

The Cost of Remoteness and its Impact on First Nations Programs and Services

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Significant disparities exist between the socio-economic outcomes of First Nations communities and the rest of the country. Proximity is widely recognized as an important factor affecting the socio-economic opportunities of communities. As part of Canada's New Fiscal Relationship with First Nations, Indigenous Services Canada and the Assembly of First Nations are reviewing the concept of remoteness and its impact on costs of First Nations programs and services. The presentation will focus on the concept of remoteness as a cost factor for First Nations communities; it will further provide an overview of different measures used to assess remoteness and present a new remoteness index developed jointly by Statistics Canada and Indigenous Services Canada. Finally, challenges with implementing a remoteness factor in determining equitable levels of funding will be presented.