

Aboriginal Business Plan

1) Purpose/Objective

A comprehensive Aboriginal Business Plan that identifies government's key goals and objectives identifies actions that will be taken to achieve them, outlines how provincial resources (people and funds) are focused and directly aligned to priorities, and provides a basis on which to measure performance and assess progress.

2) Scope

- An Aboriginal Business Plan will:
 - Identify overarching priorities for the BC government in its dealings with aboriginal peoples.
 - Provide a basis on which to re-assess existing programs and expenditures. This will be done in 2007/08 in a "virtual" sense, and government can assess whether to make this formal in future.
 - Assist government to make choices regarding where its efforts and funding and people will be focused to have the greatest impact.
- Implementation of a cross-government Aboriginal Business Plan will require the commitment and participation of a number of Ministries, so it should be approved by Cabinet.

3) Governance and Accountabilities

Option 1: Status Quo

- No specific Aboriginal Business plan. MARR Minister responsible for development of a MARR service plan (public)
- No Cabinet approval of service / business plan
- Cabinet approval of individual initiatives (e.g. health plan, education plan)
- Implementation through several Ministers/Ministries
- TB allocation of resources not based on an overall plan, but on Ministry by Ministry requests. \$15 M allocated corporately for FN issues – MARR to recommend uses, but they are also uses of portions of the \$15M.s
- No summary annual reporting on progress

Option 2: Modified Status Quo

- MARR responsible for developing an aboriginal business plan – approved by Cabinet
- Individual Ministers responsible for delivering specific programs or outcomes in the business plan based on their portfolios
- TB allocates funds to Ministries based on Aboriginal Business plan and individual Ministry allocations
- MARR does annual report to Cabinet (?) based on business plan.

Option 3: Cabinet Committee oversight (recommended)

- MARR responsible for developing an aboriginal business plan – approved by Cabinet Committee
- Cabinet Committee provides advice to Cabinet on business plan priorities and proposed funding priorities ; looks for opportunities to find synergies and get the most benefit from limited funding
- Individual Ministers responsible for delivering specific programs or outcomes in the business plan based on their portfolios
- TB allocates funds to Ministries based on Aboriginal Business plan and individual Ministry allocations
- MARR does annual report to Cabinet Committee based on business plan.
- Committee oversight will assist in monitoring implementation

Option 4: Minister of State

- A single Minister (Minister of State?) will be responsible for development and implementation of an Aboriginal Business Plan.
- The Minister will be responsible for:
 - Proposing business plan with government's priorities for Cabinet approval.
 - Clearly identifying outcomes;
 - Prioritizing funding;
 - Identifying lead delivery Ministries
 - Tracking expenditures and monitoring implementation.
 - Auditing Ministry performance against the desired outcomes.
 - Making recommendations to Cabinet on reassessments of existing programs and funding based on the programs' ability to meet the desired outcomes.
 - Developing an annual report.
- MARR to maintain its role as the lead agency for Treaty Negotiations (including negotiation and development of mandates) and managing the New Relationship.
- Line Ministries continue to be responsible for the development and delivery of aboriginal policy and programs within their areas of authority. However, policy and program development will be guided by the cross-government business plan.

4) Implementation

Phase 1: By March 2007

Development and approval by government of a FN business plan. Establish governance structure.

Phase 2: April-August 2007

“Core review” type process to determine activities that would assist the province to meet the goals of the FN business plan. Would include reassessment of current First nations Expenditures. A small secretariat would need to be established to support this process.

Phase 3: August-September 2007

Omnibus budget submission for 2008/09 budget year. Budget would establish the overall and activity level funding requirements and location of resources for implementation of the FN business plan.

Appendix: Draft Provincial Goals and Priorities

These goals and priorities in many cases will align with First Nation goals, but in other cases may not.

Priorities/goals shared with First Nations:

- i) *Closing the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians (Transformative Change Accord) by:*
 - Improving relationships.
 - i. Reconciling aboriginal rights and title; and,
 - ii. Self government.
 - Closing the gap in health.
 - Closing the gap in education.
 - Closing the gap in housing and infrastructure.
 - Closing the gap in economic opportunities through the use of revenue sharing, interim measures and business training and skills development.

ii) Concluding treaties

Government priorities:

- i) Ensuring certainty (legal certainty and access to land) and supporting a positive investment climate including:
 - More effective and efficient consultation processes;
 - Improved access to resources for development;
 - Potential new roles/expectations for private sector; and,
 - Reduced litigation
 - Managed expectations from revenue sharing or accommodation.
- ii) Financial and operational efficiency.
 - Ensure programming is efficient and effective and targeted to priorities.
- iii) Improving structures to manage the relationship between the parties.
 - Support the development of First Nations governance structures that would support effective democratic processes and enable engagement at a provincial level.

- Support for Leadership Council.
 - Establishment of a centre in Victoria for First Nation government.
 - Ensure accountability of First Nations expenditures.
 - Engage First Nations in informed and productive policy debate.
- iv) Engaging the federal government
- Managing the relationship with the federal government
- v) Taking significant iconic actions at low cost
- Murals
 - Support of FN business successes
 - Assisting in the repatriation by First Nations of cultural artefacts