

## Income Security Reform

<b>General Information</b>	
Lead Department	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (INAC)
Partners	This initiative is in partnership with First Nations
Effective Date	1998
Expiry Date	2003
Web Site	<a href="http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/index_e.html">http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/index_e.html</a>
Purpose	<p>The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Gathering Strength and An Agenda for Action identified as a priority the need to reform the current approach to on-reserve social assistance programming and service delivery.</p> <p>The overall objective of the ISR initiative is to transform the on-reserve welfare regime from one of passive support to an active-measures based system of integrated programming that promotes self-sufficiency.</p> <p>ISR is aimed at shifting INAC's funding from providing passive income support to linking welfare with greater access to skills development, training, and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The expenditure of \$15 million directed at policy changes to the social assistance program will have a significant impact on reducing the growth of the current social assistance budget.</p>
Roles and Contributions	<p>The Income Security Reform (ISR) initiative has been undertaken by INAC in partnership with First Nations.</p> <p>INAC is working with the AFN to develop a redesigned SA policy framework.</p> <p>INAC regions are working with First Nations Tribal Councils and communities to inform the policy development through Demonstration Projects, which offer First Nations the opportunity to develop and test innovative responses to local needs and priorities with respect to social assistance policy, programming and service delivery. As well, Demonstration Projects provide an opportunity to build capacity to implement and manage a reformed income security system.</p> <p>The ISR initiative is funded by INAC, however, demonstration projects may also use funds from other sources. Leveraging is common and helps develop partnerships.</p>

<b>Resources</b>	
Funding	\$15 million for 2001/2002
Tracking and Reporting	<p>Demonstration projects submit progress reports semi-annually and are self-evaluated when completed. Descriptions of demonstration projects are included on the INAC Web Site <a href="http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/nlts_e.html">http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/nlts_e.html</a></p> <p>Funding Agreements with First Nations include provisions for a financial report (Audit)</p>
<b>Measurement and Reporting</b>	
Outcomes	Demonstration projects to assess needs and effective practices for the development of a redesigned social assistance policy framework.
Indicators	<p>Number of demonstration projects</p> <p>Evaluation report required at end of each demonstration project.</p> <p>First Nation defined indicators identified through progress reports and evaluation reports.</p> <p>Identification of best practices.</p>
Comparable Indicators	Not applicable <sup>1</sup> ISR is a program policy review process
Evaluation/Third Party Assessments	Each demonstration project completes a self-evaluation.
Shared Information and Best Practices	<p>Best practices and information was shared among First Nations at regional workshops</p> <p>Website of best practices derived from demonstration projects which have been supported (under development)</p>
Public Reporting	<p>Sharing of case studies and best practices from currently funded Income Security reform demonstration projects are on the Income Security Review website. <a href="http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/index_e.html">http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/isr/index_e.html</a></p> <p>DPR</p> <p>RPP</p>
<b>Involving Canadians</b>	
Provisions for citizens to	Policy and program development for SA based on partnership and

Participate in Developing Social Priorities and Reviewing Outcomes	consultation with First Nations through involvement in ISR demonstration projects and joint assessment of lessons learned for SA policy and program reform.
Feedback Mechanisms to the Public	Best Practices and Lessons Learned are being shared with First Nations and are accessible on the ISR website (see above)
<b>Service Commitments</b>	
Public Availability of Eligibility Criteria	Eligibility criteria are available on the website and INAC regional offices
Existence and Availability of Service Commitments	Not applicable <sup>1</sup> ISR is a program policy review process. See the Social Assistance Program template.
Measurement and Public Reporting	Not applicable <sup>1</sup> ISR is a program policy review process. See the Social Assistance Program template.
<b>Appeals and Complaints</b>	
Existence, Availability and Communication of Mechanisms	Not applicable <sup>1</sup> ISR is a program policy review process. See the Social Assistance Program template.
Tracking and Public Reporting	Not applicable <sup>1</sup> ISR is a program policy review process. See the Social Assistance Program template.
<b>Mobility</b>	
Existence of Measure	See template on First Nations Social Assistance Program  The Income Security Reform (ISR) initiative, in partnership with FNs, will produce a redesigned policy framework and provides an opportunity to discuss SUFA principles.