



# *Walking the Healing Path*

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



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.

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*Artwork Designed by Latash Kinem and Ta7taliya 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.



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National Chief Report

# National Chief Report



## Annual Report from the National Chief

Wahcheeyay Misiway,

As I complete my first year in office, I remain the same calm, heart-centered, and respectful leader that I always aim to be.

### ADVANCING CHANGE: A COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

I continue to be purposeful in embodying a style of leadership that is inclusive; one that's grounded in love and care and embodies a great respect for everyone I interact with. I believe effective leadership is the opposite of micromanagement. Therefore, I always create space for other leaders to do their own work, to lead their own files, and to acknowledge that accomplishments are shared with our full AFN Executive team.

My leadership style is collaborative, and I believe in creating space for Regional Chiefs to lead their portfolios as well as their regions without interference from my Office. I am here to offer assistance and guidance and any administrative support needed but the decision-making comes strictly from their offices. I'm proud to report that between July 2021 to July 2022 the Executive Committee gathered 26 times to discuss many important issues with many decisions made and motions passed. We've also hosted monthly information and update sessions where we share what the National Chief's Office is working on in any given month.

### KEY ACTIONS

*While many priorities are ongoing, as I look back at all that we accomplished in our advocacy efforts this year, I recognize that we are closer to finding solutions to longstanding issues. Over the past year, we undertook the following:*

- Despite ongoing lockdowns, travelled through BC, SK, MB, ON, QB, and NS regions.
- Held an unprecedented number of Executive Meetings and Info Sessions: 26 in 1 year
- Connected Chiefs to Ministers as requested
- Developed the Healing Path Forward document to influence party platforms in the 44th federal election
- Kept national/international spotlight on issues: APTN, BBC, CBC, CNN, CTV, JUNOS
- Brought national attention to Mi'kmaq peoples' inherent and Treaty rights to fishing
- Participated in Nuw-chah-nulth Fishing Rights
- Established separate East Coast / West Coast Fisheries Portfolios
- Marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a Drum for the Children event at Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
- Visited flooded communities in Nicola Valley in December and March
- Attended the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues to invite the Special Rapporteur to Canada to investigate the deaths of our Children
- Developed a proposal to establish a National Prosperity Table

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- Called for a New Economic Deal to ensure long overdue sharing of wealth with First Nations
- Requested Knowledge Keepers assistance with a healing process for staff issues
- Spoke to House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance to discuss the impact of the Emergencies Act on First Nations
- Advocated for a National Council for Reconciliation (TRC Calls 53-56) which will result in legislation eventually being introduced by the federal government

## UNIQUE JUNCTURE IN HISTORY

As you know, to be in leadership this past year has been both extraordinary and extraordinarily challenging. We are emerging from pandemic life, a minority federal government working under a supply and confidence agreement, states of emergency due to climate change, convoy protests, papal and royal visits, and above all, collectively grieving the little ones who did not return home from institutions of assimilation and genocide. I would like to commend you on your dedication and work during these unprecedented times. With you, I am hopeful about the future, eager to put in the hard work, and motivated by the momentum we've built together as First Nations leaders.

This is a special time for us as First Nations people. There are so many good things for our people to celebrate and so many firsts that we can acknowledge and hold each other up for. This includes, the increased allyship and empathy from non-Indigenous people around

the world regarding unmarked gravesites and the international interest to hold the churches and governments accountable. We've also done two unprecedented things within the Assembly of First Nations with the creation of a National Caucus of Elected Women Leaders and establishment of a 2SLGBTQIA+ Council. With your help, we're looking toward a promising future that is prosperous and bright.

## AFN ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Coming out of the pandemic and years of restricted travel, the Assembly of First Nations is back on the international scene.

Whether showing up to support issues of global importance such as fishing disputes and First Nations sovereignty, appearing before the House of Commons to express concerns about what the use of the Emergencies Act could mean for First Nations, or participating in special federal budget media coverage, it is my pleasure to stand up, advocate for you, and be a positive voice for progress.

At the United Nations Headquarters in New York this April, I got to meet Indigenous leaders and land defenders from the global community, such as Colombia, Guatemala, and Ukraine. We share many common issues as we each belong to UN member states who continue to grow rich and benefit from the suppression and oppression of our



# National Chief Report



Indigenous Nations. We are all water keepers and stewards of our lands, and it was good to make important connections that initiate dialogue and foster Indigenous solidarity from Turtle Island and beyond.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*When the AFN Executive works cooperatively and in a united manner, we can accomplish many things. This past year, we can highlight the following results of our great work together:*

- The largest class action settlement in Canadian history, \$40 billion (RC Woodhouse)
- Canadian flag lowered for Indigenous Veterans Day for the first time in history
- Historic apology to Survivors by Pope Francis at the Vatican (RC Antoine)
- Worked with Chiefs on Charter changes to establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ Council (Khelsilem, Chief Bissaillon)
- Secured \$6.2 million funding for the National Caucus of Elected Women Leaders with \$150,000 for all regional offices
- Canada appoints a Special Interlocuter to study the issue of unmarked gravesites
- Secured \$4.4 million in funding for First Nations Emergency Services Society during flood crisis in BC (RC Teegee)
- Advocated for funding to search former Institutions, government subsequently announced \$320 million
- \$4 billion announced by Canada in new housing funding

## STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

Every day since my election as National Chief, I have been connecting with Regional Chiefs and federal partners across Canada to ensure that First Nations priorities are top of mind and commitments are followed through.

As you'll note in my Key Meetings table, video conferencing has afforded us an opportunity to connect online more regularly, allowed me to connect Chiefs with Ministers, and altogether expedite our work in the best way. This has resulted in having direct lines of communication with Ministers and key leadership across Turtle Island.

It's been a pleasure to already visit six regions (QC, NS, ON, MB, SK, BC) so far this year and with restrictions easing, I look forward to travelling through more of our beautiful lands, territories, and waters in the months and years ahead.

## KEY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

*Meetings are essential to moving the work forward and I'm grateful to highlight the following in-person, Zoom, and teleconference meetings from the past year:*

### First Nations

- Grand Chief Abram Benedict, *Mohawk Council of Akwesasne*
- Grand Chief Alison Linklater, *Mushkegowuk Council*
- Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, *Anishinabek Nation*
- Grand Chief Garrison Settee, *Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak*



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- Grand Chief Kahsennehawe Sky-Deer, *Kahnawake*
- Chief Peter Collins, *Fort William First Nation*
- Chief Leroy Denny, *Eskasoni First Nation*
- Chief Cadmus Delorme, *Cowessess First Nation*
- Chief Darrel Draney, *Skeetchestn First Nation*
- Chief Paul Gladu, *Sand Point First Nation*
- Chief Marcus Hardy, *Red Rock Indian Band*
- Chief Fabian Head, *Red Earth Cree Nation*
- Chief Mark Hill, *Six Nations*
- Chief Lee Ketchemonia, *Keeseekoose First Nation*
- Chief Francis Laceese, *Tsilhqot'in*
- Chief Arnold Lampreau, *Shackan Indian Band*
- Chief Greg Louie, *Ahousaht First Nation*
- Chief Harvey McLeod, *Upper Nicola Band*
- Chief David Masakeyash, *Mishkeegogamang First Nation*
- Chief David Monias, *Pimicikamak Cree Nation*
- Chief Fred Robbins, *Esketemc First Nation*
- Chief Willie Sellars, *Williams Lake First Nation*
- Chief Wayne Sparrow, *Musqueam First Nation*
- Chief Gladys Thompson, *Rocky Bay First Nation*
- Chief Janet Webster, *Lytton First Nation*
- Chief Emily Whetung, *Curve Lake First Nation*
- President Natan Obed, *Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami*

## Ministers and Other Dignitaries

- Charles, *Prince of Wales & Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall*
- Governor General Mary Simon
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Tk'emlúps, Williams Lake)
- NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh

- Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, *Finance*
- Minister Marc Miller, *Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada*
- Minister Patty Hadju, *Indigenous Services Canada*
- Minister David Lametti, *Attorney General & Justice*
- Minister Marco Mendicino, *Public Safety*
- Minister Joyce Murray, *Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard*
- Minister Pablo Rodriguez, *Canadian Heritage*
- Minister Steven Guilbeault, *Environment and Climate Change*
- Minister Marci Ien, *Women and Gender Equality and Youth*
- Minister Omar Alghabra, *Transport*
- Minister Karina Gould, *Families, Children and Social Development*
- Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, *Natural Resources*
- President Fawn Sharp, *National Congress of American Indians*
- Bob Rae, *Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations*
- Susannah Goshko, *High Commissioner of the United Kingdom*
- José Francisco Calí Tzay, *UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, *Deputy Permanent Representative for UN in Mexico*
- Stephanie Scott, *Executive Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation*
- Catherine Tait, *CEO of CBC*

## One-to-One Information Sharing Meetings with Regional Chiefs

*In addition to regular meetings with Regional Chiefs throughout the year, I had the following one-to-one meetings. I will schedule the remaining one-to-one meetings for after the AGA.*



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- Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, *Yukon*
- Regional Chief Joanna Bernard, *New Brunswick*
- Regional Chief Glen Hare, *Ontario*
- Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, *Québec/Labrador*
- Regional Chief Paul Prosper, *Nova Scotia*
- Regional Chief Terry Teegee, *British Columbia*

## THE HEALING PATH FORWARD

As National Chief, I continue to take measured steps on the Healing Path Forward including:

1. Truth, Reconciliation and Healing for First Nations and all Canadians,
2. Defending and Promoting Inherent and Treaty Rights, and
3. A New Economic Deal for First Nations – National Prosperity Table.

The Healing Path Forward is about how to build a better future for everyone across Turtle Island, one that creates greater equity and equality for First Nations and prepares

us for challenges such as climate change and post-pandemic recovery.

## Climate Change

As COVID-19 becomes endemic, we must continue to address climate change to rebalance our relationship with all of Creation. Since experiencing the effects of many extreme climate crises this year alone, it's clear there's no more pressing issue for our communities, Turtle Island, and all of humanity than protecting our lands, waters, and resources. First Nations perspectives will lead to the development of climate solutions that are holistic, multi-dimensional, and interconnected; focused on simultaneously addressing decarbonization and decolonization.

## A New Economic Deal for First Nations

Truth and reconciliation must include economic reconciliation. We must work toward a new economic deal, one that allows First Nations the autonomy, the self-determination, and the self-government that is guaranteed to us under the constitution

# National Chief Report

and one that is about sharing the wealth of this country fairly. I met with Minister Patty Hajdu shortly after the budget announcement and she expressed interest in funding a national prosperity table which could be the vehicle for defining the new economic deal.

## Women, Youth, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples

We owe the preservation and protection and care of this inheritance to our communities including our most marginalized: Women, Youth, and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples. To this end, the National Caucus of Elected Women Leaders will meet for the first time this summer and the first meeting of 2SLGBTQIA+ Council is taking place here at the 43rd Annual General Assembly. Further, we are in dialogue with the AFN Youth Council on how my office can assist them in meeting their goals nationally.

But it doesn't stop there. There is still much work to be done as leaders on the Healing Path Forward and many other voices we need at the table as well, such as people with disabilities. We owe it to future generations to express our sacred gifts, be active partners in decision making, and push back against the colonial system. I want future generations to look back at this time and see how it was a turning point in history.

## Institutions of Assimilation and Genocide: Papal Apology

And while we continue to press for accountability, one of the top priorities in the Healing Path Forward is to assure that all survivors of institutions of assimilation and genocide and intergenerational trauma—as well as those yet to recover—are always acknowledged and honoured.

I did not take part in the Vatican visit myself, but I appreciate the delegates who travelled to Rome to tell their stories on behalf of survivors. While I am pleased with the outcome of private and public meetings with His Holiness Pope Francis in March, I am concerned with Pope Francis' visit to Turtle Island this month. I am not planning to greet the Pope when he comes to Canada because at the time of writing this report, there are no confirmed visits to former residential institutions. I do look forward to hearing his words of apology on our traditional lands which will fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #58.

## Special Rapporteur

We'll also continue to call for justice, accountability, and independent investigations. In November 2021, I wrote to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights seeking full redress, including criminal prosecutions, sanctions, and other remedies. I am requesting a formal meeting with the Special Rapporteur to explore options internationally through the United Nations. In addition, the International Criminal Court remains an option to pursue for the Assembly of First Nations.

It's our hope that we can simultaneously seek and find justice and healing domestically with the Canadian government through their Special Interlocutor as well as internationally with the UN Special Rapporteur.



# National Chief Report



## Languages

We welcome the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Our languages are vital because they connect us to everything: our families, our communities, our land, and our nationhood.

Today and throughout the decade ahead, let's walk the Healing Path Forward as we lift up language champions and every single Indigenous person relearning to speak their language and sing the songs of their ancestors. We all have a sacred and spiritual obligation to protect and revitalize Indigenous languages.

## CONCLUSION

As a longstanding leader with over 33 years of experience, I've learned that a leader by themselves can do very little. It's other leaders and staff who really do the heavy lifting and can ensure a successful mandate.

With that, I would like to say Meegwetch to all the Regional Chiefs, Grand Chiefs, Chiefs and Councillors, and all levels of leadership who are making a difference across Turtle Island. I'm looking forward to our journey together as we make positive and evolutionary changes where we can realize our vision of happy, healthy children surrounded by the love and care of their families, living in safe and vibrant communities. The positive vision for the future includes a healthy Assembly of First Nations organization where everyone feels safe, acknowledged, and empowered.

I also want to lift up the National Chief's Office and Secretariat staff at the Assembly of First Nations for your support, your expertise,

knowledge and particularly for your commitment. Despite the challenges we have faced, you have done a tremendous job.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

*I'm very grateful that my work is being acknowledged; however, it's important to note that I share these awards with my staff, the AFN Executive, and all Chiefs across Canada.*

- Vaccine Heroes of 2021: The Star
- Top 100 most influential people in federal politics: The Hill Times
- Maclean's Power List: 50 Canadians who are forging paths, leading the debate, and shaping how we think
- Top 25 Women of Influence of 2022
- Mother of the Year: Because Mothers Matter Awards
- Humanitarian of the Year: Weengushk Film Institute

I am calling for us to be united in our efforts to best advocate and work for the people in our communities. As our Elders say, we must now embrace the great responsibilities and opportunities that are on the horizon.

There is a Healing Path Forward and we will get there by working together.

In closing, in my Cree dialect, I say, "Ninanaskamon" (I am grateful, I am thankful, I thank you) and "Kisahkeetin" (I love you).

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald





## Regional Chiefs' Reports

# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Regional Chief Paul Prosper *Nova Scotia and Newfoundland*

Kwe Nituptup. It is with great honour and respect that I provide this report on behalf of the Mi'kmaq Chiefs of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Despite the ongoing challenges of a global pandemic, much progress was made on a variety of initiatives at a regional, national and global level. We remain committed to community growth, prosperity and wellbeing.

### Introduction:

Mi'kmaq leadership are improving the lives of their people. The moderate livelihood fishery is a vital part of the Mi'kmaq economy and way of life. Leadership has implemented fisheries management systems that reflect Mi'kmaw customs, values and traditions. Other priorities include the transition of health services, income assistance and child welfare. Jurisdiction over cannabis, taxation, membership, housing, gaming and connectivity also remain key issues. We are facilitating a Mi'kmaw Nationhood initiative that will result in improved governance practices. Our Regional Office operates in two provinces and serves the distinct needs of each region by a joint committee.

### Regional Key Issues and Activities:

The following are some key issues and activities that have taken place in the Region:

- **Marshall Livelihood Fishery** – While litigation and consultation in fisheries continues, the Netukulimk Livelihood Fishery Management Plans provide a mechanism for Treaty implementation.
- **Regional Office Set-up** – Staffing and sub-office set-up is complete. Efforts have shifted to incorporation.
- **Policing** – Regional engagements are taking place to inform a legislative framework on First Nations policing. These engagements are supported by two steering committees in both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.
- **Mi'kmaq Membership** – The resolution of long outstanding Band membership requires an immediate commitment by the federal government to resume discussions in good faith.
- **Mi'kmaw Child Welfare** – A nationhood discussion took place on the Maw-Kleyukik Knijannaq (Keeping our Children Together) initiative. A Mi'kmaw Child Welfare law has been drafted and will provide the basis for Mi'kmaq jurisdiction.
- **Mi'kmaq Social Governance** – Tan-Etli-tpi-tmk is an assertion of Mi'kmaq self-governance in social governance. The National Income Assistance Reform Strategy led by ISC and AFN must account and respect this ongoing initiative.
- **Mi'kmaq Language Legislation** – Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey has taken a lead role in the adoption (3rd Reading) of Mi'kmaq language legislation.
- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** – Our office participated in WIPO-IGC/42 sought international legal protections for Indigenous Traditional knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources.
- **Paul Martin Foundation** – Our office has partnered with the Paul Martin Foundation on the administration of pilot project in Newfoundland.

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- **Systemic Racism and Moderate Livelihood** – We continue to work with several senators and key support persons to identify the treatment of Mi'kmaq harvesters in the livelihood fishery.

## *Lands, Territories and Resources*

As portfolio holder for Lands, Territories and Resources, I am pleased to offer an update on ongoing efforts to support First Nations self-determination over their lands. Over the past year I have pushed the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to reform several key policies including Specific Claims, Additions-to-Reserve (ATR), and Comprehensive Land Claims. In 2022, we finalized an AFN specific claims reform proposal based on First Nations input and AFN resolution mandates. We are currently advocating for a joint process to co-develop a new fully independent specific claims centre consistent with four key principles: independence, Honour of the Crown, recognition of First Nations laws, and no arbitrary financial constraints.

The Additions-to-Reserve Policy is time consuming, costly, and fails to adequately prioritize First Nations interests. Budget 2021 included \$43 million dollars in new funding to support the ATR process and help facilitate joint reform. Next steps include distributing a national ATR survey to all First Nations to provide much needed baseline data to support analysis and future dialogue.

AFN mandates clearly reject the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and call for the development of new approaches based on the full recognition of Title. 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 commitment to develop a 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.

## *Indigenous Intellectual Property*

The AFN continues to participate in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee (IGC). The Indigenous Caucus, which is comprised of Indigenous organizational representatives from across the world, 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. Misappropriation and exploitation continue without the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples enshrines minimum standards for the protection of Indigenous Rights, including Indigenous intellectual property rights, as recognized in Articles 11 and 31. Member states have obligations, including those contained in existing Treaties, to recognize, respect, and uphold Indigenous Peoples Rights. At WIPO-IGC 42 held in February of this year, AFN General Counsel Stuart Wuttke, co-chaired the Indigenous Caucus and made submissions on their behalf. I was honoured to provide the Opening Statement on behalf of the



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Indigenous Caucus in the general plenary session. The AFN plays an invaluable role in the protection and preservation of 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.

### **The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:**

The Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are the People of the Dawn. Our traditional lands known as Mi'kma'ki encompass the Atlantic provinces and include parts of Quebec and Maine. Our Creation Story and oral history accounts say that we come from the land much like the grass that sprouts from the ground. The Mi'kmaq possess Aboriginal and Treaty rights that have been recognized by the highest courts in this country. As a sovereign and

proud people, the Mi'kmaq are guided by our customs, values and traditions, which guides all of our work.

### **Conclusion:**

I am honoured to serve the Region of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Staff at the AFN Secretariat are truly dedicated to advocating and improving our Nations. Although we have much more to achieve, I trust the wise council and experience of my fellow Executive Committee members. We must always create new ways to come together to make our medicine strong.

*Yours in Recognition of First Nations legal and human rights. Wela'lioq!*









# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Regional Chief Joanna Bernard

### *New Brunswick*

'Qey/'Kwey, on behalf of the AFN New Brunswick Region, welcome Elders, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders, Youth and Delegates to the 43rd Annual General Assembly! I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

#### **Introduction**

I was recently elected as the New Brunswick Regional Chief on November 30, 2021. I follow in the footsteps of previous strong regional leaders and wish to take this time to acknowledge and honour our former Regional Chief Roger Augustine for his dedication and hard work in the region. It is my intention to continue moving the agenda forward and in recognition of each community's uniqueness in how they are governed, I commit to advocating for the federal and provincial governments to recognize the authority each community has to create their own laws and jurisdictions.

#### **Regional Key Issues and Activities:**

The past few months have been a tremendous learning experience for me. I have spent most of my time establishing an incorporated regional office, familiarizing myself with AFN mandates and directives and more importantly, meeting with the NB Chiefs to ensure open communication, dialogue, and transparency. We are currently working on establishing key issues that unite us. I pledge my continued support to our leadership in the following areas:

- Aboriginal Title and Treaty Rights
- Constitutionally-protected fishing rights
- Change to the justice system (including an Indigenous led inquiry into systemic racism)
- MMIWG
- Truth and Reconciliation and implementing the 94 Calls to Action
- Tax Agreements
- Policing
- Climate Change

#### **National Fisheries Committee**

As the Co-Chair of the National Fisheries Committee, I further my work on our constitutionally protected 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. This year we have seen a more peaceful beginning to First Nations inherent rights to fishing in the Atlantic than in the previous year. We are looking forward to the same in the Pacific.

# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## The Path Ahead/Looking forward:

The government of New Brunswick has closed itself to any form of progress in its relationship with First Nations. It continually violates First Nations Title and Treaty Rights. A new policy was introduced last Fall that forbids all public servants from issuing territorial or title acknowledgements. First Nations continue to be very vocal about the growing disrespect of our people by the government.

I would like to encourage the provincial government to move forward on a Nation-to-Nation basis. There is much work to be done and we must work together, building positive and collaborative relationships as a society.

## Conclusion:

In closing, I want to extend my thanks to the AFN Secretariat for the excellent support they have provided my office and staff. The Regional Office has an open-door policy. I welcome and encourage open dialogue and communication. I want to hear and learn from my Elders and fellow leaders. I look forward to serving my region over the next 3 years!

*As leaders, let's challenge ourselves to unite with one voice while respecting each others culture, customs and individuality.*



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Interim Regional Chief Darlene Bernard *Prince Edward Island*

*K'we, as Interim Regional Chief I am happy to provide this report and update from PEI Region.*

### **Introduction:**

I am Chief Darlene Bernard of the Lennox Island First Nation on PEI. We are a small progressive community on the North Shore of PEI. Abegweit First Nation is located in the eastern part of the Island. I am excited that the PEI Region is now fully represented on the Executive Committee of the Assembly of First Nations. Our voice will add value to the national discussion and enhance the sharing of information within our region and work to ensure our views, goals and aspirations are reflected in the work of the AFN.

### **Regional Key Issues and Activities:**

At the time of writing this report, we are working to set up an office and develop a process to select the inaugural PEI Regional Chief. I have been attending AFN meetings to better understand the role and responsibilities of the Regional Chiefs. It is very exciting, and we look forward to moving this along.

A key issue for First Nations from PEI is fisheries. This Spring, Lennox Island is implementing our Treaty right to without the support of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) as we have seen in other provinces.

Another key issue is housing. Like every other First Nation in the country, we have long lists of people who are in need of proper housing. We are working through many different innovative ways to address our housing needs, while ensuring this issue remains a priority and is supported at every level of government.

