



2008 Federal Election

Party Questions

1. In 2006, the NAFC worked with the Department of Canadian Heritage to develop a comprehensive business case for enhancement of the Aboriginal Friendship Centres Program budget. The business case is compelling, and it calls for \$32 million in additional funding over three years. Nevertheless, we have been unable to access new funds from federal Budgets. **Does your Party support immediately and significantly increasing the budget for the Aboriginal Friendship Centres Program, and working with the National Association of Friendship Centres immediately following the Election to update the Aboriginal Friendship Centres Program?**
2. Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) is currently developing a successor program for the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS). Friendship Centres, and the Friendship Centre Movement, have effectively been shut out of the existing AHRDS. **Does your Party support a redesigned Aboriginal employment and training program that includes Aboriginal Friendship Centres as key delivery agents?**
3. Education is the key to the future, yet almost two-thirds of Aboriginal youth do not successfully complete high school. **Does your Party support the development and implementation of a cost-shared federal-provincial/territorial urban Aboriginal education program?**
4. Aboriginal people frequently account for a disproportionate number of the homeless people in urban centres, and there remains a demonstrable need for culturally-appropriate programming for urban Aboriginal homeless people. **Does your Party support the development and implementation of a national urban Aboriginal homelessness program?**
5. In general, the health status of Aboriginal people is very poor when compared to non-Aboriginal Canadians. Reduced life expectancy, high diabetes rates, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and other issues highlight the urgent crisis that exists, and the level of services available to urban Aboriginal people is not sufficient to address needs. **Does your Party support the development and implementation of an urban Aboriginal health policy?**
6. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is Canada's most significant urban Aboriginal service delivery infrastructure; however, despite this and the fact that a majority of Aboriginal Canadians live in urban areas, the NAFC is often excluded from federal policy discussions. **As Leader of your Party, will you commit to including the National Association of Friendship Centres in any future First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues, and similar forums?**