WHAT'S NEW FOR REPORTING IN 2006-2007

Indian Government Services

- **Indian and Inuit Management Development Program Report – being replaced:** Starting in April 2006, the Indian Management Development (IIMD) and the Gathering Strength-Professional Development (GS-PD) programs will be merged with a consolidated objective. The existing program authorities will remain but the program budgets will be merged. The new program will reduce the reporting burden and allow flexibility for First Nations to fund projects that best respond to local needs, supporting effective governance through governance-related programs and courses, or through regional and national First Nation / Inuit institutions. Reporting requirements for this program will be communicated separately.
- **List of Eligible Employees - matched to Band Employee Benefits Application:** Columns have been added to separate the Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan employee/employer contributions from the Private Pension Plan contributions made. The format of data entry has been changed to dollar amounts from percentages to standardize reporting.
- **Pension Plan Funding Annual Report – one question modified:** One of the questions has been split in two to separate the answers as to whether the Annual Information Return was submitted to OSFI (Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions), and whether the prescribed fees were submitted to OSFI.
- **Tribal Council Funding Annual Report and Band Advisory Services Funding Annual Report – clarification of data elements and minor changes:** The signature block has been moved to the end of the form to comply with forms standards. The section *Tribal Management, Administration and General Development* has been moved from the last page to the second page. Minor changes have been made to the wording of two questions to clarify the requirements, these changes are in italics:
    - How many Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's) *(in total, including all of the Tribal Council activities, whether INAC related or not)* worked for the Tribal Council?
    - What was the total *budget (including all of the Tribal Council activities, whether INAC related or not)* used by this Tribal Council?

Band Governance

- **Electoral Officer's Report / Custom Election Report - removed from funding agreements:** Timely submission of electoral reports, including Statement of Votes, is still required in order to ensure that financial transactions between INAC and newly elected band councils continue in a timely manner. Band elections, however, are funded by Band Support Funding grants which are not subject to the Management Control Framework. Therefore references to them have been removed from funding agreements. These forms are available from your regional office and will be available on INAC's Data Collection Instrument Repository.

Education

- **First Nation Special Education Program Annual Report for Schools, and First Nation Special Education Program Annual Report for First Nation Regional Managing Organizations - title change and significant reduction in the number of questions**: The titles of these two reports have been changed to clarify who is required to submit each report. Also, the format has been redesigned and the questions reduced. Consequently, the FN SEP Annual Report for Schools has been reduced from 43 questions in 11 pages, to 31 questions in 8 pages, and the FN SEP Annual Report for FNRMOs has been reduced from 55 questions in 12 pages to 40 questions in 7 pages. Only questions that are required for program

justification and to report on program performance indicators are listed.   The re-design of the forms has been made to make it easier to understand the questions and provide consistent answers. All changes were made in consultation with the Assembly of First Nations Special Education Working Group which includes First Nation educators, Regional Managing Organizations, INAC headquarters and regional office representatives.

- **First Nation and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) Reports - reports combined:**
    - Evaluation and Activity reports for the Career Promotion and Awareness Program which has two sub-programs (Career Promotion and Awareness Events, and Co-operative Education) have been combined from 4 separate reports into one.
    - Evaluation and Activity reports have also been combined into one single report to be submitted for each of the following programs:
        - the Science and Technology program,
        - the Summer Employment Opportunities program and
        - the Work Experience program.

Social Development

- **National Child Benefit Reinvestment Annual Report - changes made to reduce the number of reports required:** Projects that have more than one objective and activity area will be able to be reported using just one annual report. Recipients are to report on INAC funds spent against each activity and on funding used from other sources. This change has been made to increase consistency and accuracy in the data being submitted, to enable better analysis of dollars spent against the various activity areas funded by the program and to simplify reporting for recipients.
- **Disabilities Initiative Report - title and data element wording change:** Formerly this report was entitled: *National Strategy for Integration of Persons with Disabilities Annual Report.* The change in title brings the report up to date with respect to current program authorities. The data element: *costs* has been changed to *Amount of INAC funds used for this project* to clarify that only INAC funds are to be reported. This clarifies the data requirement where previously some recipients reported all funds spent including those from other sources.

Economic Development

- **Community Economic Opportunities Program (CEOP) Report - data element added:** When a CEOP project is assessed, INAC determines whether the funding recipient should carry out environmental mitigation measures. If so, the recipient is responsible for ensuring that the environmental mitigation measures are implemented. A data element has been added to clarify that information on the implementation of environmental mitigation, if required, should be included in the report. This is not a new reporting requirement; the information has been requested in previous years.
- **Community Economic Development Program Report - data elements deleted and minor edits made:** The requirements to report on Salaries, wages and benefits and Other Overhead (e.g. heat, rent, office supplies) have been eliminated. Minor editing has been done which includes replacing the term "INAC" funding with "CEDP" funding.

Community Infrastructure

- **Schools Annual Report - report removed:** As a result of the Data Collection Review, it was agreed that INAC does not need to receive annual updates on the number and type of classrooms in schools, the main information that was requested in the Schools Annual Report. The report also collected information on the date of the last fire inspection - information that is collected by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and can be accessed by INAC if necessary. An inventory of all First Nation schools is and will continue to be maintained by INAC's Capital Asset Management System as for all facilities.

- **Certificate of Completion for Capital Projects - minor formatting:** To clarify what is being requested and make the format consistent across all regions, the formatting of bullets has been changed to clarify the requirement for recipients to indicate whether all details of the project are resolved, construction plans are available and any flaws or omissions are attached to the certificate of completion.
- **Housing and Infrastructure Assets Annual Report – definitions modified:** There was room for confusion in the meaning of *piped* and *community well* data elements. A *community well* is defined in the Cost Reference Manual *as all groundwater wells used to supply water to the community at large*. Therefore a *community well system* is also part of a *piped system*. In the Level of Service Standard (LOSS), a *community well* is defined *as a well servicing 5 or more homes in close proximity (cluster housing)*. The intent of the annual report is to determine the number of houses on a public community system versus the number on individual private systems. Therefore, the definition of the *community well* has been changed by removing the words community well from the description and replacing them with the definition as found in the LOSS, i.e. *housing units with water service provided by a well servicing 5 or more homes in close proximity (cluster housing)*. The definition of *piped* has been augmented to explain that *this includes both surface water source and groundwater (well) source systems.*
- **Completed ACRS Projects Annual Report - explanation added:** The instructions have been augmented to explain the importance of the report by adding: *As part of the 3 year ACRS inspections, needs are identified to protect the health and safety of the asset users, and prolong the life, or maintain the operation of the assets. This report is to follow up on these important tasks.*

Annual Return - Management Report for Block Funded Programs

The section, Summary of Reports to be submitted, has been removed from the Management Report as this information is already captured in the introduction of the FNRG.

Anticipated Changes to Reporting during 2006-2007

At the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues held in Kelowna B.C. on November 24-25, 2005, the Government of Canada announced several commitments to First Nations in the areas of relationships, health, education, housing and economic opportunities. To further solidify federal commitments that will benefit First Nations across Canada, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine and Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Andy Scott agreed to a specific First Nations Implementation Plan.

This may have an impact on program funding and could result in changes to data reporting requirements.

There are plans to revise the 2006-2007 Teacher and Curriculum Information Form, which will be developed jointly by the Assembly of First Nations and INAC.