Education remains a key issue as we have more and more First Nations in PEI who wish to further their education to meet the demands of an ever-changing labour market. Many new employment and training opportunities are being explored.

Lennox Island First Nation has asserted its right to jurisdiction regarding the sale of cannabis in their community and we feel that our harm reduction model approach is appropriate and beneficial to our families and community. Support First Nations, helping to address legal gray areas, and effecting positive legislative changes will enhance proper participation in this industry where First Nations desire to do so.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## National Portfolio:

As Chief of the Lennox Island First Nation, I am a member of the Chiefs' Committee on Economic Development. Economic and Community Development are my passion, and I am working on many projects that will better the lives of our citizens. I enjoy relating our experiences, best practises, sharing ideas and providing support and advice when I can on this committee.

**The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:**  
We look forward to the collaborative work and the experience of being a part of a very important organization that will influence policies and legislation that will have profound lasting impacts on our communities.

## Conclusion:

It is a pleasure working with the Executive Committee and First Nations leadership. I hope that I have brought value to the table and I look forward to our participation into the future.

*In Peace, Friendship and Unity,*



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Regional Chief Ghislain Picard

### *Quebec and Labrador*

Greetings to the Chiefs and Councils of all the territories, on behalf of the AFNQL Chiefs.

Greetings also to our National Chief and to my fellow AFN Executive Committee members, as well as to all the delegates and participants at this important Assembly.

#### **Introduction**

The negative impacts of the pandemic for First Nations over the past two years, make it more obvious that our Nations must exercise their full self-determination and their self-government in all sectors of activity. First Nations governments are the only ones able to adequately meet the needs of their populations, regardless of where they live- in cities or in our communities.

#### **Regional Key Issues and Activities**

I am confident that our collective work at the 2022 Annual Assembly will be a step towards affirming and implementing our self-determination for the direct benefit of all First Nations people in all the territories.

First, I wish to thank the Chiefs of the AFNQL who, during the election held at the end of January 2022, renewed their confidence in me. This is both a great honour and an important responsibility for which I will continue to devote all my energy.

In their wisdom, the Elders remind us not to give the provincial government an importance that it does not have.

The powers that the provinces bestow upon themselves over our Nations and the supremacy that they allow themselves to exercise over the rights of the First Nations have no legal basis. They are only the manifestation of colonialism that they implement strictly because it benefits them. We have our own legitimate governments and the relationship we must keep is with the Crown must be maintained at that high level. While recognizing the wisdom of this advice and its relevance, the AFNQL cannot remain silent about the ongoing obstacles to First Nations self-determination posed by the current provincial government and its many consequences on our people.

More than ever, provincial politics are shaped by the linguistic context specific to Quebec. First Nations have learned to deal with the particularity of Quebec's society. However, a problem arises when the Quebec government reinforces the status of the French language, wishing to give it exclusive constitutional status, to the detriment of the languages of the First Nations and of our members who speak English alongside their own languages. This is the situation that the AFNQL had to face following the passing of Bill 96, "An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec."

# Regional Chiefs' Reports

At the same time the Government of Canada is undertaking initiatives that support First Nations self-determination, such as the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (C-92) or the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (C-15), which the provincial government of Quebec objects.

Rather than seeing it as an opportunity for First Nations to resume full responsibility for the protection of their children, the provincial government referred this federal legislation to the Quebec Court of Appeal arguing before the Court that its own legislation takes precedence. Despite this, First Nations continue to demonstrate their self-determination including by the Atikamek Nation of Opitciwan, which adopted and implemented its Social Development Act, with clear and distinct provisions on youth protection. Other gestures of self-determination have been taken and others are in the works.

## Public Safety

This year, the Minister of Public Safety's mandate to develop and present a bill on First Nations policing as an essential service was renewed. As co-leader of the file, I attended several meetings of a working group on Police Services. The Quebec-Labrador Region has proposed an action plan to lead the region's engagement towards federal legislation. Despite delays as a result of COVID-19, we were able to begin the research and produce some materials for the Chiefs.

We have also started technical discussions with the province in relation to tripartite agreements for police services. The AFNQL's team of analysts has been involved in the research and analysis of reports and bills related to public safety in the province and we make sure to keep a constant watch on this file for the Chiefs Assembly.

## The Path Ahead/Looking Forward:

The Quebec Court of Appeal has rendered its decision on Bill C-92 in which it broadly confirms the First Nations' right to self-determination as well as their legislative and government capacity. The Court of Appeal's decision is now being referred to the Supreme Court of Canada.

## Conclusion:

It is in this difficult context we still carry the hopes and determination of our Nations. The AFNQL continues to support First Nations, and this is where all our efforts will continue to be spent.

*Have a wonderful Assembly!*



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Regional Chief Glen Hare *Ontario*

Aanii/Boozhoo/He/Kwekwe/Shekoli/Sekoh/Waachiyaa I want to thank the Elders for their prayers and words of wisdom. I want to acknowledge & recognize that the City of Vancouver is on the traditional territories of three Local First Nations: Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh

### Introduction

I want to reiterate that my familiarity with key Government Provincial and Federal levels is what I bring to the table, after all the advocacy at the Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations level is crucial to addressing your First Nation priorities. I do not do this alone I rely on First Nation Chiefs to advise what they need and seek their input as we address resolutions. I also work collaboratively with the Regional Chiefs to look at the areas of concern that require us to look for solutions. We are not doing this work alone, we must collaborate with our Treaty partners, and Government partners.

### Regional Key Issues and Activities:

When I was elected as Ontario Regional Chief, we were in the 3rd Wave of COVID 19. In September, we entered into the 4th wave and we had hope that the pandemic would begin to wind down. By January, we were in the 5th wave and in April we had confirmed that the variant of concerns had increased and we were now into the 6th wave. Again, we had hope this the virus that was eliminating our population by thousands was winding down only to find the virus mutate and become more infectious. This health concern has affected every aspect of our

lives. We are meeting to see how we can effectively implement a Plan of Prosperity to Ontario. We are seeing the results of the Ontario Election and must now see how the Budgets will be impacted upon the results of the Ontario Election. As First Nations no matter what government, gets in we must work with them. All of us deal nationally with elections whether it is federally, provincially or regionally in our First Nations. We all have similar goals, values and needs: to provide a better world than we had before and to keep mother earth alive and that means clean safe drinking water, breathable air, no- contaminated land to grow our foods and keep our wildlife healthy. The Elders have taught us that water is life; it affects the earth, the wildlife, the air and fires. We are looking at our children and making decisions on keeping them safe, improving the quality of life for them, and making sure that they are no longer being treated unfairly and discriminated against. We wanted to ensure we stop racial discrimination and hurting children in institutions like Indian Residential Schools and continue to look for those babies that have not yet been found. When I said I was ready for a challenge, it has been a challenging year for all of us, with many losses in our communities, our families and our Elders. But we continue to look at the issues in our regions to fulfill the resolutions in areas of Education, Economic Development, Health, Women's initiatives, Social, Communications and Policy.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## *AFN Water, Housing & Infrastructure Portfolio*

As the Lead Water Portfolio as the AFN Regional Chief for Ontario on the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, I am extremely concerned with the state of water for First Nations across the country, and especially here in my region, Ontario. Ontario leadership has been participating at the AFN's Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCOHI) meetings. First Nations continue to face acute, unsafe drinking water issues that are particularly important in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that access to water and sanitation is a human right that too many First Nations do not have compared to most Canadians.

## *AFN Water, Housing & Infrastructure Portfolio*

In addition to funding, policy, structural changes are required to ensure we are able to meet our housing need in First Nation communities. This includes ensuring Treaty and inherent rights are respected as well as addressing dated government policies. The federal Additions to Reserve policy and burdensome tax regimes continue to be a major impediment to development - addressing these issues must be a part of the solution. Rather than looking at the issue of the housing crisis, we need to talk to experts like the presentations at the housing summit.

## *Child Welfare Portfolio*

We have signed a draft Agreement in Principle on December 31, 2021. We worked tirelessly with Leadership in Ontario on the Prevention Agreement in Principle for Ontario and have it presented to Canada and decided upon. The draft Compensation Agreement in Principle was also signed in December 31, 2021 and the Regional Chiefs have yet to vote to approve the two Agreements in Principle. We continue to advocate that no child will be apprehended from the hospitals, our children will stay in First Nation homes, and more funding will be provided for Jordan Principle, and funding for Band Representatives. The two class actions that are being negotiated have benefit impacts that we will need to monitor and ensure they are meeting the needs of our First Nations children.

## *Women's Caucus - Ontario First Nations MMIWG2S*

We gathered in Ontario to talk about our missing and murdered loved ones, to remember them, to share and learn from each other in bringing everyone together. We want to show our families and communities that we support you, we are sorry for your loss, and we will do everything we can to ensure that communities can access resources to help you. Throughout the week, everyone had the chance to take advantage of all the workshops. Presentations that were being offered covered a range of topics from teachings and traditions, the 2SLBTQ experience and human trafficking.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## The Path Ahead:

I want to conclude with highlighting my supportive and collaborative work advocating for progressive and visionary First Nations leaders across the region... In the year ahead, as Ontario Regional Chief, I will continue to focus on the Goals of the Strategic Planning Session:

- 1) Familiarize the Leadership Council with the new Chiefs of Ontario Charter;
- 2) Appointment of ORC and Leadership Council Integrity Committees and training;
- 3) Provide space for an overview and discussion on existing mandates and COO Committees;
- 4) Provide an opportunity for the Leadership Council to articulate new areas of interest or concern that would benefit from a COO initiative.

- 5) When called upon to make decisions, I will always advise the Leadership Council on critical issues that demanded an urgent response and will make a judgement call on the decisions as required.

## Conclusion:

I want to thank the Leadership for joining us today, I know you all have busy schedules and I acknowledge you have many decisions you make on a day-to-day basis with your Councils for your community. I am honoured to be part of the Assembly of First Nations. We have many, many challenges ahead of us.

*Travel safe and stay safe, we are not out of the woods yet. Until we meet again – baamaa pii.*

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*“It’s essential we be more proactive in our approach rather than react to both the federal and provincial governments’ priorities.”*

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# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse

### Manitoba

Greetings to all! Waachi'ye! We have had a busy year. My office has been working with leadership to develop plans of action that include protection of our Treaty and inherent rights to design and have full authority over child and family services, housing/ infrastructure, and emergency management.

#### Introduction:

I was elected the Regional Chief in Manitoba in July 2021 and it has been a great honour to serve First Nations and to work with colleagues across Turtle Island. I hold three AFN portfolios: Housing and Infrastructure, including Water; Social Development; and Emergency Management. I am also the Co-Chair of AFN's Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure. Despite the restrictions ensuing from the global pandemic, advocacy by the AFN and all First Nations leadership has continued with considerable success. We will always protect the rights and recognition of the original peoples of these lands.

#### Regional Key Issues and Activities:

I have spent a great deal of these last several months building relationships and networks to support First Nations in their goals and priorities. The Manitoba Region has been focused on several key areas:

- Collectively working with First Nations to ensure federal and provincial governments fully implement Jordan's Principle.
- Fighting explicit and systemic discrimination in health care services.
- Budget advocacy to ensure Manitoba receives its fair share of federal funding allocations.
- Contributing to the national advocacy effort for Budget 2022 – particularly in the areas of housing, infrastructure, water, and connectivity.
- Advocacy to put in place the necessary infrastructure and programs that will ensure access to connectivity for all First Nations in Manitoba.
- Engagement of First Nations to enhance their capacity in how the federal impact assessment legislation affects First Nations rights.
- Public education on healing and reconciliation efforts to implement the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Calls to Justice of National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We have had several instances with the Manitoba Government where it was evident that the provincial government needs to educate itself about its obligations in this area including building capacity about the reality of systemic discrimination and the Government's obligations to address it.
- Public education on the significance and sacred nature of the Treaties and their role in promoting peace and well-being for everyone in Manitoba.
- Supporting First Nations when dealing with the impacts of Indian Residential Schools and unmarked gravesites, and supporting Manitoba representatives attending the delegation to Rome to press for action by the Catholic Church to meet



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



- its obligations and for a papal apology during a visit to Canada.
- Regional planning to support First Nations leadership as discussions begin with Canada on developing an implementation plan called for by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

## *Housing and Infrastructure*

It has been another busy year for advocacy on Housing and Infrastructure. Some key achievements include:

- Reaching an \$8 billion class action settlement (December 2021) to provide compensation and other remedies to address First Nations lack of access to clean drinking water. We have secured a commitment from Canada to repeal and replace the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (SDWFNA) by working with First Nations and to carry out engagement with First Nations towards replacement legislation as mandated by numerous AFN resolutions.
- In February 2022, AFN's 5th Annual Water Symposium took place with over 500 virtual participants.
- The AFN Infrastructure sector hosted the first annual conference in April 2022 on First Nations asset management with over two hundred registrants. The AFN has been finalizing the National First Nations Asset Needs Study.
- The AFN continues to advocate to Environment and Climate Change Canada for meaningful First Nations inclusion in any discussions regarding the development of a Canada Water.

- The AFN Infrastructure Sector is working with Indigenous Services Canada and First Nations Emergency Services Society to revise the Joint First Nations Fire Protection Strategy to better direct funding to initiatives needed to improve First Protection resources on-reserve.

## *Social Development and Child and Family Services*

My primary focus in serving First Nations in the child and family services portfolio has been to bring us all closer to a successful conclusion of the child welfare class action brought by the AFN with partner organizations before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT). Since July 2021, I have been leading the AFN team in the negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle and we are now working on a draft settlement agreement with the hope of finalization by the end of 2022. I am encouraged by the progress we have made but there is still much work to do.

Since December, I have been involved in engagement sessions to outline the approach taken to develop a fair settlement to secure compensation for those harmed, and to protect them in the settlement process. Negotiations also include identifying what reforms are required to federal programming and funding to stop the harms resulting from this discrimination. This includes measures to ensure the full implementation of Jordan's Principle.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## *Emergency Management*

A key file for every First Nation is Emergency Management. It is imperative with climate change and health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, that we continue to work with all levels of government on this file. AFN continues to work to support First Nations in the development of First Nation managed and operated mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities, keeping in mind what best suits the needs and aspirations of First Nations, their location and infrastructure in each of the regions. A number of initiatives continue to move forward such as the creation of a National Flooding Working Group on First Nation's Community Relocation, the transfer of collected data from the Inventory of Emergency Management Capabilities in Indigenous Communities Project (Inventory Project), as well as work of the Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance that is capturing the issues and challenges faced by First Nations in accessing insurance products on reserve. The AFN will continue to push the federal government to invest in First Nation-led emergency management programs and services to ensure that First Nations across the country have access to training, equipment and infrastructure to deal with these crises.

## **Conclusion:**

I have enjoyed working with leadership, Elders, women, youth, and the dedicated AFN staff over this last year. I want to thank you all for your encouragement and support. I have learned in this last year that we can accomplish great things with a rights-based approach, cooperation, and dedication. I look forward to the year ahead.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## Regional Chief Bobby Cameron

### *Saskatchewan*

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

#### Introduction

As the portfolio holder education, I know that First Nations control of education alongside sufficient and predictable funding, are fundamental to creating education systems that promote the success of Indigenous students. Language and culture are critical for the successful development, education, and well-being of First Nations students.

Frameworks are needed to strengthen First Nations governance and address the need for stable and predictable funding. Lifelong learning education is a Treaty Right. First Nations are autonomous and have an inherent right to control all aspects of education, from early childhood through post-secondary. The responsibility for First Nations students falls entirely with the Crown, as Treaty rights are portable.

#### Regional Key Issues and Activities:

First Nations post-secondary education has been chronically underfunded in Canada. Despite inflation, population growth and increased secondary school graduation rates, funding for First Nations post-secondary students has remained stagnant since 1996, with only 25,000 students being supported

through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) at rates that do not fully address student needs. The 2021 Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Policy Proposal called for all current students to be funded adequately, and for additional funding for approximately 30,000 students who are eligible, yet unfunded by the program.

Treaties provide a framework for living together and sharing the land within our traditional territories. The Treaty agreements provide foundations for ongoing co-operation and partnership as we move forward together to advance our education systems. Canada needs to continue honouring the Treaty relationship based on the recognition of First Nations' rights and respect to achieve reconciliation with our peoples.

Over the years we have had many discussions on education with the government on a number of key issues. Language and culture are important for the successful development, education and well-being of First Nations students. First Nations desire to build capacity to establish educational institutions that will deliver quality, culturally appropriate programs and services for their children. We continue to advocate for First Nations that want supports equitable to children who attend school off reserve.

Addressing the gap in education levels require committed leadership and collaboration by federal, provincial and First Nation jurisdiction. However, there is an urgent imperative to break down the current

# Regional Chiefs' Reports

jurisdictional obstacles to education in order to improve the social and economic well-being of families living in communities.

It is of concern that Budget 2022 did not include additional investments into First Nations post-secondary education despite budget asks that outlined the actual needs of students and institutions, as was informed by three years of Government of Canada funded engagements. 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.

## *Elementary and Secondary Education*

The AFN Education Sector and the Education Infrastructure Working Group have negotiated improvements to the School Space Accommodation Standards (SSAS) which increase new First Nations school sizes beyond the national standard and have added new spaces for students including language and culture rooms, knowledge keeper offices, itinerant/counselling spaces, outdoor classrooms and enhanced policy flexibility. The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) will be asked to provide a recommendation on these technical improvements at the next CCOE meeting. The AFN Education Sector has started to write and co-develop a new draft of the SSAS with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). In July 2019, First Nations-in-Assembly supported Resolution 34/2019, First Nations Education Infrastructure Review. On October 28, 2019, the CCOE passed a recommendation to improve the SSAS. This recommendation called for changes such as additions of language and culture rooms,

outdoor learning spaces, knowledge keeper offices and improved flexibility for First Nations when building schools. Since this recommendation, the AFN Education Sector has completed and or initiated a number of projects to support the CCOE. Other important programming that sets out to improve First Nations communities, schools and students includes the Innovation in Education Program, Research and Learning Program, and Education Partnerships Program.

## *Post Secondary Education*

Strong, effective, and inclusive First Nations-led local, regional and inherent/Treaty rights-based PSE models provide a fundamental opportunity for First Nations to establish and control PSE systems and institutions, while also advancing reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations, as expressed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the UN Declaration.

A new policy authority is required for First Nations to negotiate and conclude their own models, with full support including adequate, sustainable, predictable, and equitable funding. Supporting First Nations students, institutions and programs will assist in closing not only the education gap between First Nations and Canada, but also in closing economic gaps, and increasing First Nations labour market participation and contributions to Canada's GDP – which is especially important as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Regional Chiefs' Reports



ISC has been preparing a Memorandum to Cabinet informed by the 2021 Co-Developed PSE Policy Proposal on First Nations-led Local, Regional and Treaty-based Models.

The PSE Policy Proposal seeks unprecedented investments for post-secondary education, with a total budget ask of \$9.4B to support First Nations students, institutions, communities, ongoing technical tables, and the negotiation and conclusion of new regional models.

Budget 2022 announced \$18M in 2022-2023 to support at-risk Indigenous youth in accessing post-secondary education through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) partnerships with Pathways to Education Canada and Indspire. No investments were announced for First Nations students, institutions, nor First Nations-led local, regional and Treaty-based PSE Models.

The 2021 PSE Policy Proposal was approved by First Nations-in-Assembly at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2021, by way of AFN Resolution 21/2021, *2021 Post-Secondary Policy Proposal on First Nations Models*. The NIEC have been involved in the drafting and advocacy for the 2021 PSE Policy Proposal. In March 2022, the AFN and ISC briefed ISC Deputy Minister Christiane Fox on the importance of the First Nations-developed option within the Memorandum to Cabinet.

The AFN will prepare a response to Indigenous Services Canada regarding the lack of additional investments into PSE in the federal budget, as well as create an advocacy

plan to return to Cabinet and Finance with an off-cycle budget ask. The AFN will work with First Nations to identify next steps in moving forward with the Memorandum to Cabinet on First Nations PSE Models.

### *Education Infrastructure and Capital Needs*

First Nations need more owned and operated education facilities and are responsible for managing projects to renovate or build new facilities. The Government of Canada provides funding to First Nations to build new schools, renovate and expand existing facilities, and operate and maintain existing education infrastructures. Education infrastructures can include school facilities such as classrooms, gyms, science labs, sports fields, home economic and shop facilities. We encourage First Nations to apply for this available funding through the government of Canada.

### *Education Partnership Program*

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) completed its needs-based review of the Education Partnership Program (EPP) in Fall 2021 through engagement with First Nations organizations. The Department has identified an additional \$25 million for the EPP budget, bringing the 2022-2023 budget up to a total of \$65 million.

ISC will continue to work with the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) to determine how best to regionalize the program to support First Nations control of First Nations education.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports

The AFN and ISC co-developed a series of improvements to the Government's School Space Accommodation Standards (SSAS), a document that regulates education infrastructure and space in First Nations communities. A bulletin on these improvements has been sent out to Chiefs. New standards will significantly improve the quality and size of First Nations schools with spaces that meet the unique needs of students and families and are designed by First Nations. Notable changes include base school increases to ensure First Nations students have more space than the national average, dedicated space for language and cultural learning, outdoor classrooms, Knowledge Keeper rooms, and itinerant services such as counselling or special education support.

## The Path Ahead/Looking forward:

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 Nations and other networks; provide political and strategic advice regarding First Nations educational matters to the National Indian Education Council (NIEC), AFN Education Sector, and AFN Executive Committee; carry out recommendations on the work of the NIEC and the AFN Education sector; 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 Chiefs-in-Assembly.

## Conclusion:

The Government of Canada is obliged to uphold and honour the authority of First Nations to exercise control over education. It is imperative that Canada moves forward in supporting First Nations control of First Nations education, and First Nations inherent and Treaty right to education. Our priority will always be our Inherent and Treaty Right to Education and asserting our First Nations jurisdiction. First Nations are ready for substantial change and to take control of their education systems.

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



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*First Nations students have an inherent and Treaty right to education as part of their lifelong learning process.*

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# 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 BC and the BCAFN Board of Directors, I present this Annual Report which provides an update of the ongoing work in our region as well as in my portfolio areas.

#### **Introduction:**

We welcome you to beautiful British Columbia for this years' Annual General Assembly and to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Territory (known as Vancouver). This past year we continue to move through the waves of the COVID-19 and commend how communities have shown resilience and strength to the changing tides of this pandemic.

#### **Regional Key Issues and Activities:**

This past year has affirmed that we continue to live through challenging times. Our Nations are dealing with several overlapping crises, as well as the constant fight for reconciliation and recognition of our Aboriginal Rights and Title and Treaty Rights. The BCAFN has been working diligently to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, illicit-drug toxicity deaths, homelessness, justice for our children and youth, equitable disaster management, and other matters impacting our families and communities. The BCAFN has worked to champion vaccination and counter misinformation in First Nations communities. As we continue to watch our loved ones become sick and the loss of

family, friends and Elders, I encourage everyone everywhere to get fully vaccinated - not only for themselves, but for their vulnerable and immuno-compromised loved ones as well.

