



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national advocacy organization that works to advance the collective aspirations of First Nations individuals and communities across Canada on matters of national or international nature and concern. The AFN hosts two Assemblies a year where mandates and directives for the organization are established through resolutions directed and supported by the First-Nations-in-Assembly (elected Chiefs or proxies from member First Nations).

In addition to the direction provided by Chiefs of each member First Nation, the AFN is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of an elected National Chief and Regional Chiefs from each province and territory. Representatives from five national councils (Knowledge Keepers, Youth, Veterans, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Women) support and guide the decisions of the Executive Committee.

© Assembly of First Nations, July 2023

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600, Ottawa, ON K1P 6L5

Telephone: 613-241-6789 | Toll-free: 1-866-869-6789

www.afn.ca

Artwork Designed by Latash Kinem and Ta7talíya Nahanee, Squamish

Medicine Eagle brings together Squamish Eagle formlines representing forward motion with eagle vision within a sacred Medicine Wheel for balance, holding each of the four directions, lifting all humanity on its wing.



Table of Contents:

National Chief's Report	4
--------------------------------------	----------

Regional Chiefs' Reports

Regional Chief Paul Prosper, <i>Nova Scotia</i>	8
A/Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, <i>Newfoundland</i>	10
Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, <i>New Brunswick</i>	12
A/Regional Chiefs Darlene Bernard and Roderick Gould Jr., <i>Prince Edward Island</i>	16
Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, <i>Quebec and Labrador</i>	19
Regional Chief Glen Hare, <i>Ontario</i>	22
Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, <i>Manitoba</i>	26
Regional Chief Bobby Cameron, <i>Saskatchewan</i>	30
Regional Chief Terry Teegee, <i>British Columbia</i>	34
Proxy Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim, <i>Yukon</i>	40
Regional Chief Gerald Antoine, <i>Northwest Territories</i>	44

Council Reports

AFN Knowledge Keepers	50
AFN Women's Council	52
AFN National Youth Council	56
First Nations Veterans	59
2SLGBTQQIA+ Council	61

CEO Report	64
-------------------------	-----------



Table of Contents:

Strategic Policy Integration Report	66
Economic Development Branch.....	70
Economic Development.....	70
Fisheries.....	74
Infrastructure.....	76
Environment, Lands & Water Branch	80
Environment.....	80
Land.....	83
Water	84
Rights & Justice Branch	88
Rights.....	88
Justice.....	91
Governance.....	93
Social Branch	97
Languages and Learning.....	97
Health	100
Housing	102
Social Development	105
AFN Audited Financial Statements.....	109



NATIONAL CHIEF'S REPORT



NATIONAL CHIEF'S REPORT



Annual Report from the National Chief

Wahcheeyay misiway. As I complete my second year in office, I am pleased to look back at all the key accomplishments of 2022-23.

Introduction

The progress of the National Chief's Office has not slowed in the year since our last Annual General Assembly. We're proud of the work we've completed amid a challenging year.

National Key Issues and Activities

I care deeply about community issues and community solutions. I crisscrossed Turtle Island this year, travelling through Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec/Labrador, Ontario, and Nova Scotia/Newfoundland regions. Along my path, I was humbled to meet many of you and hold in my heart your triumphs, and with great reverence, bear witness to your sorrow through attendance at funerals, vigils, and visits. I met many people who were hurting, including little Frank Young (Red Earth), Frankie Wayne Moonias (Louis Bull), Chief Alex David Monias (Pimicikamak), and Gino Odjick (Kitigan Zibi). I also met with families in James Smith Cree Nation and placed flowers at the gravesites of their loved ones lost in the senseless tragedies of September 4th.

Throughout my community visits, I also try to visit former Institutions of assimilation and genocide to offer tobacco and prayers for all the little ones who never made it home and all the children that suffered and survived.

This sadness was thankfully counterbalanced with uplifting ceremonies like graduations at the Kiuna Institute, Maskwacis Cultural College, and the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program; and powwows at Tk'emlúps, Kehewin, Pikwàkanagàn, Kettle and Stony Point, Ermineskin, and the Niagara region. It's always an honour to be invited to cultural ceremonies that heal and revitalize our teachings and traditions. They give me hope despite the difficulties that we encounter in our communities. I especially want to acknowledge and lift up our young people. First Nations youth are a truly bright light who are not only leaders tomorrow but leaders today.

National Portfolio #1

Intergovernmental Affairs

On September 30, while attending the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa, I was able to get a long-overdue commitment from Prime Minister Trudeau to convene with the AFN Regional Chiefs. This meeting was held on November 29 and included the attendance of Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Hajdu, and Minister Miller. Further, this was the first opportunity for the AFN Executive to meet the Prime Minister since 2019. This was a year of many firsts, including the appointment of Michelle O'Bonsawin to the Supreme Court of Justice; our paths did cross briefly on September 30th while several First Nations leaders were able to attend the celebration of her appointment.

In October 2022, I spoke to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on Bill C-29, an *Act to provide for the establishment of a National Council for Reconciliation*. I also

NATIONAL CHIEF'S REPORT

attended the Senate Committee on Indigenous People to present and discuss the priorities of the AFN.

National Portfolio #2

International

The message we provided in all our appearances in international events this year is that we are still here, and *we are worthy of being treated with dignity and respect*. I related that during the pastoral visit of Pope Francis, the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the presidential trip of Joe Biden, the coronation of King Charles III and at the United Nations, where we participated independently as a non-governmental organization in April 2023.

National Portfolio #3

Charter Renewal

The Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal has been meeting regularly during the past year, including in Vancouver, for their first hybrid meeting since 2020. The First Nations-in-Assembly, through Resolutions 02/2022 and 3/2022, gave the Committee a new mandate with respect to governance, the examination of a forensic audit, and independent investigation.

National Portfolio #4

Economic Development

I had my inaugural Chiefs Committee on Economic Development meeting as Portfolio Lead in the fall. In addition to ongoing work to build First Nations economies, our agenda tracked key initiatives such as the federal government's 2-Billion Trees commitment, and the establishment of a National Prosperity Table.

Our pre-budget meetings with Minister Marc Miller and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland influenced the federal government to invest \$5 million to support the co-development of an Economic Reconciliation Framework with Indigenous partners, to increase economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, communities, and businesses.

Recently, I was grateful to attend the National Resource Transfer Act (NRTA) Summit in Ermineskin Cree Nation, where we discussed the assertion of our Treaty rights and maintaining First Nations Sovereignty and Jurisdiction.

National Portfolio #5

AFN Women's Council

AFN Women's Council Chair Chief Big Eagle joined me in my international engagement at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), including meetings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar from Australia, Minister for Finance and Gender Equality, Naaja Nathanielsen from Greenland, and Ambassador Bob Rae. Further, at the UN CSW, we worked with Minister Marci Ien to ensure she spoke to the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at the UN General Assembly.

Conclusion

Over the past year, we have achieved many goals and completed several action items. This success was due to our collaborative work and unwavering resolve. I look forward to creating more opportunities and holding space for First Nations voices to be heard regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Ninanaskamon! Kisahkeetin!







REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Paul Prosper

Nova Scotia

Kwe Nituptup. It is with great honour and respect that I provide this report on behalf of the Mi'kmaq Chiefs of Nova Scotia. In our ongoing commitment to community growth, prosperity and wellbeing, we continue to have success in spite of challenges.

Introduction

The purpose of this Report is to provide a condensed summary of activities undertaken by the Office of Regional Chief (ORC). This is not an exhaustive list; however, it highlights some key initiatives that have been undertaken.

National Portfolio #1:

Lands, Territories and Resources

As portfolio holder for Lands, Territories and Resources, I am pleased to offer an update about our ongoing work to support First Nations self-determination over their lands, territories and resources, and secure redress for First Nations.

Over the past year I have worked hard to advance Specific Claims reform, which is critical to ensuring just, fair, and equitable compensation for past wrongs and the return of First Nations lands. In 2022, the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCoLTR) and Minister Miller participated in a ceremony on Mi'kmaq territory launching a joint process to create a fully independent specific claims centre. This work is advancing through a technical Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG) guided by shared mandates and clear direction from First Nations-in-

Assembly. We anticipate this work will continue to advance throughout 2023-24 and ultimately result in a joint proposal for review and approval by First Nations-in-Assembly and federal Cabinet.

AFN mandates prioritize the inclusion of First Nations laws and legal orders throughout the specific claims process. To advance this mandate, I have taken part in the establishment of the Council of Experts in Indigenous Laws (CEIL). The CEIL is comprised of leading experts in Indigenous laws and is focused on providing guidance to the SCIWG on the recognition of Indigenous Laws in the specific claims process. The CEIL held its inaugural meeting in April 2023 and will continue to meet regularly leading up to an Indigenous Laws Gathering on June 13th, 2023, in Vancouver, BC.

In addition, I am pushing hard to ensure the reform of Canada's Additions-to-Reserve Policy (ATR) and process. The ATR process is time consuming, costly, and fails to adequately prioritize First Nations interests. While federal Budget 2021, and subsequent federal mandates, prioritize ATR reform, progress has been slow. In 2022-23, the Government of Canada carried out preliminary engagement, and in spring 2023 opened a call for proposals to support First Nations engagement in the redesign of the ATR Policy. The AFN will be seeking First Nations direction on how the AFN can support their participation in ATR reform moving forward.

While work on Specific Claims and ATR reform continues to advance, there is a need to develop new approaches to support First Nations self-determination over their lands, territories and resources. AFN mandates call

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

for the repeal of the Comprehensive Land Claims and Inherent Right to Self-Government policies and highlight the need for policies and processes that support the full recognition of Title and self-determination. These approaches must respect the many ways First Nations assert self-determination and must be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The draft National Action Plan provides another opportunity to support meaningful dialogue on the types of negotiation spaces needed to support self-determination and reconciliation with the Crown.

Finally, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 7/2023, *Prioritize Land Back Through All Federal Laws and Policies and Programs* which emphasizes the need to ensure the Government of Canada is focusing on the return of lands across its laws and policies. While redress and recognition are critical issues, there is also a pressing need for the Government of Canada to take proactive steps to set aside lands for First Nations so they can exercise their rights. Moving forward, I will press the Government of Canada, the Provinces and Territories to take collective action and ensure First Nations are able to acquire the lands they need to exercise their rights and meet the needs of their People.

National Portfolio #2:

World Intellectual Property Organization

The AFN participates in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee (IGC). The Indigenous Caucus is tasked with the protection of Indigenous Knowledge (IK), Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) and Genetic Resources (GRs) through the drafting of international laws and conventions. The AFN plays an invaluable

role in the protection and preservations IK, TECs and GRs for all our future generations. WIPO exists as the only forum to advance these protections through the development of international law and conventions.

National Portfolio #3:

AFN Management Committee

I sit as co-chair on the AFN Management Committee. The Management Committee provides strategic direction to the AFN Secretariat. This includes a review and discussion of all AFN operational and administrative policies and procedures. This committee also provides direct support to the AFN Executive who, at times, are required to provide final approval.

AFN Executive Meetings

The AFN Executive comprises 11 Regional Chiefs from the various regions across the country. It provides political oversight to the National Chief's Office and the AFN Secretariat. The Executive takes direction from various resolution from the First Nations-in-Assembly. This committee also provides strategic direction to the AFN Secretariat.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

These are each critical and ongoing efforts that serve ultimately to advance First Nations' priorities and inalienable rights. I am honoured to continue to lead them, humbly, and by your guidance.

Thank you all





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Acting Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell

Newfoundland

Introduction:

The AFN is honoured to welcome Chief Brendan Mitchell as the first Regional Chief for Newfoundland. His tenure as Acting Regional Chief began in January 2023.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

Previously represented by Regional Chief Paul (PJ) Prosper, Resolution 19/2022, *Executive Committee Representation, Newfoundland*, directed the AFN to amend regional representation to include Newfoundland as a region with separate representation. This amendment allowed for the creation of a new regional office that would ensure the voices of Newfoundland First Nations are represented at all levels of the AFN.

Acting Regional Chief Mitchell has been involved with the Assembly of First Nations since Qalipu First Nation joined the First Nations-in-Assembly in July of 2018. In addition to being the Acting AFN Regional Chief for Newfoundland, he serves on multiple AFN National Committees including the Chiefs Committee on Charter Renewal, the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management and the Sub-Committee on Additions to Reserve.

Chief Mitchell has been working towards the establishment of the Newfoundland Regional Office as he transitions into this prodigious new role.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

RC Mitchell's first full report will be present in the 2023 SCA Executive Report.

“During this time of reconciliation, and in consideration of this opportunity for Newfoundland to participate in this way at the Assembly of First Nations, government should support the establishment of a Regional Office in Newfoundland. We need a budget to get this historic project going, and we will be looking for their support.”





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Joanna Bernard

New Brunswick

'Qey/Kwe',

I begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, which Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Passamaquoddy People first signed with the British Crown in 1726.

Introduction:

Welcome Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, councillors and friends. I am honoured to present my annual report to the First Nations-in-Assembly. Since being elected as Regional Chief, my key message has been to work together in unity while respecting each community's uniqueness and diversity. I continue with this message as we move forward in 2023.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

Call for New Relationships

The New Brunswick Assembly of First Nations (NBAFN) continues to support the Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq First Nations in New Brunswick in their call for a new relationship with the Province of New Brunswick. Our communities struggle with rising food and fuel prices and a crumbling healthcare system. Compounding this is the province's decision to revoke the tax agreements signed over 30 years ago. Premier Higgs has doubled down on his discriminatory tactics by continuing to harass us, confiscate equipment, and take our community members to provincial court for trying to earn a moderate livelihood.

2023 is the second year that several First Nations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia received a small percentage (14%) of its most sacred and lucrative fishery for baby eels or elvers. The provincial government has done so without compensating commercial license holders who are now seeking to challenge this tiny margin allotted to the First Nations in New Brunswick. I encourage the province and all levels of government to rely upon the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* to strengthen our shared understanding of the standards and obligations that the province and Canada have to First Nations.

Safe Drinking Water

On February 21 and March 4, 2023, NBAFN, in partnership with North Shore District Council, hosted an engagement on Canada's proposed Act Respecting Drinking Water, Wastewater and Related Infrastructure on First Nations Lands. Participants had the opportunity to voice their priorities, concerns, and recommendations. This forum provided substantial and important feedback from First Nations in New Brunswick. Under the umbrella of protecting water, our main priorities regarding this proposed Act are funding, time and resources, ownership of First Nations data, the involvement of leadership, capacity requirements, and succession planning. The consistent message from our Elders is, "Water is sacred to all peoples and needs to be protected."

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

Policing as an Essential Service

The importance of legislative change to ensure First Nations policing is recognized and supported as an essential service cannot be overstated. Historically, our interactions with the Canadian legal system have been consistently negative. It is time to move beyond small, incremental change and drastically change our relationship with Canada's legal system, taking major steps to recognize our sovereign authority and achieve self-determination. Legislating our policing services as essential and ensuring that the requisite resources are made available to enable service delivery to be at least on par with Canadians is critical.

First Nations Child and Family Services Long-Term Care Reform

We continue to work towards our vision that every child must be serviced by their own people in the context of their own culture to ensure children are able to engage in cultural activities and access cultural services. All services must be grounded in our languages, cultures, and teachings, and First Nations must be able to exercise self-governance and control over our services. Working together, our children will grow up to have a positive sense of well-being, to know their language and culture, and be proud to be Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey people.

National Portfolio #1:

Languages

Over the past year, the AFN worked with the Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL), the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL), and the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) on the development and implementation of an interim First Nations Languages Funding Model. The Funding Model is an important step in implementing

the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA) and creates improvements to the flow of language funding for initiatives outside of schools.

The Funding Model was finalized and supported through AFN Resolutions 10/2021, *Support for the co-development of a distinctions-based Indigenous Languages Funding Model*, and 17/2022, *Support for the First Nations Languages Funding Model*.

As one of the elements to implement the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model, the AFN is working with the CCOL, TCOL, and DCH on revising the First Nations Regional Allocation Formula for Indigenous Languages Component (ILC) funding starting in 2023–24 to ensure equitable funding for all regions.

In 2022, a costing study on language revitalization was completed for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The study found that over \$2 billion is required annually for First Nations language initiatives outside schools. The costing study was used to inform the AFN's 2023 pre-budget submission, where the AFN requested \$2.9 billion over five years for First Nations language revitalization. Unfortunately, Budget 2023 did not provide any new funding for language revitalization, indicating the federal government's failure to advance its commitment to First Nations language revitalization. The AFN will continue to advocate on behalf of First Nations to advance this portfolio.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



National Portfolio #2:

Fisheries

As the Co-Chair of the National Fisheries Committee, I support First Nations in their work to advance and protect our fishing rights. Along with Regional Chief Teegee, the National Fisheries Committee aims to advance the collective interests of First Nations on issues related to fisheries, including inland fisheries, aquaculture, ocean governance and conservation, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

In November 2022, as one of the Co-Chairs of the National Fisheries Committee (NFC), I was invited to present to the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM). There, I discussed current First Nations fisheries governance models and self-determination and identified areas where co-development initiatives in aquaculture, habitat, governance models and approaches could be made in areas related to impacts on First Nations Inherent rights, fisheries, habitat and resources.

The NFC remains concerned about peace on all First Nations coastlines. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) responded to the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on March 7, 2023. The NFC echoes Wolastoqey's disappointment that DFO saw no need for any substantive changes to their legislation, regulations, policies, or programs. Minister Murray was correct when she noted that DFO's mandate is given by the *Fisheries Act* and her department's current policies but that her means were limited regarding self-government agreements. AFN Resolution 08/2020 concerning Sipekne'katik and the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. recommendations are similar in their recommendations to move the

main-table negotiations to CIRNA, with DFO in an advisory role. The National Fisheries Committee looks forward to seeing this kind of change.

National Portfolio #3:

Management

The AFN Management Committee is composed of five Regional Chiefs. As a member of the Committee, we convene frequent meetings to ensure the AFN upholds our processes and policies, supporting the CEO and the Secretariat to carry out important work, all while ensuring the highest degrees of transparency and accountability.

During the last fiscal year, the Management Committee (MC) met eight times. Meetings focused on reviewing and approving contracts in accordance with the AFN's Finance Policy, facilitating the AFN HQ office relocation and reviewing the AFN's financial statements. The Committee also explored the establishment of a First Nations-owned IT company.

I remain committed to collaborating at these meetings to ensure our AFN Executive is held to the highest equity, transparency, and fairness standards.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

The NBAFN will continue to address the critical issues facing First Nations in New Brunswick, including issues related to environment and climate change, women and gender equality, policing, safe drinking water, and First Nations child and family services long-term care reform. I will continue to support First Nations leadership as they navigate a nonexistent relationship

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

with the provincial government of New Brunswick. The Chiefs of New Brunswick continue to affirm their willingness to cooperate with all levels of government as we stand together united in denouncing the regressive and disrespectful attitude of the provincial government. Our Treaties are sacred and must be implemented as our ancestors envisioned. We must protect our future generations and provide healthy and safe communities.

Conclusion:

I welcome and encourage open dialogue and communication. I want to continue to hear and learn from my Elders and fellow leaders. Thank you for your patience, dedication, and determination in moving our agenda forward.

*I look forward to continuing
to serve my region!*

Woliwon/Wela'lin

*Water is Life; Water is
health. Fresh water is scarce
and requires protection.
It will become increasingly
valuable... 7 Generations!*





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



A/Regional Chief Darlene Bernard

Prince Edward Island

Welcome everyone! Chiefs, proxies, Knowledge Keepers, Veteran's Council, Women's Council, Youth Council, and guests. On behalf of Chief Gould, myself, and the PEI Councils, I welcome you all to our beautiful land of Mi'kmaki!

Introduction:

Greetings, fellow leaders! Nin-na teluist Saqamaw, Chief Darlene Bernard of Lennox Island First Nation on PEI. Welcome to the land of Mi'kmaki! I am happy to provide you with a brief report from the PEI Region. The community where I am from, Lennox Island, is a small progressive community on the north shore of PEI. Chief Gould's home is the Abegweit First Nation, located on the island's eastern part. It has been a busy year for the PEI First Nations.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

I am excited to announce the Office of the PEI Regional Chief has recently hired Roseanne Sark as Executive Assistant. Roseanne has agreed to join our office after spending almost 20 years working at the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI as Director of Health. Together, we will work to develop a process to inaugurate a PEI Regional Chief. We are currently in the process of setting up our head office.

The Treaty Right of a lobster fishery livelihood is a main concern for us on PEI. Although we meet many challenges, Lennox Island leadership will continue to support our members and their Treaty Rights to fish during the spring 2023 commercial lobster

season. It is our Right, and we will hold the Government of Canada accountable for upholding their commitment to the Supreme Court, affirming our Treaty Right to fish.

As mentioned in my last report, I have been attending the AFN meetings as a member of the Executive Committee and as a portfolio holder, to fully understand the scope of work and responsibility of a regional office. We are committed to filling the committees that are vacant. Chief Gould and I will be submitting letters of appointment in the near future.

Chief Gould and I commit to establishing a solid foundation that will allow us to contribute to AFN engagements. Stay tuned for further updates from the PEI office—and if you're ever in our neck of the woods, please drop in!

National Portfolio #1

Fisheries Portfolio

I am honoured to share the national Fisheries portfolio with BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee. As Co-Chair of the National Fisheries Committee, I have attended several meetings during the year. Primary discussion areas are the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act, Marine Spatial Planning and National updates. Continued talks from coast to coast to coast are solidifying our stance to be included in all decisions with respect to our traditional rights.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

At present, work is advancing through four working groups on:

1. Ocean Protection Plan
2. National Policy Analysis
3. The National Aquaculture Act
4. Inland Habitat Protection

National Portfolio #2

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Assembly of First Nations hosted a National MMIWG2S+ Gathering in Vancouver, B.C., from February 14-16, 2023, which brought together MMIWG2S+ Survivors and families to reflect on the work completed to date and discuss the actions needed to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples. The voices of the MMIWG2S+ Survivors and families are reflected in the second report, *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: Implementation of the First Nations Action Plan*. We will continue to demand justice for our loved ones, healing for our families, and prevention supports to ensure that First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people can walk safely, supported, and loved.

The Assembly of First Nations will continue to advocate for meaningful implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice, the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, and the priorities raised by MMIWG2S+ Survivors and families.

National Portfolio #3

Charter Renewal – A/Regional Chief Gould.

The mandate of the Chiefs' Committee on Charter Renewal is to lead efforts to renew the AFN Charter by providing recommendations to First Nations-in-Assembly that will assist the AFN in achieving its purpose. The Committee works to engage in dialogue with leadership and First Nations citizens to review and provide options for amendments to the Charter to find consensus for Charter amendments.

National Portfolio #4

Executive Committee

In this fiscal year, A/Regional Chief Gould and I shared the responsibility at the AFN Executive Committee table. Together with the rest of the Executive Committee, we participated in numerous high-level discussions to further the AFN's mandates and other executive responsibilities.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

National Portfolio #5

Justice

The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada, recently implemented an online space to support participation in the engagement process to inform the development of the Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS). The objective is to develop a culturally appropriate strategy informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and healing that includes concrete recommendations for addressing systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation on Indigenous Peoples in the Canadian Justice system. The current engagement plan is underway, and we look forward to hearing from the spring and summer dialogues and the newest strategy update to finalize the IJS in 2024.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

From the Office of the PEI Regional Chief, please enjoy your time here in our land of Mi'kmaki. I look forward to our continued collaborative dialogue on all matters and priorities set out by us, the leaders of this nation.

Mnst Nogemaq, All my relations!

Conclusion:

In closing, I want to thank all Regional Chiefs for their dedication and hard work. I know how much it takes to keep the momentum on the several portfolios at the forefront.

Welalioq, Thanks, everyone!

*In Peace, Friendship and Unity,
A/Regional Chief Darlene Bernard, PEIORC*



Regional Chief Ghislain Picard

Quebec-Labrador,



On behalf of AFNQL, I extend greetings to the Chiefs and Councils of all the territories. Special greetings to the elected women of our Nations and to those who have chosen to get involved in the affairs of their communities and Nations. Salutations from our Grand Chiefs and Chiefs, and particularly from the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL, which just held a regional meeting.

Introduction:

I wish to take this opportunity to share that, during its recent meeting, the Council of Elected Women of the AFNQL focused on a lateral kindness initiative named Mamu-Mawiomi-Ma8osak, which was presented for approval during a meeting of the AFNQL. Lateral kindness is an approach to addressing lateral violence. It is based on our values that promote social harmony and healthy relationships. The initiative aims to counter all forms of lateral violence, bullying, intimidation, and other constraints that often discourage women and men from getting involved in the affairs of their nations.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The issues and challenges associated with approaching lateral kindness are of great importance, especially when First Nations are increasingly committed to their self-determination. First Nations need human resources and the skills, knowledge, and wisdom of all their members, without exception.

