

The first edition of the First Nations National Child Benefit Progress Report 2000 is written specifically for First Nations. It is based on information, both narrative and numerical, that reflects First Nations' experience with the National Child Benefit reinvestment component and reports on the impact it is having on First Nations and their communities.



The National Child Benefit reinvestment component aims to provide a sense of community ownership for the programs designed by First Nations, to address specifically the diverse and unique needs of First Nations communities. This may be done in a variety of ways. For example, some communities have developed "health and wellness strategies" that reflect a long-term vision and the established goals the community has developed for its population. Here, the National Child Benefit reinvestment funds may be used to address one or more aspects of these strategies. Such that, if a community aimed to teach its young people about nutrition and the importance of a healthy breakfast to begin the day, nutrition and school breakfast programs may be established through the National Child Benefit to meet this goal. In other instances, communities have initiated new programs with National Child Benefit funds that otherwise would not be available, for example, cultural and traditional programs.

The primary purpose of this Progress Report is to "tell the story" and to illustrate examples of how First Nations have implemented the National Child Benefit reinvestment component which provides flexibility and variability for First Nations to design and develop innovative community-based programs for their children and to strengthen their communities for future generations. The range of programs varies from community to community.

As the Progress Report illustrates, First Nations can be proud of the innovative and creative programs they build through National Child Benefit reinvestments to help provide a better lifestyle for families. This Progress Report establishes a forum to share with First Nations across Canada and with the rest of the Canadian population how the National Child Benefit reinvestment initiative has been implemented in First Nations communities.

COUNCIL HURON-WENDAT NATION, QUEBEC

Has used National Child Benefit reinvestment funds to run *Agoshin Counter*, a nutrition and clothing centre that has created jobs for two social assistance recipients and provides regular services to low-income families with children. These services include provision of low-cost food and clothing, and the utility of a collective kitchen, a meeting place and a reference service to assist people in gaining access to the resources they need.