

Result-based Plan Briefing Book 2012-13

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

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PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2012-13

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) was created in 2007 to develop a stronger, broader partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Ontario.

The Ministry leads corporate government initiatives on Aboriginal affairs, and coordinates cross-ministry Aboriginal policy initiatives and multi-lateral relationship processes.

Mandate

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs envisions a higher quality of life for Aboriginal people in Ontario through development of sustainable economies and improved social conditions.

The Ministry's mandate requires it to:

- Develop policy in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, Ontario ministries and the federal government, where appropriate
- Settle land claims and address historic grievances more quickly
- Promote collaboration and coordination across ministries on Aboriginal policy and programs
- Set priorities for and track the progress of Ontario's Aboriginal agenda
- Enhance government and public awareness of Aboriginal people, issues and practices for consulting and engaging with Aboriginal people
- Help Aboriginal people to access Ontario government programs, services and information
- Encourage diversity, especially representation of Aboriginal people in the Ontario Public Service.

Building on this broad mandate, the strategic direction sets the following four areas of focus for the Ministry:

- Building stronger relationships between Ontario and Aboriginal partners
- Improving social conditions and quality of life for Aboriginal people
- Increasing economic opportunity and sustainability for Aboriginal people
- Resolving land claim issues and working to achieve reconciliation between Aboriginal people and the Ontario government.

While other provincial ministries are responsible for delivery of most programs and services designed specifically to improve socio-economic conditions, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is mandated to work with them to coordinate policy and program initiatives designed to deliver on these key priorities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Priorities and Results

The Ministry's corporate priorities for 2012-13 include:

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Initiatives:

- Strengthening collaborative relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit leadership and communities.
- Providing advice to the provincial government on Aboriginal policies and priorities.
- Leading Ontario's participation in land claim and treaty negotiations.
- Increasing government and public awareness and knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people and issues.
- Leading and coordinating corporate consultation/engagement operational policy and guidance.
- Promoting Aboriginal well-being including improvements to education, skills training and health, in collaboration with the federal government.
- Providing emergency response coordination as well as Aboriginal issues identification, coordination and management.
- Working with other ministries, First Nations and Métis leaders to continue implementing the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry.
- Improving economic growth and creating jobs through facilitating Aboriginal, industry and government partnerships, development of Aboriginal businesses and Aboriginal community economic infrastructure
- Administering the New Relationship Fund to assist First Nations, Métis communities, and Aboriginal organisations participate in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector.

MAA Support to Other Provincial Ministry-Led Initiatives:

- Work with Aboriginal, provincial and federal governments, and the private for-profit and non-profit sectors to improve socio-economic outcomes and community well-being, especially those initiatives targeted at Aboriginal children and youth.
- Collaborate with other ministries to develop and implement key policy initiatives that impact Aboriginal people and ensure that these initiatives support Aboriginal economic development. Initiatives include the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009*, *Mining Act* modernization, Far North Land Use Planning, the Northern Ontario Growth Plan, the *Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011*, broadband connectivity and other provincial initiatives.
- With the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM), support the facilitation of capacity, involvement and socio-economic opportunities for First Nations involved in the Ring of Fire developments.
- Support the Ministry of the Environment and the federal and Aboriginal partners on the Canada-Ontario-First Nation water project.

In pursuing these goals, the Ministry contributes to the achievement of the government's key commitments, priorities and results.

Ministry Activities

The Ministry works to meet the government's goal to build trust, prosperity and hope with Aboriginal people through the following activities:

Meeting Legal Obligations

This program area is directed toward (i) meeting the Crown's legal obligations to Aboriginal peoples arising from section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, treaty and Aboriginal rights, provincial and federal legislation and policies, and (ii) fostering reconciliation between Ontario and Aboriginal peoples living in Ontario.

Where supported on a historical and legal basis, the Ministry participates in land claim negotiations to resolve them. The Ministry is undertaking the following land claim and land-related activities province-wide:

- Conducting land claim negotiations, and implementing land claim settlement agreements on behalf of the province
- Working with the federal government and Algonquin representatives to negotiate a settlement that will address the issues raised by the Algonquin land claim
- Resolving the interim uses of Ipperwash Park until it is added to reserve lands
- Working jointly with First Nations and the federal government through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee process to explore the potential for establishing a Treaty Commission of Ontario
- Implementing negotiation process improvements to promote the efficient resolution of land claims
- Improving coordination with Canada to respond to its land claim negotiation process efficiency changes
- Continued coordination with the Ministry of the Attorney General in the conduct of Aboriginal civil litigation
- The Ministry continues discussions with the Anishinabek Nation regarding governance arrangements
- MAA jointly established an Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee with First Nations to address the recommendations of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report. The Committee continues its work on the priorities identified: Treaty Commission, First Nations policing and heritage and burial sites
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is jointly conducting research with Canada and the Métis Nation of Ontario into the existence of a rights-bearing Métis community that meets Powley criteria in the Mattawa Nippising region.
- The Ministry continues to undertake research regarding historic Métis communities and corporate policy development regarding Aboriginal peoples in the Province and related issues
- The Ministry continues to act as a member of the government review team and in this regard provides input and advice on identifying Aboriginal communities respecting environmental assessments under the Environmental Assessment Act. MAA advises proponents (public and private sector) on which Aboriginal communities should be consulted.

