

# MIRWALDT & GRAY

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June 3, 2005

Family Services and Housing  
218-114 Garry Street  
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**COPY**

Attention: Mr. Sid Rogers

“Via Fax”

Dear Sir:

**RE: Meeting with Northern Agencies**

This letter will confirm our meeting in Winnipeg on May 27, 2005. Present at the meeting were yourself, Ms. Joy Cramer (Child Protection Branch), Mr. Walter Spence and Mr. Clarence Paupanekis (KSMA), Mr. Alfred McDougall (Island Lake), Ms. Margaret Bartlett (Northern Authority), Ms. Linda Constant (Cree Nation CFCA), Mr. Ron Ranville (OCN-CFS), Mr. Robert Lafontaine and Mr. David Monias (Awasis). I attended as legal counsel for Cree Nation CFCA, KSMA, NCN-CFS, and OCN-CFS. Mr. Spence chaired the meeting.

We discussed a number of issues relating to the transfer of cases under the AJI-CWI process. Outlined below is a brief synopsis of our discussions and the agreed action plan on same:

**1. AJI-CWI Transfers:**

We discussed my May 19<sup>th</sup> letter to you and reiterated the problems being experienced by each Agency with respect to the transfer of cases. All parties agreed that the case lists provided by Winnipeg Child & Family Services were not accurate and that it will take some work to straighten out the problems and compile accurate lists. This should have been done well before the “go-live” date and was not thus creating extra work and expense for the Agencies. We discussed the negative attitude that the Northern Agencies were facing from Winnipeg Child & Family Services staff. You and Ms. Cramer offered to assign one staff person at the Branch to be a “troubleshooter” and intermediary

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between the Agencies to handle such issues. Subject to confirmation, you advised that Ms. Kristy Hollenbeck would likely be the staff person assigned to act in this capacity. Ms. Cramer was to confirm this to the Agencies within a week or so.

**2. Designated Intake Agencies:**

We made you aware of the problems being experienced by the Northern DIA's and the limited resources provided by the Province to the DIA's. You advised that an evaluation will be done on the DIA system but you recommended that we should not wait for the outcome of such an evaluation if there were problems. You invited the Agencies to let you and Ms. Cramer know of specific problems. The Agencies agree to do so.

**3. Pre-AJI/Post-AJI Special Needs Funding:**

Ms. Constant advised you that her agency was advised that the funding available on AJI\_CWI cases after the transfer date is lower than the funding available prior to the transfer date. Apparently children who had been special-rated while in the care of Winnipeg CFS lost that status upon transfer and the receiving agency was being told that the special rate is not available or is at a lower amount. She asked you to explain the discrepancy. You asked for specific examples and you agreed to look into this issue and provide us with an answer.

**4. Overlap of Services under DIA System:**

The Agencies made you aware that Cheryl Freeman had advised the Agencies at the May 10, 2005 Thompson meeting that even though the DIA regulations contemplate and require an "overlap" of services from the DIA and the receiving agency, the Province would only fund one Agency at a time (either the DIA or the receiving Agency) during this overlap period. The Agencies asked you if this were so and who would pay the extra costs of such services and the legal costs of the Section 28 transfers under the DIA system. You advised that you would investigate this and provide us with an answer.

The DIA's advised you that in Thompson and The Pas the General Authority regional offices were refusing to do any intakes at all and were simply providing all callers with the DIA number for the area. You agreed that under Section 18 of The Child & Family Services Act, each Agency had a legal duty to investigate any report or intake made to them. The Northern Agencies advised you that it was their position that the General Authority regional offices were not fulfilling their mandates. You said that you would look into this before our next meeting and report back to us.



**5. Resource transfer/Funding Transfer:**

You advised that you had no power to influence how resources or funding were allocated among the Northern Agencies. You further advised that all of the funds you had available from the Province were sent to the Northern Authority and that it was the Northern Authority that distributed the funds. You suggested that we take up the discussion with the Northern Authority.

In this particular discussion we reviewed what had occurred with the granting of the OCN-CFS mandate in April 2005. Ms. Bartlett advised that the Northern Authority was under the impression that OCN's mandate would be limited to the OCN Reserve only and thus no Winnipeg resources were allocated to them. I advised that OCN's mandate was province-wide and that the Northern Authority was aware of this before the mandate was granted. You suggested that OCN should take up its funding concerns with the Northern Authority.

**6. Statistical Information from the Agencies**

Ms. Cramer advised that she was experiencing difficulty in obtaining statistical information from the North. She required such information to provide to the Minister and others making inquiries under FIPPA. The Agencies agreed to review this situation.

**7. Funding Allocations:**

The Agencies provided you with a breakdown of funding allocations among the Northern Agencies that demonstrated that the overall funding provided by the Province was woefully inadequate. Unfortunately, you were unable to remain at the meeting until noon as originally planned and you suggested that we meet again in one month's time to discuss this issue and to review any progress made on the afore-mentioned issues.

If the foregoing does not accurately our discussions please advise by return. We will use this letter as a starting point for our discussions at the next meeting.

Yours truly,  
**MIRWALDT & GRAY**

**LORE M. MIRWALDT, Q.C.**  
LMM

Xc: OCN-CFS (Diane Deschambeault)  
Cree Nation CFCA (Linda Constant)  
NCN-CFS (Felix Walker)  
KSMA (Clarence Paupanekis)  
Awasis (David Monias)  
Island Lake (Alfred McDougall)  
Northern Authority (K. Dunlop, Q.C.)  
Joy Cramer (Child Protection Branch)

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