



Assembly of First Nations



Annual Report 2015–2016

ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national body representing First Nations governments and approximately 1.5 million people living on reserve and in urban and rural areas. The National Chief is elected every three years and receives direction from the Chiefs in Assembly. The AFN is dedicated to advancing the priorities and aspirations of First Nations through review, study, response and advocacy on a broad range of issues and policy matters.

There are 634 First Nations in Canada with established governance systems, each led by a Chief who is entitled to be a member of the Assembly. The AFN National Executive is made up of the National Chief, 10 Regional Chiefs and the chairs of the Elders, Women's and Youth councils. First Nations are part of more than 50 distinct nations with unique cultures and languages.

First Nations have a unique and special relationship with the Crown and the people of Canada as set out in the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and manifested in Treaties, the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982, Canadian common law and International law, and as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



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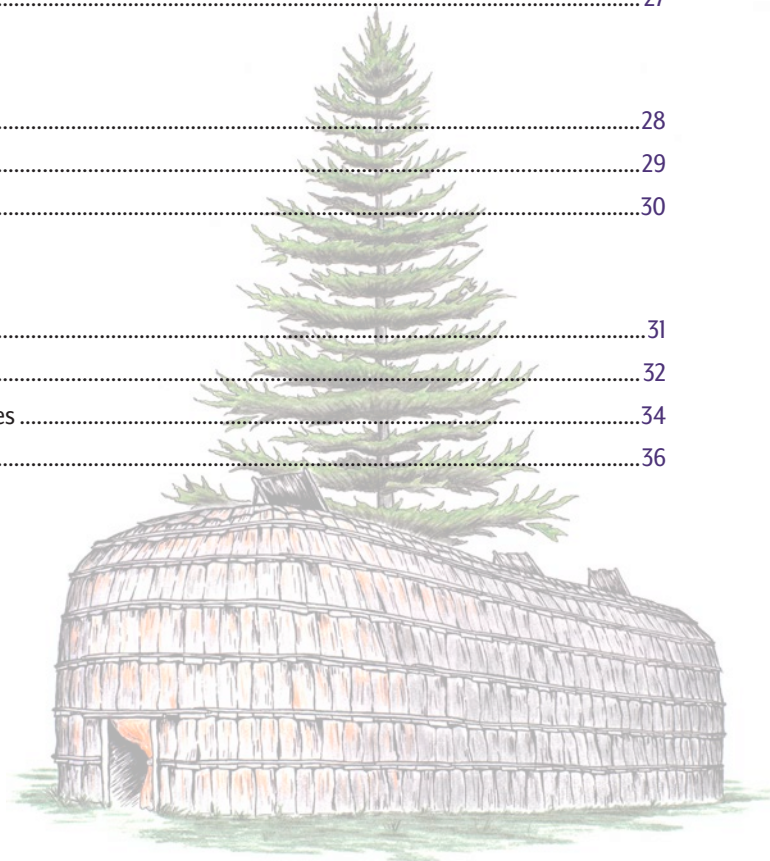
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REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CHIEF



Fellow leaders, friends and relatives:

It has been a historic six months since last we gathered together. From an unprecedented \$8.4 billion in commitments to First Nations priorities in the federal budget, to Canada's commitment to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples "without qualification", we have seen several unprecedented positive developments in the relationship with the federal government in response to our collective agenda.

I have met with First Nations leaders across Turtle Island to listen and to work with you to advance your priorities, the rights of your nations and the well-being of your communities. Over the past year, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has provided a voice for First Nations in intergovernmental meetings on climate change, health, emergency management, child welfare, the security of Indigenous women and girls and through AFN Forums on mental wellness, Indigenous public safety and policing, youth and health, and our national First Nations energy forum.

Informed by your collective insights and visions, I have had discussions with Prime Minister Trudeau and many of his cabinet colleagues to get First Nations priorities high on the federal agenda. I have encouraged provincial and territorial governments to make First Nations priorities their priorities. An essential part of this work is rebuilding the AFN after a decade of steady cuts to strengthen our internal governance in key areas, such as the environment and housing.

Having seized the opportunity of the 2015 federal election to communicate First Nations priorities, guided by the direction of Chiefs-in-Assembly, we have worked diligently with the new Government to ensure that meaningful, concrete steps are taken to close the gap in the resources and investments made for First Nations and fought for recognition of Treaty and inherent rights. In all of my meetings and media interviews, I make clear that closing the longstanding and intolerable socio-economic gap is a pressing national human rights issue and that improving the quality of life for all First Nations requires Canada to meet its legal obligations and to prioritize the respect and implementation of our inherent and Treaty rights.

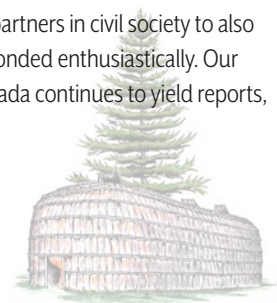
A recent national opinion poll published by The Environics Institute found Canadians are increasingly aware of the challenges we face as a result of the Residential Schools system and other discriminatory practices. It also revealed solid majority public support for increased funding for:

- Education to match provincial levels (91%);
- Increased funding for clean drinking water and adequate housing on reserves (90%);
- Mandatory curriculum in all schools to teach Canadians about our history and culture (87%);
- Funding to protect Indigenous languages (78%);
- Providing our communities with full control over their natural resources on traditional territories (66%); and,
- Settling all outstanding land claims regardless of cost (60%).

Our communications and advocacy efforts to advance AFN's *Closing the Gap* priorities have been very successful in producing many important commitments. AFN's priorities and our work aligns with and highlights the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Here, I acknowledge the work of all my colleagues on the Executive, and the First Nations leaders, activists, young people and volunteers across our territories who have taken action on these strategic priorities.

I have also encouraged the many willing partners in civil society to also take up our message; and they have responded enthusiastically. Our advocacy inside Canada and outside Canada continues to yield reports,





recommendations and initiatives pressing Canada to finally take real and substantive action to respect our right to self-determination in our territories. Our path to well-being lies in our cultures, languages and the resources in our territories. Self-determination and partnerships with other governments and with the private sector will close the gap and relieve the suffering in our communities.

Following the election, I encouraged the adoption of a whole-of-government approach in building a new relationship with First Nations based on rights recognition and the inclusion of First Nations priorities. This was reflected in the mandate letters of the Prime Minister for every minister. Consistent with that approach, we have seen a dramatically positive change in the access that First Nations leadership have to federal ministers of the Crown. Various ministers now regularly attend AFN Executive meetings and hear directly from Regional Chiefs their priorities for action. In addition, Minister Carolyn Bennett and Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould attended significant portions over the three days of our December assembly, attended caucus meetings and held various side meetings with Chiefs. Ministers Bennett, Philpott, Morneau, Mihychuk, and former Minister Tootoo have all met with the Executive since the election.

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joined us at the Chiefs-in-Assembly meeting in December 2015, he identified five key priorities on which his government would focus. Each reflects priorities identified over the years by Chiefs-in-Assembly and which I have worked hard to advance with the new government:

1. Launching a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada;
2. Making significant investments in First Nations education without imposing top down solutions;
3. Lifting the two per cent cap on funding for First Nations programs and establishing a new fiscal relationship with First Nations to provide sufficient, predictable and sustained funding;
4. Fully implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
5. Conducting a full review of the legislation unilaterally imposed on Indigenous peoples by the previous government; and rescinding those measures found to be in conflict with Indigenous rights,

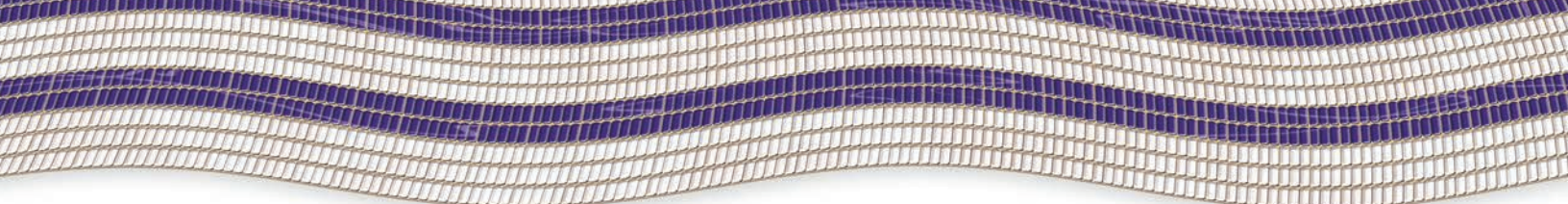
inconsistent with the principles of good governance, or where they simply make no public policy sense.

While important work lies ahead to fully realize these priorities, significant action already has been taken and joint work with the AFN has begun:

1. The **National Inquiry on the security and safety of Indigenous women and girls** is imminent with the wrapping up of the pre-inquiry phase in which AFN participated and which saw unprecedented involvement by three Ministers of the Crown with families and survivors across the country.

I continue to press each province and territory to take action now and during the inquiry itself to ensure the basic human right to security of the person for all women and girls, most recently in an address to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

2. As National Chief, I led an intensive advocacy effort with the Executive in the period leading to Budget 2016. I met several times with Finance Minister Morneau and with key Ministers. The AFN secured an unprecedented increase in **investments for First Nations**—a “booked” commitment of \$8.4 billion over five years (over existing funding levels). Our Closing the Gap messaging of fairness and rights implementation has been heard and is being translated into resources and significant policy commitments that will fuel the action First Nations need and rightfully expect.
3. Our intensive advocacy effort on the budget also was successful in **eliminating the 2% cap** and securing the commitment to establish sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding through fiscal arrangements fitting a nation-to-nation and government-to-government relationship. We are now in the process of setting up a working group and a memorandum of understanding on fiscal relations through discussions with Finance Minister Morneau to turn these commitments into action.
4. We have actively worked to secure a place at the table in the upcoming **Health Accord negotiations** for First Nations. For the first time ever First Nations will be at the table in setting priorities for provincial, territorial and federal health systems for the next 10 years.
5. I have been active in pressing all levels of government and civil society partners to act on the **TRC Calls to Action**. In every meeting with Premiers and federal Ministers, I have pressed them to work with First Nations to advance curriculum changes and to



provide First Nations with the resources and supports for teaching and revitalizing Indigenous languages. In June, I met with the Big City Mayors Caucus at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and impressed upon them the importance of cities having plans to respond to the TRC and to improve services to the 50% of First Nations men, women and children who reside off-reserve in towns and cities across the country.

6. I continue to work diligently to secure federal funding for **Indigenous languages revitalization** and am currently working on discussions to ensure funding commitments in the next budget (as promised in Budget 2016). I also take every opportunity to speak to the importance of recognizing Indigenous languages as the first official languages of this land through some form of formal recognition such as federal legislation.
7. As called for by the TRC and by Chiefs-in-Assembly, I have placed a priority on advancing the **implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (the Declaration) as the framework for moving forward. I have stressed the need for the federal government to lead on behalf of the Crown on this issue. In several of his speeches, the Prime Minister has acknowledged the central place of the Declaration as a guide for reconciliation and as a starting point for implementing the TRC Calls to Action. In April of this year, I wrote to the Prime Minister to suggest it was time for Canada to state explicitly its unqualified support for the Declaration and its implementation. At the May session of the UN Forum on Indigenous Issues, Minister Bennett announced Canada's unqualified support for the UN Declaration.

The next step to ensure a process to work with First Nations on the adoption and implementation of the minimum standards of the Declaration is federal legislation. In May, I addressed a seminar for Members of Parliament on the UN Declaration making this point, which has been well-received.

8. I have met with Minister Bennett as well as Minister Wilson-Raybould to discuss the Prime Minister's commitment (repeated in his mandate letters) for a **law and policy review**. They have each confirmed the intention of the government to work with us to establish a joint process to review the many laws and policies that do not respect our rights under section 35 and under international human rights law. I have stressed the need to have in place mechanisms, processes and machinery of government to ensure

existing and future law and policy is consistent with the inherent rights and title of First Nations, the Treaties and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I have communicated the intent of First Nations to ensure the Crown abandons policies of rights termination and to overhaul the many outdated policies like "comprehensive claims" and "self-government". This work remains a top priority for the coming months.

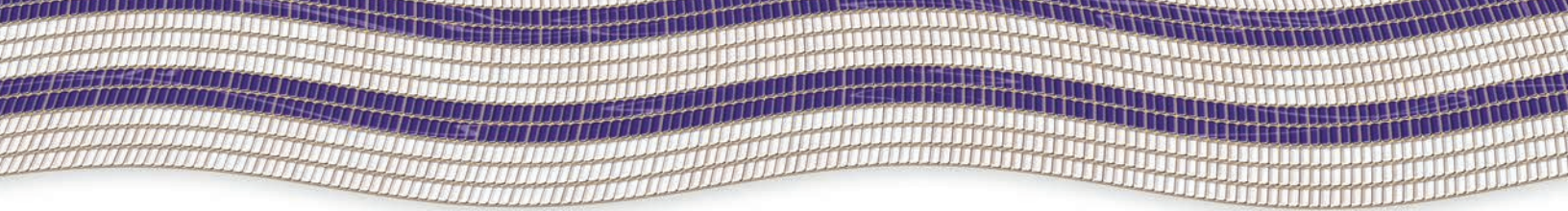
We have had successes in other areas. After many long years of litigation with our partner, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, we won a precedent setting case clearly acknowledging discrimination by the federal government in its policies and funding for child welfare services. We continue to hold the federal Crown to account to end discrimination and to work with First Nations governments and experts to prevent children coming into care in the first place.

In every meeting I have with provincial and territorial Premiers and ministers, I have emphasized several key actions their governments can take action to close the unacceptable socio-economic gap between First Nations and other Canadians.

These include:

1. Taking concrete and meaningful action now to secure the safety and security of Indigenous women and girls;
2. Establishing a bilateral processes with First Nations leaders at the highest level of decision-making to ensure inherent rights and title, and Treaties are implemented;
3. Working with First Nations on adoption and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
4. Working through bilateral processes to advance resource revenue sharing;
5. Working with First Nations to change provincial/territorial curricula for children in Kindergarten to grade 12 to include Aboriginal and Treaty rights, the Indian Residential School experience and the *Indian Act* (implement the TRC Calls to Action);
6. Taking steps to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages and to recognize and support them with laws, policies, or programs; and,
7. Taking measures to ensure the issuance of provincial/territorial licenses or permits are conditional on companies having a representative workforce strategy, an Indigenous procurement





strategy and preference for companies who include Indigenous peoples at every level of decision making.

At the upcoming meeting of Ministers of Indigenous Affairs and the Council of the Federation meeting, I will, as I did last year, press all governments to reinvigorate these intergovernmental processes to ensure we set tangible achievements that are evident and measurable on the ground—that is outcomes and results that are evident and measurable in First Nations communities. I believe, as leaders, we have a responsibility to drive change and action that is measured by the well-being of our people and responsive to First Nations priorities.

Much has been accomplished, and there remains much work to do. As always I welcome your guidance, your wisdom, and your feedback. I look forward to our discussions at the Annual General Assembly and to working with you in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Perry Bellegarde,
National Chief

REGIONAL CHIEF MORLEY GOOGOO

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland



I would like to begin by welcoming every one of the Chiefs and delegates to the July 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly here in Niagara Falls, Ontario. I am pleased to share some highlights of activities with which I have had the opportunity and privilege to be involved.

I have been honoured and very busy with my new portfolios this year, including:

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC);
- Sports and Recreation;
- Language, Culture, Arts – Canada 150;
- Youth Council; and

- AFN Management Committee.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

Language, Culture, Arts – Canada 150

I have been very busy with the inception and coordination of a large scale Mi'kmaw & Acadian Event in anticipation of Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. As the portfolio holder for Language, Culture, Arts and Canada 150, this event will bring together both the Mi'kmaw and Acadian communities at the UNESCO World Heritage site located in Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. The event will showcase the culture and history of both groups and will be free to the public. The event was inspired by the rich history of the region and the shared history and enduring friendship between the Mi'kmaw and Acadian people. In June, I hosted a day-long strategy session at the Grand Pre National Park and invited interested parties from provincial, federal and Indigenous governments. The excitement around this project has spread and I look forward to providing further updates as it progresses.

In June, I participated in a meeting with Indigenous educators and organizations with Apple Canada in Toronto to discuss creating more opportunities for Indigenous languages to be revitalized through technology. I am very encouraged by Apple's interest in the revitalization

of Indigenous languages and I am hopeful that corporate Canada will join this effort.

Youth Council

In May, I spoke at the Halifax Central Library as part of a panel discussion on the health of Canada's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children.

Later that month, I was honoured to attend the National Indigenous Youth Gathering on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, sponsored by the Rideau Hall Foundation. Indigenous youth from across Canada attended a three-day conference to contribute their ideas to how they would like to see the education system changed to better reflect their culture. At the closing of the conference, the youth condensed their contributions into three recommendations aimed at furthering inclusion of Indigenous culture in the school system. Several of the youth involved will present the recommendations in Ottawa in June 2016.

Inspired by the youth at this event, I am now planning a similar Indigenous youth conference here in Nova Scotia. It is my intent that Mi'kmaw youth in Nova Scotia can come together and create a dialogue on issues that are important to them in our region.

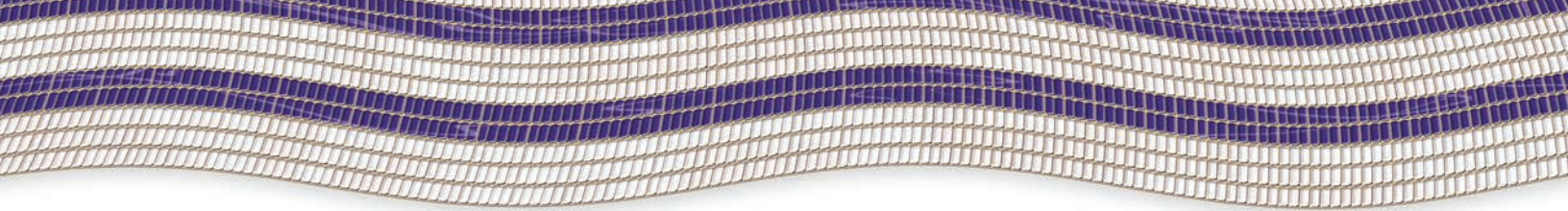
Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In May, I arranged a meeting with Karen Hudson, Executive Director of Nova Scotia Legal Aid to discuss their strategic plan with respect to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

On June 8th, I attended the Youth Roundtable in Ottawa which focused on life promotion and suicide prevention, along with Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Philpott, and the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council.

On June 9th, I attended a conference hosted by the Nova Scotia Supreme Court Judiciary to discuss the state of Mi'kmaw child welfare in our region. With a disproportionate number of Mi'kmaw children in care, the Judiciary





is seeking the input of First Nation leaders and those involved about solutions for how we can move forward in a manner that will address the TRC calls to action.

I have also been very busy with the inception and planning of the first-ever Chiefs/Members of Parliament Summit to be held in Ottawa on June 20th. This will be the first time ever that Nova Scotia Chiefs and Members of Parliament from Nova Scotia come together to discuss issues specific to our region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of Jaime Battiste, who I appointed to the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) Trust Fund, which accepts applications for educational programs aimed at reconciliation, healing and knowledge building. The NIB Trust Fund monies have been made available through the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and are available to First Nations and Métis individuals and organizations to access through an application process.

In Closing

While much work remains to be done, I am excited about the upcoming events, not only in my region but at the national level as well and look forward to the year ahead.

Wel'lalin.

In the Spirit of Peace and Friendship,

Regional Chief Morley Googoo
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland

REGIONAL CHIEF ROGER J. AUGUSTINE

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island



Pjila'si. It is my great honour to welcome the Elders, Chiefs and delegates from across Canada to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide an overview of activities and issues impacting my region and First Nations nationally.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fisherman's Pow Wow – "Spirit of Peace and Friendship"

I am proud to announce the Fifth Annual Fisherman's Pow Wow – "Spirit of Peace and Friendship" will be taking place on June 30 - July 1, 2016 at the Waterford Green Park in Miramichi, New Brunswick. The huge success at last year's event is evidence of our communities and cultures collectively working together in the Spirit of Peace and Friendship. The Pow Wow will showcase First Nations, Irish, Scottish, and Acadian cultures through song, dance and art. Please view our Fishermen Powwow video on YouTube.

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island (MCPEI)

- Working on ensuring that the federal and provincial governments implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- Leveraging opportunities based on the duty to consult and the assertion of Aboriginal title;
- Co-management of Crown woodlots;
- Ensuring signs are erected and flags will be flown to recognize that PEI is the land of the Mi'kmaq;
- Working with the Department of Education to improve outcomes for Mi'kmaq learners in the provincial school system;
- Trying to ensure the creation of own-source revenues based on economic development initiatives;
- Looking at developing an Aboriginal tourism strategy;

- Conducting education seminars with the civil service, educational institutions and the public at large to raise awareness for issues that are important to the Mi'kmaq;
- The creation of a new three-year comprehensive strategic plan;
- Actively working on a climate change study and action plan;
- Organizing various events such as Pow Wows, National Aboriginal Day celebrations and Aboriginal Awareness Week activities;
- Overseeing culturally-appropriate Child and Family Services procedures;
- Ensuring Gladue reports are available for Aboriginal offenders going through the court system;
- Enhancing employment and mentoring activities.

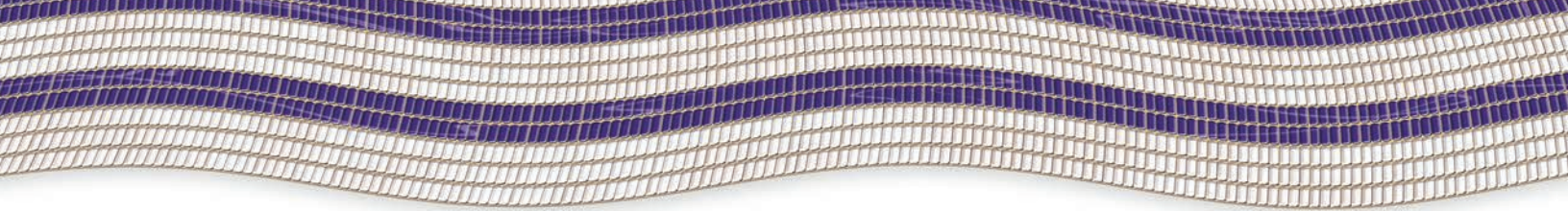
National Fisheries Portfolio

The AFN is seeking financial support through a three-year (multi-year) Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management funding proposal. This will enable the AFN to continue to engage proactively with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to address various fisheries-related issues affecting First Nations and to jointly determine the practical application of new legislation, regulations and policies impacting fisheries.

Activities at the national level are aimed at increasing First Nations' involvement in fishery management decision-making processes and the strengthened sustainable development of fisheries based on inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The proposed work embodies the principles of equitable and sustainable use of aquatic resources and seeks to set the foundations for future prosperity, co-management and improving governance in the First Nations fishing sectors.

As part of the AFN's continued efforts to facilitate input and provide advice on sound policies that can address fisheries management concerns of First Nations, we are seeking flexible and increased capacity that will also enable us to respond to emerging challenges, provide a high level of advice, and facilitate coordinated input from First Nations. The AFN is submitting a three-year proposal that identifies a number of deliverables, and provides adaptable capacity to support the DFO in its efforts to achieve its mandate and stated objectives relating to fisheries management. Some activities outlined in the upcoming proposal would





specifically focus on the development of effective processes and tools that will help facilitate government engagement with First Nations by identifying potential areas where such action may be required.

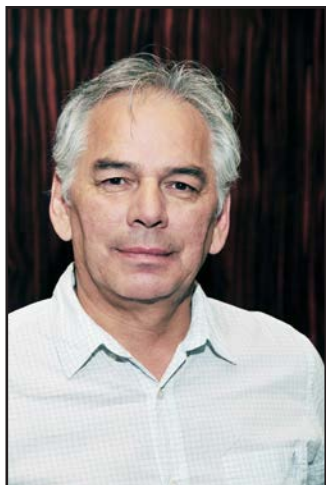
The National Fisheries Committee (NFC) currently only meets in-person once per year. Efforts to meet more often (at least twice per year) are being implemented for fiscal year 2016-17. To this end, we would like to coordinate the scheduling of an NFC meeting in fall 2016 to enable both the National Chief and the Minister to participate in a portion of this meeting.

Woliwon, Welalin,

Roger J. Augustine
AFN Regional Chief, New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island

REGIONAL CHIEF GHISLAIN PICARD

Quebec and Labrador



The Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) note with satisfaction the will of the Trudeau Government, elected in October 2015, to re-establish a respectful and equitable relationship between the Crown and First Nations that is beneficial to both First Nations and Canadian society as a whole.

In a spirit of historic reconciliation with First Nations, the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seems determined to give full meaning to the concept of the honour of the

Crown, which was seriously compromised by 10 years of a Conservative government.

Now we need to give concrete meaning to reconciliation. There is a need now for all women and men of our Nations, for our Elders and our youth, to recognize in their daily life that the historic reconciliation between First Nations and the Crown is more than just great speeches, that it is a reality.

Our Chiefs are ready, as they have been for a long time, to sincerely engage in a journey of reconciliation. They expect, however, that real actions will be taken quickly by the new federal government. Everything possible has to be done to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The decisions and practices must integrate the principles put forward by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Concrete action is needed.

In the Canadian political system, especially when it comes to the relationship with the First Nations, the role of the federal government is predominant. On the other hand, depending on the jurisdiction that Canada's *Constitution Act* confers, the provinces play a significant role in a number of important matters, including territory and resources. A province that doesn't engage in the reconciliation process that is being undertaken could seriously compromise any effort towards rebuilding the relationship between First Nations and other governments.

In fact, on that point, our Chiefs are very worried about the attitude of the Quebec provincial government. Now elected for two years, the government of Premier Couillard gives no indication of open-mindedness, no will of recognition or desire to implement the title and Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations. The practices of that government, particularly as it relates to the territory and resources, can still be described in 2016 as colonialist. The political process proposed to the Couillard government by the AFNQL in April 2015 remains unanswered. The pledge of Premier Couillard to hold two meetings every year with our assembly has not been honoured. Our Chiefs are concerned about this negative attitude of the Couillard government and rightfully so.

Many women and girls of our Nations are going through unbearable situations, notably in the relations with the police services, and many have denounced it publicly. The AFNQL has formally requested from the Couillard government that a full inquiry be held on the relations between our nations and the police services. The AFNQL and the AFN adopted resolutions in support of that request and have delivered them to the Couillard government which has chosen not to take them into account.

The Chiefs of our Nations, supported by their citizens, are embarking upon a journey of much-needed reconciliation with the Crown and with Canadian society as a whole. Our Chiefs do not intend to let the ill-will of a provincial government jeopardize the reconciliation effort that is being undertaken.



REGIONAL CHIEF ISADORE DAY

Ontario



On behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario, I extend warm greetings to Elders, leadership, youth and citizens participating in the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA) at Niagara Falls, hosted by Six Nations of the Grand River. The location of this year's AGA is very special and significant. Over 250 years ago, our Peoples—from the east coast, to Hudson Bay, to the mid-west—gathered here to sign the Treaty of Niagara in 1764. This was the true beginning of our nation-to-nation relationship with the Crown (and now Canada) as we acknowledged and ratified the 1763 Royal Proclamation. Today, First Nations and Canada are finally returning to that nation-to-nation relationship where we will be equal partners in decision making. It won't be long before we finally shed the colonial constraints and chains of the *Indian Act* once and for all.

Since my election to the position of Regional Chief last June, I have been extremely busy, from traveling across Ontario, to extensive orientation on my new leadership role, both provincially and at the national level with the AFN. I am chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Health and co-chair of the Chiefs Committee on Environment and Climate Change. These are two critical portfolios that demand immediate action and concrete commitments from the federal government in just a few short months from now. I will go into further detail later in this report.

Provincial Initiatives

On August 24, 2015, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and I—on behalf of all Chiefs in the province—signed an historic Political Accord that begins a new relationship based upon respecting First Nation Treaty Rights and advancing First Nation-determined governments. The Accord is the

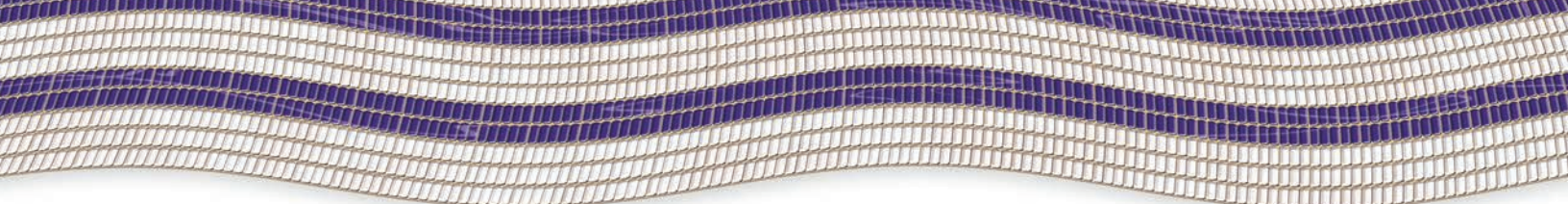
most important collective milestone between Ontario and First Nations in modern times. The Chiefs of Ontario and the provincial government are now developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy and framework that will fully utilize this Accord to advance our jurisdiction and Treaty rights on our terms.

In less than a year, the Political Accord has allowed our leadership unprecedented access to provincial Ministers and senior staff, as well as securing high-level commitments and funding, all of which is transforming our relationship in Ontario. Several weeks ago, at our All-Ontario Chiefs Conference in Thunder Bay, Premier Wynne and her Cabinet met with our leadership to review the Political Accord and reach mutual agreements on priorities—such as health care, climate change, jurisdiction, and resource benefit sharing—that must be advanced in the months to come.

Here are a few brief highlights from the past few months since my last report at the December 2015 Special Chiefs Assembly:

This past February 24th, I joined Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler to declare a health emergency specifically as a result of the 'needless deaths and suffering caused by profoundly poor determinants of health'. To further quote the declaration, 'people have experienced poor health outcomes and a substandard state of health and well-being as a result of inadequate medical diagnosis and treatment of preventable diseases. On March 31st, we met Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins and federal Health Minister Jane Philpott at Queen's Park to begin development of an action plan in response to the NAN state of emergency. On May 24th, the province followed through with \$222 million over three years to address the northern health crisis.

At the time I stated: "In the months to come, Grand Chief Patrick Mahdabee, Chair of the COO Chiefs Committee on Health, myself, and our health technicians, will continue to work with both Ontario and Canada on long-term priorities and funding that will benefit all of our First Nations. At the same time, we must never lose sight that these health crises will only end when we address the main determinants such as water, housing, education, and economically sustainable communities."



On May 30th, less than a week after Ontario's very significant health funding announcement, Premier Wynne delivered a Statement of Reconciliation in the Ontario Legislature. Residential School survivors, their families, as well as our leadership, witnessed this historic occasion from the galleries in the Legislature. I also had the honour of responding to the Premier. Here is just a portion of my statement:

"We stand here today in the presence of the Spirits of our ancestors. In the presence of the Spirits of those leaders who signed the Treaty of Niagara in 1764; the Lake Superior and Lake Huron Treaties, the Williams Treaties, and the numbered Treaties; and in the presence of the Chiefs and Grand Chiefs who are descendants, and who represent this unbroken line connecting our Peoples to this present day.

We also stand in the presence of the troubled Spirits of our children, our youth, our sisters, mothers and grandmothers. Far too many have taken their lives—or have had their lives stolen. Far too many continue to suffer under poverty and despair not of their choosing—not of their wish or desire but as a sustained result of colonization deception of Peace and Friendship—unfortunately here in the province of Ontario.