There are many important steps needed for First Nations self-determination. Recently, the Chiefs of the AFNQL adopted a resolution which created the AFNQL's Self-Determination Office. Though it is still in the development phase, the Office will bring together the initiatives of First Nations governments, united by the AFNQL, who are willing to share and jointly develop self-determination initiatives such as laws, regulations, and measures to implement these laws. As a first step, the mandate was entrusted to a regional organization accountable to the First Nations-in-Assembly to take stock of and categorize the legislative and regulatory initiatives undertaken by the First Nations governments of our territories.

The AFNQL's Self-Determination Office, which is accountable to the AFNQL Chiefs', should reach its full development this fiscal year, although the funding it requires remains an issue.

The importance given by First Nations to the implementation of their self-determination is certainly not a recent priority. Our Nations and their leaders have always highlighted the importance of self-determination in response to the countless constraints imposed by the colonial powers that took over our territories and did everything they could to eliminate our languages, cultures, and modes of governance.



REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



First Nations in Quebec continue to denounce and condemn the Quebec provincial government's behaviour in perpetuating ongoing colonialism. This has many very harmful consequences for First Nations and their future. By denying the existence of systemic racism from the outset, the provincial government, led by Premier François Legault, is blocking any real effort to remedy it and encouraging the persistence of discriminatory and racist behaviour towards the First Nations population in Quebec's public services.

By denying the fundamental right of First Nations to self-determination before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Quebec provincial government is seeking to confirm the supremacy of its prerogatives over First Nations governments through its fierce contestation of Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, which recognizes self-determination and promotes its application for First Nations children, youth and families.

By refusing to consider the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a guide in the development of intergovernmental relations with First Nations and refusing the invitation issued by the AFNQL to hold a parliamentary committee dedicated specifically to the political relationship between First Nations governments and the provincial government, the provincial government is sending a very clear signal: First Nations must submit to its will and to the authority of its National Assembly while respecting the territorial integrity of Quebec as defined solely by the provincial government.

In addition, the provincial government's new energy development plan, which is still based on the provincial exploitation of the resources of territories never ceded by First Nations, clearly demonstrates its fundamentally colonialist attitude. As proof, it is worth noting here that the provincial government paid no attention to the statement by the AFNQL Chiefs on lands and resources, even though it was officially sent to them by the organization. The provincial government has even gone so far as to pretend this document does not exist.

National Portfolio #1:

Justice

As the Justice portfolio holder, the objective put forward by the federal government to adopt a law confirming First Nations police services as an essential service and that First Nations police services must be funded adequately as such, is slow to be achieved. The AFN Executive Committee has jointly assigned responsibility for this file to the Regional Chief of British Columbia and the Regional Chief of Quebec-Labrador. AFNQL has accepted this major responsibility for the public security of all First Nations throughout the territories. A working group was established under our responsibility and is maintaining pressure on the federal Minister of Public Safety, responsible for carrying out this political commitment made by the Trudeau government.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

The bill ensuring essential service status for First Nations police services must rest on a solid jurisdictional basis, namely on the capacity of the First Nations governments to assert and exercise their responsibility and authority for all aspects of the safety of their populations—rest assured that the federal minister and several of his colleagues are clearly reminded of this regularly.

As Regional Chief in Quebec-Labrador, the issues that the First Nations of our territories experience with the provincial Ministry of Public Security shine a light on the essential truth that authority must be returned to First Nations governments. This role allows me to make concrete contributions to the issues facing all First Nations in the context of future federal legislation.

Conclusion:

In this challenging context, the Grand Chiefs and Chiefs of the AFNQL find themselves. The First Nations governments of our territories may be faced with a choice to exercise self-determination, enacting their own laws, and enforcing them, or submitting to the authority of provincial laws.

The AFNQL continues to support First Nations in their vital work to advance First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Glen (Gwiingos) Hare

Ontario

Aanii/Boozhoo/He/Kwekwe/Shekoli/Sekoh/Waachiyaa I want to thank the Knowledge Keepers for their prayers and words of wisdom. I want to acknowledge and recognize that we are meeting this week on the traditional homelands of the Mi'kmaq.

Over the past year we have been working with provincial and federal levels of government. The Chiefs of Ontario have continued to advocate for education, justice, economic development, health, and water. We have had some challenges since the previous Annual General Assembly (AGA), but did not lose focus on the work that needs to continue in Ontario. I will share with you what I have already shared openly with the leadership about what we have been doing to address the issues in health and water.

National Portfolio #1:

Health

We continue to meet with First Nations leaders across the country and senior government officials to advocate for safer and more equitable health care services for our people. One of the potential ways to improve health standards in our communities is the development of distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. A resolution was passed at the spring Special Chiefs Assembly, calling on Canada to follow several important measures to develop legislation in genuine partnership with First Nations. The AFN continues the work to ensure First Nations are partners in drafting the health legislation.

Work on reforming the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program continues, as the AFN Health Sector meets regularly with NIHB Navigators from across the country to help identify emerging issues with the program. The NIHB Joint Review Steering Committee is meeting regularly again after pausing during the pandemic and is now focusing on medical transportation. The Committee will advocate to reopen previous review work such as dental care and prescriptions.

We continue to see too many First Nations communities experiencing mental health crises. Subsequently, there is an increase in drug use, overdoses, and suicides that amplify negative mental health in our communities. We are mapping a process within regions to support an efficient mental wellness network and workforce. We also continue to advocate to the federal government for more information on the \$4.5 billion announced for Canada's Mental Health Transfer. There have been no announcements on resources for First Nations from this fund to date. First Nations are keen to learn how the transfer will be outlined. These investments have the potential to greatly support First Nations in their mental wellness needs. Consequently, the AFN will monitor how Canada moves forward on the Mental Health Transfer to advocate that First Nations need to be front and centre with the investment considerations.

The same can be said for the Indigenous Health Equity Fund, which featured an investment announced earlier this year of \$2 billion over ten years. We have been

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

advised by the federal government that significant engagement will be done with First Nations, regionally and nationally, to help identify the best ways to utilize this funding.

We continue to advocate to Employment and Social Development Canada to secure funding to engage First Nations in accessibility work. The AFN Health Sector is working to ensure the AFN becomes a model of accessibility for First Nations, but it is also critical to work directly with First Nations to determine their accessibility needs. Then work can begin with the federal government to secure major, long-term investments to help prepare communities for the Accessible Canada Act coming into effect in First Nations communities in 2026.

The AFN Health Sector will be hosting a dialogue session at the Annual General Assembly in July, providing an opportunity for First Nations leadership to learn more about the AFN's work with the federal government to reform the Assisted Living (AL) and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programs (FNIHCC) within a Long-term and Continuing Care (LTCC) Framework. As mandated by AFN Resolution 44/2022 *Co-development of Policy Options with ISC for a MC on the Wholistic Long-term and CCF*, the AFN has been working closely with ISC co-developing policy recommendations to design and implement a Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework. These recommendations will be given to Indigenous Services Canada to inform a Fall 2023 Memorandum to the Cabinet.

National Portfolio #2:

Water

Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater and Related Infrastructure Legislation

The AFN Infrastructure Sector continued to have discussions with ISC on providing input into the development of draft legislation on safe drinking water and wastewater. There are challenges with adherence to the AFN/ISC Joint Technical Working Group. We discovered that Canada had been drafting the legislation without the AFN's input. At the December 2022 Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA), an emergency resolution was passed directing the AFN to call on Canada to cease further development of its legislative drafting and release what they have developed thus far on safe drinking water. The resolution also directed the AFN to co-develop legislation in recognition of First Nations rights and jurisdiction.

In early 2023, ISC provided funds through AFN for regions to host engagement sessions before and after receiving the draft legislation. The regional engagements were led by AFN Secretariat, supported by Regional Water Coordinators. Additionally, several First Nations and their organizations wrote letters to the Minister of ISC and the Prime Minister about their concerns about insufficient protection for the critical issues in the emergency resolution. The AFN continues to ensure the legislation meets the standards outlined in the mandates provided by the First Nations-in-Assembly.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



6th Annual Water Symposium on February 7-9, 2023, Calgary, Alberta

I was honoured to deliver a video message at 6th Annual Water Symposium held at Calgary Convention Centre on February 7-9, 2023. Building upon the dialogue from the 5th National Water Symposium, "Our Water, Our Way: Charting a Path to Water Sovereignty," the AFN hosted an in-person Water Symposium and Trade Show focused on addressing important water-related issues faced by First Nations.

Access to safe, clean water, and sanitation is more important than ever given the uncertainty facing First Nations with respect to water and wastewater. Legislation, questions around sustainable funding, long-term transfer of care and control, and the implications of a new national water agency continue to be important issues to First Nations. In comparison to most Canadians, access to water and sanitation is a human right that many First Nations do not have.

AFN Infrastructure Sector 2nd Asset Management Conference and Trade Show, March 7-9, 2023

AFN Infrastructure Sector hosted the 2nd Asset Management Conference and Trade Show, "Closing the First Nation Infrastructure Gap," in Gatineau, Quebec. The AFN 2nd National Asset Management Conference and Trade Show focused on discussion and updates on progress by First Nations on their work related to Asset Management Planning (AMP), sharing of successful AMP stories, networking and information sharing, and ongoing challenges with the operations and maintenance of assets.

We were honoured to have special guest from the Māori of New Zealand, Mr. Temuera Hall, Director and Portfolio Manager of TAHITO Limited, who spoke about "Indigenous Perspectives – Collective Self Intelligence" experiences in New Zealand. Mr. Temuera urged more interactions with our Nations and the Māori.

National First Nations First Responders Gathering

On May 17–19, 2023, the AFN hosted a National First Nations First Responders Gathering in Ottawa. The Gathering was attended by more than 100 First Responders, First Nations Fire Chiefs, and technicians. It is important to mention that many others had to stay home to be on hand to protect their communities from the dangerous forest fires threatening their members and we thank them for their services. The Gathering heard ideas and recommendations on implementation of the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy. The five-year strategy was co-developed with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) with input from the First Nations Fire Chiefs and leadership.

Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Safe Drinking Water, Housing, and Emergency Services, and I, as the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) Water Lead, addressed delegates and assured them that we continue to put pressure on our federal partners to implement the Strategy recommendations, and most importantly, ensure First Nations have access to sustained and predictable capital, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and human capital for First Nations.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

Conclusion

I would like to conclude by highlighting my work advocating for progressive and visionary First Nations leaders across the region. In the past year, as Ontario Regional Chief, I committed to continue my focus on the following priorities:

1. **Homelessness** – Homelessness is a critical issue facing our First Nations and funding will require continued advocacy.
2. **Water is Life** – I continue to advocate for co-development and to provide an opportunity for leadership to articulate new areas of interest or concern that would benefit from AFN assistance.
3. **Health** – You don't know what you have in good health until you lose your health, and so we need to continue to advocate for solutions that are easy to implement. We know what the statistics are, we need the funding to implement the recommendations in those reports.

I want to thank leadership for joining us today. We have many challenges ahead of us. Travel and stay safe.

Until we meet again, baamaa pi gaawaabmin.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse

Manitoba

Greetings Chiefs, Councillors, proxies, and First Nations citizens! I am honoured to report back to you on another busy year. Chiefs have provided many mandates to advance change, including in my portfolio areas of Social Development, Emergency Management and Housing and Infrastructure.

Introduction:

You've all accomplished much to advance the exercise of your inherent rights, jurisdiction, and Treaty rights. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is here to support you. Collective work driven by resolution mandates from First Nations-in-Assembly is a tool to support your respective visions. Much work lies ahead. We all recognize the colonial barriers that impede exercising our right to self-determination. I look forward to another year of working with First Nations leadership to develop strategies and advance the mandates you collectively provide while respecting the diversity of our Nations and respective visions for self-determination.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

I enjoy connecting with First Nations leadership and our people at events in our Treaty Territories. I am glad to celebrate your accomplishments and hear your visions for a better future. As Regional Chief, I am committed to helping advance your priorities in any way possible. The past year has been busy. Every week brings some new landmark or accomplishment. Treaty First Nations in Manitoba are moving forward in all aspects

of development and are exercising our rights to self-determination.

We have seen so much happen over the past year, including:

- Long Plain's grand opening as owners of the Wyndham Garden Winnipeg Airport Hotel.
- Treaty One Nations Land Reclamation and creation of a joint urban reserve (Naawi-Oodena).
- Treaty Summits.
- The Assiniboia Residential School commemoration.
- Connecting with our Tribal Council and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs leadership.
- Connecting with young people at graduations, economic development conferences and openings of services for youth.

We also have had to grieve, and honour loved ones taken from us by violence. By coming together, we express our love and solidarity to press for action to ensure all First Nations women, girls and relatives in the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community are safe.

An important part of our work as leaders is to build and maintain a high public profile for our issues in Canada and internationally. This reinforces our status as First Nations with the right to determine our own future and our equality in the larger human family of nations. I was honoured to be part of the

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

AFN delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis on the obligations of the Catholic Church to call for him to fully apologize and acknowledge the harms committed in the Indian Residential School System and to call for the repudiation of the relevant papal bulls that helped shape the racist Doctrine of Discovery. This was a powerful event and ultimately led to Vatican statements which denounced the papal bulls as no longer part of canon law. I also travelled to England with a delegation of Manitoba Chiefs to attend events hosted by King Charles to mark his coronation. We reinforced the message that First Nations have a direct Treaty relationship with the Crown that is enduring and must be respected and upheld.

National Portfolio #1:

Social Development – Compensation and Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle:

On June 30, 2022, the AFN reached a \$20 billion Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on compensation for First Nations children and caregivers affected by racial discrimination under the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle. Subsequently, the Parties returned to the negotiating table and secured an additional \$3 billion for compensation. First Nations-in-Assembly approved the revised FSA in April 2023. The settlement awaits approval by the courts. I lift up the impacted children and families and the brave class action plaintiffs. The AFN is honoured to have supported them by marshalling resources and strategies to achieve this historic settlement. Work is ongoing to establish a timely, trauma-informed compensation process for our children and families.

Other developments in the social development portfolio include:

- Implementing mandates to eliminate and prevent systemic discrimination in child and family services.
- Making vigorous arguments at the Supreme Court of Canada on First Nations inherent jurisdiction over our children to counter Quebec's constitutional challenge of federal legislation affirming First Nations jurisdiction.
- Pressing Canada to make space for First Nations control and determination over Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and to uphold FPIC requirements regarding any legislative proposals such as Bill C-35, *An Act respecting early learning and childcare in Canada*.
- Pressing for First Nations control and determination over social programs, including the On-Reserve Income Assistance (IA) Program & Long-Term Continuing Care.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



National Portfolio #2:

Housing & Homelessness:

The AFN has completed significant research and engagement to ensure that the Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On- and Off-Reserve (Resolution 79/2019) is supported by evidence and reflects First Nations' needs and priorities. The AFN has also completed a national survey, 16 regional engagement sessions, and conversations with homelessness service providers. The AFN is advocating for funding for regional homelessness initiatives to roll out expediently, as many regions have already determined how funding should be administered within their region and are ready to proceed with an agreement with INFC as soon as possible. A renewed mandate will guide the AFN advocacy for program and service reform, immediate and long-term funding, and the urgent action required to address and end homelessness for First Nations. The AFN is developing a toolkit to support First Nations in gathering their own data on homelessness, in line with the First Nations Principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession). The intention is for this data to be owned and controlled by First Nations so that it can be used by First Nations for their advocacy, funding proposals, and service delivery, as well as to develop a framework in place to analyze this data nationally to help fill data gaps on First Nations homelessness.

National Portfolio #3:

AFN Emergency Management (EM) Update:

The fire season began early this year. By mid-May, nearly a million acres were destroyed by wildfires in Alberta (AB). Wildfires in British Columbia (B.C.) are becoming more severe and larger. Pimicikamak Cree Nation was threatened by a 1,200-hectare blaze (the size of 2,300 football fields). By 2100, wildfires are expected to increase by 50 percent globally. We now have a longer fire season which means more opportunities for fuels in forests and grasslands to ignite. The frequency of high fire danger days has steadily increased over the past half century. Likewise, increased flooding dangers are on the rise. Community evacuations to save First Nations lives have become more frequent in recent decades. From local to regional to global, the impact of human-induced climate change is undeniable, and First Nations are on the frontline of impacts.

AFN is pressing for direct-fund First Nation-led emergency management programs and services—we must end proposal-based funding. AFN initiatives to support First Nations include:

- Pressing for resources for comparable emergency services for First Nations and access to culturally relevant emergency management regimes.
- Consistent communications with emergency management partners, including Indigenous Services Canada to share notifications with First Nations.
- Planning to examine the financial and engagement aspects of First Nations and the insurance industry.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

- Organizing the 2nd AFN Emergency Management Forum for September 12-14, 2023, at Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

The AFN continues our advocacy as mandated by Chiefs to advance the respect of First Nations rights and to support your respective visions of social and economic development. All regions are affected by the need to reform and replace key federal policies that fail to properly address our Treaty and Inherent rights (such as comprehensive claims, "self-government," specific claims and ATR). Too many policies and laws are grounded in racist legal assumptions of the doctrine of discovery. With the denouncement of that doctrine in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the affirmation of our rights by Treaty and international law, we have many tools to use to decolonize Canadian law and policy. I expect we will see many successes in the future.

Our poverty lies in the taking of our lands and resources and chronic underfunding. The time has come for Canada to work with First Nations to operationalize Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and not to co-opt or distort the meaning of our rights. The issues of what FPIC means and how to operationalize it can no longer be avoided. FPIC also has implications for how AFN does its work, and it is time we look at the content of non-disclosure agreements that Canada typically requires to engage in "co-development" work. Above all, these must not impede our ability to serve First Nations in a transparent way.

The well-being of our people also depends on respect for our rights to health services and addressing health crises such as the opioid crisis and systemic discrimination in federal, provincial, and territorial health services. We can no longer afford to be shut out from decision-making about us at the ministerial level.

Conclusion:

Relationship building, strategic rights-based policy and legal advocacy, and intense budget advocacy are all invaluable tools in AFN's work. Above all, our values and protocols are indispensable to the success of our collective work and ensuring the good governance of the AFN for the benefit of all First Nations.

Megwetch! It is an honour to serve First Nations leadership in your work to make tomorrow better.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Bobby Cameron

Saskatchewan

Tansi, ʔedlanet'e, Hau, tonesked yaun?
On behalf of our 74 First Nations, Veterans, FSIN Executive, Staff, and Senate, we extend greetings from the ancestral lands and unceded territories of the Cree, Dēnesųłíné, Saulteaux, the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota in kisiskâciwan (Saskatchewan).

Introduction

Perpetual education is a Treaty Right. First Nations are sovereign and have an inherent right to control all aspects of education, from early childhood through post-secondary. Responsibility to support Indigenous students, and enable them to fully exercise this right, falls entirely with the Crown—the Crown must honour these Treaty rights.

Top quality education for Indigenous students is, first and foremost, about ensuring access to quality education. We have provided the framework for reform that includes clarifying roles and responsibilities, strengthening governance and accountability, and addressing the need for adequate, predictable, dedicated, and flexible funding.

We work together on education matters relating to First Nations education on a national level that support First Nations student development through a holistic, culturally responsive, high-quality approach to education. We continue to foster collaboration and provide political direction, advice and recommendations on education matters affecting First Nations education.

Equitable, safe, and culturally relevant education serves to advance the quality of life for Indigenous people. This is best ensured through First Nations control of education and adequate and secure funding, which are fundamental to creating education systems that advocate the accomplishment of Indigenous scholars. Language and culture are vital to the successful development, education, and well-being of Indigenous students.

Regional key issues and actions

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN), as the connection between First Nations and the federal government, has focused on restoring and improving the Treaty relationship. First Nations have been chronically underfunded in the post-secondary realm in Canada. Despite inflation, population growth and increased secondary school graduation rates, funding for First Nations post-secondary students remains stagnant and does not fully address student needs.

Treaties provide a framework for living together and sharing the land within our traditional territories. The Treaty agreements provide foundations for ongoing cooperation and partnership as we move forward concurrently to further our education systems. Canada needs to continue honouring the Treaty relationship based on the recognition of rights and respect to achieve reconciliation with our people.

Discussions on education with the government always return to key issues such as First Nations control of education and sufficient and predictable funding, which are

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

fundamental to establishing education systems that promote the success of Indigenous students. Language and culture are critically important for Indigenous students' successful development, education, and well-being. Communities want to build First Nation capacity to establish educational institutions that deliver quality and culturally appropriate programs and services for children.

Addressing the gap in education levels does require collaboration by federal, provincial and First Nations jurisdiction. However, there is an urge to break down the current jurisdictional obstacles to First Nations education to improve the social and economic well-being of families living in reserve communities.

Immediate additional funding is required to support First Nations model development and implementation and to continue moving towards First Nations control of First Nations education.

Special needs identification and placement rates in First Nations elementary and secondary schools are two to three times the rate of provincial K-12 schools. Indigenous young adults have much lower educational attainment than their non-Indigenous counterparts. Roughly 44% percent of Indigenous people aged 15 and over do not hold any certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 23% for the Canadian population.

National Portfolio #1

Elementary and Secondary Education

The AFN is dedicated to ensuring the 2021 federal investments of \$1.2 billion for K-12 education will be fully and appropriately allocated and meet the needs of all First Nations education programs and uphold

First Nations' control of First Nations education by supporting the conclusion of Regional Education Agreements.

In 2023, nine Regional Education Agreements have been signed and concluded, with several agreements underway. AFN Resolution 20/2021, *First Nations Control of Federal Funding in Education*, and our Chiefs Committee on Education's (CCOE) recommendations emphasize that First Nations control of First Nations education remains a priority; this includes regionalizing Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) education programs and ensuring that the funding is based on substantive equality and equitability.

National Portfolio #2

Post-Secondary Education & Adult Education

In the 2023 federal budget, the Government of Canada failed to allocate the \$9.02 billion over five years that is required to adequately support First Nations students, institutions, community-based programs, and First Nations-led post-secondary education models. First Nations post-secondary education must be supported as an Inherent and Treaty Right, not as a social policy. Without support from the federal government, First Nations and Canada will miss out on the benefits of First Nations' increased education attainment and participation in the labour market.

Budget 2021 announced \$350 million over five years to support First Nations adult education by increasing adult secondary education completion on-reserve. In 2022,





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



the AFN, National Indian Education Council (NIEC), CCOE, and ISC co-developed an implementation proposal for adult education delivery. Beginning this year, First Nations are receiving funding to support the implementation of new programs, and the expansion of existing programs in their region. The AFN continues to work with the NIEC and CCOE to identify long-term solutions for adult education that meet the unique and diverse needs of adult learners across the regions.

National Portfolio # 3

Education Infrastructure and Capital Needs

Mandated by Resolution 34/2019, *First Nations Education Infrastructure Review*, which advocates for policy or program changes to First Nations education infrastructure, the AFN, CCOE, and ISC have co-developed amendments to the School Space Accommodation Standards (SSAS). The SSAS regulates education infrastructure and space for new school builds in First Nations communities. These amendments ensure First Nations students have the most space per student compared to the rest of Canada, alleviate overcrowding, create more culturally specific spaces for First Nations students to succeed in, and support lifelong learning by ensuring First Nations adults are included in new school designs.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

The AFN continues to reject ISC's unilateral decision-making and advocates for the decentralization of education programming to ensure that First Nations are the drivers of their education priorities and receive equitable funding.

As Mandated by Resolution 46/2022, First Nations Education Capital Reform, the AFN and CCOE will seek to build on previous co-development practices with the federal government and reform how First Nations receive and negotiate funding for new schools. This reform will ensure that First Nations school builds are captured and eligible in Regional Education Agreements. The AFN is calling for new funding to start building more education facilities for First Nations, including schools in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and estimates that \$4.7 billion is required over the next five years for renovations, new construction, and planning.

We will continue to advocate for the protection of inherent and Treaty Rights to education. We will advance First Nations jurisdiction over First Nations education; establish and carry out effective strategies regarding First Nation and other networks; provide political and strategic advice regarding First Nations educational matters to the NIEC, AFN Languages and Learning Sector, and AFN Executive Committee; and identify and address issues concerning First Nations education. These objectives will be carried out within the mandates of the AFN Charter and resolutions adopted by the First Nations-in-Assembly.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

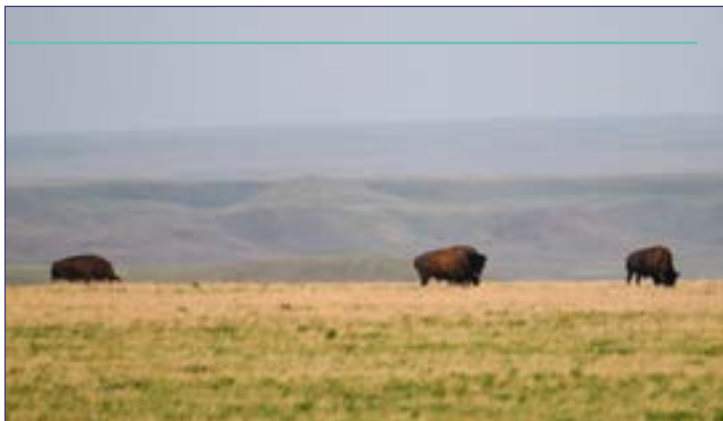
The Government of Canada is required to sustain and honour the authority of First Nations to exercise control over education. Our priority will always be our Inherent and Treaty Right to Education and asserting our First Nations jurisdiction.