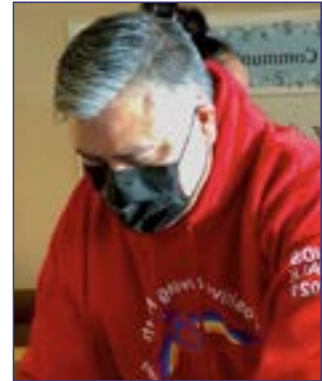
Before the end of 2021, we saw the announcement of a historic Agreements-in-Principle regarding compensation of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. The BC Region continues to support the AFN negotiating team as they work towards the details of the final settlement which will ensure a full compensation package from the Canadian government to address the discriminatory and harmful impacts of discrimination within the child welfare system.

In the aftermath of one of BC's worst wildfire seasons on record, followed by devastating flooding, the BCAFN has been working with First Nations and other partners to build capacity for stronger emergency response and recovery. We recently met with the Disaster Recovery and Climate Resilience Committee to press for commitments from Canada and BC to make investments and changes to the emergency management systems in this province.

On March 9 & 10, 2022 we held the 18th Annual Special Chiefs Assembly online. The Chiefs met to discuss a number of priority issues ranging from children and families, education, pandemic response, climate change, economic development, cannabis and justice issues. The Chiefs-in-Assembly passed 17 resolutions including:

# Regional Chiefs' Reports

NUMBER	TITLE	NUMBER	TITLE
01/2021	INTERSECTIONAL ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING GROUNDED IN FIRST NATIONS KNOWLEDGES	09/2022	SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR BC FIRST NATIONS CANNABIS STRATEGY
02/2022	CALL TO ENSURE THE FINAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ON LONG-TERM REFORM OF THE FNCFS PROGRAM AND JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE INCLUDE LEGALLY-BINDING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	10/2022	SUPPORT FOR THE INDIGENOUS DIGITAL EQUITY STRATEGY
03/2022	AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNANCE MANUAL RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	11/2022	BCAFN MANDATE ON HUNTING AND WILDLIFE
04/2022	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY AND AMEND THE TOR	12/2022	CALL TO ACTION FOR THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE, SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS ("IPCAS") AND INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS IN BC
05/2022	SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST NATIONS TRIPARTITE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION MODEL	13/2022	SUPPORT FOR GITXAAEA LITIGATION AND CALL TO REFORM THE MINERAL TENURE ACT
06/2022	SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT BC FIRST NATIONS CLIMATE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	14/2022	CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL PENDING AND FUTURE WATER BOTTLING LICENSES IN BC
07/2022	ENDORSEMENT OF THE "WHAT WE HEARD REPORT" AND CALL TO DEVELOP A RENEWED COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED FIRST NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE CAPACITY SUPPORT STRATEGY	15/2022	SUPPORT FOR THE BC FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRES
08/2022	ABOLITION OF THE DEPLORABLE AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN CARCERAL FACILITIES IN BC	16/2022	SUPPORT FOR UPHOLDING FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER GAMING
		17/2022	SUPPORT FOR MORATORIUM ON SALE OF CROWN LANDS IN UNCEDED TERRITORIES



## Regional Chiefs' Reports



### *Economic Development*

BCAFN sought to extend the current funding agreement for two additional years. This work is integral to the economic well-being of BC First Nations during challenging times. BC First Nations will feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy for years as Canada

faces inflation, increasing interest rates, and shifting federal and provincial funding priorities. The BCAFN will continue to provide advocacy, representation, and services as we move through this turbulent time.

Current initiatives include the ongoing development of the BC First Nations Centre for Excellence in Economic Development. In January, a business plan was submitted to the Province of BC and the Government of Canada for consideration, with a decision expected in March. This exciting initiative will showcase the innovation and resiliency of BC's First Nations citizens, communities, and organizations and provide a suite of targeted

services in a non-partisan environment.

Ongoing priorities are driving policy papers in the economic development sector.

Upcoming publications will focus on Indigenous food security and international trade. In addition, there will be papers developed this year that focus on the economy of water, circular economies, and opportunities within the agricultural and food sectors. The Black Books Toolkit and the non-GDP Wellness Indicator are in-progress for updates.

### *Cannabis Legislation and Regulation*

On the National level, the Federal Cannabis Act review was slated to begin in October, 2021, but has seen delays. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) will be involved in the Cannabis Act review process, though details are still forthcoming. The FNLC will work to ensure that BC First Nations are included and heard in the review process. Submissions will be prepared for the legislative review, and the recommendations will be brought forward to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Cannabis.

### *Justice*

As the co-lead on Justice with RC Picard, we have been advocating for changes to the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) which has been chronically underfunded for the last 30 years, resulting in inequities existing in First Nations policing when compared to non-First Nations police systems. A second National Forum on First Nations Policing was held on April 6, 2022. As well, the AFN Justice Sector held a Restorative Justice forum on April 7, 2022. The AFN was advised that it has been funded through Justice Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS)

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*We must urgently reduce the over-representation of Indigenous Peoples in the prison system. First Nations continue to be mistreated and violently apprehended by police and many are forced through Canada's justice system and incarceration.*

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# Regional Chiefs' Reports

program to create a Chiefs Committee on Justice and to carry IJS engagement through national justice forums. Regional engagement sessions were held by some regions to solicit feedback and direction from First Nations on priorities and issues related to the FNPP.

## Fisheries

As the co-lead on Fisheries, AFN continues to advance First Nations Rights and Treaty Rights to fisheries and aquatic resources. We have been advocating for significant resourcing set asides for First Nations governance and capacity building within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Comprehensive Wild Salmon Strategy. Further, the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) met on May 12 in Musqueam territory to continue our important efforts to ensure our fishing rights are implemented and protected. We continue to develop a strong National fisheries strategy and you will hear an update at the Assembly as to advances the NFC has made.

## Human Resource and Development

As Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development, the Committee met early this year. The Committee discussed the AFN pre-budget submission which sought \$628 over 5 years for skills and employment training. Unfortunately, the Federal Budget did not identify any new funding. The Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development has identified ongoing priorities as pandemic recovery, inflation, population growth, and the raising costs of provincial certifications. These will need to be considered in future budget advocacy.

## The Path Ahead/ Looking Forward:

Looking ahead we may be in for another challenging summer as the impacts of climate change are felt exponentially throughout the country. First Nations, our communities and our citizens will continue to show strength, resilience and adaptability as we face the future together. I am incredibly proud of the work of BCAFN and the AFN as we work to advance and advocate for our Rights, Title and Treaty Rights. As we come out of another tough year, I encourage you to celebrate the hard-fought progress we've made toward the betterment of our families, communities, and Nations.

*Mussi Cho!*  
*Regional Chief Terry Teegee*



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*“Humanity and Mother Earth are suffering the consequences of human behaviour. Our ancestral lands, communities, and cultural identity depend on immediate climate action.”*

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## Regional Chiefs' Reports



### Regional Chief Kluane Adamek, Aagé *Yukon*

Shiyaa Awoodineiki'

On behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, I acknowledge the Elders, Matriarchs, Veterans, Chiefs, Leaders and Youth from across Yukon who support the work of our office. I also recognize the First Nations across Canada who continue to show strength, courage, and leadership through this challenging year.

#### **Introduction:**

The Yukon Region continues to move through the COVID-19 rhythm as restrictions ease. Through it all, we continue to face challenges, related both directly and indirectly to the pandemic, and I reflect on the impacts that the last two years has had on the health of our people, especially our most vulnerable. As First Nations, our greatest strengths are found in our teachings, resiliency and interconnectedness. We are always stronger together, and on behalf of the AFN Yukon Region, we thank all those who have joined in efforts to support the health and safety of all those who need it.

#### **Regional Key Issues and Activities:**

Over the past year, the AFN Yukon Region and all 14 Yukon First Nations have experienced some incredible achievements and celebrations, but have also endured immense amounts of loss, pain and grief. From the recovery of little ones at former residential institutions, to the social isolation and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, continued challenges with access to Yukon River Salmon, the past two years have had

serious impacts on the physical and mental health of First Nations people across Canada, the North, and the Yukon. To address these impacts, the AFN Yukon Region continues to bring together Chiefs and representatives from Yukon First Nations throughout the year through AFN Yukon Chiefs Summits and meetings, where leadership discuss their shared priorities, develop collaborative responses to pressing issues, and facilitate meetings with federal government partners. Over the past two years, the AFN Yukon Region has held a series of Chiefs Summits, successfully held both virtually or using a hybrid model to ensure that Yukon First Nations feel a sense of cohesion. As the Yukon continues to carefully move through COVID-19, the Chiefs Summits are very important for Yukon First Nations leadership to gather and build consensus and identify shared priorities and actions for nations and communities to take as we continue to adjust to a post-pandemic world. This year, some of these key priorities largely revolve around mental health and wellness, climate action, and supporting youth and emerging leaders.

This winter, the region faced devastating losses of young people due to substance abuse, addiction, overdoses and violence. This crisis has had long-standing impacts with every nation and community deeply impacted by the tragic losses. Yukon First Nation Chiefs came together to determine urgent steps and actions, pressed federal Ministers to respond to the urgent and immediate need for action and investment to directly meet the needs of communities, and citizens. Territorial, Federal, and Yukon

## Regional Chiefs' Reports

First Nation Governments continue to prioritize the health and wellbeing of citizens and communities. The AFN Yukon Region continues to support and facilitate opportunities for Yukon First Nations to engage with federal partners to address and support both the urgent and long-term needs of communities in a meaningful way.

In 2020, Yukon First Nation Elders, Chiefs, leaders and youth gathered to discuss and plan for a joint declaration on Climate Change, and a mandate to develop an action plan for implementation. The north is impacted at a rate 3x higher than anywhere around the world and the Yukon Region continues to place climate action as top priority. The right approach, is a rights based approach and community-led climate action, for us and by us, as Yukon First Nations people, continues to reflect our regional values-driven approach. Yukon First Nations continue to advance various pieces of climate mitigation and adaptation work, on the ground and in community. Earlier this year, we were proud to support the launch of the first ever Yukon First Nation Climate Action Fellowship, which provides a group of Yukon First Nations emerging leaders with the opportunity to collaborate and develop climate action approaches that are guided by traditional knowledge and innovation, and focused on reconnection. The Fellows continue to facilitate engagement sessions through community Reconnection Spaces, and have launched the Reconnection Vision and Action Plan, to guide climate action through promoting reconnection to the land, to community, to culture, and to each other. Yukon First Nations have been demanding

action on the climate crisis for many years now. Our planet is facing a crisis that will impact our very existence, and the results of inaction are already being felt every day. The AFN Yukon Region remains committed to holding up those communities who are leading climate action at local, regional and national levels to advance values-driven climate solutions.

Recognizing and lifting up the voices of youth remains a priority of the Yukon Regional Office. The isolation and restrictions of the past year have had serious impacts on youth. They have continued to find innovative ways to stay connected. As we move through the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFN Yukon Region continues to search for ways to provide new and exciting opportunities for youth to lead from their values, and encourage youth to continue their paths as leaders and role models in their communities, across the Yukon and beyond.

Addressing these priorities, and the many others that are held by First Nations across Canada, is vital to walking the shared pathway of reconciliation. We are proud of the trails that have been made, and look forward to continuing to work with Yukon First Nations, and First Nations from coast-to-coast-to-coast, as we walk together.



# Regional Chiefs' Reports



## *Climate Change, Water and the Environment*

First Nation-led climate solutions that are developed and driven by communities through values and rights-based approaches, are critical now more than ever. We continue to work closely and at the direction of the Chiefs in Assembly, receiving guidance through AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action (ACE) and the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA), and continue pressing for federal and international leaders to recognize the transformative solutions First Nations are implementing across the country. The AFN Yukon Region has also been proud to support the launch and ongoing work of the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship, who have recently begun the drafting and creation of the Yukon First Nations Climate Reconnection Vision and Action Plan.

The Climate Action Fellowship and the Reconnection Vision and Action Plan are key parts of the AFN Yukon Region's work to implement the Yukon First Nations Climate Emergency Declarations that were signed by leadership and youth in February 2020 at the first-ever Yukon First Nations Climate Action Gathering held in Whitehorse, YT.

Throughout the past several months, 13 Yukon First Nation youth fellows have been holding engagement sessions through community Reconnection Spaces, and preparing the Reconnection Discussion Document that is intended to guide climate action through promoting reconnection to the land, to community, to culture, and to each other.

## *Modern Treaties*

The Yukon has 11 Self-Government agreements, and we represent the largest Modern Treaty region in the country. These Yukon First Nation Governments have chosen to move 'beyond the Indian Act' and have made incredible strides in advancing self-determination. We continue to come together to find pathways on how we can learn from each other and work together to advance our individual and common interest in strengthening our relationships with the Crown; but most importantly to ensure that the next generation can see themselves in the future.

We are pleased to announce the second annual National Self-Government and Modern Treaties Forum to be held in 2023, as a follow up to the Forum that was hosted in November 2019 in Whitehorse. This second National Forum will be the continuation of important discussions and will look to bring together modern treaty and self-governing First Nations, as well as those who are interested or currently negotiating self-government or Modern Treaties, from across Canada to discuss innovative solutions to advance self-determination. The topics will include advancing self-government and self-determination and how UNDRIP can support Modern Treaties across the country.

The AFN Yukon Region looks forward to planning and hosting this event, and welcoming First Nations leaders and innovators from across the country to the territory!



# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## Youth

First and foremost, we acknowledge the delegation who attended the Vatican, including Regional/National Chief Gerald Antoine, Teslin Tlingit Council Elder and Matriarch, Adeline Webber and the AFN National Youth Council Representatives Taylor Behn-Tsakoza and Rosalie LaBilois. For the first time in history, the AFN NYC elected four women to serve as their Co-Chairs and Executive Members. Women continue to step into their right places and spaces, and we also acknowledge our regional AFN NYC Representative Jessica Mazur for her work advancing YFN priorities.

The AFN continues to support the AFN National Youth Council representatives who consistently demonstrate values-driven leadership within their respective regions, as well as at the National AFN Executive. Youth and emerging leaders continue to provide incredibly important guidance to the AFN in its national work, and we deeply appreciate all the youth representatives whose voices and advocacy have been invaluable in addressing and building solutions. Youth are the leaders of today, and they continue to lead us down a good path.

In the spirit of 'a Yukon that leads', we continue to find ways to hold up the accomplishments of Yukon First Nations and showcasing the leadership of the region. This fall, we look forward to hosting the first, Yukon First Nation Post-Secondary Graduation to celebrate and honor all Indigenous Post-Secondary Graduates in the Yukon.

## AFN Management Committee

The AFN Management Committee is composed of 5 Regional Chiefs. As Chair of the committee, we convene frequent meetings to ensure that we are upholding our processes and policies, supporting the CEO and the Secretariat to carry out its important work, all while ensuring the highest degrees of transparency and accountability.

It is imperative that the AFN Executive uphold the values, principles, commitments and directives of the AFN Code of Conduct. I remain committed to collaborating at these tables in a way that ensures that our AFN Executive is held to the highest standards of equity, transparency, and fairness, and I acknowledge and show appreciation for my colleagues on both the AFN Executive and Management Committee and the CEO and AFN Staff, whose hard work continues to drive the AFN forward as an organization that supports all First Nations in a good way.

## The Path Ahead/Looking forward

Gunalchéesh to the Yukon First Nation Elders, Chiefs and leaders who continue to demonstrate their dedication to supporting the health, well-being and strength of their citizens and nations. We continue to face multiple crises in the Yukon Region, including the mental health and opioids, the devastating physical impacts of climate change, and the ongoing impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Yukon First Nations, individually and collectively.



## Regional Chiefs' Reports



Through all of these incredibly difficult challenges, Yukon First Nations Chiefs and leadership have remained steadfast in their commitment to supporting citizens through difficult losses and times of grief, as well as in lighter moments of celebration, pride, and accomplishments. Over the past year, Yukon First Nations have proven yet again that they lead in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, and I raise my hands to all leaders, including the Matriarchs, youth, Elders and Knowledge Keepers who continue to guide us.

It has been heartwarming and energizing to begin to have meetings in person again, and I hope to continue to safely make more face-to-face connections with our people both regionally and nationally, as we all walk forward towards a better future for all future generations!

### Conclusion

Together, First Nations have strengthened their collective voices and priorities at both the regional and national levels, and I am humbled to continue to walk together with leaders in the Yukon and across the country to build upon the foundations of those who have come before, we continue to reflect, a Yukon that Leads.

*Dak'anutà jè' (take good care),  
Gunalchéesh, Shawnithan, Mahsi Cho*

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*I continue to see all the great work the AFN is doing and the really important steps that need to be taken to include women's voices and having women in every part of decision making.*

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# Regional Chiefs' Reports

## Regional Chief Gerald Antone

### *Northwest Territories*

On behalf of the Dene Nation and First Nations of the Northwest Territories, I'd like to extend my regards to my colleagues. As our organization continues the 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:**

Our priorities are to connect our families and further develop our ways of capacity sharing. Our work is focused on uniting the Dene and improve our working relationships among our territorial, federal and Indigenous government partners. We have come through the challenges of COVID-19. We have also participated in the visit to the Vatican to carry the messages of our Survivors. The messages focus on the call to rescind the Doctrine of Discover and the Papal Bulls, and restitution to our Peoples as a few of our many collective priorities. We look forward to continuing to advocated on for our people on issues of common concern.

#### **Regional Key Issues and Activities:**

Today, I am pleased to share our progress and achievements over the past year. The Dene Nation continues to be a champion for First Nations in the North; where we have made significant strides towards bettering our collective wellbeing, despite the unforeseen challenges caused by COVID-19. We are continuing to work with our partners at all levels to realize our shared goals of equity and equality. However, as we reflect and celebrate our accomplishments as a

Nation, it's equally important to look forward: More work is needed to achieve long-lasting change for the Dene.

As we do look forward, it's important to reflect our traditions within our futures. This past year, the Dene Nation was instrumental in petitioning the federal government to invest in On-the-Land program funding as part of the COVID-19 response - to reconnect our people with their past, while providing a safe distance from the growing pandemic. We had supported an on the land wellness camp for our people affected by houselessness and the pandemic. We remain committed to supporting our people through on the land wellness supports.

As the pandemic begins to wind down, it allows us to plan for our recovery. This crisis has highlighted the deep inequalities faced by our communities, and I am determined to strengthen our position by holding Ottawa accountable to their reconciliation promises and mandates. In regard to economic recovery, the federal government mandated departments to include engagement from local, provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners on its development. We look forward to working together with our communities and leaders to create the right conditions for economic prosperity to address the needs of our Dene families.

As we continue to advance our work within our traditional territories for our lands and resources, it is equally important that we advance the work to pursue our traditional governance structures that have been dismantled by colonial objectives. We know



## Regional Chiefs' Reports



that the current system is ripe for change: This is a chance for Canada to right history's wrongs. It is within this mindset and the platform I was elected on, that the Dene Nation began the process of rebuilding, re-imagining, and self-determining our traditional governance structures. As Dene, we are strongest when we are together.

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. While our relationship continues to improve, especially through the creation of the NWT Council of Leaders, the legislature can always be improved to suit our needs in a way that is reflective of a government-to-government relationship, and not one that is embedded in paternalism. Due to devolution, the GNWT is the first agency to receive federal money before distributing the rest. Therefore, the Dene Nation has been active in redirecting federal funding to Dene communities, directly. We will continue to press this issue to ensure it is a permanent change, in order to secure predictable and sustainable funding so programming in the communities can reach their full potential.

### *Indian Residential Institutions*

The Vatican and the Federal Government have been in conversation about the Pope's visit to Canada for the past 5 years. An announcement came in October 2021 of the Pope's impending visit to Canada. During this time the Vatican and the Federal government have been working on scouting locations for the Papal visits as well as the processes for welcoming a head of State to Canada. This is a Pastoral Visit but is influenced by the

process of a State visit to Canada and the protocols of the Canadian government.

The National Indigenous Organizations are seeking increased input and collaboration with the CCCB and other Church leaders regarding the specifics of the Pope's Visit. I know that it is of the utmost importance to survivors to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are properly addressed.

The next part of the apology is to not only deliver the apology on Turtle Island but to include restitution and opportunities for economic, social, and cultural participation in all Church activities here at home.

We remain actively engaged in IRSSA litigation updates and appeals, as well as the Day Scholars and Federal Indian Day School Class Actions. We are committed to ensuring that we achieve the best possible outcomes to those entitled to compensation.

### *Knowledge Keepers Council*

This year the Council will see some changes to its current make up: longstanding Council Chair Eldon Bernard will pass the leadership over to one of the current Knowledge Keepers council members who will continue the leadership of our Knowledge Keepers council. I would like to thank Eldon Bernard for his dedicated and devoted service.

The knowledge Keepers will meet in May 2022 to provide guidance for coming events such as the Papal visit to Turtle Island. I am looking forward to receiving guidance and direction from our knowledge keepers Elders. We will engage in a review of the Holy Father's apology delivered at the Vatican on



## Regional Chiefs' Reports



April 1, 2022 and how to provide assistance to the Catholic Bishops in the preparation for the Holy Father's visit and apology in Canada. This will include dialogue about the repatriation of traditional objects and First Nations land, financial reparations, discussion on the Papal Bulls such as the Doctrine of Discovery and its impact on First Nation rights, and plans for reconciliation on other important areas.

The Knowledge Keepers Council continues to perform critical work in ensuring that our values and principles are upheld and exemplified in all of the important work that we do together.

### *First Nations Veterans*

It is truly an honor to serve First Nations Veterans of Canada. We are forever grateful for their sacrifices and commitment to protecting and upholding our rights and freedoms. The First Nations Veterans of Canada (FNVC) are a group I am honored to work with, whose mission is to address the needs, concerns, and to help facilitate the flow of information to First Nation Veterans and their families. Greater communication, provision of information, and delivery of

services to rural and remote First Nation communities continue to be prevalent issues impacting First Nations Veterans in Canada. Additionally, research is required to clearly establish the historical record of First Nations soldiers who fought in all of the international wars and conflicts on behalf of Canada. Maintaining clear and collaborative lines of communication is essential for creating a better understanding of the post service benefits for former service members, their families and communities. We look forward to continuing to honor, commemorate, and support these heroes.

The FNVC is now officially recognized as a council along with the Knowledge Keepers, Youth, and Women's Councils. The newly formed Quad-Council meets quarterly to share common approaches and strategies to best support their individual Council objectives. Through this united voice, they are starting to convey the concerns that they commonly share and contributing to the planning and development of policy.

## Regional Chiefs' Reports



We look forward to resuming in-person meetings and continuing to collaborate with all levels of government to advocate for the existing and emerging needs of First Nations Veterans and their families.

### **The Path Ahead/Looking forward:**

Last year was a time of great trials and challenges, but it also presented us with new opportunities and showed us the best way to move forward. As the National Chief of the Dene Nation and Regional Chief of the NWT, I am proud of our peoples' strength, empathy, resilience, but most of all, unity. We come together than as a family working toward our common goals in the pursuit of our rights and interests. Today, we celebrate more community investments, strengthened government to government relationships, and enhanced governance.