As we stand in the presence of our Residential School survivors, we are reminded of a system meant to kill the Indian in the child. Not only have they suffered unspeakable abuse, their children and grandchildren have also suffered. How terribly sad, that this horrible legacy continues to impact our present generations, as so evident in the current suicide crisis of our children and youth.

The vast majority of us as First Nation People across this land can speak of the direct impacts of this dark legacy – yes many of us have lived in the direct darkness and shadows of the evil that was so evident in so many of those schools.

The Indian Act of 1876 formalized the chains of oppression that we as First Nations Peoples continue to struggle to break free of to this day. Combined colonialism—the Indian Act, along with the full implementation of the Residential School system—would become the malevolent scheme towards the destruction of our humanity.

This colonial force created such a high level of dysfunction and despair for so many generational decades, that its effects continue to impact the well-being of our families to this day through intergenerational trauma—a communal post-trauma experienced in all First Nations in this province.

We also continue to be subject to policy and legislation that shape and control our lives; the progenies of the Indian Act system—unjustified and unjust jurisdiction against Our People and Our Lands. The deepness of poverty that continues to kill Our People, this is not right—this has never been right—in a land as rich as Ontario. Our Ancestors did not envision these present horrors when they agreed to share the wealth of the land—this goes against the original treaties of Peace and Friendship.

Our Peoples were never included in the discussions when vast tracts of our lands, here in Ontario, were illegally sold to immigrants from Europe in order to pay off debts from the War of 1812. If Our Peoples had not been allies in that war, Ontario and Canada, may never have existed. Our Peoples were never part of the discussions when Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia formed Confederation in 1867—yet today we are subject to a division of powers and not formally welcomed by the federal family on this land—oddly, like an uninvited guest on our own land...

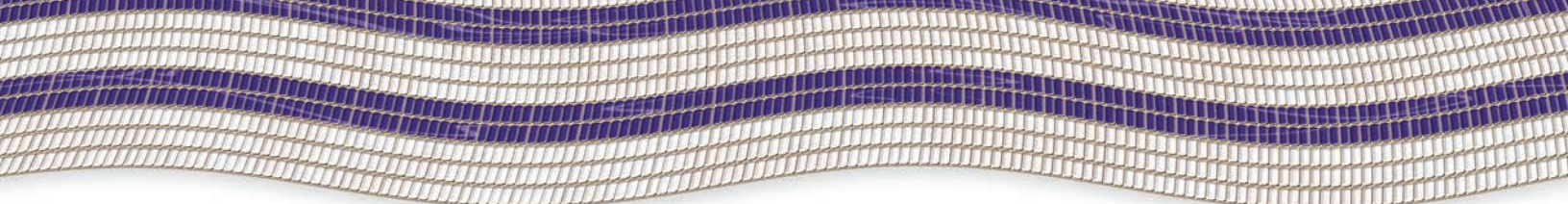
The Spirit of change is upon us. The Highest Courts of this land tell us the Constitution protects Indigenous ways of life, our culture and our connection to our lands—the Constitution can now affirm and begin to formally recognize, through Reconciliation, Inherent and Treaty rights—never relinquished as the pre-contact and original Indigenous Peoples of this land.

The Political Accord being implemented in Ontario; the commitments of both the Federal and Provincial governments that follow the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action; and the full adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These are all powerful signals of a new relationship based upon equality, restitution, and recognizing our sovereignty as Nations.

Today, we will walk together on a path towards building happy, healthy First Nation communities. We will end the scourge of suicide. We will end the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. We will return our children to their families.

We will work together to build economies—in the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties. We will work together to combat climate change. We will work together to return Ontario to the beauty and bounty that first attracted the settlers to our lands. We will strengthen Indigenous Peoples' connection to our Mother, Mother Earth.





In conclusion – we must turn our efforts and seek the full involvement and inclusion of our Indian Residential School survivors in all aspects of moving forward; for it is they that have carried the full burden and have experienced the darkness of this history. They must never again feel left out, alone, or abandoned—this process and these investments belong to them.

Today, we move closer to fulfilling the original intent of the Treaties envisioned by our Ancestors. Premier, and all those present in this legislation house, today, we reclaim our rightful place in Ontario. May the Creator bless all of you; and may Our Ancestors feel the warmth of reconciliation in this new era of healing.”

The Premier’s Statement of Reconciliation was also accompanied by a \$250 million investment over three years on programs and actions focused on reconciliation, to be jointly developed with the Chiefs of Ontario. These actions are directly related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and deal with a wide range of issues from understanding the legacy of residential schools; improving health and child welfare outcomes; creating a more relevant and responsive justice system; supporting Indigenous culture; implementing resource benefit sharing and reconciling relationships, including full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Lastly, in a very significant and symbolic gesture, the name of Ontario’s Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has been changed to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Finally, less than a month ago, the Chiefs of Ontario and the province hosted a two-day Forum on Climate Change and Cap and Trade, which focused on the critical role First Nations will play as partners within Ontario’s \$8.3 billion Climate Change Action Plan, announced on June 8th. My response to this very ambitious agenda included these words:

“Our Peoples—from the north to the south—have been suffering from the affects of global warming and pollution for many years. Our communities have been most affected by floods, fires, contaminated water, and a loss of traditional foods. First Nations signed the Treaties to equally share the lands and resources. Now we want to work in partnership, based on the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), to ensure the lands and resources are shared for future generations. I am encouraged that today’s announcement emphasizes that First Nation Traditional Ecological Knowledge will guide the provincial action plan. In addition, the province has pledged to include our Peoples in the new carbon economy, as well as provide funding to replace dirty diesel generation with green energy micro-grids. First Nations must also continue to work with the province on major

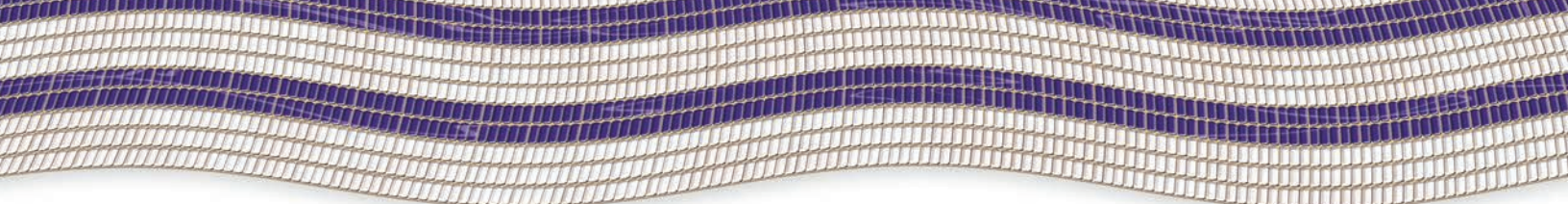
green energy projects that will supply power to all Ontarians. The Climate Change and Green Energy Acts must be integrated as much as possible.”

AFN Executive Committee Portfolio Responsibilities on Health and Climate Change

As the chair of the national Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH), I look forward to working together to achieve significant progress on ending the decades-long quiet health crisis that has afflicted far too many of our Peoples, not only in Ontario but across the country. We are very confident in the great team that we have in the AFN Secretariat, along with a very strong national network of First Nation health technicians and leadership, led by strong advocates such as Grand Chief Doug Kelly from British Columbia and Grand Chief Patrick Madahbee from Ontario. Both of these leaders, along with all members of CCOH and its regional counterparts, go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the delivery of equal health services for all our Peoples.

My number one priority is to work with the AFN Executive and CCOH to finalize long-term sustainable health funding from the federal government. We have a very tight timeframe in which to secure our fair share of the upcoming multi-billion dollar federal Health Accord with the provinces and territories. In fact, the First Nations list of top priorities must be submitted to the federal government later this month. By September, the AFN must provide discussion papers at the next meeting of the federal, provincial and territorial health ministers. Following that, the Health Accord will be negotiated with a final agreement to be announced as soon as January, 2017, just six months from now.

In terms of immediate action on the health and suicide crisis, last month Prime Minister Trudeau met with leaders and youth from Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Attawapiskat First Nation before announcing an additional \$69 million in health funding over three years, which includes 34 new mental health teams that will respond to suicide crises across the country. While this is very welcome, it falls far short of what the AFN has presented to both the Health Minister and the House of Commons Committee on Indigenous Affairs. On June 9th, I told the committee that at least 80 mental health teams are needed nationally, while a minimum of \$136 million annually is needed now to address a wide range of mental health issues, from drug and alcohol addictions to continued support for Residential School survivors.



This national crisis will not be solved with half measures. We also need full provincial and territorial involvement in order to implement strategies that will restore hope for far too many youth and elders who believe ending their lives is the only escape from despair.

As co-chair of the Chiefs Committee on Environment and Climate Change, I will draw upon our groundbreaking climate change efforts and relationship in Ontario to drive the agenda nationally. The *Vancouver Declaration Clean Growth and Climate Change* gives assurance that Indigenous peoples will be fully participating in the four current working groups. In May, Canada fully committed to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The international community is now looking toward Canada to ensure that First Nations are fully and completely involved in the battle against global warming.

Both the AFN and Canada will be looking toward the critical work beginning right now in Ontario, which includes preserving the carbon sink in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, the second largest of its kind in the world. This is the world's second pair of lungs—absorbing carbon and producing oxygen—and is already threatened by a temperature increase at twice the rate of southern Ontario.

With so much at stake for future generations on this planet, Indigenous voices should be at the forefront, and should be heard at the table in all Climate Change planning moving forward. *Real* transformative change can only happen if climate change strategies, efforts and commitments work across Canada inclusive of Indigenous Nations. To paraphrase Premier Wynne, *real* transformative change will only occur when First Nations are fully involved in “how we live, work, play, and move” in the new climate change economy.

Conclusion

In closing, our emphasis on children and youth in Ontario is strong. I was elected on the mandate “Securing a Future for Our Children”. Our efforts must always seek to consider the future prosperity of the next seven generations.

During this AFN AGA, we must move beyond our organizational firewalls that do not allow our First Nations citizens to engage directly in the critical work we do at AFN. This is why I have brought forward the recommendation of the #CitizensSpeak Forum. The purpose of this Forum is that we can become more responsive and more responsible to the grassroots in the important work of our assemblies. I can think of no

better place than Niagara Falls—steeped in our history and culture—to begin this dialogue.

Back in 1763, about 2,000 of our leaders gathered with representatives of the Crown to meet for several days and agree to the Treaty of Niagara. This week is the very first time in over 250 years that so many First Nations leaders—as well as Ministers of the Crown—have gathered on this same significant and sacred territory. I look forward to visiting with many of you from across Canada. Please take the time to enjoy this special part of the world. I also want to especially thank Six Nations Chief Ava Hill and her Council for their great work and hospitality as hosts of this year's AGA. On behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario, I hope everyone enjoys their visit to our traditional territory, Ontario, the land of blue waters!

Meegwetch!

Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini
Ontario Regional Chief



REGIONAL CHIEF KEVIN HART

Manitoba



Greetings to all Elders, youth, respective leaders and community members attending the Assembly of First Nations 2016 Annual General Assembly.

We have been doing a number of great things in Manitoba. Some of the priorities of the Manitoba Regional Office include housing, water, infrastructure, child and family services, gaming, food security, and alternative energy.

I have worked to ensure that the concerns of Manitoba First Nations are being heard at the national level, including issues of the north.

I have spoken with Prime Minister Trudeau and I always tell him about the deplorable conditions in Manitoba with regard to water, infrastructure and housing.

Abolition of the *Indian Act* is a big concern. How are we going to start this discussion and process? We have to go back to communities and start from the ground up. We need to start with the grassroots. We started the process and we have to go back and get it off the shelf. We need to go to communities to get out of the *Indian Act*.

Housing

First Nations communities in Manitoba have the worst housing conditions across Canada and I ask why that is.

We are starting to see that Canada is looking at Manitoba and hearing our strong voices. We have been punished by previous governments because of the strong leadership in Manitoba and because we are so vocal.

Water

Water is a very important life-source; we all know the teachings when it comes to water.

I take direction from the women, grandmothers and leadership who are the life-givers and who hold the responsibility for water. I am totally against pipeline development across Canada because it does not protect water interests and the water rights that we have as First Nations people.

As a Regional Chief, I do not have the right to speak on behalf of that water so when I go out and talk about the water portfolio, I always seek the direction of the women.

There has been \$8.4 billion allocated towards Indigenous issues over the next four years. We are still meeting with federal officials to determine where those needs are met. The infrastructure, housing and water needs of the north need to be addressed.

Island Lake has been promised things time and time again, they were promised a hospital. They are being flown out to Winnipeg.

Child and Family Services

Child and Family Services (CFS) is a huge issue. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs hired a family advocate. CFS is a \$600 million industry in Manitoba. More than 12,000 are in care in Manitoba and 10,000 are First Nations citizens. Over 65% of those in homes do not speak English as their first language. This is just another legalized form of the residential schools system. It is a legalized form of genocide which has been dictated by legislation.

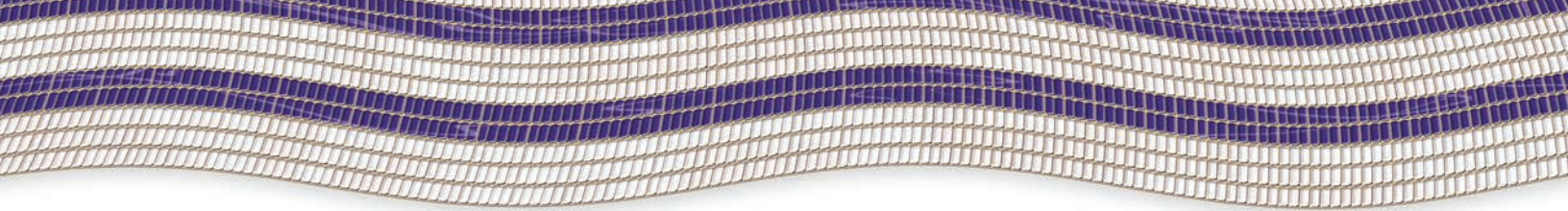
Food Security

I have been lobbying on behalf of citizens to address the high prices of food in the north.

NIB Trust Fund

Tim Catcheway is the trustee for Manitoba region.

The NIB Trust Fund supports education programs aimed at healing, reconciliation and knowledge building. Funds are available to First Nation



and Métis individuals and organizations through a competitive application process.

Manitoba had the most projects funded this past quarter. The next application process is in the fall. I have encouraged communities to start working on “qualified done” status.

“Let’s work hard for the north, let’s keep pounding away for housing, infrastructure, food. We are very unique here in the north.”



REGIONAL CHIEF BOBBY CAMERON

Saskatchewan



On behalf of the 74 FSIN Chiefs in Assembly and the Executive, it is my honour to contribute to the 2015-2016 AFN Annual Report. I was elected by the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly and First Nations delegates on October 29, 2015 to represent the 74 First Nations and our citizens as Chief of the FSIN and the AFN Regional Chief.

We have been busy building relationships and partnerships through intergovernmental affairs and communications in our territories and in Ottawa in order to increase our advocacy efforts and carry out our mandate.

As Regional Chief I have been assigned the AFN portfolios of Education and Aboriginal Skills Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).

ASETS

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Human Resources has been in abeyance for about six years. The Chiefs Committee has been renewed with its first meeting on June 9, 2016. On May 25, 2016 the Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, and I jointly announced in the spirit of reconciliation and nation to nation Treaty relations that there would be an additional \$50 million available for a Skills and Partnership Fund and an immediate 3% increase to all ASETS funding across the board. ASETS renewal was set for 2016; it has been extended to 2017 pending collaboration on an appropriate engagement strategy with input from all ASETS holders. This input is crucial to meeting the needs of First Nations skills and training and wrap around supports to increase the employability of First Nations and to closing the gap that exists in unemployment rates.

Education

The staff at AFN worked tirelessly to put together and host the First Nations Directors of Education Forum in February 2016 in Ottawa. This forum brought together educators, administrators and leadership for collaboration and sharing of best practices. The Chiefs Committee of Education is active along with the National Indian Education Council which is the technical advisory table.

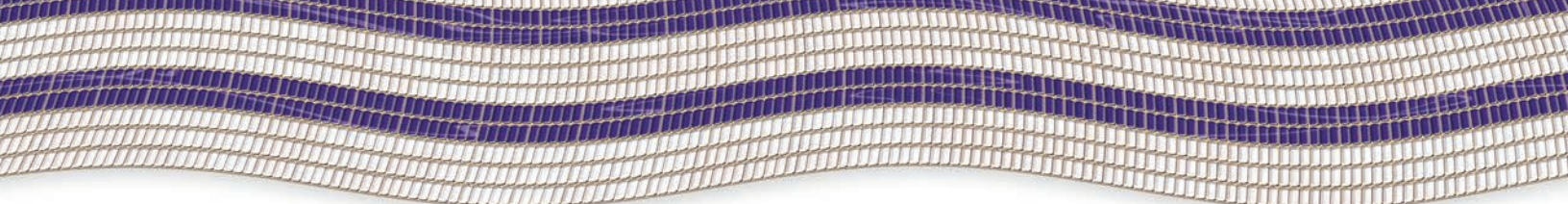
The \$2.6 billion committed to First Nations education was a welcomed announcement. The primary focus of the AFN Secretariat is to confirm a national position on K-12 First Nation Education. This includes positions on items such as:

- Establishing an honourable process on K-12 education;
- Immediate funding relief to all K-12 core budgets;
- Federal First Nation Education Legislation;
- National Funding Formula for K-12 education;
- National workplan and timelines for K-12 education work;
- Resolution development for above; and,
- First Nations Control of First Nations Education.

Notably at the regional level in 2015, the FSIN and provincial government signed a memorandum of understanding that recognizes education as an Inherent Treaty right. The agreement recognizes jurisdictional control of education falls under the authority of each elected Chief and Council on our Treaty territories.

This past March the FSIN and the Canadian Light Source signed an agreement of collaboration in science with a focus on traditions and culture for First Nations students during the annual Saskatchewan First Nations Science Fair. The agreement will allow both parties to work together to enhance education in the field of science for First Nation students. At the May 2016 FSIN Assembly the Chiefs passed a resolution to support the Science & Math Program in its request to Youth Science Canada to add a category of Indigenous Ways of Knowing to the Canada Wide Science Fair in 2017 and for all future years.

In our region, the FSIN Education Secretariat is engaging our FSIN Youth Representatives in collaboration with the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission in delivering presentations that focus on bullying



and suicide prevention and awareness. Self-esteem and identity are also focal points of discussion.

At the May AFN Executive meeting in Ottawa we had the opportunity to meet with Environment Minister Catherine McKenna. We have been working on protocol agreements that control the entry of conservation officers onto First Nation lands in our Treaty territories. This agreement was hand-delivered to the Environment Minister and we look forward to working with their offices on moving forward with this protocol that protects our inherent and Treaty right to hunt, fish and gather. This same protocol was supported by the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly at the May 2016 legislative Assembly.

Our leaders and our First Nations look to the Assembly of First Nations to advocate and facilitate when they are needed; it is through our leaders we take our direction as an Executive. I look forward to continuing to come together, to share concerns, address issues and in unification to be effective in our work for our nations, our communities and our future generations.

We extend our sincere best wishes to all Chiefs and Councils, Elders, Veterans, Youth and citizens of our First Nations for better times ahead of us all.

Hiy Hiy,

Regional Chief Bobby Cameron, FSIN
Witcheken First Nation, Treaty No. 6 Territory



REGIONAL CHIEF CRAIG MAKINAW

Alberta



Tansi and Greetings,

It is my pleasure to provide this submission to the 2016 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) annual report. It has been one year since I was elected by the Chiefs of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 to the office of AFN Regional Chief.

First and foremost, I recognize the sovereignty of each First Nation in the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AOTC), and recognize the Nations as true rights holders for Indigenous and Treaty rights. I have committed myself to working diligently to support Treaty discussion and dialogue, as well as advocacy efforts and critical campaigns as directed by the Chiefs in Treaty 6, 7, & 8, as well as individual First Nations.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AOTC)

The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs held an assembly at Tsuu T'ina Nation's Grey Eagle Resort & Casino, in the Treaty 7 territory from May 24-26, 2016.

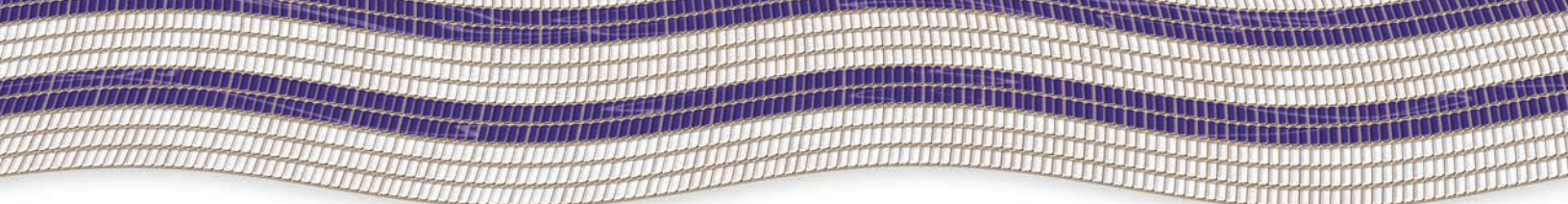
I was honoured to be included in opening remarks along with Tsuu T'ina Chief Roy Whitney, Grand Chief Tony Alexis, Treaty 6; Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead, Treaty 7; and Deputy Grand Chief Isaac Avirom-Laboucan, Treaty 8. National Chief Bellegarde was on hand for two days to provide opening comments and a brief update on international and national issues. National Chief Bellegarde emphasized he was at the meeting to listen, and help open doors and push the Chiefs' agendas.

Chiefs requested more clarity on the AFN's role in the government-to-government relationship, the repeal of legislation, as well as the role of Chiefs Committees. The National Chief advised the Assembly that the AFN was not a 'rights holder' and used his First Nation and Treaty 4 as an example to highlight how the authorities flow from the Creator, to the People, and to Chief and Council. Chief and Council are affiliated with various agencies, Tribal Councils and Aboriginal Representative Organizations, such as the AFN. The National Chief again acknowledged that AFN was not a rights holder and that his role is to be an advocate and open doors.

It was pointed out later in the day that a letter had been sent to the Prime Minister asking him to come to Alberta and meet with the Treaty Chiefs. There has been no reply and they have requested the AFN assist in pursuing that meeting.

Dr. Wilton Littlechild provided an overview of the AOTC Strategic Plan Review. The review included assessing how far it had advanced, considered new developments such as the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, recent court decisions and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's (CHRT) ruling, as well as 'new' commitments from both levels of government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration"). Strategic priorities remain including health; education; development; lands, territories and resources; and child and family wellness. The most important aspect of these priorities is the Treaty relationship.

The Treaties are international agreements, which along with the Declaration and ILO Conventions define our relationship and rights and freedoms. Government wants to move forward in a 'new' relationship, but we have an existing partnership, it's called a 'Treaty.' Canada declared itself recently to be a full supporter of the Declaration, 'without qualification.' Canada, however, did limit the statement by adding wording that they would work within the parameters of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. If the Government of Canada is truly working towards a Nation-to-Nation relationship, its Constitution and laws must comply with our Treaties and the Declaration, not the other way around. Dr. Littlechild ended his presentation by adding that a legislated decision is required to fully implement the Declaration.



Minister Carolyn Bennett, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) attended the AOTC on Day 2. The Minister's attendance was quite significant, as a presiding INAC Minister had not visited the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs in over 15 years. The Minister listened attentively to the issues raised by each individual First Nation Chief or Proxy. Minister Bennett also announced that the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, MaryAnn Mihychuk, would be making an announcement later on in the day which would provide a significant increase this year for the Aboriginal Skills & Employment Strategy (ASETS) Agreement holders. She also recognized that a longer term is needed for the program.

Key issues brought forward by the Chiefs included treaty implementation, government action on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision, election promises with regard to the repeal or revision of legislation, including but not limited to the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* (FNFTA) and the changes to the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, climate change, education, the *Indian Act*, Bill C51, the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, the *First Nations Elections Act*, and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA).

Housing, infrastructure, education, health, environment, water, languages, and post-secondary education issues were also brought forward. Suicides are also a concern for a number of First Nations who are experiencing higher than average rates.

The Athabasca Tribal Council, which is in the Fort McMurray fire area and whose members were directly impacted by the fire, asked for a commitment from the Minister that they would not have to go through the years of red tape they had previously gone through to support their restructuring from the fire losses.

A First Nations languages Act was recommended.

The four Nations of the Maskwacis extended a verbal invitation to the Minister to have dialogue.

Minister of Indigenous Relations Richard Feehan provided greetings on behalf of the Government of Alberta. He provided a brief overview on the Fort McMurray wildfires. In response to a request from the Chiefs, he also stated that his government is very open to the possibility of a Reconciliation Commission, Secretariat and Commissioner. Consultation

conversations with First Nations will begin in June. They are very open to Tri-lateral tables and have extended invitations when asked.

AOTC resolutions will be forwarded upon receipt.

Government of Alberta

Protocol Agreement

Treaty 8 First Nations (Alberta) have signed a protocol agreement with the Government of Alberta (GoA). During the AOTC, Minister Feehan announced the GoA was close to signing a separate protocol agreement with Treaty 7 First Nations, and they were also open to beginning discussions with Treaty 6 on an agreement.

Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act

On April 27, 2016, the Government of Alberta announced they would withdraw the controversial Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act, enacted by the previous provincial government, in the face of lawsuits launched by a number of First Nations. Minister Feehan said "how the government assesses Aboriginal consultation will be redesigned with input from First Nations."

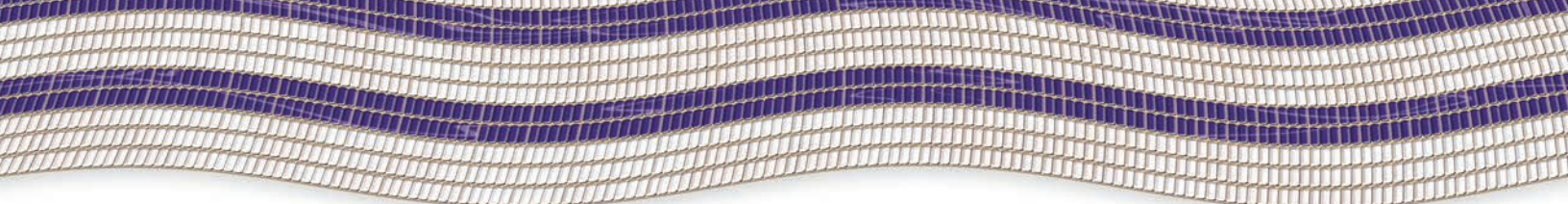
Bill 22, An Act to Provide for the Repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' Sacred Ceremonial Objects

On May 27, 2016, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 22. "The Bill is intended to reinforce the validity of past repatriations and to allow for the development of regulations for the return of sacred ceremonial objects to all First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities."

Advocacy

At the request of the Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Steve Courtoreille, my office advocated to the Prime Minister's Office, the Premier's Office, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Indigenous Relations Minister for a joint meeting with the leaders of the Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) to provide coordinated support from both the province and the federal government to ensure the needs of their members are met. INAC responded with logistical support as did the province. The Indigenous Relations Minister met with Chief Courtoreille directly. The National Chief's Office also assisted in advocating to the Prime Minister's Office and played a key role in ensuring Chief Courtoreille was included in the Prime Minister's tour of Fort McMurray.





At the request of the Grand Chiefs for Treaty No. 6, No. 7, and No. 8 (Alberta), a letter was sent to MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, regarding the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement. The Chiefs of Alberta and the ASETS agreement holders need to be involved in the development of a successor strategy to the ASETS program. The Grand Chiefs and Alberta ASETS agreement holders requested the Minister meet with them in Alberta to plan for a successor agreement for April 1, 2017. Follow-up emails were also sent to request a response, however, none has been received to date. An invitation has been provided to the Minister to meet with the Alberta Chiefs Caucus during the July 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly.

Reporting, Communications and Information Sharing

Improving communication and sharing information in a timely manner is a priority of the Office of the Regional Chief. The Regional Chief continues to provide summary reports of each Executive Meeting and portfolio meeting to the Alberta Chiefs and Aboriginal Representative Organizations (ARO), as well as summaries of AFN Assemblies, inclusive of resolutions.

The regional office also shares news releases from the AFN and other regions, First Nations news, and the *Hill-Times* with Chiefs and AROs. The following critical updates and information has been forwarded to Chiefs and AROs as well:

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls updates provided by BC Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson;
- National Energy Board (NEB) *Pipeline Safety Act* and the NEB's pipeline damage prevention guidelines, with proposed amendments; and,
- Draft Technical Guidance for Assessing Current Use from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Media Engagement

The regional office issued a press statement on Canada's unqualified support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Conclusion

I am looking forward to meeting once again with the Chiefs-in-Assembly as well as my counterparts in the Assembly of First Nations. I am pleased to be joined by our Elder Ki'sikaw Ksay-Yin, from the Ermineskin Cree Nation.

Hai Hai, ekosi.

REGIONAL CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON

British Columbia



Welcome to Chiefs, Leaders, Elders, Women, Youth, and community members to the Annual General Assembly being hosted by the Six Nations of the Grand River in Niagara Falls, Ontario. As the Regional Chief for the BC Assembly of First Nations and on behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to provide you with this regional update from British Columbia (BC).

I am from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc which is situated in the heart of British Columbia's interior, the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people. I am a proud father of five and grandfather of one and am expecting my second grandchild any day now.

I was honoured to be elected on June 24, 2015 to the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) which represents the 203 First Nations in BC. Prior to my role as BC Regional Chief, I served four terms, for a total of 12 years, as Chief of the Tk'emlúps Indian Band and served as the Tribal Chief for the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The BC Assembly of First Nations is committed to supporting First Nations in advancing our own community-driven, nation-based approach, made in accordance with each Nation's customs, laws and traditions, addressing our own specific challenges and meeting our own unique opportunities.

BC Assembly of First Nations Vision Statement:

BC Assembly of First Nations is unified towards self-sufficiency and vibrancy while never forgetting who we are. We envision a future where our inherent laws, lands, traditions are recognized and respected by governments, industry and the general public.

BC Assembly of First Nations Mission Statement:

We are proud, progressive and innovative BC First Nations advocating for and implementing our Aboriginal Title and Treaty Rights through the exercise of our inherent laws and jurisdictions.

BC Assembly of First Nations Mandate:

- Advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia;
- Restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations people in British Columbia, the Crown and people of Canada;
- Develop and promote policies and resources for the benefit of First Nations people in British Columbia including but not limited to governance, lands and resources, economic, social, education, health and cultural matters; and
- Work in coalition with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples.

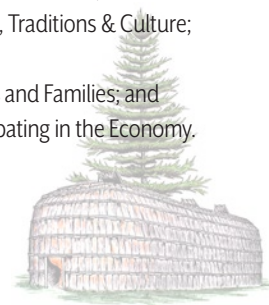
BC Assembly of First Nations Philosophy:

Honouring our Ancestors

The BC Assembly of First Nations is committed to working with our partner First Nations organizations in BC, including the numerous First Nations Councils and Committees as well as the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit acting in partnership as the First Nations Leadership Council. Together, we promote and strive toward unity in order to best meet the needs of BC First Nations in a coordinated and positive way.