*Hiy Hiy, ekosi Regional Chief Bobby Cameron,
AFN Chief – Federation of Sovereign
Indigenous Nations (FSIN). (2022)*

Every child deserves an education.

*First Nations have an Inherent and
Treaty Right to Education.*

Without education there is no future.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Terry Teegee

British Columbia

Chiefs, hereditary leaders, knowledge keepers and youth!

Hadih and greetings from beautiful Lheidli T'enneh territory. On behalf of the 204 First Nations in British Columbia (B.C) and the BCAFN Board of Directors, I present this annual report which provides an update on the ongoing work in our region and my portfolio areas.

Introduction:

As we look forward to summer and look back on a highly productive year for our Nations, I thank the Chiefs, leaders, and staff who have directed and achieved the important work the BCAFN has accomplished. I also acknowledge the BCAFN Board of Directors: Chief Jerry Jack, Harvey McLeod, Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Chief Lynda Price, and Deputy Chief Harlan Schilling, and Knowledge Keepers Dr. Gwendolyn Point and Dr. Robert Joseph. Thanks also to the Women's Representative, Louisa Housty-Jones, 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Orene Askew, and Female Youth Representative, Taylor Behn-Tsakoza.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

First Nations continue to be disproportionately targeted by police and the courts across Canada. The justice system must change. In my own home of Lheidli T'enneh territory, there will finally be an investigation into RCMP misconduct going back almost 20 years. At a broader level, the BCAFN has been acting on the direction of Chiefs to change the provincial Policing Act.

At the federal level, we are advocating for legislation to support First Nations policing as an essential service.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is slowly being implemented at the provincial and federal levels. BCAFN is collaborating with Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and the First Nations Summit on guidance for the federal implementation plan and the draft National Action Plan. At the provincial level, the First Nations Leadership Council continues to push for meaningful implementation of the UNDRIP Act regarding legislation and regulation.

BCAFN continues to implement resolutions that ensure the Calls to Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples are implemented, to develop First Nations cannabis jurisdiction, advance the rights of our 2SLGBTQIA+ community, protect wildlife, ensure access to clean water, support children and families jurisdiction, address the climate emergency, and address the ongoing impacts of Residential Schools. I thank all Chiefs who have taken the time to meet, discuss, and move our priorities forward.

On March 9 and 10, 2023, we held our 19th Annual Special Chiefs Assembly. Thirteen (13) Resolutions were passed, including:

- 01/2023 Ending sex-based discrimination in the *Indian Act* in alignment with the un declaration
- 02/2023 Call for federal MMIWG2S+ legislation

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

- 03/2023 Facilitating the co-development of a First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda in BC
- 04/2023 Support for a BC-specific process regarding Canada's UNDA National Action Plan
- 05/2023 Support for the development of a tripartite nature agreement
- 06/2023 Support for the recommendations and principles of the federal First Nations police services legislation strategy paper
- 07/2023 Support for Indigenous Justice Centre Expansion Plan
- 08/2023 CHRT on First Nations Child & Family Services, Jordan's Principle, Reform of Indigenous Services Canada, the agreement in principle, and final settlement agreement
- 09/2023 Advancing a positive path forward on First Nations health governance
- 10/2023 Support for the development of a discussion paper related to the Emergency Management Service Agreement
- 11/2023 Support for Tseshah First Nation, Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS): calls for Truth and Justice
- 12/2023 Supporting First Nations to access safe, affordable, reliable and low-carbon transportation
- 13/2023 Omnibus to adopt four resolutions
- 13(A)/2023 Provincial Emergency Management Legislation

- 13(B)/2023 Support for title and rights holder to take legal action for the opioid overprescribing and the overdose crisis
- 13(C)/2023 Support for Tk'emlúps Te Secwépemc bid to host the 2027 North American Indigenous Games
- 13(D)/2023 Alcohol regulation, funding and jurisdiction

National Portfolio #1

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

The AFN Ad Hoc Committee on UN Declaration Act (UNDA) has been working towards the following:

- Distinctions-based approaches to the UNDA, and Action Plan
- Engagement processes that uphold principles of free, prior, and informed consent
- Transparency in decision-making
- Departmental and intergovernmental coordination

We have advocated for First Nations priorities through UNDA related discussions, submissions, and discussions. Some of our achievements include submissions to the UN Expert Mechanism's Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Canada on the UNDA National Action Plan. Throughout 2022-2023, the AFN hosted five information sessions and supported cross-country gatherings





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



relating to climate change, water, languages, and homelessness and housing to disseminate key information on how those topics interface with UNDA. AFN has worked with the First Nations Information Governance Centre to support a Canada-wide analysis of laws that are eligible to be reviewed under the UNDA to support First Nations-led data governance.

In 2022-23, AFN held monthly committee meetings with bi-weekly technical meetings. In April, we released the report, *Implementing the UN Declaration: Essential Elements*, during the four-day AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) on the UN Declaration in April 2023. I know that the UN Declaration implementation in this country, as flawed as the process has been, is part of the essential work that we need to do to ensure the international minimum human rights standards are implemented in Canada. Thanks to the Chiefs from across Turtle Island that have supported our work at the committee level and other levels— it is about defending of our inherent and Treaty rights.

National Portfolio #2:

Justice and Policing – Co-Chair with RC Picard

We continue to advocate for First Nations policing as an essential service legislation. This work is supported by BC region representatives Chief Jerry Jack and Chief Dean Nelson. The AFN Policing Taskforce is composed of experts in First Nations Policing, regional representatives, and executive members of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association. Their mandate is to provide support and guidance for the co-development of First Nations Policing Essential Services legislation. They have been focused on co-developing shared principles to guide legislative development.

However, this work has been delayed due to the federal government's lack of responsiveness to the issue of jurisdiction.

Additionally, the signing of the Public Safety Cooperation Protocol between the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and BCAFN, working collectively as the First Nations Leadership Council, and the RCMP and the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, is in its last stages. At this time, the parties are considering final clarification on the roles and involvement of additional partners in this area.

National Portfolio #3

AFN National Fisheries Commission (NFC) – Co-Chair with RC Darlene Bernard and RC Joanna Bernard

The NFC has been working to implement a national fisheries strategy and support First Nations inherent and Treaty rights to fisheries resources and management for:

- Aquaculture – ocean and in-land (freshwater)
- Federal programs (i.e., Oceans Protection Plan, Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, etc.)
- Federal policies and legislation

On the West Coast, the salmon remains among our highest priorities. This year, two nationally-focused resolutions have passed on open net-pen salmon farming and its plans for closures. We are addressing the Natural Resources Transfer Act in the prairies and its negative impact on First Nations fish harvesters. We have had some success in reaching some of the Ministers through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers. We will continue to call on them to communicate the urgency

“The UN Declaration Act and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act have increased and intensified efforts to tackle critical issues as we work together with governments to start aligning laws and policies to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

of the situation of First Nations fishing rights that has dramatically impacted First Nations in between ocean coastlines.

Manitoba is pursuing its first fishing season under new arrangements in its relationship with the province. I was active this past year on various local, regional, national, and international fisheries-related forums, including recently at the IMPAC5 – Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress, held in Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territory, to highlight the role of First Nations in oceans management, protection, conservation, and enhancement. The BCAFN commends all the work of coastal and inland First Nations that have reached a new approach to asserting and implementing their rights. BCAFN continues to monitor and advocate for First Nations rights in the Open-Pen Transition discussions.

is an opportune time for First Nations to reshape Canada's legislative frameworks regarding cannabis. Although some of this work has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee continues to press the federal government regarding the anticipated review of the Cannabis Act.

On August 9, 2022, the Government of Canada announced its plans to engage with interested Indigenous governments and organizations on a fuel, alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco (FACT) sales tax framework that would support interested Indigenous governments to implement a FACT sales tax within their reserves or settlement lands. On November 21, 2022, the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) sent a letter to Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance, advocating for the inherent rights of First Nations to exercise tax jurisdiction on sales

National Portfolio #4

Cannabis

As Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Cannabis (CCC), I have been working with the Chiefs to advance First Nations jurisdiction concerning cannabis at the federal level. The upcoming Cannabis Act review process





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



of FACT products within their reserve or settlement lands, and a more comprehensive review of the fiscal relationship between Canada and First Nations.

National Portfolio #5

Indigenous Skills and Training (ISET)

The AFN has transferred the ISET portfolio to the Economic Development Sector to support ongoing advocacy. With the current economic climate of rising inflation, post-pandemic recovery, and growing urban First Nations populations, ISETs are a vehicle for employment for many. Due to scheduling conflicts and time commitments, the last Chiefs' Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) on February 28, 2022, did not achieve quorum.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

BCAFN continues to implement resolutions, including ensuring the Calls to Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ are implemented, advancing the rights of our 2SLGBTQIA+

community, ensuring the protection of wildlife, food sovereignty, access to clean water, and children and families, addressing the climate emergency and the ongoing impacts of Residential Schools. We continue to meet with our Federal and Provincial counterparts to vigorously pursue our collective rights and title while creating space for dialogue for First Nations to achieve their interests and objectives. I thank all Chiefs who have taken the time to meet at this Annual General Assembly and look forward to continuing to advance our rights, title, Treaty rights and interests.

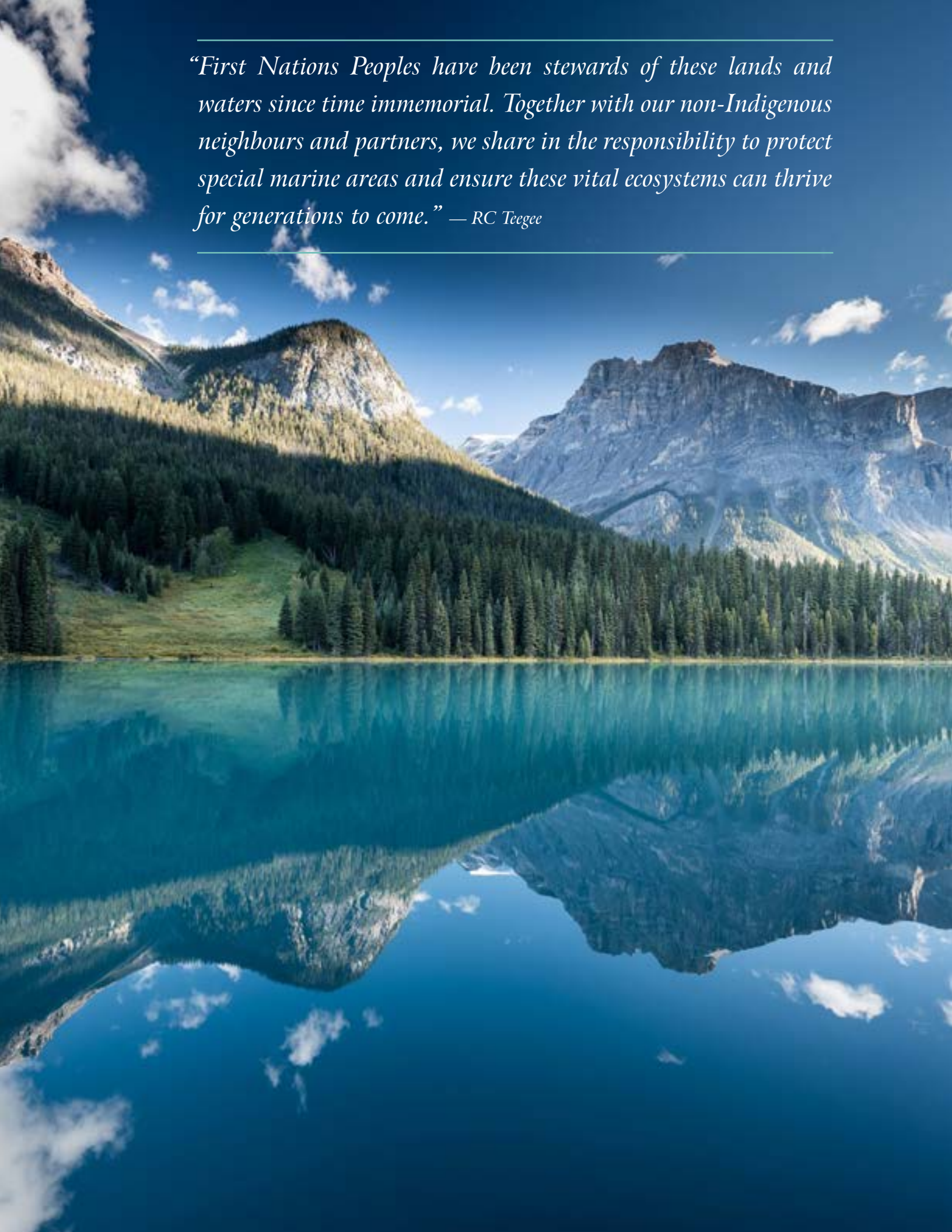
Conclusion:

We have much work ahead of us. The path of reconciliation is a journey and not a destination. Now is the time to consider the challenges and opportunities that are before us and be proactive and innovative to resolve and work towards solutions.

Mussi Cho!

“Today, we celebrate and honour the accomplishments and contributions of women and commit ourselves to positive change. While one day provides a crucial opportunity for reflection and solidarity, we must remember to do this each and every day.” — RC Teegee marking International Women’s Day.

“First Nations Peoples have been stewards of these lands and waters since time immemorial. Together with our non-Indigenous neighbours and partners, we share in the responsibility to protect special marine areas and ensure these vital ecosystems can thrive for generations to come.” — RC Teegee





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Proxy Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim

Yukon

Dä`nnch'e! I'm honoured to be acting as proxy for Regional Chief Kluane Adamek as she spends precious time at home with the newest addition to her family. Thank you to the Yukon First Nations Leaders, Elders, and Youth who have supported the AFN Yukon's work throughout this year and throughout my transition into this role.

Introduction:

The Yukon Region has a great deal to be proud of this year. Together, we have pushed forward on several regional and national priorities, including climate action, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples implementation, and community safety. We also celebrated the 50th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, a document drafted by Yukon First Nations leaders that paved the way for negotiating the Yukon Final and Self-Government Agreements.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, I feel proud of where we have been and am excited by the incredible new leadership emerging from the Yukon and other regions!

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The AFN Yukon Region continues to work in partnership with each of the 14 Yukon First Nations to advance their priorities and interests at the national level. In 2022, we held Chiefs Summits in May 2022 and March 2023. We also held our Yukon First Nations Annual Summit in October 2022, where many pressing regional issues were addressed, and important resolutions were

passed, including a resolution on the protection of Yukon Salmon.

In July and August 2022, the AFN Yukon Regional Office supported the inaugural Indigenous Community Safety Summit, hosted on the traditional territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to engage Yukon First Nations about their perspectives and priorities on community safety, justice, and First Nations policing. The feedback and perspectives heard through this engagement were shared with the AFN Secretariat to help guide their advocacy on the federal First Nations policing legislation and the Indigenous Justice Strategy.

Throughout the winter and spring, the AFN Yukon Region also conducted research, analysis, and community engagement with all 14 Yukon First Nations to gather their input on what they would like to see included in the federal government's draft National Action Plan on implementing the UN Declaration. The AFN Yukon Regional Office developed and submitted a final report to Canada that included 23 action-based recommendations to inform the federal government's implementation of the UN Declaration from a Yukon First Nations perspective. Canada's implementation of the UN Declaration must account for the diversity and uniqueness of each region of the country and, indeed, diversity exists among the First Nations within each region. It was important that the AFN Yukon Regional Office conduct engagement in a good way to reflect the different approaches to self-government and self-determination being pursued by the 14 Yukon First Nations.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

The AFN Yukon Region has also remained focused on taking action on climate change and drawing on the values-driven approach of Yukon First Nations in all climate-related work. This year, the AFN Yukon Region was proud to support and celebrate the work of the first-ever Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship, an incredible leadership opportunity which provided 13 Yukon First Nations youth between the ages of 18-30 the chance to participate in web-based and land-based training as they collaboratively developed a Reconnection Vision and Action Plan. The Reconnection Vision and Action Plan addresses and reframes the ongoing climate crisis from a lens entirely informed by Yukon First Nations values, worldviews, and priorities. In early 2023, the 13 Fellows celebrated their graduation from the Fellowship and presented their Action Plan to Yukon First Nations Chiefs, which was an incredibly proud moment for the Fellows, their families, communities, and all Yukon First Nations!

The Reconnection Vision presents a Yukon First Nations-led paradigm shift in how the climate and mental health crises are understood, and how we may step forward.

– Regional Chief Adamek

Finally, the AFN Yukon joins several Yukon First Nations in celebrating the 30th anniversary of signing their Self-Government Agreements. Teslin Tlingit Council, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, and the First Nation of Nach-Nyak Dun celebrated the 30th anniversary of their signed agreements. The AFN Yukon Region is incredibly proud of the leadership of these First Nations and all 14 Yukon First Nations who continue to chart their own paths to advancing self-government.

National Portfolio #1:

Climate Change and the Environment

As the AFN National Portfolio holder for Environment and Climate Change, Regional Chief Adamek and the AFN Yukon Regional Office continue to seek out ways to promote values-based and rights-based climate action. First Nations and Indigenous solutions to the climate crisis must be prioritized by all levels of government. The importance of these perspectives begins with the ways that we conceptualize the climate crisis itself and spans into the collection of research, report writing, and setting targets for emission reductions and other strategies.





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



The AFN Yukon Region continues to be engaged with the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), meeting with First Nations climate leaders from across the country and federal government representatives to discuss the importance of ensuring First Nations are prioritized and treated as partners and decision-makers in advancing climate action and solutions.

In September 2022, the AFN Yukon Region was proud to attend the AFN's 2nd National Climate Gathering in Fredericton along with First Nations experts, leaders, youth, Elders, and professionals from across Canada to discuss actions and approaches that must be taken to address the climate crisis. Regional Chief Adamek was also joined by 10 of the Yukon First Nations Youth Climate Action Fellows, who presented their draft Reconnection Vision and Action Plan and the work the Fellowship has been doing to explore First Nations values-based approaches to the climate crisis. Regional Chief Adamek would like to thank Regional Chiefs Paul Prosper and Ghislain Picard, who have graciously taken over her Climate Portfolio responsibilities while she is on maternity leave.

National Portfolio #2

Modern Treaties and Self-Government Agreements, maybe

The implementation of modern treaties and self-government agreements continues to be a priority in the Yukon, and the AFN

Yukon Region continues to press for implementation action to be taken at the national level. Yukon First Nations remain great leaders when it comes to modern treaties, self-government, and the actualization of their inherent rights.

While the 2019 National Self-Government and Modern Treaties Forum was a great success, the work must continue to move forward. We must continue to look to bring together the modern treaty and self-governing nations, and all those on the path of pursuing self-government, so that we can continue to learn from one another and the successes that First Nations are having across the country. On behalf of Regional Chief Adamek, Gunalchéesh to Regional Chief Paul Prosper, who will oversee the Modern Treaties Portfolio while Regional Chief Adamek is on leave.

National Portfolio #3:

Youth

The AFN National Youth Council continues to provide important perspectives to the AFN's work at the national level and bring an incredible sense of invigoration to the conversations about the most pressing issues facing First Nations today. It is so important to see young people from across the country stepping up to share and advance youth initiatives at regional and national levels, and we raise our hands to the young leaders from each region who are amplifying these priorities by being part of the AFN National Youth Council.

“Yukon First Nations continue to blaze new trails when it comes to the distinct ways that they exercise their rights to self-government and self-determination.

– Proxy Regional Chief Mary Jane Jim

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

Young people are the leaders of tomorrow. They belong at the decision-making tables at all levels, and the AFN Yukon Region is proud to have supported various avenues for youth to engage in our regional work and to lift up their voices and perspectives as emerging leaders within Yukon First Nations and communities.

The Yukon Region is extremely excited and proud of our two new National Youth Council representatives, Ethan LaVallee and Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey, who will be bringing their incredible energy and insight forward to guide the AFN Yukon Region, the National AFN, and the AFN Executive. Gunalchéesh to National Chief Roseanne Archibald, who will support the National Youth Council in the absence of Regional Chief Adamek while she is away on leave.

National Portfolio #4:

AFN Executive and Management Committees

It is imperative that all leaders, the AFN Executive and Management Committees collaborate in a good way to protect the integrity, transparency and fairness of the AFN's processes and policies. It is important that these Committees continue to work together to establish the AFN as a progressive organization that supports the interests of all First Nations in a good way.

Additionally, we look forward to the ongoing implementation of AFN AGA Resolution 13/2020 and to the AFN becoming a leader in ending sexual orientation and gender-based violence and discrimination. This work is all part of advancing the priorities identified in the MMIWG2S+ National Inquiry Calls to Justice, and Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy, "Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice." Many thanks to Regional Chief Teegee for taking over Regional Chief Adamek's responsibilities as Chair of the Management Committee.

The Path Ahead/ Looking Forward:

This year, Yukon First Nations have shown leadership in advancing their individual and collective rights, interests, and priorities regionally and nationally. On behalf of myself as Proxy Regional Chief, Regional Chief Adamek, and the entire AFN Yukon Region team, thank you to the Leaders, Matriarchs, Elders, Youth and all citizens who continue to demonstrate what it means to be "A Yukon That Leads."

I would like to thank each of the members of the AFN Yukon Executive, who are an integral part of the AFN Yukon Region's governance structure and whose guidance and leadership remain an important force for the region. While there has been a great deal to celebrate, we also continue to push for change to see a world around us that is more equitable and representative of the strengths that come from within the Yukon. I look forward to continuing to connect with communities and gather together to discuss how we move forward together in a good way.

Conclusion:

I thank the Elders, Chiefs, and Youth whose leadership drives the work of the AFN forward. I look forward to supporting the work of the AFN Yukon while Regional Chief Adamek enjoys her maternity leave and am committed to supporting Yukon First Nations in their continued steps towards positive change for the next generations!

Wishing all First Nations a safe, healthy and happy summer!





REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Regional Chief Gerald Antoine

Northwest Territories

It is a great honour to serve as the Dene National Chief and AFN Regional Chief for the Northwest Territories. On behalf of the Dene Nation and First Nations of the Northwest Territories, I'd like to extend regards to my colleagues. As our organization continues its work to uphold and protect the rights and interests of the Dene Nation, know that your tireless efforts to advance our collective interests are recognized.

Introduction:

We need to come together to strengthen and nourish our roots. We need to focus together on initiatives, projects and policies that directly benefit our families and our Peoples. I know all of us want the impacts of our work to be directly felt by those whom we are privileged to serve. Together, we are taking steps toward addressing historical injustice and creating a future for our children that we can all look forward to. We are still here, we are still strong, and we are still family.

Regional Key Issues and Activities:

This year, our priorities centred around connecting our families and creating opportunities for capacity, reconciliation and understanding. The Vatican delegation of March 2022 provided a path for reconciliation and created a new call for rescinding the Doctrine of Discovery. We look forward to continued advocacy for our people and ensuring that these critical issues are addressed in a timely manner.

Last year was a time of great trials and tribulations; however, it also presented us with new opportunities and innovative ways to move forward. As the National Chief of the Dene Nation and Regional Chief of the Northwest Territories, I am proud of our peoples' strength, empathy, and resilience. Most of all, I am proud of our common roots as a nation of communities. We come together as a family, working toward our shared goals in the pursuit of our rights and interests. I am committed to supporting and assisting our Dene families and working tirelessly to provide new solutions and opportunities that align with our people's needs and the direction of our leadership.

As we begin to work through our own governing practices, it has been equally important to improve the practices of the government we work most closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). While our relationship continues to improve, more work is needed to better resemble a genuine nation-to-nation relationship, not one embedded in paternalism. Due to devolution, the GNWT is the first agency to receive federal money before distributing the rest to First Nations. Therefore, the Dene Nation has been active in redirecting federal funding right to Dene communities. We will continue to press this issue to ensure it is a permanent change to secure predictable and sustainable funding so programming in our communities can reach their full potential.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

As Dene, we are strongest when we are together. Family is like branches on a tree: we all grow in different directions, but our roots remain the same. This teaching has and will continue to hold an important meaning moving forward.