I am committed to supporting and assisting our Dene families, working tirelessly to provide new solutions and opportunities which align with the needs of our people and the direction of our leaders.

### **Conclusion:**

As we walk down the path of shared understanding and reconciliation, it's important to remember that we can do great things together. I will not stop in my journey to unite the Dene and amplify our voices as well as build better relationships within the GNWT, Canada and each other.

*Mahsi, and we look forward to walking together.*

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*Our family is like branches on a tree, we all  
grow in different directions, yet our roots  
remain the same.*

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## Council Reports

# Council Reports



## Knowledge Keepers Council

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Knowledge Keepers Council has been a part of the organization since the very beginning of the National Indian Brotherhood and on through the transition to the Assembly of First Nations. The Council continues to provide guidance that is thoughtful, perceptive, and valuable. They advise the AFN in their role as Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The Council works to ensure that all work is balanced, fair and equitable through their spiritual and political guidance provided.

The Council has played a significant role in the current policies and continued dialogue with Canada. For over 40 years they have ensured that the AFN maintains 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 Council's guidance has always been especially important during times of need. Their wisdom and support have been extremely vital these past two years with the recovery of our little ones from residential institutions and COVID-19 pandemic.

### Knowledge Keepers Council Membership and Representation

The Knowledge Keepers Council is comprised of representatives Eldon Bernard (New Brunswick), Dr. Gwendolyn Point, Skowkale First Nation (British Columbia), Charles Hume, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (Yukon); John Bekale, Gameti (Northwest Territories), Bruce Starlight, Tsuu'tina Nation

(Alberta), Joseph Quewezance (Saskatchewan), Ernie Daniels, Long Plain First Nation (Manitoba), Edmond Sackaney, Fort Albany First Nation (Ontario), William Sunday, Akwesasne (Quebec/Labrador), and Phyllis Googoo, Waycobah First Nation (Nova Scotia/ Newfoundland).

It is our pleasure to welcome the new AFN Executive portfolio holder for the Knowledge Keepers, Northwest Territories Regional Chief Gerald Antoine, who will be working closely working with the Council in the months to come.

### Key Activities and Accomplishments

The Council continues to meet at the Annual General and Special Chiefs Assemblies to discuss issues, challenges and new ideas. The Council has worked to ensure that they continue to meet in spite of the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic. By maintaining contact virtually, they are able to provide spiritual guidance on a continuing basis.

The Council works to keep our traditions, values, languages, and histories present in the work of the AFN. It is all our obligation to ensure the success and wellbeing of the youth, just as our ancestors did for us. The Council continues to engage and help other Elders within their regions, ensuring that they share information and that everyone is kept up to date on issues impacting us all.



# Council Reports

## Indigenous Knowledge Systems Framework

Meetings were held in 2021 to continue to work on a draft *Indigenous Knowledge Systems Framework* with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The Knowledge Keepers Council shared perspectives and insights on the draft ECCC framework and discussed how to ensure effective implementation of the framework.

## Additional Advocacy

In February 2021, the Knowledge Keepers released a statement demanding serious action to ensure clean drinking water for All First Nations.

The Knowledge Keepers Council stood with and continue to provide spiritual support to the Communities, Chiefs, and community members who witnessed the findings of the horrible genocide and legacy of the residential institutions in Canada.

In March 2022, AFN Knowledge Keepers portfolio holder and Regional Chief Gerald Antoine and Knowledge Keeper Phyllis Googoo were part of the AFN delegation that travelled to the Vatican to seek an apology from his holiness Pope Francis for the Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual violence of First Nations in Catholic-run Residential Institutions.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

- The Council will continue to provide assistance to the AFN Executive Committee, AFN Staff, AFN Chiefs' Committee's and the AFN Women's, Youth, Veterans, and the newly created 2SLBGTQ2IA+ Council.
- The Council continues to work on improvements to their Terms of Reference (TOR) and are always prepared to participate in the AFN's Charter Renewal process.
- The Council will prepare for virtual and in person meetings throughout 2022. Part of their role is to ensure they keep others informed of activities within their respective regions and to contribute to the overall efforts of the AFN, AFN staff, Executive Committee and First Nations.
- The Council continues to meet to review and update protocols, traditions, ceremonies, roles, and responsibilities.



# Council Reports



## Women's Council

The Assembly of First Nations 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 works 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 that are relevant to First Nations women and the issues that affect them. In 2021, the Women's Council supported the following AFN resolutions: Resolution 08/2021, *Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA People*; and Resolution 46/2021, *Reaffirming Support for the Role and Mandate of the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council*.

The Members of the AFN Women's Council are:

**Alberta:** Brenda Vanguard  
**British Columbia:** Louisa Housty  
**Yukon:** Doris Anderson  
**Northwest Territories:** Chief Roxanne Cook  
**Saskatchewan:** Chief Constance (Connie) Big Eagle (Chair)  
**Manitoba:** Chief Betsy Kennedy  
**Ontario:** Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum  
**Quebec:** Nadia Robertson and Chief Adrienne Jerome (Deputy Chair)  
**New Brunswick:** Chief Shelley Sabattis  
**Nova Scotia/Newfoundland:** Chief Carol Potter

### Key Activities and Accomplishments

On June 3, 2021, the Women's Council released the report, *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: An Action Plan to End Violence Against First Nations Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA People*. The AFN Women's Council hosted a total of 85 virtual engagement sessions across all AFN regions with 1,144 contributions through virtual meeting participation, surveys, written and video submissions. The AFN Women's Council completed the final regional engagement session in March 2022, which informed the development of nine regional reports to support the ongoing work in the regions. This approach was mandated in Resolution 67/2019, *Development and Implementation of a National Action Plan on Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA*, to carry out an engagement process that would respect the existing regional work, is trauma-informed, and uses a "families first" approach.

Canada's current National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) from the period of 2017-2022 established the Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada (WPSN-C). The AFN Women's Council attended the Women Peace and Security Advisory Group Meeting in September 2021, to review the annual progress report on the implementation of *Canada's National Action Plan on WPS* (CNAP). With the CNAP coming to an end, the WPSN-C are evaluating the strategy and preparing an updated plan that includes National Indigenous Organizations providing input into both the reporting and future planning for updating the CNAP. The AFN Women's Council advocated that the

## Council Reports

CNAP should address issues facing First Nations women, including the causes of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

The AFN Women's Council identified a member to participate on an Advisory Committee on Indigenous Women's Wellbeing, an interdepartmental committee organized by Indigenous Services Canada. The Indigenous Women's Wellbeing Advisory Committee is Indigenous-led and meant to provide federal departments with advice, guidance, and direction on issues impacting the health and wellness of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women. On August 12, 2021, IWAC met and held a discussion about racism in healthcare and forced sterilization. The AFN Women's Council reaffirmed the position in AFN Resolution 22/2018, *Redress for the Forced Sterilization of Indigenous Women*, that supports efforts to raise awareness about forced sterilization and enhance reproductive rights and redress for survivors. In addition, Resolution 80/2018, *Support for the Criminalization of Forced Sterilization* calls for political support for class action claimants of forced sterilization in seeking redress and advocates for changes to the Criminal Code of Canada to criminalize forced sterilization.

The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women hosted an annual meeting with National Indigenous Leaders and Representatives to discuss pressing issues affecting Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in Canada. In December 2021, the AFN Women's Council participated in the fifth meeting, which focused on the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based

Violence, promoting healthy relationships and engaging men and boys, and implementation of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+). The AFN Women's Council continues to advocate for effective solutions and supports to prevent violence must be First Nations-based and First Nations-driven with long-term sustainable funding supporting culturally appropriate services.

The Ambassador of Canada to the United Nations, His Excellency Bob Rae, extended an invitation to the AFN Women's Council and other representatives of National Indigenous Women's Organizations in advance of the 66th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This provided an opportunity for the AFN Women's Council to advance the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous women and girls at the United Nations. The AFN Women's Council raised the need to increase support for First Nations women's leadership through addressing barriers, support for the Tri-Lateral Working Group with the United States and Mexico, a United Nations Special Rapporteur to review human rights violations in the Indian Residential School System and called to implement the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including the *Calls for Justice*.

The United Nations held a hybrid session for the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 66) from March 14-25, 2022. The theme for the UNCSW 66 was achieving gender equality and the



## Council Reports



empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, and the intersection between gender and climate. 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 Women's Council participated in side-events hosted by Canada on March 14 and 16, 2022.

On April 5, 2022, the AFN Women's Council Ontario Representative Anna Betty Achneepineskum appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women as part of its study of intimate partner and domestic violence in Canada. During this appearance, the AFN Women's Council advocated a "families first" approach in all the work relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples.

The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples convened to conduct a review of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The AFN Women's Council Alberta Representative Brenda Vanguard appeared before the Senate Committee on April 25, 2022, to advocate for what is needed to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and

2SLGBTQIA+ people. The AFN Women's Council supports the many survivors and family members who want to see greater action on implementing the National Action Plan and the *Calls for Justice*.

### Next Steps – Moving Forward

It has been over three 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 and engaged during the process of implementing the National Action Plan. The AFN Women's Council heard from families and survivors that there are three (3) main areas that need to be considered in implementing the Calls for Justice: jurisdictional challenges, resources and services, and reporting and tracking. Looking ahead to 2023, the Women's Council anticipates much of its work will be devoted to carrying out the mandate in Resolution 08/2021, Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA People, advocating for the implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report and Calls for Justice.



# Council Reports

## National Youth Council

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 daily. The NYC acts as an advisory body to the AFN Chiefs Committees, AFN Secretariat, and the AFN Executive Committee on various youth-related and non-youth-related issues.

The NYC strives to influence the direction of the AFN through promoting equality. The NYC works with all levels of leadership to create opportunities for personal development and empowerment for future generations.

### NYC Membership and Representation

The Council elects two co-chairs and two executives each year at the Annual General Assembly. This year marked the first time in NYC history that the Council elected two female co-chairs: Rosalie Labillois-Wysote (Eel River Bar First Nation, New Brunswick) and Taylor Behn Tsakoza (Fort Nelson First Nation, British Columbia). The NYC also includes:

**Yukon:** Jessica April-Mazur and Morris Morrison

**Northwest Territories:** Jackson McDermitt and Shayla Snowshoe

**British Columbia:** Justin Peters and Taylor Behn-Tsakoza

**Alberta:** Daynin (Roman) Buffalo and Khianna Ribboleg

**Saskatchewan:** Rollin Baldhead and Darian Lonechild

**Manitoba:** Ashley Daniels and Carson Robinson

**Ontario:** Connor Martin and Jayse Mandamin

**Quebec and Labrador:** Jemmy Echaquan, Cedric Gray-Lehoux, Jean-Sebastien Vollant and Daisy Bellefleur

**New Brunswick and PEI:** Rosalie Labillois Wysote and Trevor Augustine

**Nova Scotia and Newfoundland:** Billie Julian and Kashya Young

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 2SLBTQQIA peoples; and
- Updates to the process of decision-making and quorum.

### Key Activities and Accomplishments

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



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### **AFN Secretariat and Executive Committee**

The NYC continues to participate in and advise various Chiefs' Committees, working groups and forums coordinated by the AFN Secretariat.

### **AFN Delegation to the Vatican: Papal Apology**

The NYC co-chairs participated in the AFN delegation of First Nations leadership and Indian Residential Institution Survivors who gathered with Pope Francis in Vatican City, Italy, on March 31, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to seek justice for genocide in Catholic-run Residential Institutions and request that an apology be delivered in Canada.

The NYC Co-Chairs' remarks focused on the themes of healing, reconciliation, and future relationships. NYC Co-Chair Rosalie LaBilloy reinforced that all governments and church entities must fully cooperate and work in full partnership with all First Nations to achieve reconciliation, and that reconciliation is a multi-generational journey that involves all Canadians and all aspects of society.

The AFN delegation was pleased by the outcome of its meeting with the Pope and received confirmation that the Pope will travel to Canada later this year to extend this apology to all Nations across Turtle Island. The NYC has emphasized the importance of the work that must happen upon their return. They intend to coordinate a youth forum on healing, resiliency, and

reconciliation to discuss what healing, resiliency, and reconciliation looks like from youth perspectives.

### **Strategic Plan 2020-2022**

Every two years, the NYC updates their strategic plan which guides their focus and work. With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, the NYC will meet in July 2022 at the AGA to revisit and refocus the strategic plan for 2022-2024. The strategic plan for 2020-2022 identifies the following priority areas:

- **Increase AFN-NYC Network:** The NYC seeks to increase its network through the expansion of geographical and demographic engagement and outreach to other national youth councils to amplify Indigenous youth voices.
- **Strengthen Online Presence:** The NYC seeks to strengthen its reputation and visibility by engaging online and increasing their online presence.
- **Capacity & Team building:** The NYC prioritizes increasing capacity among council members through professional development activities to ensure they are effectively performing their duties, alongside planning for the future of incoming NYC members.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Education:** The NYC will focus on information sharing and provide Indigenous youth with the tools and resources necessary to increase their knowledge and engagement on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and the Act.

## Council Reports



- **Quarterly Meetings & Internal Priorities:**

The NYC continues to establish collaborative mechanisms to address developing issues and priorities through meetings and communication; this includes updating the NYC Terms of Reference, electing new co-chairs and executive members annually, and assigning portfolios.

### **COVID-19 & Post Pandemic Recovery**

The NYC has identified that mental wellness must be a top priority for the upcoming NYC strategic plan. Throughout 2021-2022, members of the NYC have participated in an AFN public service announcement video that focused on the important role that First Nations youth play in keeping communities safe from COVID-19 and promoting mental wellness.

*Youth Vaccine Uptake:* Members of the NYC remain engaged in an Indigenous Services Canada-led Sub-Working Group on Youth Vaccine Uptake. The purpose of this group is to bring youth together to discuss outreach to youth and barriers to vaccination and how to address them.

### **NYC Support for Other Youth Initiatives**

The NYC supports and promotes collaboration with various youth groups within and external to AFN. Since the AFN Carriers of Hope youth event on First Nations education in March 2021, the NYC has amplified their work and communications products on social media by sharing with First Nations youth in the regions. The British Columbia (BC) NYC youth representatives are in the process of developing a youth orientation guidebook with BCAFN which will be shared with the NYC for learning.

### **Culturally Relevant Gender Based + Analysis at AFN**

In February 2022, the NYC participated in an AFN engagement session on the creation of a culturally relevant Gender Based Analysis + framework and tools at the AFN. The NYC navigated complex discussions about gender and identity, expressing differing opinions on gender roles and contributing to the engagement session.

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## External Engagements

**Youth Advisory Circle:** Members of the NYC continue to participate in an Indigenous Youth Advisory Circle at Justice Canada to advise and help shape a public awareness campaign to highlight youth perspectives on the UN Declaration.

**State of Youth Report:** On August 11, 2021, the first ever State of Youth Report was released and announced by the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Youth, Bardish Chagger. Leading up to the release, members of the NYC participated in a 13-member youth advisory group to represent the NYC's voice and ensure First Nations youth perspectives were included in the final national report.

**Truth and Reconciliation Week:** On October 1, 2021, members of the NYC delivered a workshop on youth advocacy and empowerment at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's 'Truth and Reconciliation Week' virtual event.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

In the 2022-2023 year, the NYC will continue to:

- Collaborate with the AFN Knowledge Keepers Council, Women's Council, and Veterans Council;
- Revisit priorities listed in the 2020-2022 AFN-NYC Strategic Plan and build a new strategic plan for 2022-2024;
- Identify opportunities for showcasing their experiences participating in the AFN Delegation to the Vatican (e.g., Youth Forum on Healing and Reconciliation);
- Work to maintain a visible and substantial presence within the activities, meetings, and conferences of the AFN Secretariat and its various AFN committees and working groups;
- Support the *AFN Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope* youth advocacy group in amplifying their *Calls to Action on First Nations Education*;
- Collaborate with the AFN Executive Committee on amplifying youth priorities.



## First Nations Veterans of Canada

First Nations Veterans have a long history, having been part of the development of the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB) and eventual transition to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The League of Indians of Canada- one of the first modern First Nations political organizations was formed by returning World War One veterans.

First Nations Veterans were deserving of formal recognition which was confirmed in AFN Resolution 02/2020, *AFN First Nations Veterans Council* during the 2020 AFN Annual General Assembly. The resolution called on AFN to ensure an amendment to the Charter to include the Veterans Council be created to promote the recognition of contributions of First Nation veterans in Canada, educate First Nations about the history of First Nation veterans, and engage in advocacy and information on Veterans' issues.

The AFN First Nations Veterans' Council is comprised of First Nations Veterans, some of whom have fought in international wars and conflicts, including peacetime through peacekeeping missions. Through a united voice they share their concerns and contribute to the planning and development of policies that will positively impact First Nations Veterans, and their families and communities.

The Council meets quarterly alongside other AFN Councils to share common approaches and strategies to best support their individual council objectives.

### **First Nations Veterans Council Membership and Representation**

The Council is supported by the AFN executive through the Regional Chief portfolio holder. Each region is represented by a nominated Veteran that participates in the work of the Council to ensure regional needs are recognized and addressed.

The Council is pleased to welcome the new AFN Executive Portfolio Holder for the council, Northwest Territories Regional Chief Gerald Antoine.

First Nations Veterans' Council Members include: Urban representative, Veteran James Eagle; Yukon representative, Northern Ranger Charles Hume; Manitoba representative, Veteran-Chief Christian Sinclair; Saskatchewan representative, Veteran Emile Highway; Alberta representative, Veteran Henry Raine; New Brunswick/PEI representatives Eldon Bernard & Chief Terry Richardson; Northwest Territories representative, Veteran Tim O'Loan; and AFN Veterans' technician, Larry Whiteduck. The Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia positions are currently vacant. The National Veterans Spokesman for the Council is Veteran and former Chief Percy Joe from the BC Region

### **Strategic Activities and actions**

In January 2021, the Council met with the Federal Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence Macauley to discuss how Veteran Affairs Canada and AFN could work together



## Council Reports



towards the enhancement of services to First Nations Veterans, families, and communities.

During this meeting, the parties worked on the development of a proposed Letter of Understanding to establish four main pillars for discussion.

The four main pillars for discussion and consideration will include the following:

- 1) **The establishment of a record of all First Nations soldiers** and veterans who have fought in all major world conflicts including World War I and II, the Korean War, recent-day conflicts in Afghanistan, and Canada's U.N. Peacekeeping efforts worldwide. The record would also include undocumented First Nations veterans who fought in pre- and post-confederation conflicts on behalf of the Dominion of Canada.
- 2) **Assessment of current outreach activities in place within Veterans Affairs Canada** and the effectiveness of these efforts to ensure they are reaching the intended Veteran recipients, families, and First Nations communities, include and understand the unique needs of post-service trauma, and ensure Veterans and their families are made aware of the current health, housing, and memorial services available.
- 3) **Creation of a resource position within Veterans Affairs Canada** to act as a liaison and Veterans' resource person that will facilitate and help address the needs and

concerns of First Nations soldiers, past and present. This resource person would be designated to work within the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist First Nations Veterans, families, and First Nations communities.

- 4) **Commemoration activities** must ensure First Nations soldiers are included in activities internationally. The First Nations Veterans would propose to undertake a unique pilgrimage and ceremony that would honour fallen soldiers on foreign battlefields.

In December 2021, the First Nations Veterans Council successfully applied for funding through the Veteran and Family Well-being Fund. Funding will support ensuring the four pillars are implemented successfully.

During 2021, the Council hosted seven conference call meetings on updates to the work.

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## Next Steps – Moving Forward

The AFN will continue to support the efforts of the First Nations Veterans Council. The Council will continue to provide input through participation at the Annual General and Special Chiefs Assemblies.

The Council will continue to work and provide guidance to the AFN Executive Committee and AFN staff.

The Council will continue to partner with the Knowledge Keepers, Women's, and Youth Council and will make every effort to help develop and advocate for the betterment of services being offered to First Nations Veterans, families, and communities.

The Council continues to work towards finalization of the Letter of Understanding with Veterans Affairs Canada with a focus on the following for 2022:

1. Planning for the international commemoration ceremonies, which will be held in 2022-2023.
2. First Nations Veterans working sessions to plan key priorities and activities.
3. A review of current outreach activities provided by Veterans Affairs Canada.
4. Research towards establishing national record of First Nation soldiers who enlisted and fought on behalf of Canada.
5. Meetings with Veterans Affairs Canada, the National Veterans Ombudsmen, Dominion Command – The Legion group, Veterans Emergency Transition Services (VETS).



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## CEO Report

# CEO Report



## Janice Ciavaglia *Chief Executive Officer*

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

Welcome to our Annual General Assembly! I am pleased to be seeing many of you face-to-face again after such a long time. For those of you unable to attend in person, I hope this first-ever 'hybrid' format is a sufficient choice, allowing for virtual attendance as a convenient option and inviting everyone to participate.

I remain impressed and grateful to all of you for how well First Nations have met the challenges of the pandemic and for your cooperation and assistance in all our virtual assemblies, policy forums, and meetings during these trying times.

Among many achievements this past year, one that I would like to highlight is the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on child welfare. On December 31, 2021, the AFN, other parties, and the Government of Canada signed a historic AIP that provides a roadmap for negotiations towards two final settlement agreements: one to compensate individuals subjected to discrimination and the other for the reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle. A total of \$40 billion has been allocated by the Government of Canada for the resolution of these two agreements. I am extremely proud of the work done by the AFN on behalf of our children over the past sixteen years since we began the class action lawsuit.

Internally, the operational restructuring of the AFN Secretariat is helping us to work more efficiently and effectively to better meet the mandates you assign through resolutions. Established in our reorganization, the new working groups are already contributing to results. The Budget Working Group, for example, helped us develop a pre-budget submission that contributed to identifying \$11 billion in new spending to support Indigenous priorities in Budget 2022. Our Research and Statistics Working Group is supporting the First Nations Information Governance Centre in its implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy. Our International Working Group has made important contributions to AFN advocacy in several international meetings, and our Rights Working Group is helping guide work toward a National Action Plan for the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Additionally, the new Strategic Policy Integration team is coordinating horizontal policy analysis across the organization, enabling the development of stronger recommendations on policy and program development. The reorganization has also laid the groundwork for a recent strategic planning process in the Secretariat which I expect will help us to become more proactive and less reactive in our advocacy.

## CEO Report

This hybrid AGA builds on the lessons we learned from our virtual meetings the past couple of years and our long experience with in-person assemblies. I am deeply thankful to all those who are working so hard behind the scenes to make this a success, and I hope that this AGA can create a new and effective way of accomplishing our work together.

It is an honour for me to continue serving you, the Chiefs, and First Nations. With your commitment, cooperation, and leadership, we can improve the lives of all First Nations people. I am grateful to carry on my tenure as CEO for such a progressive organization. Together, we will maintain our advocacy efforts to ensure that First Nations' interests, goals, and rights are upheld and respected.

On a personal note, working for you, the Chiefs and First Nations, remains a sense of pride for me. Your commitment, cooperation and leadership are imperative to improving the quality of life for all First Nations.