The BC Assembly of First Nations will fulfill its commitment to implement our 6 Point Critical Plan:

- Giving Expression to Aboriginal Title & Rights and Treaty Rights;
- Ensuring Health, Wellness & Good Governance;
- Protecting and Promoting Language, Traditions & Culture;
- Promoting Life-Long Learning;
- Protection of Children, Youth, Elders and Families; and
- Safeguarding our Resources, Participating in the Economy.





My plan is a principled approach built on the foundation that First Nations can improve their communities by working together and building consensus on priorities and action and building on our own strength. We aim to improve the quality of life for our people by supporting and empowering our leadership and communities through economic development. The responsibility of leadership is to create a better future for our next generation. Building partnerships through business and industry is essential to improve our communities' quality of life. I strongly believe that our Aboriginal Title and Rights need to be recognized by federal and provincial governments but also by business. By advocating for the recognition of our rights and also advancing a strong platform of economic development, this innovative approach will seek to improve the quality of life and social fabric of our communities.

A central priority for the BC Assembly of First Nations is our economic development strategy which seeks to proactively assist BC First Nations to develop, implement and evaluate economic development initiatives while also enhancing our opportunities and addressing challenges within our regions. We, as First Nations people, have always been resourceful and have been participating in our own economies for decades. We need to be able to look after ourselves and create our own certainty for our people as part of our leadership responsibilities include managing our wealth and not poverty. Playing a role in any economic development strategy is the principle that environmental stewardship remains a priority for our people. Protecting our homelands means that when we take care of our lands, the lands will take care of us. This philosophy has worked for many generations and has resulted in communities and nations that thrive. We have heard sustainability is important from many of our people, communities and nations in our work. Protection of our culture and our ways of life means advancing our interests on our own terms and conditions.

Part of the BCAFN's mandate includes advocating for and advancing First Nations jurisdiction with respect to the economy and access to our resources. The BCAFN hosted a series of regional meetings to receive feedback and input from different parts of the province for the development of a BC economic and fiscal strategy. Meetings were held in Prince George (Northern), Enderby (Interior), Chilliwack (Fraser Valley), Parksville (Vancouver Island) and North Vancouver (Lower Mainland). Through these sessions BC Assembly of First Nations brought together key leaders and experts to dialogue around solutions with respect to equal access, business development and contribution to economic and fiscal opportunities within Indigenous territories.

These regional meetings will inform the development of a First Nations focused economic strategy. The sessions supported the BCAFN's proposal that economic development drives better outcomes for individuals through higher incomes and improvements in housing, education and welfare. They also supported establishing an economic development strategy that achieves our strategic objectives, builds on the lessons learned and addresses the challenges identified. In particular, three themes have been identified:

- 1) Measuring successful outcomes and improving statistics;
- 2) Nation-based sectoral employment plans; and,
- 3) Sharing approaches to fiscal benefits, access to capital and business development.

The BCAFN is currently finalizing our regional report and will begin phase two of our economic development plan in the coming year and we look forward to working with and supporting our Nations as we move toward safeguarding our resources and participating in the economy.

National Portfolios

Last year I was appointed the AFN portfolio lead on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Minister Carolyn Bennett has been assigned to develop, in collaboration with the Minister of Justice, and supported by the Minister of Status of Women, an approach to and a mandate for an inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada, including the identification of a lead minister. The Liberal Government committed \$40 million to carry out the National Inquiry over two years. In December, 2015, Minister Bennett, Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (Justice and Attorney-General of Canada), and Minister Patricia Hajdu (Status of Women) began holding regional pre-inquiry design sessions focused on receiving input from family members and others impacted.

In BC, we held the BC Family Gathering in Lheidli T'enneh Territory (Prince George) that was intended to provide a safe and supportive space for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women to heal together by sharing their stories and their strength. The family gathering was meant to allow family members to discuss and identify a path forward to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. Components of this gathering included healing circles, sharing circles, cultural ceremonies, honouring ceremonies, family speakers and keynote speakers. The AFN held a First Nations specific pre-Inquiry forum on February 4th in Edmonton to gather input from all regions, families, Women's Council and leadership. The AFN made a formal submission to the federal government



to provide recommendations on the framework of the National Inquiry including the forum input and past AFN resolutions.

I also attended the 2nd National Roundtable in Winnipeg on February 25th and 26th with others including federal, provincial and territorial Ministers and family members. Dialogue focused on an action-based collaboration outlined in the document: “2016 National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: Outcomes and Priorities for Action to Prevent and Address Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls.” This roadmap document builds on commitments of the 2015 Roundtable held in Ottawa, and provides governments with 20 priorities for action in three areas:

- 1) Prevention and awareness;
- 2) Community safety; and,
- 3) Culturally-relevant policing measures and justice responses.

The statistics alone clearly define impoverished socio-economic conditions that demand justice, inquiry and investigation. The National Inquiry must discuss the socio-economic and socio-cultural conditions that impact our communities. The safety and security of Indigenous women and girls continues to be a national crisis and tragedy and must be addressed in a meaningful and thoughtful way. Action must be taken and I commit to ensuring families’ and survivors’ stories and voices will be heard by the National Inquiry and that outcomes and recommendations will have substantial support and momentum to ensure implementation. I have been meeting with federal and provincial ministers to ensure it is led by the families (that are supported to participate in the process) and takes a cross-jurisdictional approach. The inquiry must be meaningful, ensure transformative change on the ground, and ensure the safety and security of our peoples and communities. Our women are the heart of our communities. It is paramount that they are protected, loved, safe and secure.

In addition to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls portfolio, I was also appointed the lead on Justice and Economic Development. I will be calling for appointments from each region to the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development and Chiefs Committee of Justice to support the work within each of these areas.

As part of the economic partnerships portfolio, the First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities was hosted on February 10-11, 2016 in Vancouver, BC. The event provided a forum to discuss the role of First Nations in Canada’s energy future and an opportunity to consider: renewable and non-renewable energy options; balance in economic

planning and decisions to support the environment; improved political and economic relationships; coordinating priorities, sharing in benefits, revenues, employment and procurement; and, Crown consultation and consent obligations. In follow-up to the forum, there are a number of recommendations for consideration by the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development.

Our Justice Strategy work in British Columbia includes directing our leadership and staff to work with each other and the Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC) toward establishing the BC Aboriginal Justice Council (BCAJC). With the new federal government under the leadership of Justin Trudeau, there is renewed commitment to act on justice issues that impact our people. The federal government made a commitment to develop a new Federal Reconciliation Framework with First Nations. This signals the beginning of a new relationship with our federal partners. Holding the federal government to its promises is crucial to moving forward with the justice file. I have had preliminary meetings with Minister Wilson-Raybould to discuss a new Federal Reconciliation Framework and a federal law and policy review to ensure that any standing legislation, regulations or policies do not undermine our Aboriginal Title and Rights.

The AFN recently held the Indigenous Public Safety and Policing Forum in Regina, Saskatchewan, on March 30, 2016. Objectives of this meeting included the assessment of gaps in services in the justice system; community safety plans and protocols; considerations for future engagement, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action. Furthermore, part of the AFN’s and my work will be to engage our Nations on emergency planning and to advocate for the Minister of Public Security and Emergency Preparedness, Ralph Goodale, to ensure that gaps in emergency preparedness planning for our communities are addressed in partnership and collaboration within regions and provinces.

Moving forward, I will work toward the development of a First Nations Justice Plan which will ensure First Nations jurisdiction over justice programs within First Nations communities, allow for dialogue among all parties, develop strategies to reduce overrepresentation of First Nations in correctional facilities, eliminate systemic discrimination within the justice system, create processes for the involvement of First Nations individuals, cultures and values within the mainstream justice system, and ensure the well-being of First Nations and non-First Nations people alike.





An important recent announcement was the federal government's statement at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in which the Government of Canada committed its full and unequivocal support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I commend the Government of Canada for making this historic announcement. This is a significant step to achieving reconciliation between First Nations and Canada. I look forward to the next steps of translating that expression of support into action as full partners, both in Canada and internationally. With this, we must insist that these minimum standards set out in the Declaration are fully and meaningfully implemented in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Framework, a full review and repeal of federal legislation that undermines our Aboriginal Title and Rights, as well as implementation of the 94 TRC Calls to Action. I look forward to working with leadership across the country and the AFN Executive to advocate for and work in partnership with the federal government to see these important issues and commitments realized.

Conclusion

As BC Regional Chief I will be working toward a better quality of life for all First Nation citizens in BC and throughout Canada. The BCAFN is prepared to work with all regions on issues of common priority and concern. Working in collaboration and partnership is key to our success as we engage the federal and provincial governments.

I will continue to work hard to create partnerships and opportunities for First Nations to establish new approaches to fiscal relations that, in turn, will improve the quality of life and social determinants within our Nations. Innovative approaches are required in supporting ongoing work within our communities, especially with respect to developing our economic capacity. It is imperative that as we work toward enhancing our opportunities, we also strive to protect our resources and our way of life.

The BCAFN will continue to work hard to create partnerships and opportunities for First Nations by building strategic regional economic development plans and by being dynamic in our approaches. It is an honour to serve our people and, as we look to the future and work towards solution-based and outcome-oriented approaches and strategies, we will continue to build strong and thriving communities, families and Nations.

REGIONAL CHIEF MIKE SMITH

Yukon



Welcome to the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly. This provides an important opportunity to report on the change in doing business with the new federal government. For Yukon First Nations, this is especially evident in the recent move of the federal government to amend the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) legislation, removing the four contentious provisions of the legislation which would have weakened the powers of the Board and increased political interference by the Yukon Government.

We welcome this change, increased dialogue and the possible replacement of the *Indian Act*. A new act should recognize and enforce Treaty provisions and Crown obligations rather than the exercise of absolute control of First Nations.

As reported previously, our modern Treaties are being completely undermined by the Yukon Government resulting in continuous litigation. In retrospect, it was a major mistake by Yukon First Nations in accepting Yukon as a party and, secondly, providing them with a veto. Not being privy to the land claims negotiations, one can only conclude that it was a take-it-or-leave-it offer from the federal government. Agreement on “devolution” of federal programs to the Yukon was the final nail in the coffin of Yukon First Nation rights in favour of Yukon dominion and control of First Nations in Yukon. For example, under our agreements, the membership of various Boards of Authority provides each party – federal, territorial and First Nation – with their appointees. The federal government now appoints a Yukon nominee and by doing so has transferred their authority and responsibility to Yukon. The effect is that our Boards are now controlled exclusively by the Yukon, as they have two nominees to our one.

To date, we are in court for 38 actions based on our understanding of our Treaties. For example, in the case of “Peel”, a case arising out of the Yukon government’s rejection of the final report and recommendations

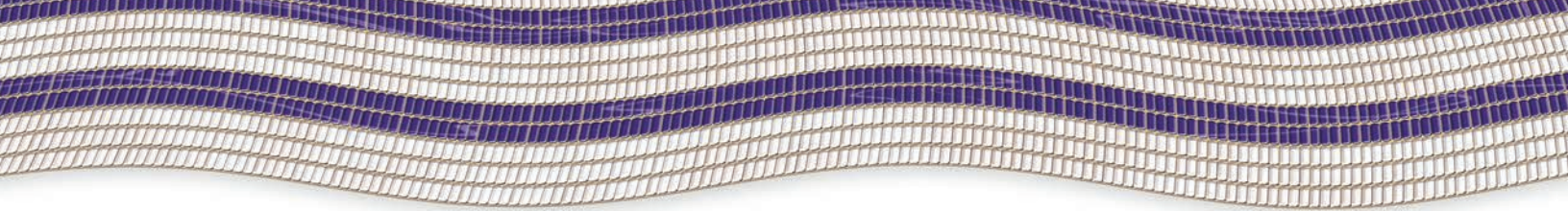
of the Peel Land Use Planning Commission and replacement of those recommendations with the Yukon government’s own pro-mining plan, the affected First Nations and environmental groups have launched a court action, resulting in appeals to the Court of Appeal and finally to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Supreme Court recently decided to hear the appeal based on national interest. As mentioned, we are continually being forced to commence legal action, wasting our money to implement our Agreements.

We are encouraged by the attention our issues are receiving and the actions of our National Chief in meetings with Ministers on issues such as murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, fiscal arrangements, education, health, housing and infrastructure, child welfare, and climate change. The issue appears to be control, as the process is that we are heard but the government retains exclusive control. This is what we see with the start of the inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. The government has undertaken a very extensive consultation process but in the end it is going to be a government inquiry. Further, in regard to climate change, we will be subject to the federal government’s decision. We are not heard as Indigenous people even though for years we have been advocating and going to court to protect the land, water and air. We should maintain our right to speak for ourselves and not have the government speak for us.

The next task to be undertaken by interested First Nations is to review, amend or abolish all the punitive measures introduced by the previous federal government under Harper. The alternative is to introduce new federal legislation replacing all previous legislation, including the *Indian Act*, for those First Nations who no longer wish to remain wards of the federal government. Replacement of the Act will mark an important departure from government policy and practices, from one of control based on colonialism and termination of First Nation rights under the *Constitution* and Treaties, to one of recognition and governments meeting and honouring their Constitutional and Treaty obligations.

The challenge faced by First Nations and the AFN is having the resources to do the work needed to improve the lives of our people in the





communities, to close the gap in all areas, including but not limited to health, language, culture, education and lifelong learning, and the passing of our knowledge to the next generation. Yukon First Nations are not under the *Indian Act* and so we find ourselves left out of national initiatives such as housing, education, child welfare, and infrastructure programs available south of 60, despite the fact that it is in our Treaty that we would participate in the above mentioned national programs. By 'devolution' of Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) programs to the Yukon government, our funding becomes part of the Yukon budget over which we have no input or control. The budget is for "all Yukoners". All previous DIA programs and funding are now being administered by the Yukon for all Yukoners. In 1984, Yukon First Nations rejected the Yukon government as our central government, however, by default, with the cooperation of the federal government, Yukon has become the central government for all Yukoners, including First Nations.

The net result is that the provisions of our Treaty and Self Government Agreements are not being implemented. There is no move by the Yukon to transfer responsibilities for education, health, and child welfare despite repeated demands and the passing of First Nation legislation to take down jurisdiction. Like some of the provinces, we have a very racist government that continues to deny our rights and control. Despite this roadblock, First Nations with Agreements continue to work together on implementation, financial and fiscal negotiations, and development of laws.

The three Yukon First Nations who have rejected the Umbrella Final Agreement face tremendous pressures by the government to give up their Aboriginal rights under the *Constitution* in favour of modern treaties. Instead of negotiations with the governments, First Nations have entered into direct negotiations with mining companies and other developers without having to surrender their constitutional and Aboriginal rights. This is due in part to the fact that they have been very successful in their court challenges, which enforce the Crown's duty to consult and confirm that the Crown's honour cannot be interpreted narrowly or technically, but must be given full effect in order to promote the process of reconciliation mandated by Section 35.1 of the *Constitution*.

This report covers the main issues and activities required to assist and promote Yukon First Nation initiatives. It does not cover the countless hours spent on email updates and communication or travel to various national and regional meetings. The Regional AFN Office meets regularly with our central organization, the Council of Yukon First Nations leadership and staff, to provide updates and support.

In addition to attending regular meetings of the AFN, Yukon Chiefs are participating in all activities of the Chiefs Committees.

In conclusion, we thank the National Chief and staff for all their work and initiatives to improve the lives of our people and in advancing our goal of nationhood, our inherent right.



REGIONAL CHIEF BILL ERASMUS

Northwest Territories



Welcome to the 37th AFN Annual General Assembly in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The Dene Nation has experienced many funding cutbacks and a difficult time over the last 10 years. As a result, our people across the country have had to educate the Canadian public and other institutions to improve the relationship that we have with Canada.

The result of the courts' and human rights tribunals' decisions are such that it is clear that finances top our agenda. The human rights we possess are international ones that are reflected in our treaties and Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The Supreme Court of Canada is clear that all descendants of our peoples are Indians. This is good because we know that to be the case as well. In terms of reporting, it is to our people and not the Canadian public (civil society).

The funding set aside for us is forever and must include our administration capacity. As transfer payments to us, we have to include long-term planning to have security for our future generations.

As Justice Beverly McLaughlin explained recently, cultural genocide must be in the past. We must now work together to determine what it means to have three partners in Confederation, even though the Northwest Territories and other Northern territories have not entered Confederation as provincial entities.

The Dene Nation, the provinces and the federal government have to recognize the authorities they have prior to understanding their place in the politics of Canada.

We welcome the new Liberal federal government and call on them to support the important role the Governor General plays in the make-up of the country. This is vitally important and necessary in achieving peace, order and good government.

The framework for achieving this is by following the rules and laws that were entrenched at treaty time and are enshrined to apply.

We look forward to working in unison with all Peoples and invite the implication of the Paris Treaty Agreement that was agreed to regarding climate change at the end of last year. It is significant because it includes all Peoples on earth.





AFN ELDERS COUNCIL

Since the inception of the National Indian Brotherhood and transition to the Assembly of First Nations, there has always been a place of honour and distinction for the Elders.

Elders provided both spiritual and political guidance in the formation of the organization, its structures and its Charter. The Elders helped to shape AFN policies and the relationship with the federal government and other national and international organizations. During the past 37 years, the AFN's leadership has relied upon the historical and cultural knowledge of its Elders, especially in matters relating to Treaty rights and First Nation governance.

This role continues today. The AFN Elders Council includes representatives from each of AFN's 10 regions. The Elders Council continues to play an important role in all facets of the AFN and its operations.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN Elders Council continues to meet bi-annually at Annual General Assemblies and Special Chiefs Assemblies to discuss issues and challenges facing the Council and to bring forward new ideas.

The AFN Elders Council is essential to our lives and our day-to-day business. They are the keepers of our traditions, values, languages and history. Elders are our guides to our future. They are leaders in our community; they speak with honour and with a great deal of pride. Elders are our teachers. The Elders will always encourage First Nation leaders and champions to continue to enlighten and inform forums such as the Chiefs Assemblies on their experiences, issues, successes and challenges. It is the responsibility of us all to ensure prosperity and the safety of the little ones, just as our ancestors did for us. The AFN continues efforts to acquire funds to fully integrate the input and participation of the Elders Council into all work.

AFN Elders Council Guidelines and Protocols

The Elders Council continues to meet at Assemblies to discuss and review the "Assembly of First Nations Elders and Elders Council Guidelines and Protocols".

AFN Tri-Council

The Elders Council continues to provide guidance and vision to AFN Tri-Council meetings with the Women's and Youth Councils.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN will continue to seek additional funding for the Elders Council from the federal government and alternative sources to ensure First Nations cultures and perspectives are reflected in the work conducted regionally and nationally. AFN staff will continue to provide administrative support and champion the issues as directed by the Elders Council.
- The Elders Council will continue provide guidance to the AFN Executive, staff and support the activities of the Tri-Council.



AFN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Women's Council works with the AFN Secretariat to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of First Nations women inform the work of the AFN. Council members hold portfolio responsibilities and participate in a wide range of panels, presentations and forums that are relevant to First Nations women.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The Council has been engaged in various meetings and activities that address matters of concern to First Nations women and their families. The Council Chair and co-Chair have actively participated on the Executive Committee to provide the perspective of First Nations women and to keep the Council apprised of Executive activities and discussions. The AFN Executive appointed Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson as the portfolio holder for the Women's Council and issues related to the safety and security of Indigenous women and girls. The leadership of the Regional Chief and Women's Council has provided for increased awareness and communications across many issues.

The Council has been engaged in a number of other activities including the Chiefs Committee on health, fisheries, climate action, energy, public safety and policing forums and intergovernmental dialogue. Over the past year, the Women's Council established a revised terms of reference, elections procedures and identified the need of an updated strategic plan.

With the election of a new federal government, there have been a number of commitments that impact the lives of Indigenous women, including the agreement on a National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), developing a gender violence strategy, increasing the number of shelters and transition houses, and ensuring increased gender-based analysis within government.

The Council provided leadership and engagement in the pre-inquiry activities for the National Inquiry on MMIWG. Council members participated in regional Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada led pre-inquiry meetings. In addition, the AFN held a national one-day forum in Edmonton, Alberta in February 2016, bringing together families, community and leadership to provide input through the AFN to the National Inquiry.

The Council participated in the 2nd National Roundtable on MMIWG and the Gathering of Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in February 2016. This event was an opportunity for families to come together in a respectful and private setting. Families and their support persons shared experiences and prepared for the National Roundtable on MMIWG. Indigenous families and leaders, representatives from all 13 provinces and territories and federal Ministers took part in the Roundtable. There was ongoing commitment to coordinated action in priority areas, including prevention and awareness. Another significant outcome included the commitment of federal government participation at a new forum that would replace the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (Council of Federation), with the intent of ensuring implementation of other actions that can occur at the same time as the inquiry.

Despite the Council's limited capacity to participate fully, due to lack of sustainable funding, there is ongoing engagement to the extent possible and the AFN is seeking opportunities for increased resources.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Establish portfolio holders for AFN issues.
- Participate in the next steps on the outcomes of the 2nd National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Review the terms of reference for the National Inquiry on MMIWG and review any AFN participation.
- Continue to engage with the Youth and Elders Councils to continue to implement Resolution 02/2012 as well as the Tri-Council Strategic Plan.
- Seek resources to ensure full engagement of the Women's Council on all issues.





AFN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The AFN National Youth Council (AFN NYC) operates as a 20-member council representing First Nations youth from each of the 10 AFN regions (each region has one male and one female representative).

This national body, a key organ of the AFN established in the Charter, represents First Nations youth across the country on issues that impact them on a daily basis. The NYC provides insight to the AFN committees and working groups, as well as the AFN Secretariat on various youth-related issues.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Mental Wellness

The NYC continues to support work within the AFN on mental wellness. This includes ongoing participation on the AFN Mental Wellness Committee and the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum – Implementation Team. The NYC also contributed a statement to the AFN's press release recognizing various mental wellness awareness campaigns calling for more mobilization and engagement of youth around this issue, in their communities.

IndigenACTION

The AFN NYC continues to lead the way on this important initiative which seeks to make our communities healthier. Another successful run/walk was held at last year's Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Montreal. A run/walk is among several activities planned for this year's AGA in Niagara Falls.

AFN Youth Roundtable on Life Promotion & Suicide Prevention

A First Nation Youth Roundtable involving the AFN NYC, Regional Chief Morley Googoo and Health Minister Jane Philpott took place on June 8, 2016 in Ottawa.

The discussion at the roundtable formed the basis for the AFN NYC to develop "Calls to Action" which will be presented to Minister Philpott. The AFN NYC will share the "Calls to Action" with youth delegates at the AFN Youth Summit with the objective of having the "Calls to Action" endorsed by the youth in attendance. It is anticipated that the AFN NYC will then

take those recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for formal recognition and support through resolution.

AFN Youth Summit

The AFN Youth Summit will take place on July 10, 2016 in advance of the Annual General Assembly. The summit will bring youth together to talk broadly about mental wellness. The Youth Summit would also provide youth with the opportunity to share ideas and to bring back resources and tools to support youth in their communities.

The Youth Summit will be focused on wellness and the social determinants of health, allowing youth to learn, through the Knowledge Exchange sessions, about activities, tools and promising practices that effectively support youth so that they can bring these back to their communities. The skill building sessions would give young delegates the opportunity to learn specific practical skills and put these in practice in their communities. Finally, the tool building workshops will allow youth to create advocacy and educational tools that will be used by the AFN and shared with First Nation communities and organizations.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN NYC will work to maintain a visible and substantial presence within the activities, meetings and conferences that are conducted through the AFN Secretariat and its various sub-committees and working groups.
- The Calls to Action developed by youth and supported by a resolution from Chiefs-in-Assembly will be presented to Minister of Health, Jane Philpott.
- The AFN NYC will continue to support work on Mental Wellness, including through participation in the AFN Mental Wellness Committee and the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum – Implementation Team.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the 37th Annual General Assembly (AGA) in beautiful and historic Niagara Falls, Ontario. It has been a busy year with an unprecedented investment in First Nations communities as well as the optimism brought forward with Canada's support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I am honoured to have been entrusted with the acting role as Chief Executive Officer for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and pleased to provide this brief report on the activities of the AFN Secretariat. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Peter Dinsdale for his years of exemplary service and dedication.

The AFN is just now coming out of several years of significant financial challenges due to continuous federal government cuts. Over the past two years the deep and sustained funding reductions, combined with their late notice, has impacted our financial standing. However, due to a series of adjustments to address these including staff reductions, reduced allocations to all areas and increased efforts on raising our own revenue, the AFN has now achieved a balanced budget. Management is working with the Executive to develop plans to address the deficit and debt that has accumulated. The management team has prepared a five-year plan to recuperate the \$1.1 million deficit accumulated over four years.

The AFN remains active in ensuring the rights and interests of First Nations are fully respected. We, along with our partner the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society, realized a historic ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal where the Tribunal found Canada guilty of discriminatory funding practices as it pertains to child welfare services on reserve. We will continue to work to ensure the Tribunal ruling is implemented to the fullest extent.

We remain engaged with the Council of the Federation to ensure that our Provincial and Territorial government partners are focused on priorities such as ending violence against Indigenous women and girls, housing, education, economic development, disaster mitigation and emergency management. Internationally, we have been very active working on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and on consultations with respect to the UN Climate Change meetings.

The policy work at the AFN Secretariat remains firmly rooted in the resolutions passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly. We have conducted our own review of the Specific Claims Tribunal and submitted it to government to consider. We are engaged in an extensive review of the First Nations Non-Insured Health Benefits program with a final report expected in March 2017. We continued to support residential school survivors and their ongoing struggle for justice including support to the Day School Class Action effort. The call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was advanced both through the Council of the Federation and at the first National Roundtable on this matter.

The AFN continues to press all levels of government to do their part in implementing the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calls to action. The national dialogue that has taken place as a result of the report fills us with hope that change is coming. It will be incumbent upon all of us to carry this work forward.

All of this work only happens as a result of the dedicated and professional staff that we have at the AFN. Regardless of the financial or political pressures the organization faces we can always count on their unwavering dedication and effort. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them.

Finally, I would like to thank National Chief Bellegarde and the entire AFN Executive Committee for their support.

I wish you all the best for a successful AGA.

Jonathan Thompson
A/Chief Executive Officer





INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

The Chiefs-in-Assembly have directed AFN engagement in international activities and mechanisms to advance First Nations rights. Therefore, the AFN is required to have an international dimension to its advocacy and activities.

The AFN advances the rights and interests of First Nations internationally by: strategically participating in key international fora and events; forging relationships and partnerships with other Indigenous peoples and their organizations and human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs); facilitating international political, economic, cultural, and social relationships between First Nations and foreign States; and, seeking to establish working relationships with Canada towards informing their foreign and international policy approaches and objectives on matters of shared interest.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum occurred from May 9 to May 20, 2016. Canada's participation in the forum was unprecedented, with statements from Minister Wilson-Raybould and Minister Bennett and participation from Ambassador Marc-Andre Blanchard, Canada's ambassador to the United Nations.

The fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum was Grand Chief Ed John's last Permanent Forum meeting, as his term expires at the end of 2016. The Assembly of First Nations commends Grand Chief John for his leadership and his tireless efforts to advance the rights of all Indigenous peoples globally.

At this Permanent Forum, Canada issued a statement of unqualified support for the Declaration, receiving a standing ovation from the Forum. Canada committed to moving forward with First Nations as "full partners" on implementation of the Declaration. In other words, Canada will not proceed on a plan to implement the Declaration without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations.

The AFN co-hosted a side event with the Government of Canada and the Métis National Council on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

and the importance of full implementation of all Calls to Action of the TRC. The Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs committed to full implementation of the Calls to Action.

Climate Change

The 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) met from November 21 to December 10, 2015. First Nations leadership in attendance worked closely with Canada and with other states to protect and advance the rights of Indigenous peoples in multilateral action on climate change.

The advocacy of First Nations leadership led Canada to champion language in the Paris Agreement on the importance of recognizing human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, when taking action on climate change. The Paris Agreement is the first multi-lateral environmental agreement which specifically uses the term 'indigenous peoples' in the text of the agreement itself.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

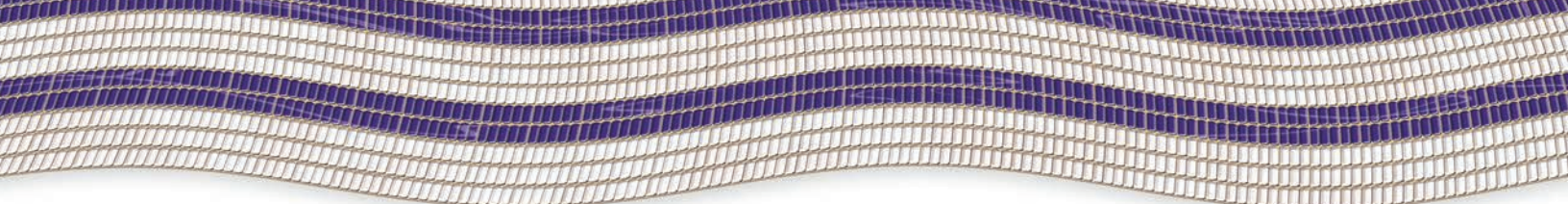
Canada appeared before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on February 23-24, 2016. The Committee examined Canada on a range of issues, including housing, health, free, prior and informed consent, and languages.

As with other treaty body reviews, the AFN intends to ensure Canada develops a strategy to address the recommendations of the Committee, with the full and effective participation of First Nations.

Follow up from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Follow-up from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples continues, with ongoing international consultations on reviewing and reforming the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and on developing means to improve the participation of indigenous peoples in international forums.

The AFN has been actively engaged on reforming the mandate of the EMRIP, emphasizing the importance of sufficient human and financial resources for the EMRIP to serve as an effective mechanism for advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples.



The President of the General Assembly has appointed four facilitators – two Indigenous representatives and two state representatives, to engage Indigenous peoples and states on proposals to improve the participation of Indigenous peoples in United Nations fora. The facilitators held both formal and informal meetings at the Permanent Forum. The AFN participated in one of these informal meetings and helped to organize another informal meeting prior to another consultation in New York on June 30.

Proposals to improve Indigenous participation should be finalized at the next meeting of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be forwarded to the General Assembly in September 2016.

American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Organization of American States approved the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at its General Assembly from June 13-15, 2016. The AFN and the Grand Council of the Crees expressed several concerns about the text of the Declaration, as well as the procedures used in the final negotiation sessions. While Canada joined in the consensus approving the Declaration, Canada issued an interpretive statement suggesting it would not take a position on the American Declaration until it had fully engaged with First Nations. Such an engagement should occur later in 2016.

Domestic Education and Lobby Efforts

At the Permanent Forum, Canada publicly committed to unqualified support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The AFN has expressed full support for MP Romeo Saganash's Private Member's Bill, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a floor for action on implementation.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

The AFN will propose that the Government of Canada and AFN jointly develop a proposal to engage First Nations in reporting to human rights treaty bodies and implementing recommendations from treaty body reporting or individual complaints.

There is currently no proposed strategy from the government for implementation of the UN Declaration. The AFN anticipates First Nations will be engaged, on a nation-to-nation basis, so that Canada and First Nations can jointly develop a strategy to fully implement the UN Declaration and all Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.





NATIONAL ADVOCACY – CANADIAN PARLIAMENT, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

The AFN continued work to build strong relationships with federal provincial and territorial governments. Building and maintaining connections between First Nation leadership, Parliamentarians and senior public servants remains a key focus of the advocacy work. The AFN monitors legislation, provides information and analysis to First Nations and informs Parliament of implications of its actions on First Nations human and Indigenous rights and title.