National Portfolio #1:

Knowledge Keepers Council

The Knowledge Keepers Council has named Dr. Gwen Point of British Columbia and Chuck Hume of the Yukon Territory to serve as the co-chairs of the Council. The Council plays a significant role in the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The Knowledge Keepers Council has provided support and guidance for decades and maintained a strong presence. For over 40 years, they have ensured we maintain a positive and stable relationship with other national and international organizations. The AFN leadership has always been able to rely upon the historical, spiritual, and cultural knowledge of the Council and its representatives. The Knowledge Keepers have each selected a portfolio, which they work closely with and help to provide guidance and support. In addition, they work closely with Chiefs' Committees providing cultural support as required. It is essential that First Nations cultures and perspectives are reflected in the work conducted regionally and nationally and to fully integrate the input and participation of the Council into all work we do together.

National Portfolio #2:

First Nations Veterans Council

The First Nations Veterans Council Chairperson is Veteran Percy Joe from British Columbia.

For decades, Veterans Affairs Canada's activities, including their policies and programs, have ignored the unique sacrifices and the needs of First Nations Veterans and their families. As a result of sustained advocacy, the Minister of Veterans Affairs agreed to the joint development of a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the First Nations Veterans Council and Veterans Affairs Canada. The purpose of the LOU is to work in collaboration with Veterans Affairs Canada to help them better respond to the needs of First Nations Veterans and their families.



The First Nations Veterans Council and Veterans Affairs Canada have agreed upon work for four key areas.

- Assess and expand outreach activities for First Nations Veterans and their families.
- Establish clear points of contact for First Nations Veterans matters at Veterans Affairs Canada and supported by interaction and guidance with First Nations Veterans within each region.
- Increase Indigenous representation in all international Commemoration activities.



REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS



Let us find comfort and strength in our shared values. Nourish and strengthen our roots, and recommit with energy and determination to truth, justice, and reconciliation—an inside out approach.

- Support the establishment of a historical record of First Nations Veterans and soldiers who have served in times of war, military conflicts, and peacekeeping missions.

Canada must recognize the contributions that First Nations Veterans made to the many international conflicts. We look forward to building on these successes and ensuring our First Nations Veterans are recognized, supported, and assisted for their tremendous sacrifices.

National Portfolio #3:

Indian Residential Institutions (IRI)

There have been recent announcements by the Pope that repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and the beginning of a movement to return artifacts to Indigenous Peoples. This is a step in the right direction, but much more must be done to achieve meaningful reconciliation with the Catholic Church as a perpetrator of Indian Residential Institutions.

We remain committed to establishing a Chiefs' Committee on Indian Residential Institutions to work through this complex and sensitive work and achieve solutions that work for our people. This committee will provide advice on activities, such as access to documents, and will support engagement and communication to

promote IRI issues. We continue to consider various mechanisms, processes, strategies, and partnerships to support and assist our people in achieving meaningful reconciliation.

National Portfolio #4:

National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund

The past year has been difficult for those of us impacted by the effects of Indian Residential Schools. The National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund continues to support for First Nations, communities, and organizations in helping First Nations manage and move forward from the traumas of the Indian Residential School System. The Northwest Territories was honoured to appoint Ms. Karalyn Menicoche as the Trustee representing our region. The NIB Trust Fund Board of Trustees remains committed to achieving the vision of today's youth and future generations being grounded in language, culture and a way of life that fosters a strong identity and resiliency. I am confident that the NIB Trust Fund remains vibrant and ready financially and as an organization to be part of the solutions our beneficiaries need.

REGIONAL CHIEFS' REPORTS

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

As we move forward, we must remember that we are a family working together to achieve our common goals. The work we are doing has laid the groundwork for our continued growth. I am proud of our work and look forward to the future. Presented before us is the opportunity to share our knowledge and deepen our relationships amongst ourselves and strengthen new relationships with the government.

Conclusion:

As we move down the moccasin trail toward reconciliation, we must remember the unity of our family and the great things we can accomplish together. I will continue on my journey to strengthen our relationships and empower our people to have their voices heard.

Mahsi!

Family, like branches on a tree, grows in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.







AFN COUNCIL REPORTS



AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

Knowledge Keepers

Portfolio Holder: Regional Chief Gerald Antoine, NWT

Introduction

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Knowledge Keepers Council has a long history dating back to the beginning of the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) and continued through the transition to the AFN. The Council continues to provide thoughtful, perceptive, and valuable contributions to the AFN.

The Knowledge Keepers provide guidance throughout the AFN and across the regions. They have been recognized for their calming influence and historical knowledge as a long-standing organ of the AFN Charter. The AFN leadership has been able to rely upon the historical, spiritual, and cultural knowledge of the Council and its representatives.



Knowledge Keepers Council Representation

The Council includes representatives from each of the AFN's regions. Currently, the Council co-chairs are Dr. Gwendolyn Point, representing British Columbia, and Chuck Hume, representing Yukon.

The Council includes:

- Yukon – Chuck Hume (Co-Chair), Mary Jane Jim and Lorraine Netro
- Northwest Territories – John Bekale and Grace Blake
- British Columbia – Dr. Gwendolyn Point
- Alberta – Ivy Raine and Lawrence Couroreille
- Saskatchewan – Joe Quewezance
- Manitoba – Emery Stagg
- Ontario – Teri Fiddler, Ma-Nee Chacaby and Barney Batise
- Quebec and Labrador – Bill Sunday
- New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island – Eldon Bernard
- Nova Scotia and Newfoundland – Vacant

AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

Key Activities and Accomplishments

The Knowledge Keepers Council has re-engaged portfolio discussions and has ensured that each AFN portfolio has an accompanying Knowledge Keeper to provide guidance. Members continue to update the Council on their portfolios at the Annual General Assembly and Special Chiefs Assemblies. The Council continues to meet as required via Zoom and teleconference calls to ensure they remain updated on current events that impact First Nations across the country.

First Nations have always upheld protocols, traditions, and ceremonies through meetings; the Council continues to advocate that First Nations languages, traditions, and ceremonies are communicated and kept thriving as the foundation to creating stronger Nations. The Council has been essential to the AFNs day-to-day business to keep traditions, values, languages, and history at the fore and work to ensure the success and well-being of the youth, just as our ancestors did for us. The Council continues to engage, provide support, and share information to Elders within their regions.

Throughout the year, the Council continues to make improvements to the Knowledge Keeper Council's Terms of Reference (TOR) and is always prepared to participate in the AFN's Charter Renewal process. The Council also participates and provides an advisory role in the Chiefs Committees by providing Elder services.

Next Steps Moving Forward

In the 2023-2024 year, the Knowledge Keepers Council will continue to:

- Meet to review and update protocols, traditions, ceremonies, roles and responsibilities.
- Assist and support the activities of the AFN Executive Committee, AFN Staff, AFN Chiefs Committees, and Councils.

Conclusion:

The Council will meet at the Annual General Assembly on July 10-13, 2023, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Council will continue to provide its guidance as needed to the AFN.





AFN COUNCIL REPORTS



Women's Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council works to unify and create healthy, happy, and harmonious communities through cultural identity and cultural teachings based on respect, love, courage, wisdom, honesty, humility, and truth. The AFN Women's Council also establishes a gender-balanced perspective within First Nations and all entities dealing with First Nations that honours the rights and aspirations of First Nations women.

The objective of the Women's Council is to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of First Nations women inform the work of the AFN. Specifically, Council Members fulfill their portfolio responsibilities and participate in a wide range of panels, presentations and forums relevant to First Nations women and the issues that affect them. For example, in 2022, the Women's Council supported the following resolutions: Resolution 27/2022, *Support for the Family of Chantel Moore and Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*, Resolution 49/2022, *Support for Sustainable Funding and Accountability for the Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*, and Resolution 52/2022, *Mandate to Co-Develop Criminal Code Amendments for the Criminalization of Forced and Coerced Sterilization*.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

On June 3, 2023, the AFN Women's Council released the report, *Connecting Hearts and Making Change – Building on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: An Action Plan to End Violence against First Nations Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People*. The report was informed by the AFN's National MMIWG2S+ Gathering in Vancouver, British Columbia, from February 14-16, 2023. The

Gathering supported MMIWG2S+ survivors and families to come together to reflect on the work completed to date and discuss actions needed to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The National MMIWG2S+ Gathering had 569 people register for the event, with 415 in-person and 154 virtual attendees.

On July 4, 2022, the AFN Women's Council hosted a press conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, to advocate for greater RCMP accountability and justice for the family of Chantel Moore. Tragically, on June 4, 2020, Chantel, a mother and member of the Tla-o-qua-aht First Nation in British Columbia, was shot and killed by police dispatched to her apartment in New Brunswick to conduct a "wellness check." On May 19, 2022, a New Brunswick coroner's inquest ruled Chantel's death a homicide. Resolution 27/2022, *Support for the Family of Chantel Moore and Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*, was carried by consensus with First Nations-in-Assembly strongly denouncing any acts of violence perpetuated by police against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and advocating for greater police reform and accountability.

The AFN Women's Council held a strategic planning session in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from July 18-20, 2022. The AFN Women's Council last completed a strategic planning session along with the AFN Youth Council and AFN Knowledge Keepers in 2017. Since then, significant changes have occurred internally within the AFN, with organizational restructuring taking place in 2021, and more notably externally to the organization with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges that the pandemic

AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

created, the AFN Women's Council adapted and continued working on advocating for changes to address issues facing First Nations women across Canada. The AFN Women's Council identified the following five (5) priority areas for their Strategic Plan 2022-2025:

Priority 1: Addressing external government policies and legislation that have actively oppressed First Nations women, diminished their traditional roles and responsibilities, and continue to compromise the respect of and perpetuate negative attitudes about First Nations women and revolving issues like MMIWG2S+, policing, child welfare, and the Indian Act.

Priority 2: To promote the safety, security, and well-being of First Nations women through implementation of the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan and 231 Calls for Justice.

Priority 3: To restore traditional First Nations identity through language, culture, ceremonial practices and respecting First Nations communities to revitalize their own identities.

Priority 4: To promote the health and well-being of First Nations children and youth through prevention services, education on impacts of intergenerational trauma and history of colonization, and awareness of the holistic tools to improve overall well-being.

Priority 5: Redress for the forced and coerced sterilization of First Nations women and support for the criminalization of forced sterilization.

The AFN Women's Council's Strategic Plan will continually be evaluated to guide the work undertaken to build a future where First Nations women's voices are amplified and respected, First Nations women are

leading strong communities, and there is justice for missing or murdered relatives.

The Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women hosted an annual meeting with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives (NILRs) to discuss pressing issues affecting Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada. On November 7, 2022, the Women's Council Vice Chairperson Doris Anderson attended the virtual meeting and called for commitment and action on the First Nations Action Plan Report. This included advocacy for national prevention to guarantee long-term sustainable funding to First Nations working on the ground to focus on providing prevention services, additional investments to support First Nations-led culturally appropriate programming to begin the process of healing, and wrap-around services for First Nations survivors and families to support them when an incident happens.

In the Fall, the AFN Women's Council was also involved with the second annual Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Awards Program, helping to select the recipients for 2022. This award showcases the achievements of women peacebuilders in Canada and across the world in addressing the intersecting dimensions of gender inequality, climate change and conflict.

The AFN Women's Council assisted in coordinating the AFN MMIWG2S+ and Lifting Up Women Honouring Ceremony at the Special Chiefs Assembly on December 7, 2022. The AFN later released a supporting statement for the families of Morgan Beatrice Harris and Mercedes Myran, who were also honoured with a blanketing





AFN COUNCIL REPORTS



ceremony by AFN Women's Council Vice Chair Doris Anderson and Knowledge Keeper Dr. Gwen Point. Morgan Beatrice Harris' daughters, Cambria and Kera, addressed the assembly before the blanketing ceremony and called for the shutdown of the Prairie Green landfill so their mother's remains

could be located and receive a proper burial. First Nations-in-Assembly continue to call on the federal government to accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan and 231 Calls for Justice.

In January 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of Canada was mandated with developing, in cooperation with Indigenous partners, provinces, and territories, an Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system. On January 20, 2023, the AFN Women's Council joined the targeted engagement session for Indigenous women as part of the first wave of engagement in the Justice Canada-led process.

The United Nations held a hybrid session for the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 67) from March 6-10, 2023. The theme for the UNCSW 67 was innovation and technological change and the empowerment of all women and girls. The AFN Women's Council Chairperson participated in two (2) side events hosted by Canada, "Exploring the Impacts and Influences of Digital Technologies on Gender-Based Violence Work" and "The Signal for Help: Innovation to Shift from Stigma to Support." The UNCSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights,

documenting the reality of women's lives around the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women alike.

The AFN hosted the 3rd National Forum on Policing in Calgary, Alberta, on May 2 and 3, 2023. The AFN Women's Council attended to ensure that First Nations women's perspectives are incorporated into the work around policing and addressing revolving First Nations women's issues. The 3rd National Forum on Policing was designed to discuss the development of a legislative framework recognizing First Nations Policing as an essential service.

Next Steps - Moving Forward

It has been over four years since the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released their final report and 231 *Calls for Justice*. The AFN Women's Council continues to advocate that the voices of survivors and families be heard during the process of implementing the National Action Plan. Looking ahead to 2024, the Women's Council anticipates much of its work will be devoted to advocating for the implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report and *Calls for Justice* and the development of a reporting framework to evaluate the implementation of the Calls for Justice.





AFN COUNCIL REPORTS



National Youth Council

Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Yukon

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald (Interim NYC Portfolio Holder)

Introduction

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Youth Council (NYC) is a key organ of the AFN, as established in the AFN Charter, and represents First Nations youth across the country on issues that impact them. The NYC acts as an advisory body to AFN Chiefs' Committees, the AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee on various youth-related issues. The NYC strives to influence the direction of the AFN by promoting equality and works with all levels of leadership to create opportunities for personal development and empowerment for future generations.

Regional Key Issues and Activities

NYC Membership and Representation

The Council elects two co-chairs and two executives annually at the Annual General Assembly (AGA). Currently, the Council co-chairs are Rosalie LaBillois-Wysote (Eel River Bar First Nation, New Brunswick) and Hailey Rose (Mosquito Grizzly Bears Head Lean Man First Nation, Saskatchewan). The NYC also includes:

- Yukon – Ethan Lavallee and Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey
- Northwest Territories – Jackson McDermitt and Shayla Snowshoe
- British Columbia – Kyle Alec and Taylor Behn-Tsakoza
- Alberta – Roman Buffalo and Khianna Ribbonleg
- Saskatchewan – Hailey Rose and Brock Mcleod-Waditaka
- Manitoba – Ashley Daniels and Carson Robinson
- Ontario – Winter Lipscombe and Kathleen Doxtator
- Quebec and Labrador – Liam-Nico Awashish, Marie-Philippe Ménard, Véronic Picard, and Kananish McKenzie
- New Brunswick – Rosalie Labillois Wysote and Darren Saulis
- Prince Edward Island – Vacant
- Nova Scotia and Newfoundland – Billie Julian and Vacant

In February 2022, the AFN Management Committee approved amendments to the NYC Terms of Reference that included:

- Two additional council positions from Prince Edward Island.
- Language to reflect youth representatives and Chairs may represent the same or all genders/sexes, inclusive of 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.
- Updates to the process of decision-making and quorum.

AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

Key Activities and Accomplishments

The NYC members are involved in various AFN priority areas. Each youth member holds a portfolio to stay current and engaged in their assigned sector's work. NYC members continue to update the Council on their portfolios at both the Annual General and Special Chiefs' Assemblies.

National Portfolio #1:

COP27: UN Climate Change Conference 2022

A member of the NYC joined the AFN delegation to the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on November 6 to 18, 2022. The AFN delegation participated in many discussions highlighting First Nations climate leadership, including at the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion and Canada's Pavilion. An NYC Executive member participated in the closing ceremony with the National Inuit Youth Council President and an Elder from Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

National Portfolio #2:

COP 15 Biodiversity Conference

Members of the NYC participated in the COP 15 Biodiversity Conference, December 17-19, 2022, in Montreal, Quebec. Governments worldwide came together to agree on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss. Highlights of the conference included discussions on the adoption of an equitable and comprehensive framework for protecting lands and waters, clear targets to address overexploitation, pollution, fragmentation and unsustainable agricultural practices, a plan that safeguards the rights of Indigenous Peoples and

recognizes their contributions as stewards of nature, and discussions on finance for biodiversity.

National Portfolio #3:

National Strategy for Children and Youth Initiative

On January 26 and 27, 2023, members of the NYC participated in roundtables on the Honourable Senator Rosemary Moodie's National Strategy for Children and Youth Initiative. The initiative aims to develop a framework that highlights and addresses the issues faced by children and youth in Canada. The NYC strongly recommends a distinctions-based approach when discussing a strategy for children and youth, as First Nations youth may experience diverse and unique struggles compared to non-Indigenous Canadians. The NYC's contributions from the roundtables will later be developed into a report released by National Day of the Child on November 20, 2023.



National Portfolio #4:

MMIWG2S+ Gathering

The AFN hosted a national MMIWG2S+ Gathering on February 14-16, 2023, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Gathering was an important opportunity for members of the NYC to engage and hear the stories of MMIWG2S+ Survivors and families coming together and reflecting on the work that has been completed to date on the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, the First Nations Action Plan, and implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice.



AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

National Portfolio #5:

United Nations Declaration Action Plan

On April 3, 2023, the NYC met in advance of the Special Chiefs Assembly to discuss the United Nations Declaration Action Plan. The discussion focused on the using the action plan as a mechanism to promote, incorporate, and uphold the existing treaties.

The Path Ahead/Looking Forward

The NYC developed a strategic plan which guides their focus and work. The NYC is committed to ensuring that cultural health, wellness, and unity are grounded in all aspects of work with First Nations youth at community, territory, regional and national levels. NYC's strategic plan centers around meeting the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of youth. The main priorities are:

- Supporting culture, wellness, and unity.
- Strengthening external relationships, regional and international engagement.
- Enhancing communications and reporting.
- Building governance and policies.

- Increasing funding and opportunities.

Next Steps Moving Forward

In the 2023-2024 year, the NYC will continue to:

- Work with AFN Communications on developing a communications plan to implement components of the strategic plan.
- Work to maintain a visible and substantial presence, and strengthen youth portfolio holder responsibilities, including attending AFN Secretariat meetings, conferences and various AFN committees and working groups.
- Collaborate with the AFN Executive Committee on amplifying youth priorities.
- Collaborate with the AFN Knowledge Keepers Council, Women's Council, 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council, and Veterans Council.

Conclusion

The NYC will meet at the Annual General Assembly on July 10-13, 2023, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where an election will be held for the two co-chairs and two executive positions.



First Nations Veterans Council

Portfolio Holder: Regional Chief Gerald Antoine, NWT

Introduction

First Nations Veterans have a long history and have been part of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) since the beginning. In 2020, First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 02/2020, *AFN First Nations Veterans Council*, to promote the recognition and contribution of First Nations veterans in Canada.

The First Nations Veterans Council (FNVC) strives to assist and support First Nations Veterans, their families, and communities. The FNVC is comprised of First Nations Veterans, some of whom have fought in international wars and conflicts, including peacetime through peacekeeping missions. The FNVC's objective is to ensure there is a unified voice to the concerns raised by many Veterans who have suffered from the trauma of service or war and the impacts on families over generations.

Veterans' Council Representation

The Council includes representatives from each of the AFN's regions. The Council Chair is Percy Joe of British Columbia.

The Council includes:

- Yukon – Chuck Hume
- Northwest Territories – Tim O'Loan
- British Columbia – Percy Joe
- Alberta – Henry Raine
- Saskatchewan – Emile Highway
- Manitoba – Chief Lawrence Letandre

- Ontario – Wendy Jocko and Gerald McGregor
- Quebec and Labrador – Vacant
- New Brunswick – Eldon Bernard and Chief Terry Richardson
- Prince Edward Island – Vacant
- Nova Scotia and Newfoundland – Alan Knockwood

Key Activities and Accomplishments

In early April 2023, the FNVC and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU). The letter of understanding established four pillars that the FNVC recognized as priority areas for dialogue, research, and agreement with the VAC to enhance service delivery to Veterans.





AFN COUNCIL REPORTS

The Four Pillars include:

1. Assess and expand outreach activities for First Nations Veterans and their families. This pillar also includes the establishment of a First Nations Veteran Outreach strategy.
2. Establish clear points of contact for First Nations Veterans matters at VAC.
3. Increase Indigenous representation in Commemoration-related activities.
4. Support the establishment of a historical record of First Nations Veterans and soldiers who have served in times of war, military conflicts, and peace, including those undocumented by Canada.

With the establishment of the LOU, the FNVC created a working group of FNVC members and VAC representatives to begin the work plan on implementing the LOU. The working group met in May 2023 to continue the momentum on the LOU.

Next Steps Moving Forward

In the 2023-2024 year, the FNVC will continue to:

1. Review the current outreach activities provided by Veterans Affairs Canada, including the success rate in reaching the intended recipients of Veterans at the community level.
2. Research establishing a national record of First Nations soldiers who enlisted and fought on behalf of Canada.
3. Hold meetings between FNVC and VAC for the development of the work plan to implement the Four Pillars of the LOU.
4. Plan for commemoration activities to be held in 2023-2024.

Conclusion:

The Veterans Council will meet at the Annual General Assembly on July 10-13, 2023, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Council will continue to provide its guidance as it is needed to the AFN.



2SLGBTQQIA+ Council

Portfolio Holder: Regional Chief Gerald Antoine, NWT

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQQIA+) Council was established by Resolution 15/2021, *AFN Charter Amendment – Establishment of a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council*. The realities and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQQIA+ community members are unique and require their own space, place, and voice within the decision-making structures and processes at the AFN.

The objective of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council is to offer recommendations to the AFN to ensure fair representation and lend their voices and expertise to solving issues such as domestic violence, suicide, HIV/AIDS, and missing and murdered Indigenous people in North America.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

On July 4, 2022, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council held their inaugural meeting during the Annual General Assembly hosted in Vancouver, BC. During this meeting, Chief Brent Nodini'inini Basillion of Serpent River First Nation and Council Chairperson Khelsilem of Squamish Nation provided opening remarks. Discussion for the meeting focused on drafting a Terms of Reference, Roles and Responsibilities and the Scope and Activities of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council.

During the year, initial regional appointments were made for the following AFN Regions: British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

On June 13, 2023, 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council Representatives also participated in a meeting coordinated by the AFN Lands Sector on Indigenous Laws in Specific Claims. The focus of discussion for this meeting was Indigenous Laws as it relates to dispute resolutions and specific claims.

Next Steps - Moving Forward

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council will continue to focus on filling the remaining vacancies for the AFN Regions: Alberta, Ontario, Quebec-Labrador, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. They will also look to finalizing Terms of Reference and selecting a Chairperson and Vice-Chair for a three-year term. The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council will also be involved in engagement on developing AFN's Gender-Base Analysis Plus (GBA+) framework and tools. Finally, the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Council will be looking at how it can be included in the work on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ work and input into the creation of an AFN Calls for Justice Report Card.







CEO REPORT



CEO REPORT



She:kon, Aaaniin, Pjil'asi, OKI, Kwe kwe, Boozhoo, Tan'si, Gilakas'la

Chiefs, Proxies, Honoured Guests, and Delegates, I am pleased to welcome you all to the 44th Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA). I am grateful to the Mi'kmaq Nation for hosting us all on their traditional homelands of Mi'kma'ki, and I look forward to enjoying their hospitality. It is my hope that you are able to take advantage of all this beautiful territory has to offer.

I am glad that we can gather in person once again. It is always encouraging to see so many different Nations together in one space, and I look forward to the work we will accomplish over the course of the AGA. I would like to acknowledge all those working behind the scenes to ensure the AGA is a success—without your hard work and dedication, this gathering would not be possible.

As you are all aware, this has been a trying and tumultuous year for the AFN, and I am sure you join me in hopes of a return to greater stability. With your continued support, I am confident that we can return our full focus to serving you, the Chiefs, and all First Nations citizens in advocating for the changes you mandate for all our people.

Though my term as Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been brief, I am proud of all that we have accomplished and thankful for the diligent work of my predecessor. The achievements of the AFN Secretariat are successes that we all share and benefit all First Nations.

Among those accomplishments were the following:

- The inclusion of the AFN among Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2023.
- Our ongoing move to new offices at 50 O'Connor Street in Ottawa.
- Finalization of improved finance and human resource policies.
- The launch of the new accessible AFN website.

On the policy side, I would like to highlight the tireless efforts of so many AFN staff in helping to complete negotiations for over \$23 billion in compensation to those harmed by discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and those impacted by the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle. We honour all the victims and survivors of Canada's discrimination, and we are hopeful that an agreement on long-term reform of child and family services can be reached soon.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your continued commitment, cooperation, and leadership. Your dedication to improving the quality of life for all First Nations is evident in the ways that you show up for your people. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as Acting CEO of the AFN, and it is my hope that our combined efforts of advocacy ensure that the interests, goals and rights of First Nations are prioritized, upheld and respected.

