



CFS C. 24 (Bill C-92) Project Report

Prepared for Keewatin Tribal Council
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Submitted by:

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KEEWATIN TRIBAL COUNCIL
CFS – C. 24 (BILL C-92) PROJECT REPORT
MAY 2024

C. 24 (BILL C-92) BACKGROUND:

The Keewatin Tribal Council Bill C-92 Project received initial funding from ISC, Community Well-Being and Jurisdictions Initiative program. Funding was designated for Bill C-92 community engagement project in 6 of the 11 KTC communities. The 6 participating communities are as follows:

- Fox Lake Cree Nation
- Mantou Sakahigan First Nation
- Manto Sipi First Nation
- Sayisi Dene First Nation
- War Lake First Nation
- York Factory First Nation

The following 5 communities chose to seek independent Bill C-92 funding. These 5 communities are welcome to join the KTC Bill C-92 project at any time and will continue to be invited to participate in the projects activities and events.

- Barren Lands First Nation
- Bunibonibee Cree Nation (submitted proposal for independent funding 2023)
- Northlands Denesuline First Nation
- Shamattawa First Nation
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation

KEEWATIN TRIBAL COUNCIL BILL C-92 RESOLUTIONS

March 5, 2020 – Chief Forum on Bill C-92 – Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg, MB

- Resolution supporting KTC First Nations Unified Response to Bill C-92, an Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families

August 11-13, 2020 – Semi-Annual General Assembly – Thompson Legion, Thompson, MB

- Resolution #6 – Support for an Indigenous Governing Body for the KTC First Nations under the Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families.

April 22, 2021 – Virtual Chiefs Meeting

- Resolution supporting Keewatin Tribal Council's C-92 response.

Individual Band Council Resolutions as per April 22, 2021 Resolution

“Be it further resolved, that the C-92 Project Staff secure Band Council Resolutions from each First Nation to support the Keewatin Tribal Council C-92 process”.

Individual Band Council Resolutions have been received from the following (Appendix D):

- Bunibonibee Cree Nation
- Fox Lake Cree Nation
- Mantou Sakahigan Cree Nation
- Manto Sipi Cree Nation
- War Lake First Nation
- York Factory Cree Nation

Not yet signed:

- Sayisi Dene First Nation

FUNDING

The KTC C. 24 (Bill C-92) Project receives funding from:

Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative (CWJI) Program

The Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiatives Program provides funding to First Nation communities to lead, develop and deliver prevention programs and services that:

- are culturally appropriate
- are in keeping with the best interests of the child, as determined by the community
- support First Nations capacity in child and family well-being

The program enables multi-year projects that:

- expand the availability of prevention and well-being initiatives responsive to community needs
- complement prevention programming provided by First Nations Child and Family Services agencies or provincial and territorial agencies
- increase capacity of child and family services prevention programming
- ***support First Nations in developing and implementing jurisdictional models.***

2021-2022 Funding

December 2020 – KTC received notification from ISC CWJI that the collaborative community KTC C. 24 (Bill C-92) project will receive \$2,000,000 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

2022-2023 Funding

The project did not receive any additional funds for this fiscal year as engagement events/activities began towards the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the majority of the budget from the 2020-2021 fiscal year remained.

2023-2024 Funding

March 2024 – KTC received funding for the collaborative community KTC C. 24 (Bill C-92) project of 1.2 million. The funding decreased due to 1 of the original 7 communities requesting independent funding in 2023.

2024-2025 Funding

End of year report and financial being prepared for submission to Indigenous Services Canada.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Keewatin Tribal Council requires staff to guide and assist in the development and ratification of an Indigenous Child and Family Services law and regulations, including the development of an Indigenous Governing Body for Child and Family Services within our region. C. 24 (Bill C-92) Project Staff will work as a team to ensure that engagement activities occur with all Nations and relevant information is collected that will assist in the creation of new law and regulations.