- The Ministry continues to provide corporate policy and operational guidance and advice to ministries on meeting the Crown's legal duty to consult when the Crown undertakes activities that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights. MAA also provides input and advice to ministries in preparing legislation and regulations. MAA, in collaboration with other ministries, develops and provides internal corporate tools and guidance on consultation.

Improving Economic Growth/Creating Jobs

Strong and vibrant Aboriginal businesses benefit First Nations, Métis and Inuit, as well as Ontario as a whole. Improving economic growth and creating jobs for Aboriginal people will involve the Ministry:

- Implementing the two-year Aboriginal procurement pilot initiative, announced in March 2012, to increase business and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people to do business with the Ontario government.
- Supporting the participation of Métis entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses in resource development opportunities through a commitment to provide funding to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund Inc.
- Working with Métis partners to implement Métis economic development strategic priorities, including Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Investments Incorporated.
- Working with Aboriginal partners and ministries to enhance participation and ensure greater benefits to Aboriginal people from natural resource development opportunities.
- Providing ongoing support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and business owners through the Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit and the Aboriginal Business Directory.
- Working with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to deliver the Northern Training Partnership Fund that assists Aboriginal people and other northern Ontarians to participate in and benefit from emerging economic development opportunities focusing on the Ring of Fire.
- Working with other ministry partners to ensure that Aboriginal economic development is supported through the *Forest Tenure Modernization Act*, the *Green Energy Act*, Far North Land Use Planning, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, and other provincial initiatives.
- Working with the federal government to coordinate and align Aboriginal economic development priorities.
- Working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to identify economic and business opportunities for First Nations and Métis as part of the Ring of Fire

development and facilitate their access to these opportunities, including capacity and business support.

- As part of provincial-territorial discussions Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, the Ministry is promoting learning and information sharing about Aboriginal success stories through contributions to the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group website with a focus on infrastructure and the Métis Voyageur Development Fund.
- Working in partnership with the Pan/Parapan Am Games Secretariat and Toronto 2015 to ensure that Aboriginal peoples can access economic opportunities related to the 2015 Games.
- As part of ongoing discussions and relationship tables, the Ministry is working with First Nations and Métis organizations on economic development priorities including: the Akwesasne Economic Recovery Strategy, the Nishnabe Aski Nation economic development strategy, Grand Council Treaty 3 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan, the Anishinabek Economic Blueprint, and the Métis Nation of Ontario Economic Development Plan.
- MAA is supporting the Ministry of Environment by providing input on the development of the *Great Lakes Protection Act*.

New Relationship Fund

The New Relationship Fund assists First Nations, Métis communities to build fundamental capacity to participate in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector, on lands and resources matters through multi-year Core Consultation Capacity Building transfer payment agreements.

The NRF also invests, through one-year Enhanced Capacity Building (Enhanced) funding, in communities and organizations who are building their internal resources over and above Core Consultation Capacity (Core) to engage in economic development activities, as well as Aboriginal organizations to build capacity to engage with government (provincial, municipal) and industry.

Improving Youth Outcomes

As part of the 2011 Speech from the Throne commitment to continue to work hard to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in collaboration with other provincial ministries, will support strategic investments targeted towards Aboriginal youth and community well-being, including:

- Cooperating with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and Aboriginal partners on key reports relating to welfare. It is anticipated that the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare will release their final report in Fall 2012 at which point MAA will support MCYS in developing an appropriate response.