Nia:wen, Miigwetch, Wela'lioq, Mahsi'Cho, Hiy Hiy, Guneshcheesh, Howa'a, Kinanaskomitin,

Jonathan Thompson
Action Chief Executive Officer



STRATEGIC POLICY INTEGRATION REPORT



STRATEGIC POLICY INTEGRATION REPORT



Strategic Policy Integration (SPI) Unit

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Strategic Policy Integration (SPI) unit works to ensure horizontal coordination throughout the Secretariat by leading internal working groups, creating policy tools to support best practices, and coordinating strategic policy work, including the resolutions process and intergovernmental affairs.

Resolutions

Resolutions are the essential mechanism for First Nations to provide specific mandates and direction to the AFN. The Resolutions Committee manages the resolutions process. The Resolutions Committee coordinates with Sectors to oversee the resolution process's administrative aspects, from submitting draft resolutions to posting final resolutions on the AFN website. The AFN's Resolutions Updates provided at each assembly provide details on actions to implement resolutions.

Intergovernmental Affairs

The AFN Secretariat provides support First Nations leadership participation in meetings with federal, provincial, and territorial governments. This year, the AFN participated in several intergovernmental meetings:

The Council of the Federation

On July 11, 2022, the AFN participated in a meeting of premiers at the Council of the Federation (COF) meeting in Songhees First Nation in British Columbia. At the meeting, the AFN reiterated calls for a formal seat at the COF to advance collaborative work and constructive relationships between the AFN and provinces/territories. The AFN also encouraged premiers to work with First Nations on adopting and implementing the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Regional Chief Terry Teegee, on behalf of the AFN, called on Premiers to hold a First Ministers Meeting dedicated to Indigenous issues with a focus on implementing the UN Declaration throughout Canada at all levels of government.

Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Indigenous Meetings

The AFN participated in several federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous meetings. Specific meetings were held to address First Nations policing; Bill C-92, *an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families*; and Indigenous Languages.

The AFN continues to work towards regular meetings between federal and provincial/territorial ministers of Indigenous affairs and National Indigenous Organizations to focus on advancing mandates provided by First Nations-in-Assembly. An initial FPTI meeting was held on February 6, 2023, to discuss progress on Bill C-92 and the development of safe drinking water and wastewater legislation. At this meeting, the AFN called on ministers at all levels of government to respect and promote First Nations jurisdiction.

STRATEGIC POLICY INTEGRATION REPORT

The AFN-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities

The Secretariat coordinates work on the AFN-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities. The MOU calls for regular meetings to discuss key issues and assess progress on shared priorities but is not a decision-making forum. The Secretariat continues to advance the priorities from First Nations-in-Assembly under the MOU while preparing for future leadership meetings between AFN leadership and Canada in alignment with AFN Resolution 01/2022, *A Renewed Framework Providing Strategic Direction and Action Toward Evolutionary and Positive Change*.

International Advocacy

The AFN advocates for First Nations Inherent, Treaty and Aboriginal rights, title, and jurisdiction through various international bodies. The AFN actively monitors opportunities for international advocacy through international events and calls for input from international bodies, such as the United Nations.

The AFN provided two submissions to the United Nations in 2022–2023. The AFN provided input on implementation of the UN Declaration to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and input for a study on Indigenous tourism for the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The AFN attended the following International meetings in 2022–2023:

- The 21st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress.
- The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- The United Nations Water Conference.

In addition to attending international fora, the AFN provided input for the country visit of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Calí Tzay, to Canada. In March 2023, the AFN met with the SR to discuss Canada's human rights record with respect to First Nations to ensure the SR's report reflects First Nations realities and perspectives. The AFN highlighted several important issues, including Residential Institutions, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples, and the restitution of land and resources to First Nations.

Finally, the AFN submitted written briefs for the Quadrennial Report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Draft Canada-New Zealand Memorandum of Arrangement.





STRATEGIC POLICY INTEGRATION REPORT

Parliamentary Advocacy

The AFN provides timely information to First Nations on the activities of Parliament, including legislative and committee business. To accomplish this, the AFN conducts extensive federal parliamentary monitoring and analysis on matters that directly impact First Nations. Priorities in these areas include the National Council for Reconciliation, health access for First Nations, gun legislation, and First Nations languages.

Advocacy on Key Legislative Priorities

In the past year, political representatives and Secretariat staff made presentations to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, the Standing Committee on Official Languages, and the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, in addition to providing a federal submission to the Standing Committee on Finance outlining needed investments for First Nations in Budget 2023.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- Maintain First Nations access to Parliamentarians and key decision-makers.
- Advocate on key legislative priorities to Members of Parliament and Senators.
- Continue to monitor and provide timely information to First Nations on the activities of Parliament, including legislative and committee business.
- Advance the priorities of the First Nations-in-Assembly through the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Continue to advocate for First Nations inclusion at intergovernmental and international forums to advance First Nations rights and interests.





BRANCH REPORTS



BRANCH REPORTS



Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch's (EDI) objective is to increase full recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction over infrastructure, fisheries, and economic development. The EDI sectors have a prominent role in empowering First Nations to assert their jurisdiction and provide improved programs and services to their members.

The EDI Branch is composed of three (3) sectors, each led by one Director. A Senior Director provides overarching leadership for the entire branch.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Sector works to ensure First Nations are free to pursue economic, social, and cultural development consistent with priorities set by First Nations. The sector focuses on supporting sustainable economic development, trade, natural resources, procurement, agriculture, connectivity, and various economic policy matters.

Infrastructure

The AFN Infrastructure Sector is responsible for advocating for major federal government investments in community infrastructure and the creation of First Nations-led policies and solutions related to community infrastructure.

Fisheries

Fishing is part of the culture and identity that sustains First Nations peoples and economies. The AFN Fisheries Sector advances advocacy strategies that recognize and respect the sovereign rights, self-determination and jurisdiction of all First Nations and promote sustainable First Nations fisheries.

Branches Key Issues and Activities:

Economic Development Sector Annual Report

Under the guidance of the portfolio holder, National Chief RoseAnne Archibald, the Chiefs' Committee on Economic Development (CCED) provides leadership and direction on strategic economic development issues and challenges.

Procurement

Goal: Increase Indigenous procurement, which is less than 1% of all federal procurement.

Accomplishments 2022-2023:

Following AFN advocacy to increase procurement opportunities and benefits for First Nations, in April 2022, Canada implemented a mandatory Indigenous procurement target of 5%, to be phased in over three years.

The AFN participates in an Indigenous Procurement Working Group, coordinated by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) with other National Indigenous Economic Organizations. The Working Group has completed a draft business plan for an Indigenous-led Procurement Organization to provide greater access to procurement opportunities for First Nations and Indigenous businesses. The Working Group developed the Indigenous Business Definitions, which will be concluded in June 2023. AFN Resolution 49/2021, *Next Steps on First Nations and Procurement*, directed the AFN, with the guidance of the CCED, to explore the establishment of a national Indigenous supply institute and to define First Nations business.

This successful advocacy in increasing Indigenous participation and opportunities in government procurement has garnered international attention and led to international Indigenous collaboration.

Labour Market

Goal: Provide First Nations perspectives for incorporation in development and implementation processes as they relate to the modernization of the federal *Employment Equity Act* and the *Pay Equity Act* and their potential impacts on the First Nations labour market, as well as provide direction to improve labour protections in the Canada Labour Code (Code), which was amended in 2017.

Accomplishments 2022-2023:

In March 2023, the AFN produced cursory discussion papers with some measure of legal analysis in relation to gig workers, the right to disconnect, and possible changes to the Canada Labour Code regarding mental health and preventative steps to address workplace stress and injury.

The projects are ongoing into 2023-2024 with reviews of the Pay Equity Act and Employment Equity Act that will inform the Employment Equity Act Review Task Force established by the Government of Canada. The Task Force engaged with Canadians, stakeholders, and partners to hear their views and their lived experiences related to employment equity.

COVID-19 First Nation Economic Recovery

Goal: First Nations inclusion and investments related to post-pandemic recovery and the economic restart.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

Directed by Resolution 16/2022, *Supporting First Nations Pandemic Recovery*, the sector works to ensure First Nations are included in discussions related to the post-pandemic recovery and the economic restart and support First Nations Pandemic Plans.

Building upon the study of COVID-19 Business Recovery Support Programs for First Nation Businesses and Organizations, which concluded in March 2021, the Economic Development Sector and Health Sector developed a comprehensive plan titled *First Nations Economic, Health and Social Recovery Report*. The report combines research, a scan





BRANCH REPORTS



of COVID-19 supports, and insights from interviews to provide analysis and recommendations to guide a pandemic economic recovery plan. The report will be concluded in 2023-2024.

Natural Resources

Goal: Support First Nations who opt to participate in the energy and natural resources sectors.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

The First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 06/2022, *A New Economic Deal for First Nations via a National Prosperity*, calling on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize that for true prosperity building for First Nations, revenue and benefit-sharing agreements are necessary to ensure that Canada shares the wealth derived from and upon our lands, territories, and resources whether they are Treaty or unceded territories.

In December 2022, Canada announced the development of a Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy for achieving Net Zero by 2050. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the AFN are collaborating on inclusive engagement on Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy (Strategy), the National Benefits Sharing Framework (NBSF), and the Regional Energy and Resources Tables (RERT).

Co-development of the Strategy advances economic reconciliation by ensuring First Nations rights and interests are recognized and respected throughout the development of critical mineral projects, including international investments in Canadian critical minerals. Budget 2022 committed \$103.4 million over five years for the development of an NBSF. NRCan is working to develop an NBSF for advancing economic reconciliation, supporting the

implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples benefit from Canada's transition to Net Zero.

Canada will engage provinces, territories, First Nations, other Indigenous Peoples, industry, and others through the RERT to create an action plan related to regional growth opportunities, energy, achieving a Net Zero economy, and equipping the workforce for transition.

By 2031, NRCan's 2 Billion Trees program will invest up to \$3.2 billion in tree planting efforts, of which \$500 million is for an Indigenous Funding Stream. First Nations input and direction on its development and implementation ensures an inclusive governance model so that First Nations benefit from the 10-year program.

Trade

Goal: Expand trade-related economic opportunities and market access for First Nations goods and services internationally and inter-nation.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

The AFN monitors and is involved in several international collaborations and agreements, for example:

- Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Arrangement (IPETCA): a non-binding cooperation-based arrangement between four Participating economies: Canada, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Chinese Taipei. Each distinct Indigenous group is in the process of submitting a nomination to represent Canada on the Partnership Council that will have its inaugural meeting in mid-November 2023 on the margins of the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Week in San Francisco.

- Central Bank Network for Indigenous Inclusion: formed in January 2021, its members include the Bank of Canada, the Federal Reserve, the Reserve Bank of Australia, and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand | Te Pūtea Matua. An AFN delegation plans to participate in the Symposium on Indigenous Inclusion in September 2023.
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP): a free trade agreement between Canada and ten other countries in the Asia-Pacific: Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The AFN will participate virtually in the CPTPP Summit hosted by the New Zealand University of Waikato on June 28 and 29, 2023.
- Canada-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement is currently in negotiations. Public Consultations on priorities for trade negotiations with the United Kingdom were held in 2021.
- Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA): In Canada, legislation implementing the CUSMA received Royal Assent on March 13, 2020. While there is more work to do, the provisions addressing Indigenous Peoples in the CUSMA have made it the most inclusive international trade agreement for Indigenous Peoples to date.

The CCED, as directed by *Resolution 37/2019, Continued Advocacy on Canada's International Trade Agreements to achieve Economic Reconciliation*, provides guidance on international and inter-nation trade matters. At a technical level, the AFN participates on the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council and the federal Indigenous

Peoples and Trade Working Group. AFN is also monitors committees such as the House of Commons Committee on International Trade.

The emphasis has been on respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, advocating for a Trade and Indigenous Peoples chapter in all trade agreements, and trade programs and processes to include space for First Nations.



Connectivity

Goal: First Nations have accessible and affordable high-speed digital connections.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

COVID-19 has amplified the need for connectivity. Although Canada committed to connecting 100% of Canadians to high-speed internet by 2030, it has left First Nations behind. Only 38% of First Nations have access to the minimum threshold of broadband speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps high-speed. First Nations are disconnected from one another, essential services, and economic opportunities. The Economic Development Sector contributed to the AFN Closing the Infrastructure Gap report calling for investments of \$5.2 billion to connect First Nations to high-speed infrastructure and cellular.

AFN Resolution 30/2021, *Government Income Support Programs and First Nations Digital Connectivity*, calls upon the Government of Canada to identify and achieve measurable goals to ensure broadband connectivity for First Nations and that the current connectivity targets of connecting 95% of Canadians by 2026 and 100% of Canadians by 2030 include First Nations and treat digital connectivity as an important element of building a strong



BRANCH REPORTS



economy to navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We continue to advocate for First Nations-specific connectivity funding, criteria, access to connectivity programs, and training to provide opportunities for the ownership and control of the spectrum and wireless technology to First Nations.

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

In 2023, the Economic Development Sector will undertake a review of the *Cannabis Act*, a review of the *Criminal Code* for amendments regarding gaming, identify opportunities and challenges in agriculture, support First Nations access to the spectrum licensing and business opportunities in the area of wireless connectivity, support indigenous Tourism, increase First Nations access to reliable financial services, and support trading routes such the transport corridors.

Fisheries Sector Annual Report

The Fisheries Sector's work is guided by the AFN's National Fisheries Committee (NFC), co-chaired by British Columbia Regional Chief Terry Teegee, New Brunswick Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, Prince Edward Island Regional Chief Darlene Bernard and Chief Roderick "Junior" Gould of the Mi'kmaq Abegweit First Nation. The NFC is guided by working groups and technical sub-committees that advise on various fisheries-related issues: the National Aquaculture Working Group, the Inland Working Group, the Oceans Working Group, and the Oceans Protection Plan Sub-Committee.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

The Inland Working Group on First Nations Fisheries

First Nations inland waters include numerous lakes and rivers licensed for commercial fishing. Many of these freshwater lakes and rivers still have inland fisheries plants and viable commercial fisheries. However, like many fisheries, they face threats from human developments, sports fishing, salination and other climatic changes. The most recent threat was COVID-19 and food supply shortages due to travel restrictions and closures in the tourism industry. The Working Group met in June 2022 to formulate solutions to issues related to the impact of provincial legislation on the rights of Indigenous fishers and market access through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, as a Crown corporation, remains under the control of former DFO employees without adequate First Nations representation in its governance. The project includes the harvesting, processing, storing, and distributing seafood to Indigenous communities. Meanwhile, these same fisheries are devastated by floods, habitat destruction and provincial commitment to sportfishing as a priority over First Nations inherent rights.

First Nations Oceans Protection Plan Sub-Committee

As mandated by Resolution 52/2018, *First Nations Inclusion in Canada's Oceans Protection Plan*, the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) Subcommittee of the AFN Oceans Working Group, Transport Canada (TC), and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) participated in a joint national assessment of the OPP. The AFN OPP Subcommittee developed draft methods and a best

practices framework for the assessment. Through various Working Group meetings, it was deemed necessary to develop a Terms of Reference to clarify how the AFN, TC, and CCG would collaborate on the assessment.

The Terms of Reference was drafted collaboratively amongst the OPP Assessment Working Group members. The draft Terms of Reference includes sections on the purpose of the assessment, guiding principles, structure and approach, regional engagement, communications and information-sharing, and review, amendment, and termination. The Working Group plans to collectively address any feedback and prepare a final version for AFN, TC, and CCG approval. A proposed work plan outlines the timeline for meetings to conclude the co-development of a Draft Best Practices Assessment Process, Terms of Reference and indicators.

Build Stronger Relationships to Fully Respect First Nations Governments and their Priorities

Much of the Fisheries Sector's recent work has been on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) National Action Plan, which speaks to fisheries governance and related rights. This work included a collection and review of all AFN fisheries mandates and analysis of required legislative and regulatory changes necessary to ensure alignment with the UNDA, including Supreme Court of Canada court case decisions and their corresponding implementation. Going forward, the Fisheries Sector will engage appropriately on the implementation of the National Action Plan in support of the NFC.

Advocacy for Indigenous Rights-based Fisheries Across Canada

Under the direction of Resolution 8/2020, *Systemic Racism in all federal agencies, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Response to Sipekne'katik First Nation's Inherent Rights-based Fishery*, in April 2022, the Fisheries Sector provided a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on the Implementation of Indigenous Rights-based fisheries across Canada. This report examined prominent Supreme Court Case decisions and systemic and structural racism encountered by First Nations harvesters. In the submission, the Fisheries Sector called for the full implementation of the First Nations right to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes, which does not require Government of Canada licensing or management of any kind.



Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In 2023, the Fisheries Sector will examine open net-pen aquaculture, in addition to continuing to work on legislative and regulatory priorities such as the implementation of the National Action Plan to the *United Nations Declaration Act* with a view of ensuring amendments to the Fisheries Act are undertaken with a focus on protecting the inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty rights of First Nations in fisheries.



BRANCH REPORTS



Infrastructure Sector Annual Report

The AFN Infrastructure Sector is responsible for advocating for major federal government investments in community infrastructure and the creation of First Nations-led policies and solutions related to community infrastructure. The Chiefs Committee on Housing & Infrastructure (CCoHI), co-chaired by Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse and Quebec Chief Lance Haymond, along with Water Lead Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare, provides direction to the Infrastructure Sector.

Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 Report

Goal: To ensure adequate capital and operational investments are allocated to First Nations for infrastructure in all asset categories.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

In support of Minister Hajdu's ministerial mandate letter, the AFN, in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), has co-developed a first-of-its-kind comprehensive cost report to quantify the capital and operating costs to "Close the Infrastructure Gap by 2030" for First Nations across Canada.

Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030: A Collaborative and Comprehensive Cost Estimate Identifying the Infrastructure Investment Needs of Canada's First Nations

AFN Resolution 26/2021, *Support for Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030*, directs the AFN to investigate the true housing and infrastructure needs and co-develop a plan with the federal government to meet their commitment to close the gap by 2030.

This comprehensive AFN-led cost report is the first to identify the required infrastructure investments required, including meeting federal commitments on climate change adaptation, net-zero goals, digital connectivity, and more. These investments will unlock First Nations economic capacity. The AFN, as directed by the First Nations-In-Assembly, has engaged industry experts to use this research to estimate the national infrastructure need and sustain it for future generations of First Nations.

These critical investments are fiduciary reparations needed for over a century of underfunded programs to First Nations and will improve their self-determination and socioeconomic outcomes, and minimize the disparity between First Nations and Canadians access to essential community infrastructure services and housing. Limited access to essential infrastructure, including housing, education, healthcare, connectivity, and other capital buildings and services across First Nations communities has resulted in long-standing intergenerational inequality, especially compared to the social infrastructure services that are regularly and consistently provided to most Canadians.

Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 Report: The capital and operational costs to fulfill this Government's federal mandates to Ministers and public promises to "Close the Gap" in seven years is **\$349.2 billion**, which includes:

- To bring comparable community infrastructure: \$208.9 billion
- To address the housing and overcrowding crisis: \$135.1 billion
- To bring high-speed internet to 466 First Nations communities: \$5.2 billion

The AFN hosted the 2nd National Asset Management Conference and Trade Show: An Asset Management Approach to "Closing the Infrastructure Gap" to discuss updates on progress by First Nations on their work related to Asset Management Planning (AMP), sharing of successful AMP stories, networking and information sharing, and ongoing challenges with the operations and maintenance of assets. The National Asset Management Conference and Trade Show took place from March 7 to 9, 2023, in Gatineau, Quebec.

Safe Drinking Water Legislation Repeal and Replacement

Goal: Repeal and replace the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* (SDWFNA).

Accomplishments 2022-2023

Throughout the year, the AFN Infrastructure Sector continued to advance on the mandate of its 2022-2023 engagement strategy, designed to ensure widespread First Nations participation and input into the replacement legislation.

The sector's 2022-2023 event activities:

- AFN Youth Water Summit in September 2022
- AFN Legislative Water Summit and Legal Think Tank in October 2022
- 3rd Annual Virtual Water Summit in October 2022
- 6th Annual AFN Water Symposium and Trade Show in February 2023

The repeal of SDWFNA received Royal Assent on June 23, 2022, following the advocacy of the AFN and the settlement of the National Class Action Settlement, which committed the federal government to repeal the SDWFNA and replace it with new legislation in consultation with First Nations by December 31, 2022.

On February 17, 2023, in a historic first, Canada released a consultation draft of the proposed bill entitled "An Act respecting drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nation lands" to all Rights Holders. AFN Infrastructure Sector supported First Nations in developing their own responses. The proposed bill fails to address First Nations concerns and does not align with the direction of the First Nations-in-Assembly regarding the necessary content of the legislation. The AFN's analysis identified the proposed legislation's strengths and opportunities for strengthening the language in five key areas of concern identified by First Nations: First Nations rights and responsibilities to water, funding commitments, minimum standards and regulations, governance, and transboundary water issues.





BRANCH REPORTS



During the March 2023 UN Water Conference, Regional Chief Woodhouse, the portfolio holder for the CCoHI, participated in a side event, the Reducing Inequalities Special Event panel. She drew attention to the crisis state of First Nations' lack of access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water and sanitation while holding the Canadian government accountable.

The AFN did not support ISC's final consultation draft, prompting Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Patty Hajdu, on May 29, 2023, to commit to seeking an expanded mandate for the legislation to address the AFN Executive Committee motion and delay the tabling of the legislation. The bill is expected to be introduced in Fall 2023.

First Nations Fire Protection Strategy and First Responders Gathering

Goal: Funding for fully remunerated fire department positions, access to emergency response funds, and better resources to address extreme weather events in their communities.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

The AFN advocated to improve fire protection resources ensuring First Nations are more readily able to respond to emergency calls in their communities and at the wildland-urban interface. The First Nations Fire Protection Strategy was approved by the AFN and ISC and endorsed by the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada.

The strategy outlines priorities and specific goals under six pillars:

1. Partnership for First Nations fire protection
2. Fire prevention education
3. Community standards
4. Fire service operational standards
5. Climate change
6. Critical infrastructure

A First Nations First Responders Gathering was held in May 2023 with First Nations Fire Chiefs, Chiefs, and First Nations first responders from across Canada to announce the Release of the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy 2023-2028 and review its implementation goals fulfilling the mandate of Resolution 09/2022, *Targeted Support to Improve First Nations Fire Protection*.

Federal Tendering Policy Report

Goal: Conduct a review of the Federal Tendering Policy requirements and recommend changes to improve the Federal policy for First Nations funding of capital projects on reserve.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

The AFN Infrastructure Sector was requested by ISC to review current federal tendering policies. Treasury Board guidelines for all Federal programs have not been updated in over 20 years.

On May 20, 2022, the AFN finalized a report that identified issues and concerns with the ISC Tendering Policy on Federally Funded Capital Projects for First Nations on Reserve,

which excludes housing, and requires First Nations to develop tendering policies as a condition for projects over \$100,000. The review included policy thresholds, quality-of-service delivery of ISC, opportunity to support economic stimulus, On-Reserve through Federally Funded Infrastructure Projects, and options for improvement, including support for First Nations leadership, technicians and ISC service delivery.

The AFN Federal Tendering Policy Report proffered eleven recommendations to improve ISC Federal Tendering Policies that would remove the administrative burden from First Nation tenders, improve competition in the private sector, and promote First Nation procurement. Indigenous Services Canada accepted the AFN's recommendations, and AFN and ISC are now co-developing a new updated federal tendering policy for completion in 2023.

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The AFN Infrastructure Sector remains committed to the co-development and co-drafting legislation on safe drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure with ISC. First Nations and technical experts reviewed, studied, and evaluated the draft legislation to ensure the highest standards for the safety, health, and well-being of First Nations and those who reside, work, or visit First Nations lands and territories.

In preparation for the legislation's introduction to Parliament, the AFN Infrastructure Sector is working with all First Nations to respond and provide comments and suggestions on the Act through written submissions.

The Infrastructure Sector continues to advance the work with our federal partners to Close the First Nation Infrastructure Gap by 2030.





BRANCH REPORTS



Environment, Lands & Water Branch

The Environment, Lands & Water (ELW) Branch works to protect and preserve the Sacred Circle of Life by applying Traditional Knowledge and values—integral to all relationships within Creation—in the conservation of the environment, lands, and water.

Key Issues and Activities:

For First Nations, the environment—all lands and water—is life. Each is inseparable, reflecting our reciprocal and lasting connection to Turtle Island and our specific lands, water, and territories. The goal of ELW is to support First Nations rights to self-determination as they seek to reclaim jurisdiction and authority based on their Inherent, constitutionally protected, and Treaty rights and title. In doing this, we prioritize the continued acknowledgment of First Nations as leaders in the areas of environment, lands, and water.