C. 24 (Bill C-92) Positions (filled)

- CFS Project Lead – Valerie Spence, BA, BSW, MSW
- CFS Team Lead – Rita Spence-Atleo, BGS
- Fox Lake Community Liaison – Payge Beardy
- Sayisi Dene Community Liaison – Nancy Powderhorn

- War Lake Community Liaison – Burman Kennedy
- York Factory Community Liaison – Southwind Redhead

C. 24 (Bill C-92) Position (unfilled)

- Community Liaisons
 - Mantou Sakihigan Cree Nation
 - Manto Sipi Cree Nation

STEERING COMMITTEE/ELDERS ADVISORY

The KTC CFS Steering Committee is comprised of a representative from each of the participating Nations. Committee Members were appointed by the Chief and Council of their respective Nation and is made primarily up of Councillor's holding the CFS portfolio. The Committee meets once per month for 2-3 days and meetings are planned 6 months in advance.

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to assist in the development of child and family services based on the vision, needs, customs, traditions, and values of Member Nations of Keewatin Tribal Council within the framework of self-determination.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

The Steering Committee will perform the following key duties:

- Attend and participate in all scheduled meetings.
- Prepare for meetings.
- Respectful code of conduct as per Keewatin Tribal Council policy, including toward other Steering Committee members, Chief and Council, legal counsel, and citizens.
- Work with the legal team to develop a Keewatin Tribal Council CFS Law for recommendation to the Keewatin Tribal Council Leadership.
- Engage in and participate in meetings with citizens of Member Nations.

- Provide regular updates to the Keewatin Tribal Council Leadership.
- Additional duties as may be delegated to the Committee by the Keewatin Tribal Council Leadership, as per April 22, 2021, Resolution:
 - Develop a child and family services law;
 - Determine the scope of the child and family services law;
 - Determine how services will be delivered and by whom;
 - Authorize an Indigenous governing body to act on behalf of the Keewatin Tribal Council children, youth, and families; and
 - Confirm the mandate of the Indigenous Governing Body.

Steering Committee Terms of Reference

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/ELDER REPRESENTATIVES

Bunibonibee Cree Nation Elder Advisor

- Don Robinson – Community Elder Representative

Fox Lake Cree Nation

- Councillor Sophie Lockhart – Steering Committee Member

Mantou Sakahigan Cree Nation

- Phillip Kanabee – Steering Committee Member
- Councillor Maxwell Bee – Steering Committee Member

Manto Sipi Cree Nation

- Councillor Dennis McKay – Steering Committee Member (September 2022-March 2023)
- Councillor Roger Ross – Steering Committee Member (April 2023)

Sayisi Dene First Nation

- Anne Butterfield – Steering Committee Member

War Lake First Nation

- Councillor Elijah Garson – Steering Committee Member

York Factory Cree Nation

- Councillor Wayne Redhead – Steering Committee Member

2023-2024 CFS COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

May 3-4, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

June 13-14, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

August 15-17, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, Dakota Dunes Resort, Saskatoon, SK

September 19-20, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

October 25-26, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

November 15-16, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

December 5-6, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

January 24-25, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

February 27-March 1, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting (intensive review of the draft law), Lakeview Resort, Gimli, MB

April 15-18, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting (intensive review of the draft law), Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES – 2023-2024

April 11-12, 2023 – Manto Sipi Engagement, Manto Sipi, MB

April 24-26, 2023 – KTC AGA, Portage La Prairie, MB

May 3-4, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

May 8-10, 2023 – Awasis Staff Conference, Regina, SK

May 16, 2023 – KTC Programs Staff Meeting, Thompson Legion, Thompson, MB

June 6-8, 2023 – CFS Chiefs Summit, Wyndham Garden, Winnipeg, MB

June 13-14, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

June 21, 2023 – KTC Indigenous Day Celebrations – Thompson, MB

June 28, 2023 – Winnipeg Off-reserve Engagement – Wyndham Garden, Winnipeg, MB

July 4-6, 2023 – Elder's Conference, Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg, MB

July 25-27, 2023 – Women's Gathering, Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre, Pinawa, MB

August 15-17, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, Dakota Dunes Resort, Saskatoon, SK