- Working with the Ministry of Education, the Government of Canada and the Chiefs of Ontario on the First Nation Student Achievement Strategy that aims to improve education outcomes for Aboriginal students on-reserve, to increase support for First Nations students and facilitate successful transitions between First Nations schools and the provincially funded education system.
- Continuing to work with the Ministry of Education in bilateral discussions with the Anishinabek Nation to ensure that educational outcomes are improved and to see how results can be replicated in other parts of the province.
- Working with the Ministry of Education on developing support for First Nations, Métis and Inuit education policy and programs including undertaking a joint policy initiative related to on-reserve education, including policy options related to considering the provincial role in on-reserve education.
- Working with other ministries in tripartite arrangements with the federal government and Aboriginal partners. These processes include, but are not limited to, health, child welfare and social assistance.
- Working with non-profit organizations such as Right To Play and The Belinda Stronach Foundations to deliver programming to Aboriginal children and youth. Programming is currently being delivered in over 40 communities in Ontario.
- Co-leading the coordination of the provincial government's response to the Coroner's report on youth suicides in Pikangikum. The response will be due in the later part of 2012.
- Working with other ministries, First Nations and the federal government in identifying opportunities for youth resulting from the Ring of Fire development.
- Leading the work of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (comprised of all provinces and territories and five National Aboriginal Organizations) to:
 - ☐ Call for a First Minister's Meeting on Aboriginal education and develop a framework for that meeting.
 - ☐ Develop a joint work plan with the Council of Ministers of Education on shared priorities.
 - ☐ Develop a report on education self-identification practices from across the country.
 - ☐ Develop an inventory of innovative bilateral agreements for education with the federal government and regional Aboriginal organizations.

Increasing Capacity

MAA provides direct funding to First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations which permits them to hire staff and experts to enhance their ability to build relationships with government and engage in consultation.

This includes:

- Core funding:
 - o MAA provides annual funding to four province-wide organizations to support their operations
 - o Core funding contributes to:
 - Retention and ongoing development of human resources
 - Achievement of goals set out by Aboriginal organizations in annual work plans
- Participation Fund:
 - o MAA supports the participation of First Nation and Métis organizations in bilateral processes (relationship tables with the Ontario government). This support to bilateral processes contributes to:
 - o Sustaining Aboriginal input into new and existing provincial programs, services, policies and processes
 - o Ensuring concrete, meaningful action on shared priorities
 - o Successful identification and resolution of issues
 - o Stronger, more effective relationships
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy
 - o The Ministry continues to partner with the federal government to support the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) for capacity building initiatives in three cities: Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Toronto. This work includes supports for Aboriginal youth living in Thunder Bay.

Through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee, the Ministry funds policy capacity within the Political Territorial Organizations.

The Ministry is funding the Métis Nation of Ontario to support joint policy development and research.

With the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry funds the Matawa Tribal Council to operate a Ring of Fire Coordination Office.

The Ministry continues to foster capacity through regular information exchange and interaction opportunities including the Premier's Annual Meeting with Aboriginal leadership, Minister's meetings with Chiefs and leaders, Minister's site visits and national processes such as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group and the Métis Economic Development Symposia.

Highlights of Achievements

The following section notes the highlights of achievements of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs through the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Additional information on these and other specific achievements of the Ministry can be found in the Appendix: Annual Report 2011-12 on page 19 of Part I of this 2012-13 Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Results-based Plan Briefing Book.

Stronger Aboriginal Relationships

The Ministry worked jointly with First Nations and Métis to respond to the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee for First Nations and through the Métis Framework Agreement for Métis.

The Ministry works at the Provincial/Territorial level with organizations such as the Anishinabek Nation, Grand Council Treaty 3, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario and with specific communities such as Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Shoal Lake First Nation, Lac La Croix and Akwesasne First Nation. These bilateral processes facilitate contact with ministries, cultivate a better understanding of Aboriginal perspectives on issues, encourage policy and program innovation and provide financial support to these organizations to enable their participation in discussions.

The Ministry participates in various national processes geared towards advancing priorities endorsed by provinces, territories and National Aboriginal Organizations. National processes include the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group that is currently focused on economic development, education and violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Also included are the Métis Economic Development Symposia and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Consultation and Accommodation Working Group.

MAA provided advice and input to other ministries on regulatory and policy matters related to consultation, including the Renewable Energy Guide.

MAA provided corporate policy and operational guidance and advice to ministries on meeting the Crown's legal obligation with respect to the duty to consult.

Improving Social Conditions

The Ministry worked toward the improvement of social conditions for Aboriginal peoples in Ontario through a number of initiatives involving Aboriginal partners, other provincial ministries and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Initiatives included addressing violence against Aboriginal women as part of the Joint Working Group, providing nutritional supports for Aboriginal children and youth and Aboriginal healing and wellness initiatives. The Ministry has also provided support to both Right To Play and The Belinda Stronach Foundation that has leveraged recreational and learning opportunities for youth in over 40 First Nations communities, and urban-focused initiatives to improve life skills, job training and entrepreneurship.

The Ministry administers the First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing and Financial Agreement signed in February 2008, with payments taking effect in 2011. The goal of the Agreement is to provide First Nations with long-term, stable support to improve the quality of life in First Nation communities.

MAA provides support to Emergency Management Ontario and other ministries in situations related to emergency management and social crises. This includes support for forest fire monitoring and evacuations that occurred during the summer of 2011 in Northwestern Ontario.

