and Family Development conducted the Case Practice Reviews.

The Financial Compliance Reviews were based on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Child and Family Services Review Process. Samples of child in care files and caregiver files were reviewed to assess whether the files were adequately supported and whether maintenance claimed and funded met the funding agency's terms and conditions. Selected administrative procedures were also reviewed.

The Operational Review involved assessing the agencies' compliance with the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators Readiness Criteria and Operational Standards.

Generally, the reviews found that First Nation's Child and Family Services agencies' maintenance billings met Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's and the Ministry of Children and Family Development's terms and conditions for that funding. In addition, valid contracts were in place between the agencies and their caregivers (foster parent(s) and group homes) although the review identified opportunities to improve agencies' contract management processes.

While agencies met all of the administrative procedures consistent with the requirements of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Child and Family Services Review process, the reviews identified that financial policies and procedures, and controls over separation of duties could be strengthened.

Most agencies were in compliance with Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators Operational Standards and Readiness Criteria; however, the reviews identified some opportunities for agencies to improve their operational management performance, particularly in the areas of human resources and formally documented policies.

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