

DO MORE, DO BETTER

Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit 2017-2022

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 ENHANCE SERVICES

The enhancement of government intervention in the Aboriginal communities must pursue two objectives. On the one hand, it must broaden services to make them more complete and accessible. The Government of Québec is seeking to implement more effective programs and services that are better adapted to the situation of the First Nations and Inuit and as they perceive it. On the other hand, the government wishes to consolidate existing services by creating complementarity between the networks of the Québec State and Aboriginal organizations, which, within or outside the communities, offer numerous services in the same or allied fields.

Establish new services

The creation of new services will broaden the service offer. The conception and implementation of such services will hinge on numerous consultations in recent years of the Aboriginal Nations and Inuit devoted to facets of social and cultural development, in particular poverty and social inclusion, sexual abuse and assault, dependence, elder abuse, educational success, cultural policy, racism and discrimination, and health prevention.

The Government of Québec is seeking the broadest, most diversified service offer possible. However, it is essential that the service offer be culturally relevant and reassuring. To be effective and genuinely accessible, a program or service must be adapted to the Aboriginal peoples' circumstances. The goal, in service delivery, is to take into account the specific identity of the Aboriginal peoples and to acquire the appropriate skills to serve them.

Enhance the existing service offer

For several years, the Québec and federal governments and Aboriginal organizations have offered extensive services to the members of the First Nations and Inuit, which must be bolstered. It is, therefore, important to review procedures: intervention methods can be reviewed, resources reallocated, and funding consolidated.

What is more, the Government of Québec's initiatives can be enhanced through closer collaboration not only with the federal government but also with Aboriginal stakeholders involved in service delivery. The goal is to establish synergy between Government of Québec services and those offered by Aboriginal organizations on or off the reserves. It bears noting that the purpose of this approach is not to create bodies parallel to the Québec networks but to encourage complementarity in order to build increasingly fluid service corridors.

KEY MEASURES RELATED TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICES

1. IMPLEMENT A DIVERSIFIED, EFFECTIVE, RELEVANT, REASSURING SERVICE OFFER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE ABORIGINAL CULTURES

- Elaborate initiatives and projects that target the educational success and school retention of Aboriginal students
- Establish guidance programs in the courts for Aboriginal offenders, especially as regards questions related to alcohol and drug addiction, spousal and family violence, mental health or homelessness
- Offer Aboriginal peoples in detention facilities services and conditions more favourable to the initiation of a rehabilitation or healing process, by means of a culturally adapted approach
- Develop access to the services of midwives in non-treaty Aboriginal communities
- Implement cultural safety strategies to enhance the service delivery of the health and social services network
- Establish general training accessible online on Aboriginal realities for government employees in the public and parapublic sectors
- Support initiatives aimed at combating abuse and promote the proper treatment of Aboriginal seniors
- Support, in partnership with Aboriginal organizations, developmental projects aimed at reducing the persistent, worrisome inequality that Aboriginal women are facing
- Make accessible training to support the rollout of the addiction service offer for community interveners and Aboriginal organizations
- Reach agreements to establish a specific Aboriginal youth protection scheme

2. CONSOLIDATE EXISTING SERVICES AND PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE CONTINUUMS THROUGH THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF INITIATIVES

- Train criminal and penal prosecuting attorneys in Aboriginal realities in the context of criminal justice
- Offer an awareness-raising activity on Aboriginal realities for elected municipal officers and officials
- Elaborate, with Aboriginal partners and officials in the health and social services network responsible for Aboriginal issues, a strategy designed to enhance access to and the continuity of addiction services for members of the First Nations and Inuit
- Heighten awareness among and train interveners in the socio-judicial sector so that their initiatives are culturally adapted
- Establish online training on Aboriginal realities for members of the Sûreté du Québec
- Enhance the program in faculties of medicine for the First Nations and Inuit of Québec
- Implement the *Stratégie pour l'intégration professionnelle des Premières Nations et des Inuits*
- Implement the recommendations of the report of the Committee on the application of the *Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations* in the Aboriginal communities, especially those that target additional hiring, training and retention of professionals working the realm of health and social services
- Fund a measure to reduce the cost of low-cost housing for tenants in Nunavik
- Support the construction below the 55th parallel of public and community housing units for the Aboriginal peoples in urban environments under the AccèsLogis Québec program
- Elaborate a frame of reference on life projects for Aboriginal children