Economic Sustainability

The Ministry supported MNDM in coordinating activities with partner ministries and with Canada supporting First Nations capacity, involvement and benefit from Ring of Fire development. This includes providing funding to the Matawa Tribal Council in establishing a Ring of Fire Coordination Office and supporting the development of provincial/federal/industry funding processes for First Nations affected by the Ring of Fire.

The Ministry worked with other ministries and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in hosting the NAN Chief's Energy Conference. This builds on the work developed by NAN in enhancing strategic planning resulting from the 2010-11 NAN Economic Summit.

The Ministry supported Grand Council Treaty 3 in developing and implementing a regional economic strategy

The Ministry supported the Métis Nation of Ontario in implementing key priorities of their economic development strategy with a focus on the establishment and operations of the MNO Housing Investments Incorporated.

The Ministry supported ongoing work of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne in implementing its Economic Recovery Strategy.

Other Ministry initiatives in 2011-12 included:

- Delivery of the second year of the three-year \$45 million Northern Training Partnership Fund, with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.
- Launched a number of tools to support Aboriginal economic and business development, including the Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit, the online Aboriginal economic development information centre on MAA's webpage and the First Nation community economic profile guide and template.
- Approval of a two-year Aboriginal procurement pilot initiative to increase Aboriginal business participation in government procurement and support Aboriginal economic development.
- Joint MNO-MAA announcement of the creation of and provincial funding for the new Métis Voyageur Development Fund Inc. and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Métis economic development.
- Joint Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada support for the Chiefs of Ontario to design and deliver four First Nations Economic Development Officers capacity building regional workshops. These workshops delivered on a key recommendation from the Ontario First Nations Economic Forum held in 2010.

Land Claim Settlements and Reconciliation

In the area of land claim settlements and reconciliation, results achieved in 2011-12 include executing final settlement agreements with Couchiching First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. A settlement agreement was also achieved with the Wabaseemoong First Nations to address an historic flooding claim that is providing opportunity for economic development. The signing ceremony for this agreement took place in the community on August 18, 2011.

Procedures have been improved to ensure that new land claim submissions are researched and assessed within three years of filing.

This past year MAA proposed legislation to facilitate the completion of the implementation of the Nipissing First Nation 1995 land claim settlement agreement. The proposed legislation, applying only to the fee simple land being transferred to Nipissing First Nation under this settlement agreement, would restore the property tax exemption that was in place at the time the agreement was entered into.

Measures have been taken to secure the land transfer agreement for Ipperwash Park. This will allow the Province to complete the transfer of land to the Government of Canada under its Additions to Reserve Policy.

The Ministry gave support to the Minister's proposal that the Haudenosuanee Confederacy Chiefs Council and MAA enter into discussions to develop a communications protocol to engage each other on issues of mutual importance. This would signal the beginning of a new relationship for Ontario.

The Ministry is continuing discussions with Aboriginal organizations such as the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council and Aboriginal communities on their perspectives about Ontario's role and responsibilities in relation to implementing Treaties.

The Ministry worked jointly with First Nations and the federal government through the IIPAC process to explore a Treaty Commission of Ontario.

New Relationship Fund

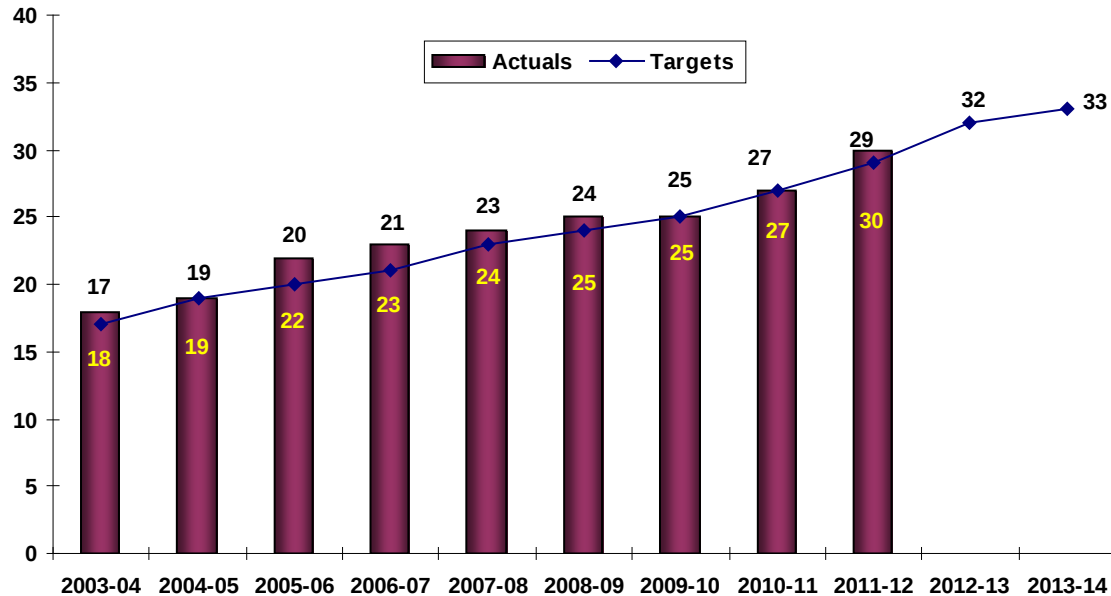
In May 2008, the government committed \$25 million over two years (2008-09 and 2009-10) to the New Relationship Fund (NRF) to assist Aboriginal communities and organizations with participation in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector.