The AFN is a progressive organization, and I am grateful to continue leading it as CEO, together with you. Our combined efforts of advocacy ensure the interests, goals and rights of First Nations are prioritized, upheld and respected.

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

*Janice Ciavaglia  
Chief Executive Officer*





# CEO Report







## Branch Reports



## Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch

The goal of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch is to increase recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction over infrastructure, fisheries, and economic development, while ensuring First Nations have robust infrastructure in place to allow their economies to thrive. There are three sectors within the Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch: Fisheries, Economic Development, and Infrastructure and Water. All sectors within the Economic Development and Infrastructure Branch strive to empower First Nations' economic capacity to exercise their jurisdiction and deliver better programs and services to their citizens.

### Branches Key Issues and Activities:

#### Fisheries Sector

The Fisheries Sector's work is guided by the AFN's National Fisheries Committee (NFC), co-chaired by Fisheries portfolio holder Regional Chief Joanna Bernard (NB/PEI) and Regional Chief Terry Teegee (BC). The NFC has the following working groups and technical sub-committees that advise on various fisheries-related issues – the National Aquaculture Working Group, Inland Working Group, Oceans Working Group, Oceans Protection Plan Sub-Committee, and the Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group.

### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

#### First Nations in Aquaculture

In June 2016, the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans tabled a report *An Ocean of Opportunities: Aquaculture in Canada*, which recommended the adoption of a comprehensive federal

Aquaculture Act to align federal and provincial regulations on aquaculture operations to ensure First Nations priorities are adequately included. To support First Nations co-development of a new Aquaculture Act reflecting First Nations perspectives, the Fisheries Sector hosted a virtual workshop series from January 2022 to April 2022 to gain an increased understanding of First Nations perspectives, rights, and interests in aquaculture. This work is mandated by AFN Resolution 33/2017, *Aquaculture Legislative and Policy Reviews*.

### Assessment of the Oceans Protection Program

In 2016, the Government of Canada launched the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP), a \$1.5-billion strategy aimed at protecting Canada's coasts and waterways. Through AFN Resolution 52/2018, *First Nations Inclusion in Canada's Oceans Protection Plan*, an OPP subcommittee was created to support and facilitate the exchange of information related to First Nations' experiences, issues and initiatives at national and regional levels related to the OPP. To date, the OPP subcommittee completed phase one of the assessment and has begun the work on phase two. The second phase includes continued evaluation of the OPP design, process, outputs, and the impact of the OPP on First Nations' goals with respect to their communities, marine governance, protection, and ecosystems. Implementation of 2019 Changes to the Fisheries Act

2019 amendments to the Fisheries Act restored lost protections to fish and fish habitats and provide a possible avenue to

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strengthen the role of First Nations in conservation and protection.

Directed by AFN Resolution 04/2018, *First Nations Role in Changes to the Fisheries Act*, the AFN Fisheries Sector continues to work on implementation of the Fisheries Act. Building off workshops and discussions held between February and March 2020, the Assembly of First Nations *Lets Talk Fish Habitat* workshop brought together participants virtually in May and June 2021. Chiefs, technicians, biologists, and other First Nations representatives discussed aspects of the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's proposed regulations, standards, codes of practice, and policies. There are outstanding issues that the DFO is looking to engage in 2022-2023 that have been identified as priority areas for First Nations. This includes prescribed works and waters regulations, death of fish, ecologically significant areas, codes of practice, and a framework for aquatic species at risk.

## CONCLUSION – The Path Ahead/ Moving Forward

The Fisheries Sector will continue work on legislative and regulatory priorities such as the Aquaculture Act and implementation of the Fisheries Act, with a focus on protecting the Inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty rights of the First Nations with respect to fisheries. The AFN Fisheries Sector will continue to collaborate with the Oceans Protection Plan Subcommittee in assessing the Oceans Protection Plan Program by hosting regional engagement sessions to identify successes, gaps, and providing recommendations for areas of improvement.

## SECTOR NAME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The overall objective of the Economic Sector is to ensure that First Nations may freely pursue economic, social, and cultural development, consistent with priorities defined by First Nations and consistent with Articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Economic Sector focuses on policies that promote economic development, trade, resource development, procurement, agriculture, sustainability, connectivity, and other economic policy matters. These areas of work are based on resolutions passed by the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

### Branches Key Issues and Activities:

#### Procurement

First Nations businesses continue to actively contribute to Canada's economy and are poised to be major contributors in the procurement space. According to a Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat report in 2011, First Nations and Indigenous businesses contributed approximately \$974 million in revenue. It is expected that this number will increase over the years as First Nations and Indigenous businesses continue to grow. Federal procurement is currently estimated to generate over \$20 billion per year. Accomplishments 2021-2022:



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In August 2021, the Government of Canada committed to increasing the Indigenous procurement target to 5 per cent of all federal procurement, starting in 2022-23. If the federal government were to meet the 5 per cent procurement target, First Nations and Indigenous business would secure approximately \$1 billion in federal contracts per year.

### Agriculture

Directed by Resolution 47/2016, *First Nations to Access Economic Opportunities Through a First Nations Agriculture Strategy*, the AFN has developed a positive working level relationship Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC). The AFN is working towards developing a comprehensive First Nations agriculture strategy that will inform AAFC on the next agriculture framework and First Nations priorities.

#### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

The Economic Sector completed an agriculture-specific research agenda that is contributing to the development of a First Nations Agriculture Strategy. In 2021-22, the AFN received feedback on a draft framework for a First Nations Agriculture Strategy and intends to present a draft to the Assembly in 2022-23.

### Connectivity

AFN Resolution 19/2020, *Supporting First Nations with Connecting to the Internet*, calls for First Nations specific funding and criteria as part of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED) Universal Broadband Fund (UBF). The resolution also

calls for ISED and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support and work with First Nations for connectivity capacity and access. This resolution provides direction to advocate for appropriate programs, services and investments in First Nations ICT moving forward.

#### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

During 2021-22, the AFN completed several draft policy papers on connectivity. The papers provide analysis and proposals for supporting greater connectivity for First Nations and were developed into several policy products, providing a foundation for future work.

### Natural Resources

The AFN Economic Sector is in ongoing discussion with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to advise on options for how First Nations will be involved in implementation of *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan to Create Jobs and Support People, Communities and the Planet* by obtaining additional information on timing, project proposal and funding processes to secure timely access for First Nations businesses and procurement opportunities.

#### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

During 2021-22, the AFN provided NRCan with advice on enhancing First Nations participation on a number of initiatives including, the *2 Billion Trees commitment*, on future Energy and Mines Ministers Conferences and on the National Benefit Sharing Strategy. This advice will provide a



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foundation for additional work, in particular on the Benefit Sharing Strategy and on Canada's Plan to plant 2 billion trees, in 2022-23.

## Cannabis

The Cannabis Act has legalized and created a framework to regulate the sale, distribution, and taxation of cannabis for recreational use in Canada. At the direction of the First Nations-in-Assembly, the AFN and the Chiefs' Committee on Cannabis are advocating for recognition of First Nations jurisdiction within the overall administration of the Cannabis Act. As directed by AFN Resolution 12/2020, *First Nations Representation in Cannabis Legislation*, the AFN, and the Chiefs' Committee on Cannabis will work towards amendments to the Cannabis Act to allow for First Nations participation in the industry.

## Accomplishments 2021-2022:

During 2021-2022, the AFN advocated for the Government to initiate a three-year review of the Cannabis Act and to ensure First Nations are central to that review. Budget 2022 committed funding for the review, which should commence in 2022-23.

## Trade Relations

The inherent right to trade and trade relations continues to be a priority for First Nations. The AFN's work on trade relations supports First Nations' inherent right to trade and advocates for the development of options to secure greater economic independence for First Nations, as well as the inclusion of *Trade and Indigenous Peoples* chapters in all future trade agreements.

## Accomplishments 2021-2022:

In 2021-2022, Canada concluded an Indigenous Peoples Economic Cooperation and Trade Arrangement with New Zealand, Australia, and Chinese Taipei. The Arrangement advances a concept of Indigenous trade and investment that incorporates concepts of sustainability, inter-relationships between environment and economy and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Arrangement will be jointly implemented by Canada and Indigenous Peoples, starting in 2022-23.

## Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

As the economy reopens, the AFN Economic Sector will continue to build on the foundation of work already completed in the areas of connectivity, agriculture and natural resources.

Work on procurement will focus on monitoring, evaluating and providing constructive proposals to both Government and the private sector to achieve or exceed the target. In 2022-23, this will include work with Indigenous partners to establish supportive institutions, such as a Supply Institute, and to ensure that First Nations jurisdiction over the accreditation of First Nations businesses is recognized and respected.

On international trade, the AFN will continue advocacy for safeguarding the rights of First Nations and expanding market access for First Nations through international trade negotiations, including the potential Canada-United Kingdom market.



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### SECTOR: INFRASTRUCTURE and WATER

#### *Drinking Water*

The AFN Infrastructure and Water 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 the access of safe, clean drinking water and related infrastructure.

#### **Accomplishments 2021-2022:**

First Nations continue to face acute, unsafe drinking water issues, made increasingly important considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted the uncertainty that First Nations continue to face with respect to water. Over the past year, the AFN has continued to advocate for fair and equal access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water for all First Nations.

On October 27, 2021, the AFN Infrastructure and Water Sector successfully hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> second Annual Water Summit with approximately 300 virtual participants to discuss urgent and emerging water issues facing First Nations.

In December, the AFN sent in a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur's Call for Input regarding Indigenous Peoples' access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Through this activity, the AFN continues to advocate and draw international attention to the inadequate access to safe water and sanitation that First Nations experience.

In 2021, The AFN welcomed the joint decision from the Courts to approve the \$8-billion settlement in the national class-action lawsuit related to safe drinking water for First Nations. The terms of the settlement include \$1.5 billion in compensation for individuals deprived of clean drinking water, a legally binding commitment for the federal government to fund the entire costs of ending drinking water advisories, and a commitment to repeal the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* (SDWFNA) by March 2022 and replace it with new legislation in consultation with First Nations by December 2022. The AFN has held numerous sessions for First Nations to learn more information about the class action and will continue to share information regarding the settlement to ensure that all First Nations can access critical information about the claims process.

On February 15-17, 2022, the AFN successfully hosted the fifth Annual Virtual Water Symposium which welcomed over 500 virtual participants, centered around the theme of *Charting a Path to Water Sovereignty*. Topics included Traditional Knowledge approaches to protecting our waters and climate change and health impacts for First Nations.

As of March 31, 2022, the federal government's engagement process to support the repeal of the SDWFNA has been completed and the parliamentary process to repeal the SDWFNA will begin shortly. The repeal and replacement of the SDWFNA has

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been mandated by the First Nations-in-Assembly through several AFN resolutions. The mandate also directs the creation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Safe Drinking Water Legislation for First Nations, which has been tasked with jointly developing a draft framework for the replacement legislation. The JWG is critical to ensuring that First Nations perspectives are included in the new legislation with work to begin in the coming months.

### Infrastructure

The AFN Infrastructure Sector completed Train the Trainer course materials in 2021, which will be used as instruction materials to promote and implement asset management planning on-reserve. The French offering of the course is underway, aimed at promoting Asset Management across Quebec.

The AFN Infrastructure sector successfully held its first ever National Asset

Management Conference in March 2022. The Conference hosted over 200 participants with presentations from professionals in both the First Nations, private and public sectors on the themes of climate resiliency and sustainable asset management.

The AFN Infrastructure sector also completed its final draft of the National Asset Needs Study in 2022, which forecasted infrastructure needs of \$73 billion for First Nations on a national scale for the next 20 years. The study highlighted the consistent infrastructure deficit experienced by First Nations and the capital investments required by the federal government to improve existing infrastructure while also accounting for future population growth.

Finally, the AFN Infrastructure sector has completed its final draft of the First Nations Fire Protection Study, which aims to improve fire protection measures.

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### Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

- Moving forward, the AFN Infrastructure and Water Sector continues to advocate and work with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to ensure that First Nations voices are included every step of the way in the development of legislation to replace the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (SDWFNA)*.
  - o National Legislation Summit (Summer 2022)
  - o National-level Legal Think Tank (Fall 2022)
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Summit (October 27, 2022)
  - o 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Symposium (February 2023)
- Proposed 2023/23 engagement sessions will be nationally coordinated and regionally led, with a renewed focus on the repeal and replacement of the SDWFNA through targeted sessions and will include:
  - o On-going regional engagement sessions on the replacement legislation to supplement the Joint Working Group meetings
  - o Targeted youth engagement sessions (August 2022, January 2023)
  - o Regionally coordinated Chiefs Water Summits (Spring – Summer 2022)
- The Infrastructure Sector will advocate for continued improvements on the levels of service standards and operations and maintenance funding received by First Nations for sustainable asset management and increased access to essential infrastructure services on-reserve.
- The Infrastructure Sector will engage First Nation Fire Chiefs for their input on the draft First Nations Fire Protection Strategy.
- The Infrastructure Sector will build on the National First Nations Asset Needs Study to look at incorporating climate resiliency into new and existing infrastructure and the associated monetary impacts.



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- The Infrastructure Sector is providing input and recommendations into ISC's outdated tendering policy, which will encourage Aboriginal Procurement and minimize the administrative burden experienced by under resourced First Nation contract administrators.
- Furthermore, the AFN continues to advocate to Environment and Climate Change Canada for meaningful First Nations inclusion in any and all discussions regarding the development of the Canada Water Agency, as mandated through recent Resolution 27/2021, *Meaningful Engagement and Involvement in the Co-Development of a Canada Water Agency*.
- Over the next year, the AFN will continue to advocate for and support the creation of First Nations-led policies and solutions related to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water while continuing to work with ISC counterparts to close the infrastructure gap.



## Environment, Lands, & Water Branch

For First Nations, the environment – all lands and waters – are life. Each is inseparable, reflecting our reciprocal and lasting connection to Turtle Island and our specific lands, waters, and territories. The goal of this branch is to advance recognition and support the right to self-determination of First Nations 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.

To do this, we advance the following five interrelated strategic outcomes:

1. Ensure federal legislation and regulation pertaining to environment, lands and water uphold and advances 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 Nation-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.

### Water Sector

The AFN Water Sector is responsible for supporting First Nations' stewardship over inland and marine waters. This work supports the implementation of AFN's wide-ranging mandates and initiatives focused on water stewardship, including asserting jurisdiction over water (title and rights) and advancing conservation initiatives (e.g., protected areas, habitat loss, biodiversity, etc.). As a newly established body in 2021, the Water Sector seeks to support the advancement of First Nations' water stewardship priorities in tandem with the Environment Sector and other related initiatives across the AFN. Working under the guidance of the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACE), the Water Sector works to advance First Nations' water interests. This includes plans to host an inaugural Water Walk in late 2022 to elevate the leadership role of women in water-related activities across Turtle Island.

### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

#### Conservation and Biodiversity:

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) are a vital conservation tool that can empower First Nations' stewardship

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responsibilities over lands and waters. The ACE marine IPCA sub-working group was created in January 2022 to identify priorities, synergies, and issues related to the establishment of IPCAs in marine and coastal areas. Since January 2022, the sub-working group has continued developing a report detailing opportunities and recommendations for overcoming the hurdles preventing the comprehensive establishment of marine IPCAs in Canada. This work will continue to be developed and advanced as we move through the coming fiscal year.

### ***Sustainable Development:***

The Water Sector has persisted in its efforts to advocate for First Nations leadership and participation in implementing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the last year, the Water Sector met with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to advocate for meaningful engagement and inclusion of First Nations. In March 2022, the Sector hosted its first ever virtual forum to discuss First Nations' priorities for sustainable development. With almost 200 participants, the event was a great success, showcasing a diverse array of advocates and speakers.

### ***Nuclear Waste:***

The Water Sector continues to build its understanding of Adaptive Phased Management (APM), the process selected for the long-term storage of nuclear waste in Canada, as a means to support First Nations' information sharing and advocacy relating to nuclear waste. Under this process, the plan is

to store nuclear waste deep underground in Deep Geological Repositories (DGR). Given the inherent risks of nuclear waste, including the potential risks to water, the Sector will continue to advocate for transparency, and meaningful engagement with First Nations as options for nuclear waste storage continue to be explored.

### **Lands Sector**

In this era of decolonization and reconciliation, Canadian law and policy must support the self-determination of First Nations, which has been undermined by colonial policies and practices. Current First Nations mandates reject many existing federal approaches to First Nations lands and seek to support First Nations' self-determination over their lands, territories, and resources.

First Nations have used many diverse ways to exercise self-determination. Some First Nations exert self-determination through statutes, such as the *First Nations Lands Management Act* or legislation specific to their Nation. Others exert self-determination through Historical Treaties, while others seek to negotiate agreements that recognize their territorial integrity and self-determination, such as through a Modern Treaty. Still, other First Nations reject Canada's assertions of sovereignty and simply choose to exercise their own self-determination through their own laws. Finally, many First Nations use a combination of the above approaches to exercise their self-determination.





Canada's policies and processes must recognize and respect the unique priorities and approaches each First Nation chooses to pursue, and AFN mandates seek to support each First Nation regardless of approach. In addition, Canadian policy must directly contribute to the return of lands to First Nations. For too long, the goal of federal policy has been to alienate First Nations from their lands, and the time has come to acknowledge both the harm this has caused and to actively prioritize Land Back.

Working under the guidance of the Chiefs Committee on Lands, Territories and Resources (CCoLTR), the AFN Lands Sector is focused on finding opportunities to support 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.

## *Accomplishments 2021-2022:*

### *Specific Claims*

With assistance from its First Nations technical representatives on the AFN-Canada Joint Technical Working Group on Specific Claims (JTWG), the Lands Sector finalized an AFN Proposal to create a fully independent specific claims centre (Proposal). The Proposal was informed by input from First Nations and Canadian legal experts, the Specific Claims Tribunal, and First Nations experts in research, negotiation, and Indigenous laws.

In May 2021, the AFN publicly released the Proposal for public comment by First Nations. Following a careful review of all comments, the AFN updated and published the Proposal on the AFN website in 2022. The development of the Proposal was a significant achievement that will support and guide ongoing engagement with Canada, which is currently focused on initiating a co-development process to jointly create a fully independent specific claims process.

### *Additions to Reserve*

Minister Miller's 2021 mandate letter commits the Government of Canada to accelerate ongoing work with First Nations to redesign the Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy. The AFN will continue to support the ATR policy and process review through an AFN-Canada Technical Lands table established in 2019. This work remains focused on ensuring the ATR process becomes more timely, efficient, and fair for First Nations and in line with the minimum standards for redress and control articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).

The Federal budget announcement in 2021 included \$43 million over three years for ATR reform. The majority of this funding is being used to address a backlog of approximately 1300 ATR applications. Coupled with Minister Miller's public comments on 'Land Back', the Lands Sector is actively working to drive ATR reform and a continued commitment to address land-related issues with First Nations.



## ***Reserve Creation/Recognition***

While ATR reform is a critical AFN objective, finding new ways to support First Nations seeking to create a reserve or achieve federal recognition was also an ongoing priority in 2021. The Lands Sector successfully advocated for funding to support an analysis of these important issues, resulting in an initial scan of those First Nations seeking to create a reserve or Band, and a preliminary analysis of some of the fundamental issues and impediments to doing so. Additionally, the AFN formed a sub-committee at the AFN-Canada Technical Lands Table to identify and discuss obstacles to the creation of reserves and recognition of First Nations. The Lands Sector will continue to advocate for full First Nations' involvement in the review and re-design of the New Bands/Band Amalgamation Policy being carried out by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Finally, the Lands Sector will advocate for the establishment of a senior-level table to oversee and coordinate efforts to provide justice to First Nations seeking reserves and recognition.

## ***Title and Rights***

The AFN continued to meet with representatives from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNAC) at a joint table. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss reform of the Comprehensive Land Claims (CLCP) and the Inherent Right to Self-Government policies (IRSG) and better understand the various federal processes available to First Nations to address their Section 35 Title and Rights. First Nations have clearly stated through AFN Resolution that they reject both the

CLCP and IRSG, requiring alternative approaches that are consistent with the full recognition of their Inherent Rights, Title and jurisdiction to support self-determination. While the Government of Canada has acknowledged that these policies fall short of Canadian and international law, they have remained substantively unchanged since 1995. As an alternative, Canada identifies the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussion Table process to, theoretically, create space for First Nations and the Government of Canada to jointly develop negotiation mandates based on First Nations priorities. First Nations, however, are limited by the lack of transparency in negotiation guidelines and principles.

While it is important to have access to flexible processes that allow First Nations to determine priorities with the Crown, it is equally important to ensure that the Government of Canada has clear public facing policies and principles guiding its negotiations, and that they be consistent with the Honour of the Crown and the minimum standards established through the UN Declaration. The Lands Sector continues to advocate for transparency in Canada's negotiation policies and oversight of negotiation processes. It is also critical that Canada's approaches create space for all First Nations and do not undermine the Title and Rights of any First Nation in the name of certainty or expediency.

Finally, while access to principled negotiations is important, as is the federal commitment to reform outdated policy, it is equally vital for the Government of Canada to take measures to return lands to First



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Nations. Ultimately, the return of land to First Nations is at the heart of reconciliation between Canadians and First Nations Peoples.

### 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, jurisdiction and the application of First Nations' self-determination and jurisdiction in legislative, policy and program development.

#### *Accomplishments 2021-2022:*

##### *Conservation and Biodiversity:*

The Environment Sector has remained steadfast in its efforts and advocacy to support First Nations leadership in conservation and biodiversity. This has included hosting three regional technical dialogue sessions (West, Central, East) on Species at Risk Conservation in the fiscal year 2021-22. These sessions were built on two national sessions held in the previous fiscal year. In addition, the Environment Sector has remained engaged in the Pathway to Target 1 initiative and has advocated for the appropriate recognition of First Nations contributions towards domestic area-based conservation targets. This will support increased First Nations representation in ongoing governance structures and decision-making processes related to Canada's ambitious conservation agenda (25%

protection of land and waters by 2025 and 30% by 2030).

Caribou represent a significant part of the culture and food systems of many First Nations. As many herds face plummeting populations, the Environment Sector continues to advocate for their protection by participating in the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC), and by working with First Nations to support their leadership in stewardship efforts and initiatives. Among the threats faced by caribou and other ungulate populations are zoonotic diseases, and this year with the Environment Sector's guidance, the NBCKC launched the Chronic Wasting Disease Knowledge Network to support dialogue on caribou health issues. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious degenerative neurological disease fatal to deer, moose, elk, and caribou. The Environment Sector secured funding in the fiscal year 2020-21 to develop a discussion paper highlighting the critical role of First Nations in wildlife health management and communications tools to raise awareness amongst First Nations harvesters of this spreading disease. A sub-working group of the ACE has been established to provide guidance in developing the scope of the discussion paper.

The Environment Sector continues to participate in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as it develops the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This included participation in the Canadian Delegation and collaboration with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity at the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice, the 3rd meeting of the

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Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Environment Sector will continue to participate in upcoming meetings of the CBD, including in the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) anticipated to take place in August/September 2022.