September 19-20, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

September 27, 2023 – York Factory Community Engagement, York Factory, MB

September 29, 2023 – Fox Lake Community Engagement, Fox Lake, MB

October 6, 2023 – Sayisi Dene Community Engagement, Sayisi Dene First Nation, MB

October 25-26, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

October 31-November 2, 2023 – KTC Semi-Annual AGA, Wyndham Garden, Winnipeg, MB

November 2-3, 2023 – York Factory Sub-Committee Community Engagement, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

November 7, 2023 – War Lake Community Engagement, War Lake, MB

November 15-16, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

November 21-22, 2023 – War Lake Sub-Committee Community Engagement, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

November 27-29, 2023 – Pusikowak Iskwewak Conference, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

December 5-6, 2023 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, KTC Boardroom, Winnipeg, MB

December 12-14, 2023 – KTC Leadership Summit, Canad Inns Polo Park, Winnipeg, MB

January 16, 2024 – Elder Gathering, Thompson Legion, Thompson, MB

January 24-25, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

February 5-9, 2024 – Youth Gathering, Churchill, MB

February 13-14, 2024 – Fox Lake Sub-Committee Community Engagement, Gillam, MB

February 27-March 1, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting (intensive review of the draft law), Lakeview Resort, Gimli, MB

March 12-14, 2024 – CFS Conference, Radisson Hotel, Winnipeg, MB

March 26-28, 2024 – KTC Leadership Summit, Canad Inns, Winnipeg, MB

April 15-18, 2024 – CFS Steering Committee Meeting (intensive review of the draft law), Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

April 23-25, 2024 – Elder's Language Session, Hilton Hotel, Winnipeg, MB

May 7-9, 2024 – Sayisi Dene Language Session, Sayisi Dene First Nation Band Office, Tadoule Lake, MB

May 14-16, 2024 – Elder's Language Session, Thompson Legion, Thompson, MB

C. 24 (Bill C-92) CONFERENCES

ELDER'S CONFERENCE

Purpose:

Gathering of KTC Nations elders to share knowledge, experiences, ideas, etc. about language and language preservation within the Nations. Presentations included language speakers from the KTC Nations as well as from other Nations.

Date: July 4, 5, 6, 2023

Location: Victoria Inn and Conference Centre

Elder's invited from each of the 11 KTC Nations – 135 Total

SPEAKERS

William Lathlin, First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority Board Member – Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Presented/discussed the importance of language preservation and encouraging Nations to begin with and use the language in the creation of their law.

James Thorassie, Denesuline Translator – Sayisi Dene First Nation

Presented/discussed the Dene language and the intricacies of translating the English language to Sayisi Dene syllabics.

Flora Beardy, Ininew Interpreter/Translator – York Factory Cree Nation

Presented/discussed the Ininew language and the intricacies of translating the English language to Ininew, outlining the descriptive nature of the Ininew language.

Fred Denechezhe, Denesuline Language Speaker – Northlands Denesuline Nation

Presented/discussed the Dene language and the intricacies of translating the English language to Densuline.

GENERAL C.24 (BILL C-92) CONFERENCE

Purpose:

Presentation of proposed service delivery models, focussing on prevention based services that are inspired by traditional cultural community practices. Presentations included, family group conferencing, traditional parenting practices, traditional/cultural teachings, prevention models, and so on.

Date: March 12, 13, 14, 2024

Location: Radisson Hotel Downtown Winnipeg

Members were invited from each of the 11 KTC Nations – 125 Total

SPEAKERS

Don Robinson, B.S.W., M.S.W

Originally from Bunibonibee (Oxford House) First Nation, is a graduate from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Social Work (1991) and a Master of Social Work (2001). He has over 38 years of experience in the helping field and as a therapist in Private Practice. He has worked extensively in the homelessness serving sector with the At Home Chez Soi Housing First initiative. He has travelled extensively throughout Manitoba and across Canada delivering professional development training and healing workshops.

He brings a unique cultural perspective on healing, intergeneration trauma, cross cultural awareness, family therapy with Indigenous families, training and learning, traditional ways of healing, and family group conferencing. He has learned from Elders and knowledge keepers about the traditional ways through participating in ceremonies, fasting, sweat lodge, and the Sundance.