The ELW Branch advances the following five interrelated strategic outcomes:

1. Ensure federal legislation and environmental, land, and water regulations uphold and advance First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.
2. Advocate for equitable, sufficient, and direct funding related to environment, lands, and water to enable First Nations to fully implement their Inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction.
3. Improve federal policies and programs related to environment, lands, and water to enable First Nations governments to exercise their Inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction

while creating space for the assertion of First Nations-led policies and programs.

4. Facilitate the creation of machinery (or processes) related to environment, lands, and water that support the attainment of First Nations-identified long-term outcomes while respecting the Inherent and Treaty rights, title, and jurisdiction of First Nations.
5. Support First Nations in the development of strategies related to environment, lands, and water and advocate for their full consideration in federal decision-making processes.

Environment Sector

The AFN Environment Sector actively works to position First Nations as leaders in environmental action, driving transformative change across a range of issues, including climate change, conservation, biodiversity, and environmental health. This includes supporting the recognition of First Nations' Inherent rights, title, and jurisdiction and the application of First Nations' self-determination and jurisdiction in legislative, policy and program development under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE).

Accomplishments in 2022-2023

Biodiversity and Conservation

The Environment Sector remains steadfast in its advocacy to position First Nations Peoples, voices, and cultures as Guardians and stewards of the lands, water, and ice. This work was showcased at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in December 2022. This COP ratified a near unanimous global commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which includes commitments to uplift and include Indigenous voices and Peoples in conservation. These commitments support Canada's work on the Pathway Initiative, in which the Environment Sector remains an advocate for the critical leadership role of First Nations. These initiatives will support an increased First Nations presence in decision-making bodies and processes related to Canada's ambitious conservation targets of 25% protection by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

The Environment Sector continues to participate in the development of a GBF National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, and successfully hosted three regional dialogue sessions on the conservation of culturally significant species for First Nations technical representatives to advance nature related work at a regional level.

In accordance with Resolution 57/2022, *First Nations Nature Table*, the Environment Sector is advancing collaborative creation of the First Nations Nature Table (FNNT) with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). This joint table will provide a technical forum for dialogue to guide Canada's domestic implementation of the GBF, among other ambitious nature priorities.

Environmental Health

The Food, Environment, Health, and Nutrition of First Nations Children and Youth (FEHNCY) Study seeks to address existing knowledge gaps related to the impact of built, social, and natural environments on the nutrition and health of First Nations children and youth. After a successful pilot study, the full FEHNCY study commenced in the Atlantic region in the fall of 2022. Community engagement also commenced in the Saskatchewan region with data collection expected to begin in the summer of 2023.

The Environment Sector is leading the AFN's participation in the ongoing review of Bill S-5 (*An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act – or CEPA*). The AFN appeared as a witness and submitted a brief to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources (ENEV), highlighting the AFN's concerns and recommendations to strengthen the bill. While Bill S-5 introduced important provisions and changes to CEPA, the bill failed to address other issues. The Environment Sector will continue to engage Canada on aspects of CEPA that impact First Nations, including the need to address the CEPA regulatory gap.

The Environment Sector, through the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sub-working group under the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), is drafting a discussion paper outlining First Nations concerns and recommended responses to the potential spread of CWD and related impacts on First Nations.





BRANCH REPORTS



Impact Assessment

The AFN Environment Sector continues to monitor regulatory amendments to policy under the *Impact Assessment Act*. Specifically, the Environment Sector monitors regulations pertaining to First Nations participation in the co-development process of regulatory amendments. That Act presents tangible opportunities for First Nations to be involved in the decision-making of major projects on Federal Lands. These opportunities include the development of an Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework, Indigenous Capacity Support Programs, Indigenous Cooperation Agreement Regulations, and the Agencies Reconciliation Framework. The AFN will continue to support and coordinate interventions and participation of First Nations, including regional engagements planned for later in 2023.

Climate Action

Since the passing of Resolution 05/2019, *Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency*, the Environment Sector has advanced priorities related to First Nations climate leadership, including hosting the second National Climate Gathering (September 27–29, 2022, Fredericton, NB). A Gathering Report and a series of videos were released to capture these events.

The AFN National Climate Strategy, developed in collaboration with the ACE, is ready for the First Nations-in-Assembly to consider. This Strategy highlights opportunities to advance First Nations Climate Leadership in seven key areas and is expected to be brought to this year's AGA for adoption.

The Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) resumed working in person, seeking to advance First Nations' interests in federal climate policies and plans. The JCCA will once again publicly release its Annual Report

to the National Chief and Prime Minister, with plans to host this and other JCCA-related information in Fall 2023.

Finally, a delegation, led by Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, attended the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Egypt, in October 2022. A position paper was prepared, *Setting First Nations Expectations for COP 27*, to outline First Nations priorities by driving urgent and transformative climate action. An e-bulletin was released in December 2022 detailing AFN's attendance at COP 27.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 55/2022, *Support for First Nations Impacted by Flooding and Droughts*
- Resolution 57/2022, *First Nations Nature Table*
- Resolution 21/2023, *Replacing First Nations Lands Lost Due to Climate Disasters*
- Resolution 22/2023, *First Nations Engagement on Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction*
- Resolution 23/2023, *Prohibit Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Sacred Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd*
- Resolution 24/2023, *Support for an Equitable Carbon Tax on Industrial Fossil Fuel Protection*
- Resolution 25/2023, *Call for Exemption to the Federal Carbon Levy for First Nation Governments in Rural and Remote Communities*

Lands Sector

For First Nations, their attachment to specific lands is inseparable from fundamental Indigenous and human rights, such as access to our own ways of life, traditions, languages, and ceremonies. The return of lands to First Nations is a basic precondition to the exercise of the Inherent right to self-determination.

Working under the guidance of the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCoLTR), the AFN Lands Sector is focused on supporting First Nations' self-determination over their lands, territories, and resources through advocacy, policy, and legislative initiatives, and by facilitating the cross-pollination of First Nations approaches through critical analysis and information sharing.

While our work is often focused on addressing barriers to effective redress in existing policies, such as the Specific Claims Policy, the Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy, and the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy (CLCP), we also seek to identify and elevate the many creative solutions First Nations are pursuing to address the impacts of colonialism on their lands, territories, and resources.

Accomplishments in 2022–2023

The AFN Lands Sector entered 2022–23 with various mandates to advance First Nations self-determination over their lands, territories, and resources. Some of the notable accomplishments include:

Specific Claims

In November 2022, the Lands Sector worked with the CCoLTR to host a public ceremony between Regional Chief Paul Prosper and Minister Marc Miller to formally launch the co-development of an independent centre

for the resolution of specific claims. An AFN-Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNAC) Specific Claims Implementation Working Group (SCIWG) was developed on this basis. The SCIWG is mandated to co-develop a consensus-based model for the independent centre for the resolution of specific claims and has been meeting regularly since November 2022.

Critical to our work on specific claims reform is ensuring that Indigenous laws and legal orders are recognized and included throughout the specific claims process. To advance this mandate, the AFN Lands Sector facilitated the creation of a Council of Experts in Indigenous Laws (CEIL). Currently, the CEIL includes six experts, including two women, who represent a diversity of regions and areas of expertise.

Additions to Reserve

To support ongoing analysis of the existing ATR policy, the Lands Sector developed and delivered a National ATR Survey to gather data from First Nations on obstacles they face while navigating the current policy. The Survey, launched in October 2022, is designed to highlight what needs to be improved, amended, or removed from the ATR process, and capture regional and land regime differences. This data will assist ongoing analysis and support future advocacy efforts.

Comprehensive Claims

Working collaboratively with the AFN Rights Sector, the Lands Sector supported the ongoing analysis of the Government of Canada's approach to the recognition of Indigenous title and self-determination, advocating for the repeal or replacement of the Comprehensive Land Claims and Inherent Right to Self-Government Policies. The AFN Lands and Rights Sectors also





BRANCH REPORTS



advocated for flexible, accessible, and open negotiation spaces which facilitate and advance Nation-to-Nation discussions on Indigenous title and self-determination, consistent with the Honour of the Crown, the full recognition of Indigenous title and self-determination, and the minimum standards of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).

Throughout 2022–2023, the Lands Sector distributed issues updates, facilitated dialogue sessions, engaged with the CCoLTR, and delivered presentations to First Nations and their representative organizations on specific claims co-development, ATR reform, and Canada's proposed reforms to the *Indian Act* (Bill C-38).

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 14/2022, *First Nations Self-Determination over Citizenship*
- Resolution 42/2022, *Demand for Consultation on Amendments to the Indian Act (1985)*
- Resolution 53/2022, *Fair Resolution of Claims Over \$150 Million*
- Resolution 54/2022, *Political and Financial Support for the Western Treaty Nations on the Natural Resource Transfer Agreement Summit*

Water Sector

The AFN Water Sector is responsible for supporting First Nations' stewardship over inland and marine waters. This includes supporting the implementation of AFN's wide-ranging mandates and initiatives focused on water stewardship, jurisdiction over water (title and rights), and conservation initiatives (e.g., protected areas, habitat loss, and biodiversity), under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE).

Accomplishments in 2022–2023

Conservation and Biodiversity

The Water Sector worked closely with the Environment Sector to coordinate the AFN's participation at the 15th Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) in Montreal last December. Led by Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, the AFN delegation elevated First Nations priorities on the international stage, emphasizing the importance of First Nations' leadership, governance, rights, and knowledge systems in halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

The AFN's strong presence and advocacy efforts in developing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework resulted in strong language on respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, waters, territories, resources, and protecting and promoting our knowledge systems. The Water Sector furthered advocacy efforts on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty to ensure that First Nations priorities were reflected in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and that First Nations knowledge systems were respected and promoted. Finalized this March, the BBNJ Treaty will facilitate the protection of large

areas of the high seas and increase the effectiveness of our marine conservation efforts at home.

Guided by the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE) and its working group, the AFN released a report in February 2023 that details opportunities and recommendations to the Government of Canada for supporting First Nations to establish marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). IPCAs are a perfect example of First Nations asserting governance and stewardship over their lands and waters, in line with their rights and responsibilities. These messages were shared by Regional Chief Adamek and BC Regional Chief Terry Teegee at the 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC 5) in February in Vancouver.

Sustainable Development

The Water Sector continues to advocate for a First Nations pathway to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda. In March 2023, the Water Sector coordinated an AFN delegation led by Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, which included Judy Wilson, proxy for Regional Chief Adamek, to attend the 2023 United Nations Water Conference. Focused on the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, the sector amplified First Nations' perspectives on water stewardship and advocated for First Nations-led solutions and responses to the global water crisis and the United Nations Water Action Agenda.

First Nations can promote development that reflects their concepts of sustainability and respects their decision-making authority and priorities to ensure that no First Nation is left behind. Building off our virtual knowledge exchange sessions in 2022 and

under the guidance of the ACE, the Water Sector initiated an analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals that identifies First Nations interests and priorities in sustainable development. Further work is underway to share this information broadly with First Nations.

Water Protection

Climate change, industrial development, and pollution continue to threaten critical surface and groundwater and impact the well-being of First Nations communities. The Water Sector has been providing input to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on its site selection process for the deep geological storage of nuclear fuel to ensure that the concerns of First Nations' communities whose territories are being considered to host a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) are being addressed. Given the potential risks to water, the Water Sector is developing an environmental scan of First Nations perspectives on nuclear waste management and establishing an engagement plan to assess concerns, identify gaps, and obtain other types of feedback.

Key Resolutions

- Resolution 56/2022, *First Nations Participation at the Fifth International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5)*
- Resolution 27/2021, *Meaningful engagement and involvement in the co-development of a Canada Water Agency*
- Resolution 41/2021, *Marine Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas*





BRANCH REPORTS



- Resolution 43/2021, *Support for First Nations Inherent Rights, Title and Jurisdiction of Water Stewardship, including the Traditional Roles of First Nations Women*
- Resolution 44/2021, *Support for a First Nations-led pathway to the Sustainable Development Goals*

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The Environment, Lands & Water Branch will continue to advance the lands-based and environmental interests of First Nations to further support First Nations in their efforts to achieve justice over their lands, waters, and territories. This will include the following:

- Hosting an inaugural Water Walk in Fall 2023;
- Jointly developing a fully independent specific claims centre based on the minimum standards for redress mechanisms outlined in the UN Declaration; and
- Hosting our 3rd National Climate Gathering in 2024.

These and other initiatives form the basis of an advocacy plan to support First Nations as we seek to bring First Nations' interests and jurisdiction to the forefront of national and international action.





BRANCH REPORTS



Rights, Justice, and Governance Branch

The goal of the Rights and Justice Branch is to support the full affirmation and manifestation of First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights and jurisdiction. Rights, justice, and governance are each foundational to the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and self-determination and community well-being.

The Branch is supported by three distinct sectors focusing on Rights, Justice, and Governance. Each of the Sectors are actively engaged in new and ongoing mandates that will tackle the Crown's chronic underfunding and under prioritization of Nation-building, the revitalization of First Nations' justice systems, and the taking up of First Nations' rightful jurisdiction. Current priorities of the Branch include First Nations policing, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), the *implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, First Nations control over Citizenship, Government-to-Government relations, and fiscal relations.

Branch Key Issues and Activities:

Rights Sector:

The Rights Sector advocates at the intersection between First Nations' Inherent rights, laws, and legal orders, and colonial legal and policy systems. The Rights Sector examines and advocates for improvements to the interface of First Nations laws and legal orders as they interact with colonial governments in support of First Nations Inherent rights and title. The Sector also supports the AFN's mandated work on existing legal and policy structures such as Treaties, Modern Treaties, and Constructive Arrangements, as well as the evolving colonial legal constructs that are relevant to

First Nations, such as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)* and its required actions. The Sector engages in issues related to First Nations citizenship, such as Bill S-3 and the *Descheneaux* decision. The Sector engages in matters related to Rights in the international context of Crown relations and cross-border issues, particularly respect for the Jay Treaty and the free passage of First Nations in alignment with Article 36 of the UN Declaration.

Accomplishments 2022-2023:

Implementation of the UN Declaration

Throughout 2022–2023, the Rights Sector focused on the implementation of the UN Declaration, as mandated by First Nations-in-Assembly. The AFN's sustained advocacy included Canada's engagement with First Nations, AFN-led virtual engagements, and the development of Canada's Action Plan. The AFN's virtual engagements took place in the spring of 2023 to assist First Nations who had concerns or questions about the process for implementing the UN Declaration. These conversations culminated at a dedicated Special Chief's Assembly held April 3–6, 2023, on unceded Algonquin territory in Ottawa, Ontario. The Assembly was held to advance discussions on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)* and its National Action Plan.

To support these discussions, the Rights Sector developed two key documents that were publicly released at the April 2023 Assembly. The first is an AFN-wide amalgamation of the hundreds of mandates passed by First Nations-in-Assembly since 2011, titled "Implementing the UN Declaration: First Nations Essential Elements." The report positions First Nations mandates as the essential actions and measures Canada must take to implement the UN Declaration. The Rights Sector also produced, with the support of the First Nations Information Governance Centre, a report on First Nations data sovereignty. These documents were provided to Canada in May 2023 to frame the essential elements that First Nations require in any Action Plan to implement the UN Declaration.

To guide this work, the Rights Sector, under the direction of the AFN Executive Committee, struck an Ad Hoc Chiefs Committee on the UNDA in 2022. The Ad Hoc Committee provides advice and guidance to the AFN and ensures regional perspectives and interests are conveyed to the AFN and Canada. The Ad Hoc Chiefs Committee met throughout 2022–2023 and advocated for pathways and improvements to Canada's engagement, funding, and drafting of the National Action Plan, including direct advocacy with the Minister of Justice and Senior Officials. The Rights Sector is also in the process of establishing an Ad-Hoc National Expert Panel to support First Nations as they analyze and respond to the implementation of the UN Declaration.

The Rights Sector's advocacy in this area led to significant technical improvements to Canada's National Action Plan measures and increased the overall number of First Nations-informed measures.

Beyond the National Action Plan, the Rights Sector also advocates on the international stage for the repeal of States—and other internationally influential bodies—doctrines,

laws, and policies that are inconsistent with the UN Declaration, such as the Doctrine of Discovery. In terms of international borders, the Rights Sector advocated throughout 2022–2023 for respect of the Jay Treaty and the full and free passage of our people over international borders as required by Article 36 of the UN Declaration. The Jay Treaty Border Alliance conducted high-level advocacy on these issues with AFN support in 2023. The Rights Sector continues to advocate for an immediate overhaul of Canadian Border Services and border-related measures that violate the UN Declaration.

The Rights Sector's work is mandated through various Resolutions:

- Emergency Resolution 20/2023, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Draft National Action Plan*
 - This resolution reacts to the significant issues and concerns with Canada's Action Plan development process in early 2023. The AFN Rights sector is actively working to ensure the amendment process for the Action Plan will be First Nations-led, founded on Free, Prior and Informed Consent principles and conducted annually.
- Resolution 17/2021, *National Action Plan to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
 - This resolution mandates the AFN to continue to advocate for full and meaningful First Nations participation in all processes for implementing the UN Declaration. This resolution affirms that the UNDA does not domesticate or acquire First Nations' sacred relationships, responsibilities, privileges, or rights affirmed and articulated within UNDRIP.





BRANCH REPORTS



- Resolution 12/2022, *Call for Full First Nations Participation in the Implementation of the UN Declaration*
 - This resolution directs the AFN to engage all aspects of the UNDA, beyond simply the Action Plan. This means engaging with section 5 of the UNDA, aligning Canada's laws and policies with the UN Declaration, and under section 7, the Annual Reporting process.
- Resolution 13/2022, *First Nations Priorities to Guide the Crown's Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
 - This resolution mandates the AFN to call upon the Crown, in all its forms, whether federal, provincial, or territorial, to take every action necessary to immediately ensure their laws and policies are consistent with the UN Declaration.

Treaty Commissioner's Office

In 2021–2022, the Rights Sector advocated for \$86 Million over five years to support the creation and maintenance of a National Treaty Commissioner and Commissioner's Office. In 2023, conscious of inflation and other costs, this call was reiterated in the amount of \$92 million. Canada did not respond to this call for funding, despite the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's mandate letter prioritizing the restoration of nation-to-nation relations through the renewal of Treaty relationships.

Throughout 2022–2023, the Rights Sector continued to support Treaty Commissioner's Office discussions, primarily through advocacy on a robust National Action Plan on the UNDA. Numerous proposed Action

Plan Measures in the UNDA spoke to the need for accountability structures and new arms-length entities, such as a National Treaty Commissioner's Office, in the coming years. The Rights Sector continues to engage multiple federal government ministries to ensure that the Action Plan clearly and openly includes the foundational respect for Inherent rights and Treaties.

The Rights Sector is guided by Resolution 78/2015, which directs the AFN to support Treaty Nations to *Establish a Treaty Commissioner's Office*.

First Nations Citizenship and An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada

The Rights Sector is committed to its mandate to call on Canada to address all remaining impacts of gender discrimination in the Indian Act, both past and present. In 2017, First Nations-in-Assembly identified numerous issues associated with Bill S-3, *An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada (Procureur général)*. As a result, the Rights Sector engaged the UNDA National Action Plan as a clear space to address these issues.

Two specific issues were the need for new resources to address the increased number of potential new citizens and respect for First Nations Inherent authority to identify their citizens. The Rights Sector continued to confront Canada in its UN Declaration implementation process—the definition of 'Indian Status' is limiting, and our Inherent laws and legal orders must be respected when defining 'citizenship' and membership.

The Rights Sector has also continued to advocate for Canada to formally confirm that its practice of defining 'Indian Status' is not compliant with the UN Declaration. In

2022–2023, the Rights Sector advocated for \$302 million over five years to be deployed to First Nations rights holders to support bringing their people home as a result of Bill S-3. Canada did not invest any resources in Budget 2023 for this work.

Resolutions regarding First Nations citizenship and registration have mandated the AFN's work in this area. Resolutions include:

- Resolution 14/2022, *First Nations Self-Determination over Citizenship affirms First Nations inherent right to exercise jurisdiction over citizenship*;
- Resolution 36/2015, *Indian Status Application Process*;
- Resolution 53/2015, *The Right of First Nations to Determine their individual and Collective identities*, 59/2016, *First Nations Citizenship*; and,
- Resolution 71/2016, *Descheneaux Decision: First Nation jurisdiction on Citizenship and Identity*, and 30/2017 *Inherent Authority to Define Citizenship*.

Justice Sector:

The AFN Justice Sector supports First Nations to assert jurisdiction in justice-related systems, including policing, restorative justice, prevention and harm reduction strategies. This work aims to end the overrepresentation of First Nations in the criminal justice system. The Justice Sector is also responsible for advocating for social justice reforms and systemic change as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) *Calls to Action* and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) *Calls for Justice*. The Justice Sector strives to see meaningful changes that demonstrate a

holistic approach to the social, economic, and political well-being of First Nations.

Accomplishments 2022–2023:

Social Justice

In accordance with Resolution 36/2021, *Call for Recommitment, Funding and Clear timelines for the Development and Implementation of a National First Nations Justice Strategy*, the AFN continues to advocate for the development of a National Indigenous Justice Strategy to address discrimination and the overrepresentation of First Nations Peoples in the justice system. As part of this work, the Justice Sector is focused on advocating for reform of the criminal justice system and support to establish First Nations-led and culturally appropriate alternatives to the existing justice system.

More recently, First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 11/2022, *Establishing a Chiefs' Committee on Justice*, which includes direction for the AFN to continue working with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and relevant ministries to carry out engagement to provide recommendations to Justice Canada on what should be included in their Indigenous Justice Strategy. The Chiefs' Committee on Justice will provide advice and direction on matters relating to justice reform and reclamation of First Nations justice systems, legal traditions, and customary laws. The call for regional representation to the committee and the development of a draft Terms of Reference is scheduled for early summer 2023.

Looking ahead, the Chiefs' Committee on Justice will also support the implementation of the mandate from Resolution 12/2023, *First Nations Alternative Approaches to Justice*. This mandate calls for the federal government to support First Nations in





BRANCH REPORTS



rebuilding their justice systems through long-term, predictable funding to develop, expand, or sustain alternative approaches to law enforcement and justice that are informed by individual First Nations' laws and legal traditions. The Chiefs' Committee on Justice will additionally consider the mandate from Resolution 13/2023, *Enforcement of Band Council Resolutions and Bylaws On-Reserve*, which calls for the recognition and enforcement of First Nations laws.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+)

The AFN hosted a National MMIWG2S+ Gathering in Vancouver, BC, from February 14–16, 2023, which was planned with a “families first” and trauma-informed approach. The Gathering was an opportunity for MMIWG2S+ survivors and families to come together to reflect on the work completed to date and discuss the actions needed to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples.

On June 3, 2023, the AFN released its report, *Connecting Hearts & Making Change - Building on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: An Action Plan to End Violence Against First Nations Women, Girls & 2SLGBTQQIA+ People*, which reflects the voices of the MMIWG2S+ survivors and families who attended the Gathering. *Connecting Hearts & Making Change* reinforces the priority frameworks from *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice* and provides further unique additions to each of the four pillars: Justice, Human Security, Health and Wellness, and Culture as Safety.

Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice highlights three (3) national frameworks that MMIWG2S+ survivors and families raised as priority areas to immediately address

violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. These frameworks include:

- Framework on Supporting Survivors and Families
- Framework on Prevention Services
- Framework on Healing Ourselves and Our Nations

In December 2022, First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 27/2022, *Support for the Family of Chantel Moore and Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*. That resolution called on the federal government to accelerate the implementation of the Calls for Justice and establish an independent oversight body to provide accountability for implementation. In January 2023, Canada appointed a Ministerial Special Representative and Innovation 7 (an Indigenous organization) to provide advice and recommendations to address the *Calls for Justice*.

Additionally, Resolution 49/2022, *Support for Sustainable Funding and Accountability for the Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice*, advocates for the principle of “Nothing About Us, Without Us,” which centres the inclusion of families and survivors with lived experience in MMIWG2S+ work. Resolution 49/2022 also supports advocacy for implementation using a distinctions-based approach with a regional approach that accounts for geographical realities, needs, and priorities.

First Nations Policing

In 2020, Public Safety Canada announced a commitment to co-develop a legislative framework that would recognize First Nations policing as an essential service. This announcement reflected the long-term

advocacy efforts of First Nations to replace the First Nations Policing Program.

During the 2021 AFN Annual General Assembly, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 07/2021, *Creation and Implementation of Legislation for First Nations Policing as an Essential Service*, which directs the AFN to advocate for the equitable treatment of First Nations police services through the development of a First Nations policing legislative framework.

