



WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES TRANSFER ACT 2019

How could this impact your Nation?

Canada has passed the [Department of Indigenous Services Transfer Act 2019](#) (Transfer Act) which implements the transfer of departmental responsibilities to First Nations and/or Indigenous organizations. However, little details have been shared on the support and funding that will be provided for this and all that is included in the process.

This transfer of services, which was legislated without free prior and informed consent, will have generational impacts, and needs further communication, engagement and involvement with and from First Nations leaders and those doing the work in community.



What does the current transfer of services include?

- Water and Wastewater Facilities & Infrastructure
- Education Facilities
- Housing
- Solid Waste Management
- Road & Bridge Construction



- Energy System Development
- Connectivity
- Cultural & Recreational Facility Development
- Fire Protection
- Planning & Skills Development Associated with Infrastructure Management



What are the potential risks & impacts to Nations?

- Lack of capacity to meet the needs of your community – putting your Members health and wellbeing in danger
- Unknown and increasing costs to your Nation – at the time of transfer and into the future
- Liability to Nations, and risks associated with, failure to meet regulatory requirements



What is the transfer of services timelines?

The current transfer timelines from Canada are to begin Phase II of the transfer in Spring 2023, and to have the engagement process and new service delivery models identified by Spring 2025. The actual date of the Transfer of Services has not yet been confirmed.



April 2023

Phase 2 of transfer project begins to research and conduct through analysis of needs, gaps, capacity, overall cost, and map of possible models for reviews.



January 2024

Review – revise areas identified by leadership and fine tune the model of choice.



April 2025

Subject to successful completion and agreement signed between First Nations and ISC – the implementation of approved transfer plan begins. Oversight committee will be in place per the agreement.



Review completed models and prepare to demonstrate each of the models to the Chiefs/ Councils.

November 2023



Final decision sought from the Leadership on overall transfer package.

March 2024



The role of TSAG for Alberta First Nations

Founded 24 years ago by a group of First Nations Chiefs in Alberta, the Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) is a non-profit, third-party service provider funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Canada (FNIHB) that serves Treaty 6, 7 & 8 First Nations with service delivery. They provide technical services and training for First Nations in Alberta in the areas of Asset Management, Circuit Rider Training, Water and Wastewater Management, Environmental Management, Housing Support Services, Fire Safety, Rural Addressing, Information Technology Services, and Virtual Healthcare. Many services provided by TSAG will be impacted by the transfer of services.



TSAG transfer of services information sessions

TSAG began sharing information directly with Alberta First Nations in 2022 and hosting Information sessions regarding the Transfer Act in early 2023, specifically on the Infrastructure programs and services. One-day information sessions were held in Calgary, Edmonton and Slave Lake. The main objective for the sessions were to inform Alberta First Nations about the Transfer Act, as well as provide a space to discuss what those proposed changes could mean to delivery of services, as well as infrastructure and operations to Alberta First Nations, and the impact these changes could have on communities.

A follow-up session is planned for March 14th, 2023 in Edmonton, with ongoing outreach to all Alberta First Nations to attend and provide further input, as well as to hear what TSAG learned in those earlier sessions. A survey will also be sent out to all Alberta First Nations to provide their input on their concerns and challenges with the transfer of services.

First Nations recommendations and comments from these sessions will be used to develop a comprehensive report that will be shared at a two-day session in April (dates TBC) in Edmonton for First Nation leaders, and government representatives to hear what we learned and for final input into the report. This session will also be a space to put forward questions to ISC to answer directly on the transfer of services. In the weeks following this session the full report will be shared to all Alberta First Nations, ISC, and other necessary government representatives.



Information on transfer of services

As this process moves forward there are several ways to access key information and stay informed by TSAG:



Transfer of Services page on TSAG website:
www.tsag.net/transferservices



Email your questions, and sign up for ongoing communications at: transfer@tsag.net



Call TSAG's information line toll free at:
1-833-TRANSFER (1-800-872-6337)

