



Crown-Indigenous Relations
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et Affaires du Nord Canada

CIRNAC Updates 2019

Presentation to the Northwest Territories
Association of Communities (NWTAC)

February 28, 2019



Canada



1. Creation of two new Federal Departments...

- In August 2017, Prime Minister announced the creation of two new departments and the dissolution of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), committing to create a renewed relationship with First Nations, Métis and Inuit based on rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.
- Based on 1996 *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples* recommendation:
“...An Aboriginal Relations Department Act and an Indian and Inuit Services Department Act, to set up two departments to replace the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development - one to implement the new relationship with Aboriginal nations, the second to administer continuing services for groups that have not yet opted for self-government.”
- In December 2017, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) was created by joining the various service-delivery sectors from INAC with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) from Health Canada.
- In May 2018, the creation of the new Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) was announced, followed by the announcement of a new Minister of Northern Affairs in July 2018.
- The two new Departments will require new enabling legislation to replace the 1985 *DIAND* Act (work is underway).





2. With Three Ministers...

- There are now three Ministers leading the two new Departments:
 - Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.
 - Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade.
 - Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Indigenous Services.
- The mandate letters to the Ministers of CIRNAC and ISC were issued by the Prime Minister in October 2017.
- Minister LeBlanc's mandate letter for Northern Affairs was issued in August 2018.





...and three Ministerial mandates:

Minister Bennett (CIRNAC)

- Lead the renewal of **nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown, and gov't-to-gov't relationships** with Indigenous peoples, including a **Recognition of Rights Framework**.
- Lead strategy to include **Indigenous representation** in Fed-Prov-Terr dialogues.
- Establish a **new fiscal relationship**.
- Lead work on the **review of laws** relating to Indigenous peoples.
- Implement **UNDRIP** and the **TRC calls to action**.
- Lead National Inquiry into **MMIWG**.

Minister LeBlanc (CIRNAC)

- Advance work on the **new Arctic Policy Framework**.
- Expand the **Nutrition North** program.
- Advance **Nunavut devolution**.
- Lead Northern **climate change adaptation**.
- Support work on a **Recognition of Rights Framework**, especially with regards to intergovernmental relations.

Minister O'Regan(ISC)

- **Deliver quality distinction-based services** to Indigenous peoples, including: infrastructure and housing, safe drinking water, emergency management, community wellness, health care and education.
- Improve and better measure service delivery and **accountability** to Indigenous peoples.
- Implement improved responses to provision of child and family services and **Jordan's Principle**.
- Develop **co-management** models that bring control and jurisdiction back to Indigenous communities.





3. Engagement on Departmental Transformation:

Minister Bennett engaging on recognition
and implementation of rights

(including shape of new departments)

Minister Philpott
engaging on ISC
service strategy
(including shape of
ISC)

Internal public
service
engagement on
creation of new
departments

ISC & CIRNAC
public servants
engaging with
external partners





Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework (RIIRF):

- The co-development of a “Recognition of Rights Framework” with First Nation, Inuit and Metis partners was announced by the Prime Minister in February 2018.
- Minister of CIRNAC, Carolyn Bennett, engaged with First Nation, Inuit, and Métis organizations and communities across the country on the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights. We have heard that there is a broad consensus among partners that some policies – namely the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and the Inherent Right Policy – are in urgent need of reform.
- As the Prime Minister stated on December 4, 2018, our immediate focus will be to work with partners to overhaul these outdated policies. It is expected that beyond June 2019, we will continue to discuss policy approaches to specific subjects with Indigenous partners.





Arctic and Northern Policy Framework:

- In December 2016, the Prime Minister announced the co-development with Indigenous, Provincial and Territorial partners of a new “Arctic Policy Framework” to replace Canada’s Northern Strategy (2009) and Statement on Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy (2010).
- Informed by Ministerial Special Representative Mary Simon’s *Shared Arctic Leadership Model*, released in March 2017.
- The goal is to identify and build a long-term vision for Canada’s North and Arctic Region to the year 2030, ensuring: self-determination and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; resilient and healthy residents and ecosystems; strengthened infrastructure; strong and diverse economies; knowledge-based decision-making; and a rules-based international circumpolar Arctic that is safe, secure and well-defended.
- Takes a whole-of-government approach, and covers Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunangat, Nanatsiguat, Nunavik, as well as northern Manitoba.
- Led by Minister LeBlanc, the final framework report is under development, following an extensive engagement process in 2017-2018.





Indigenous Service Canada

- Distinctions based approach to service delivery
- Question remains how ISC programs will be delivered in the NWT context
- Engagements on this are underway by CIRNAC and ISC officials with Indigenous partners (Transformation)





QUESTIONS?