At the December 2022 Special Chiefs Assembly, First Nations-in-Assembly passed Resolution 51/2022, *First Nations Sovereignty Over Policing*, recommending that the legislation to recognize First Nations policing as an essential service be modelled after Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. Resolution 51/2022 also called for the federal policing legislation to allow First Nations to enact their own community policing legislation, ensuring true First Nations jurisdiction over justice and policing systems that will serve First Nations in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner free from systemic racism and discrimination.

The AFN hosted the 3rd National Policing Forum in Calgary, AB, from May 2–3, 2023, to discuss the development of the First Nations policing legislation. Identified through the engagement work carried out by the AFN in its policing forums, the key priorities for a legislative framework are:

- **Rights Recognition:** Recognition of First Nations self-determination in accordance with First Nations Inherent, Treaty and Constitutional rights consistent with UNDRIP/UNDA, while complementing provincial/territorial policing legislation and regulations.

- **Essential Services Designation:** Recognition that First Nations police services are integral to community safety and security and that an “essential services” designation is one of the necessary preconditions to ensuring these services are backed by legislation and adequately resourced to provide culturally relevant and responsive policing services.
- **Funding:** Recognition that First Nations police services must be sufficiently funded to do their work and that such funding should be at a level consistent with their recognition as essential services.



Governance Sector:

The AFN Governance Sector supports First Nations as they move towards reconstituting their Nations and rebuilding their governing systems. While the Sector's primary goal is to support First Nations as they assert jurisdiction in all areas of governance, the Governance Sector is currently focused on capacity building in the areas of Emergency Management and the New Fiscal Relationship. These two priority files directly support First Nations' Inherent rights to self-determination and jurisdiction over socio-economic growth and affairs as expressed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

The New Fiscal Relationship work aims to co-develop and design more predictable and sustainable funding for First Nations Governments. The Emergency Management team advocates and coordinates with federal emergency management partners for increased funding and support to ensure First Nations can create, control, lead, and maintain their own emergency management regimes.



BRANCH REPORTS



Accomplishments 2022–2023:

New Fiscal Relations

The goal of the New Fiscal Relations work is to ensure that First Nations governments are adequately supported to provide essential services to their citizens and that First Nations governments have the necessary capacity to design, deliver and control any programs and services over which they have, or would like to take up, jurisdiction.

Establishing a new fiscal relationship between First Nations and Canada will address longstanding challenges that affect socio-economic outcomes and innovation. It will also strengthen financial management, human resources, IT systems, and other essential structures required for good governance and services that reflect each First Nation's priorities. Closing the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other Canadians has led to joint work between AFN, Indigenous Services Canada, and other Indigenous partners through technical working groups. The progress of these technical working groups is outlined below.

1. New Fiscal Relationship Grant

The NFR Grant table advocates for and advances the expansion of eligible recipients to include First Nations aggregates, such as Tribal Councils and Health Authorities.

2. Governance Modernization

The Governance modernization table conducts research to identify options for program reform and funding models for Canada to support First Nations Governance and governance capacity programming, such as Band Support Funding, Band Employee Benefits, and Professional and Institutional Development.

3. Default Prevention and Management Policy

The Default Prevention and Management Policy table is focused on the repeal of the DPMP and moving forward on a co-developed approach focused on collaboration and capacity development.

4. New Fiscal Relationship Policy

The New Fiscal Relationship Policy table is newly established to advance elements of JACFR's long-term, transformative vision and related initiatives.

5. National Outcomes-based Framework

During 2023–2024, the NFR Policy Working group intends to advance the mutual accountability initiative, including resuming work on the National Outcomes-based Framework (NOBF).

The work on the new fiscal relations is pursuant to Resolution 66/2017, *AFN-Canada Joint Report on Fiscal Relations*, and Resolution 24/2019, *Engage Extensively with First Nations on the Report of the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations*, and continues to pursue the objectives set out in these reports:

- *A New Approach: Co-Development of the New Fiscal Relationship between Canada and First Nations*, co-authored by the AFN and ISC, published December 2017.
- *Honouring our Ancestors by Trailblazing a Path to the Future*, authored by the Joint Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations, June 2019.

Emergency Management

The Governance Sector continues to advocate for comparable emergency services for First Nations, control of culturally-relevant emergency management regimes, and access to direct-fund First Nations-led emergency management programs and services. This work ensures that First Nations have access to relevant capacity building, training, and resources to deal with their location-based emergency management events.

The Governance Sector coordinates with Indigenous Services Canada to monitor and share notifications on seasonal floods, wildfires, and critical infrastructure damage information of ongoing or developing natural, technological, and anthropogenic (Human-induced) emergency events and evacuations for First Nations.

This past year has been productive for the Emergency Management team. Alongside our continual bilateral engagements with our partners, many priority files achieved milestone outcomes to report.

The Governance Sector and Coach House Enterprises, with Indigenous Services Canada, completed the "*First Nations Engagement on the Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs Initiative*." As a result of this initiative, \$31.7 million was allocated in budget 2023 for low-cost flood insurance options for First Nations.

The Emergency Management team worked to reconstitute the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM), securing representation and support from five regions and one territory thus far. The Chiefs Committee brings together First Nations regional representatives from across the

country to provide updates to each other and engage directly with our key emergency management partners.

Guided by the reconstituted CCEM, the Emergency Management team has engaged with Public Safety Canada's and Transport Canada's Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers' Meetings with National Indigenous Organizations (FPT NIO). These engagements allow the AFN EM team to coordinate with Emergency Management portfolio holder, Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, to directly advocate to all levels of government on behalf of First Nations rights holders, as mandated by First Nations-in-Assembly. The FPT NIO meetings provide the AFN with a sturdy platform to influence future policy work and legislation and allow the AFN to hold our government partners accountable.

The Governance Sector is mandated by various resolutions that include:

- Resolution 03/2015, *First Nation Involvement in Emergency Preparedness*;
- Resolution 83/2019, *First Nations Control of Emergency Management*;
- Resolution 84/2019, *Call for Emergency Operations Management Planning in First Nations*; and
- Most recently, Resolution 55/2022, *Support for First Nations Affected by Flooding and Drought*, called for support to restore Swan Lake to a healthy condition, as Swan Lake First Nation is facing food insecurity and a lack of capacity to engage in effective emergency management.





BRANCH REPORTS



Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The Rights and Justice Branch will continue to advance rights-based advocacy to achieve full recognition and the manifestation of First Nations governments' Inherent and Treaty rights and jurisdiction. We look forward to our work in the year ahead, which will include:

- The creation of the Ad-Hoc National Expert Panel on the UNDA;
- Pivoting UNDA work towards the alignment of Canada's laws and policies with the UN Declaration;
- The creation of the Chiefs Committee on Justice;
- Continued engagement with First Nations and Canada on statutory transfers;
- Hosting the 2nd AFN Emergency Management Forum set for September 12–14, 2023, at the Hilton Lac Leamy in Gatineau, Quebec.

Social Branch

The Social Branch works in partnership with governments and First Nations communities to help develop culturally and linguistically-relevant education, health, culture, housing and family services that promote the well-being of First Nations communities in Canada.

Languages and Learning Sector

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Languages and Learning Sector advocates to establish long-term, sustainable, consistent, and appropriate approaches to support First Nations in their effort to recover, reclaim, maintain, and normalize First Nations languages through the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*.

The Languages and Learning Sector also advocates for First Nations control of First Nations education, the inherent and Treaty right to education, and the right to equitable funding that meets the needs and circumstances of First Nations and their learners.

The sector strives to advance the full and meaningful affirmation and enforcement of First Nations' Inherent and Treaty rights, title, jurisdiction and control over First Nations education and languages, free from prejudice and discrimination. The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the Chiefs Committee on Languages (CCOL) provide recommendations to the sector to advance advocacy.

Languages and Learning Sector Accomplishments 2022-2023

Review Workplan 2022-2023

General

- Over the past year, the Languages and Learning Sector held two forums focusing on exchanging best practices and highlighting regional experiences in developing local, regional, and Treaty-based education agreements, as well as costing research for language revitalization; post-secondary institutions and inclusive education; closing the education gap; the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA); and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), 2022-2032.

The sector created a book on First Nations Languages as part of the AFN It's Our Time Toolkit series and updated and published three additional books, including *book 6: Residential Institutions (Schools)*, *book 17: Quality of Life* and *book 18: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The sector oversaw the development of the AFN It's Our Time Toolkit mobile application which is expected to launch on the Apple App Store in 2023-24.





BRANCH REPORTS

Languages

- The CCOL, Technical Committee on Languages (TCOL), AFN, and Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) co-operated in the development of an interim First Nations Languages Funding Model. The Funding Model was appended to a Treasury Board Submission and successfully unlocked Budget 2019 languages funding (\$52 million annually; see below).
- The First Nations National Action Plan for the IDIL was developed with the support of the CCOL and TCOL and was supported by First Nations-in-Assembly to ensure tangible actions are taken to support First Nations languages. The Action Plan will inform AFN advocacy throughout the IDIL.

K-12

- In keeping with “Transforming First Nations Education,” the sector provides support to First Nations in negotiating and concluding the Regional Education Agreements as required. There are currently nine completed REAs and over 70 underway. Approximately 30% of First Nations are currently under an agreement.



- The sector also worked with the CCOE, National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to co-develop an implementation proposal to inform the rollout of the \$350 million announced in Budget 2021 for First Nations adult education. Further work is required to ensure adult education is delivered in a manner that meets the needs of First Nations adult learners across all regions.

Post-Secondary Education

- In keeping with the 2021 PSE Policy Proposal, the sector continues to work with First Nations to identify policy changes required to support the transition to First Nations-led local, regional, and inherent/Treaty rights PSE models. Securing \$9.02 billion over five years for post-secondary remains a priority for the sector.

Education Infrastructure

- The co-developed amendments to the School Space Accommodations Standards (SSAS) were finalized to include additional space for inclusive education students, alleviate overcrowding and support adult learners.

Resolutions Report

AFN Resolution 17/2022, Support for the First Nations Languages Funding Model

The interim First Nations Languages Funding Model was appended to the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Treasury Board Submission and unlocked ongoing Budget 2019 funding for Indigenous languages. As a result, \$115.7 million will be allocated to Indigenous languages activities through the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program annually. This translates to approximately \$52 million annually for First Nations and First Nations organizations.

Further, funding under a new ongoing programmatic funding stream under the Indigenous Languages Component is now available to First Nations to facilitate the implementation of long-term initiatives. Proposal-based funding continues to be available for First Nations to support time-limited initiatives. First Nations can also access language funding through

Section 8 and 9 agreements until 2024-25, which primarily support collaborative language initiatives. The sector continues to work with the CCOL, TCOL, and DCH on the implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act* and interim Funding Model.

AFN Resolution 45/2022, Support the Challenge of Quebec's Bill 96, An Act Respecting French, the Official and Common Languages of Québec

The AFN is coordinating with leaders to discuss amendments to Bill 96 to ensure First Nations are exempt from the linguistic requirements set out in the legislation.

AFN Resolution 47/2022, First Nations Languages – A Defined and Enforceable Right

The sector is determining the best approach to introduce amendments to the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA) through discussions with the Joint Implementation Steering Committee and in light of upcoming Parliamentary and Independent Reviews of the legislation.

AFN Resolution 46/2022, Education Infrastructure Capital Reform

The AFN has been working to develop a reform plan that amends various authorities to include significant education infrastructure capital into Regional Education Agreements. Official correspondence has been sent to the Minister of ISC seeking further co-development and formal commitments.

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Languages and Learning Sector will focus on the following priorities:

- Languages and Education Forum, November 2023 (TBC).
- Ongoing promotion of the AFN It's Our Time Toolkit mobile application.
- Activities to support the First Nations Languages Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- Implementing the interim First Nations Languages Funding Model.
- Secure additional funding and inform policy change to support the transition towards First Nations PSE Models.
- Challenge ISC's unilateral actions with respect to the Implementation Proposal for Adult Education and advocate for the full regionalization of the Education Partnerships Program.
- Co-developing First Nations education infrastructure capital processes reform.





BRANCH REPORTS



Health Sector

The mandate of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Health Sector is to advocate for First Nations' inherent, Treaty, and international rights related to their health and well-being. The sector promotes holistic, culturally-based, and strengths-based approaches to supporting First Nations wellness. The Health Sector also supports the long-term vision of First Nations to control their own health systems while having access to sustainable and adequate investments. These ongoing efforts promote better health outcomes and health equity for First Nations, communities, and families.

Accomplishments 2022/2023

Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) & National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN)

The CCOH has been meeting regularly and recently developed a Strategic Plan as part of the ongoing response to AFN Resolution 04/2017, *Maximizing the Reach and Responsiveness of the AFN Health Sector*. Engaging CCOH members, with the support of their Health Technicians, is key to developing and implementing mandates within the Health Sector.

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

First Nations clients, leadership, and service providers continue to encounter challenges with the NIHB program, as identified in the 2022 Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Report 6 – *Moving Towards Improving the Health of Indigenous Peoples in Canada: Accessibility and Administration of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program*. AFN Resolution 61/2022, *Reforming Non-Insured Health Benefits Travel Policies*, directs the AFN to continue

the NIHB Joint Review and engage First Nations in isolated, northern, and remote communities to fully comprehend the barriers to equitable healthcare.

Mental Wellness

The First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework orientation was completed in 2023 with pilot testing materials for First Nations and government partners. A communications strategy is underway.

The Life Promotion/Suicide Prevention dialogue held at the 2022 Special Chiefs Assembly highlighted the need for more accessible services, new toolkits from First Nations partners, and Canada's work towards strengths-based approaches on these issues. This work includes youth voices and perspectives.

With funding from Canada, an update to the 2011 *Honouring Our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada* is in progress.

Finally, work is underway to fulfill the mandate of Resolution 33/2022, *Healing Forum for Residential School Survivors/Veterans/Thrivers*.

Seven Generations Continuum of Care

Resolution 19/2019, *Developing a Seven Generations Continuum of Care for First Nations*, by First Nations of Health, Economic and Social Services directs AFN advocacy for follow through on the commitments outlined in Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) 2021 mandate letter. This requires removing the siloed program-by-program approach to long-term and continuing care

services and replacing them with a wholistic continuum of care to address long-standing gaps in services for First Nations.

AFN Resolution 44/2022, *Co-development of Policy Options with ISC for a Memorandum to Cabinet on the Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework*, mandates the AFN Health and Social Development Sectors to co-develop policy recommendations with ISC on a wholistic long-term and continuing care framework by reforming the Assisted Living and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programs. The primary objective is to ensure First Nations voices are at the forefront of policy changes and that they have the option of living in their home community while receiving equitable healthcare regardless of geographical location.

Public Health

The Health Sector has presented on the historical and current profile of Tuberculosis (TB) among First Nations to various government and health workforce audiences throughout the year. Global attention on increasing case activity of TB will translate into strategic work with partners along the First Nations public health continuum.

Health Legislation

The AFN is mandated to make recommendations to the Government of Canada regarding federal distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. AFN Resolution 16/23, *Distinctions-Based Indigenous Health Legislation*, calls on Canada to provide reasonable time and opportunity for First Nations to have adequate and meaningful dialogue on principles, analysis and recommendations that must guide health legislation. An AFN Leadership Table is guiding this work with

regional representatives from the Chiefs Committee on Health. AFN hosted a National Health Legislation Forum in 2023 and is sharing research on health legislation to support these discussions.

Accessibility/Disabilities

AFN Resolution 10/2018, *Resources for Engagement on Distinct First Nations Accessibility Legislation*, directs the AFN to work with Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC) to develop distinct First Nations accessibility legislation. The AFN secured funding from ESDC for January-September 2023 to advance dialogue circles with First Nations persons living with disabilities to gather input on options to inform a distinct First Nations accessibility law and to develop a draft framework to determine the state of accessibility in First Nations. These dialogue sessions align with funding from the ESDC and AFN Engagement Protocol Agreement for resources up to September 2023 to inform Canada's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and the National Autism Strategy, which are core to advance elements for a draft accessibility framework. The AFN passed Resolution 15/2022, *Major Investments Needed to Build Fully Accessible First Nations*, which advocates for an extension to the date for implementing the Accessible Canada Act in First Nations and to secure major investments to build fully accessible First Nations governments.

COVID-19

Mandated by Resolution 16/2022, *Supporting First Nations Pandemic Recovery*, a report was commissioned to undertake research on COVID-19 supports to determine recommendations and tools for First Nations' economic, health and social pandemic recovery and resilience.





BRANCH REPORTS



The Health Sector provided bi-weekly COVID-19 updates to the AFN COVID-19 taskforce members, including case counts, vaccine uptake, and public health measures, to support First Nations in responding to the pandemic. AFN's participation in the Indigenous COVID-19 vaccine working group and communications working group supported the Health Sector's surveillance of trends related to the pandemic. COVID-19 supports, including test kits, personal protective equipment like hand sanitizers and masks, and access to Public Health Nurses, were made available at several AFN events.

Conclusion – The Path Ahead / Looking Forward

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Health Sector will focus on the following priorities:

- Co-drafting of distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation, particularly in Fall 2023, and supporting AFN's Leadership Table.
- Working with First Nations regions and Indigenous Services Canada to determine the process for dispersing the Indigenous Health Equity Fund funding.
- Collaborating with AFN Social Development Sector on policy recommendations for the Government of Canada on a wholistic long-term and continuing care framework by reforming the Assisted Living and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programs.
- Hosting a national roundtable to discuss challenges and identify solutions for the NIHB program.

Housing and Homelessness

The AFN Housing and Homelessness Sector advocates to ensure First Nations' exercise of self-determination over housing and homelessness. The Sector strives to secure broad recognition of and respect for First Nations housing and eliminate homelessness for First Nations in support of First Nations well-being. The Sector strives to ensure First Nations have the capacity to ensure all citizens living on or away from their nation are provided with an opportunity to access safe, secure, adequate, and affordable housing.

Housing

The National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy, mandated by First Nations-in-Assembly through AFN Resolution 57/2018, provides the framework for First Nations to exercise jurisdiction over housing and related infrastructure. This past year, the AFN focused on the need to close the housing gap and the investments required for First Nations to meet their housing needs and priorities. The cost to close the housing gap by 2030 is estimated at \$135.1 billion.

Accomplishments 2022-2023:

- Collaborated with AFN Infrastructure Sector to produce the housing section of the Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 research report.
- Advocated to ensure the federal government's commitment to develop an urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy (URN Strategy) that respects First Nations rights and jurisdiction to control their own housing and to provide supports and services to their citizens regardless of where they

reside, considering 58% of Indigenous people living in urban areas are First Nations citizens.

- Proposed First Nations housing commitments for Canada to include in its Action Plan to implement Canada's obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Completed research based on a cross-section of First Nations' input to recommend establishing a National First Nations Housing and Research Center for Chiefs in 2023. The Center will provide First Nations-specific technical advice, research, and various types of information to support the First Nations' development and operations of their housing systems. It will also provide AFN and various regional First Nations organizations with the data needed to support ongoing advocacy with the federal government to obtain further investments in housing.
- Completed research on a First Nations housing performance measurement framework based on community well-being and began research on promoting the concept of First Nations control of housing and the minimum conditions required before First Nations would accept such a transfer.
- Convened a national roundtable of experts on housing-related skills and development.

Homelessness

AFN Resolution 79/2019 mandates the AFN to develop a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan, to gather and analyze data, and to advocate for solutions, dedicated funding and improved services for First Nations people experiencing homelessness. This work aligns with the

National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy and the goal of ensuring First Nations can exercise jurisdiction over the delivery of housing and social services for their members. The AFN's work related to homelessness over the past year has focused on developing an Action Plan that reflects First Nations' needs and priorities and fulfilling other aspects of the mandate provided by First Nations-in-Assembly, such as developing mechanisms to collect homelessness data.

Accomplishments 2022-2023

- Completed a series of 15 virtual regional engagement sessions and developed a final report to inform the Action Plan.
- Worked with the Dene Nation to coordinate a virtual session specifically aimed at hearing the perspectives of Northwest Territories First Nations.
- Began a process to develop a methodology to support First Nations in collecting their own data on homelessness, adhering to the First Nations Principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession). This methodology is intended to serve as a resource for First Nations in their own advocacy, funding proposals, and service delivery while helping to address data gaps on First Nations homelessness nationally.
- Began a cost estimate research project on First Nations homelessness to identify the investments required to end homelessness for First Nations, informing future AFN Pre-Budget Submissions and other advocacy activities.
- Worked with Infrastructure Canada and Regional Housing Technicians to identify a process to administer First Nations distinctions-based funding under the Reaching Home.





BRANCH REPORTS



Review Workplan 2022-2023

- Regularly provided advice and information to the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure on housing and homelessness matters.
- Regularly met with Indigenous Services Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Infrastructure Canada to advocate co-developed approaches to every aspect of First Nations housing as directed by First Nations-in-Assembly.
- Held several regular national meetings with regional First Nations housing technicians and the Joint Working Group on Housing to seek input on housing matters.
- Continued to support the Dene Nation in its efforts in working towards care and control of housing and in meeting the unique housing needs and priorities of their First Nations.
- Completed several research and engagement activities to inform the development of the Action Plan, where findings and recommendations are currently being compiled into the draft Action Plan.
- Met regularly with Infrastructure Canada and Regional First Nations Housing Technicians as a Joint Technical Working Group on Homelessness to determine a regional approach to administer First Nations Reaching Home funding.
- Began developing a First Nations homelessness data collection toolkit to support data collection on homelessness within First Nations communities.
- Initiated a research project determining the government investments required to end homelessness for First Nations is underway and nearing completion.
- Continued to advocate for immediate responses to homelessness and is working with Canada to identify possible funding sources to address urgent needs.
- Advocacy continues to obtain a federal government commitment to help First Nations access the construction capital and operations and maintenance funding needed, and additional land to build new housing.
- The draft National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan will be presented for approval at the December 2023 Special Chiefs Assembly. This Action Plan will provide a renewed and updated mandate for the AFN to continue advocating for immediate action and long-term funding to address and end homelessness for First Nations.

Social Development

The Social Development Sector is responsible for advocacy pertaining to First Nations control and jurisdiction over holistic and sustainable social development programs and policies across the life course.

Accomplishments 2022-2023:

Compensation and Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) and Jordan's Principle

On June 30, 2022, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) reached a \$20 billion Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) on compensation for First Nations children and their caregivers affected by Canada's discrimination under the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. In September 2022, the AFN sought endorsement from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) of the FSA on compensation; however, the CHRT identified shortfalls that needed to be addressed to satisfy its orders on compensation fully. In December 2022, the First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 28/2022, *Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families*, outlining First Nations' priorities for compensation, including supporting the representative plaintiffs and all survivors and victims of Canada's discrimination to receive the compensation they are owed. With direction from First Nations leadership, the AFN, Canada, and other Parties returned to the negotiating table and secured an additional \$3 billion for compensation. The First Nations-in-Assembly approved the revised FSA—valued at over \$23.3 billion—in April 2023 via AFN Resolution 04/2023, *Revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation for First Nations Children and Families*.

As mandated by AFN Resolution 04/2022, *First Nations Determination of the Reforms to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle Ordered through the 2022 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Ruling 8*, the AFN advocated for First Nations determination and control over funding and reforms to the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle as ordered by the CHRT. The AFN provided funding for AFN regions to engage with First Nations leadership to identify regional priorities for reform. In accordance with AFN Resolution 40/2022, *To Ensure Quality of Life to the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle*, the AFN continues to advocate for an FSA on long-term reform that recognizes First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction, ensures the full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle, and ensures discrimination does not recur.

Implementation of An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the Act)

The AFN defended the Act and First Nations' rights to self-determination and jurisdiction over their children and families alongside Regional Chief Ghislain Picard and the AFN of Quebec and Labrador at the Quebec Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada in the Province of Quebec's challenge of the Act. The AFN continued to support the implementation of the Act to advance First Nations priorities and advocated for First Nations self-determination in accordance with AFN Resolution 16/2019, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families – Transition and Implementation Planning*.





BRANCH REPORTS



Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

In accordance with AFN Resolution 08/2022, *Early Learning and Child Care Legislation*, the AFN continues to advocate for First Nations control and determination over ELCC, including in Bill C-35, An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada. The AFN made a submission to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities regarding Bill C-35 focused on the shortcomings of Canada's engagement with First Nations, the failure to meaningfully acknowledge First Nations' jurisdiction over child care, and lack of statutory funding for First Nations ELCC. The AFN is also developing a First Nations-determined funding model for ELCC, as mandated by AFN Resolution 59/2018, *First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Regional Funding Allocation Approach*, and subsequent resolutions.

