

Education, Health and Social Development Act Summary

Progressive social services and social programs are fundamental to the well-being of TFN Members now and in the future. This Act sets out the framework by which the Tsawwassen Government will provide for this, divided into three parts:

Part 1 – Education

This part requires all parents to send their children to school, and guarantees all children a good quality, free education. Tsawwassen Government must ensure that such schooling is available either through contracts or through the operation of schools. Schooling must be appropriate to language and cultural needs, and include educational counseling, transportation, and student allowances as needed. The Act also stipulates that TFN Members who are resident in Canada are eligible to apply for financial assistance to attend post-secondary education, in accordance with regulations established under the Act. Members may appeal decisions on post-secondary funding to an independent review.

Part 2 – Health

This part requires that Executive Council develop and adopt the Community Health Plan, which provides the framework for delivery of health services and programs to TFN Members who live on Tsawwassen Lands. Under this Act Tsawwassen Government must provide a range of health programs and services, including immunization, environmental health, community health and health prevention, in-home and community care, home-care nursing, and an aboriginal head-start program. Executive Council must also prepare a report every 5 years on the results of these health programs, and provide the report to TFN Members and the federal and provincial governments. TFN is one of only a handful of First Nations in Canada to have this level of responsibility for providing comprehensive community health services. These responsibilities are set out in the Act.

Part 3 – Social Development

TFN Members ordinarily resident on Tsawwassen Lands are eligible for:

- (a) income assistance and services intended to meet basic human needs
- (b) financial assistance for those caring for or having custody of Tsawwassen children
- (c) assistance for those with special needs
- (d) non-insured health benefits for recipients of income assistance
- (e) training, education and support services to reduce reliance on income assistance
- (f) local community programs that contribute to physical, emotional and social well-being, including adult in-home care, family violence prevention and children's programs
- (g) social housing

Eligibility criteria for these programs and services are set out in regulations, as well as the procedure to appeal decisions to deny, reduce, or suspend services.

Part 4 of the Act provides Executive Council with the authority to negotiate financing agreements with Canada and/or British Columbia, for the provision of the programs and services outlined in the Act.