In the 2010 Budget, Ontario announced a further investment of \$60 million over the next four years for the NRF:

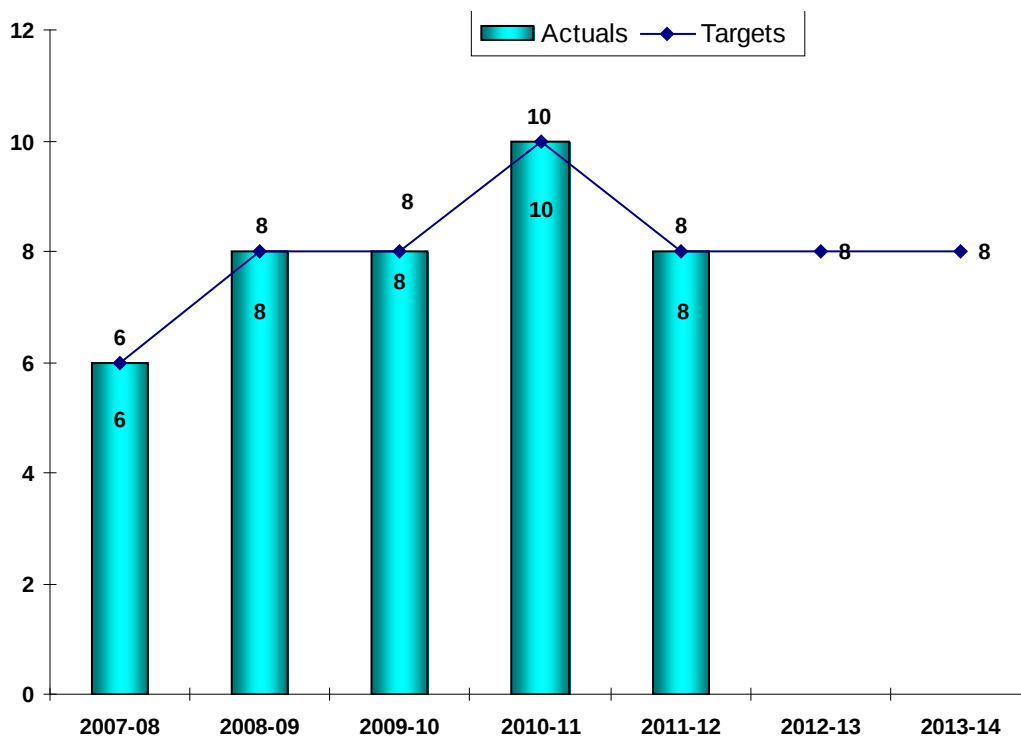
- 2011-12 Core Consultation Capacity Building funded 104 projects.
- 2011-12 Enhanced Capacity Building funded 51 projects.