Finally, the Environment Sector is advancing negotiations and related discussions with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on the establishment of a First Nations Federal 'Nature Table.' Having recently received approval from Minister Guilbeault, this joint technical table will provide a forum for collaborative dialogue to inform Canada's broad nature agenda. A draft resolution is expected to be brought to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the July 2022 Annual General Assembly.

### **Climate Action:**

Since the passing of Resolution 05/2019, *Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency*, the Environment Sector has advanced several priorities related to First Nations climate leadership, including hosting the first ever AFN National Climate Gathering (March 3-4, 2020, Whitehorse, YT) and advancing work on the AFN National Climate Strategy. Planning is now underway for the second National Climate Gathering to take place September 27-29, 2022, in Fredericton, NB.

Development of an AFN National Climate Strategy has continued in collaboration with the ACE, discussing new opportunities to advance specific objectives and actions, as well as further developing the First Nations Climate Lens, including through the release

of a new video on the AFN YouTube channel. A National Climate Change Survey was also carried out to help inform the development of AFN's National Climate Strategy.

The Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) has continued to work virtually despite the health pandemic, seeking to advance First Nations' interest in the new federal climate plan, *A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy*, and Canada's related 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, which has a dedicated annex reflecting a perspective from First Nations. The JCCA will also once again publicly release its next Annual Report to the National Chief and Prime Minister, with plans to host this and other JCCA-related information on a new website.

Finally, a delegation, led by Regional Chief PJ Prosper and Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, attended the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Glasgow, in October 2021. This Delegation sought to advance First Nations priorities by driving urgent and transformative climate action. An entire bulletin was released in December 2021 detailing AFN's attendance at COP 26.

### **Environmental Health:**

The Food, Environment, Health, and Nutrition of First Nations Children and Youth (FEHNCY) study was initiated by way of Resolution 04/2019 to address an existing knowledge gap relating to the impact of built, social and natural environments on the nutrition and health of First Nations children and youth. This new study, officially launched in November 2019, is a partnership



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between AFN, Health Canada and four universities (the University of Ottawa, Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and McGill University). A pilot study in Kanesetake is nearing completion, with data being analyzed and interpreted in collaboration with the community. The FEHNCY team worked collaboratively with the Kanesetake leadership to modify study activities and tools in accordance with federal, provincial, and local COVID-19 guidelines. The FEHNCY team has commenced initial outreach and engagement in the Atlantic region and is expected to begin data collection with six Atlantic First Nations in the fall of 2022. Four First Nations in the Atlantic region have expressed interest to participate in the study, while discussions are ongoing with two additional communities.

The Environment Sector has remained engaged in the ongoing review of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), as well as the legislative process related to the newly introduced Bill S-5 (An Act to amend CEPA). Bill S-5 was introduced in the Senate on February 9, 2022, as a step to modernize CEPA. The AFN is expected to appear as a Witness and prepare a written submission relating to Bill S-5.

The AFN Environment Sector, in collaboration with the AFN Water Sector, is engaging the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on nuclear waste management in Canada, including the need to ensure proper First Nations involvement/consultation in decision-making.

### 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:

- Hosting an inaugural Water Walk in the fall of 2022;
- Advocating for the creation of a fully independent specific claims centre based on the minimum standards for redress mechanisms outlined in the UN Declaration; and
- Hosting our 2nd National Climate Gathering on September 27-29, in Fredericton, NB.

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









### Rights, Justice and Governance Branch

Rights, justice and governance are foundational to the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and self determination as well as community wellbeing. The goal of the Rights and Justice Branch is to support the full affirmation and manifestation of First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction. The Branch is supported by three distinct sectors that focus on the areas of Rights, Justice, and Governance. Each of the Sectors are actively engaged in new and ongoing mandates that will produce on-the-ground changes in the areas of First Nations policing, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, First Nations control over Citizenship, Government-to-Government relations, and Emergency Services.

#### Branch Key Issues and Activities:

##### *Rights Sector:*

The Rights Sector focuses on the intersection between First Nations laws and legal orders and government legal and policy systems; the Sector examines and advocates for improvements to the interface of First Nations laws and legal orders as they are 'stood up' and interact with colonial governments in support of First Nations inherent rights. Further, this Sector also supports the work on existing legal and policy interface systems, such as Treaties, Modern Treaties, and the evolving colonial legal constructs that are relevant to First Nations such as the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDRIPA) and its required actions, as well as modification of the Inherent Right to

Self-Government Policy, respect and accountability structures for Canada to respect Treaties as well as issues related to First Nations citizenship, specifically Bill S-3 and the *Descheneaux* decision. The Sector also engages matters related to Rights in the International context as well as 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.

##### *Rights Sector Accomplishments 2021-2022:*

##### *Implementation of the UN Declaration*

Almost every AFN Resolution since 2011 reference Articles of the UN Declaration. In 2019, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 86/2019 – *Support for Federal Legislation to Create a Framework to Implement the UN Declaration*. This resolution directed the AFN to pursue a government UN Declaration implementation bill that was as strong or stronger than Bill C-262, which died on the floor of the Senate in 2019. AFN achieved this objective on June 21, 2021, with the passage and Royal Assent of UNDRIPA. The Chiefs-in-Assembly then passed Resolution 17/2021 – *National Action Plan to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which mandates the AFN to continue to advocate for full and meaningful First Nations participation in all processes of implementing the UN Declaration, particularly the development of the National Action Plan that will be tabled in parliament in 2023 by the Minister of Justice.

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The 2021 federal budget set aside \$31.5 million over two (2) years to support the co-development of UNDRIPA National Action Plan that must be tabled by the Crown. In 2022, AFN continued to advocate for more resources to support First Nations, as rights-holders, in this process. AFN's Pre-Budget Submission from the Rights Sector in 2022 sought \$200 million over five (5) years to support implementation of the UN Declaration; in 2022 Canada budgeted \$68.5 million over 5 years for UNDRIPA implementation, with another \$11 million ongoing for the Department of Justice, as lead Ministry for UNDRIPA, to support First Nations' participation and leadership in the development of the National Action Plan called for in Section 6 of UNDRIPA.

The Rights Sector has created internal alignment structures to amalgamate and deploy the work of all Branches and Sectors that might inform Canada's National Action Plan. The Sector continues to monitor, analyze, and brief the AFN Executive on Canada's National Action Plan status and forthcoming engagements. Throughout 2022-2023 the AFN Rights Sector will support a distinct First Nations engagement process on UNDRIPA and the forthcoming National Action Plan being developed by Canada, while also continuing to analyze and brief the AFN Executive on matters related to Canada's alignment of its laws with the UN Declaration and the Annual Report that the Minister of Justice must deliver to Parliament, both of which are legislative obligations within UNDRIPA. As called for in Resolution 17/202, the Rights Sector will lead the AFN's report and update the Chiefs-in-Assembly at all future National Gatherings.

### *Treaty Commissioner's Office*

Many Resolutions from the Chiefs-in-Assembly call for the need to respect Treaties, both historic and modern. Specifically, Resolution 78/2015 directed the AFN to support Treaty Nations to *Establish a Treaty Commissioner's Office*. In 2021-2022, the AFN Rights Sector advocated for \$86 Million over 5 years to support the creation and maintenance of a National Treaty Commissioner and Commissioner's Office. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Mandate Letter of December 16, 2021, indicates this area of work is a priority of the federal government where it directed Minister Miller to:

- Work with existing and traditional Indigenous governments and leaders, whose nations and forms of governance were suppressed and ignored historically by the federal government, to restore respectful nation-to-nation relations, in the spirit of self-determination, by renewing and updating treaty relationships where they exist, including pre-confederation treaties, and by seeking viable, trusting and respectful relationships where no treaty exists.

In 2020-2021, the AFN advocated and secured funding to support Treaty Nations 1-11 to explore the establishment of a Treaty Commission Office (TCO) with the purpose of enabling each Treaty Nation to provide recommendations, thoughts, and discussion for further direction. The outcome of this Treaty Nation-led work is ongoing development of a refined and informed approach for the eventual creation of a



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Treaty Commission to be modeled according to Treaty Nation direction.

In 2021-2022, the AFN Rights Sector has continued moving forward on the mandate of Resolution 78/2015 and will continue to support

TCO discussions and respect the critical ceremonial protocols necessary for this sacred and distinct work.

**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 Chiefs-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)* in 2017. These issues include the need for new resources to address the increased number of potential new citizens, as well as the need to respect First Nations own inherent authority to identify their citizens and the fact that Canada, as a colonial government, has no right to define who is and is not a First Nations citizen.

With the recent passage of UNDRIPA, the AFN Rights Sector has continually advocated for Canada to formally confirm that its practice of defining 'Indian Status' is not compliant with the UN Declaration and thus UNDRIPA. In 2021-2022, AFN Rights Sector advocated in the AFN Pre-Budget Submission for \$301 Million over 5 years to be immediately deployed to First Nations

Rights Holders to support bringing their people home as a result of Bill S-3.

First Nations women led the advocacy that forced Canada to confront the gender-based discrimination inherent in the Indian Act leading to the creation of Bill S-3. The AFN Rights Sector continued to advocate in support of First Nations impacted by S-3 throughout 2021-2022 and is currently in the process of deploying helpful media guides to inform individuals who may qualify for Indian Status as well as an OCAP principles compliant online tool to assess and link interested individuals to the appropriate processes with Canada to regain their Indian Status, should they want it. The Rights Sector also continues to remind Canada that the very definition of 'Indian Status' is severely problematic, and our own inherent laws and legal orders must be respected when defining 'citizenship' and membership in First Nations.

The AFN will continue to engage with First Nations and provide information and briefings, as requested by First Nations, on First Nations citizenship issues. In 2022-2023, along with expert First Nations support, the Rights Sector will develop discussion papers to bring awareness to this longstanding issue and its generational impacts and to discuss some of the implications, particularly as it relates to new and better funding structures that respect our inherent jurisdiction.

Resolutions regarding First Nations citizenship and registration have mandated the AFN's work in this area, such as Resolutions 36/2015 Indian Status Application Process, 53/2015 *The Right of*



*First Nations to Determine their individual and Collective identities, 59/2016 First Nations Citizenship, 71/2016 Ducheneaux Decision: First Nation jurisdiction on Citizenship and Identity, and 30/2017 Inherent Authority to Define Citizenship.*

## Justice Sector:

This Sector supports First Nations interests to assert jurisdiction in justice-related systems, including policing, restorative justice, prevention and harm reduction strategies 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 systematic change as contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls *Calls for Justice*.

## Justice Sector Accomplishments 2021-2022:

### Social Justice

The most recent mandates of the AFN have come through Resolution 07/2020 – *Calls for Reform to Address Institutional Racism in the Justice system*, in which the AFN advocates for increased funding for Gladue reports, enhanced training for Gladue writers, and the implementation of Gladue principles across Canada's justice system. In addition, Resolution 2020/06 – *Support for Advocacy on Systemic Racism in Canada*, directs the AFN to urge federal and provincial governments to take concrete steps to prevent, combat and eradicate systemic racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance in many of Canada's institutions, including the criminal justice system.

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 has advocated for the development of a National Indigenous Justice Strategy to address discrimination and the overrepresentation of First Nations Peoples in the justice system, to which the federal government positively responded to in January 2021 through its supplementary mandate letters. The Justice Sector is focused on advocating for reform to the criminal justice system as well as support for the establishment of First Nations-led, and culturally-appropriate alternatives to the existing justice system.

### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

The work of implementing the National Inquiry's *Calls for Justice* is crucial to recognizing and upholding the human rights of First Nations women, girls, and two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQQIA+) people.

On June 3, 2021, the AFN and AFN Women's Council released the report, *Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice: An Action Plan to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people* ("First Nations Action Plan"). The First Nations Action Plan was developed using a regional engagement strategy to incorporate perspectives from First Nations survivors and families, ensuring that a "families first" and trauma-informed approaches were used.



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The First Nations Action Plan highlights three (3) national frameworks that survivors and families have 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 for Prevention Services
- Framework for Healing Ourselves and Our Nations

Also on June 3, 2021, the Core Working Group released the National Action Plan to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (“National Action Plan”). Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada led a parallel process by establishing a Core Working Group to develop the National Action Plan, which links to the First Nations Action Plan in a complimentary way. In 2021, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 08/2021, providing the mandate for AFN to secure funding to support carrying out activities to implement the National Action Plan to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The AFN Women’s Council recently completed the last round of regional engagement and are working on updating the First Nations Action Plan to reflect the additional insights from the regions that completed their engagement after June 3, 2021. The work of implementing this framework is ongoing and this framework will need to be updated on a regular basis as an evergreen reflection of what is needed to end violence against First Nations women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

### *First Nations Policing*

In 2020, Statistics Canada announced their commitment to gather data on Indigenous and ethno-cultural groups in police-reported crime statistics on victims and accused persons. This was a welcomed announcement as it reflected one of the recommendations made by the AFN to the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).

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 was welcomed and reflected the long-term advocacy efforts of First Nations to replace the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP). During the 2021 AFN Annual General Assembly, the Chiefs-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.

Following the federal government’s announcement of the co-development of a First Nations Policing legislative framework, the AFN has begun carrying out national and regional engagements to develop a set of options that would inform the drafting and implementation of the First Nations policing legislative framework. The AFN has established the First Nations Policing Taskforce (FNPT) comprised of experts in First Nations Policing, regional representatives, and executive members of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association.

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The mandate of the FNPT is to provide support and guidance for the co-development of First Nations Policing as an essential services legislation.

On April 6, 2022, the AFN Justice Sector hosted a second National Forum on First Nations Policing which included invited panelists and participants to discuss First Nations Policing as an essential service and provide an opportunity for First Nations persons First Nations leaders, First Nations police officers and experts, among others to consider options in the development of a legislative framework for First Nations Policing as an essential service. The First Nations Policing forum saw greater than anticipated numbers of participants who provided a significant amount of positive feedback in terms of evolving First Nations policing as an essential service to better meet the needs of First Nations and First Nations police services.

## Governance Sector:

The Governance Sector supports First Nations as they move towards reconstituting their Nations and rebuilding their governing systems. This work will be achieved by supporting First Nations in the development of their institutional and administrative processes. Emergency Services is an ongoing example of where First Nations jurisdiction is exercised through First Nations-led decision making and planning processes, which continues to expand and is fostered within this Sector.

## Governance Sector Activities 2021-2022:

### Emergency Services Unit

The AFN Emergency Services Unit advocates in support of First Nations for the provision of emergency services, the development of culturally appropriate emergency management regimes, and access to adequate and appropriate funding. The work of the Emergency Services Unit is mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly through various resolutions that include Resolution 03/2015 – *First Nation Involvement in Emergency Preparedness*; Resolution 83/ 2019 – *First Nations Control of Emergency Management*; and Resolution 84/ 2019 – *Call for Emergency Operations Management Planning in First Nations*.

The AFN, in conjunction with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), maintains the monitoring and notification, and sharing of seasonal and cyclical hazard information of ongoing or developing emergency events and evacuations of First Nations.

### Project Charter for Fire Risk and Evacuation Capabilities in Isolated Communities

This project will inform the FireSmart Canada initiative due to the unique challenges Indigenous communities face in reducing risk to wildland fire that have not been properly addressed. Including First Nations considerations is an important development for community safety. The AFN became a signatory to the project in October 2021.



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### ***Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs project with ISC***

The AFN co-developed this steering committee and has been leading this project to examine and capture the issues and challenges experienced by First Nations in accessing and acquiring flood insurance products, and to discuss relocation possibilities.

### ***Transport Canada – Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) General Policy Advisory Council***

The AFN has advocated that First Nations must be part of the discussion when it comes to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods on or near First Nations. The AFN participates to address TDG and its potential impact on 114 identified First Nations with grade level rail crossing in their communities, and on or near their territories possibly elevating risk levels for contaminants in the environment surrounding First Nations.

### ***Public Safety Canada's National Risk Profile***

The AFN participated in the exercises for the first stage of this initiative which was focused primarily on floods, wildfires and earthquakes. Concern and applicability throughout the exercises highlighted First Nations impacts from these hazards.

### ***Indigenous Wildland Fire Management Engagement Session***

The AFN has participated in Natural Resources Canada's Indigenous Wildland Fire Management Engagement Session. This initiative notes Indigenous people are

particularly vulnerable and that sixty percent of First Nations lie within or intersect the wildland-urban interface. This dialogue invited Indigenous voices to be heard and ensure Indigenous perspectives are included.

### ***Relationship Protocol with the Canadian Red Cross***

In the spirit of cooperation, respect, partnership, and the understanding and application of the UN Declaration, the AFN works with the Canadian Red Cross to support life and well-being for First Nations. This relationship protocol started on November 2019.

### ***Transport Canada Ministers Responsible for Highway Safety and Transportation Meeting with National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs)***

The AFN has participated in the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers' meeting with NIOs. The goal of the meeting was to foster relationships between ministers and national Indigenous leaders to discuss mutual priorities and interests in the transportation sector and build on meetings held in previous years.

### ***Disaster Resilience and Security of the National Adaptation Strategy of Canada***

The AFN participated in this strategy outlining how the economy and society can be more resilient and prepared for the impacts of climate change, and its applicability to First Nations.



## ***Establishment of a First Nations Governance and Fiscal Policy Co-development Table/Working Group***

Activity is focused on advocating for the co-development of necessary policy and legislative frameworks, institutional and administrative capacity supports, government-to-government relationships, and sustainable funding arrangements to enable First Nations' effective management of their own affairs. Members include the Assembly of First Nations, AFOA Canada, the First Nations Financial Management Board, and ISC through its teams in the Transfer Payment Advisory Services (Chief and Finances Results and Delivery Officer), New Fiscal Relationship (Strategic Policy and Partnerships), Governance Capacity (Regional Operations) and, for regional perspective, their delegated Regional Director General.

## ***Repeal of the Default Management Policy***

Multiple calls to replace the Default Prevention and Management Policy (DPMP) have led to dialogue on its repeal and replacement with a much more narrowly focused policy that ensures Canada is maintaining its fiduciary duty, while supporting capacity development for First Nations. This work is underway.

## ***New Fiscal Relationship Grant***

Based on Resolution 66/2017, the AFN and Canada co-developed the New Fiscal Relationship Grant (also known as the 10-year grant), a funding mechanism designed to offer First Nations an alternative and improved method for the receipt of

federal funding. First established in 2019-2020, 117 First Nations are now using this mechanism with several more joining this fiscal year. The AFN is pleased to confirm that an escalator matching population growth and inflation is now part of all 10-year grant funding and Band Council Resolutions now can be used to pass financial administration laws. Attention will move to expanding eligibility criteria to other First Nations entities and the scope of program funding that can be included in the grant.

In addition, the AFN is engaged with ISC Regional Operations concerning increasing governance funding, a crucial element in advancing other solutions under the new fiscal relationship and supporting First Nations self-determination.

The work on the new fiscal relationship is pursuant to Resolutions 66/2017 and 24/2019 and continues to pursue objectives set out in these reports:

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



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## Social Branch

The aim of the Social Branch is to advance the overall vision, mission, and strategic outcomes of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) by focusing on social programs delivered by First Nations governments to their citizens or by the Government of Canada to First Nations. The Branch aims to increase recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over these issues while improving the quality of program and service delivery.

The Branch is composed of four sectors and a special COVID Task Team, each mandated by their own set of resolutions. These sectors are Health; Languages and Learning; Housing and Homelessness; and Social Development.

### Branches Key Issues and Activities:

#### Health Sector:

The AFN Health Sector is mandated to protect, maintain, promote, support and advocate for First Nations inherent, Treaty, and international legal rights towards ensuring the (w)holistic health and well-being of First Nations. This is achieved through policy analysis, communications, and, most importantly, advocacy on behalf of, and in support of First Nations communities and individuals.

In 2021/2022, the AFN Health Sector continued to advocate for a long-term vision of First Nations control of First Nations health systems with sustainable and adequate investments that result in better health outcomes. The health sector also supported the efforts of the AFN COVID-19 Task Force in its advocacy efforts.

### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

#### Chiefs Committee on Health & First Nations Health Technicians Network

The Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) and the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) have been in existence, pursuant to resolutions passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly, since the mid-1990s. The CCOH has 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*. During the process, the CCOH and the NFNHTN also revised their respective Terms of Reference. Ratification was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, engagement activities with CCOH members and Health Technicians has increased, and the CCOH will continue to be a key contributor to the work of the AFN Health Sector.

#### Non-Insured Health Benefits

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program is consistently identified as an irritant for First Nations and a high priority area for AFN advocacy and transformation.

While the pandemic had stalled some progress, the AFN looks forward to re-engaging the AFN-FNIHB NIHB Joint Review called for in AFN Resolution 56/2012. The established objectives of the Joint Review are to enhance client access to benefits, identify and address gaps in benefits, streamline service delivery to be more responsive to client needs, and increase program efficiencies. The AFN also continues to advocate for the National Navigators

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Network to create a supportive network that allows for the sharing of best practices to aid the Navigators in helping clients' access NIHB services.

## *Mental Wellness*

The AFN Mental Wellness Committee (MWC) was established in April 2010 and guides this work with technical expertise and knowledge of the national, regional and community level issues.

This year, work with the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework Implementation Team has focused on developing orientation materials to ensure broader access to the Continuum. Regarding Life Promotion/Suicide Prevention, work is entering its 2nd of 3 phases with First Nations partners focusing on calls for a national strategy. Work on substance misuse will focus on updating and implementing the Honouring Our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations Peoples in Canada. Work is in progress to identify ways to call for the permanency of the Indian Residential Schools supports that focuses the mandates for Resolution 24/2021. A discussion paper will be released to coincide with Orange Shirt Day (Sept 30, 2022).

## *Seven Generations Continuum Of Care*

The Seven Generations Continuum of Care Virtual Forum was held in May 2022, bringing together health experts and leaders, traditional knowledge keepers and human rights activists to explore the realities and potentials of health, social and economic wellbeing for First Nations people's as they age and as their care needs change. This will

initiate a national conversation and push the model in all areas of health and wellness and identify a path forward for the AFN's advocacy work in this area.

## *Food security*

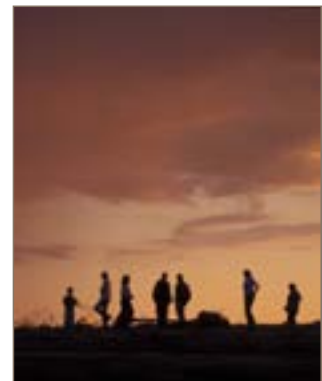
The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the inadequate food systems and lack of food security in First Nations communities. AFN continues to prepare and share communications materials pertaining to the advancement on issues of food insecurity and food sovereignty and seeks funding opportunities for First Nations. We are prioritizing increased advocacy for a First Nations School Nutrition Program, as promised in the Liberal Budget of 2019.

## *Public Health*

The Health sector contributed to Canada's Chief Public Health Officer 2021 Report, on the necessity to have a culturally grounded public health focus that will follow a natural continuum of care that is based on the cycle of life, from pre-pregnancy to death that weaves in our medicines and teachings. The Health sector also worked with other national Indigenous organizations and Tuberculosis medical experts to pen a chapter in the 2022 Canadian Tuberculosis Standards. The publication serves as a healthcare resource for TB prevention, control and care in Canada with seven recommendations to improve cultural safety in TB care.

