

Evans Locker, Ann SDSI:EX

From: Minister, SDSI SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 4:43 PM
To: 'todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca'
Subject: 180829 Stone - SDSI Response
Attachments: 180829 Stone Release of Personal Info.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Ref: 180829

Honourable Todd Stone, MLA
Kamloops–South Thompson
todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Stone:

Thank you for the copy of an email dated October 2, 2013, from Danielle Wilson, Practice Lead with the Interior Health Authority, regarding the access of First Nations persons living off reserve to drug and alcohol residential treatment facilities on reserve. I appreciate Maryanne Bower's forwarding the email to me.

First Nations persons living off reserve may apply for income assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program. Non-status and non-Indian persons residing on commercial property on reserves may also apply for assistance to the BCEA program. BCEA program clients must pursue all available sources of income to be eligible for income or disability assistance.

Eligible status and non-status persons living on a reserve are granted social assistance by the band administering authority, following the policies set by Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The AANDC is a federal agency that funds income assistance for people living on reserves and it sets its own policies. Persons with Indian status residing on commercial property on reserves also apply to the band administering authority.

The BCEA program provides several drug and alcohol supplements to help clients address substance abuse problems, including the following:

- A standard daily user fee (or per diem) of \$40 per day for clients who access licensed residential alcohol or drug treatment facilities. This per diem user fee is also issued to approved, unlicensed alcohol or drug treatment facilities and support recovery homes. A further \$95 monthly comforts allowance is provided to clients while they reside in such a facility.
- A supplement for non-residential alcohol or drug treatment, counselling, or related services to eligible clients and their dependent children, to a maximum of \$500 per 12 consecutive calendar months.

- A supplement to meet the costs of transportation to and from an approved special-care facility for residential alcohol and drug treatment in British Columbia.

These supplements may be provided to recipients of income assistance and disability assistance when no other resources are available.

If an alcohol or drug residential treatment facility is located on-reserve, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation considers the AANDC program a resource that must be explored. If the AANDC does not provide funding for the alcohol or drug residential treatment facility, the ministry may consider funding if the facility meets the ministry's eligibility requirements. For more information, your constituent or their advocate may wish to contact an Employment and Assistance office supervisor, or the regional community relations and service quality manager.

Please share this information as you feel appropriate and, please note, should anyone wish to advocate for a specific individual, a signed consent to release information is required. I have attached a Release of Information form for your convenience.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Don McRae
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation

Attachment