

MLA David B. Hanson (UCP)
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

Specifically, with Siksika funding this year could you tell us how many families are affected, how many houses are affected currently, and is there any potential for any others? Maybe just touch on whether some of these are some of the same houses that were affected in 2013 (PA – 674).

RESPONSE

- Due to rapid snow melt, 16 houses were impacted and four families were evacuated. Potential for further impact is unlikely as Siksika Nation has already transitioned into recovery.
- Five houses that were being rebuilt from the 2013 floods were also impacted; however, the units were vacant at the time.
- Siksika Nation is currently implementing mitigation measures for future events.

MLA Richard Gottfried (UCP)
Calgary-Fish Creek

In the Auditor General's report also around the First Nations development fund grant applications are said to lack a formal review process for assessing complex grant applications. What additional processes – I'm sure this follows on the Auditor General's report – will the ministry institute to assess complex grant applications consistently? (PA – 675)

RESPONSE

- First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) projects are considered complex if they involve one or more of the following factors:
 - project expenses are for principal and interest payments for a loan of five million dollars or more;
 - the project expenses could be perceived as being gaming-related; or,
 - have other complex, technical and/or unique factors that require further analysis.
- A Complex Grant Application Assessment Procedure (CGAAP) was approved by the Deputy Minister and the CGAAP has been applied since May 2017 when accessing complex projects.
- The CGAAP is a tool utilized to assess/confirm the First Nation's due diligence in the following areas: cost process, project management and oversight, financing and banking, decision making and risk management. An inventory of supporting documentation to accompany the application was developed. Some examples of the documents included in the list are tendering documents, financial policies, complete loan agreement and professional advice sought.
- Since May 2017, a Peer Review Committee consisting of management and Liaison Officers has been established and utilized to review and assess complex grant applications against the CGAAP.
- The FNDF Grant Program Guide was revised to reflect the CGAAP and the revisions were presented to First Nations at the FNDF workshop held in March 2018.

**MLA Grant Hunter (UCP)
Cardston-Taber-Warner**

All right. Maybe you can answer this. How many of your ADMs or managers are FNMI? (PA – 677)

RESPONSE

- The Government of Alberta currently does not ask employees to disclose their Indigenous identity.
- In October 2017, Government of Alberta launched a Diversity and Inclusion Policy. As part of this initiative, the Public Service Commission will include diversity and inclusion questions in the next employee survey targeted for June 2018. A question on Indigenous identity will be included, with the option of “prefer not to answer.” Indigenous people are defined as First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Following the survey, we hope to have a better understanding of the demographical makeup of Indigenous staff members across the GoA and within IR.

**MLA Marie Renaud (NDP)
St. Albert**

One other question: what progress has the ministry made in implementing the two outstanding recommendations? What specific progress have you made since the November 28, 2017 Public Accounts meeting? (PA – 679).

RESPONSE

- The Auditor General recommendations have been fully implemented. The Department has been in contact with the Auditor General and the follow up audit of the FNDF Grant Program has been scheduled.
- Since November 28, 2017, the following has been completed, implemented and approved by the Deputy Minister:
 - A procedure, to analyze and document variances when comparing actual to budget costs approved for FNDF projects, has been developed and approved as of March 31, 2018;
 - The FNDF Grant Program Guide has been updated and shared with First Nations, as of March 31, 2018, to reflect program enhancements;
 - Commencing in September 2017, written communication was sent to First Nations who had outstanding reporting;
 - Some First Nations' quarterly payments were held due to outstanding financial reporting. However, all First Nations' financial reporting have now been submitted and accepted by the Indigenous Relations, also the hold on payments has been removed by the department;
 - Training was held on March 27 and 28, 2018 to review the FNDF program enhancements with First Nations; and
 - The Complex Grant Assessment Application Procedure has been approved and fully implemented when reviewing complex projects.

MLA David B. Hanson (UCP)
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

Actually, I will just reiterate the question that I asked previously and that Mr. Hunter asked. If you could endeavour to give us some data as to any changes since I first asked the question back in 2015-2016, and then Mr. Hunter asked the question today. Have there been any improvements or attempts by your office to fill some of the senior management positions with people from First Nations, whether it be Treaties 6, 7, or 8? (PA – 680)

RESPONSE

- Unfortunately, the Alberta Public Service, including Indigenous Relations, has not tracked statistics/demographics related to any employee ancestry and/or identity. However, Diversity and Inclusion questions will be included in our upcoming Employee Survey (scheduled for June 2018) to collect information to provide a better understanding of the diversity of Alberta Public Service employees.

MLA Greg Clark (AP)
Calgary-Elbow

**How much of the FNDF funds is administration, and is there any plan to reduce the amount that is spent on administration year over year?
(PA – 680)**

RESPONSE

- The administration costs to deliver the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) program are covered by a portion of the revenue generated from the five host First Nation casinos. Administrative expenses for each fiscal year represent approximately one per cent of total FNDF funds. The reasonable administration costs for 2017/2018 was approximately \$1.4 million.
- Administration costs include salaries, benefits, travel, and supplies for the FNDF program staff. To maintain the program enhancements implemented to address the Auditor General recommendations, the FNDF program does not anticipate a reduction in administration costs.
- The Government of Alberta absorbs other costs in the administration of FNDF such as office supplies, office space, utilities, computers, information technology services, human resources, finance services, accounting services, other administrative, executive duties and functions of government.