

**FAMILY SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS CIRCULAR**

**Date:** March 17, 2011

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** EIA #2011-19      **Alternate Program(s):** NA

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**To:** Community Social Service Supervisors/Program Managers

**Subject:** Exemption of Manitoba First Nations Land Claim Settlement Payments

**Reference:**

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**Type:**       Policy      Replaces # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Procedure  
 Rate  
 Information Only

**Effective Date** Retroactive to November 1, 2010

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In recent months, the Government of Canada has reached agreement on financial compensation amounts payable to Manitoba's Peguis First Nation (PFN) and Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation (RRAFN). These lump sum compensation payments respond to formal land claims filed against the federal government by these First Nations which sought compensation for the loss of ancestral land and culture resulting from the historical appropriation of First Nations' lands by the federal government.

The PFN and RRAFN elected to disburse a portion of their lump-sum settlements to all their First Nation members living on and off-reserve. The PFN's settlement was received in December 2010 with each PFN member provided with a one-time disbursement of \$1,000 (\$1,500 to elders), including those receiving income assistance from the First Nation or Employment and Income Assistance (EIA).

The RRAFN recently ratified its settlement offer and will extend one-time cash payments of \$5,000 to both on- and off-reserve RRAFN members, including members receiving income assistance from First Nations or from EIA.

The department views the principle behind these land claim settlements to be similar to one-time Residential Schools Settlement payments made by the federal government to affected First Nations individuals and ultimately exempted by EIA. The EIA Regulation is therefore being amended to allow the exemption of any one-time amounts disbursed to PFN and RRAFN members who are also active with EIA, as well as any one-time amounts disbursed from future land claim settlements with other Manitoba First Nations.

EIA staff may be aware of some EIA-PFN members who received their one-time payments in December 2010. These participants (as required) should have reported receiving these amounts on their Annual Review Forms or by contacting respective case workers. However, staff may know of some participants on their caseload who are also RRAFN members who have yet to receive their disbursements. These participants are also required to inform the department that they have received these payments.