

# COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

## Safe Sleep – Recommendation 8

**Recommendation Summary:** Resource and implement strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in all of Manitoba's First Nations communities

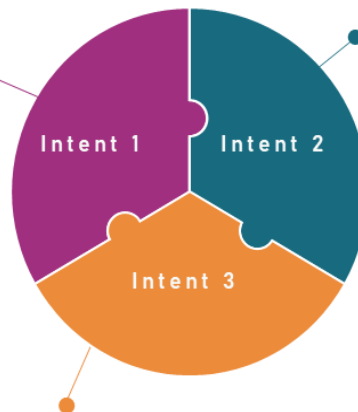
**Primary Public Body:** Government of Canada

**1. Fund a strategy to implement a long-term funding model that expands prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in Manitoba First Nation communities.**

See Intent 2.

**3. Consult with First Nations and Metis governments on the strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs.**

See Intent 2.



**2. Implement a strategy to expand new and existing prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs to all First Nations communities in Manitoba.**

The Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Manitoba has worked closely with the Manitoba First Nation Child Development Advisory committee over the last couple of years to expand the Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health program in Manitoba. With support from Budget 2017 funding provided to Manitoba, the Maternal Child Health program has been expanded into a total of 18 First Nations communities who did not previously have access to the program.

### COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

0.50

Partially Compliant

## Recommendation Compliance Summary

In accordance with subsection 11(1) clause (d) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA), the Advocate retains the responsibility "to monitor the implementation of recommendations included in reports made under section 27 (investigation) or special reports made under section 31."

This form details the assessment of implementation of compliance made under the referenced subsection of the ACYA. MACY assesses implementation of compliance with recommendations once a year but receives updates from public bodies every six months.

<b>1. Recommendation Information</b>	
<b>Special Report Name:</b>	<b>Safe and Sound: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants</b>
<b>Date Released:</b>	3/26/2020
<b>Full Recommendation</b> (including details)	<p><b>Recommendation Eight:</b> The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Canada resource an implementation strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs, in consultation with First Nations and Metis Governments, into all of Manitoba's First Nations communities.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration will be given to the expansion of existing programs such as the Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health Program.</li> <li>• A long-term funding model will be developed to expand maternal and child health programs to all First Nations communities in Manitoba.</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPACT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All infants in Manitoba realize their inherent rights to the highest attainable standard of health by ensuring appropriate prenatal and postnatal care for mothers (UNCRC, Art. 24)</li> </ul>
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	<p>The intents of the recommendation are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Fund a strategy to implement a long-term funding model that expands prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in Manitoba First Nation communities.</b></li> <li><b>2. Implement a strategy to expand new and existing prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs to all First Nations communities in Manitoba.</b></li> <li><b>3. Consult with First Nations and Metis governments on the strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs.</b></li> </ol>
<b>Issue:</b>	Safe Sleep
<b>Public Body</b>	Government of Canada
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body</b>	October 20, 2022 July 21, 2021 June 16, 2020
<b>2. Compliance Determination</b>	
<b>Partially Compliant 0.50</b>	Actions taken only implement part of the recommendation. Important requirements have been met and the recommendation is acted upon,

	however, deficiencies remain.
<b>Self-Assessment</b>	none
<b>Previous Compliance Determination</b>	Partially Compliant
<b>3. Rationale for Determination</b> (How did you reach this compliance determination)	
<p><b>Intent 1: Fund a strategy to implement a long-term funding model that expands prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in Manitoba First Nation communities.</b></p> <p><b>2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No response provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous multi-year investments have been made to fund prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs in First Nations communities. While no specific strategy was referenced, there is evidence funding models are ongoing and have the possibility of expansion.</li> <li>If the investments referenced by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) are part of an existing national maternal child health strategy, evidence of the strategy is required. MACY will follow-up with ISC to request a copy of the current strategy, and once received, will analyze whether there is an indication within the strategy that programs can and will be expanded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intent 2: Implement the strategy to expand new and existing prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs to all First Nation communities in Manitoba.</b></p> <p><b>2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response provided by the Government of Canada did not speak to the specific intents of this recommendation. Instead, the following statement was provided: “The Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Manitoba has worked closely with the Manitoba First Nation Child Development Advisory committee over the last couple of years to expand the Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health program in Manitoba. With support from Budget 2017 funding provided to Manitoba, the Maternal Child Health program has been expanded into a total of 18 First Nations communities who did not previously have access to the program”.</li> <li>As this reference is to budget 2017, prior to the release of the Safe Sleep report, it is unclear whether any expansion of this program occurred between 2020 and present.</li> </ul> <p><b>2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Canada is moving towards transferring control of health services with respect to design and delivery to First Nations communities. This transformation offers opportunities for expansion in the creation and sustainability of programs that are culturally-relevant, safe, and appropriate for Indigenous families.</li> <li>No specific strategy was referenced, however ISC noted that there is a possibility to expand existing prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs on First Nations communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intent 3: To consult with First Nations and Metis governments on the strategy.</b></p> <p><b>2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See intent 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of memoranda of understanding and collaborations were referenced, such as with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Keewatin Tribal Council, and Southern Chiefs Organization, on the topic of clinical care transformation, to transfer control to First Nations</li> </ul>	

on the design and delivery of services, as well as the development of a joint pilot project on maternal child health and FASD. It is important to note that memoranda of understanding are simply agreements on collaboration and do not have specific dollar amounts attached to them. Furthermore, although these collaborations and memoranda of understanding may be informed/directed by an actual strategy, no strategy was specifically named.

- The First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) and Health Directors shared with MACY in September 2021 that it is currently not aware of any consultation related to a strategy.
- The June 2020 preliminary response update did not specifically refer to any consultation with First Nations governments on the development of a strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs.

**Analysis Summary:** The response provided by the Government of Canada provided limited information on addressing this recommendation. MACY has reached out to the Regional Executive Officer for the ISC First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Manitoba to provide clarification and further explanation of the response provided. Due to the limited information available, this recommendation will remain partially compliant.