



Kitsumkalum Social Development
November 15, 2014

Income Assistance (Social Assistance/Welfare/Income Assistance)

The Income Assistance program is for people who live on the reserve. Those living in Terrace or elsewhere must go to the Band Office or Ministry Of Housing & Social Development depending on where their residence is.

The amount given to the clients depends on their family size and these rates are set out by AANDC (formerly INAC/DIA) for their basic needs. The Shelter portion consists of: Mortgage payment, Hydro – current bill; PNG – current bill and Telephone – current bill. AANDC only allows \$22.84 for telephone unless you bill states how much it is per month for the basic phone. Call display, Voice mail are not covered; no add on's are allowed unless it is for the Hearing Impaired. These bills must be in the client files; only those on equal payments (BC Hydro & PNG) do not have to bring copies every other month until their Anniversary date is up then the client brings me the new bills.

In order for a Mortgage to be paid I must have a Rental Agreement from Housing on file – this must be signed by the home owner/s; or a Mortgage Agreement with the Bank in the client file. Without these I cannot pay the house payment.

Currently we have only one home that has passed as a Basement Suite and they can rent their basement. I have to have a Rental Agreement signed by the home owner & tenant and a copy of the Certificate of Possession showing they do own their home. In Terrace the homeowners are allowed to rent their rooms out and share the kitchen & laundry facilities but on reserve we cannot do this. Even if your household has social assistance recipients you will only get shared shelter – dividing hydro, png and telephone amongst all the people in the home, which isn't much.

If you charge Room & Board I would need an agreement signed by you & the tenant; and I am only allowed to use the Basic Needs portion of S.A. – 1 single person - \$235.00; I'd give the client \$60.00 for their personal use and the remaining \$175.00 would go to the home owner.

Changes to Documentation Needed:

When I get my Desk Top Audit Review sometime this year I will need a copy of your Tax Return in your file – so when you file your Income Tax Return please bring me a copy for your file; a copy of the Child Tax Bonus Forms Revenue Canada sends out in July each year; and I will need a Bank Statement in your client file. If you do not have a Bank Account I must write this in your file and tell AANDC where the client cashes their cheques.

Clients coming in for the first time must bring me all these documents:

- Tax Return,
- Child Tax Bonus Forms,
- Bank Statement,
- their last pay stub;



- a copy of their Record of Employment (ROE);
- Proof that they applied for Employment Insurance (EI).

Each month the Renewal and Job Search Forms must be turned in by the 15th of the month Signed and Dated or I cannot requisition a social assistance cheque for the client. All those who are able bodied must be seeking employment or higher education. When courses for tickets come open the clients are required to apply for them so they can become competitive in the working world. There are places in Terrace that they must go to seek funding for courses. Kitsumkalum Band recently hired an Employment Counsellor, Dianna Wong/Adams who will guide and direct you to the places you can seek funding for the courses and she will also assist you in updating your Resumes. We have a computer that clients can use to update Resumes or look at the Job Bank. Pacific Northwest LNG has hired Laura Miller through the Kitsumkalum Band Council and she does have limited funding to help Kitsumkalum Band Members/Residents get training.

For the Basic Needs and Shelter I must enter each cheque onto a spreadsheet each month then each quarter of the year I submit a Financial Report to AANDC so they can reimburse the Band for the money spent. When AANDC comes to do their Desk Top Audit Review they use my reports and go through each file to make sure the Budget & Decision Sheet amounts are the same as the cheque amounts. I report the National Child Benefits to AANDC too; this is why I require your Child Tax Benefits paper you get from Revenue Canada.

1st Quarter – 26 client files open – Basic Needs for April, May & June 2014 - \$18177.84;
2nd Quarter – 26 client files open – Basic Needs for July, August, September 2014 - \$15385.62
3rd Quarter – 28 client files open = Basic Needs for October & November /14 – 12803.31 – not complete yet as December is part of the 3rd Quarter.

1st Quarter – 26 client files open – Shelter for April, May & June 2014 - \$17507.14
2nd Quarter – 26 client files open – Shelter for July, August & September 2014 - \$13576.89
3rd Quarter – 28 client files open – Shelter for October & November 2014 - \$10519.45 – not complete, December is part of 3rd Quarter.

Special Needs

Is a very small budget that I can use to meet needs that are above what the social assistance clients receive. I can use this budget to assist **Non-Status Clients** access their medical and dental needs. I am not allowed to use Special Needs on Registered Status Indians medical/dental/optometry needs. If a client has cancer I can access Special Diet for them but of course the Dr. and I have to complete and sign forms for \$40.00/mth.

