

Agenda: Expert Forum on First Nation Social Assistance Reform

Assembly of First Nations, 55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6L5;
613-241-6789

(Breakfast available at 8:00 a.m.)

9:00 a.m. Opening ceremonies

- Opening prayer: Elder Thomas Louttit:
- Welcome and opening remarks: Jonathan Thompson, Naiomi Metallic, Fred Wien
- Introduction of participants

9:30 a.m. The Big Picture: Poverty, Inequality and the Role of Social Assistance

- Andrew Sharpe on trends in poverty, inequality and social assistance in Canada
- Naiomi Metallic on legal and policy frameworks for social policy on reserve

10:15 a.m. Nutrition break

10:30 a.m. Open Discussion of big picture issues and alternatives

- What policies/strategies have been or might be most effective in addressing poverty/inequality in mainstream society? Among First Nations?
- Where does social assistance fit into this picture?
- What about guaranteed incomes? Enhanced child benefits? Rebuilding self-determining and self-reliant First Nations?

12:00 Discussion continues over working lunch

12:30 p.m. Best practices: how can First Nation social assistance be structured so as to contribute as much as possible to individual and community well-being?

- Andrew Sharpe on innovative experiments in mainstream jurisdictions
- Fred Wien on First Nation best practices derived from the Maritime First Nation research program

1:30 p.m. Open discussion of best practices

- What innovative practices are we currently seeing among First Nations?
- What lessons can we learn from mainstream models of assistance?

3:45p.m. Closing Ceremonies

- Closing remarks: Jonathan Thompson, Naiomi Metallic and Fred Wien
- Closing prayer: Elder Thomas Louttit