Ivana Yellowback

Ivana Yellowback is a member of Manto Sipi Cree Nation (God's River), and a relative to Mathias Colomb Cree Nation (Pukatawagan - paternal family). She is both Asiniskow Ithinew ekwa Muskego Ininew (High Rock and Muskeg Cree).

Ivana is an Associate Producer, Writer, Cree host, and English co-host of Eagle Vision's and APTN's 7TH GEN [Home \(7thgen.ca\)](http://7thgen.ca) \ [Cree Webisodes | 7TH GEN](#) (2022/2023/2024). She has also acted as principal characters in "DJ Burnt Bannock" (2021) [The Team — DJ Burnt Bannock](#), along with "Little Bird" (2023) ['Little Bird,' From Fremantle, Rezolution: Jennifer Podemski Talks - Variety](#).

Ivana holds a 4-year Bachelor of Arts HONOURS degree at the University of Winnipeg (Sociology, Minor: Conflict Resolution Studies), and a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of Manitoba. Ivana is working on her Masters of Social Work at the University of Manitoba.

Ivana holds 10+ years of experience in social services work, spanning from program development and implementation, facilitation, and workshop trainings (various), youth mentorship and leadership, and social advocacy and counselling.

Ivana is an Executive Training Facilitator (with Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc.), an executive board member for sakihiwe festival, and is an **oskâpêwiskwew** (helper) member of the Indigenous Helpers Society. She is also a trained Traditional Family Parenting facilitator, a Grief and Loss Facilitator, and Indigenous Life Skills Coach. Ivana's most important roles and work is being an aunty, pipe carrier, lodge carrier, drum carrier and singer.

ELDER LANGUAGE SESSIONS

Purpose:

Engagement with language speakers from each participating Nation with the intention of translating/interpreting terms/ideas in the draft law to Ininew and Dene language within the English version of the law.

Sessions:

- April 23, 24, 25, 2024 – Hilton Hotel, Winnipeg, MB
- May 14, 15, 16, 2024 – Thompson Legion, Thompson, MB
- *Tentative* – June 11, 12, 13, 2024 – Thompson, MB

Participants:

- 2/3 language speakers from each participating Nation; York Factory, War Lake, Fox Lake, God's Lake, God's River, Sayisi Dene

PHASED PROJECT PLAN – 2022-2025

Phase One – Foundational/Technical (6 months)

- Initial project activities – staffing, contacts/connections, information sharing, legal process, etc.

Phase Two – Implementation/Engagement (6-18 months)

- Getting to know the communities – Steering Committee member recruitment, first Conference with all Nations, individual Nation engagements, etc.

Phase Three – Monitoring/Engagement (18-36 months)

- We are now working in the end of phase 3.
- Draft Law created and intensive review/revision of the draft is now taking place – English version
 - Law versions planned upon completion
 1. English version with Ininew language terms
 2. English version with Denesuline language terms
 3. Ininew language version
 4. Denesuline language version
 5. Potential individual Nation language versions
- Continued work on Policy, Regulations and Service Delivery models.
- Working towards presentation of draft law to leadership.

- July/August 2024 – Tentative Leadership Summit
- August 2024-March 2025 – presentation of law in each individual KTC Nation.
- March 2025 – Send Notice to Federal and Provincial Government to begin Coordination Agreement Process

Phase Four – Ratification/Implementation (36+ months)

- 2025-2027
- Ratification of the Law within each Nation.
- Collective ratification ceremony with all 6 Nations.
- Implementation of the Law – service delivery.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS – 2024-2025

- Name and logo contest the new law with all Nations.
- Ongoing individual engagement sessions to inform, engage community members in Law development process.
 - On-reserve
 - Off-reserve
- Continued Steering Committee meetings – work with Legal in developing, creating a Draft CFS Law.
- Continued policy, regulation, service delivery sub-Committee meetings.
- Leadership Summit for presentation of the draft law.
- Individual Nation sessions for presentation of the new law which includes legal, Committee members, staff, elders, community members.
- Coordination agreement discussions/meetings with KTC Nation leadership and Federal/Provincial governments.
- Ratification process/ceremonies with each Nation
- Collective ratification ceremony with all Nations.