Performance Measures

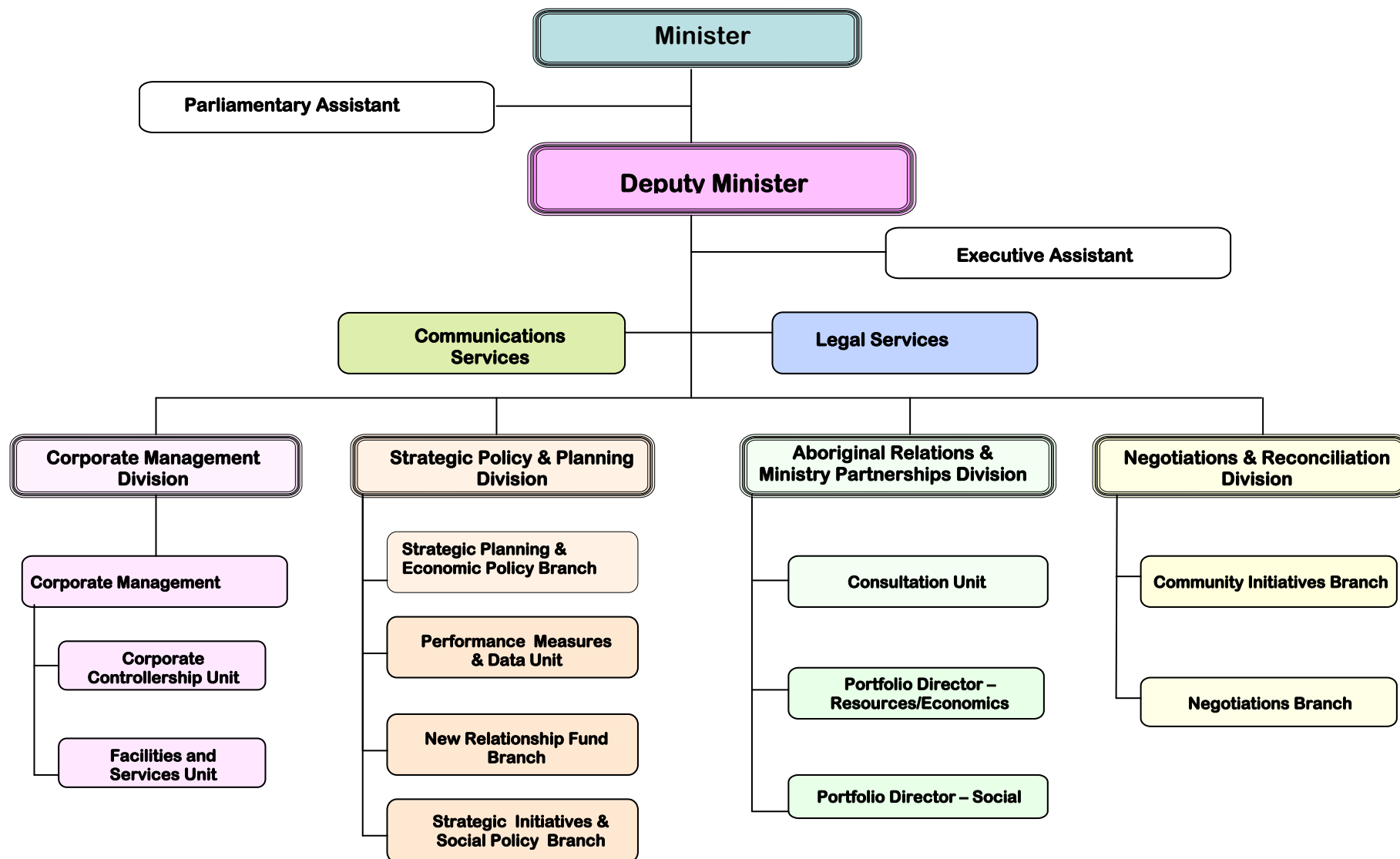
Increase the number of completed final settlement agreements on land and land-related claims in Ontario.



Increased number of relationship processes/tables with Aboriginal leaders and organizations, partner ministries and external stakeholders to support government priorities and best practices in engagement and consultation.



Ministry Organization Chart



Legislation

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has responsibility for the following legislation:

- An Act to implement the Terms of a Settlement of all Claims arising out of the Contamination by Mercury and other Pollutants of the English and Wabigoon and related River Systems (*English and Wabigoon River Systems Mercury Contamination Settlement Act, 1986*).

The legislation confirms a statutory agreement relating to the discharge of mercury into the English and Wabigoon Rivers and creates the Mercury Disability Board, which awards compensation to members of the Grassy Narrows and Islington First Nations demonstrating symptoms consistent with mercury poisoning.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has no Schedule 1 agencies that report to it.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following chart depicts the Ministry's allocations in 2012-13 by major operating expenditure. The operations of the Ministry can be shown in key areas:

- Salary and Benefit Expenditures
- Transportation and Communication Expenditures
- Services Expenditures
- Supplies and Equipment Expenditures
- Transfer Payment Expenditures (including Operating and Capital Expenditures)

