



1827 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 2S9

July 20, 2018

E4332-23

Chief George Cote  
Cote First Nation  
Box 1659  
Kamsack, SK. S0A 1S0

Dear: Chief and Council

**RE: On-Reserve Housing Funding – Budget 2017**

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Saskatchewan Region has completed their review of all the submitted applications for funding under Budget 2017 for Construction, Renovations Additions, Lot Servicing, Capacity Development and Innovation. A total of \$152 Million in applications were received by ISC, and were ranked based on a priority system. Priority was given to First Nation communities that did not receive any funding during the previous two years with the remainder being dispersed against the ranking system identified in the call package.

With a budget of \$27 Million, not all applications were approved at maximum amounts submitted in order to reach more First Nation projects. Additionally, once a community received a portion of Budget 2017 in an investment category, they were not eligible for any further funding.

I am pleased to advise you that your proposal submitted under one of the investment categories has been approved either at the full amount, or at a reduced amount in order to assist with some of your housing priorities.

<b>Investment Category - Budget 2017</b>	<b>Approved Funding</b>
New Construction	\$1,177,500.00
- Construct 3-3-Bedrooms Units, 1- 2 Bedroom Unit	
- Lot Servicing – 6 sites	\$150,000.00

For projects funded under New Construction or Lot Servicing, Environmental Site Assessments (ESA's) must be completed prior to construction by your Capital Officer to ensure regulations and Land Encumbrance checks. It is your responsibility to work directly with your Capital Officer to arrange site visits to meet these requirements.

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Renovations Additions projects require a pre-inspection report from a qualified Level 1 Inspector prior to the start of construction. It is also your responsibility to ensure these are arranged either through your Tribal Council, or other qualified inspector. Renovations and additions must fall under the eligible parameters outlined in the call package. Please contact your Capital Officer or Capital Advisor if you are unsure if something is eligible.

Each project has to be implemented as approved by ISC. Any changes to the project scope and location must be approved by ISC officials. Change without ISC's authorization may lead to funding being revoked and a full refund of the funds allocated. Compliance will be done via progress reports and inspection reports submitted, as well as random progress inspections conducted by ISC officials.

Please refer to the following annexes concerning the terms and conditions of the On-reserve Housing Program, which will form an integral part of your funding agreement.

- Annex A Reporting Requirements
- Annex B Environmental Assessment
- Annex C Certificate of Completion

As identified in the call package, all approved projects must be completed no later than **March 31, 2020**, with the budget expended and work completed. In cases where your First Nation anticipates a project delivery problem (change of scope, schedule, etc.), within the above mentioned deadline, please notify us promptly in order to address this matter. Any project that does not comply with the March 31, 2020 deadline could be subject to total or partial recovery of the budgets allocated.

Funding provided through the ISC Regional Office will be as maximum contributions. Any cost overruns will be the responsibility of the recipient. Amendments will be initiated to include Budget 2017 allocations in your funding agreements as quickly as possible. All reporting requirements are outlined in Annex B and will be identified in your funding arrangement.

Please note, that housing activities funded under the Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program, Budget 2017 On-Reserve Housing Immediate Needs Fund, are not required to comply with the Tendering Policy on Federally Funded Capital Projects for First Nations on Reserve.

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In conclusion, we invite you to initiate your approved projects as soon as possible. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact your Capital Environmental Officer, or Arla Simes, Regional Capital Program Development Advisor, at (306) 501-2736 or by email at Arla.Simes2@canada.ca.

Yours truly,



RM Rob Harvey  
Regional Director General  
Indigenous Services Canada  
Saskatchewan Region  
1827 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2S9

c.c.: Housing Managers  
Tribal Councils  
Robert Maguire, Associate Regional Director- ISC, RO  
Dwayne Johns, Director, Community Infrastructure, Partnerships & Development- ISC, RO  
Davy Coyle, Director, Funding Services and Governance ISC, RO  
Brett Currie, Manager, Capital, ISC, RO  
Associate Directors, ISC - CBC, NBC, SBC  
Funding Services Officer, ISC - CBC, NBC, SBC  
Capital Environment Officers, ISC - CBC, NBC, SBC

**ANNEX C: Certificate of Completion**

**Must be submitted with your final report including any final inspection reports.**

**ANNEX A: Reporting Requirements**

Recipients must complete the Capital Projects Report (DCI#460671) as applicable, and submit them on a quarterly basis. For the Immediate Needs Fund, recipients must also attach a copy of the inspection certificates and the certificate of completion to their final report.

	<b>Progress Reports*</b>	<b>Final Reports</b>
<b>Immediate Needs</b>		DCI#460671 +
<b>Capacity Development</b>	DCI#460671	Inspection Certificates** +
		Certificate of Completion***

\*According to timelines

\*\*Inspection certificates from qualified inspectors are required for new construction to ensure new units meet the national or provincial building codes applicable to their regional location, as defined in the Immediate Needs Fund's guidelines.

\*\*\*Certificate of Completion specific to this Needs Identification Process as requested in Annex C.

Progress reports are to include a summary of activities to date, and expenditures.

Reporting timelines are:

- January 15, 2019 (progress reports);
- April 15, 2019 ( progress reports);
- July 15, 2019 (progress reports);
- October 15, 2019 (progress reports);
- January 15, 2020 (progress reports); and

Final Reporting due:

- June 30, 2020 for final reports (including inspection reports/completion certificates.

## **ANNEX B: Environmental Assessment and Regulation**

### **Environmental Assessment**

Section 67 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) requires that Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to conduct a review to determine whether a project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects before making any decision that would allow a project to proceed.

To address these environmental review requirements, ISC developed an Environmental Review Process (ERP), which includes a suite of procedural tools and policies. This ERP allows on-reserve projects to proceed in a timely and predictable way, with established service standards and increased collaboration between proponents and First Nation communities, as well as any other implicated federal authorities. To ensure that this ERP met the needs of First Nation communities and any departmental requirements, its development was informed by stakeholder engagement, both internally and with First Nations.<sup>1</sup>

Most projects supported through the Budget 2017 On-Reserve Housing Needs Identification Process, including construction, renovation/addition, and lot servicing projects, are expected to qualify as low-risk projects, for which an environmental assessment will not be required.

As part of the ERP, a Project Description form will have to be filled to analyze the potential environmental risk of the project and determine the need for further environmental review. Elements that will be considered to assess risks include the size of the project, its location, the presence of species at risk or fragile ecosystems, and other concerns for the environment and First Nations population. Your regional office will contact you to obtain all required information for the Project Description form in order to complete the risk assessment. The majority of projects that ISC reviews are considered minor projects and do not require further review beyond the Project Description form.

### **Environmental Regulation**

All projects on federal lands, including reserve lands, remain subject to the requirements of all applicable federal laws, standards and permits, regardless of their level of risk to the environment. As such, First Nations must ensure that their project(s) meet all applicable environmental requirements. Your regional office may be able to provide guidance in this respect.

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<sup>1</sup> ISC, *Environmental Review Process for Projects on Reserve Land*, <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1345141628060/1345141658639> .

**Submerging Area and Erosion Area**

You must ensure that all lot servicing and residential construction projects are not located in restricted areas, such as submerging or erosion areas.

If you think this situation could apply to your project, please contact your ISC Capital Officer.