## *Health legislation*

AFN's goal is to support First Nations to participate in dialogue with the federal government on the potential co-



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development of Indigenous distinctions-based health legislation. AFN continues to advocate for funding from the federal government for First Nations-led dialogues. National advocacy includes biweekly meetings between the federal government and discussions with the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) and the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN). AFN is preparing an executive summary of a discussion guide on health legislation to help inform First Nations communities and organizations, who have been asking for further analysis to be produced by the AFN.

### *Accessibility/Disabilities*

AFN Resolution #98/2017, directs the AFN to work with Employment Social Development Canada to develop distinct First Nations accessibility laws resulting from the introduction of Bill C-81 and the Accessible Canada Act (Act). First Nations will be subject to the Act in 2024.

On February 3-10, 2022, the AFN had virtual dialogues with First Nations to consider legal options to develop A Distinct First Nations Accessibility Law. The AFN will be sharing a discussion guide during dialogues at the AFN Annual General Assembly. First Nations are concerned that they will be subject to the Accessible Canada Act in 2024, and that no funding has been allocated by the federal government to aid First Nations in becoming accessible. The AFN is advocating to the federal government for further engagement resources and to extend the current timeline of 2024 for the Act's implementation.

### *The AFN COVID-19 National Task Force*

The AFN Covid-19 Task Force was established in June 2020 by Resolution 03/20 as a national forum to ensure First Nations realities are incorporated into federal and regional pandemic discussions and decisions, and to assume a national communications role for updated pandemic information.

The Task Force was co-chaired by the Health and Emergency Management portfolio holders on the AFN Executive. The Task Force secured federal funding that was distributed to AFN Regional Offices, enabling regional capacity to participate in provincial/territorial tables, sustain communications about pandemic developments, support vaccine distribution and uptake, administer and circulate PPE, and support Emergency Management at the regional level. In recognition of the diversity of regional needs and the need to support regional capacity to allow them to respond and support their First Nations, the AFN submitted three proposals to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to secure funding to support the AFN regional offices

### **Accomplishments 2021-2022:**

The AFN Covid-19 Task Force developed two national papers:

- Discussion Paper: using a rights-based approach anchored in the social determinants of First Nations health to expose gaps and identify opportunities for action on health inequities.
- Data Position Paper: the COVID-19 trajectory detected significant gaps in Canada's health surveillance systems to



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the detriment of First Nations' health and rights and recommends the means to reinforce First Nations data sovereignty.

The AFN hosted the Covid-19 Virtual Forum in September 2021, bringing together regional and national health care practitioners, leadership, emergency management experts, Youth and Elders. The virtual forum offered tangible examples of pandemic challenges and resilience, along with innovation in community-based interventions.

The Task Force's work will soon move towards the recovery phase of the pandemic, with a look back at lessons learned through an evaluation of the AFN pandemic response, with the results shared with First Nations to identify measures for potential future pandemics are planned with greater insight and opportunities for innovation are recognized. This work will focus on health, social and economic development recovery.

### *Housing & Homelessness Sector:*

The Housing and Homelessness Sector advocates for improved community well-being by implementing housing and homelessness political mandates and initiatives. The Sector strives to secure broad recognition and respect for First Nations

housing and homelessness rights and jurisdiction. The housing and homelessness team works to reform policies and programs, and advocates for the investments First Nations require to address housing and homelessness priorities and to establish systems aimed at providing services to their citizens no matter where they live. Housing initiatives are derived and implemented from the National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy, mandated by Chiefs-in-Assembly through resolution 16-2018. The Strategy provides the framework for First Nations to assume jurisdiction over housing and related infrastructure. This past year, the AFN highlighted the need for significant investments to bring First Nations housing to a standard at least equal to, and hopefully better than, that enjoyed by most Canadians. Advocacy will be pursued through the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI), Chiefs, and all First Nations partners to not only fully secure federal acceptance of First Nations control of housing but also to obtain the investments required to close the housing gap. Homelessness initiatives focus on co-development work with Infrastructure Canada through a Joint Technical Working Group to establish a First Nations distinctions-based funding stream under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness

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Strategy. Once launched, this funding stream will represent the first federal homelessness funding program developed for First Nations, in response to First Nations needs and priorities.

### **Housing Accomplishments 2021-2022:**

- Completed a “Cost Analysis of Current Housing Gaps and Future Housing Needs in First Nations” report with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD) to support advocacy for housing investments required to close the housing gap.
- Displayed a need for \$60B to meet future needs including population and migration and \$44B to meet current housing needs and close the housing gap.
- Advocated for much needed and deserved housing investments that led to the 2022 Federal Budget allocation of \$2.4B for First Nations housing, the largest investment seen.
- Continued collaboration on the Joint Working Group, including representatives from housing Technicians, Indigenous Services Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Infrastructure Canada, on developing approaches toward First Nations care and control of housing.
- Supported the Dene Nation in their efforts in working towards care and control of housing and in meeting the unique housing needs and priorities of their First Nations. Dene Nation successfully completed a literature review, environmental scan, and other initiatives to understand motivations and barriers to Dene housing.
- Continued the implementation of the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy with a focus on assessing First Nations housing skills and capacity needs and research on housing governance models, including:
  - o Completed a skills and capacity environmental scan to examine, document and analyze the factors and conditions of the landscape surrounding First Nations on-reserve housing-related expertise across Canada.
  - o Conducted a skills and capacity roundtable of experts to bring together knowledge and experience in the First Nations housing capacity and skills field. Experts represented all regions of the country as well as key organizations and government entities; they raised questions, generated and shared insights on both the administration/management and technical aspects of housing skills.
- Hosted a virtual 5th National First Nations Housing Forum and Tradeshow, which was attended by Canada’s Federal Housing Advocate, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, and Minister of Indigenous Services, and which welcomed 327 registrants and 28 presenters.
- Proceeded to work toward a Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) that will see transformational change to Federal First Nations Housing Policy.

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### Homelessness Accomplishments 2021-2022:

- Hosted the AFN's first National First Nations Homelessness Symposium virtually. The symposium greeted 443 participants and presenters, including homelessness service providers, government representatives, and First Nations individuals with lived experience.
- Commissioned and completed three research projects to better understand First Nations homelessness and ways to improve systems addressing homelessness, including: a systematic literature review; an environmental scan; and a systems map of existing programs and services. Final reports from these projects will be shared on AFN's website.
- Completed a national survey to seek input on the development of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan. This includes responses from First Nations citizens, First Nations leadership and staff, and service providers working to address First Nations homelessness. The survey received over 140 responses from a wide range of participants, including several responses from community members with lived experience.
- Completed 13 regional engagement sessions and a national session to seek input from First Nations leadership and technicians, along with other participants identified by regional representatives, on the development of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan. Two engagement sessions were also held with a focus on how issues related to homelessness impact women,

2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, and other community members with diverse identities.

- Compiled research and engagement conducted to-date to inform the upcoming development of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan in alignment with Resolution 79-2019. A draft action plan will be brought to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for input and approval.



### Languages & Learning Sector:

The Languages and Learning Sector is responsible for K-12 education, post-secondary education, education infrastructure, language revitalization, and labour market training. Advocacy efforts include the revitalization of First Nations languages through the full implementation of the federal Indigenous Languages Act, advocacy for predictable, sustainable, and equitable funding for First Nations elementary and secondary education, and the inherent and Treaty right to post-secondary education, and advocacy on First Nation jurisdiction for human resource development matters and the First Nations Labour Market.

The Languages and Learning Sector is supported by the Chiefs Committee on Education, the Chiefs Committee on Languages, and the Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development.

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## Accomplishments 2021-2022:

### K-12 Education

Budget 2021 saw an investment of \$726 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$181.8 million ongoing to refine elements of the K-12 interim funding formula and support First Nations control of First Nations education by concluding more Regional Education Agreements. To date, 8 Regional Education Agreements have been finalized with over 70 in development. The NIEC and CCOE have been working to reform supplementary targeted programs guided by Resolution 20/2021 First Nations Control of Federal Funding in Education. Through the advocacy efforts of the NIEC and CCOE and program review, the Education Partnership Program will see an additional \$25 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal bringing the total pot of available funding to \$65 million.

### Post-Secondary Education (PSE)

The Assembly of First Nations Post-Secondary Education Forum: First Nations-led Local, Regional and Treaty-based Models took place on September 28 and 29, 2020, where approximately 70 delegates gathered virtually. Through this forum post-secondary education technicians, coordinators, directors, and representatives from First Nations provided valued input to the creation of the PSE Policy Proposal. In December 2021, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 21/2021, 2021 Post-Secondary Education Policy Proposal on First Nations Models. The 2021 PSE Policy Proposal (v12) was co-developed

between the National Indian Education Council, the Chiefs Committee on Education, the AFN, and Indigenous Services Canada and seeks cabinet authority to allow First Nations to negotiate, conclude, and implement their own First Nations-led local, regional and inherent/Treaty rights-based PSE models that may include:

- Student supports
- Community-based support students
- First Nations Institutions
- First Nations community-based program supports
- Administration, governance, and leadership capacity

It is anticipated that the 2021 PSE Policy Proposal will be annexed to a Memorandum to Cabinet set to move forward in Spring 2022. A supplementary budget ask will be required.

### Education Infrastructure

In February 2022, the co-developed School Space Accommodation Standards (SSAS) were announced. Policy changes to the SSAS may include additional space for language and culture, knowledge keeper and counselling spaces, increased space for libraries, and classroom size recommendations.

First Nations Engineering Services Ltd. was contracted to provide a 20-year capital needs assessment for First Nations schools and teacherages. It was determined by the report that the overall capital costs required for schools is \$11.1 billion and \$1.5 billion for teacherages over a 20-year period.



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Additionally, the AFN *First Nations Education Infrastructure O & M Needs Assessment, 2022* concluded that First Nations only receive 34%-64% of their operation and maintenance needs. Annually, First Nations will require an additional \$442.5 million in O & M for schools and teacherages to address the short fall in this area.

In response to these numbers, budget advocacy continues to be a top priority for education infrastructure.

### *First Nations Languages*

In January-February 2022, the Languages and Learning Sector engaged with First Nations across Canada on the development of a new First Nations Languages Funding Model (Funding Model). The engagement session discussions focused on the vision, funding components, and on measurement and data. The aim of the Funding Model is to: (1) unlock Budget 2019 funding for First Nations languages and, (2) improve funding mechanisms to support the Indigenous Languages Act (ILA) objective of providing adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for Indigenous languages. The Funding Model also increases First Nations involvement in

decision-making processes. It is proposed that the Funding Model be subject to review to ensure ongoing improvements may be made to ensure First Nations' full jurisdiction over traditional languages.

The First Nations Languages Forum took place on March 2-3, 2022, to update First Nations on progress in the implementation of the ILA and discuss priorities for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). Along with keynotes, presentations focused on: the Costing Analysis, the draft Funding Model, a draft First Nations Languages Revitalization Strategy, and planning for the IDIL.

Further, the appointment of the first Commissioner and three Directors of Indigenous Languages was announced on June 14, 2021; Ronald E. Ignace, Commissioner, and Directors Joan Greyeyes, Georgina Liberty, and Robert Watt. The Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages is still working on internal planning and the Sector seeking greater clarity on their role in supporting the full implementation the ILA.

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## Human Resource Development

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impact on the workforce and on the operations and functions of the First Nations Labour Market Agreement holders. In the November 2020 Fall Economic Statement, the federal government announced \$144.2

million for the ISET Program. It will be important to continue to support the needs of the First Nations labour market and to monitor the impacts of the pandemic. The AFN continues to seek the guidance of the CCHRD and the advice of the First Nations Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Resources Development and the Sub-TWG. The AFN will continue to work with ESDC to identify joint areas of policy collaboration and seek audience with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion.

### The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year the Languages and Learning Sector will focus on:

- Education Forum, August 2022, Toronto, Ontario
- First Nations Action Plan on the International Decade on Indigenous Languages
- K-12 First Nations Languages Funding Gaps
- Securing authorities for First Nations PSE models
- Inclusive education reform
- Post-pandemic recovery and inflation for the First Nations Labour Market

## Social Development Sector:

The Social Development Sector is responsible for advocacy pertaining to First Nations control and jurisdiction over social development programs and policies across the life course. The Social Development Sector advocates for First Nations control, jurisdiction and sufficient resourcing as the foundation for holistic, sustainable, inclusive and culturally-based systemic reform, as directed by First Nations.

Priority areas in the Social Development Sector include: advocating for a First Nations vision for First Nations Child and Family Services Program reform; ensuring the full and proper implementation of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*; advancing a First Nations vision for the long-term implementation of Jordan's Principle; advocating for First Nations self-determination over Early Learning and Child Care; advancing First Nations priorities for reform of the Income Assistance program; and ensuring a First Nations lens on poverty reduction.

### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

#### First Nations Child and Family Services & Jordan's Principle

##### Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

The National Advisory Committee (NAC) on First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program Reform has convened regularly to provide advice on the AFN's advocacy at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) and FNCFS Program reform. The NAC is mandated to provide advice on the design and implementation of reforms to the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle

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through AFN Resolution 62/2016, *Full and Proper Implementation of the historic Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decisions in the provision of child welfare services and Jordan's Principle*.

In June 2021, the AFN stood up for the CHRT's Compensation Order (2019 CHRT 39) in Federal Court, alongside the other Parties to the CHRT complaint, and the Compensation Order was ultimately upheld. The Government of Canada sought a further review of the compensation order; however, this was put on hold while the Parties negotiated the matters of compensation and long-term reform.

In November 2021, pursuant to the AFN's advocacy, the CHRT issued an order on capital (2021 CHRT 41), ordering Canada to fund the actual costs of the purchase and construction of capital assets that support delivery of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, including for small agencies. The AFN continues to monitor Canada's progress on funding projects under this order and advocate for a streamlined process for First Nations to access funding.

### *AFN Class Action on Long-Term Reform and Compensation*

Following decades of First Nations advocacy at the CHRT and months of intensive negotiations to settle a Class Action lawsuit filed by the AFN, on December 31, 2021, the AFN, the Government of Canada and other Parties signed two Agreements-in-Principle (AIPs) on compensation and long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. The AIPs provide a framework to reach a final settlement agreement to end discrimination in the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle and compensate survivors of Canada's discrimination. The settlement package includes a total of \$20 billion to

compensate First Nations children and caregivers impacted by the federal government's discrimination in the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, along with \$19.807 billion over five years to reform the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle to end the discriminatory aspects of these programs and ensure that such discrimination does not recur.

The AIPs also outline several immediate measures to implement critical reforms to alleviate discrimination under the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle, which took effect on April 1, 2022. These reforms include new investments in prevention at \$2,500 per capita, the provision of post-majority care services up to and including age 25 for youth aging out of the FNCFS Program, funding for First Nations Representatives to support children and families involved with the FNCFS Program, and assessing the resources required to support First Nations youth with high needs who are aging out of Jordan's Principle eligibility to connect with the supports they need. In addition, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will fund research to test a First Nations-led funding framework for FNCFS and to examine Jordan's Principle data to identify gaps. Following advocacy by the AFN, the CHRT affirmed these immediate measures in an order released on March 24, 2022 (2022 CHRT 8). The NAC established several sub-working groups to support the implementation of these immediate measures.

The AFN successfully advocated for the AIP to include a commitment from Canada that First Nations exercising jurisdiction under *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Act) will not receive less funding than if they had chosen to remain under the reformed FNCFS Program. Enhancements to the FNCFS



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Program will be available to First Nations exercising jurisdiction over FNCFS, including investments in prevention and post-majority supports, and enhancements to capital funding pursuant to the CHRT's order on capital. The AFN continues to monitor the implementation of these commitments and advocate for First Nations self-determination over FNCFS.

### *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*

In September 2021, the provincial government of Quebec challenged the Act in the Quebec Court of Appeal, arguing it was unconstitutional for the federal government to disrupt provincial authority over public services. The AFN intervened in the challenge, arguing that First Nations have always had the right to self-government based on the sovereignty outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution. While the Quebec Court of Appeal upheld most of this rationale in its February 2022 decision, it struck sections 21 and 22.3 of the Act, which give First Nations laws the force of Federal law. The federal government has appealed the decision at the Supreme Court of Canada; the provinces of New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia will be intervenors in the case. Provincial and territorial governments have posed further challenges to the implementation of the Act by refusing to take part in Coordination Agreement Discussions. The AFN continues to advocate for the full cooperation of the provinces and territories in the implementation of the Act.

The AFN continues its advocacy on implementation of the Act through the Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Indigenous Technicians-level Working Group, which addresses issues such as the creation of a repository of for notice of significant measures in accordance with the Act. Further advocacy, including development of a long-term fiscal framework for implementation of the Act, regulations, and statutory funding principles, continues through regular bilateral discussions with ISC.

### *Early Learning and Child Care*

The Speech from the Throne in Fall 2021 reiterated the Government of Canada's commitment to establishing a Canada-wide system of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), and the AFN has continued to advocate for First Nations' direct involvement in this process. Budget 2021 proposed to invest over \$2.5 billion over five years in Indigenous ELCC, including investments in governance and capacity, infrastructure, workforce development and flexible care. The AFN has continued to advocate for First Nations determination over these funds through the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on First Nations ELCC.

Budget 2021 also included a commitment to table federal ELCC legislation to "enshrine the principles of a Canada-wide child care system in law." The AFN was requested to provide input into the principles of this legislation; however, the AFN wrote to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development noting the need for a



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comprehensive engagement process led by First Nations, and to consult directly with First Nations due to the direct impact that the proposed legislation would have on First Nations children.

### *Income Assistance*

In Spring 2021, ISC committed to co-developing policy options to reform the On-Reserve Income Assistance (IA) Program with the AFN and the Technical Working Group on Social Development (TWGSD) in preparation for a Fall 2022 Cabinet renewal. The TWGSD met several times over the past year to provide advice for this process and is preparing to present policy recommendations to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for validation at the July 2022 AFN Annual General Assembly. The key themes for reform identified by the TWGSD include improving rates, expanding and enhancing case management and pre-employment supports, wrap around supports, and incorporating traditional knowledge and governance. In January 2022, the AFN contracted INDsight Consulting to conduct a study on the gaps in data and services and the IA Program, pursuant to AFN Resolution 89/2019. This work is underway and is expected to be complete by Fall 2022.

The TWGSD was established by AFN Resolution 28/2018, *Support for the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Social Development*, to advise ISC on social development programs and services reform. The AFN was also mandated by AFN Resolution 89/2019, *Continuing First Nations Income Assistance Program Reform*, which directs the AFN to advocate for continued reform of the IA Program as well as access to

the Case Management and Pre-Employment Supports for all First Nations.

### *Poverty Reduction*

AFN Resolution 98/2019, *Poverty Reduction for All First Nations in Canada*, directed the AFN to support the TWGSD to pursue a study on First Nations-specific indicators of poverty. This study will examine First Nations concepts and definitions of poverty, the current data on poverty among First Nations, and identify key indicators and measures of First Nations poverty. In 2021, the AFN contracted the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy to lead this work with the AFN, the TWGSD and in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada, which is expected to be complete by March 31, 2023.

In December 2021, Bills C-223 and S-233, *An Act to develop a national framework for guaranteed livable basic income*, were introduced to call on the Minister of Finance to conduct a study to develop a national framework for the implementation of a guaranteed basic livable income. The AFN continues to monitor the progress of these Bills and analyze how they would impact First Nations.



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### Conclusion - The Path Ahead / Looking Forward:

- The AFN continues to advocate for First Nations children and families at the negotiations table towards a Final Settlement Agreement on long-term reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle to end Canada's discriminatory practices and policies, and for the full and proper implementation of the Act.
- The AFN will continue to advocate for First Nations to be properly consulted on federal ELCC legislation and for First Nations control over ELCC, and will advance work on a First Nations-determined funding methodology for ELCC.
- The AFN will continue to advocate for reform of the IA Program and for extended and expanded access to Case Management and Pre-Employment Supports. The AFN is also planning to host its annual National Forum on Income Assistance virtually in mid-2022, focused on reform.
- The AFN will also continue to oversee critical research in the areas of FNCFS Program reform, Jordan's Principle, Income Assistance and Poverty Reduction.

The Social Branch will focus on achieving outcomes in 2022-2023 which follow up on First Nations-in-Assembly mandates, as well as:

Advocate in support of First Nations' inherent and Treaty rights, legislation, policies, and programs related to Health, Languages and Learning, Housing and Homelessness, and Social Development. Seek out engagement with First Nations to improve on policies and programs that support First Nations' jurisdictions, priorities, and objectives for Health; Languages and Learning; Housing and Homelessness; and Social Development.; and Advocate to participate in and inform processes, such as parliamentary studies or joint working groups at officials' levels, that include activity to arrive at legislation, new investments, and better policies and programs for First Nations Health, Languages and Learning, Housing and Homelessness, and Social Development.

## Legal Affairs

The AFN is mandated to promote respect for and implementation of First Nations' inherent and Aboriginal rights, Treaty rights and title, while also supporting the exercise of fundamental human rights and civil liberties. To achieve this, the AFN Legal Affairs Sector carries out two essential functions. First, the Sector provides legal advice and support to all areas of the AFN to ensure that the organizations' activities are conducted in accordance with the AFN Charter, governing policies and relevant jurisprudence. Secondly, the Legal Affairs Sector supports broader legal change through legal activism and litigation. AFN's legal advocacy is most applicable in the context of court litigation, which is usually the last resort when it comes to addressing needed political and policy changes.

### Accomplishments 2021-2022:

#### 1. Child Welfare Reform

On December 31, 2021, the AFN has reached a \$19.807 billion settlement with Canada over the systemic underfunding of child welfare services. An Agreement-in-Principle was signed to implement the agreed to reforms. A suite of reforms is being negotiated whereby Canada will now fund prevention services, legal, information technology, major capital infrastructure, remoteness, emergencies, and other services across Canada. The agreement calls for a national baseline of funding for services that will apply across Canada. Additional funding will be available in the future to implement a reformed Jordan's Principle regime, which the parties have yet to negotiate.

#### 2. Court Interventions

The Legal Affairs Sector is involved in a number of court actions that are of national interest to First Nations. Litigation is an effective tool in which the AFN seeks to advance the rights, benefits and exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights of First Nations. In addition, the AFN participates in litigation where legal issues are of broad public concern. This year the AFN was able to successfully advance First Nations rights in three major cases: *Restoule v. Canada (Attorney General)*, *Quebec's constitutional reference on An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*, and *R. v. Desautel*.

On November 5, 2021, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the trial judge's decision in the *Restoule* case. The Court confirmed that the Robinson Treaties are revenue sharing agreements and the Crown must share the wealth of the Treaty territory with First Nation Treaty partners. The annuities paid under the Treaty have been set at \$4 since 1875. The Court held that the Crown is required to increase the annuities in a generous way consistent with the Honour of the Crown and responsive to the needs of Anishinaabe communities.