For the Special Needs expenditures I must report quarterly what is spent and have all receipts and documentation in the client files. Once the report is submitted then AANDC will reimburse the Band for the expenditures.

1st Quarter – 8 clients – 1101.72
2nd Quarter – 8 clients – 1028.84
3rd Quarter – 9 clients – 1399.94 – not complete; December is part of 3rd Quarter



Adult In Home Care (Home Makers Program)- now called Assisted Living

Currently I have 14 clients who use the Home Makers Services Program. The home makers are allowed 5 hrs/wk; they do not touch medication or do personal care. They do cleaning, laundry, and can cook a meal if they have time for the person they are caring for. If a client requires someone to give them their medication or bath them the Health Department takes over – Home & Residential Continuing care.

This year we did not have the Lunch program for the elders. I was able to transfer funds last fiscal year to the Cooking Program so that is the money I have been donating to various activities as a Contribution from the Kitsumkalum Elders.

Again this year I will give the Elders the Allowance before year end. I will get this done prayerfully in February 2015.

I must do quarterly reports for the Adult in Home Care too. I send the names & band numbers of the people using the program and tell what they are using it for and how much each home maker gets paid each payday. I let them know how many elders access any kinds of programs if we have any expenditures so the Band can be reimbursed.

1st Quarter – April, May, June/14 – 14 client files - \$7356.25

2nd Quarter – July, August, September/14 - \$6400.00

3rd Quarter – October & November/14- 14 clients; can only report on October/14 – 1618.75

AANDC Family Violence Program

This Fiscal Year our Family Violence budget is \$3,283.00 budget now. I attended one workshop– NIFCS and Ministry of Children & Family Development. I will contribute some money for food at our Community that addresses Family Violence. As drug use and alcohol escalates so does the violence, we do read the Police Reports on the Terrace Standard and have noted the times the RCMP are called to Kitsumkalum – Domestic Disputes, Loud out of hand parties, Sexual Assault, Impaired Driving, etc. just to mention a few of the things the RCMP have to come to Kitsumkalum for.

Another thing that has risen its ugly head again is Sexual Exploitation of our young people.

This program is Proposal driven; I write a proposal in January each year and then I have to have a Year End Report into AANDC by May 31st each year. The Report must match the Proposal.

National Child Re-Investment

I transferred money to Gila Kyew Nluulk Head Start and Day Care to assist with opening more spaces for the children on the reserve, the Cultural component of their program – language, feasting, songs, dancing, books; and the nutrition portion of the head start program. I work these items into my Yearly Proposals. I also transfer money to Na'Aksa Gila Kyew for culture/language and nutrition too. I also use this program to fund the Winter Clothing Allowance for the children who live on reserve. This program is geared to help children overcome poverty, offers support to the parents so they will be able to pursue



a full time job or higher education, which, will allow them to become self-sufficient and support their own children and up keep of their homes. I also get to hire 3 to 4 summer students to work around Kitsumkalum for 4 weeks, 4 days a week for 6 hours a day. This is meant to assist the parents by allowing the teens to earn an income that they can in turn use to purchase much needed school clothing.

This program is also Proposal driven; I write a proposal each January and must do a Year End Report to show how the money was spent and this has to match the Proposal too. The Report has to be submitted to AANDC by May 31st each year.

Board of Director

Northwest Inter Nations Child & Family Services (NIFCS) is our Aboriginal Child Welfare Agency. I am on the Board of Directors for the Kitsumkalum Band and Cynthia Bohn is my Alternate; she attends meetings I cannot go to and sits on the Finance Committee and Policy Committee. NIFCS has one more level to go so we will not be under MCFD's umbrella but fully in control of our Child Welfare. Our Executive Director, Kathleen Bennett, is no longer a seconded employee from MCFD; she can totally attend to the needs of NIFCS which is to become a fully C6 Delegated First Nations Child Welfare Agency.

We do have a Child Welfare Team in Kitsumkalum and have attended some workshops put on by NIFCS. I do not know why but MCFD is insisting that NIFCS have these Committees in each community when they had no such committee while they were in full control of Child Welfare, but as usual we are always so compliant and get it done. As we go along I am sure we will begin to know what to do should a child care problem occur.

I know there are some instances where people are concerned about the care a child receives. NIFCS phone number is 2509-638-0451 and MCFD phone number: 250-638-638-2311; Emergency number for After Hours: 310-1234. The RCMP non-emergency number: 250-6357400; Emergency number: 911.

Shirley Bolan, BSW
Kitsumkalum Social Development