



## PRESS RELEASE

### Atlantic Native Councils voice frustrations about the new federal pre-election budget put forward

**Fredericton, March 21, 2019** - The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, along with the Native Council of Nova Scotia and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, are offensively disappointed of the deliberate exclusion of the 75% of the Indigenous population in the pre-election budget put forward by the Trudeau government on March 19, 2019.

“We expect more from Canada. Our high expectation of a good-faith relationship with Canada comes after the signed political accord between our national affiliate the Congress Aboriginal Peoples and Canada last year. Canada has moved forward successfully with the accord with other national organization such as NWAC and MNC, so why the exclusion?” state the three leaders. “We have almost 50 years of history challenging the government and their divisive, discriminatory policies that have produced a large population of collaterally damaged peoples<sup>1</sup>”.

As over 75% of the Indigenous population live off-reserve and must access mainstream, public services i.e. public-schools, public medical facilities etc., this budget fails to meet our needs and shows Canada’s hollow commitments are just that, lip service to the off-reserve with no real intent on lessening the injustices they have caused to our communities. “These public funds are not being used responsibly as literally billions of dollars are being spent to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples, yet the majority of those funds, go to a minority of the population,” says LeBlanc, “ not to say our families on reserve don’t need the resources too - but the reality is, when the majority of the population lives off-reserve and are not able to access these services, how does Canada expect to confidently say to taxpayers that they are being fiscally responsible?”

The \$4.5B in new spending allocated towards Indigenous peoples are accessed only by those residing on a reserve, have a certain level of status or can access services on a reserve, preventing off-reserve, status/non-status, Metis and southern Inuit Indigenous peoples from accessing these services.

“Recently, with the S3 consultations, the funding announcements and other efforts being focused to the reserve communities, we have seen the Governments true intentions on how it plans to work with us. It looks like they will only deal with us in the courts, which is really unfortunate and an incredible waste of taxpayers dollars.” Interim President & Chief, LeBlanc.

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The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) is the voice for Status and Non-Status Aboriginal Peoples who reside off-reserve in the Province of New Brunswick, providing a political voice for our members, services and programs since 1972.

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The Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) as an Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organization, is dedicated to help our Community to improve their social and economic conditions and our political situation. We established partnerships with other Aboriginal regional, national and international organizations dedicated to end oppression, subjugation and exclusion of Aboriginal Peoples from the social and economic and political fabric of colonizing countries on our lands.

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The Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) is a Community of Aboriginal People residing off-reserve in traditional Mi'kmaq territory. NCPEI is the self-governing authority for all off-reserve Aboriginal people living on Epekwitk (PEI).

\*1 Daniels Decision <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/15858/index.do>

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