



Canada 

# Reframing the Accountability Relationship

Presentation by AFN and TBS  
to AFOA Conference February 22, 2006

*Remarks by Mr. Bill Austin  
Treasury Board Secretariat*

# Topics

- Context
- What we've heard
- Accountability objective
- Proposed course of action
  - Improving horizontal management
  - Framing the accountability relationship

# Context

- *Accountability for Results – January 2005*
- *Technical Session on Improving Federal Horizontal Management – September 2005*
- *Canada's Performance 2005 Annual Report to Parliament – November 2005*
- *Accountability for Results Joint Technical Committee (AFN-GOC) – January 2006*
- *First Nations Working Group – February 2006*

# What we've heard

Together, the Accountability for Results and the Technical Session on Improving Federal Horizontal Management called for:

- Clarifying respective roles and responsibilities;
- Improving mutual accountabilities;
- Reducing processes and reporting burden;
- Developing a more streamlined approach to funding;
- Reducing program silos;
- Facilitating better planning, managing and reporting on Aboriginal programming within and across the federal family;
- Working together with Aboriginal organizations and communities in an open and transparent process

.....through dialogue with aboriginal peoples

# Moving forward

Objective:

To improve results through reframing the accountability relationship between aboriginal peoples and the Government of Canada

# Key Principles of Accountability

- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Agreed upon performance expectations
- Capacity to deliver
- Produce credible and timely information
- Build in review, feedback and response to fix problems and amplify success

**..as brought forth by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada**

# Proposed Course of Action

## First Nations-Canada Approach:

- Improve federal horizontal management
- Reframe the accountability relationship

.....to ensure results

# Improving Federal Horizontal Management

- **Aboriginal Horizontal Framework**

Transparent display of federal Aboriginal programs in Canada's Performance Report promotes accountability

- **Streamline Administrative Processes and Reduce Report Burden on Recipients**

- **Aboriginal Directive – Policy on Transfer Payment**

Respond to Aboriginal community needs and improve coherency and consistency between federal departments

**.....by getting the federal house in order**

*Remarks by Mr. Dan Wilson*  
*Assembly of First Nations*

# Reframing the Relationship

- Principles for the Relationship
  - Primary accountability of any government is to its citizens
  - For policies, programs & services to First Nations, primary objective is to improve results for First Nations citizens
  - In those areas, accountability is shared and mutual between Government of Canada and First Nations governments

# Approach

- Respect the relationship principles and apply Auditor General's 5 accountability principles by:
  - Jointly analyzing existing accountability arrangements
  - Developing tools within the Government of Canada and among First Nations to empower both parties
  - Reaching agreement with communities on implementation

# Approach

- Jointly Analyze Current Arrangements
  - Where does accountability breakdown and why?
- Develop First Nations Management Capacity
  - Management, Financial Standards, Information
    - Concurrent with GOC efforts to improve federal management
- First Nations Institutions
  - Strengthen, Create, Empower
- Management Agreements
  - Identify Objectives, Capacity, Priorities for Action
    - Community specific, comprehensive & planned approach

# Expected Results

- **Meaningful Accountability and Reporting**
  - From First Nations governments to First Nations citizens
  - Between First Nations governments & the Government of Canada in both directions
  - From the Government of Canada to all citizens
- **Parties ready, willing & able**
  - To apply Auditor General's 5 principles
  - Meet respective accountabilities
  - Be publicly judged, the ultimate accountability

# Implementation

## ■ Structures

- First Nations Working Group (FNWG) - Chiefs & First Nations Experts in Accountability
- Joint Technical Committee (JTC) – Government of Canada & Assembly of First Nations Representatives
- Oversight through Joint Steering Committee

## ■ Implementation Plan

- Discussions within respective communities, coordination through Joint Technical Committee
- Draft Discussion Paper - March 31, 2006
- Regional Policy Meetings – April & May 2006
- Recommendations – June 30, 2006