The AFN continues to reinforce First Nations' priorities in a new federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous process through the Indigenous Affairs Working Group (IAWG). This process had been initiated with just provincial and territorial governments in August 2009 by the Council of the Federation (CoF). Identified priorities in these areas include child protection, established secretariats to guarantee safety and security for Indigenous women and girls, Indigenous language revitalization to fluency, climate action, housing and water.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary Advocacy, Outreach and Engagement in Parliamentary Processes

AFN continued to advance the priorities expressed through resolutions, asserting our inherent rights and affirming our responsibilities and jurisdiction over matters on our lands and with regard to our citizens. Of particular note is AFN's climate action arising from the First Ministers Meeting on Climate Change (FMM) in Vancouver, in March, 2016. Canada's climate change working group process was established in late April of this year, and represents the primary forum for the consolidation of technical/expert information relating to the following four areas:

1. Adaptation and Resilience;
2. Carbon Pricing Mechanism;
3. Sectoral Mitigation Opportunities; and
4. Clean Technology, Innovation and Jobs.

The AFN has been meeting and engaging regularly with the working groups and has established a permanent Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) that will provide political oversight

and technical expertise to our engagement with Canada in anticipation of another FMM on Climate Change this fall.

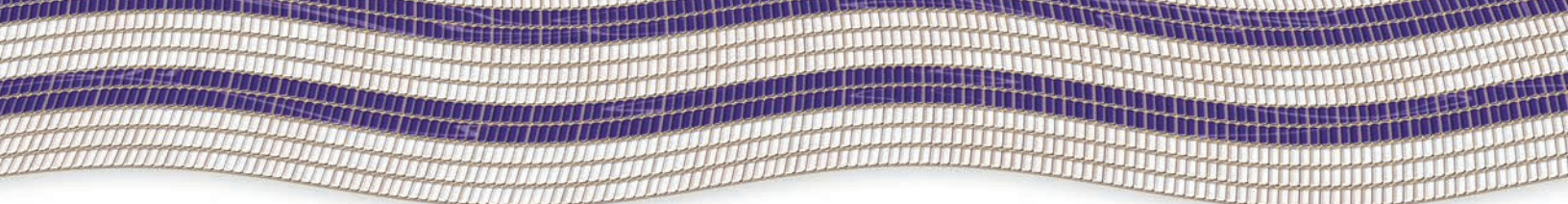
In the past year, political representatives and secretariat staff made presentations to Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Standing Committee on Natural Resources, Standing Committee on International Trade, Senate Committee on Transport and Communications in addition to numerous written submissions to both the House of Commons and the Senate. In addition, National Chief Perry Bellegarde did a session to educate Parliamentarians on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As in previous years, the AFN participated in the pre-budget consultation process for federal budget 2016, outlining priority areas for significant and sustained investments. In addition, National Chief Bellegarde and members of the AFN Executive Committee met with federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau prior to the budget to outline First Nation priorities based on need. The 2016 federal budget included an unprecedented \$8.4 billion in investments dedicated to closing the gap in the quality of life between First Nations and the rest of Canada.

In addition, the AFN facilitated direct access of First Nations to Parliamentarians along with securing and supporting meetings and working with delegations. The AFN provides e-mail updates while the House of Commons is in session and these are also posted on www.afn.ca.

Council of the Federation / Indigenous Affairs Working Group

The Council of the Federation has invited leaders of the five national Indigenous organizations (NIOs) to meet with them in advance of their regular annual meeting every year since 2004. As a direct response to calls by the AFN at the CoF in 2009, the Premiers agreed to establish a working group consisting of provincial and territorial Indigenous Affairs Ministers and NIO leaders to follow-up on work between annual meetings of the CoF. The IAWG typically meets once or twice a year to review work and make recommendations to the CoF. Officials from the NIOs and



provinces and territories collaborate throughout much of the year in preparation for these meetings.

Following the federal election, Canada expressed an interest in attending an inter-ministerial meeting of Indigenous ministers. At the 2nd Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), to which Canada was invited, the provinces and territories expressed their support for a new multilateral forum with federal participation and agreed to the following action: “Build on the current Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to include the federal government as a co-Chair, with time dedicated to MMIWG issues including the ongoing coordination of efforts, monitoring progress, and identifying priorities for action, including appropriate F/P/T Ministers.”

The newly formed entity that includes the federal, provincial, territorial governments together with Indigenous leaders will replace the historical Indigenous (Aboriginal) Affairs working group (AAWG). The addition of the federal government in this forum means that whole-of-government approaches will drive actions to improve the quality of life for First Nations. This new federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous forum (FPTIF) is in discussions to establish a renewed terms of reference to reinforce accountability of the process as well as recognize Canada's commitments to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The next meeting with Premiers will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon, in July 2016.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue facilitating access to Parliamentarians and key decision-makers to promote respect and protection of First Nations' rights;
- Focused advocacy throughout the year;
- Continue providing timely information to First Nations on the activities of Parliament, including legislation and committee business;
- Continue to monitor key legislative initiatives, provide information to First Nations and advocate on their behalf to Members of Parliament and Senators; and,
- Continued work at the CoF/FPTIF to further First Nations rights and interests particularly related to child protection, languages revitalization, climate action, water and housing.





STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Unit produces and distributes information designed to advance the goals and priorities of First Nation peoples and governments. The Unit works to ensure that the messages and perspectives of the AFN and First Nations are properly communicated and understood and that the National Chief, Regional Chiefs, Executive and other spokespersons are involved in and given the opportunity to address the public and specific audiences through media and other fora to communicate First Nation perspectives. As part of the ongoing efforts to maximize communications potential, the AFN has implemented an active social media campaign using the AFN website, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and e-mail blasts.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Media and Public Relations

The Communications Unit advises, prepares and implements strategic communications policy and planning for the AFN as a whole based on direction and mandates from First Nations, as well as strategies to advance specific initiatives, issues and/or activities. The Unit works to develop materials and provide information to First Nations, governments, the media and general public about the AFN, its activities and positions, as well as the National Chief's agenda and priorities.

The Communications Unit prepares press releases, media advisories and statements which are distributed nationally (in English and French) to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal media, with regional distribution as applicable and specific international media where relevant. The Communications Unit prepared and distributed more than 130 press releases/statements during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Communications also prepares media lines and talking points, backgrounders, op-eds, letters to the editor and editorials on current and priority issues.

The Unit prepares speaking notes for the National Chief and AFN spokespersons that are used at a variety of events for wide-ranging audiences, including First Nation governments, groups and organizations, professional associations, national and international organizations, and federal and provincial governments.

Communications seeks to raise and maintain the profile of First Nation peoples and issues through media. The Communications Unit is active in media outreach and media relations and has set up background briefings, interviews and editorial boards with media.

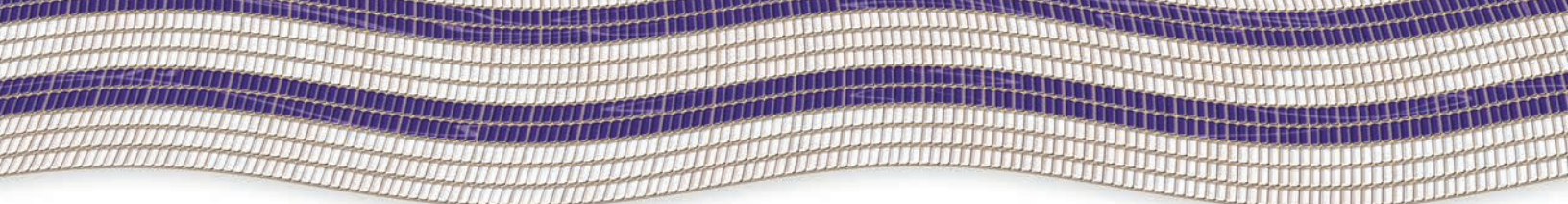
Over the past year, there have been several developments that have resulted in widespread national and international media coverage for the AFN, including the *Closing the Gap* priorities, unprecedented commitments by the Government of Canada for a new nation-to-nation relationship based on mutual respect and reconciliation, the release of the report by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its Calls to Action, addressing and preventing violence against Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision on First Nations Child Welfare, Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, resource development and education.

Public Awareness and Public Education

The Communications Unit works to raise awareness and understanding of First Nation issues and the AFN's role, responsibilities and activities. The AFN recognizes that First Nations have different communications needs and different ways of accessing information. For this reason, the AFN uses a mix of traditional and new media to disseminate information as widely as possible, including broadcast fax, e-mail and e-mail blasts, AFN website, and social media.

The AFN issues regular updates on National Chief and AFN activities and work underway at the national office. Communiqués are distributed by fax and e-mail to all First Nations, provincial/territorial organizations (PTOs) and tribal councils, and distributed via social media and web posting.

The website (www.afn.ca) is updated regularly to provide current information on AFN activities and priorities. The AFN offers live webcasting of all Assemblies and coordinates electronic distribution of daily updates to delegates during Assemblies. The AFN now has the ability to do its own in-house webcasting of events, meetings and webinars and this is used whenever possible. Over the past year, this



included the AFN Open Forum on First Nations and the 2015 Election, Special Chiefs Assembly, Indigenous Public Safety and Policing Forum and meetings on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations Child Welfare and First Nations Social Innovation and Social Finance.

The AFN continues to expand its use of social media, including two Twitter accounts ([AFN_Updates](#) and [AFN_Comms](#)) with more than 43,000 followers combined and the AFN Facebook page ([Assembly of First Nations/Assemblée des Premières Nations](#)), which has close to 40,000 “likes”. Videos are posted to the Assembly of First Nations YouTube channel which has more than 460 subscribers. The National Chief has his own Facebook page and Twitter account that are separate from the AFN accounts and are administered by the National Chief’s Office.

Public information is also distributed to more than 1,400 subscribers through the e-mail subscription service (listserv). Users can sign up on the AFN website.

The Communications Unit also offers editing, desktop publishing and production coordination for the AFN Secretariat, as well as video production of messages for the AFN website, YouTube and external events.

AFN Communications now works with the National Chief’s Office on a short-form newsletter highlighting the National Chief’s activities to ensure First Nations are aware of this work.

Communications Strategies

The Communications Unit develops and implements global AFN communications strategies as well as targeted strategies and communications plans for specific events, issues and initiatives. The Unit provides advice, recommendations and communications support to the National Chief in advancing the *Closing the Gap* agenda and priorities, and to support to policy areas within the AFN Secretariat. Communications advice and recommendations are also provided to communities or Nations upon request.

This past fiscal year, the Communications Unit has developed communications plans for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final events and Calls to Action, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls pre-inquiry forum, *Closing the Gap*, the AFN Open Forum on First Nations and the 2015 Federal Election, AFN Energy Forum, AFN Directors of Education Forum, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other Assemblies.

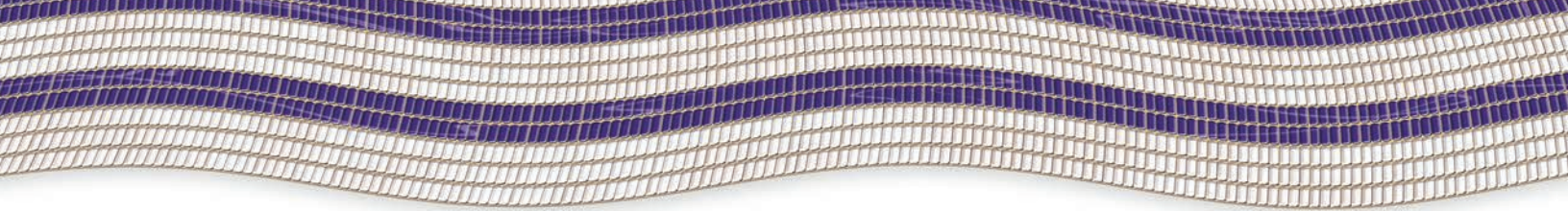
Translation

The Communications Unit coordinates all French/English translation requirements to ensure that the Canadian public and First Nations are able to access and understand all public materials produced by the AFN in both French and English. As per AFN policy, all public documents that are distributed nationally (including those posted on the AFN website) are available in French and English. Translation projects during the 2015-16 fiscal year totaled more than 692,000 words.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Ongoing media and public relations work involving media advisories, press releases, speeches, and interviews.
- Publication of Bulletins/Communiqués.
- Ongoing French translation of public materials.
- Ongoing editing and desktop publishing of AFN publications.
- Ongoing updates of the AFN website.
- Increased and enhanced use of new media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and mobile applications.
- Increased use of in-house webcasting ability.





IMPLEMENTING RIGHTS

First Nations have inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights, which are also recognized and protected by Canada's *Constitution*. The Assembly of First Nations carries out advocacy to support the advancement of these rights and associated responsibilities in efforts to create the space for First Nations to implement their own rights and decisions over lands, territories and resources.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) supports First Nations as environmental leaders by ensuring access to information for sound decision-making as well as exercising First Nations' stewardship. While advocacy activity diminished due to significant funding cuts over the past decade, new opportunities are emerging with the current federal government.

Foremost among these is the planned establishment of an Advisory Committee on Climate Change and the Environment, comprised of Elders/Chiefs and technicians from across the country to help advise and direct AFN's focus on environmental stewardship.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Climate Change

Climate change has long been a concern, but did not pick up significant momentum until an international climate change plan was developed at the Conference of the Parties (COP) this past December, in Paris (COP 21). The Vancouver Declaration developed at the First Ministers Meeting (FMM) in Vancouver this past March affirms the roles that Indigenous peoples will play in discussions about climate change, and AFN has begun to engage this process consistent with resolution 59/2015, Support for First Nations in Addressing Climate Change, the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and a nation-to-nation relationship.

Canada's Working Group process began to come together in late April of this year, and represents the primary forum for the consolidation of technical/expert information relating to the following four areas:

- Adaptation and Resilience;
- Carbon Pricing Mechanisms;
- Sectoral Mitigation Opportunities; and,
- Clean Technology, Innovation and Jobs.

The initial priority for the AFN represents the establishment of a permanent Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE). The ACCAE would be comprised of Elders/Chiefs and technicians from each of the regions, appointed by Regional Chiefs. Initial reporting from the ACCAE is expected to take place at the upcoming Annual General Assembly, in Niagara Falls.

First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study

The First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES) examines nutrition, traditional foods and environmental contaminants. The goal of FNFNES is to document food security and food safety issues, nutritional quality of the diet and the environmental health of First Nations citizens. The intent is to provide information needed for the promotion of healthy environments and healthy foods for First Nations. A national baseline of levels of key contaminants and an assessment of First Nations' diet quality are the main objectives. Results will be used to develop community-level dietary advice and food guidance at regional levels. The information on background exposures to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), toxic metals and pharmaceutical products is also essential for First Nations as an enabling foundation for any future food monitoring at the community level. Results will empower communities to make informed decisions to address and mitigate environmental health risks and address regional and national First Nation food security issues.

The FNFNES is being conducted to assess the nutritional composition of First Nation diets and the environmental safety of traditional foods. To date, this study has completed data collection and delivered regional reports in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta. In the spring 2016, the FNFNES continued data collection in the Saskatchewan region and data analysis in the Atlantic region. A final report back to Alberta First Nations, including data training, is currently underway.

In addition, the project is now working with Quebec and Labrador First Nations in anticipation of data collection in fall 2016. The methodology workshop preceding the implementation of FNFNES in Quebec and Labrador took place in Montreal in April 2016.





Chemicals Management Plan

The Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is a federal initiative jointly led by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada that is aimed at reducing the risks posed by chemicals to the health of Canadians and the environment. The federal government recently launched the third phase of the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP3) in April of 2016. The CMP3 will focus on assessing the remaining 1,550 existing substances in an effort to achieve Canada's international goal of the sound management of chemicals by the year 2020 in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999.

The AFN is currently entering the first of two additional years of capacity funding as outlined in the initial three-year agreement/contract with Health Canada which will carry through to 2018-19. The objective of this agreement is to enable the AFN to address the capacity concerns of First Nations involvement in the CMP through the dissemination of information, supporting the inclusion of First Nations' perspectives into the CMP process, and undertaking other initiatives to raise awareness about the effects of chemical substances on human health and the environment.

First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network

A primary communication tool that the AFN uses to disseminate environmental health and the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is the First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network (FNEHIN). This network is web-based and serves to connect First Nations with environmental health research tools, news, researchers, and funding opportunities.

FNEHIN provides a virtual platform that interconnects communities and researchers and has the objective of encouraging growth of knowledge and understanding of the impact of environmental conditions in a culturally appropriate context. The FNEHIN website (fnehin.ca) is a broadly valued resource for information dissemination on First Nations environmental health issues. There have been tens of thousands of visitors to the site since its inception in 2008.

Nuclear Fuel Waste

The overall objective of the AFN engagement on nuclear fuel waste is to ensure First Nations have access to information on the management of spent nuclear fuel, as well as to ensure that the Nuclear Waste

Management Organization (NWMO), industry, and the Crown respect First Nations environments, peoples and rights.

Key work on the nuclear waste file has been focused on the mobilization of a general youth engagement strategy, developed by the AFN Youth Council in 2013-2014. These activities are detailed in the 2015-2016 Annual Report section dealing with the AFN Youth Council. The NWMO is currently moving towards development of a deep geological repository (DGR) for the storage of high level nuclear waste. There are no First Nations communities that are currently under consideration to host a DGR; however, a number of First Nations may be impacted by municipal sites currently under consideration. As the NWMO moves closer to selection of a site, the importance of engaging First Nations on transportation routes, supporting First Nations on consent issues, ensuring the safety of transporting spent nuclear fuel, and guaranteeing emergency measures related to transport, will increase in significance.

The AFN has prioritized work on the importance of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) relating to nuclear waste (and other issues). Beginning in 2016, the AFN has commenced work under a two-year agreement that will focus on a broad process of engagement with First Nations to receive input and develop recommendations.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Climate Change: preparation and participation aimed at a second First Ministers Meeting in the fall of this year, and the Conference of the Parties (COP 22), in Morocco, in November.
- FNFNES: final reporting to First Nations in Alberta, and initiation of work with First Nations in Quebec and Labrador.
- CMP: ongoing dissemination of information, supporting the inclusion of First Nations' perspectives, along with other initiatives aimed at raising First Nations' awareness.
- FNEHIN: ongoing maintenance of the FNEHIN website.
- Nuclear Fuel Waste: commencement of work focused on a broad process of engagement with First Nations to receive input and develop recommendations.



FISHERIES

The AFN supports First Nations exercising their inherent and treaty rights over aquatic and oceans resources, through facilitating and coordinating national First Nations perspectives on policy, program and legislative developments. Using consensus-based and collective strategies, the AFN National Fisheries Committee (NFC) works to support the self-determination and jurisdiction of First Nations over all fisheries.

The AFN National Fisheries Committee supports, promotes and protects First Nations' rights and title to aquatic and ocean resources as well as all other habitats in our territories. The NFC guides the development and implementation of a National Fisheries Strategy that includes First Nation perspectives from coastal, northern and inland regions. The National Strategy is based on four underlying principles of rights, access, capacity and accountability.

In accordance with the mandates received through resolutions, the National Fisheries Strategy is aligned to respond, support and promote a broad range of priority issues by achieving a balance between sustainable economies, environmental protection and the assertion of Indigenous rights. The centre piece of this work is focused on supporting First Nations rights to fish and to ensure that Canada recognizes and respects the inherent Indigenous and treaty rights protected under the s. 35 of the *Constitution*. It also ensures that the Crown upholds the legal obligations consistent with case law and ensures all levels of government in Canada respect and honour the principles set out in the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The National Fisheries Strategy offers tools and initiatives that support fisheries governance, access to resources, capacity building, and advocacy on the implementation of Supreme Court decisions related to Indigenous and treaty rights to fish.

For 2015-16, AFN Fisheries has continued to share information and perspectives on the changes to the *Fisheries Act*, policy research and advocacy strategies to support First Nations governance. The AFN has facilitated effective and appropriate communications and information exchange between and amongst First Nations and the federal

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). These efforts have taken place in the context of legislative and policy change including the impacts of amendments to the *Fisheries Act* associated with Bill C-38 and C-45 respectively, and the Fisheries Protection Policy (FPP). Further work and engagement with First Nations is required on *Fisheries Act* changes, Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR), Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the *Oceans Act*.

Equally important is the new engagement required on the repeal of the legislative reforms with other government sectors. AFN continues to facilitate and disseminate information to First Nations to enable leadership to make informed decisions. This includes advocacy to re-instate capacity programs that bolster technical capacity (e.g., biologists and other scientists) in First Nations. AFN continuously raises the need for meaningful engagement with adequately supported and financed capacity to participate in environmental review and other regulatory processes.

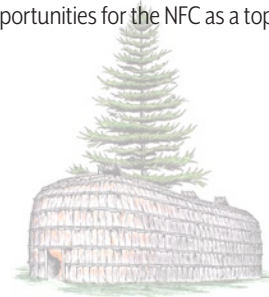
AFN national priorities address federal legislative reforms, policy reviews and new opportunities by proposing effective processes that will advance the collective interests of First Nation fisheries.

National Fisheries Committee (NFC)

The AFN National Fisheries Committee met on Feb. 23-25, 2016 to advance the National Fisheries Strategy. During this session, NFC were joined by The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister for Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. NFC has focussed on aquaculture, climate change, the legal landscape for fisheries including *Fisheries Act* changes, multi- agency dialogue processes, the National Indigenous Fisheries Forum and a pilot project entitled Indigenous Apprenticeship in Commercial Fishing: Engaging Youth.

The National Fisheries Committee has directed the Secretariat to pursue:

- Circulation of a follow-up letter to Minister Tootoo from the NFC;
- Identification of co-management opportunities for the NFC as a top priority;



- Re-establishing the National Aquaculture Working Group with a renewed focus on policy and legislative reform;
- A multi-agency dialogue table with DFO and other appropriate government departments;
- Increasing the frequency of NFC meetings to twice annually, plus possible side sessions at Assemblies;
- A National Indigenous Fisheries Forum to be held in 2018; and,
- Restoration of the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) or similar capacity programs to support inland fisheries.

Multi-agency process

Fisheries intersect with governance, Indigenous and treaty rights, economic development, environment, and resource development. Often negotiations or discussions are stalled when the DFO mandate is limited to fisheries management decisions without due consideration for rights. AFN's National Fisheries Committee has identified the need for more meaningful engagement and coordinated efforts to repeal reforms of Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 as well as other regulatory reviews. Key goals are to protect rights, guarantee priority access to fish, increase technical capacity, strengthen environmental protections, and create sustainable economic development with legislative, policy, regulation and program tools.

Aquaculture

The NFC has directed the AFN to pursue re-creating the technical National Aquaculture Working Group (NAWG), under the National Fisheries Committee, to engage meaningfully on new DFO aquaculture policies. DFO has released the National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS) and Aquaculture Regulatory Reform (e.g., Aquaculture Activities Regulations [ARR], fish health management) *without* meaningful engagement of First Nations. Work is underway to begin the NAWG process and resources are required to engage in dialogue at national and regional levels.

National Indigenous Fisheries Forum

The National Indigenous Fisheries Forum (NIFF) planned for 2018 would elevate First Nations fisheries nationally. Resolution 51/2012 mandates the AFN to undertake a Fisheries Forum with international collaborations and opportunity to re-visit the NCAI-AFN Declaration of Kinship. The last AFN First Nation Fisheries Forum was in 2001. The NIFF event will seek to bring together First Nations and stakeholders with a range of opportunities to share information, strategize and develop long-term plans for effective

and sustainable fisheries. The proposed timeframe for the NIFF is expected to be in 2018, with a target of more than 500 attendees.

Endpoint Cabinet Directive

AFN resolution 57/2015, Rescind the Coast-Wide Allocations Framework in the Pacific Region, also referred to as the endpoint Cabinet directive that creates a secret cap on allocations for all Indigenous fisheries in British Columbia. This endpoint directive cap was discovered during the ongoing Ahousaht commercial fishing rights infringement court case. There is little information about the endpoint directive because Cabinet directives are protected by legal privilege. Nationally, there are concerns about a capped amount or a formula used to apply the endpoint directive to any individual First Nations fish allocations.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The NFC will continue to support the collective interests of First Nations in Canada with respect to fisheries with two annual meetings;
- NFC will appoint representatives to the National Aquaculture Working Group;
- AFN will share information and advocate for sustainable First Nations fisheries that recognize and respect First Nations rights and jurisdiction.
- AFN proposes to facilitate a non-adversarial process for the establishment of a high-level multi-agency dialogue that would include First Nations, DFO and appropriate government sectors and agencies to provide strategic direction.
- AFN will continue to advance political discussions with DFO, the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers to rescind the discriminatory endpoint directive, and prevent secret cap allocations.
- NFC will continue to discuss a National Indigenous Fisheries Forum in 2017. AFN will seek resources from public and private sectors. NFC will also look for regional participation in a planning committee to determine timing, agenda, guest speakers and program layout for the event.



LAND RIGHTS AND CLAIMS

Land Rights and Claims includes: comprehensive claims, specific claims, and additions to reserves (ATR). The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has held focused sessions on these issues at several of its assemblies. During these sessions, new resolutions were generated including:

- 47/2015 – Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform Based on Full Recognition;
- 46/2015 – Specific Claims Call to Action; and,
- 26/2012 – Additions to Reserve Policy and Process Reform.

Claims over \$150 million, landless First Nations, and modern day treaty implementation are also all reflected in various resolutions and activities.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Comprehensive Claims

The reform of Canada's Comprehensive Claims Policy (CCP) has been a long-standing focal point for AFN advocacy. The policy is seriously out of step with significant advancements in the courts (e.g., the *Tsilhqot'in* Nation decision).

From 2014 to 2016, Canada chose not to engage the AFN on any CCP policy reform initiatives and, instead, led a one-sided federal engagement process focused on “renewing” the CCP. This process failed to reference relevant jurisprudence, developments in international human rights law, or even Canada's own endorsement of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

With the election of a new federal government in 2015, broad commitments have been made to move forward with First Nations on a nation-to-nation basis, and to fully implement the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is a positive signal that suggests a willingness to work with First Nations to develop a new approach to addressing Indigenous title and rights issues. AFN will continue to carryout advocacy to advance an effective CCP reform agenda.

Specific Claims

In October 2008, the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* (SCTA) came into force. This meant that most claimants not satisfied with Canada's response to their claims would have access to an impartial, binding tribunal. Canada's efforts to process the backlog of claims since the Tribunal was created has led to new challenges for First Nations. While Canada claims to have cleared the claims backlog, regrettably, less than 15 percent of these have resulted in a settlement – the vast majority have been “rejected” or have had their file “closed”.

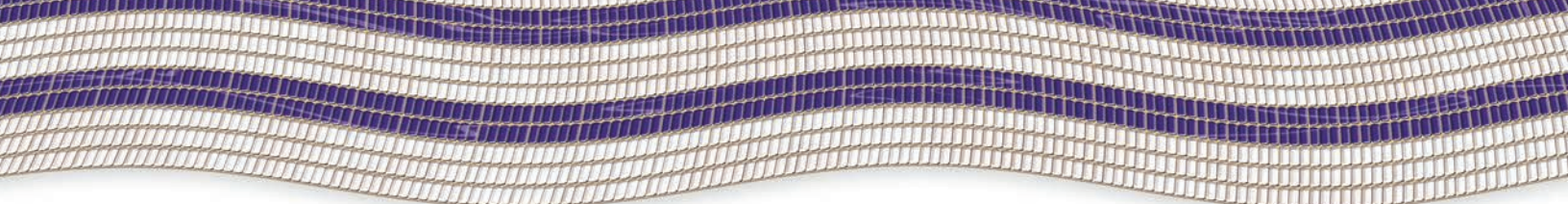
The Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC) has supported AFN's advocacy with respect to improving the Specific Claims process for over two decades. Pursuant to s.41 of the SCTA, the previous federal Minister (Valcourt) was required to conduct a 5-year review of the SCTA. Working with the CCoC, AFN carried out significant advocacy in this regard, that included restoration of Specific Claims research funding, establishment of an independent expert panel to conduct hearings and reporting on recommendations resulting from the review. The federal election, however, delayed the tabling of the Minister's report to Parliament, which is now expected to take place later this year.

In the fall of 2015, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) contacted AFN about a proposed audit of the Specific Claims process and the performance of the Specific Claims Branch. The audit would measure results against commitments based on allocated resources since 2008. The AFN supported the OAG with information and outreach to claimants. The OAG will submit a report to Parliament detailing its findings in the fall of 2016. The AFN has also worked with the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), who is expected to issue a report this year on the government's prospective spending plans for Specific Claims.

Additions to Reserve

Efforts to improve the Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy and process have been the subject of a joint AFN-Canada technical working group process that was initiated in late 2009. Progress with this working group has been



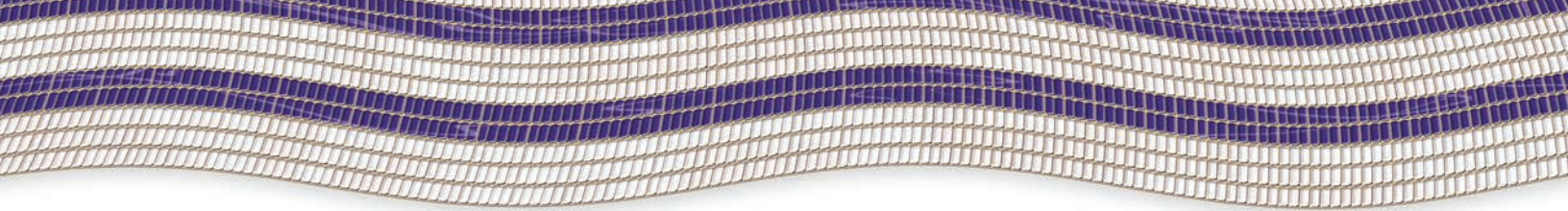


based on regular engagement with the CCoC. A jointly developed draft of the new ATR policy was released for public comment during the summer/fall of 2013. This draft policy was then finalized through joint discussions and submitted to the previous Minister (Valcourt) for review early in 2014. It was never released.

However, following the 2015 federal election and appointment of Dr. Carolyn Bennett as Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), INAC signaled an interest in adopting the new draft ATR policy. The joint technical working group was re-convened early in 2016 and it is anticipated that Minister Bennett will release the new policy later this year.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Seek renewed engagement with Canada on Comprehensive Claims Policy reform based on the full recognition and implementation of s.35 rights.
- Advocacy and engagement in follow-up to the federal government's 5-year review of the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* and the submission of the AFN's independent expert panel report.
- Ongoing advocacy regarding the Minister's release of the new ATR policy and related activities, including monitoring its transition and implementation.
- Hosting a side-session focused on landless First Nations issues at the upcoming Annual General Assembly, in Niagara Falls.



ACHIEVING CHANGE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

First Nations families are the core of our communities and must be supported through high quality, culturally and linguistically responsive education, culturally appropriate child welfare approaches, improved community well-being and full economic participation. First Nations people all over Turtle Island are acting now for change. As the youngest and fastest-growing population, First Nations are the leaders of today and will create the changes that must occur to ensure a better future for all of us. Collectively, we must work with and support First Nations in the rebuilding of families, clans, communities, and nations through social wellness and lifelong learning. Only then will we have an opportunity to overcome the effects of the residential school system and to restore our relationships with each other and the natural world.





