



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

Advocacy and Partnerships

Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association Webinar

October 9, 2024

Jenny Gardipy, Senior Policy Analyst – NIHB



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Overview

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

AFN Health Sector

NIHB

AFN Advocacy

- Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)
- AFN Resolutions
- NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)
- NIHB Navigators
- Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) – NIHB
- NIHB National Evaluations
- AFN Health Sector Partnerships

Moving Forward: NIHB Advocacy and Partnerships Road Map



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

First Nations driven, national advocacy organization

Hosts First Nations Chiefs Assemblies where mandates and directives established through resolutions

AFN is guided by an Executive Committee made up of the National Chief, 12 Regional Chiefs



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

AFN Health Sector

Mandate

- To protect, maintain, promote, support and advocate

Central Goal

- First Nations' control to control of all their health services and programs



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

NIHB Program Overview

Provides First Nations with coverage for a range of health benefits:

prescription and
over-the-counter
medications

dental and
orthodontic
services

eye exams and
corrective eyewear

medical supplies
and equipment

mental health
counselling

transportation to
access health
services



As of March 31, 2023, there were 936,006 First Nations and Inuit clients received benefits



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Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

AFN Health – NIHB Advocacy

AFN Resolutions

Chiefs Committee
on Health (CCOH)

NIHB Joint Review
Steering
Committee (JRSC)

NIHB Navigators

Pre-Budget
Submissions (PBS)

NIHB National
Evaluation

AFN Health Sector
Partnerships



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AFN Resolutions

#97/2023, NIHB Coverage for Naturopathic Medicine

Advocate to amend the NIHB Program

Collaborate to promote wholistic health and wellness

Engage in dialogue for the inclusion

TBD *Late Resolution 02/2024, Expanding NIHB Coverage to include Allied Health Services*

Advocate to expand the NIHB

Collaborate with First Nations and partner organizations

Conduct a thorough review

Collaborate with healthcare professionals, and other experts to conduct research

Advocate for adequate resources and funding



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)

Composition

- Core committee consist of 1 Chief representative from each of the 12 AFN regions;
- A representative from the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN)

Mandate

- To protect and maintain the Treaty and First Nations rights to health
- To provide advice, guidance and recommendations

Objectives

- Advocate for the protection, recognition and implementation
- Analysis on the best interests of First Nations
- Communicate and liaison strategies



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC)

Mandate	Composition	Objectives	Joint Reviews Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 74/2018, <i>NIHB: Ongoing Commitment to a Joint Review Process</i>• 61/2022, <i>Reforming NIHB Travel Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 First Nations Caucus• 10 ISC – FNIHB – NIHB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and address gaps• Streamline service delivery• Increase program efficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2016 Mental Health Counselling• 2018 Dental and Vision• 2019 Pharmacy• 2020 Medical Supplies and Equipment• 2023 Medical Transportation• 2024 Medical Transportation



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Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

NIHB Navigators

Mandate

- AFN health technicians' body to plan and advocate for First Nations NIHB national priorities
- Hired by First Nations' regions

Composition

- Regional NIHB Health Technicians to guide and promote First Nation NIHB health needs and priorities
- We have representatives from eleven regions – BC has the FNHA

Current work

- NIHB National Dialogue Session – October 2023
- Move First Nations health priorities, such as allied health services
- Discontinuation of the Sole Prescriber Restrictions



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Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) – NIHB

Proposed \$52 million investment over 5 years to research expanding NIHB coverage to include naturopathic medicine and allied health services.

**PBS to be tabled in Parliament on
October 18, 2024**

The next step is ongoing advocacy for additional funds in the next Federal Budget.



AFN Health Sector

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

NIHB Program Evaluations

Evaluation
every 5 years

An
independent
contractor is
hired by ISC

AFN sits on the
evaluation
working group



AFN Health Sector

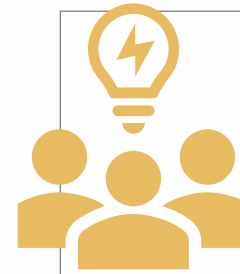
Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

AFN Health Sector – Partnerships

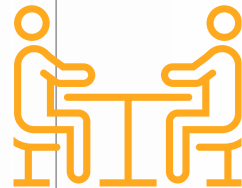


AFN Regional Tables

- CCOH
- NIHB JRSC First Nations' Caucus
- NIHB Navigators



NIHB Working Groups and Advisory Committees



Strategic Partners

- Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada
- Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors



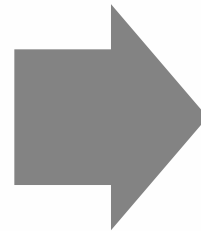
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Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Moving Forward: NIHB Advocacy and Partnerships Road Map

2024

- NIHB Joint Review – Ongoing
- PBS 2025
- Continue to partner and build linkages
- Analysis of the NIHB Program



2025

- Progress the NIHB Joint Review with First Nations lead
- Continue to improve NIHB communications
- Build and renew partnerships



AFN Health Sector Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

Ninanskomatin = Thank You



For more information or clarification, please email:
Jenny Gardipy at pjgardipy@afn.ca

October 17th - 18th, 2023 ~ Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

