

## BRIEFING NOTE

**TO: BC Specific Claims Working Group**  
**FROM: Jody Woods**  
**DATE: MAY 12, 2021**  
**RE: UPDATE ON ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH FUNDING**

---

### **Recommendations**

#### **Background**

- In 2019, Canada made the following announcement related to specific claims research funding: “Budget 2019 also proposes to provide additional support of \$40.0 million over five years, starting in 2019–20, to First Nations to help research and develop their claims.”
- SCB developed a Summer Specific Claims Bulletin in 2020 which stated: “Budget 2019 increased the funding for First Nations to research and develop their claims to \$12 million per year for five years.”
- Every year the Negotiation Support Directorate (NSD) provides information on research and Specific Claims Tribunal funding allocations to be shared at the annual Research Directors meeting. In the last two years the total amount allocated to CRUs and First Nations accounted for less than \$10 million per year. Requests for more information were initially met with obfuscation and delay.
- While this information was being sought, NSD unilaterally made changes to the draft research funding guidelines that allow for specific claims research dollars to be spent on other activities, including AFN claims policy work.
- We made several access to information requests, after which NSD provided some information.

#### **Current Status**

- We asked the AFN to conduct an analysis of data we provided to them. A draft of this is attached. It is being revised.
- We have other ATI requests pending that are aimed at understanding the internal government motives for these funding decisions.

#### **Analysis**

- Please see attached an analysis prepared by the AFN with information and feedback provided by the BCSCWG technical team.

#### **Attachments:**

- 2021-05-05 Review of Research Funding ATIP Documents
- Allocation Table Spec Claim TRIBUNAL-RESEARCH-2017-2022 – provided by NSD Director Shelie Laforest
- NSD-SCR-2017-2021 Specific Claims Research Expenditures Summary – provided by Shelie Laforest
- ATI disclosure A-2020-00177 for "All records related to the expenditure of all funds from the \$12 million specific claims research and development budget announced in Budget 2019.