**Total MAA Financial Information by Standard Account – 2012-13
(Dollars and Percentages)**

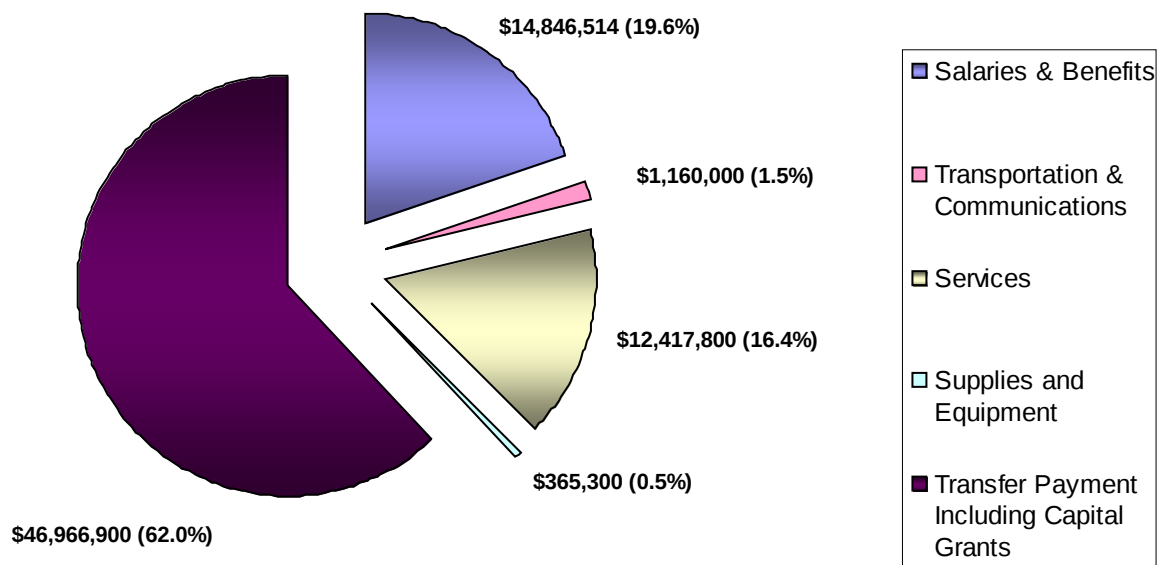


Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2012-13 (\$M)

Operating	71.955
Capital	3.801
TOTAL	75.756

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
Table 2: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs works to advance the government's approach in Aboriginal matters, address legal obligations, and work cooperatively with Aboriginal people, the federal government and other partners to benefit Aboriginal people in Ontario.

Votes/Programs	Estimates 2012-13	Change from Estimates 2011-12		Estimates 2011-12 *	Interim Actuals 2011-12 *	Actuals 2010-11 *
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSE						
Vote 2001	75,692,500	(2,665,700)	(3.4)	78,358,200	97,613,800	71,352,621
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Expense to be Voted	75,692,500	(2,665,700)	(3.4)	78,358,200	97,613,800	71,352,621
Special Warrants	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	64,014	--	0.0	64,014	64,014	--
Ministry Total Operating & Capital Expense	75,756,514	(2,665,700)	(3.4)	78,422,214	97,677,814	71,352,621
Consolidation & Other Adjustments – Organization ABC	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Consolidation & Other Adjustments – Organization DEF	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	75,756,514	(2,665,700)	(3.4)	78,422,214	97,677,814	71,352,621
OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSETS						
Vote A	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Assets to be Voted	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Special Warrants	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	--	--	0.0	--	--	--
Total Assets	--	--	0.0	--	--	--

* Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2012 Ontario Budget.

For additional financial information, see:

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/budget/estimates/>
<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/budget/paccts/>
<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2012/>

APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

In 2011-12 the Ministry continued working with Aboriginal partners and other ministries to - improve quality of life for Aboriginal people in Ontario. Over the last year, progress has been made in negotiations, policy development and relationship building.

Program areas to report on for 2011-12 accomplishments should be those that were in place for MAA in 2011-12 as set out in the 2011-12 RbP Briefing Book, as follows:

Stronger Aboriginal Relationships

Responding to the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry

The Ministry is responsible for leading the government's response to the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry. In 2011-12, the Ministry continued to work with partner ministries to track progress on the Ipperwash recommendations.

The Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Ontario Regional Chief, demonstrates the Province's commitment to develop stronger relationships with Aboriginal people in Ontario and to work collaboratively to improve socio-economic conditions and build new opportunities for Aboriginal people. Priorities for the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee for 2011-12 were consideration of a Treaty Commission for Ontario, First Nations policing and heritage and burial sites. Ontario and Canada jointly funded an initiative led by the Chiefs of Ontario to determine perspectives on the potential scope, mandate and governance of a Treaty Commission. A discussion forum was held in March 2012 with policy staff from First Nations organizations and provincial ministries, to discuss provincial legislation and regulation related to heritage and burial sites. The objective was development of greater mutual understanding of provincial responsibilities and First Nation perspectives in this policy area.

Ontario also worked with the Métis Nation of Ontario on the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report under the Ontario-Métis Nation of Ontario Framework Agreement.

As part of exploratory discussions on comprehensive self-government, the Anishinabek Nations, Canada and Ontario held *Nigaan Ga-Zhaamin: Moving Forward Together* to hear first hand experiences from across Canada of negotiating and implementing self-government arrangements.

Improving Social Conditions

The Ministry continues to support Ontario's relationship with urban Aboriginal people as part of the federally led Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), by providing funding for capacity-building initiatives in three Ontario UAS sites (Toronto, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay). Support for urban Aboriginal peoples also included the release of the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project, which is designed to provide qualitative and quantitative data to respond to the growing and complex needs of the urban Aboriginal population living in the Toronto area.

The Ministry continues to work with its urban partners, including the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, on a variety of projects including nutritional supports for Aboriginal children and youth programming.