EDUCATION

AFN Education has always worked to support First Nations in their efforts to further Treaty and inherent rights to education and First Nations Control of First Nations Education, which includes:

- Equitable and sustainable funding for First Nations education within a lifelong learning context;
- Quality of education based on First Nations driven education systems;
- Change reflective of regional diversities;
- First Nations driven timelines and priorities; and
- First Nations language recognition and revitalization.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

2016 Federal Budget

On March 22, 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau tabled his first federal budget. An historic \$8.4 billion over 5 years in investments have been made on Indigenous issues, including lifting the 2% cap on education programming. Specifically, the federal budget invested \$3.7 billion over 5 years for First Nations education, including \$969 million for education infrastructure and \$275 million over 5 years for languages and cultures. In 2016, AFN has been informed that the federal government will ensure all funding commitments reach First Nations communities using existing proposals and agreements. Funding allocations beyond 2016 will be determined using new fiscal mechanisms that are to be developed collaboratively with First Nations.

AFN First Nation Directors of Education Forum

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) hosted the first National First Nation Directors of Education Forum on February 23-24, 2016 in Ottawa, on traditional Algonquin Nation territory. The Forum brought together nearly 600 participants and speakers for keynote presentations, panels and interactive workshops, while encouraging discussion among all in attendance about ways forward for First Nations education.

The Forum provided the first national opportunity for First Nation Directors of Education, principals, educators, members of leadership, experts, and community members to gather, share successful education practices, and provide insight and feedback on preferred approaches to Closing the Gap in education. The Forum presented an important

opportunity for the consolidation of national priorities, leadership recommendations and information sharing on First Nations education.

The specific objectives of the Forum were:

1. Sharing successful practices in First Nations education across Canada;
2. Discussing the concept of a First Nation Directors of Education Association; and
3. Providing a timely opportunity to garner insight and feedback from First Nation Directors of Education on best practices to closing the education gap.

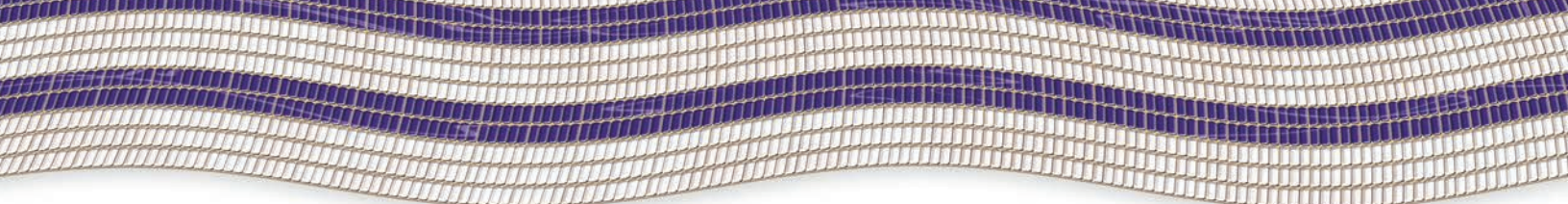
First Nations Education Reform

After successfully witnessing the withdrawal of Bill C-33 in 2015, the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) continue to outline a plan forward to support statutory funding for K-12 education. The existing mandate provided by Chiefs-in-Assembly was adopted in principle through Resolution 35/2014, Federal Act for Funding First Nation Education. This resolution spoke in support of the *Framework for a Federal Act for Funding First Nation Education* drafted by the CCOE and NIEC as the chosen path forward for First Nations education. Given the new Liberal government and context, the CCOE recently confirmed this direction at the 2015 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly through a CCOE motion.

In May and June, 2016, the AFN, CCOE and NIEC have been discussing what a new honourable process to support statutory funding would look like given the new Liberal government and federal budget. It is expected that a new resolution will be discussed at the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly in Niagara Falls, to seek consensus from Chiefs across Canada.

Post-Secondary Education

The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) has remained unchanged for several years with no indication from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for any contemplated changes or reform work. The funding levels for the PSSSP have remained unchanged for several years as well. The Liberal government pledged an additional \$50 million per year for the PSSSP in its platform, yet there was no announcement in the 2016 federal budget. The AFN continues to advocate for a review of the PSSSP in an effort to identify efficiencies and



increased funding as the PSE graduation rates for First Nation students continues to lag behind their mainstream counterparts.

Other Areas

Given the significant funding cuts to First Nations education over the past few years, the focus of the AFN's work on education has been almost entirely on K-12. It is the intent to rebuild capacity across the country and focus attention on much needed areas such as: early childhood education; special needs education; education infrastructure; education systems development; development of education standards and measurement systems; post-secondary education; and First Nation language immersion programming.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

The primary focus of the AFN Secretariat for 2016 will be to confirm a national position on K-12 First Nation Education, which includes positions on items such as:

- Establishing an honourable process with the federal government to ensure statutory funding guarantee for First Nations education;
- Ensuring immediate funding relief outlined in the 2016 federal budget is allocated immediately to First Nation schools and the 2% cap is lifted; and,
- Working collaboratively with First Nations and the federal government to develop a set of regional education funding formulae for K-12 education.





INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The AFN continues to play a central role in advocating for the full implementation of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) and in achieving the overarching principles of healing and reconciliation for former Indian Residential School (IRS) students, their families and Canadians.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Implementation of the IRSSA is in the final stages of its mandate. The AFN continues advocacy work on behalf of former IRS students and their families as liaisons with service providers to facilitate the healing and reconciliation. National Chief Perry Bellegarde stood with former students and their families in Ottawa, Ontario as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission ended its mandate and produced its final report on the residential school system.

Common Experience Payment

The Common Experience Payment (CEP) was the first individual compensation program in the IRSSA to be paid to all eligible former students who resided at a recognized IRS. A Trust Fund of \$1.9 billion was set aside to pay out the CEP, as well as the Personal Credits if there remained a surplus of \$40 million. The December 31, 2012 audit of the Trust Fund indicated a \$323 million surplus, triggering the Personal Credits process.

There are 78,750 Survivors that were eligible for the CEP. There are a number of applications to add schools to the IRSSA currently before the courts and, if granted eligibility status, those former Indian Residential School (IRS) students would still be eligible for the CEP, Independent Assessment Process (IAP), and Personal Credits, as well as ongoing participation in TRC or Commemoration activities. However, on July 27, 2015 the supervising court overseeing the IRSSA issued an order barring any further applications to add schools to the IRSSA, as well as future applications for the CEP.

Personal Credits

A one-time Personal Credit of \$3,000 (no cash value) was made available to CEP recipients, redeemable for either personal or group educational services provided at approved educational entities or groups. A total of

30,770 individuals have applied for Personal Credits. Of this amount, a total of 23,770 individuals were able to redeem their Personal Credits. This would account for 30.1% of all individuals who were entitled to benefit from the Personal Credits program. A total of \$57,238,629.05 was paid out in Personal Credits by Canada.

The AFN employed four full-time regional liaisons to ensure that eligible CEP recipients were aware of the availability of Personal Credits and the application process to redeem Personal Credits. Many individuals expressed frustration with the complicated process and timelines to access the Personal Credits, as well as the administrative burden presented by the process. The AFN worked endlessly to assist eligible recipients and appeared before the courts to obtain extensions and other relief to assist former students.

Under the terms of the IRSSA, following the payment of Personal Credits to all eligible CEP recipients, including administration costs, all excess funds remaining in the Designated Amount Fund (DAF) will be transferred to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund (NIBTF) and Inuvialuit Education Fund (IEF) to be used for educational programs under terms and conditions agreed to between Canada, NIBTF and IEF.

The AFN had developed terms and conditions and an administrative plan to enable the transfer of residue of the DAF to the NIB Trust Fund. The Terms and Conditions, as well as the Administration Plan for use of these funds, were approved by the NIB Trust Fund Board on May 26, 2015. The administration plan was presented to the supervising Courts, who granted the requested transfer of the DAF to the NIB Trust Fund on July 27, 2015.

Independent Assessment Process

The IAP is the second individual compensation program available to former students and others who were harmed at an Indian Residential School covered by the IRSSA. The IAP resolves claims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and other wrongful acts causing serious psychological injury. It is administered by the Indian Residential School Adjudication Secretariat (IRSAS), a quasi-judicial tribunal that operates independently from the parties to IRSSA, including the Government of Canada. A total of 37,965 IAP applications were received by the September

19, 2012 deadline, over three times the original estimate. IRSAS expects to complete IAP hearings by spring 2016 and post-hearing work by spring 2018.

As of May 31, 2016, 92% of received IAP applications have been resolved and 8% are still in progress. There have been 26,351 IAP hearings and negotiated settlements held with a total compensation of \$3.025 billion paid out, an amount that includes lawyers' fees and disbursements. There are 3,060 IAP claims remaining to be resolved.

In protecting the interests of former students, the AFN has participated in a number of hearings before the court relating to the ongoing implementation of IAP. These interventions included:

- a) **Blott and Company:** The Court Monitor reported that 77 Blott IAP claimants had received over 380 loans from various lenders for which directions to pay had been accepted or facilitated by Blott. Taking all fees and interest charges into account, it appears that 73% of these loans exceeded the criminal interest rate of 60% per annum. The BC Supreme Court decided that the integrity of the IAP and the protection of the clients required a complete transfer of files to other legal counsel. The Court ordered the removal of David Blott, David Blott Professional Corporation, Blott & Company, and any associated entity from the current or future representation of claimants in the IAP or any other process embodied in the settlement.
- b) **Manitoba Form Fillers:** Certain form fillers were retained to assist IAP claimants complete their application forms. Some of these form fillers were associated with law firms. From the evidence presented to the court, IAP claimants would be charged between a 15% to 30% contingency fee to their lawyers, plus a 15% to 25% fee to the form fillers. The Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench ruled that certain (albeit large) categories of form filling contracts are in fact illegal and unenforceable. Even if not illegal, other contracts may be unconscionable and therefore voidable at the option of claimant signatories. The court held that IAP claimants are entitled to enter into contracts with form fillers for services other than legal services, so long as they are not on a contingency fee or assignment basis.
- c) **St. Anne's IRS:** St Anne's Indian Residential School is located in Fort Albany, Ontario on James Bay. St. Anne's was the site of some of the most egregious incidents of abuse within the Indian Residential School system. The Ontario Provincial Police began its investigation of St. Anne's residential school in 1992 and completed it in 1996. The

OPP were given approximately 992 signed statements from about 700-750 people. In 1997, the OPP laid charges against seven former employees of St. Anne's. Canada came to be in the possession of copies of some, but perhaps not all of the OPP documents, and it failed to include information in the St. Anne's school narrative and persons of interest (POI) reports. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice ordered Canada to produce the OPP documents in its possession, the transcripts concerning incidents of abuse at St. Anne's and such other documents that comply with the proper reading and interpretation of Canada's disclosure obligations under Appendix VIII to those preparing the narratives and the POI reports.

- d) **Bronstein:** The Monitor brought a Request for Direction before the court in relation to the IAP practice of Stephen Bronstein and Bronstein & Company. The BC Supreme Court agreed with the Monitor that Bronstein's conduct fell below the standard expected of legal professionals representing clients under the Settlement Agreement, and in particular, in the IAP. However, in response to these proceedings, Bronstein has demonstrated that it is capable of revising its practice in order to reach acceptable standards. Thus, the Court allowed Bronstein to continue to participate in the IAP, but under the continued supervision of its Practice Advisor who will continue to update the court on its progress. The Court noted that this was no exoneration of Bronstein, as the evidence convinced the court that were it not for the intervention of the Monitor and the court itself, Bronstein would not have reached these acceptable standards. This decision is under appeal.
- e) **IAP Records:** The Chief Adjudicator of the IAP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission each brought a Request for Directions about what is to happen to documents produced and prepared for the IAP ("IAP Documents") once the IAP process comes to an end. The court was asked to determine if the documents are of historical value and should be retained in archives or should they be destroyed. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Appeal ordered that all IAP records be destroyed, but only after a 15-year retention period, during which the former students of the Indian Residential Schools may choose to spare some of their documents from destruction and instead have the documents with redactions to protect the personal information of others transferred to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation ("NCTR"). Canada has filed for leave to appeal the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision with the Supreme Court of Canada.



- f) Bishop Horden IRS: Nine IAP claimants filed a Request for Directions seeking the production of records relating to Bishop Horden IRS. The Claimants allege that, based on their recollection, in the 1960s a number of adult supervisors were dismissed and/or criminally charged with various offenses. However, the school narratives and person of interest reports for Bishop Horden IRS do not include any information on these events. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice Ordered Canada to conduct further searches of police records, produce such records and revise the Bishop Horden School Narrative for use in the IAP process.
- g) SLI Claims: The AFN appeared before the Manitoba Court of Queen's bench in support of IAP claimants who were denied compensation for certain types of touching that occurred while attending an Indian Residential School. The AFN argued that IAP adjudicators were applying a narrow interpretation to Sexual abuse level 1 (SLI) claims, thereby preventing claimants from obtaining the full benefits of the IRSSA that they were entitled to. A decision from the Court is under review.
- h) Administrative Split: Canada had raised a jurisdictional defense based on the administrative split to defeat a number of IAP claims. An administrative split occurs where Indian Residential School was administratively split into a student residence and a federally operated school. Typically, the churches would operate the student residence and the federal government would run the school building under a separate administration. The AFN is in the process of negotiating a resolution to the administrative split issue with Canada.

Day Scholars & Day School Class Action

Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Sechelt (Shishálh) First Nation launched a class action for day scholars from their respective communities. A certification hearing took place before the Federal Court of Canada from April 13 - 20, 2015 regarding a proposed class proceeding for students who attended Indian Residential Schools as day scholars. Both the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Shishálh Indian Bands initiated the application on behalf of all Aboriginal children who attended Indian Residential Schools as day scholars – returning home every night to their families. National Chief Bellegarde and the AFN Executive showed their support and attended the opening of the day scholars' litigation on April 2015 in Vancouver, and participated in a feast honouring the survivors hosted by the Squamish First Nation.

The class action law suit, which was certified on June 4, 2015, seeks compensation for those day scholars as they suffered the same loss of language and connection to culture as those who were resident at the schools. The suit alleges that these losses were an intentional aspect of Canada's education policy and caused serious and life-long harm to the survivors.

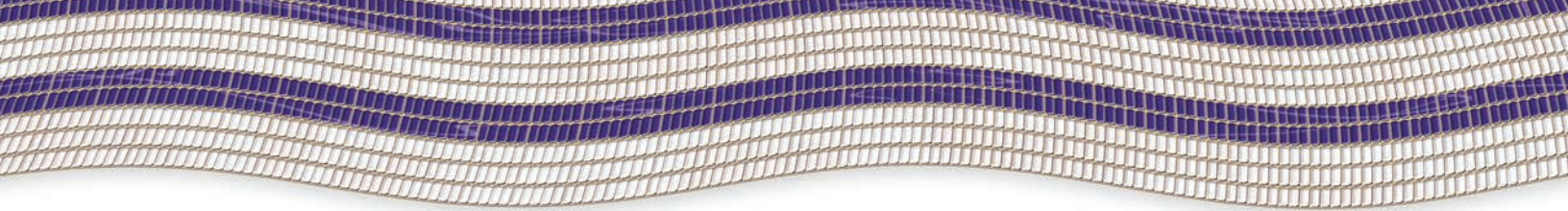
There are three categories of class members for the purposes of the BC Day Scholars class action: (1) Survivor – this class consists of all Aboriginal persons who attended at one of the Schools, but only for periods that were not compensated through a Common Experience Payment; (2) A Descendant of a Survivor – consisting of all persons who are the children of survivor class members or were adopted either legally or traditionally by a survivor or their spouse; (3) The Band Class – currently consists of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, but others can opt-in. To date, 94 separate First Nations opted to be included in the class action lawsuit representing every province where an Indian Residential School was located.

Resolution 21/2011 passed at Annual General Assembly in Moncton called on the AFN to provide moral, political, legal, and financial support as able to the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Sechelt First Nation Day Scholars and Day Students Class Action and other legal actions, using available and appropriate means such as the First Nations Rights Fund. The AFN will continue to provide political support to the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Sechelt First Nation day scholars and day students.

Truth & Reconciliation Commission

The TRC held a national closing event in Ottawa from May 31, 2015 to June 3, 2015 where 94 Calls to Action were released. The Calls to Action invite Canada, all Canadians and governments to work together on a comprehensive plan to close the gap in child welfare, education, health and justice outcomes; support Indigenous languages; for all governments to fully adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and to jointly develop a new Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation to collaboratively advance reconciliation in Canadian society. The AFN will push for all parties to formally commit to a plan to learn from the TRC findings and implement the Calls to Action.

On December 15, 2015 the TRC released its final report on Indian Residential Schools. The AFN continues to support the findings of the TRC, as well the pursuit of reconciliation and healing.



NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Seek commitment from all parties and governments to work with First Nations to review and learn from the work of the TRC and implement the Calls to Action for reconciliation.
- Continue support and advocacy for justice for day scholars and day school students.
- Continue advocacy with and for the Healing Centres to meet the ongoing specialized treatment programming needs of former IRS students.
- Continue advocacy, as directed by AFN Executive, to protect the interests of former IRS students in Requests for Direction with the courts.





SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development priorities pursued by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) follow the mandate outlined by the Social Development Policy Framework, which proposes the long-term vision of “Healthy, safe and sustainable First Nation communities by way of an inclusive, holistic and culturally-based social development system that promotes control and jurisdiction.” This is clearly articulated and supported through the AFN’s vision of *Closing the Gap*, of ensuring that First Nations have the tools and capacity to thrive, enabled by respectful fiscal and political relationships.

The impacts of federal underfunding and failure to respect these relationships have resulted in levels of child and family poverty many times the Canadian average; exceptionally high incidences of First Nation children in care; family violence; substance abuse; youth suicides; and chronic reliance on income assistance. In order to increase the economic and social participation and quality of life of First Nations peoples, fundamental changes are required to address the root causes and structural barriers that have impeded progress to date. Specific recommendations and calls to action for Canada to address these root causes have increased in prominence over the last year, and include reports by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Committee to End All Forms of Violence Against Women and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Income Assistance

First Nations need to be fully informed and engaged in all legislation, policies and programs that affect their lives. Directed by Resolution 37/2011, the AFN continues to call on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to properly consult and negotiate with First Nations on the development of new policies where it relates to the Income Assistance Policy. Additionally, Resolutions 24/2015 and 70/2015 guide the AFN’s approach towards addressing the inconsistent delivery of shelter allowance through the on-reserve income assistance program. This approach includes working with INAC officials to review the broader Income Assistance policy, particularly where it concerns shelter allowance and how it applies to band-owned homes.

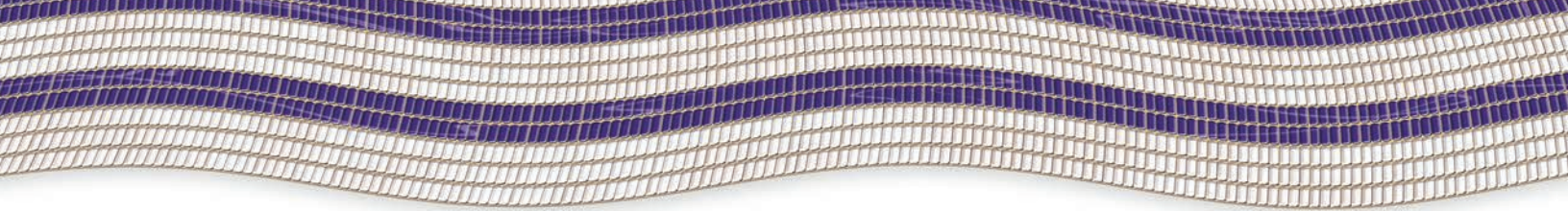
The AFN Social Development Unit continues to support First Nations and monitor the implementation of the Enhanced Service Delivery and First Nations Jobs Fund programs which are aimed at First Nations youth between the ages of 19-24 receiving Income Assistance. In an effort to gain more insight into the delivery of the programs, the AFN conducted a number of interviews with key personnel from communities and organizations that are currently delivering the programs. Through these interviews promising practices relating to the design and delivery of the program were identified as well as ongoing challenges.

Child Welfare

The AFN and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFC) filed a human rights complaint on February 5, 2007, arguing that the federal government is discriminating against First Nations children by failing to provide equitable and culturally-based services on reserve. On January 26, 2016 the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) released its decision and ruled in favour of First Nations children. The ruling called for the AFN and Canada to jointly develop a new system of child welfare for First Nations on reserve and for immediate action to be taken by the federal government to ensure safety, fairness and equity for First Nation’s children and families. Another key aspect of the ruling was the CHRT stating that the federal government had failed its obligation to fully implement Jordan’s Principle.

On April 26, 2016, the CHRT further ruled for INAC to immediately respond to the AFN and FNCFC’s request for a cost breakdown of calculations related to funding announcements contained in Budget 2016. The Tribunal also ordered the federal government to immediately implement Jordan’s Principle and to report back to the Tribunal on the progress of their work.

The AFN continues to work toward the re-establishment of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS). In accordance with Resolution 28/2015, the NAC for FNCFS will provide oversight for the implementation of all aspects of the CHRT’s ruling on Child and Family Services.



NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Work with provinces, territories, social justice and international partners on *Closing the Gap* in First Nations well-being outcomes that has resulted from underfunding and inappropriate fiscal and political relationships.
- Create tools to develop and enhance the capacity of social assistance providers to support client's access benefits and services.
- Continue to seek equality for First Nations children in care, and follow-up on the results of the Government of Canada's efforts to adhere to the ruling from the CHRT. This will include the coordination of the NAC for FNCFS which provide needed oversight for the implementation of what has been ordered by the CHRT.
- Continue to monitor the federal government's implementation and application of Jordan's Principle.





SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SSSC is comprised of areas supporting First Nation priorities in health, community and economic development, and safety of First Nations. SSSC spans a broad spectrum of activity aimed at supporting First Nations in their priorities to advance and increase First Nations' control over the development and delivery of programs, services, incentives, and policy development. Team activity generally includes:

- advocating for improved housing outcomes, increased resources for community infrastructure, and facilitating emergency management responses, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery;
- health policy analysis, communications, and advocacy to increase opportunities for First Nations to participate in and influence national health policy, health systems and programs. The critical objective driving this work is to support the protection, maintenance, promotion, support and advocate for the inherent, treaty and constitutional rights, (w)holistic health and well-being of our Nations; and
- supporting First Nation economic priorities and development principles, such as advancing sustainable/ responsible development, trade, procurement, and labour market/ labour force development.

In addition, SSSC provides technical support for AFN sustainability, sport and taxation discussions.



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Economic Partnerships portfolio focuses on Economic Development, Revenue Sharing options, Labour Force and Human Resources Development, and Connectivity. This portfolio area also assists AFN efforts in regard to organizational revenue opportunities. In the past several years, the Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed national resolutions on the importance of resource revenue sharing, new investments, e-community, procurement, inter-nation trade, sustainability, wealth creation, and recently a report dealing with natural resource development as it relates to First Nations involvement.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

First Nations and Energy Development

Energy development opportunities and the regulation of energy proposals continue to be of great interest and concern in First Nation territories in every part of the country. During the 2015 Annual General Assembly in Montreal, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 04/2015. This resolution mandated the AFN host an Indigenous energy resource development forum. The event, titled *First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities*, was hosted in Vancouver, BC, and focused on First Nations' approaches to economic and energy development and the role, rights and jurisdiction (including consent requirements) of First Nations in development regulation to ensure environmental protection and sustainable, responsible development.

The forum also provided an opportunity to examine issues such as:

- Approaches to implementing the *Tsilhqot'in* decision, and the broad need to re-examine federal and provincial/territorial regulatory regimes to properly take into account First Nations inherent rights and title, including the right to self-determination recognized under international human rights law;
 - First Nations' involvement in clean energy development and transmission projects;
 - Process, rights and policy issues arising from pipeline development proposals across different territories;
 - Revenue and benefit sharing, regional/national development planning, engagement approaches by industry, the First Nations work force, capital markets, and financial instruments.
- The future of Canada's energy industry, markets awareness, and investment.

The forum was an important opportunity for dialogue towards examining First Nations involvement in the energy sector. Common themes and recommendations are pending and will be presented for validation and support to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development. A report on the forum is now available at www.afn.ca.

Natural Resources and Revenue Sharing

A Working Group on Natural Resources Development (Working Group) was launched in December 2013. The Working Group was to examine ways First Nations can fully share in natural resource development projects, where interest among First Nations rights holders may exist.

At the December 2014 Special Chiefs Assembly in Winnipeg, an update on the Working Group's activity and preliminary observations was provided to the Chiefs-in-Assembly. Following the update, the First Nations leadership deliberated on and passed Resolution 38/2014, Support for the Development of a Report on Natural Resources. Resolution 80/2011, Resource Revenue / Benefit Sharing with First Nations, was kept close at hand as the Working Group conducted its work and throughout the process.

The Working Group has prepared a report titled, *First Nations and Natural Resource Development: Advancing Positive, Impactful Change* (March 2015). Importantly, they noted that the report is not intended as a final word on any of the subjects discussed. It aims to provide a starting point for a more comprehensive dialogue. The report's thematic areas, observations, and recommendations focused on four central topics: governance, environment, prosperity, and finance. Among their recommendations, the Working Group has called for immediate action to:

- undertake a more comprehensive dialogue among First Nations governments, federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and others to advance discussions on the four main themes (governance, environment, prosperity, and finance) of the report, leading to actions and a road map to facilitate meaningful First Nations involvement in natural resource development in Canada;



- convene a national discussion on resource revenue sharing as a best means to eliminating socio-economic disparities;
- establish a knowledge and information resource to assist and enable First Nations who may be seeking information and technical resources; and
- hold an international forum on trade and international partnerships to support First Nations involvement in resources development, trade, business partnerships and access to markets.

Current proposed activity includes follow-up on the recommendations for action outlined in the Report of the Working Group on Natural Resources Development.

Human Resource Development

The current Aboriginal Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) is extended to March 31, 2017. Employment and Skills Development Canada (ESDC) and Service Canada have put in place extension agreements as of April 1, 2016 with ASETS organizations. In addition to the extension, on May 25, 2016, Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour, Maryann Mihychuk, announced a one-time increase to ASETS.

AFN Executive portfolio holder, Regional Chief Bobby Cameron has called for the re-establishment of a chiefs committee to examine human resource development, labour force, skill training and related employment concerns among First Nations. The Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development (CCHRD) met in Saskatoon on June 9, 2016 and focused on labour market programming and providing direction on the follow-up to 2015 resolutions pertaining to human resource development.

The CCHRD and the First Nations Technical Working Group on Human Resources Development (FN-TWGHDRD) continue to prepare for discussions on a new labour market agreement post-2017. A sub-technical working group has also been established with terms of reference to guide its mandate to support the CCHRD. Regional leadership support and confirmation is being sought for membership from all regions on the sub-technical working group.

At their January 22, 2016 meeting, National Chief Bellegarde informed the Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour, Maryann Mihychuk that First Nations expect a correction on the funding to labour market programming left by the effects of no increases since 1996.

National Chief Bellegarde was clear on the need for a longer term strategy governed under a renewed relationship and fiscal partnership that looks at new ways of implementing agreements and moves away from past practice of departmental oversight through contribution arrangements. It is expected that negotiations will focus on and address the labour market challenges brought about by increased populations, continued learning deficits and inflationary costs for skills and training development and employment opportunities for Indigenous people. National Chief Bellegarde also identified that First Nation governments have established effective financial protocols and processes, rooted in the principles of accountability and transparency, that will require ongoing support. They also noted that the cap on human capital development investments has greatly affected First Nation governments' ability to manage and grow their capacity to govern.

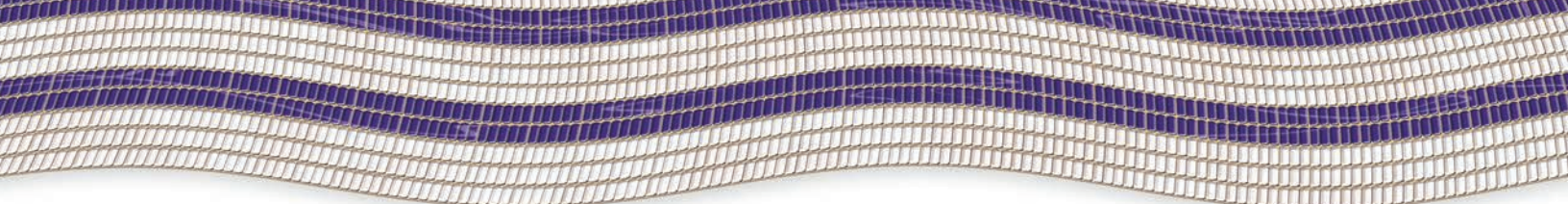
The March 2016 federal budget indicated that new resources for employment, skills and training programming would be negotiated under a new and expanded program framework.

On May 25, 2016, Minister Mihychuk and Regional Chief Cameron announced the call for proposals for \$50 million in Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) funding. In addition, the Minister announced that additional funding would be made available for at-risk Indigenous communities and that there would be a one-time increase to ASETS.

In recent communication with the Special Advisor to the Office of the Minister of Employment, Workplace Development and Labour, as well as meetings with the Minister, First Nations have signaled that they prefer an approach that takes the time to fully engage and respond to the many recommended changes for a new labour market program and that reflects and respects the principles and direction provided by AFN Resolutions.

First Nations technical advice has stated the need for a new policy framework, a new fiscal relationship and, most importantly, a new business model with Canada on employment, skills and training, and labour market attachment.

The AFN, along with First Nations organizations, will continue to participate fully in forums and gatherings which are designed for an exchange of views and expertise in responding to First Nations labour market needs. In addition, the CCHRD have been mandated to seek resources from Canada to ensure that a First Nation specific forum is secured so that First Nations may assess independently how they want



to proceed and how best to respond to the many challenges and barriers associated with employment, skills and training and other labour market needs.

First Nations technical advice has highlighted the need to deviate from the current pan-aboriginal approach and to reflect and respect the principles and direction provided by Chiefs-in-Assembly Resolutions.

Considering government processes and the time needed to dialogue with First Nations and to consider all options for a new labour market strategy that responds to the principles of a nation to nation relationship, meeting the April 2017 start date will be a challenge for all.

First Nations e-Community

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development includes focus on First Nations connectivity and continues to advocate for increased access and support for First Nations Information Communications Technology (ICT). Resolutions 11/2006, 16/2008 and 53/2011 provide direction to advocate for appropriate program, services and investments in First Nations ICT. The First Nations e-Community strategy is the basis of planning to help promote connectivity infrastructure, capacity and management broadly amongst First Nations communities.

Recent advocacy and communications efforts have focused on federal funding for rural and remote communities through the Connecting Canadians program. The AFN will continue to monitor the process for announcements on conditionally approved projects and seek out opportunities to advocate for First Nations specific projects as a priority. The AFN has also worked to advocate for the inclusion of First Nations connectivity recommendations as part of the Indigenous Affairs Working Group (IAWG) process.

Another area of focus and activity for the AFN has been data on the status of First Nations connectivity to inform and support advocacy efforts. The AFN conducted a First Nations Community Internet survey and received feedback from 180 communities. The purpose of the survey was to obtain an overview of the level of connectivity in First Nations community buildings and households in order to inform AFN advocacy and policy support efforts in the area of First Nations connectivity. It is evident from the responses that there are communities that have been able to successfully establish a level of connectivity that allows the use of new technologies, however, there are still many First Nations communities that remain underserved. Current proposed activity includes bringing together

First Nations experts to provide recommendations and advice on current policy processes and programs on connectivity.

First Nations Gaming

The AFN has undertaken to draft a discussion paper to examine gaming jurisdiction, current practices, and consideration of key questions to advance a national gaming initiative. The draft will be presented for consideration to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development. There are a number of AFN resolutions mandating policy and advocacy efforts on the Gaming portfolio. The portfolio overall remains an unfunded policy activity at the AFN and this has limited the activity in the portfolio as it relates to national discussions or strategic initiatives.