Income Assistance

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and AFN co-developed policy options to reform the On-Reserve Income Assistance (IA) Program with the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD). The TWGSD was established as per AFN Resolution 28/2018, Support for the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Social Development, to advise ISC on the reform of the social development programs and services within the department. The TWGSD supported the development of policy recommendations for reform, including supporting First Nations governance over the IA Program with increased resources for administration, data, and infrastructure and ensuring the IA Program meets the needs of clients with adequate rates and wrap-around supports, which were endorsed via AFN Resolution 07/2022, *Reform of the On-Reserve Income*

Assistance Program. The AFN hosted the National Forum on Income Assistance in March 2023, which focused on discussing the First Nations-developed policy recommendations with IA administrators from each region.

Poverty Reduction

Pursuant to AFN Resolution 98/2019, *Poverty Reduction for All First Nations in Canada*, the AFN pursued a study on First Nations-specific poverty indicators with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada. The study, which is expected to be complete in the 2023-24 fiscal year, examines First Nations concepts and definitions of poverty, the current data on First Nations poverty, and identifies indicators and measures of poverty.

Assisted Living

As mandated by AFN Resolution 44/2022, *Co-development of Policy Options with ISC for a Memorandum to Cabinet on the Wholistic Long-term and Continuing Care Framework*, the AFN Health and Social Development Sectors are collaborating with ISC to co-develop policy recommendations for a wholistic long-term and continuing care framework through the reform of the Assisted Living and First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programs. The AFN is engaging with First Nations to ensure a grassroots approach for all policy changes pertaining to the creation of a wholistic framework.

Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

The AFN will continue to advocate for a timely, trauma-informed compensation process for our children and families as we seek approval of the FSA at the CHRT and the Federal Court of Canada. The AFN will also continue to pursue long-term, sustainable reforms to end and prevent the recurrence of discrimination under the FNCFS Program and the full and proper implementation of Jordan's Principle.

The AFN will continue to work with ISC on a phased implementation plan for the reform of the IA Program. The AFN and ESDC will also continue to collaborate on work to advance poverty reduction amongst First Nations, including leveraging the findings of the IFSD for future advocacy. Further, the AFN will continue to engage with First Nations on the creation of a grassroots, wholistic Long-Term and Continuing Care Framework.







FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

MARCH 31, 2023

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Committee of
National Indian Brotherhood

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2023, 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.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, in the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We obtained the Annual Report prior to the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2023

		2023	2022
	Schedules	\$	\$
Revenue			
Indigenous Services Canada	A	39,978,172	31,671,612
Employment and Social Development Canada	B	1,987,681	1,191,542
Women and Gender Equality Canada	B	1,837,312	—
Canadian Heritage	B	971,484	834,639
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	B	655,294	619,528
Environment and Climate Change Canada	B	628,385	271,416
Public Safety Canada	B	597,879	2,364,859
Public Health Agency of Canada	B	553,960	—
Natural Resources Canada	B	309,305	30,645
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	B	303,148	460,386
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	B	282,849	—
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	B	276,369	67,995
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The	B	162,406	—
Veteran Affairs Canada	B	132,297	—
Parks Canada	B	127,827	161,786
University of Ottawa	B	84,036	96,800
Transport Canada	B	35,142	55,654
Health Canada	B	29,513	—
Justice Canada	B	6,947	—
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	B	—	339,504
Canadian Internet Registration Authority	B	—	33,622
Interest revenue	B	1,506,108	247,835
Registration fees	B	1,212,771	76,705
Miscellaneous revenue	B	943,380	667,076
Trade show fees	B	221,113	11,250
		52,843,378	39,202,854
Expenses			
Advertising, promotion and publications		473,068	275,291
Amortization of capital assets		89,615	149,543
Insurance		35,345	41,826
Miscellaneous		101,289	65,993
Office expenses		1,104,117	905,698
Professional fees		10,828,464	14,732,051
Regional service delivery		9,435,935	3,299,758
Rent		1,197,675	1,409,468
Salaries and benefits		18,354,671	15,504,255
Travel and meetings		10,183,816	1,145,197
	A and B	51,803,995	37,529,080
Excess of revenue over expenses		1,039,383	1,673,774

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash		52,138,756	40,687,110
Grants and contributions receivable	4	2,246,775	6,739,988
Other accounts receivable		275,990	236,376
Sales tax recoverable		1,704,578	1,231,492
Prepaid expenses		1,169,761	380,122
		57,535,860	49,275,088
Asset held in trust	3	16,680	16,163
Prepaid expenses		13,567	316,814
Capital assets	5	348,397	241,759
		57,914,504	49,849,824
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		10,350,879	9,193,843
Government remittances payable		534,016	13,615
Deferred revenue		93,894	—
Deferred contributions	6	33,893,294	33,545,372
Excess contributions	7	5,854,184	948,657
		50,726,267	43,701,487
Liability held in trust	3	16,680	16,163
		50,742,947	43,717,650
Contingencies and commitments	8 and 9		
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets		348,397	241,759
Internally restricted		5,800,000	5,800,000
Unrestricted		1,023,160	90,415
		7,171,557	6,132,174
		57,914,504	49,849,824

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Interim National Chief Joanna Bernard

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

National Indian Brotherhood
Statement of changes in net assets
Year ended March 31, 2023

	Invested in capital assets	Internally restricted	Unrestricted excess general operations	2023 Total	2022 Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net assets, beginning of year	241,759	5,800,000	90,415	6,132,174	4,458,400
Excess of revenue over expenses	—	—	1,039,383	1,039,383	1,673,774
Acquisition of capital assets	199,674	—	(199,674)	—	—
Gain on disposal of capital assets	(3,421)	—	3,421	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	(89,615)	—	89,615	—	—
Net assets, end of year	348,397	5,800,000	1,023,160	7,171,557	6,132,174

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

National Indian Brotherhood**Statement of cash flows**

Year ended March 31, 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Operating activities			
Excess of revenue over expenses		1,039,383	1,673,774
Items not affecting cash			
Amortization of capital assets		89,615	149,543
Gain on disposal of capital assets		3,421	—
		1,132,419	1,823,317
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items	10	10,518,901	9,889,772
		11,651,320	11,713,089
Investing activities			
Acquisition of capital assets		(199,674)	(37,917)
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets		—	17,528
		(199,674)	(20,389)
Net increase in cash		11,451,646	11,692,700
Cash, beginning of year		40,687,110	28,994,410
Cash, end of year		52,138,756	40,687,110

The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.

1. Description of the organization

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 toward 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. 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 do 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 11 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 toward the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and amortized to revenue on the same basis as the related depreciable capital assets are amortized.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

Initial measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions are initially recognized at fair value when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the Corporation is in the capacity of management, are initially recognized at cost.

The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms. The cost of financial instruments with repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. The cost of financial instruments without repayment terms is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Corporation in the transaction.

Subsequent measurement

All financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost with the exception of cash and investments which are recorded at fair value.

Interest earned on investments, unrealized gains and losses on listed shares, and realized gains and losses on sales of investments are included in Investment income in the statement of operations.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are expensed as incurred. Transaction costs related to other financial instruments are added to the carrying value of the asset or netted against the carrying value of the liability and are then recognized over the expected life of the instrument using the effective interest method. Any premium or discount related to an instrument measured at amortized cost is amortized over the expected life of the item using the effective interest method and recognized in net earnings as interest income or expense.

Impairment

With respect to financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Corporation recognizes an impairment loss, if any, in net earnings when there are indicators of impairment and it determines that a significant adverse change has occurred during the period in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows. When the extent of impairment of a previously written-down asset decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the previously recognized impairment loss is reversed to net earnings in the period the reversal occurs.

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 a 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

2. 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 when expenditures are incurred or recorded back in deferred 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. Assumptions are used in estimating the collectability of grants and contributions receivable, other accounts receivable, the useful life of capital assets, the amount of certain accrued liabilities and the allocation of expenses. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. Asset held in trust

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totaling \$16,680 (\$16,163 in 2022) 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:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	651,118	638,128
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	489,157	489,157
Indigenous Services Canada	353,714	4,175,512
Employment and Social Development Canada	165,113	168,935
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	131,083	224,391
Parks Canada	127,827	124,000
Natural Resources Canada	124,950	199,950
Transport Canada	90,796	131,000
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	70,576	—
Health Canada	29,513	—
Environment and Climate Change Canada	12,928	225,000
Heritage Canada	—	118,121
Public Health Agency of Canada	—	245,794
	2,246,775	6,739,988

5. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	248,870	232,895	15,975	22,300
Office equipment	367,089	346,958	20,131	21,776
Leasehold improvements	609,556	297,265	312,291	197,683
	1,225,515	877,118	348,397	241,759

6. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	33,545,372	22,814,437
Revenue received during the year	49,307,928	48,979,838
Revenue recognized during the year	(48,960,006)	(38,248,903)
Balance, end of year	33,893,294	33,545,372

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Indigenous Services Canada	25,253,295	26,904,491
Employment and Social Development Canada	2,943,608	3,502,387
Environment and Climate Change Canada	1,793,093	233,552
Justice Canada	993,053	—
Women and Gender Equality Canada	925,410	114,167
Public Safety Canada	897,763	—
Veteran Affairs Canada	367,703	150,000
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The	350,687	220,594
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	253,427	176,288
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	112,500	—
Health Canada	2,755	6,618
Canadian Heritage	—	711,416
Public Health Agency of Canada	—	563,960
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	—	327,473
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	—	205,793
Status of Women Canada	—	195,142
Natural Resources Canada	—	69,305
Transport Canada	—	75,346
Parks Canada	—	70,240
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	—	18,600
	33,893,294	33,545,372

7. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Indigenous Services Canada	4,005,665	841,773
Canadian Heritage	1,132,031	—
Status of Women Canada	195,142	—
Public Safety Canada	106,884	106,884
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	85,570	—
Parks Canada	70,240	—
Environment and Climate Change Canada	58,720	—
Health Canada	12,764	—
Public Health Agency of Canada	10,000	—
Fisheries and Ocean Canada	8,425	—
	5,685,441	948,657

8. 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 agency 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 its 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.

From time to time, the Corporation is involved in claims in the normal course of business. Management assesses such claims and where considered likely to result in material exposure and, where the amount of the claim is quantifiable, provisions loss are made based on management's assessment of the likely outcome. The Corporation does not provide for claims that are considered unlikely to result in significant loss, claims for which the outcome is not determinable or claims where the amount of the loss cannot be reasonably estimated. Any settlements or awards under such claims are provided when reasonably determinable.

9. Commitments

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments under operating leases for office space and equipment maturing in 2038, for which minimum annual payments for each year are as follows:

	\$
2024	1,171,606
2025	1,557,131
2026	1,489,471
2027	1,489,471
2028	1,489,471
2029 and thereafter	15,515,320
	22,712,470

10. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Grants and contributions receivable	4,493,213	(4,698,057)
Other accounts receivable	(39,614)	(129,895)
Sales tax recoverable	(473,086)	(676,466)
Inventory	—	193,433
Prepaid expenses	(486,392)	(110,538)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,325,779	4,675,394
Government remittances payable	520,401	(95,034)
Deferred revenue	93,894	
Deferred contributions	347,922	10,730,935
Excess contributions	4,736,784	—
	10,518,901	9,889,772

11. Controlled entity

The Corporation appoints the trustees of the National Indian Brotherhood 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 Time Fund, the Education Fund, the Métis Fund, and the Education Legacy Fund. The National Indian Brotherhood 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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets	244,136,794	250,153,889
Liabilities	2,899,740	1,695,654
Fund balances	241,237,054	248,458,235
	244,136,794	250,153,889

Summarized statement of operations

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	6,192,316	24,790,161
Expenses	13,413,497	13,624,901
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	(7,221,181)	11,165,260

11. Controlled entity (continued)

Summarized statement of cash flows

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Operating activities	5,056,412	98,579
Investing activities	(4,339,229)	(299,401)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	717,183	(200,822)
Cash, beginning of year	727,760	928,582
Cash, end of year	1,444,943	727,760

As at March 31, 2023, the balance due from the Trust Fund was nil (\$31,870 in 2022).

For the year ended March 31, 2023, the Corporation received \$653 (\$17,464 in 2022) from the Trust Fund for services relating to the administration and management of the Trust Fund and \$48,110 for the rental of office space (\$65,624 in 2022). The Trust Fund had terminated its office rent agreement with the Corporation in November 2022. In addition, the Trust Fund continued to share office space with the Corporation in Akwesasne at an annual cost of \$13,081.

The transactions with the Trust Fund have been recorded at their exchange amount which is the amount in accordance with the agreements signed between the parties.

12. Executive salaries

By virtue of an annual general assembly resolution (62/98), the National Chief of the 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.

13. Pension plan

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. Contributions are up to 8% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$1,038,619 (\$851,571 in 2022).

14. 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%, renewable annually. The credit facility is secured by a general security agreement representing a first share over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is nil (nil in 2022).

15. Financial instruments

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Corporation's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Corporation is not exposed to market risks.

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 various amounts receivable as presented in the statement of financial position.

16. Capital management

The Corporation considers its capital to consist of net assets. The Corporation's overall objective is to effectively use resources to maximize the ability to achieve its vision, fund tangible capital assets, future projects and ongoing operations. The Corporation manages net assets by establishing internally restricted funds and appropriating amounts to the restricted funds for anticipated future projects, contingencies and other capital requirements. These allocations are disclosed in the statement of changes in net assets.

The Corporation is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

Internally restricted net assets

Net assets are internally restricted for specific operating purposes as authorized by the Board of Directors from time to time. Internally restricted balances are supported by a clear statement of purpose, and an anticipated time frame for the accumulation and draw down of the balance at the time established.

The purpose of any internally restricted balance is consistent with the objectives of the Corporation's strategic initiatives and operating plans, as well as identified risks to the achievement of these objectives.

During the year ended March 31, 2023, an amount of nil was internally restricted (\$1,800,000 in 2022) for the above mentioned purposes.

17. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule A - Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

	Basic Organizational Capacity \$	Core Like Capacity \$	BOC 15% Top-Up Enhanced Support \$	New Fiscal Relationship \$	Additions to Reserve / Specific Claims \$	First Nations without Reserve Lands \$	Income Assistance National Forum \$	Bill C-92, Act Respecting FN, Metis & Inuit Children \$	Consultation Committee on Child Welfare \$	IFCS Phase 3 / Reform of the FNCS Program \$
Revenue										
Contributions/grants	5,545,726	3,500,000	831,859	231,143	152,490	—	618,168	3,849	2,003,467	2,374,206
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	—	—	197,451	577,848	29,000	1,553	417,519	—	67,595
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5,545,726	3,500,000	831,859	428,594	730,338	29,000	619,721	421,368	2,003,467	2,441,801
Expenses										
Advertising, promotion and publications	120,384	—	35,548	3,293	10,799	—	1,607	5,453	3,645	4,140
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	14,651	—	—	—	34,537	177,651	164
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	10,845	—	714	399	1,084	—	362	797	262	449
Miscellaneous	12,365	—	—	—	66	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	273,057	1,746	24,619	5,654	18,021	802	10,024	17,758	32,173	18,018
Professional fees	338,362	—	3,057	54,260	75,932	27,797	94,699	150,352	307,627	2,013,010
Regional service delivery	—	3,317,640	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,147,094	118,932
Rent	330,239	—	—	15,132	36,740	—	11,221	24,693	10,116	14,359
Salaries and benefits	3,917,477	178,269	21,466	333,834	410,409	—	70,218	177,697	105,200	199,816
Travel and meetings	542,997	2,345	26,732	1,371	177,287	401	431,590	12,165	219,699	72,913
	5,545,726	3,500,000	831,859	428,594	730,338	29,000	619,721	423,452	2,003,467	2,441,801
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,084)	—	—

Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

[illegible]

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule A - Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)										
	FN Education Mgmt and Capacity Development	Implementation on NAP to End Violence	Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change	Implementing the AFN-Canada MOU on Joint Priorities	UNDRIP National Action Plan Year 1	National Treaty Comm- issioner's Office	AFN Capacity in Restorative Justice	Implementation of Bill S-3: An Act to Amend the Indian Act	Comprehensive Claims	Steering Committee on FM Home Flood Insurance Risks
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue										
Contributions/grants	—	—	2,044,491	3,000,000	297,943	—	—	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	2,571,395	1,649,811	1,466,842	—	409,446	177	129,321	187,002	93,005	85,889
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2,571,395	1,649,811	3,511,333	3,000,000	707,389	177	129,321	187,002	93,005	85,889
Expenses										
Advertising, promotion and publications	21,765	4,137	14,859	37,489	25,903	—	—	1,907	719	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	311,164	—	—	—	16,868	278	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	2,415	542	1,051	5,145	1,181	—	—	213	153	—
Miscellaneous	335	—	7,579	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	52,395	43,677	45,633	72,062	31,595	177	383	5,543	8,372	83
Professional fees	775,888	165,928	235,978	250,428	33,135	—	49,500	48,471	30	85,806
Regional service delivery	40,167	—	950,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	77,808	18,089	37,740	154,708	36,743	—	—	8,756	4,287	—
Salaries and benefits	978,169	274,228	426,408	2,440,222	498,009	—	—	118,834	52,196	—
Travel and meetings	622,454	1,143,210	1,480,921	39,946	80,823	—	62,571	2,999	27,248	—
	2,571,395	1,649,811	3,511,333	3,000,000	707,389	177	129,321	187,002	93,005	85,889
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule A - Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)

	Health Compensation Help Desk \$	Health Emergency Services Project \$	AFN Delegation to the Vatican \$	2023 Total \$	2022 Total \$
Revenue					
Contributions/grants	—	—	—	24,581,277	24,631,665
Contributions/grants - prior years	608	285,247	13,695	15,396,895	7,039,947
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—
	608	285,247	13,695	39,978,172	31,671,612
Expenses					
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	3,730	—	359,400	225,571
Allocation of administrative expenses	55	—	—	867,130	642,012
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	8,891	11,604
Insurance	—	581	—	33,187	34,330
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	20,345	17,052
Office expenses	312	11,513	11,793	887,129	798,954
Professional fees	—	77	—	8,759,921	11,804,154
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	7,381,423	3,316,508
Rent	—	18,514	—	1,048,906	1,177,631
Salaries and benefits	—	179,507	—	13,823,408	12,378,349
Travel and meetings	241	71,325	1,902	6,790,516	1,265,447
	608	285,247	13,695	39,980,256	31,671,612
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	(2,084)	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
 Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule B - Other funding agencies

	Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Code and Pay Equity and Poverty Reduction	Employment and Social Development Canada - Early Learning & Child Care Transformation Initiative	Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Market Information	Employment and Social Development Canada - Homelessness	Employment and Social Development Canada - 2030 Agenda & Sustainable Development	Employment and Social Development Canada - Disability Component - Capacity Building	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk Conservation	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Participation in the National Steering Committee
Revenue								
Contributions/grants	—	47,684	—	—	—	68,492	139,938	44,987
Contributions/grants - prior years	894,193	—	201	660,535	219,076	97,500	81,403	9,782
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	894,193	47,684	201	660,535	219,076	165,992	221,341	54,769
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	4,257	—	—	4,290	2,563	1,961	1,750	3,081
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	728	—	20,122	4,741
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	815	—	—	672	338	268	270	68
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	3,942	5,723	201	14,384	7,827	2,366	1,644	322
Professional fees	749,387	275	—	325,558	32,276	43,894	91,364	2,510
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	17,365	—	—	—	—
Rent	10,784	—	—	21,776	10,795	8,640	8,804	2,317
Salaries and benefits	124,384	—	—	265,495	133,432	108,699	88,683	40,004
Travel and meetings	624	41,686	—	10,995	31,117	164	8,704	1,726
	894,193	47,684	201	660,535	219,076	165,992	221,341	54,769
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule B - Other funding agencies (continued)

	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Conserving Nature Working Group	Environment and Climate Change Canada - AFN Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group	Environment and Climate Change Canada - JCCA Website	Environment and Climate Change Canada - First Nations Nature Table	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Emissions Reduction Plan	Fisheries and Oceans Canada - AAROM	Fisheries and Oceans Canada - OMCP	Cordon & Betty Moore Foundation - Indigenous-Led Conservation	Canadian Heritage - Full Implementation of Indigenous Languages Act
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	-	6,776	-	243,715	12,929	651,119	-	-	971,484
Contributions/grants - prior years	12,809	70,188	5,858	-	-	-	4,175	282,849	-
Interest revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registration fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade show fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12,809	76,964	5,858	243,715	12,929	651,119	4,175	282,849	971,484
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	60	362	-	2,311	-	7,432	-	2,041	16,326
Allocation of administrative expenses	1,164	6,997	532	22,156	1,370	29,400	386	11,264	145,302
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	15	29	-	304	-	1,073	-	268	1,289
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Office expenses	126	127	-	7,986	-	21,661	-	10,560	37,258
Professional fees	800	22,055	2,500	2,577	-	40,000	-	53,355	51,950
Regional service delivery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent	393	826	-	11,127	-	34,575	-	8,640	40,895
Salaries and benefits	10,251	10,936	2,025	196,739	11,550	438,764	3,789	147,242	478,843
Travel and meetings	-	35,632	801	515	-	103,247	4,175	49,479	199,537
	12,809	76,964	5,858	243,715	12,929	696,358	4,175	282,849	971,484
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(45,439)	-	-	-

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
 Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule B - Other funding agencies (continued)

	The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation - First Nations' Stewardship of Land & Water in Canada	Health Canada - Engagement Stream - First Nations' Scoping Paper: Cannabis Act	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Policy and Guidance	Justice Canada - FN Justice Strategy Framework	Natural Resources Canada - Indigenous Engagement Strategy	Natural Resources Canada - 2 Billion Trees Program	Nuclear Waste Management Organization - Foster Positive Dialogue	Parks Canada	Public Safety Canada - First Nation and Inuit Policing Program
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	—	29,513	70,576	6,947	—	240,000	285,636	127,827	597,879
Contributions/grants - prior years	162,406	—	205,793	—	69,305	—	17,512	—	—
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	162,406	29,513	276,369	6,947	69,305	240,000	303,148	127,827	597,879
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	1,594	—	3,802	—	646	1,138	3,079	645	3,124
Allocation of administrative expenses	18,592	2,683	39,397	—	—	—	—	11,621	48,671
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	218	—	457	—	76	—	406	102	531
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	1,107	—	2,829	—	668	4,524	6,637	981	26,839
Professional fees	22,689	—	21,124	—	15	43	46,751	35,943	(96,946)
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	284,050
Rent	7,027	—	15,497	—	2,166	17,641	12,235	3,297	16,570
Salaries and benefits	97,669	26,830	183,310	—	64,075	215,116	215,040	49,435	249,205
Travel and meetings	13,510	—	9,953	6,947	1,673	1,538	19,000	25,803	65,835
	162,406	29,513	276,369	6,947	69,319	240,000	303,148	127,827	597,879
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	(14)	—	—	—	—

National Indian Brotherhood
Schedules - Statement of operations
Year ended March 31, 2023

Schedule B - Other funding agencies (continued)

	Public Health Agency of Canada - Study of Reported Child Abuse & Neglect	Transport Canada	University of Ottawa - First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study	Veteran Affairs - Canada - Family & Well-Being	Women and Gender Equality Canada - Women's Program	Women and Gender Equality Canada - Violence Prevention	Other	2023 Total	2022 Total
Revenue									
Contributions/grants	—	—	84,036	—	1,416,806	306,339	—	5,352,683	2,528,963
Contributions/grants - prior years	553,960	35,142	—	132,297	114,167	—	—	3,629,151	3,999,413
Interest revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,506,108	1,506,108	247,835
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,212,771	1,212,771	76,705
Miscellaneous revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	943,380	943,380	667,076
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	221,113	221,113	11,250
	553,960	35,142	84,036	132,297	1,530,973	306,339	3,883,372	12,865,206	7,531,242
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	538	1,199	3,357	1,128	3,533	43,451	113,668	49,720
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	1,745	7,640	7,056	31,207	43,488	(1,323,392)	(867,130)	(642,012)
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	80,724	80,724	137,939
Insurance	—	53	187	134	187	—	(5,602)	2,158	7,496
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	1,513	79,347	80,944	48,941
Office expenses	—	287	854	959	918	19	56,239	216,988	106,744
Professional fees	—	—	2,536	26	56,234	228,006	353,215	2,068,543	2,927,897
Regional service delivery	553,960	—	—	—	1,200,000	—	(440,863)	2,054,512	(16,750)
Rent	—	2,331	6,018	4,351	6,444	—	(104,380)	148,769	231,837
Salaries and benefits	—	30,188	64,001	27,993	208,669	199	1,042,477	4,531,263	3,125,906
Travel and meetings	—	—	1,601	88,421	26,186	29,581	2,615,236	3,393,300	(120,250)
	553,960	35,142	84,036	132,297	1,530,973	306,339	2,796,452	11,823,739	5,857,468
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,086,920	1,041,467	1,673,774





55 Metcalfe Street
Suite 1600, Ottawa
Ontario K1P 6L5
Tel: 613.241.6789
Fax: 613.241.5808