Indigenous Lens
On
Basic Income

Mamaweswen,
The North Shore Tribal Council
Niigaaniin Services
April 1, 1985 seven (7) First Nations came together in the era of Canada’s devolution policy

Niigaaniin Services is a group delivery model of Ontario Works (Financial, Employment & Addictions) to eight (8) First Nations from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie Ontario since 2006

Servicing Wahnapitae First Nation, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation
Basic Income-Indigenous Lens

- Life Stabilization
- Dignity
- Keeping Families Together
- Honesty
- Enhanced Services
- Hand Up not a Hand Out
- HOPE
- Independence
- Reconciliation
Historical Context
Ontario is the only province to sign the 1965 federal/provincial cost-share agreement respecting social services on reserve.

Agreement recognized federal responsibility for Indians AND provincial responsibility for social services – Ontario extends services to and funds First Nations to deliver; Canada reimburses about 93% of cost (for as yet a limited range of services).

First Nations retain the right to not accept provincial services extension (e.g. BI) and, in some legislation, the right to opt out.
First Nations Sovereignty

- First Nations have the right to choose services that they wish to utilize:
  - Bank Accounts
  - Income Tax Assessments
- Accessing services makes it mandatory to access these
- Agenda with Steve Paikin “The Basic Income Debate”
  - “Child Tax benefit on reserve is $340 Billion, an estimate based on 30 to 40 percent of First Nations Families on-reserve are not filing.” – Elizabeth Mulholland, CEO of Prosper Canada
- These are complex situations that may hinder the true benefits of a Basic Income in First Nations
First Nations Sovereignty

- There are many different barriers when it comes to First Nations enrolling in Banking and Tax Programs (including but not limited to):
  - 1) Protection of information
  - 2) Fear of Data Collection
  - 3) Adherence to the right to remain sovereign
  - 4) Lack of education on completing enrollment into programs
- Next slides will provide a snapshot of what other barriers First Nations have to contend with
Our Data Shows

- 40% of the North Shore First Nation population (adults, adult dependents, children) is dependent on OW/ODSP financial assistance on average (8 First Nations, 5,100 resident on reserve)
- of these, Niigaaniin staff identify the following core issues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessed Need/Barrier Categories</th>
<th>% of Caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>little or no work experience</td>
<td>56.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible/actual need for Life Skills Training</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no accredited work skills</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than grade 12 education</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible/actual need for counselling</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible/actual addictions issues</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>possible/actual MH issues</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GAIN SS Data shows the following

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Category</th>
<th>in the past month</th>
<th>in the past year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internalizing Disorder</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externalizing Disorder</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/Violence Exp</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• We have skilled staff regularly launching programming to assist Community Members with life skills practices and help them achieve that greater self-reliance.

• With alarming data from previous slides, providing the hand-up before the hand-out will always be our top priority.
When Niigaaniin began, it started with a vision of a bright future.

No more hurt, poverty, barriers, and crisis; only joy, prosperity, opportunities, and peace.

We are getting closer to that vision with each day
Miigwech!