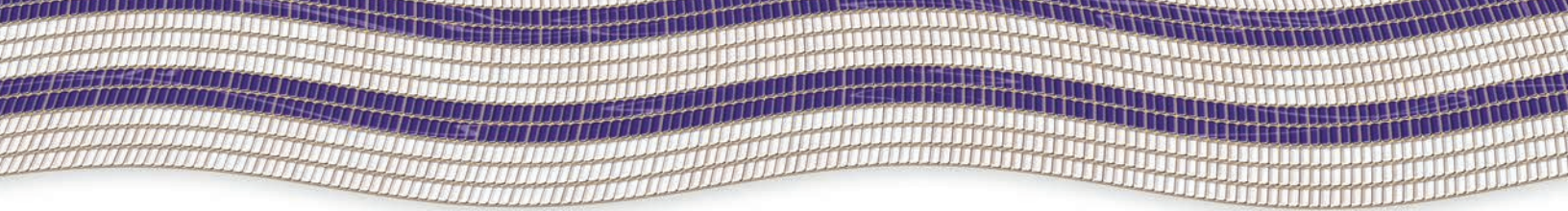
Poverty Action Research Project (PAR Project)

The AFN, through the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development, has established a Make First Nations Poverty History Expert Advisory Committee. As part of its activity, the committee has been successful in obtaining a five-year research grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH). Work on this research project continues independently with First Nations communities and local and regional project advisory committees. The work involves designing and implementing a strategic plan to help create a sustainable economic base and improve the health and well-being of community members. The most recent national meeting of participating communities and researchers was held on May 24-26, 2016 in Victoria, BC.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Follow-up on and finalize the report of the First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities.
- Propose participation and coordination in a discussion dedicated to revenue options among First Nations.
- Pending funding, work on the recommendations outlined in the Report by the Working Group on Natural Resources Development.
- Continue to work with First Nations leadership, technicians and ESDC on a new labour market agreement post 2017.
- Continue to advocate for First Nations connectivity priorities and seek opportunities to provide a First Nations perspective and policy input on federal connectivity related matters and discussions.





- Continue to focus on addressing data and information management gaps within the economic partnerships policy portfolio. Efforts to identify funding will continue for economic research and analysis on First Nations trade and investment activity, procurement approaches and improvements, investment tools, economic incentives and other areas that have been affected.
- Collaborate, where possible, with the National Congress of American Indians on trade and revenue options.
- Continued support for the PAR Project and report to the AFN on the development of this initiative.
- Identify and communicate to the public and all government decision-makers, the need to remove barriers to implementing economic development strategies and priorities identified by First Nations.
- Propose options for activity to Chiefs Committees providing guidance for the AFN portfolio. Consider a national forum concerning the lack of fiscal fairness in federal transfers for essential services in First Nations communities.

EMERGENCY ISSUES MANAGEMENT

The AFN advocates for more prominent consideration and presence of emergency issues management (EIM) in First Nations before, during and after events that befall communities. This is achieved through analysis of existing policies and procedures to ensure a First Nations voice and that consistent information is maintained at all levels, as well as recommending and advocating for the implementation of needed changes.

The AFN works toward the objective of increasing consideration of First Nations Emergency Management through:

- Advocating for fair, adequate, and equitable emergency management and response services;
- Facilitating discussion on emergency management and response;
- Analyzing policies and advocating for change, improvement, and the inclusion of First Nations in issues of direct concern;
- Initiating and engaging in discussion on current emergency issues management and response for First Nations; and,
- Analysis and knowledge sharing with various First Nations groups and organizations regarding emergency issues management and response.

Responsibility for emergency response was given to the provinces and territories through Bilateral Agreements with the federal government. These agreements ensure that First Nations have access to comparable emergency assistance services available to other nearby non-First Nations communities in their respective province. There have been issues raised by First Nations concerning lack of involvement in the development of these bilateral agreements, the inability to get facilities certified so First Nations communities can host First Nations evacuees, and the lack of recognition of the capacity and capability of First Nations organizations to respond to emergencies.

There is also an ongoing issue with the inordinate time it takes to repatriate First Nations evacuees to their home community or in one case, to establish relocation. As of June 10, 2016, 3,752 members are still away from home due to floods dating back to 2010. In Manitoba, 1,939 members are still away from home from the 2011 flood, and another 906 members from the Alberta flood of 2013. While efforts are underway to repatriate and provide new housing, this is an unacceptable length of time to be away from home.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM)

On May 6, 2015, National Chief Perry Bellegarde was invited by the Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale, to attend a meeting of F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management. The National Chief was invited to present views on First Nations Emergency Management. The following recommendations were presented to Minister Goodale:

1. Request more direct funding and support for First Nations organizations to provide the services, training, support, hosting facilities, first responders, etc. needed and alleviate dependency on the Provincial/Territorial Emergency Management Organizations (EMO). The expertise and training of First Nations organizations in emergency management is valuable and should be recognized and supported;
2. Request regional First Nations representation on the SOREM;
3. Open bilateral agreements and fully involve First Nations and their representative organizations in the development of these agreements potentially as full parties as deemed appropriate;
4. Establish a process to include and support First Nations in developing and certifying host facilities, not only from a cultural perspective, but also from an economic approach. Non-Indigenous communities have a financially vested interest in continuing to host evacuees though they are unable to provide acceptable amenities for the evacuees; and,
5. Develop statistics/protocols/policies/performance measures and timelines towards ending the long-term evacuations and return evacuees in a reasonable amount of time.

The AFN will be invited to join the SOREM group. AFN had been a member of the Aboriginal Working Group under the SOREM. In 2013, AFN along with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami were removed from this Working Group. The reason for removal given by the previous government was that the discussions related to the development of the bilateral agreements between the federal government and the provinces. It is positive sign that there will now be First Nations representation on the SOREM.





Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy: A 10 Year Review and Renewed Call to Action

The AFN was invited to a discussion on the report prepared by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). The lead federal department is Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN). The Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy was created under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) in 2005. The CWFS anticipated that climate change, expansion of communities and infrastructure into forested areas, limited firefighting resources and increased reliance on resource sharing would necessitate a national approach to wildland fire response. The CWFS was signed in 2005 by responsible ministers from all provinces, territories and NRCAN. It is apparent that First Nations were not involved in the development of the original strategy.

Following several challenging wildland fire seasons over the past few years, the CCFM Wildland Fire Management Working Group (WFMWG) has undertaken a “refresh” of the CWFS under the title “Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy: A 10 Year Review and Renewed Call to Action.” This refresh will outline steps to reaffirm shared F/P/T priorities, strategies and collaborations on wildland fire activities to ensure the strategy remains reflective of Canada’s current and future wildland fire needs. One key new area of emphasis to be highlighted in the updated strategy is the need for greater coordination and collaboration between government departments and agencies at all levels. Wildland fire is an issue that touches the mandates of several departments at all levels of government, including Indigenous governments.

Given increased strains being placed on firefighting resources, it is expected that fire management agencies will leverage the refreshed strategy to seek additional resources to help increase investments in fire prevention and mitigation and to supplement existing firefighting resources.

Indigenous people may have significant interest in the strategy from at least two perspectives. The first is related to options to mitigate risks from forest fire around communities in forested regions. The second is related to the possibility of training and mobilization of Indigenous people in fire suppression.

Implementation details and resourcing considerations have not been discussed at this time. AFN presented its views on the Renewed Strategy noting that First Nations had not been involved in this most recent Strategy. AFN recommended the following considerations:

1. Establish more specific engagement with First Nations communities and organizations and the AFN on setting priorities and relationships

with First Nations related to emergency response planning, recovery, preparedness and mitigation;

2. Develop a First Nation specific Wildland Fire Strategy and provide resources for development and engagement; and,
3. Request First Nations involvement in the Wildland Fire Management Working Group (WFMWG) established under the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM).

This meeting was the first between AFN and NRCAN. The AFN will follow up with further discussions with NRCAN.

Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) – Disaster Mitigation and Emergency Management Services (DMEMS) in Aboriginal Communities Working Group

The AFN has been participating in one of the sub working groups under the larger Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Working Group (AAWG). The DMEMS working group provides support on various aspects of First Nations emergency management and response issues, and the development of an action plan to assess and identify gaps and shortfalls between First Nations, provincial governments and various emergency management organizations.

Domestic Group on Emergency Management (DGEM)

AFN continues to participate in Public Safety Canada’s Domestic Group on Emergency Management. DGEM provides advice on development and supports the implementation of Emergency Management policies, plans and programs to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies for a safe and resilient Canada. The DGEM is co-chaired by the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM). AFN agreed to participate to ensure First Nations interests are taken into consideration.

The DGEM’s draft mandate is in concert with Public Safety Canada and provincial/territorial government representatives, by undertaking the following key activities:

- Sharing and disseminating information and advice across existing members’ networks and within federal/provincial/territorial channels, where relevant;
- Participating in the Canadian implementation of and reporting on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Sharing views on the orientation of the Emergency Management system to address Canada’s evolving hazard and risk environment, including potential means to increase societal resilience;
- Engaging in the development and delivery of outreach/awareness initiatives (e.g., annual Emergency Preparedness Week);

- Participating in the Advisory Committee to Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, reporting back through existing networks, and promoting the annual National Roundtable; and,
- Identifying linkages and pursuing new partnership opportunities, as they arise, to advance emergency management initiatives across Canada.

The DGEM consists of many first responder groups such as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association of Canada, Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association, Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Paramedic Association of Canada, The Salvation Army, Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada, St. John Ambulance, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Emergency Notifications

Through cooperation with the INAC Emergency Management Directorate (EMD), the AFN has been providing the respective representative regions with timely notifications on emergency issues which affect First Nations on both a regional and national scope.

Canadian Red Cross

The AFN maintains an ongoing relationship and engagement with the Canadian Red Cross and, in conjunction with the AFN Health Secretariat, has been working on reviewing and revising the current Memorandum of Understanding between the organizations into a "Relationship Protocol" with a more operational component. Reflected in the draft protocol, the Red Cross is interested in working with First Nations in a mutually respectful and supportive manner to explore culturally appropriate and sustainable ways to deliver its three key programmatic areas across the country: Emergencies & Disasters, Community Health, and Prevention & Safety. Prevention and Safety includes a program entitled "Respect Education: Promoting Respect, Preventing Violence" as well as first aid and swim safety. AFN is reviewing the draft agreement with a view of an official signing ceremony at a mutually appropriate time and venue.

Dangerous Goods General Policy Advisory Council (GPAC) on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods

AFN was invited to become a permanent member on the Advisory Council on March 2014. AFN agreed to join the Advisory Council and presented First Nations concerns on transportation of dangerous goods at its first meeting in May 2014.

The Transportation of Dangerous Goods General Policy Advisory Council (Advisory Council) was established in 1985 under the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* to advise the Minister of Transport on various strategic, safety and social issues relating to the transportation of dangerous goods. The Advisory Council members and other subject matter experts, attending as invited guests, continue to meet at least twice a year in Ottawa. The Council has been very active in providing recommendations to improved rail safety in response to the Lac Megantic rail disaster. Since then, Transport Canada has improved rail tank car design and strengthened regulations in response to the Transportation Safety Board report on the disaster.

Following the Transport Canada Minister's announcement on April 23, 2014, to create a task force that brings stakeholders such as municipalities, first responders, railways, and shippers together to strengthen emergency response capacity across the country, a Transportation Dangerous Goods (TDG) Emergency Response (ER) Task Force was established to conduct further research, assess, evaluate, and make recommendations to advance and make improvements to the Emergency Response Assistance Plans (ERAP) program. A guideline document "Competency Guidelines for Responders to Incidents of Flammable Liquids in Transport, High-Hazard Flammable Trains" for emergency responders has been developed by the Task Force. This document and other resource material can be found at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/publications-menu-240.htm>

The GPAC continues to meet twice yearly. Recently, the AFN Emergency Management Portfolio Holder, Alberta Regional Chief Craig Mackinaw, presented at the GPAC meeting on First Nations lands issues related to crude oil spills on First Nations territories and protection of the environment.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN will work with Public Safety Canada on re-establishing First Nations involvement with SOREM.
- The AFN will continue its involvement in the Domestic Group on Emergency Management and the General Policy Advisory Council on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods.
- The AFN will continue to develop its connections and networking to coordinate EIM efforts between representative regions, organizations and communities, as well as with federal and provincial organizations, and engage with First Nations in an effort to continue to build knowledge, capacity, and possible training.





HEALTH

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program provides coverage for registered Indians and recognized Inuit on a limited range of medically necessary health-related goods and services that include pharmaceuticals (i.e., prescription and over the counter drugs), medical supplies/equipment, vision care, dental services, medical transportation, crisis counselling, and approved services out of country for students and migrant workers. The AFN continues to make progress in addressing Resolution 56/2012, which called for a moratorium on cuts to the NIHB program until such time as the AFN and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) can conduct a joint review of NIHB in order to articulate shortcomings and identify potential efficiencies.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

With direction from the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH), the AFN has undertaken a renewed campaign to demand fundamental changes to the NIHB program. In 2015, the AFN advanced development of a National Action Plan on NIHB through regional roundtables, a national forum on NIHB and numerous engagement opportunities with leadership and technicians. As directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly (Resolution 13/2014), the Draft Action Plan is a living document enabling ongoing work.

Additionally, a booklet entitled *Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB): A Year in Review (2013-2014)* serves to provide an overview of some of the work completed and can be located at: http://health.afn.ca/uploads/files/nihb_sca_booklet_final_en.pdf. A similar booklet is aimed at NIHB clients and may be located at: http://health.afn.ca/uploads/files/nihb_health_bulletin_spring_2015_e.pdf.

AFN-FNIHB NIHB Joint Review has also been established as mandated by Resolution 56/2012. The committee has produced terms of reference and a critical path/process for the review. The Short Term Mental Health Crisis Counselling benefit is complete and the review of dental benefits is close to concluding. Both vision and medical transportation benefits are in the early stages of the review process and the review of medical supplies/equipment and pharmacy benefits will commence shortly after.

The AFN has contracted Kahui Tautoko Consulting Ltd. (KTCL) to do site visits for the joint review. The following regions are complete: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and the Atlantic. By July 2016, Ontario, Yukon and the Northwest Territories site visits will be complete. As part of the joint review process, feedback will be solicited from service providers through online surveys and a special think tank in September 2016.

Beyond the Action Plan and the Joint Review, the AFN also sits as an observer on the NIHB Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC) that provides recommendations for formulary changes to the NIHB Drug Benefits list; and the NIHB/Canadian Dental Association (CDA) Technical Working Group that provides key recommendations related to dental benefits. AFN has been working with the CDA, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) on the joint review, the service provider think tank and other shared priorities.

Finally, the AFN has been coordinating the National Navigators Network which is comprised of NIHB Client Navigators from across the country. The aim is to create a supportive network that allows for the sharing of best practices in order to aid the Navigators in helping clients access NIHB services. Part of this coordination includes hosting two annual face-to-face meetings. These meetings also allow Navigators to meet with operational NIHB staff to identify and resolve issues when possible.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Ongoing communication with FNIHB's senior officials/committees and the NIHB benefits management team.
- Ongoing collaborative efforts with the CMA, CDA, CPhA, among others.
- Continued coordination role for the National Navigators Network.
- Ongoing work on communications products related to the Action Plan, Joint Review and NIHB related topics aimed at improving available information on the program.
- Continued progress on items identified in the AFN NIHB Action Plan.
- Continued progress on the AFN-FNIHB Joint Review.
- Ongoing communication with the CCOH and the NFNHTN for guidance and direction on NIHB activities.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mental wellness continues to be a priority for the AFN and First Nations leadership, as directed by Resolution 55/2012: Mental Wellness as a National Priority. This file includes the following priority areas: Mental Wellness, Life Promotion, Substance Use, as well as Intergenerational Trauma and Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Supports Program (IRS RHSP).

The AFN Mental Wellness Committee (MWC) that was established by the NFNHTN in April 2010 guides this work with technical expertise and knowledge of the national, regional and community level issues. The committee meets twice a year, participates in monthly teleconferences and develops strategic direction.

MENTAL WELLNESS

The AFN, First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and Indigenous mental health leaders led a joint process to describe a First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum (FNMWC). Guided by an Advisory Committee, this process set out to map existing mental health and addictions programs and arrive at a common understanding of program strengths, gaps and emerging priorities. The result is the FNMWC framework, launched in January 2015 that includes a mental wellness service continuum and outlines opportunities to strengthen existing mental wellness programming for First Nations communities.

The establishment of the FNMWC Implementation Team has been a key component to implementation of the framework from a social determinant of health approach, and is an important step in supporting Resolution 22/2014: Support for the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum. The team, co-chaired by the AFN, the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, First People's Wellness Circle and FNIHB, is comprised of First Nations regional representatives, and Indigenous organizations focused on mental health and addictions, along with key federal departments. The team will support the ongoing implementation of the framework, and ensure transition in the system to support the provision of culturally-based, culturally-relevant, and effective mental wellness services to First Nations in the coming years.

In 2015/16, the FNMWC Implementation Team undertook regional priority setting activities to feed into the development of a national level FNMWC Implementation Team work plan that complements regional work plans toward successfully implementing the FNMWC framework.

The Implementation Team also oversaw the FNMWC demonstration projects. The Mental Wellness Division (FNIHB) and Governance Programs (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada) each allocated \$175K to these implementation projects in 2015-2016 for a total investment of \$350K. The goals for this initial strategic investment were to learn from community adaptations and innovations and share promising practices; support mentorship between communities; increase the evidence base for the FNMWC; and facilitate a move away from siloed approaches toward more coordinated and effective approaches. The five demonstration projects (Kwanlin Dun First Nation (YK), Shibogama First Nation Council (ON), Mattawa First Nations Management (ON), Elsipogtog Health and Wellness Centre (NB) and Six Nations Health Services (ON) completed their final reports, deliverables and tools and presented these to the FNMWC Implementation Team in May 2016.

While First Nations youth face significant challenges around issues of mental health and suicide, they remain a resilient population who can offer the most innovative and relevant solutions to issues which they face. Subsequently, on July 10, 2016 in Niagara Falls the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) hosted a National Youth Summit focused on mental wellness, life promotion, healing and culture, and other related topics. This event ensured First Nations youth were meaningfully engaged in setting priorities, having opportunities to voice their concerns, and strengthen their networks along with key opportunities to exercise their leadership skills.

The AFN participated in various knowledge exchange activities to increase awareness of First Nations priorities, issues and promising practices around mental wellness. The AFN published a Mental Wellness Bulletin (Fall 2015); and participated in the World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10) social media campaign, and took part in Mental Health week (May 2-6).

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Move the FNMWC Implementation Team work plan forward, and support regional work plans.
- Continue to advocate for the inclusion of provinces and territories in the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum work and implementation activities.
- Ensure FNIHB is respecting First Nations processes and protocols on all mental wellness initiatives.





LIFE PROMOTION

The AFN continues to advocate for more community-based approaches to “Life Promotion” (suicide prevention) activities and programming that create opportunities for First Nation youth to enjoy all the same safeguards that Canadian youth take for granted including holistic and cultural approaches to wellness.

The AFN is a member of the Project Advisory Group for the *Wise Practices for Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations Communities* project. This project will produce a useful, culturally relevant, accessible, and hopeful resource that will bring together inspirational stories and wise practices from First Nations communities as well as findings from recently published research.

It is essential that young people play an integral role in shaping the solutions; therefore, a First Nation Youth Roundtable on Life Promotion involving the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) and Minister Philpott (Minister of Health) took place on June 7, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario. Youth were given the opportunity to discuss regional issues and priorities as well as promising and portable practices that promote life and hope.

Following this Roundtable, the NYC prepared formal Calls-to-Action to be presented at the Summit (July 10) for endorsement from a broader group of First Nations youth. It is anticipated that the AFN NYC will then take the youth-endorsed Calls-to-Action to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for formal recognition which is to be presented to Ministers Philpott and Bennett respectively.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to participate in the *Wise Practices for Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations Communities* Project Advisory Group.
- Advocate with the federal government to implement the Calls-to-Action developed by the AFN NYC.
- Continue to work with partners and the National Collaborative on Suicide Prevention.

SUBSTANCE USE

Prescription drug abuse (PDA) is a complex and increasing concern for some First Nations communities and data is lacking. As such, the AFN is participating in a PDA Data Collection Working Group to provide strategic advice, guidance and feedback on the development of a Methodology for Prescription Drug Abuse Data Collection in First Nations Communities.

This Working Group will provide comprehensive input on the project approach to develop a PDA specific survey for optional community use.

The AFN is working in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA) on a project to expand access to community-based opioid-dependence treatment programs involving Suboxone® in First Nations communities. Inspiration was drawn from communities in Northern Ontario's Sioux Lookout Zone (SLZ) that began community-based treatment programs which combined substitution therapy and intensive, culturally appropriate counseling, land based programming and trauma informed approaches to healing.

As directed by Resolution 23/2014 Pay Equity Renewal Opportunities, the AFN was invited to participate on the NNADAP Joint Technical Working Group (TWG), alongside the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (TPF) and others, in order to examine NNADAP's sustainability and ability to address prevention, intervention and treatment needs in Ontario First Nations. The working group provides expert advice and evidence to leadership to further support the investments required to provide adequate funding levels for sustainable programming and operating needs of ON Region NNADAP community-based programs and NNADAP/NYSAP Treatment Centres.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with partners through the NNADAP TWG to ensure wage parity is addressed.
- Work in collaboration with partners to develop a PDA Data Collection Survey.
- Continue working to expand access to community-based opioid-dependence treatment programs involving Suboxone®.
- Continue to engage with partners to implement the *Honouring our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada* (FNIHB, AFN, NNAPF; 2011) framework, and the complementary FNMWC framework.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA AND INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORTS PROGRAM

The Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Resolution Health Support Program (RHSP) provided mental health and emotional support services to former IRS students and their families before, during and after their participation in the Settlement Agreement processes. The IRS RHSP is linked to the duration of the IRS Settlement Agreement and consequently sunsets on March 31, 2016. As a result, there is little to no specific funding dedicated to the healing of IRS survivors.

To this end, the AFN is advocating for the continuation of the IRS RHSP beyond 2016, as mandated by Resolution 29/2013: Continuation of the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program beyond 2016.

The AFN developed an IRS RHSP Program Review report which examined particular views and impacts going forward should the IRS RHSP cease to exist. The report provided a number of considerations, as well as recommendations to adequately address the needs of survivors and their families. The report will be shared and used as an advocacy tool to ensure these important programs and services continue to be accessible to IRS survivors and their families.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to support activities related to advocacy of the IRS RHSP and healing programs.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health programs and services are designed to address population level health issues through a holistic approach to health promotion, protection and prevention while addressing the broader determinants of health. To improve the health of First Nations people, we must ensure all approaches, interventions, policies, and programs are reflective of First Nations autonomy, values and practices.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

A. AFN NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NPHEAC)

The AFN NPHEAC met in January, June and December 2015. The meeting in December 2015 was held via conference call and included updates and discussions on: the Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBI) and the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (CDPMF) Frameworks; the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), Home and Community Care (HCC); Food Security; and the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) joint review.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

The AFN continues to work closely with FNIHB on various programs and initiatives including, but not limited to: Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections (STBBI), Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

(CDPM), Nursing Recruitment and Retention (NRR), Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Infection Control and Prevention, Immunization, Treasury Board departmental evaluations, public health surveillance and data management through the Health Data Technical Working Group (HDTWG), Program and Service Delivery Standards (PSDS), e-health, and emergency preparedness and pandemic planning. The AFN works closely with FNIHB to ensure First Nations values, practices and approaches are respected and that programs and policies are reflective of First Nations' needs.

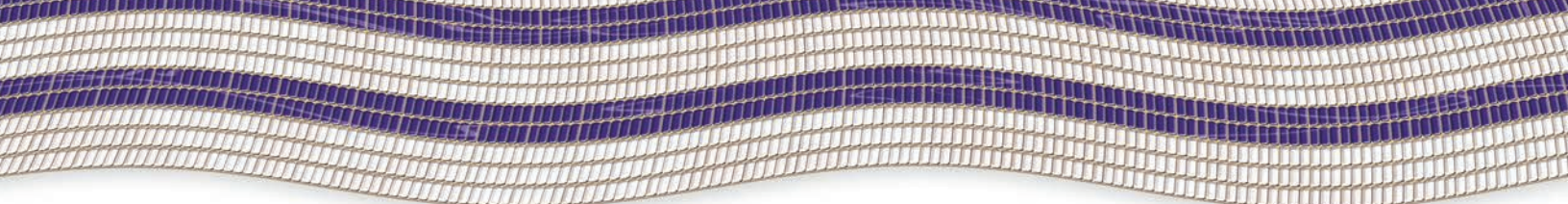
The AFN also collaborates with various national organizations on areas of relevance to public health including, but not limited to, the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH), the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA), the Canadian Red Cross (CRC), and the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN). The AFN has also been involved in the planning and development of the new Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health at the University of Toronto. Through partnerships with other national organizations the AFN works to ensure the ongoing inclusion of First Nations in the development of new strategies that aim to improve the health and well-being of First Nations people.

The AFN is the co-chair of the task group to develop the National Framework on Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Infections on Reserve. Other partners include the Public Health Agency of Canada, FNIHB national and regional, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, National Council on HIV/AIDS and individual experts in communicable diseases. The AFN also contributed to the review of an infection prevention and control manual for First Nations; the manual will be distributed electronically in the fall of 2016 through regional offices.

Collaborative efforts with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) have commenced in discussions and next steps to address common priorities of the Canada biennial work plan. Priorities discussed include, but are not limited to prioritizing the social determinants of health, ethno-stress, mental health, and life promotion.

The AFN is currently in the process of rebuilding from previous injury prevention developments and building on the 2008 injury prevention work plan toward an expanded model or national strategy as directed by AFN resolution 66/2012.





AFN secured funding from Employment and Social Development Canada to advance Resolution 75/ 2015. Work has begun to establish a Council of First Nations Persons with Disabilities as well as engage in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) process. The Committee will adopt the list of issues for Canada during its 16th session, from August 15, 2016 to September 2, 2016. The AFN Executive Committee will determine the appointment of a Representative in addition to the selection of members to the Council of First Nations Persons with Disabilities.

The AFN secretariat has met with Canadian Medical Association (CMA) officials regarding AFN Resolution 2/2015 and has brought the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) specific Calls to Action #18 to #24 to the attention of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Health and the National First Nations Health Technical Network for consideration. Senator Ted Quewezance continues to advocate for CMA's support through the passing of several resolutions at the CMA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2015 and ongoing collaboration and next steps at the upcoming CMA annual general meeting in 2016. Senator Quewezance and Dr. Alika Lafontaine presented to the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) on May 2, 2016 including an update to the AFN Executive Committee in May 2016 for their consideration and next steps in this development.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Development of the AFN Public Health Wellness Framework, in alignment with the AFN Wellness Foundational Model.
- Continue to work in partnership with FNIHB on the development of policies, programs and strategies to promote First Nations well-being.
- Continue to work with national partners outside of government on the development of strategies aimed at promoting First Nations well-being.
- Continuation of the National Public Health Experts Advisory Committee to advise the National First Nations Health Technicians Network on matters pertaining to public health.

C. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PANDEMIC PLANNING

Emergency Preparedness as it pertains to health continues to be a top priority for First Nations communities. The AFN continues to be actively engaged with key stakeholders both in government and civil society to ensure that all First Nations have access to appropriate prevention, mitigation and treatment resources for all possible health emergencies.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN is working with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Health Canada on the creation of a First Nations Emergency Response Plan (ERP) All Hazards Annex, a direct recommendation from the 2013 Office of the Auditor General (OAG) report on emergency management on First Nations reserves. The AFN is assisting FNIHB in developing a questionnaire to determine what First Nations currently have in place for ERP as a start.

The AFN is also working closely with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) to finalize a Relationship Protocol. The CRC is interested in working together, in a mutually respectful and supportive manner, with First Nations to explore culturally appropriate and sustainable ways to deliver its three key programmatic areas across the country: Emergencies & Disasters, Community Health and Wellness, and Prevention & Safety. The latter includes elements entitled: Respect Education; Promoting Respect, Preventing Violence; First Aid; and, Swim and Water Safety. It is planned to have this Relationship Protocol completed this year.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with FNIHB on the research for the need of the First Nations All Hazards Emergency Response Plan.
- Finalize the agreement with the CRC.

D. FOOD SECURITY

Addressing food security for First Nations communities involves addressing the broader determinants of health that act as barriers to an adequate and comprehensive continuum of resources for a community's food system. These include aspects such as income, cost of living, geography, and nutritional literacy. As per Resolution 78/2010, the AFN continues to monitor the progress of Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada in the development and implementation of the Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to follow closely the recommendations put forth in the 2014 report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program and working with Health Canada on the Nutrition North Education Initiative. In 2016 it was announced that the Nutrition North Program would receive funding over the next five years for review and expansion. The AFN will continue to monitor new developments

in terms of the NNC review and expansion by ensuring First Nations are included in this process.

The AFN is also working with Food Secure Canada in advocating for a universal healthy school food program. The AFN is also supporting academic work that is looking at the relationship between food security, governance and health through partnerships with academics from the First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES).

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to participate and monitor the outcomes of INAC's review and expansion of the NCC program.
- Continue to work in partnership with national partners to address the complex issues associated with food insecurity.

E. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED AND BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS (STBBI)

First Nations continue to be overrepresented in all STBBIs diagnosis and are acquiring HIV at a disproportionately higher rate than the general Canadian population. Two-thirds of new HIV infections among First Nations are acquired through injection drug use, a proportion that is two times higher than seen in Canada overall. Indigenous peoples in Canada have much higher rates for new HIV diagnoses than Indigenous peoples in the US, Australia and New Zealand.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Since 2013 the AFN has been working in close partnership with FNIHB and other partners to develop a National Framework to address STBBIs on reserve.

The AFN works with the CAAN to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C among Indigenous people in Canada. The AFN participates in the annual planning and events held during Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (AAAW), and participated in CAAN's National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Awareness month, which was held in May, 2016.

AFN is a member of the Canadian National Aboriginal Working Group on HIV and AIDS (CNAWGHA) and works to raise awareness of issues of HIV/AIDS in First Nations communities. CNAWGHA is composed of various national organizations working in the area of HIV/AIDS in Indigenous communities. AFN continues to explore partnerships that can support and strengthen efforts to address the unique needs of First Nations.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with FNIHB on the development of a national framework to address STBBIs for First Nations on reserve, which is aimed to be launched on December 1, 2017 (World AIDS Day).
- Continue to work in partnership with CAAN and CNAWGHA to raise the awareness of STBBIs among First Nations in Canada.

F. FNIHB DEPARTMENTAL EVALUATIONS

The AFN has ongoing participation in all FNIHB departmental evaluations along with ITK and the Health Canada-Public Health Agency of Canada Office of Audit and Evaluation (OAE). These departmental evaluations are mandated by Treasury Board (TB), and occur for all FNIHB programs every five years. In 2014 the AFN finalized a protocol for departmental evaluations between AFN, ITK and FNIHB, which is now in effect and appended to the AFN-FNIHB Engagement Protocol. The evaluation protocol is currently under review to assess its effectiveness.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Evaluations currently underway include the Health Service Integration Fund (HSIF), mental wellness, NIHB, environmental health, and health planning and quality management, health facilities, capital programs, and e-health. The AFN reviews all scoping decks, methodologies, data collections tools and preliminary findings for all evaluations.

The AFN is also currently involved in the review of the protocol for departmental evaluations with AFN and ITK engagement. The protocol outlines responsibilities and processes by which the OAE engages with the AFN and ITK in various phases throughout the evaluation process including: determination of project scope, methodology, preliminary findings and the draft final report. A draft report of lessons learned and possible recommendations is anticipated in the fall. Results and findings from the review will be approved through AFN health technicians and FNIHB Senior Management Committee.

TB policy on evaluation is undergoing review in July, 2016. Although it is not anticipated to impact the engagement process of the protocol agreement, changes to this policy may impact the specific details and stages of the evaluation work. As such, the new TB policy on evaluations will be taken into consideration in the general review of the AFN-ITK-FNIHB protocol agreement.





NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work collaboratively with the OAE on all FNIHB departmental evaluations.
- Continue to participate in the protocol review to increase its effectiveness and utility.
- Continue discussions of how to include the AFN in the Management Response Action Plan (MRAP) process of evaluations.

G. CANCER: THE CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CANCER (CPAC)

The incidence of cancer continues to increase faster in First Nations communities than in the general Canadian population. It is the third most common cause of death in First Nations men and the second most common cause in First Nations women. Lung cancer is the most common type of cancer followed by prostate and colorectal for men and breast and colorectal for women. With the increasing incidence and prevalence of cancer amongst First Nations, there is an increasing need for services, benefits, and health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has spent the better part of a year carefully reflecting on its continued partnership with the CPAC and on the associated national and regional efforts to improve cancer control for First Nations. This re-evaluation was prompted by the numerous challenges that the AFN and our regional First Nations partners have encountered in working with others to improve cancer control for First Nations. Specific challenges relate to establishing relationships with regional and national cancer control stakeholders and resources not reaching communities or contributing to positive improvements for First Nations individuals, families and communities burdened by cancer.

Given the concerns and challenges that have recently been brought to the AFN's attention, the AFN has elected, at this time, to withhold support for a third mandate for the CPAC. The AFN, however, is continuing to engage in discussions with the CPAC and Health Canada to explore ways in which we can collaboratively address these concerns in a meaningful way.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN secretariat to continue working with the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) to determine immediate next steps along with short, medium and long-term strategic goals/plans for cancer control and national partnerships.

H. DIABETES

The rate of diabetes is three to five times higher for First Nations than the general Canadian population. Rates of diabetes among First Nations are expected to rise significantly in the future given that risk factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, tobacco usage, and nutritional challenges are also increasing.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Diabetes activities have focused around exploring new partnerships and working with current partners, such as the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) and the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA), to maximize knowledge exchange and use of resources. The AFN has been engaged in the evaluation and continued advocacy for the renewal of the Government of Canada Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) program to continue supporting health promotion and diabetes prevention activities and services. This past fall, the FNIHB announced that the ADI program would be renewed and would receive ongoing (A-based) funding henceforth.

A representative from the TransFORmation of IndiGENous PrimAry HEAlthcare Delivery (ForgeAhead) team provided a presentation to the NFNHTN meeting in April 2016. This presentation provided an overview of the current collaboration, between the ForgeAhead team and the FNIHB, focused on addressing the burden of diabetes and other chronic diseases in First Nations communities.

The AFN has also provided direction to Health Canada in its efforts to develop a National Chronic Disease Prevention Management (CDPM) framework. The framework will be used by health care providers and administrators working in First Nations communities, as well as FNIHB regional and national policy and program staff to support health planning and strengthen chronic disease prevention and management for First Nations living on-reserve and in the North. The framework is intended to facilitate a common understanding of areas of transformation and to provide guidance to communities to adapt and optimize strategies based on their own priorities. An updated draft of the CDPM framework is to be presented to the FNIHB Senior Management Committee (SMC) in June 2016.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with Health Canada to provide national support for the implementation of the ADI.
- Continue to build relationships with NADA and the CDA to advance work on shared priorities.

I. TOBACCO

The misuse of commercial tobacco has been shown to be a major risk factor of chronic diseases. Smoking increases the risk for diabetes by fifty per cent and greatly increases the risk of developing numerous types of cancer. Smoking cessation and discontinuing use of smokeless commercial tobacco products are the most important and effective ways of reducing the risk of developing cancer and a variety of other chronic diseases.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

There have been no resources available to support implementation of the 2011 AFN National First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy Action Plan. The federal government continues to move forward with its First Nations and Inuit Component of the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FNICFTCS) with some First Nations communities participating in awareness and cessation initiatives. There remain, however significant concerns about potential infringement of rights and jurisdiction, in particular as it relates to economic development of both traditional and commercial tobacco.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Provide continued advocacy, policy direction and advice on tobacco issues with particular focus on the infringement of rights, including providing a legal analysis of the concerns.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The AFN continues to advocate at the regional, national and international levels for increased culturally-appropriate prevention and intervention strategies and programming that will lead to improved outcomes for First Nations children and youth.

A. CHILDREN'S NUTRITION

The AFN continues to raise awareness of the need for a universal school nutrition program and promotes organizations such as ONEXONE and the National First Nations Breakfast Program. The AFN participates on the ONEXONE National Advisory Council to discuss national issues and ways to expand the program.

B. PARTNERSHIPS

Working in partnership with other non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) ensures that the issues affecting First Nations children remain a priority with the federal government. The

AFN continues to be an active member of the CPS First Nations/Inuit Health Committee. Due to cutbacks from FNIHB, site visits to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, have been temporarily discontinued, but the group continues to meet to work on CPS statements and to prioritize children's health issues.

The AFN participates as a Planning Committee member for the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health (IMICH), which will be held March 31-April 2, 2017 in Denver, Colorado.

C. FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

The AFN conducted an FASD Environmental Scan, which identifies the strengths, challenges and opportunities available for parents and children, families, schools and First Nations communities affected by FASD. It sought to clarify the roles of the family members, communities and the provincial and federal governments. This report has been translated and will be posted on the AFN website.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

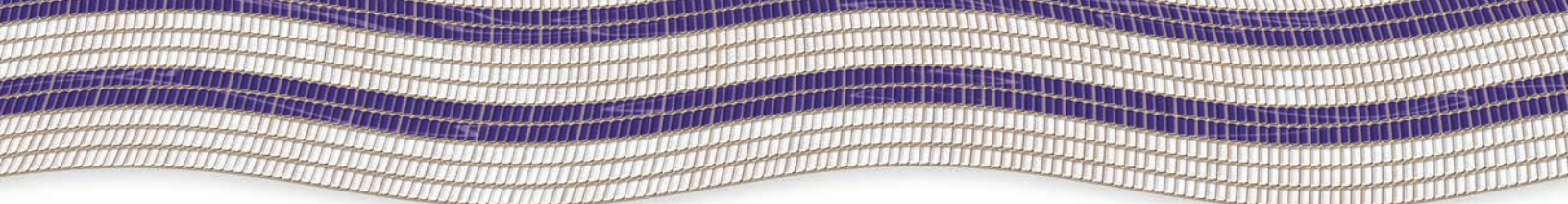
- The AFN will continue to work with partners to raise the awareness of Children's Health issues.
- The AFN will continue to advocate for increased funding in the area of Children's Health, including Maternal Child Health and the Aboriginal Head Start programs.
- The AFN will attend the upcoming IMICH meeting in Denver, Colorado, in 2017

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HCC) SENIORS HEALTH

Established in 1999, the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program (FNIHCCP) was designed to assist First Nations and Inuit communities to meet the increasing home care demands of community members living with chronic and acute illnesses. This in-home care enables First Nations to receive the required care in familiar surroundings and for the person requiring the care to be close to family, friends and community as long as possible in order to maintain some personal independence.

Resolution 10/2015 calls upon the federal government to use up-to-date population figures when developing the funding formula for the Home and Community Care (HCC) Program and calls upon Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch to financially support a First Nations-led review of the HCC Program in order to identify the impacts of insufficient





funding at the community level as it impacts the provision of quality services and sustainable program growth.

Resolution 07/2013: Increase in Funding for Palliative Care in First Nations Communities mandates the AFN to work with the federal government to have palliative care deemed an essential service element in First Nations communities provided that sustainable funding is included in the funding formula.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

A. FIRST NATIONS SENIORS STRATEGY

The First Nations seniors population is growing rapidly and First Nations are seeing increased cancer rates, chronic diseases, and Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Caseloads are drastically increasing, which could result in diminished quality of care as individual patient time decreases. This past year, under the direction of the National First Nations Health Technicians Network and the Chiefs Committee on Health, the Home and Community Care (HCC) First Nations Partners parted ways with FNIHB's Joint HCC Coordinator working group, in lieu of an AFN Task Force on First Nations and Aging. This new, First Nations-driven, higher level working group, will focus on HCC, as well as other issues affecting First Nations seniors and aging including palliative, dementia and long-term care. This group will oversee the HCC Program Review and bring key advisors together to discuss a broad range of issues which would ultimately lead to a First Nations Seniors Strategy with accompanying Calls to Action.

B. PALLIATIVE CARE

It is unacceptable to re-victimize residential school survivors and send them away from their community for palliative/end of life care. Resolution 07/2013, entitled "Increase in Funding for Palliative Care in First Nations Communities," calls for the federal government to have palliative care deemed an essential service and provide sustainable and equitable funding. Palliative care is considered a non-essential supportive service which can only be provided once all of the essential service elements have been met. With minimal increases since the program's inception, the demand for palliative care is far outweighing the availability of funds in HCC budgets and the situation is becoming dire. The AFN continues to advocate for funding for Palliative Care and will do so through the new Task Force.

The AFN also partnered with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA), the Way Forward (TWF) Initiative and Lakehead University to provide a communications role in the sharing of a culturally-appropriate Advance Care Planning (ACP) tool. The AFN translated these tools and posted them on the AFN website for community awareness.

C. INTEGRATION

The AFN supports those First Nations communities who wish to integrate their Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Assisted Living program and Health Canada's HCC program; however, the AFN is opposed to a top-down approach by the federal government making it mandatory for every community. First Nations need to be at the table in any discussions between the two departments.

D. DEMENTIA

On April 20, 2016, Regional Chief Isadore Day presented to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on the issue of First Nations and Dementia in order to influence action on the issue and to advocate for research to reveal why First Nations incidence of dementia is increasing. The AFN suggested timely solutions and recommendations moving forward, including culturally appropriate screening, diagnosis and care.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN Task Force on Aging will begin meeting regularly and will oversee the HCC Program Review as well as make calls to action regarding issues involving First Nations seniors. This Task Force will begin to raise the profile of seniors' issues, and this early work on HCC will feed into the upcoming Health Accord discussions, where home care is one of the four pillars.
- The focus of the Task Force will also be to address the national resolutions, including the chronic underfunding of the HCC program as well as the lack of funding for palliative/end of life care.

STRATEGIC POLICY

In 2015/16 the AFN continued to pursue a long-term vision of First Nations control of First Nations health systems with sustainable, reliable and equitable investments from the federal government.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

A major strategic policy development was the completion of the First Nations AFN Wellness Foundational Model. The model articulates the key elements pursued by the AFN in supporting the development of comprehensive, responsive and culturally-rooted First Nations health systems. The foundational model is available on the AFN website and is a resource for community wellness planning.

AFN developed a paper with input from the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) articulating the Liberal Party's campaign promises related to First Nations health. This paper was formally provided to Health Minister Philpott by Regional Chief Isadore Day. It is also available on the AFN health website.

Perhaps the most urgent and exciting recent development has been the move towards the renewal of the Health Accord. The National Chief and Regional Chief Day strongly advocated for First Nations participation in the Health Accord. As a result, First Nations, Inuit and Métis will participate for the first time, a process which has previously been limited only to federal, provincial and territorial partners. The first meeting of the Health Ministers was in January in Vancouver where Regional Chief Day gave a presentation on First Nations health needs. The CCOH passed a motion calling for the development of a Health Accord Task Team, to be comprised of subject matter experts and accountable to the CCOH. The AFN Executive Committee has supported the CCOH motion and their development of an AFN position. This work will also be informed by the NFNHTN. The key goal is to develop the political will within the provinces and territories to work with First Nations in an honourable way. In addition, the AFN submission will also tie the First Nations priorities with specific TRC Calls to Action in an effort to embed reconciliation within any agreement.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to build the relationship with FNIHB through the AFN-FNIHB Engagement Protocol.
- Continue to advance First Nations priorities and interests within the Health Accord discussion.
- Work to ensure AFN health activities align with the TRC Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the Treaty and inherent right to health.





HOUSING

AFN Housing works toward improved housing outcomes and resources for First Nations citizens living in and away from their community. The objectives are to secure resources for housing so that First Nations enjoy a quality of life that is safe, secure and sustainable. This is achieved through the analysis of existing policies, working with our federal partners in promoting changes, and working closely with regional housing technicians and the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure to seek input and advice.

Recent AFN resolutions address the critical need for safe, secure and adequate housing for First Nations. The resolutions direct the AFN to call on the federal government to respect the jurisdictional authority of First Nations and their duly mandated organizations in exercising roles and responsibilities for housing. Resolutions also call on government to respect its fiduciary responsibility to provide for housing based on the Treaty right to shelter. The resolutions also instruct the AFN to work with foundations, Aboriginal financial institutions and governments to investigate opportunities for Social Finance/Social Innovation partnerships using housing as an example.

These resolutions are:

- Resolution 16/2015 – Support for Social Innovation/Financing to Enhance Funding for First Nations Socio-Economic Development;
- Resolution 70/2015 – Support for Housing, Water and Infrastructure; and,
- Resolution 74/2015 – First Nations Water, Infrastructure and Housing Commission.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Federal programs are not meeting housing needs nor are they decreasing the current backlog of housing in First Nations communities. Between 2010 and 2034, it is estimated that there will be a backlog of 130,000 units, 44% of the existing units requiring major repairs and 18% requiring replacement. Mould is prevalent in many homes. The federal government has identified a strategy to examine the presence but not to remediate the mould in the affected homes. Flooding has plagued some First Nations. As of June 3, 2016, there are a total of 3,752 long-term flood evacuees from various First Nations communities.

Budget 2016 provided an unprecedented amount of funding for First Nations. Of the \$8.4 billion, \$4.6 billion is targeted for infrastructure. Budget 2016 provided \$416.6 million for on-reserve housing plus an additional \$137.7 million over two years for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), most of which would support the renovation and retrofit of existing housing on reserve.

Of greater significance is the move by the federal government to begin discussion and engagement with First Nations on housing reform. To that end, the AFN will be facilitating several meetings and a National Infrastructure Reform Forum to get further input into this discussion. This engagement will be a parallel activity with the broader National Housing Framework. The AFN, the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) and the AFN Regional Housing Technicians will work in partnership with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), CMHC and Health Canada (HC) on the Housing Reform and National Housing Framework.

The Joint Meeting with CCoHI, Housing and Infrastructure Technicians, INAC, HC and CMHC, May 17-19, 2016 was the first in a series of meetings to be facilitated by the AFN during fiscal year 2016/2017. The 2016 Budget was explained by INAC and CMHC. It was also planned to start the discussion on how to engage on housing reform, the Safe Water Act and water and infrastructure reform. Discussion on engagement for the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* (Bill S-8) was to be discussed but was taken off the agenda. INAC explained that this is one of the pieces of legislation to come under review and is being handled by another group at INAC. Due to time constraints the reform discussion did not happen. INAC also offered to fund the regions to hold their own regional session to get feedback on housing reform and other areas. These regional meetings are being planned.

In addition to other CCoHI and technicians meetings, AFN will be planning on a National Infrastructure Reform Forum and Tradeshow in fall 2016.

Other Activities

CMHC Request for Proposals to provide services for progress reviews and RRAP and Section 95

On August 10, 2015, CMHC issued a request for proposals (RFP) to on-reserve Technical Services Providers (TSPs) for the provision of On-Reserve Non Profit Housing Program (Section 95) Progress Advance Validations, physical condition reviews and renovation program reviews. This procurement has been set aside under CMHC's Aboriginal Procurement Policy. The goals of the RFP were to streamline CMHC's operations by reducing the number of contracts under administration and to decrease exposure by offloading liability onto the service provider. The closing date of this RFP was further amended until 2 p.m. EST December 18, 2015. On April 20, the AFN learned that there is only one successful bidder. CMHC is currently doing its due diligence with the successful bidder. If this is not to the satisfaction of CMHC, they would move to identify a second bidder. No official information has been received from CMHC on who the national organization might be.

This RFP was issued despite objections from First Nations organizations including the AFN. As of June 13, 2016, the decision on who is the successful bidder has not been released. A resolution requesting that Ministers Bennett and Ducros withdraw the RFP will be brought to the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly.

2015 – 2016 Evaluation of Housing On Reserve

The Evaluation, Performance Measurement and Review Branch (EPMRB) of INAC will conduct an evaluation of the Housing On Reserve sub-program in accordance with the Department's approved Five Year Plan on Evaluation and Performance Measurement Strategies. This evaluation will include the Ministerial Loan Guarantees and will also consider the implications of the First Nations Market Housing Fund and the Shelter Allowance component of Income Assistance as they relate to housing on-reserve. The evaluation is being completed in advance of the renewal of the authority for Housing.

Primary field work will take place between October 2015 and fall 2016. The final report with recommendations and a Management Response and Action Plan are to be presented to the Evaluation, Performance Measurement and Review Committee in December 2016.

AFN and regional housing technicians are part of the Evaluation Working Group/Advisory Group, which consists of the evaluation team and program representatives from Headquarters and the regions and other stakeholder groups, will provide feedback on the methodology,

preliminary findings and draft report and validate the evaluation's findings. The Working Group will review the evaluation preliminary findings and the draft final report, and provide feedback to EPMRB. The Evaluation, Performance Measurement and Review Committee, Chaired by AANDC's Deputy Minister, will review the final report for approval. An advisory committee has also been set up to provide guidance and feedback to EPMRB and a working group on the approach and conduct of the evaluation. The Chair and another representative of the CCoHI are on this Advisory Committee.

Habitat for Humanity – Flying Dust First Nation dedication

Habitat for Humanity (HfH) and the AFN formalized a statement of partnership on December 5, 2011 to explore the opportunity of assisting interested First Nations in enhancing their current housing programs with the Aboriginal Housing Program offered through HfH.

Ongoing discussions between HfH and several First Nations in 2014 saw progress on a project to build the first home on reserve. This resulted in a ground turning on May 5, 2015 on Flying Dust First Nation in Saskatchewan. This marked the first time that the HfH has made a commitment to an on-reserve development project. Flying Dust First Nation and Habitat Lloydminster are planning a home dedication for Elders homes on June 24. The partnership also plans to commence retrofitting a couple of vacant homes as planned under the partnership project agreement. It is envisioned that retrofitting will be led by women from the community.

It is planned that there will be more on-reserve builds in the future.

National Housing Liaison Committee (NHLC)

The NHLC consists of members from AANDC, CMHC, Health Canada, AFN Regional Housing Technicians and the AFN. The AFN brings issues raised by regional housing technicians to this table. The objectives of the NHLC are to support First Nations and First Nations organizations in their housing roles and responsibilities, identify housing issues and to advise on broad policies and processes to enhance housing outcomes on-reserve, including settlement lands and self-governing First Nations territories. It provides a regular forum for exchanging information on First Nations housing matters, including recommendations to the authorities related to programs, policies and practices that will contribute to enhanced housing outcomes on First Nations. The NHLC members have developed Terms of Reference to:



- i) Support First Nations and First Nations organizations in their housing roles and responsibilities;
- ii) Identify housing issues and advise on broad policies and processes to enhance housing outcomes on-reserve, including settlement lands and self-governing First Nations territories; and,
- iii) Provide a regular forum for exchanging information on First Nations housing matters, including recommendations for consideration to the authorities related to programs, policies and practices that will contribute to enhanced housing outcomes on First Nations.

INAC was the chair of the NHLC for 2015. No meetings were hosted by INAC in 2015. CMHC is the 2016 host and no meetings have been called to date.

AFN / Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation (AAFN) / Holmes Group (HG) Pilot Project

In July 2010, the AFN entered into a Statement of Partnership with the Holmes Group to seek out and partner with a First Nations community (Atikameksheng Anishnawbek) in Ontario to construct a housing and community subdivision (the "Pilot Project"). The Pilot Project consists of multi-levels, incorporating the retrofit of existing housing units, construction of new houses, construction of community buildings (water and waste water systems, schools and administrative offices), green technology and clean energy sources. The Pilot Project would lead to the development of a First Nation Community Planning Tool, a Housing Centre of Excellence, and a First Nation Green Housing Standard for the use of all First Nations, more recently entitled the First Nations Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS). The overarching goal of the First Nation Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS) is to enable First Nations communities to provide good, healthy and affordable housing in their communities. During the preparation of the document, it became apparent that the housing shortage problem could not be solved without first addressing several other challenges, both specific to and related to housing and community development. As a result, the scope of this document increased to include both community as well as housing development. The FNSDS was funded by the First Nation Market Housing Fund.

The FNSDS is divided into four chapters, each focusing on a specific subject matter:

- Chapter 1 describes community assessment and capacity development strategies;
- Chapter 2 focuses on establishing Good Governance in a community;

- Chapter 3 identifies good design strategies and sustainable building materials and equipment; and,
- Chapter 4 focuses specifically on building code, project management, and construction standards.

The FNSDS has been translated and will be available on the AFN Housing website for the use of all First Nations. As a next step, the project team is seeking funding to develop instructor and participant manuals and train-the-trainer manuals.

First Nations Market Housing Fund

On April 20, 2007, the Government of Canada announced that it would create a \$300 million First Nations Market Housing Fund (Fund). This Fund was developed to facilitate and broaden the range of housing options for residents of First Nations communities so that they may have the same housing choices and opportunities as people in non-First Nation communities. It was projected that the Fund would assist with the generation of some 25,000 housing units over 10 years.

The FNMHF has informed the AFN that as of June 13, 2016 they are:

- working with 210 First Nations;
- 90 are approved for credit enhancement and capacity development credit of \$836 million for an estimated 5,500 home loans;
- 160 home loans have been backed by the Fund;
- 68 First Nations have been approved for capacity building only and are working toward qualifying for loans; and,
- The Fund has spent more than \$16 million on capacity development for more than 900 initiatives.

Shelter Allowance as it Relates to Housing

The AFN is working to resolve housing challenges related to income assistance shelter allowance. Currently, First Nations who have CMHC's not-for-profit housing program (Section 95) in their communities are only eligible to receive the shelter allowance until the mortgages are paid in full. If, however, the First Nation implements a universal rental regime in the community, then the tenants residing in the units are eligible to collect shelter allowance. Similarly, band-owned or self-funded units are eligible as well to collect shelter allowance from income assistance clients. The benefits of this will be realized in the budgets for housing, as the First Nation will be able to collect the rent from those individuals and use it for maintenance, repair and potential remediation of mould.

AFN continues to work with INAC in resolving these concerns.



First Nation Indoor Air Quality Committee – electronic Community Self-Assessment Tool (e-CSAT) project

In 2011, the Auditor General of Canada found that there was unsatisfactory progress addressing mould in First Nations housing. Despite having developed a strategy, the audit found that the three organizations, AANDC, CMHC and Health Canada had not allocated additional funding to address mould, determined the magnitude of the problem, estimated the costs to remediate existing mould, completed most items in the strategy or met the strategy's timelines.

AFN has been working with CMHC to develop an application for First Nations to use a self-assessment tool (e-CSAT) for mould in housing and further enhancing the tool. This tool will help communities better understand the extent and causes of mould problems in each house across the community, identify which houses may need attention first and to organize an effective remediation strategy. It will also help in a project to provide an estimate of the magnitude of the problem so that the three departments can answer the Auditor General's criticism.

In 2016/2017 the second phase of this project will be led by CMHC as a pilot project. The project partners are AFN, CMHC, and FNIGC. This pilot project will conduct an assessment of about 400 homes with the support of First Nation inspectors.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with INAC, CMHC and Health Canada on Housing Reform.
- Plan and deliver a National Infrastructure Reform forum which will include a Housing component.
- Continue to work toward better and open relations with our federal partners as directed in the mandate letters to the Ministers.
- Continue discussion on the transition of the First Nation Market Housing Fund to First Nations control as directed by Resolution 16/2013, Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations Control.





TOWARDS SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

The urgent issue of safety and security for Indigenous women and girls has been a top priority and is mandated through multiple resolutions. In 2013, Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed a National Action Plan to End Violence against Indigenous women and girls. A 2014 resolution directed the AFN to pursue a National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as part of a framework to develop a national dialogue on addressing and ending violence against Indigenous women and girls, all as a step toward the broader goal of securing a National Inquiry into this matter. In December 2014, further direction was given to ensure the respectful and appropriate inclusion of the voices and perspectives of the families of murdered and missing women and girls in the Roundtable. The AFN has been actively calling for a National Inquiry. In November, the plan to hold an inquiry was confirmed by the new federal government.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
Upon the election of a new federal government, the Prime Minister provided a mandate to Minister Bennett to develop, in collaboration with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and supported by the Minister of Status of Women, an approach to, and a mandate for, an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada, including the identification of a lead minister. The Federal Budget commitment towards this was \$40 million over two years.

From January to March 2016, the government engaged with survivors, family members and loved ones of victims, as well as national Indigenous, provincial/territorial representatives to seek input on the design and scope of the Inquiry.

The AFN held a First Nations specific pre-Inquiry forum to gather input from all regions, families, Women's Council and leadership. The AFN made a formal submission including the forum input, starting with family and specific input from past AFN resolutions. The announcement of the Terms of Reference for the National Inquiry is expected in the summer of 2016.

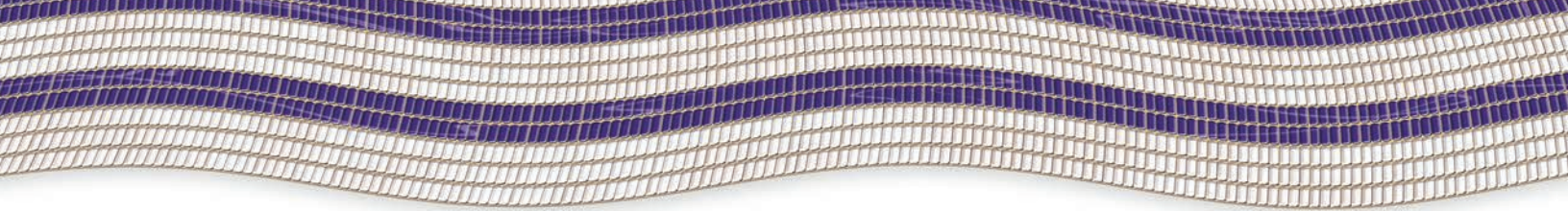
2nd National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

There has been the call for both immediate and coordinated action that must proceed during the Inquiry. The AFN has pressed at all levels for a national commitment in the form of a coordinated national action plan to prevent and address violence against Indigenous women and girls. The need for a coordinated national action plan is supported by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (March 2015 report) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (January 2015 report). Both international expert human rights bodies also explain in detail the standard of due diligence and how governments in Canada are obligated now to exercise due diligence in their actions and decision-making to ensure that Indigenous women and girls enjoy these fundamental human rights.

The 2nd National Roundtable was in part a response to action that can be taken during the Inquiry. It was held in February 2016, building on the themes of the first roundtable: Prevention and Awareness; Community Safety; and, Policing Measures and Justice Responses.

The roundtable included federal/provincial/territorial government participation and Indigenous leaders. Governments and leaders agreed to work with families and partners on a road map with 20 priorities. The following emerged as priorities in 2016/17:

- Continuing coordinated collaboration and action to prevent and address violence against Indigenous women and girls during the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).
- Recognizing the importance of a national inquiry on MMIWG, with federal, provincial and territorial governments committing to participation and full cooperation in the process.
- Building on the current Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to include the federal government as a co-Chair, with time dedicated to MMIWG issues including the ongoing coordination of efforts, monitoring progress, and identifying priorities for action, including appropriate F/P/T Ministers.
- Supporting the development of Indigenous-led cultural competency, anti-racism and anti-sexism training programs for all public servants



across governments, police and the justice system. These efforts include components focused on Indigenous history, impacts of policies, legislation and historical trauma.

- Creating and implementing a set of common performance measures to assess progress toward addressing and reducing the socio-economic gaps experienced by Indigenous peoples.
- Working collaboratively to improve communication and coordination between Indigenous families, communities, victim services, policing, prosecutions, women's groups, anti-violence groups, and shelter workers.
- Implementing the proposed Canada-wide prevention and awareness campaign focused on changing public perception and attitudes to help end violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Another key outcome of the first roundtable was to host the 2016 Justice Practitioners' Summit. This took place in January 2016, bringing together nearly 200 participants from across Canada representing experts and practitioners in three key sectors: victim services; policing; and prosecutions. The commitment was made at the 2nd roundtable to examine all of the recommendations contained within the report.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Participate in next steps on priorities and commitments of the 2nd National Roundtable.
- Work to further the First Nations National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls and the Provincial and Territorial Coordinating Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls.
- Support family engagement and AFN engagement in the work of the National Inquiry on MMWIG.





WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The role and responsibility of the Housing and Infrastructure Unit is to ensure that lobbying and advocacy efforts related to water, wastewater and infrastructure, directed by the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) are carried out; to ensure that First Nations are adequately represented in initiatives as they affect First Nations Housing and Infrastructure; to maintain up-to-date information on First Nations housing and infrastructure and provide information upon request; to ensure that First Nations housing and infrastructure issues and concerns are raised in various forums and processes by political leaders and others; to advocate for, support and assist First Nations in the development and maintenance of regional housing and infrastructure strategies, as required; and, to follow up and monitor recommendations made by the CCoHI and in Resolutions to ensure effective implementation.

Recent resolutions include:

- 16/2015 Support for Social Innovation/Financing to Enhance Funding for First Nations Socio-Economic Development
- 24/2015 Support for Equitable Application of Shelter Allowance Program
- 65/2015 Support for First Nations for the Safe Water Project
- 70/2015 Support for Housing, Water and Infrastructure
- 74/2015 First Nations Water, Infrastructure and Housing Commission
- 76/2015 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations
- 79/2015 Support for Remote First Nation Communities Who Rely on Winter Roads

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Housing and Infrastructure Reform – Development of a Sustainable Approach

In fiscal 2016/2017, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will be supporting several engagements with the CCoHI, the AFN Regional Housing and Infrastructure Technicians and regional organizations and will support a National Infrastructure Reform Forum. The objectives of these meetings and Forum are to seek input and recommendations on reforming how housing and infrastructure is delivered. The information gathered in these engagements will be brought to the National Infrastructure Reform Forum tentatively scheduled for the autumn of 2016. At this time, it is planned that leadership will be invited and

supported to attend the Forum so that direction and recommendations will be coming from leadership. Focussed discussions are planned on how to better manage and deliver programs in housing, water and wastewater and community infrastructure. The Forum will also support the federal agencies and, in partnership with First Nations, provide support for the identification of sustainable funding needed beyond the short-term (Budget 2016), medium-term (5 years) and long-term (10–20 years).

Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (Bill s-8)

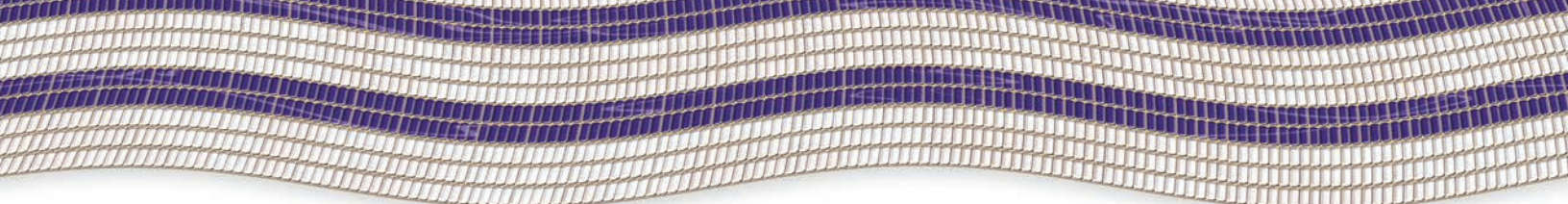
The *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* came into force November 1, 2013. The Act enables the Government to develop enforceable federal regulations to ensure access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water; the effective treatment of wastewater, and the protection of sources of drinking water on First Nation lands.

The Government's plan was to have Regulations developed:

- Concurrently and region-by-region together with First Nations, provincial/territorial governments, and other stakeholders, as needed;
- In a 3-phase approach, drafting regulations for 3 regions at a time;
- Consistently with existing provincial and territorial regulations in each region, with adaptations to address the realities on First Nation lands.

Regulations would be phased in over time to allow the government and First Nations communities the opportunity to bring infrastructure and capacity to the levels required to meet these regulations. Funding was made available through the Government's ARO proposal process for Regional First Nations organizations to get input from First Nations to provide feedback on drafting instructions for the Government to develop draft regulations. INAC received minimal input from First Nations on the drafting of regulations. There was clarity lacking from INAC on their intent and expectations on the form and the content of input from First Nations.

Consequently, as a result of Resolution 76/2015, Safe Drinking Water for First Nations, calling for the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, it is understood that Bill S-8 will be one of the pieces of legislation passed by the previous government that will come under



review. The CCoHI and the AFN First Nation Technical Water Advisory Group (FNTWAG) look forward to involvement in this review of Bill S-8. The CCoHI and FNTWAG and their networks and supporters led much of the resistance to Bill S-II and Bill S-8.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Budget 2016 provides an unprecedented level of funding over the next five years. Of the \$8.4 billion total announcement, \$4.6 billion is targeted to Infrastructure Programs for Indigenous Peoples. Budget 2016 provides \$1.8 billion over five years for water and wastewater projects, aligned with findings of the 2011 National Assessment to bring systems up to standards, to begin addressing gaps and to eliminate drinking water advisories in First Nations communities within five years.

\$617.5 million will be allocated over the next two years to resolve 40% of long-term drinking water advisories, deliver a minimum of 140 water and wastewater minor and major capital projects per year, and begin to bring existing systems up to standard. In addition, there will be \$141.7 million provided over five years to improve the monitoring and testing of drinking water (Health Canada).

First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF)

Budget 2016 also provides for \$255 million for infrastructure assets with historically low levels of funding and long-standing community needs. \$155 million in funding for the First Nations Infrastructure Fund already exists from Budget 2013. In addition, \$76.9 million in funding for cultural and recreational facilities will be rolled into the FNIF. Project categories have been amended over time to reflect changing needs. Projects currently funded are: planning and skills development; roads/bridges; energy systems (including fuel tanks); solid waste management; connectivity; structural mitigation; fire protection; and, cultural and recreational facilities.

Infrastructure for Educational Facilities

The Education Infrastructure Fund is intended to address the need for First Nations educational facilities by providing funding for the construction of new schools, as well as funding major renovations, additions and repairs. Budget 2016 announced \$969.4 million for educational facilities while \$675 million in funding for educational facilities already exists from Budget 2014. In total, \$1.37 billion will be targeted for educational facilities from 2016-17 to 2021-22 in addition to \$150 million in A-Base funding.

Priority Ranking Frameworks (PRF)

INAC utilizes Priority Ranking Frameworks at the regional and headquarters level to evaluate funded projects in various categories such as water and wastewater or education facilities. The factors used to determine the desirability of a project has been determined according to an internal process at INAC. This year, the CCoHI and the Housing and Infrastructure Technicians will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the existing priority ranking frameworks and those under development. A Working Group from the technicians committee will be formed to work with INAC on the review.

The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples study on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure

The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples conducted a study on the challenges relating to First Nations housing and infrastructure on reserves. An interim report was released February 2015. It reported on what was heard so far. The interim report stated: *“What the Committee has heard and seen about housing has been compelling. The poor quality of housing and the overcrowding in many communities is a distressing situation. At the same time, the Committee has been inspired by the innovative approaches taken by creative individuals in so many communities across the country. Indeed, innovation has been where big strides have been made by First Nations—in financing mechanisms, land use, and building materials.”*

The final report *On-Reserve Housing and Infrastructure: Recommendations for Change* was released in June 2015. The AFN and the Chair of the Senate Committee met and agreed to work together to support the 13 recommendations in the report. The overarching recommendation was that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada remove the 2% cap on annual increases on funding, effective in Budget 2016-2017. In Budget 2016, the Government committed “to lift the 2% funding cap for First Nations programs and work to establish a new fiscal relationship that gives First Nations communities sufficient, predictable and sustained funding.” Of the 13 recommendations, 8 were for housing and 5 for infrastructure. These recommendations will be considered during the reform engagement meetings.





NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue monitoring developments related to the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* and how First Nations may need to prepare for engagement;
- Continue to support the CCoHI and the First Nations Technical Water Advisory Group (FNTWAG) to synchronize regional efforts;
- Take on a renewed effort to work with Government of Canada staff, including but not limited to INAC, CMHC and Health Canada, to ensure program funding related to Budget 2016 is delivered fairly and timely manner;
- Continue to support regional and national engagement activities on housing, water, and infrastructure with the goal of providing information to central agencies to develop and support a long-term sustainable plan;
- Continue to support Fire Prevention services in First Nations communities and the efforts and activities of duly mandated firefighting organizations, as directed in Resolution 33/2011;
- Continue to participate on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods General Policy Advisory Council and provide links for supportive information for first responders.

Financial statements of

National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2016

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National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2016

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Council of
National Indian Brotherhood

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets (deficit) and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

July 10, 2016

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National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations year ended March 31, 2016

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) (Schedule 1) | 6,952,259 | 6,893,346 |
| Employment and Social Development Canada (Schedule 2) | 234,429 | 165,868 |
| Public Safety (Schedule 2) | 201,386 | - |
| Environment Canada (Schedule 2) | 100,000 | 149,998 |
| Elections Canada (Schedule 2) | 366,758 | - |
| Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Schedule 2) | 141,006 | 117,000 |
| Health Canada (Schedule 2) | 3,363,513 | 3,200,653 |
| Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (Schedule 2) | 129,599 | 211,630 |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Schedule 2) | 578,638 | 560,000 |
| Other department (Schedule 2) | 1,638,719 | 1,671,886 |
| | 13,706,307 | 12,970,381 |
| Expenses | | |
| Advertising, promotion and publications | 48,238 | 21,446 |
| Amortization of capital assets | 20,010 | 19,457 |
| Insurance | 30,090 | 32,667 |
| Miscellaneous | 252 | 2,890 |
| Bad debt | 335,488 | - |
| Office expenses | 991,954 | 1,027,716 |
| Professional fees | 877,595 | 656,418 |
| Regional service delivery | 1,227,555 | 1,204,872 |
| Rent | 828,752 | 832,167 |
| Salaries and benefits | 6,240,753 | 6,587,457 |
| Travel and meetings | 2,854,774 | 2,852,273 |
| | 13,455,461 | 13,237,363 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | 250,846 | (266,982) |

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Assets | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash | 2,261 | 2,261 |
| Asset held in trust (Note 3) | 15,281 | 15,281 |
| Grants and contributions receivable (Note 4) | 950,447 | 569,976 |
| Other accounts receivable | 479,911 | 750,077 |
| Due from the Trust Fund | 39,747 | 216 |
| Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable | 240,899 | 210,869 |
| Inventory | 31,764 | 27,613 |
| Prepaid expenses | 95,387 | 111,318 |
| | 1,855,697 | 1,687,611 |
| Prepaid expenses | 452,122 | 525,440 |
| Capital assets (Note 5) | 140,036 | 140,111 |
| | 2,447,855 | 2,353,162 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Bank loan (Note 9) | 253,117 | 785,779 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 1,861,747 | 1,725,416 |
| Government remittances payable | 170,421 | 52,055 |
| In trust liability (Note 3) | 15,281 | 15,281 |
| Deferred contributions (Note 6) | 191,483 | 14,449 |
| Excess contributions (Note 7) | 535,333 | 494,555 |
| Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8) | 96,000 | 96,000 |
| | 3,123,382 | 3,183,535 |
| Long-term debt (Note 8) | 272,000 | 368,000 |
| | 3,395,382 | 3,551,535 |
| Contingencies and commitments (Notes 9 and 10) | | |
| Net assets (deficit) | | |
| Invested in capital assets | 140,036 | 140,111 |
| Unrestricted deficiency - general operations | (1,087,563) | (1,338,484) |
| | (947,527) | (1,198,373) |
| | 2,447,855 | 2,353,162 |

On behalf of the Executive Council

_____ Perry Bellegarde, National Chief

_____ Roger Augustine, Regional Chief, Management Committee

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of
this consolidated financial statement.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of changes in net assets (deficit) year ended March 31, 2016

| | Invested in capital assets | Unrestricted deficiency - general operations | 2016 Total | 2015 Total |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Balance, beginning of year | 140,111 | (1,338,484) | (1,198,373) | (931,391) |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | - | 250,846 | 250,846 | (266,982) |
| Acquisition of capital assets | 19,935 | (19,935) | - | - |
| Amortization of capital assets | (20,010) | 20,010 | - | - |
| Balance, end of year | 140,036 | (1,087,563) | (947,527) | (1,198,373) |

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The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of cash flows year ended March 31, 2016

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Operating activities | | |
| Deficiency/surplus of revenue over expenses | 250,846 | (266,982) |
| Items not affecting cash | | |
| Amortization of capital assets | 20,010 | 19,457 |
| Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions | 177,034 | (164,189) |
| Increase in excess contributions | 40,778 | 74,183 |
| | 488,668 | (337,531) |
| Changes in non-cash operating working capital items (Note 11) | 199,460 | (450,994) |
| | 688,128 | (788,525) |
| Investing activity | | |
| Increase in Due from Trust Fund | (39,531) | (216) |
| Increase (decrease) in Due to Trust Fund | - | (3,371) |
| Acquisition of capital assets | (19,935) | - |
| | (59,466) | (3,587) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Net change in bank loan | (532,662) | 785,779 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | (96,000) | (103,497) |
| | (628,662) | 682,282 |
| Net cash inflow (outflow) | - | (109,830) |
| Cash, beginning of year | 2,261 | 112,091 |
| Cash, end of year | 2,261 | 2,261 |

The accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement.

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

1. Description of the organization

The National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation") was incorporated under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act on September 29, 1970. In June 2014, the Corporation received a Certificate of Continuance under the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. The Corporation has the following objectives:

- to assist and to work towards solutions for problems facing the First Nations people;
- to operate as a national body to both represent the First Nations people and to disseminate information to them;
- to study, in conjunction with First Nations representatives across Canada, the problems confronting First Nations and to make representations to the government and other organizations on their behalf;
- to assist in retaining the First Nations culture and values; and
- to act as the national spokesperson for First Nations throughout Canada.

The Corporation acts as the secretariat to the Assembly of First Nations ("AFN").

The Corporation is a not-for-profit organization and, as such, is not subject to income taxes.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of presentation

The financial statements does not include the accounts of those of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund"), which is controlled by the Corporation. Summarized financial statements of the Trust Fund are disclosed in note 12 of the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Contributions received towards the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and amortized to income on the same basis as the related depreciable capital assets are amortized.

Financial instruments

The Corporation initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The Corporation subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost except for cash which is measured at fair value.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of contribution.

Amortization is provided on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Computer equipment | 3 years |
| Office equipment | 3 years |
| Leasehold improvements | 10 years |

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Excess contributions

The excess of revenue over expenses of some programs may require repayment and is recorded as a liability. When approval to retain the funds has been received, the excess is then recorded as revenue.

Allocation of expenses

Allocation of administrative expenses between the programs or funding agencies is done in accordance with the stipulated basis of allocation and maximum amounts or percentages mentioned in each of the different contribution agreements entered into by the Corporation.

Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. In the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect, within reasonable limits of materiality, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the results for the years presented. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Assumptions are used in estimating the collectibility of grants and contributions receivable, other accounts receivable, the amount of inventory reserves, useful life of capital assets, the amount of accrued liabilities and the allocation of expenses.

3. Asset held in trust

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totaling \$15,281 (2015 - \$15,281) for Kelly Morrisseau's children. These funds were donated by individuals and organizations.

4. Grants and contributions receivable

Grants and contributions receivable are as follows:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Indian Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) | 183,331 | 364,593 |
| Canadian Partnership Against Cancer | - | 297 |
| Heath Canada | 318,579 | 104,587 |
| Employment Skills Development Canada | 49,737 | - |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada | 56,638 | 38,000 |
| Environment Canada | 100,000 | 57,499 |
| Public Safety | 242,162 | - |
| Province of Ontario | - | 5,000 |
| | 950,447 | 569,976 |

5. Capital assets

| | | | 2016 | 2015 |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Cost | Accumulated amortization | Net book value | Net book value |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Computer equipment | 54,592 | 36,870 | 17,722 | 509 |
| Leasehold improvements | 172,874 | 50,560 | 122,314 | 139,602 |
| | 227,466 | 87,430 | 140,036 | 140,111 |

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

6. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Balance, beginning of year | 14,449 | 178,638 |
| Contributions received during the year | 11,655,626 | 11,463,449 |
| Contributions recognized as revenue during the year | (11,182,368) | (11,587,719) |
| Balance, end of year | 487,707 | 54,368 |
| Other deferred revenue | 191,483 | 14,449 |
| Other revenue recognized | (487,707) | (54,368) |
| | 191,483 | 14,449 |

The balance, end of year is comprised of the following:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---------|--------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| SSHRC - Fishers Western Indigenous Knowledge System | 9,657 | 14,449 |
| Health Canada | 89,507 | - |
| Nuclear Waste Management Organization | 75,994 | - |
| Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Canada | 16,325 | - |
| | 191,483 | 14,449 |

7. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) | 494,555 | 494,555 |
| Public Safety Canada | 40,778 | - |
| | 535,333 | 494,555 |

8. Long-term debt

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Term installment loan, maturing January 2020, payable by 5 consecutive monthly payments of \$80,000 followed by 75 consecutive monthly installments of \$8,000 for capital bearing interest at prime plus 1% | 368,000 | 464,000 |
| Current portion | 96,000 | 96,000 |
| | 272,000 | 368,000 |

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

8. Long-term debt (continued)

Principal payments required in each of the four five years are as follows:

| | \$ |
|------|--------|
| 2017 | 96,000 |
| 2018 | 96,000 |
| 2019 | 96,000 |
| 2020 | 80,000 |

9. Contingencies

The Corporation receives funding from various government agencies based on specific program needs and budgets and allocates certain expenses to the various programs. In many cases, the funding agent has the right to review the accounting records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their programs. At this time, no estimate of the requirements, if any, to reimburse the agencies can be made. Management of the Corporation believes that their allocations of expenses are fair and appropriate in the circumstances. Adjustments to the financial statements as a result of these reviews, if any, will be recorded in the period in which they become known.

Credit facility

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%. The loan is secured by a general security agreement representing a first charge over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is \$253,117 (2015 - \$785,779).

10 Commitments

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments under operating leases for office space and equipment for which minimum annual payments for each of the next five years are as follows:

| | \$ |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 2017 | 892,851 |
| 2018 | 856,396 |
| 2019 | 844,514 |
| 2020 | 836,859 |
| 2021 and thereafter | 1,568,919 |
| | <u>4,999,539</u> |

11. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Grants and contributions receivable | (382,545) | 416,303 |
| Other accounts receivable | 225,419 | 167,575 |
| Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable | (30,030) | 217,577 |
| Inventory | (4,151) | (9,896) |
| Prepaid expenses | 89,249 | 68,914 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 136,331 | (1,299,016) |
| Government remittances payable | 118,366 | (12,451) |
| | <u>152,639</u> | <u>(450,994)</u> |

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

12. Controlled entity

The Corporation appoints the Trustees of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund"), a registered charity under paragraph 149 (l)(f) of the Income Tax Act to administer the Language and Literacy Fund, the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund, the Heroes of Our Times Fund, the Education Fund, the Metis Fund, and the Education Legacy Fund. The Trust Fund is deemed a non-profit organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada), and accordingly, is not subject to income taxes.

The summarized financial statements of the Trust Fund are as follows:

Summarized statement of financial position

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Assets | 153,899,032 | 156,893 |
| Liabilities | 107,422 | 11,569 |
| Fund balances | 153,791,610 | 145,324 |
| | 153,899,032 | 156,893 |

Summarized statement of operations

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-------------|----------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | 156,871,654 | 24,500 |
| Expenses | 3,225,368 | 42,259 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | 153,646,286 | (17,759) |

13. Executive salaries

By virtue of an Annual General Assembly Resolution (62/98), the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) receives a salary which is adjusted annually in connection with the Consumer Price Index. Similarly, by virtue of a Confederacy of Nations resolution and an Executive Committee resolution, each Regional Chief is allocated a Director's fee. Management and unelected officials are compensated within average industry remuneration levels for their positions.

14. Pension plan

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and Regional Chiefs. Contributions are up to 6% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$317,587 (2015 - \$331,542).

15. Financial instruments

Fair value

The fair value of long-term debt is determined using the present value of future cash flows under current financing agreements, based on the Corporation's current estimated borrowing rate for loans with similar terms and conditions. The fair value of the long-term debt as at March 31, 2016 approximates its carrying value.

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

15 Financial instruments (continued)

Credit risk

The risk arises from the potential that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

The Corporation's various receivables represent credit provided for the Corporation's programs. The credit is provided mainly to the federal government and accordingly presents minimal credit risk to the Corporation.

The maximum credit exposure of the Corporation is represented by the fair value of the investments and various amounts receivable as presented in the statement of financial position.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the adverse consequences of interest rate changes on the Corporation's cash flows, financial position, investment income and interest expenses. The Corporation's cash, investments, long-term debt and demand credit facility are exposed to interest rate changes. The long-term debt generally bears interest at fixed rates. Consequently, the cash flow exposure is not significant. However, the fair value of loans having fixed rates of interest could fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The interest bearing demand credit facility has a limited exposure to interest rate risk due to its short-term maturity. The impact of adverse changes in rates is not considered material.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Schedule 1
year ended March 31, 2016

| | Basic Organizational Capacity | Nation to Nation | Additions to Reserve | Missing Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG) Roundtable | MMIWG Inquiry Design Forum | Personal Education Credits | Travel to TRC's Closing Event | Moving Forward |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | |
| Contribution/grant - INAC | 4,500,000 | 150,469 | 60,000 | 20,000 | 216,659 | 578,891 | 250,000 | 75,074 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Registration fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Trade show fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 4,500,000 | 150,469 | 60,000 | 20,000 | 216,659 | 578,891 | 250,000 | 75,074 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising, promotion and publications | 4,459 | 25 | 145 | - | 32 | 63 | - | 25 |
| Allocation of administrative expenses | - | - | - | - | - | 67,130 | - | - |
| Amortization of capital assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Insurance | 6,017 | 84 | 348 | - | 177 | 1,064 | 254 | 198 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Office expenses | 241,058 | 3,007 | 1,490 | 304 | 18,360 | 38,633 | 3,029 | 6,967 |
| Professional fees | 61,078 | 1,037 | 6,554 | 600 | 23,104 | 3,579 | 9,050 | 2,764 |
| Regional service delivery | 1,006,310 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rent | 267,701 | 8,208 | 2,540 | - | 8,592 | 47,641 | 2,479 | 8,306 |
| Salaries and benefits | 2,616,420 | 94,669 | 21,995 | - | 87,700 | 384,039 | 17,007 | 52,515 |
| Travel and meetings | 302,092 | 43,509 | 26,944 | 20,831 | 78,801 | 36,742 | 218,784 | 4,506 |
| | 4,505,135 | 150,539 | 60,016 | 21,735 | 216,766 | 578,891 | 250,603 | 75,281 |
| | (5,135) | (70) | (16) | (1,735) | (107) | - | (603) | (207) |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | | | | | | | | |

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations (continued)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Schedule 1
year ended March 31, 2016

| | First Nations Energy Forum | First Nations Connectivity | Towards a First Nation Education Association Project | Restoring First Nation Languages Through Education | Climate Change | 2016 Total | 2015 Total |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | | | | | | |
| Contribution/grant - INAC | 150,000 | 50,125 | 114,000 | 75,000 | 110,000 | 6,350,218 | 6,893,346 |
| Miscellaneous | 138,069 | - | 15,350 | - | - | 153,419 | - |
| Registration fees | 301,837 | - | 115,617 | - | - | 417,454 | - |
| Trade show fees | 22,761 | - | 8,407 | - | - | 31,168 | - |
| | 612,667 | 50,125 | 253,374 | 75,000 | 110,000 | 6,952,259 | 6,893,346 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Advertising, promotion and publications | 1,740 | 13 | 286 | 7 | - | 6,795 | 8,337 |
| Allocation of administrative expenses | 79,891 | - | - | - | 2,175 | 149,196 | 180,249 |
| Amortization of capital assets | - | - | 118 | - | - | 118 | - |
| Insurance | 286 | 254 | 90 | 38 | - | 8,810 | 23,079 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | - | - | 240 |
| Office expenses | 34,694 | 5,824 | 17,499 | 1,565 | 7,285 | 379,715 | 370,846 |
| Professional fees | 72,626 | 439 | 27,160 | 49 | 7,315 | 215,355 | 276,162 |
| Regional service delivery | 3,416 | - | - | 6,271 | - | 1,015,997 | 1,004,429 |
| Rent | 12,807 | - | 9,266 | 1,082 | - | 368,622 | 416,041 |
| Salaries and benefits | 80,945 | 41,125 | 92,278 | 63,304 | - | 3,551,997 | 3,900,572 |
| Travel and meetings | 326,665 | 2,525 | 106,712 | 3,170 | 93,804 | 1,265,085 | 893,779 |
| | 613,070 | 50,180 | 253,409 | 75,486 | 110,579 | 6,961,690 | 7,073,734 |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenses | (403) | (55) | (35) | (486) | (579) | (9,431) | (180,388) |

National Indian Brotherhood

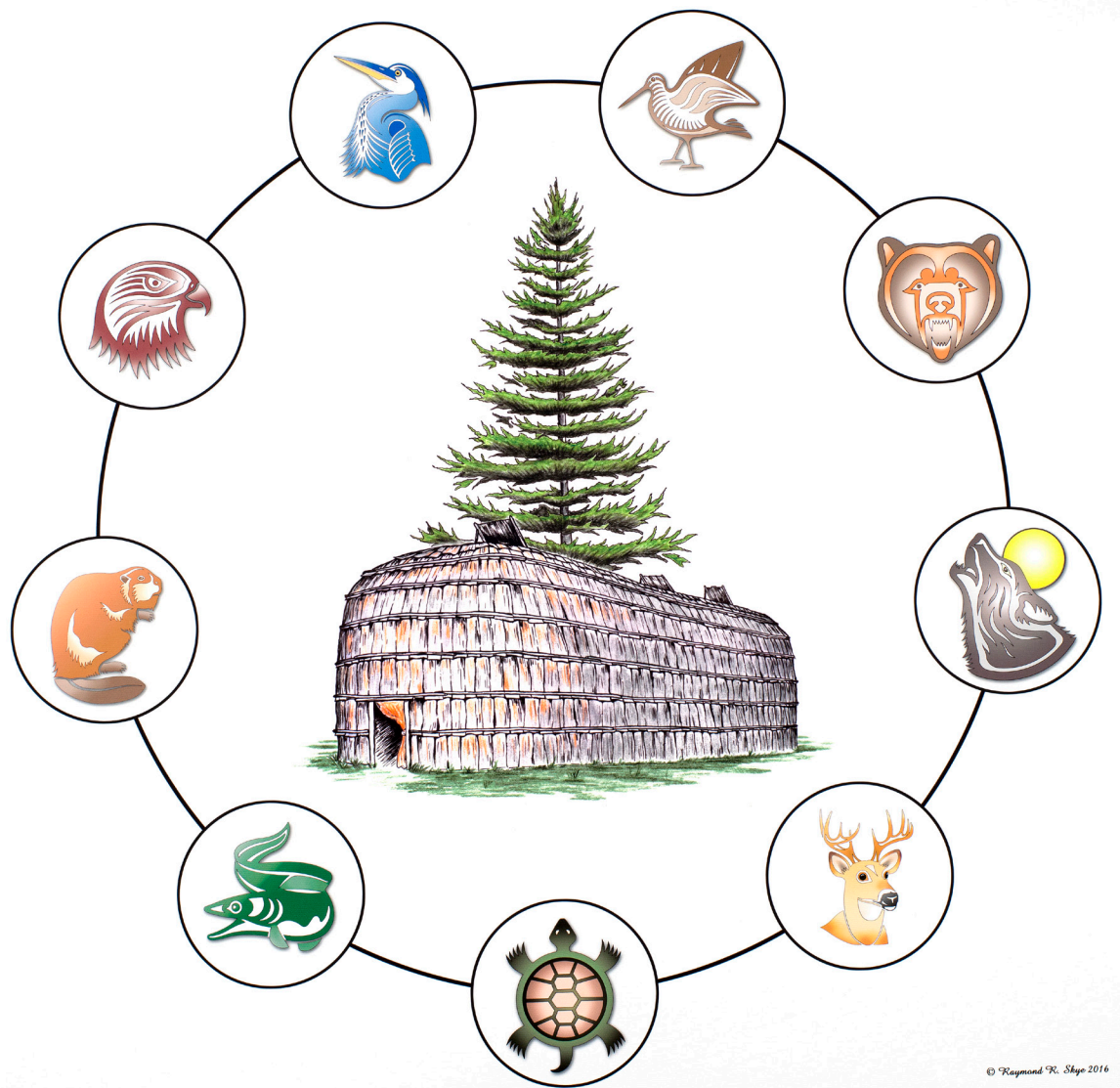
Statement of operations
Other funding agencies - Schedule 2
year ended March 31, 2016

| | Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) | Environment Canada | Nuclear Waste Management Organization | ESDC Summer Student Subsidy | Health Canada Chemical Managements Plan | ESDC Contract # 100005333 | University of Ottawa - First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study | Elections Canada | Health Canada | Canadian Partnership Against Cancer |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contribution/grant - other | 234,429 | 100,000 | 141,006 | - | - | - | 52,246 | - | 3,363,513 | 129,599 |
| Contribution/grant - prior years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sale of publications | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | 2,946 | 23,208 | 8,850 | - | 366,758 | - | - |
| Registration fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Trade show fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 234,429 | 100,000 | 141,006 | 2,946 | 23,208 | 8,850 | 52,246 | 366,758 | 3,363,513 | 129,599 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising, promotion and publications | 218 | - | 22 | - | 3 | - | - | 151 | 3,521 | 43 |
| Allocation of administrative expenses | - | - | 17,901 | - | 5,756 | - | 4,750 | 30,000 | 306,883 | 11,780 |
| Amortization of capital assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 603 | 5,858 | - |
| Insurance | 626 | 293 | 34 | - | 4 | - | - | 928 | 6,577 | 320 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bad debt | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Office expenses | 22,581 | 4,448 | 6,601 | - | 1,378 | 212 | 402 | 42,554 | 262,360 | 10,529 |
| Professional fees | 7,727 | 34,553 | 6,325 | - | 26 | - | - | 20,350 | 300,365 | 1,314 |
| Regional service delivery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 57,000 | - |
| Rent | 21,718 | 12,404 | 8,865 | - | 201 | - | - | 28,095 | 271,725 | 9,361 |
| Salaries and benefits | 160,606 | 37,459 | 75,826 | 2,895 | 15,419 | - | 42,074 | 126,383 | 1,607,070 | 92,119 |
| Travel and meetings | 21,194 | 10,853 | 27,036 | - | (106) | 8,638 | 5,045 | 117,356 | 542,156 | 4,181 |
| | 234,670 | 100,010 | 142,610 | 2,895 | 22,681 | 8,850 | 52,271 | 366,420 | 3,363,515 | 129,647 |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | (241) | (10) | (1,604) | 51 | 527 | - | (25) | 338 | (2) | (48) |

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations (continued)
Other funding agencies - Schedule 2
year ended March 31, 2016

| | Dalhousie University | | | | Public Health Agency of Canada | | | | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|----|--------------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | SSHRC Fisheries Western | | | | First Nations Special Needs Research | | | | Total | Total |
| | Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Indigenous Knowledge Systems | Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness | | | | Other | | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Contribution/grant - other | 578,638 | 33,193 | 201,386 | - | - | - | - | 4,834,010 | 4,374,922 | |
| Contribution/grant - prior years | - | 14,449 | - | - | - | - | - | 14,449 | 124,270 | |
| Sale of publications | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 99 | |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | 38,000 | - | 764,803 | 1,204,565 | 799,427 | |
| Registration fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | 587,808 | 587,808 | 645,620 | |
| Trade show Fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | 113,216 | 113,216 | 132,697 | |
| | 578,638 | 47,642 | 201,386 | - | 38,000 | - | 1,465,827 | 6,754,048 | 6,077,035 | |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advertising, promotion and publications | 807 | - | 658 | - | - | - | 36,020 | 41,443 | 13,109 | |
| Allocation of administrative expenses | 40,726 | - | - | - | 5,700 | - | (572,692) | (149,196) | (180,249) | |
| Amortization of capital assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13,431 | 19,892 | 19,457 | |
| Insurance | 930 | - | - | - | - | - | 11,568 | 21,280 | 9,588 | |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | - | - | - | 252 | 252 | 2,650 | |
| Bad debt | - | - | - | - | - | - | 335,488 | 335,488 | - | |
| Office expenses | 21,269 | 3,037 | 5,874 | - | - | - | 230,994 | 612,239 | 656,870 | |
| Professional fees | 11,141 | 18,026 | 57,421 | - | - | - | 204,992 | 662,240 | 380,256 | |
| Regional service delivery | 102,000 | - | - | - | 32,300 | - | 20,258 | 211,558 | 200,443 | |
| Rent | 31,301 | - | 5,609 | - | - | - | 70,851 | 460,130 | 416,126 | |
| Salaries and benefits | 214,866 | 21,213 | 64,346 | - | - | - | 228,480 | 2,688,756 | 2,686,885 | |
| Travel and meetings | 155,647 | 5,366 | 67,478 | - | - | - | 624,845 | 1,589,689 | 1,958,494 | |
| | 578,687 | 47,642 | 201,386 | - | 38,000 | - | 1,204,487 | 6,493,771 | 6,163,629 | |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses | (49) | - | - | - | - | - | 261,340 | 260,277 | (86,594) | |



The Longhouse Clans
Artwork and Description by Raymond R. Skye
Iroquois/Tuscarora Artist
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
Ontario, Canada

"The Longhouse Clans is symbolic of the nine clans associated with the Iroquois people, or as they are properly called, Haudenosaunee. Each nation of the Haudenosaunee is made up of certain clans, and each clan is represented by a specific animal. Those clans are the Bear, Wolf, Deer, Snipe, Hawk, Heron, Turtle, Beaver and Eel.

In ancient times members of one clan lived in a longhouse. Many longhouses would make up one village. Members of the same clan have relatives in each of the six Haudenosaunee nations. The clan system was created as a way of unifying the Haudenosaunee people into extended families. The extended family is the basic social unit of the Haudenosaunee and is central to their culture.

Depicted behind the longhouse is the white pine tree. The white pine is symbolic of the Great Law of Peace, which was a great confederation that was put in place centuries ago by the Haudenosaunee with the assistance of a man who became known as the Peacemaker."