As part of the Ministry's response to the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women, the Ministry provided funding through the partners of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women for a range of related programs and projects.

MAA helped to address issues related to Aboriginal child welfare and social assistance together with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the federal government (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Health Canada), and the Chiefs of Ontario. Additionally, the Ministry is a partner, on the Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee that was established last year.

MAA worked with a number of provincial ministries and the federal government to respond to priorities identified by First Nations and Aboriginal communities declaring emergencies or that may be in crisis. This included working in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to provide after-school supports to Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay.

The Ministry further enhanced its youth initiatives by expanding programming to over 40 First Nation communities in Ontario. These initiatives have leveraged funding from the private sector and other organizations. The Ministry was also involved in a range of additional youth activities with First Nation communities, including support to the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council for their Policy on Youth Engagement.

Economic Opportunity and Sustainability

MAA and the Métis Nation of Ontario established a formal process in 2010 to discuss the creation of a Métis economic development fund in Ontario, which was a priority identified under the Ontario-Mets Nation of Ontario Framework Agreement process. As a result of these negotiations, in June 2011, Ontario and the Métis Nation of Ontario jointly announced the creation and provincial funding of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund Inc. (MVDF), an independent Métis economic development corporation that will be provided with up to \$30 million in provincial funding over 10 years, pursuant to the terms of the Métis Economic Development Agreement. 2011-12 and 2012-13 are developmental years for the MVDF; the MVDF expects to begin flowing funding to eligible Métis resource-sector entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses in 2012. A corresponding Memorandum of Understanding between MAA and the Métis Nation of Ontario commits the Province and the Métis Nation of Ontario to continue joint work on promoting Métis economic development, leveraging other sources of funding and evaluating the fund.

Ontario's Aboriginal procurement pilot initiative is intended to increase Aboriginal business participation in government procurement and support Aboriginal economic development. As of March 2012, for a period of two years, ministries may consider Aboriginal procurement

preferences when the goods/services being procured impact Aboriginal people. Ontario's Aboriginal procurement pilot initiative supports Aboriginal communities by stimulating and diversifying Aboriginal business and economic development, and promoting partnership opportunities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses.

As part of the government's Open Ontario Plan, the 2010 Budget committed to investing \$45 million over three years to prepare northern Ontarians for new jobs in emerging resource sectors. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, with the support of MAA, is administering the Northern Training Partnership Fund (NTPF), a project-based skills training program to help Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal northern Ontarians participate in and benefit from emerging economic development opportunities such as the Ring of Fire. The NTPF supports skills training concentrated on sustainable employment in resource-related sectors and encourages collaboration between employers and both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and organizations in the north.

In 2008, MAA led negotiations to finalize a new Gaming Revenue Sharing and Financial Agreement (GRSFA) to provide an estimated \$3 billion over 25 years to First Nations. Payments under the GRSFA took effect on April 1, 2011. Pursuant to the agreement, First Nations will receive regular payments equivalent to 1.7% of all Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation gross revenues. Since September 22, 2008, MAA has been responsible for administering the Casino Rama Revenue Agreement (CRRA) and the GRSFA on behalf of the Province. The CRRA expired on July 31, 2011.

Land Claims and Reconciliation

Results achieved in 2011-12 include executing final settlement agreements with Couchiching First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. A settlement agreement was also achieved with the Wabaseemoong First Nations to address an historic flooding claim that is providing opportunity for economic development.

Settlement agreement signing ceremonies took place this year at the Fort William First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation and Wabaseemoong First Nations. Signing ceremonies are significant community events that provide important opportunities to achieve reconciliation.

The Province also approved an exemption for payments from land claims so that they would not be counted as income under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997* and the *Ontario Works Act, 1997*.

The Ministry continued research and policy development on Métis communities informing the Ministry and the government in meeting its obligations to Métis.

New Relationship Fund

From 2008-2012, the NRF provided \$51,326,639 in funding to support over 465 projects in 135 First Nations Communities, 33 Métis communities, and 24 Aboriginal organizations (total 192 recipients):

- 2011-12 Core Consultation Capacity Building funded 104 projects (agreements) with total funding of \$11,823,752.
- 2011-12 Enhanced Capacity Building funded 51 projects with total funding of \$2,445,653.

Table 1: Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures 2011-12

	Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2011-12
Operating	89.40
Capital	8.21
TOTAL	97.67
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2012)	151.6

* Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2012 Ontario Budget.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs planned budget for 2011-12 was \$78.4 million, but with additional funding provided throughout the year, the Ministry's interim actual expenditures for 2011-12 totalled \$97.67 million. This amount includes expenditures for general operating expenses totalling \$69.87 million as well as disbursements related to the settlement of land and land-related claims totalling \$27.8 million.