AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

Advocacy and Partnerships

Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association Webinar

October 9, 2024

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Overview

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

AFN Health Sector
NIHB

AFN Advocacy

- Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)
- AFN Resolutions
- NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)
- NIHB Navigators
- Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) – NIHB
- NIHB National Evaluations
- AFN Health Sector Partnerships

Moving Forward: NIHB Advocacy and Partnerships Road Map

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

First Nations driven, national advocacy organization

Hosts First Nations Chiefs Assemblies where mandates and directives established through resolutions

AFN is guided by an Executive Committee made up of the National Chief, 12 Regional Chiefs

AFN Health Sector

Mandate

- To protect, maintain, promote, support and advocate

Central Goal

- First Nations' control to control of all their health services and programs

NIHB Program Overview

Provides First Nations with coverage for a range of health benefits:

prescription and over-the-counter medications	dental and orthodontic services	eye exams and corrective eyewear	medical supplies and equipment	mental health counselling	transportation to access health services

As of March 31, 2023, there were 936,006 First Nations and Inuit clients received benefits

AFN Health – NIHB Advocacy

- AFN Resolutions
- Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)
- NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)
- NIHB Navigators
- Pre-Budget Submissions (PBS)
- NIHB National Evaluation
- AFN Health Sector Partnerships

AFN Resolutions

#97/2023, NIHB Coverage for Naturopathic Medicine

- Advocate to amend the NIHB Program
- Collaborate to promote wholistic health and wellness
- Engage in dialogue for the inclusion

TBD Late Resolution 02/2024, Expanding NIHB Coverage to include Allied Health Services

- Advocate to expand the NIHB
- Collaborate with First Nations and partner organizations
- Conduct a thorough review
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals, and other experts to conduct research
- Advocate for adequate resources and funding

Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)

Composition

- Core committee consist of 1 Chief representative from each of the 12 AFN regions;
- A representative from the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN)

Mandate

- To protect and maintain the Treaty and First Nations rights to health
- To provide advice, guidance and recommendations

Objectives

- Advocate for the protection, recognition and implementation
- Analysis on the best interests of First Nations
- Communicate and liaison strategies

NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)

Mandate

- 74/2018, *NIHB: Ongoing Commitment to a Joint Review Process*
- 61/2022, *Reforming NIHB Travel Policies*

Composition

- 10 First Nations Caucus
- 10 ISC – FNIHB – NIHB

Objectives

- Identify and address gaps
- Streamline service delivery
- Increase program efficiencies

Joint Reviews Completed

- 2016 Mental Health Counselling
- 2018 Dental and Vision
- 2019 Pharmacy
- 2020 Medical Supplies and Equipment
- 2023 Medical Transportation
- 2024 Medical Transportation

NIHB Navigators

Mandate

- AFN health technicians' body to plan and advocate for First Nations NIHB national priorities
- Hired by First Nations' regions

Composition

- Regional NIHB Health Technicians to guide and promote First Nation NIHB health needs and priorities
- We have representatives from eleven regions – BC has the FNHA

Current work

- NIHB National Dialogue Session – October 2023
- Move First Nations health priorities, such as allied health services
- Discontinuation of the Sole Prescriber Restrictions

Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) – NIHB

Proposed $52 million investment over 5 years to research expanding NIHB coverage to include naturopathic medicine and allied health services.

PBS to be tabled in Parliament on October 18, 2024

The next step is ongoing advocacy for additional funds in the next Federal Budget.

NIHB Program Evaluations

Evaluation every 5 years

An independent contractor is hired by ISC

AFN sits on the evaluation working group

AFN Health Sector – Partnerships

AFN Regional Tables

- CCOH
- NIHB JRSC First Nations' Caucus
- NIHB Navigators

NIHB Working Groups and Advisory Committees

Strategic Partners

- Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada
- Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors

Moving Forward: NIHB Advocacy and Partnerships Road Map

2024

- NIHB Joint Review – Ongoing
- PBS 2025
- Continue to partner and build linkages
- Analysis of the NIHB Program

2025

- Progress the NIHB Joint Review with First Nations lead
- Continue to improve NIHB communications
- Build and renew partnerships

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For more information or clarification, please email:
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