



Ref. 61434

July 29, 2024

Michael Crawford  
President  
BC Association of Social Workers  
410-1755 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6J 4S5  
*Via Email:* [michaeldavidcrawford@outlook.com](mailto:michaeldavidcrawford@outlook.com)

Dear Michael Crawford:

We are writing in response to your email and letter dated April 17, 2024, addressed to Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia (BC).

We appreciate the time you have taken to write and raise concerns about the impacts of the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)'s new funding policy on non-status Indigenous people for Mental Health Counselling Programs, which is federally funded through Indigenous Services Canada.

It is clear that the BC Association of Social Workers as the professional association for social workers in BC, is committed to supporting social workers to meet their ethical responsibilities.

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Please note that we share your concerns about the impacts of the new FNHA funding policy on non-status Indigenous people. It is a significant issue and is particularly worrying as Indigenous people continue to report results from site investigations at former residential schools, as well as the ongoing need for supports for survivors, family members, and individuals experiencing trauma and mental distress stemming from Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

Given this, we have recently written to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, to raise the Provincial government's concerns about this issue. We highlighted the need for the federal and provincial governments to work together, along with FNHA, to work towards finding a resolution.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We commend your commitment to advocate for access to needed counselling services for non-status Indigenous people across BC.

Sincerely,



Honourable Murray Rankin, KC  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation



Honourable Jennifer Whiteside  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

CC: The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Indigenous Services  
[ministresa-ministeris@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:ministresa-ministeris@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Tom McCarthy, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

Jonathan Dubé, A/Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions

Jennifer Melles, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

Francesca Wheler, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions

