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BC AFN AND HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY REFORM

MAY 15th, 16th and 17th 2019

Day one, HIC wants to take over the control of the water rights, covered by the Government water act.
(Not sure what the Government water act covers, thought the HIC was only housing and infrastructure)

Implementing policies and procedures to do so. Fighting for rights to protect the water.

Existing authority has failed to provide the basic needs.

HIC operations plan to be up and running by the end of next year, currently doing two pilot projects.

Asset management pilot projects? Current funding form from ISC is outdated.

ISC / AFN draft policy pilot project happening soon.

Government gave ISC 15 million dollars to develop Operations and Maintenance Asset Management plan to ISC, but ISC did not tell HIC or AFN. (good reason to take over from ISC!)

Funding levels too low from the government, Legislation not feasible with these funding levels.

Ontario has the strictest policies in CANADA, funding formula driven, updated 2005.

ISC did one 2012, did not give out the information, because of the increase funding needed, still doesn't meet the needs.

Zone multiplier inappropriate, schools underfunded by 40%.

ISC has not asked to assist in drafting policies

Current Policies

- Require First Nations to have user fees, (taxes) not always feasible
- General confusion over ISC funding allocations.
- Confusion over regional distribution to First Nations.
- ISC treats stop-gap measures as successes, in relation to its boil water advisory strategies.

Assets such as solid waste transfer stations, pressure reducing stations, not on OM funding.

Asset management, Capital, and O&M projects need to be planned together for sustainability.

Holistically need to meet our needs, education, O&M, Capital Projects and Management and Maintenance. Needs to a design plan to develop technical people.

Every Government project must have an asset management plan, except one, -ISC HIC wants to change this, they will need us to look at every asset and have a feasible asset plan.

Each first Nations need a asset management plan, policies, objectives and implementation levels of service standards are to quantify goals of an organization.

This all may be mandatory for funding from HIC once they take over.

Develop plan concurrently with other organizational strategies. By asset management policy and First Nations plans. Ventures, Businesses, need plans. Technical staff to operate risk management. Based on the best technical information.

Wind levels ahs gone up extremely for risk management, these contingencies must be part of the emergency response plan. Understand the risk that might occur, prepare plans on these things.

Whole life style lost, identify qualify first.

Maintenance schedule through the whole life cycle. Everything needs to be replaced eventually, plan it!

Long term planning, often aimed to secure funding, typically 10-25 years. Maintenance concepts can't be met because of budget restrictions, only fixed when broken.

Two bands are currently in an asset management plan pilot project, good idea to plan how to and how much it would cost to have every band to get an asset management plan.

First Nations Technical Services Corp. (OFNTSC) has been in place for 20 years. Alberta data base is free. Getting rid of formula based funding from ISC, we will need as Asset Management Plan.

(Side note was sitting by a band administrator from the main land, and they were doing some CMHC new construction, but also doing new construction from BC Housing, was at a meeting last year and reported that BC Housing has 600 units to do, did we even apply for any of them?)

Infrastructure Canada was funding-infrastructure asset management awareness. Funding to the regional offices, physical condition reviews.

E-ACRS (enhanced, tool used to do the asset management plan)

Not used full to asset management, asset assessments needed, more qualified inspectors required.

Alberta has an on line Asset Management Plan, is on an xl spread sheet, easy to use.

To link funding, we need an asset management plan, ISC will be based on available funds!

Asset Management Plan Requirements

Inspections

Long term goals of first Nations

Risks should included on planning.

Accountability is a major concern for ISC, Details regarding accountability requires further discussion with HIC.

HIC take over, schedule to implement authority is a five year plan.

2020-first year awareness education.

2022-Amp up on critical assets

2024-Implement the five year comprehensive plan,

Every five years an engineer or technical professional, certified in asset management planning, to review plan. (Plan paid by ISC, \$31,000.00-\$50,000.00)

E-ACRS form applications, insure you go forward and list all your needs before you get funding for your inspections.

May 16th, day two

HIC getting CMHC and ISC out of the picture.

Designed by First Nations for First Nations.

Source water protection, water shed management

First Nations led water legislation.

Draft framework for legislation, presented to the government.

Lack of resources from authority.

Bill S-8, Safe drinking act.

HIC starting new safe drinking water legislation.

Atlantic developed their own authority, with some of the highest standards for water protection,

Outdated Government legislation-bill S-11, Safe drinking for First Nations Act.

Existing legislation is an axe hanging over our heads and is existing now!

Current Government lax on this legislation, changes may cause use of this legislation against First Nations, taking away authority!

AMP-(can we use short fall services and infrastructure funding, can we charge the government, using bill S-11?)

Bill S-11-Safe drinking water for First Nations Act.

Section 7 stops using First Nations legislation against the government, even though they are the cause of the problem.

Federal Government must close the gap and has a legal right to consult with First Nations. The Crown has excessive immunity provisions.

Worst case scenario, implementation of this law can put people in jail, with third party authority.

Having a strong AMP can help protect against bill S-11, with good data. (which means assessment is a must to point out Government funding shortfalls)

WATER RIGHTS

First in time, First in rights to water, in drought conditions, we are not given rights, 1950s colonized entities have huge water rights.

Section on protection of source water protection, seems not to apply to the Crown, their mechanisms to protect source water.

Detailed analysis needed in every community to fill the gap.

Adaptation, Strategy- Climate change, invasive plants etc.

Move O and M to a limited partnership, documentation of issues needed to fill the gap, showing you were trying to protect water services, to help protect against any negligence charges.

A strong AMP is needed to protect Cowichan.

DATA INITIATIVE- Dan George HIC chair, HIC data collection initiative needed to HIC, Housing department, O and M.

DAY3, May 17th

Went by mostly review of the first two days and planning on implementation of the HIC take over of funding and Authority.

The task of this take over across Canada is tremendous, but BC and east coast regions are ahead of everyone else, may be in place by end of next year, pilot projects usually means main project is not far behind. Keeping up with everything going on is a must for Cowichan to finally get proper funding for housing and infrastructure.

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