On February 10, 2022, the Quebec Court of Appeal issued its decision on Quebec's constitutional reference on *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. The court upheld First Nations' inherent right to self-government, specifically in reference to their jurisdiction over child and family services as being



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affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. The AFN argued that First Nations are 'Nations' and have always maintained a form of self-government flowing from original sovereignty. The Court agreed and held that the central purpose of s. 35 is to effect reconciliation and preserve a constitutional space for Aboriginal Peoples so as to allow them to live as peoples, with their own identities, cultures, and values.

The Supreme Court of Canada issued its decision in *R. v. Desautel* on April 23, 2021. The court held that Indigenous groups outside of modern-day Canada enjoy s. 35 rights where they can prove they descended from a pre-contact society in what is now Canada. The decision has broad implications. There are dozens of other Indigenous nations who occupy traditional territories on both sides of what is now the international border.

### *3. Compensation for Child Welfare and Jordan's Principle Discrimination*

The AFN was the only party to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) proceedings in the child welfare discrimination case to seek compensation to be directly paid to children and their parents. The CHRT ordered Canada to pay \$40,000 in compensation to victims of Canada's discrimination. Canada sought a judicial review of the compensation award. On September 29, 2021, the Federal Court of Canada dismissed an application for a judicial review. The Court noted that Canada had not demonstrated that the CHRT's compensation award was unreasonable. Canada is now appealing this decision. However, the appeal has been placed in abeyance to enable settlement discussions to proceed. On December 31,

2021, Canada and the AFN signed an Agreement-in-Principle to settle litigation on compensation. Canada has agreed to pay \$20 billion in compensation to victims of its discrimination. The AFN, Moushoom class counsel and Canada are currently working on a final settlement agreement that will set out the framework for the payment of compensation.

### **Next Steps:**

The Legal Affairs Sector will continue to pursue positive changes to legislative, policy and common law principles that reflect reconciliation, the entrenchment of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the inherent rights of First Nations. Our litigation advocacy in child welfare has resulted in substantive new investments in the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle. It has also led to legislation affirming First Nations jurisdiction on child welfare. The AFN Legal Sector will continue to explore new opportunities that lead to real change in other areas.





# Financial Statements of the National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2022

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# Financial statements of National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2022

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# 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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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.

The image shows a handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Deloitte LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants  
July 6, 2022

# National Indian Brotherhood

## Statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2022

	Schedules	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Indigenous Services Canada	A	26,499,945	23,748,077
Health Canada	A	5,171,667	5,160,982
Employment and Social Development Canada	B	1,191,542	1,029,929
Public Health Agency of Canada	B	—	1,010,628
Canadian Heritage	B	834,639	923,789
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	B	619,528	621,586
Environment and Climate Change Canada	B	271,416	477,635
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	B	460,386	142,086
Parks Canada	B	161,786	156,974
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	B	388,419	149,653
University of Ottawa	B	96,800	96,800
Canadian Internet Registration Authority	B	33,622	60,378
Natural Resources Canada	B	30,645	54,550
Status of Women Canada	B	—	52,358
Transport Canada	B	55,654	28,175
Public Safety Canada	B	2,364,859	—
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	B	67,995	—
Other departments	B	953,951	550,701
		<b>39,202,854</b>	<b>34,264,301</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising, promotion and publications		275,291	397,612
Amortization of capital assets		149,543	160,214
Insurance		41,826	27,815
Bad Debt		—	18,974
Miscellaneous		65,993	27,041
Office expenses		905,698	717,499
Professional fees		14,732,051	8,130,512
Regional service delivery		3,299,758	6,037,320
Rent		1,409,468	1,416,669
Salaries and benefits		15,504,255	13,452,473
Travel and meetings		1,145,197	1,151,955
	A and B	<b>37,529,080</b>	<b>31,538,084</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>		<b>1,673,774</b>	<b>2,726,217</b>

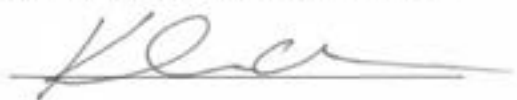
The accompanying notes and supporting schedules are an integral part of the financial statements

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Statement of financial position**  
As at March 31, 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current assets			
Cash		<b>40,687,110</b>	28,994,410
Grants and contributions receivable	4	<b>6,739,988</b>	2,041,931
Other accounts receivable		<b>236,376</b>	106,481
Sales tax recoverable		<b>1,231,492</b>	555,026
Inventory		<b>—</b>	193,433
Prepaid expenses		<b>380,122</b>	232,495
		<b>49,275,088</b>	32,123,776
Asset held in trust	3	<b>16,163</b>	16,041
Prepaid expenses		<b>316,814</b>	353,903
Capital assets	5	<b>241,759</b>	370,913
		<b>49,849,824</b>	32,864,633
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		<b>9,193,843</b>	4,518,449
Government remittances payable		<b>13,615</b>	108,649
Deferred contributions	6	<b>33,545,372</b>	22,814,437
Excess contributions	7	<b>948,657</b>	948,657
		<b>43,701,487</b>	28,390,192
Liability held in trust	3	<b>16,163</b>	16,041
		<b>43,717,650</b>	28,406,233
Contingencies and commitments			
8 and 9			
<b>Net assets</b>			
Invested in capital assets		<b>241,759</b>	370,913
Internally restricted		<b>5,800,000</b>	4,000,000
Unrestricted		<b>90,415</b>	87,487
		<b>6,132,174</b>	4,458,400
		<b>49,849,824</b>	32,864,633

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

On behalf of the Executive Committee



Regional Chief Kluane Adamek



Regional Chief Paul Prosper

## National Indian Brotherhood

### Statement of changes in net assets

Year ended March 31, 2022

	Notes	Invested in capital assets	Internally restricted	Unrestricted deficiency general operations	2022 Total	2021 Total
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>		<b>370,913</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>87,487</b>	<b>4,458,400</b>	<b>1,732,183</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses		—	—	1,673,774	1,673,774	2,726,217
Internal transfer	16	—	1,800,000	(1,800,000)	—	—
Acquisition of capital assets		37,917	—	(37,917)	—	—
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets		(17,528)	—	17,528	—	—
Amortization of capital assets		(149,543)	—	149,543	—	—
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		<b>241,759</b>	<b>5,800,000</b>	<b>90,415</b>	<b>6,132,174</b>	<b>4,458,400</b>

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, 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Excess of revenue over expenses		<b>1,673,774</b>	2,726,217
Items not affecting cash			
Amortization of capital assets		<b>149,543</b>	160,214
		<b>1,823,317</b>	2,886,431
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items	10	<b>9,889,772</b>	13,013,877
		<b>11,713,089</b>	15,900,308
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Decrease in due from Trust Fund		—	67,760
Acquisition of capital assets		<b>(37,917)</b>	(23,580)
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets		<b>17,528</b>	—
		<b>(20,389)</b>	44,180
Net increase in cash		<b>11,692,700</b>	15,944,488
Cash, beginning of year		<b>28,994,410</b>	13,049,922
<b>Cash, end of year</b>		<b>40,687,110</b>	28,994,410

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.

### *Adoption of the amendments to Section 3856, Financial Instruments, for financial instruments originated or exchanged in a related party transaction*

Effective April 1, 2021, the Corporation has adopted the amendments to Handbook Section 3856, Financial Instruments ("Section 3856") related to the recognition of financial instruments originated or exchanged in a related party transaction, referred to herein as the "related party financial instruments amendments".

## **2. Accounting policies (continued)**

### *Adoption of the amendments to Section 3856, Financial Instruments, for financial instruments originated or exchanged in a related party transaction (continued)*

These amendments to Section 3856 establish new guidance for determining the measurement of a related party financial instrument. The related party financial instruments amendments require that such a financial instrument be initially measured at cost, which is determined based on whether the instrument has repayment terms. If the instrument has repayment terms, the cost is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any reduction for impairment. Otherwise, the cost is determined using the consideration transferred or received by the Corporation in the transaction. Subsequent measurement is based on how the instrument was initially measured.

The Corporation has applied the related party financial instruments amendments in accordance with the transition provisions of Section 3856. The amendments should be applied retrospectively. When related party financial instruments exist at the date these amendments are applied for the first time, the cost of an instrument that has repayment terms is determined using its undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period, i.e. April 1, 2020. The cost of an instrument that does not have repayment terms is deemed to be its carrying amount in the Corporation's financial statements, less any impairment, as at the same date. The fair value of an instrument that is an investment in shares quoted in an active market is determined as at the same date.

When related party financial instruments do not exist at the date these amendments are applied for the first time, transition relief was provided such that the related party financial instruments do not need to be restated as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period.

The adoption of these amendments had no material impact on the amounts recognized in the Corporation's financial statements or disclosures.

### *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.

## **2. Accounting policies (continued)**

### *Financial instruments (continued)*

#### *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

#### *Excess contributions*

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

#### *Allocation of expenses*

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

#### *Use of estimates*

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and the accompanying notes. In the opinion of management, these financial statements reflect, within reasonable limits of materiality, all adjustments necessary to present fairly the results for the years presented. Assumptions are used in estimating the collectability of grants and contributions receivable, other accounts receivable, the amount of inventory reserves, 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 \$16,163 (\$16,041 in 2021) 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:

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Indigenous Services Canada	<b>4,175,512</b>	456,214
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<b>638,128</b>	762,899
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	<b>489,157</b>	149,653
Public Health Agency of Canada	<b>245,794</b>	53,968
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<b>225,000</b>	4,300
Status of Women Canada	<b>—</b>	334,990
Natural Resources Canada	<b>199,950</b>	154,550
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	<b>224,391</b>	—
Employment and Social Development Canada	<b>168,935</b>	28,557
Transport Canada	<b>131,000</b>	—
Parks Canada	<b>124,000</b>	—
Heritage Canada	<b>118,121</b>	—
University of Ottawa	<b>—</b>	96,800
	<b>6,739,988</b>	2,041,931

### 5. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2022 Net book value	2021 Net book value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	236,769	214,469	22,300	73,011
Office equipment	376,134	354,358	21,776	85,738
Leasehold improvements	453,847	256,164	197,683	212,164
	1,066,750	824,991	241,759	370,913

### 6. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance, beginning of year	<b>22,814,437</b>	8,560,383
Revenue received during the year	<b>49,933,789</b>	48,518,355
Revenue recognized during the year	<b>(39,202,854)</b>	(34,264,301)
Balance, end of year	<b>33,545,372</b>	22,814,437

## 6. Deferred contributions (continued)

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

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Indigenous Services Canada	<b>26,904,491</b>	17,140,574
Employment and Social Development Canada	<b>3,502,387</b>	2,503,868
Heritage Canada	<b>711,416</b>	1,427,934
Public Health Agency of Canada	<b>563,960</b>	—
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	<b>327,473</b>	305,879
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<b>233,552</b>	124,968
Gordon and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The	<b>220,594</b>	—
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	<b>205,793</b>	—
Status of Women Canada	<b>195,142</b>	195,142
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	<b>176,288</b>	—
Veteran Affairs Canada	<b>150,000</b>	—
Women and Gender Equality Canada	<b>114,167</b>	—
Natural Resources Canada	<b>69,305</b>	—
Transport Canada	<b>75,346</b>	—
Parks Canada	<b>70,240</b>	43,026
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<b>18,600</b>	—
Health Canada	<b>6,618</b>	—
Canadian Internet Registration Authority	—	33,607
Public Safety Canada	—	1,039,439
	<b>33,545,372</b>	<b>22,814,437</b>

## 7. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Indigenous Services Canada	<b>841,773</b>	841,773
Public Safety Canada	<b>106,884</b>	106,884
	<b>948,657</b>	<b>948,657</b>

## 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.

## 9. Commitments

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments under operating leases for office space and equipment maturing in 2025, for which minimum annual payments for each year are as follows:

	\$
2023	1,406,846
2024	308,788
2025	67,660
	<u>1,783,294</u>

## 10. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Grants and contributions receivable	<b>(4,698,057)</b>	1,683,779
Other accounts receivable	<b>(129,895)</b>	320,789
Sales tax recoverable	<b>(676,466)</b>	255,686
Inventory	<b>193,433</b>	(22,127)
Prepaid expenses	<b>(110,538)</b>	9,758
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>4,675,394</b>	(3,461,227)
Government remittances payable	<b>(95,034)</b>	(100,506)
Deferred contributions	<b>10,730,935</b>	14,254,054
Excess contributions	—	73,671
	<b><u>9,889,772</u></b>	<b><u>13,013,877</u></b>

## 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*

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets	<b><u>250,153,889</u></b>	<b><u>238,627,624</u></b>
Liabilities	<b><u>1,695,654</u></b>	<b><u>1,334,649</u></b>
Fund balances	<b><u>248,458,235</u></b>	<b><u>237,292,975</u></b>
	<b><u>250,153,889</u></b>	<b><u>238,627,624</u></b>

## 11. Controlled entity (continued)

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	24,790,161	54,691,213
Expenses	13,624,901	10,722,522
Excess of revenue over expenses	11,165,260	43,968,691

### *Summarized statement of cash flows*

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating activities	98,579	17,290,040
Investing activities	(299,401)	(18,264,566)
Net decrease in cash	(200,822)	(974,526)
Cash, beginning of year	928,582	1,903,108
Cash, end of year	727,760	928,582

As at March 31, 2022, the balance due from the Trust Fund was \$31,870 (nil in 2021).

For the year ended March 31, 2022, the Corporation received \$17,464 (\$50,492 in 2021) from the Trust Fund for services relating to the administration and management of the Trust Fund and \$65,624 for the rental of office space (\$63,605 in 2021). The Trust Fund entered into a new rental agreement with the corporation for shared office space in Akwesasne until 2024. The total annual cost of the rental space is \$11,212 per annum.

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 \$851,571 (\$817,423 in 2021).

## 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 2021).



## **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, 2022, an amount of \$1,800,000 was internally restricted (\$2,800,000 in 2021) for the above mentioned purposes.

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada**

	Basic Organizational Capacity	Core Like	Additional Funding 20%	Additions to Reserve / Specific Claims	Steering Committee on FN Home Flood Insurance Risks	IFCS Phase 3 / Reform of the FNCFS Program	Home Flood - Risk Insurance for the First Nations Initiative	Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Phase 3
<b>Revenue</b>								
Contributions/grants	5,545,726	3,500,000	1,109,145	390,152	2,278	246,715	132,602	285,365
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	—	—	—	—	2,000,181	140,000	—
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5,545,726	3,500,000	1,109,145	390,152	2,278	2,246,896	272,602	285,365
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising, promotion and publications	98,258	—	2,148	1,493	—	648	—	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	—	204,263	35,557	—
Amortization of capital assets	2,751	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	8,850	—	—	386	—	240	—	—
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	12,240	—	2,312	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	214,816	5,990	54,252	16,859	—	7,305	464	2,603
Professional fees	297,760	—	215,151	46,363	—	1,906,110	236,581	281,470
Regional service delivery	—	3,340,820	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	348,081	—	—	12,933	—	7,903	—	—
Salaries and benefits	4,234,611	143,449	136,418	311,067	2,278	81,795	—	—
Travel and meetings	328,359	9,741	670,176	1,051	—	38,632	—	1,292
	5,545,726	3,500,000	1,109,145	390,152	2,278	2,246,896	272,602	285,365
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule A - Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)**

	O&M, Housing and Infrastructure Project	National FN Skills & Capacity Project	FN Education Mgmt and Capacity Development	Implementation on NAP to End Violence	FN Capacity Engagement in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change	Implementing the AFN-Canada MOU on Joint Priorities	UNDRIP National Action Plan Year 1	National Treaty Commissioner's Office
<b>Revenue</b>								
Contributions/grants	1,187,886	112,821	1,562,603	228,023	1,274,707	3,000,000	730,561	151,414
Contributions/grants - prior years	2,563,457	—	483,538	520,376	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,751,343	112,821	2,046,141	748,399	1,274,707	3,000,000	730,561	151,414
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising, promotion and publications	14,480	—	42,611	1,319	33	30,045	2,833	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	201	—	—
Insurance	2,918	—	2,902	431	2,305	6,911	1,066	—
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	76,473	11,583	87,481	9,088	22,153	125,968	14,276	1,414
Professional fees	2,569,601	101,238	751,077	503,338	886,397	603,889	252,650	150,000
Regional service delivery	—	—	(3,000)	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	95,969	—	85,583	14,255	42,197	266,467	35,368	—
Salaries and benefits	971,655	—	1,062,585	203,918	280,501	1,887,830	423,881	—
Travel and meetings	17,747	—	16,902	16,050	41,041	78,689	487	—
	3,751,343	112,821	2,046,141	748,399	1,274,707	3,000,000	730,561	151,414
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)**

	Economic Development	New Fiscal Relationship	Comprehensive Claims	Social Development Work Plan	Full & Proper Implementation of Jordan's Principle	Funding to host a National gathering on FNCFS	Bill C-92, Act Respecting FN, Metis & Inuit Children	Analyzing FNCFS Funding Agency Needs Project
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>								
Contributions/grants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	127,154	52,549	144,315	482,105	186,848	21,775	232,722	18,512
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	127,154	52,549	144,315	482,105	186,848	21,775	232,722	18,512
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising, promotion and publications	2,063	491	3,159	5,323	—	—	648	—
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	3,941	—	55,023	822	—	10,825	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	135	762	2,033	—	—	240	—
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	1,922	1,372	19,394	20,903	5,734	5,000	8,471	—
Professional fees	—	—	6,935	62,612	—	1,750	—	18,512
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	—	4,577	21,532	60,448	—	—	7,903	—
Salaries and benefits	122,924	42,033	77,313	275,168	179,079	—	205,099	—
Travel and meetings	245	—	15,220	595	1,213	15,025	(464)	—
	127,154	52,549	144,315	482,105	186,848	21,775	232,722	18,512
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule A – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (continued)**

	FN Economic Recovery	AFN Emergency Services Project	Indigenous Resilience Stand Alone Report	Health Block Contribution Funding	Health Supplementary Health Benefits	Health IRS RHSP	Health Compensation Help Desk	Health Emergency Services Project	2022 Total	2021 Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>										
Contributions/grants	—	—	—	4,442,080	101,377	16,276	406,242	205,692	24,631,665	25,258,989
Contributions/grants - prior years	59,925	1,547	4,943	—	—	—	—	—	7,039,947	3,650,070
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	59,925	1,547	4,943	4,442,080	101,377	16,276	406,242	205,692	31,671,612	28,909,059
<b>Expenses</b>										
Advertising, promotion and publications	132	81	—	15,865	842	45	2,135	919	225,571	305,030
Allocation of administrative expenses	—	186	—	283,449	9,216	909	33,364	4,377	642,012	1,220,051
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	8,652	—	—	—	—	11,604	10,442
Insurance	31	—	—	3,665	319	—	799	337	34,330	20,705
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,052	—
Office expenses	1,856	779	—	73,791	1,645	78	4,750	2,534	798,954	879,819
Professional fees	—	—	5,050	2,892,726	—	14,944	—	—	11,804,154	6,736,445
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	(50,000)	—	—	—	—	3,316,508	6,063,793
Rent	5,083	—	—	121,380	10,352	—	26,548	11,052	1,177,631	1,174,090
Salaries and benefits	52,823	—	—	1,079,800	79,003	—	338,646	186,473	12,378,349	11,356,519
Travel and meetings	—	501	(107)	12,752	—	300	—	—	1,265,447	1,143,493
	59,925	1,547	4,943	4,442,080	101,377	16,276	406,242	205,692	31,671,612	28,910,387
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,328)

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule B - Other funding agencies**

	Agriculture Canada - FN Agricultural Strategy	Canadian Internet Registration Authority	Fisheries and Oceans Canada - AAROM	Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Code and Pay Equity and Poverty Reduction	Employment and Social Development Canada - Labour Market Information	Employment and Social Development Canada - FN Government, Citizens and Accessibility Legislation	Employment and Social Development Canada - Homelessness	Employment and Social Development Canada - 2030 Agenda & Sustainable Development
<b>Revenue</b>								
Contributions/grants	339,504	—	619,528	224,426	—	—	—	—
Contributions/grants - prior years	—	33,622	—	—	78,851	187,171	513,044	188,050
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	48,915	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>388,419</b>	<b>33,622</b>	<b>619,528</b>	<b>224,426</b>	<b>78,851</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>513,044</b>	<b>188,050</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising, promotion and publications	—	—	5,138	108	913	1,134	976	268
Allocation of administrative expenses	33,950	6,477	29,402	—	—	—	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	—	190	1,687	25	—	287	338	78
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	—	1,297	21,926	3,124	52	16,146	26,599	14,569
Professional fees	—	—	—	128,143	77,886	29,270	238,515	57,020
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	8,850	—	36,567	902	—	9,503	11,325	9,516
Salaries and benefits	345,619	25,658	526,838	92,124	—	129,706	201,370	106,118
Travel and meetings	—	—	(2,030)	—	—	1,125	33,921	564
	<b>388,419</b>	<b>33,622</b>	<b>619,528</b>	<b>224,426</b>	<b>78,851</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>513,044</b>	<b>188,133</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(83)</b>

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule B – Other funding agencies**

	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Transforming Species at Risk Conservation	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Supporting Capacity of National Indigenous Organization to Engage in Conservation	Environment and Climate Change Canada - JCCA Website	Environment and Climate Change Canada - Participation in the National Steering Committee	Environment and Climate Change Canada - AFN Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group	Heritage Canada	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada - Policy and Guidance	Natural Resources Canada - Indigenous Engagement Strategy
<b>Revenue</b>								
Contributions/grants	120,804	23,443	12,171	—	—	—	67,995	30,645
Contributions/grants - prior years	45,597	—	—	38,560	30,841	834,639	—	—
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Registration fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade show fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	166,401	23,443	12,171	38,560	30,841	834,639	67,995	30,645
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising, promotion and publications	261	22	26	107	80	18,975	154	65
Allocation of administrative expenses	14,604	—	—	—	2,854	107,445	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insurance	76	16	8	31	23	1,427	44	15
Bad debt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	2,908	93	37	148	653	64,486	213	1,001
Professional fees	79,993	—	—	—	—	208,994	—	—
Regional service delivery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	2,537	2,158	257	1,034	777	47,275	1,491	541
Salaries and benefits	75,541	21,154	11,843	37,240	26,763	374,988	66,093	28,535
Travel and meetings	(9,519)	—	—	—	(309)	11,049	—	488
	166,401	23,443	12,171	38,560	30,841	834,639	67,995	30,645
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**National Indian Brotherhood**  
**Schedules - Statement of operations**  
Year ended March 31, 2022

**Schedule B – Other funding agencies**

	Nuclear Waste Management Organization - Foster Positive Dialogue		Parks Canada		Public Safety Canada - First Nation and Inuit Policing Program		Transport Canada		University of Ottawa - First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study		Other		2022 Total	2021 Total
	\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>														
Contributions/grants	154,507	118,760		664,726	55,654	96,800	—	—	2,528,963	4,398,052				
Contributions/grants - prior years	305,879	43,026		1,700,133	—	—	—	—	3,999,413	481,489				
Miscellaneous Revenue	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	914,911	386,306				
Registration fees	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	27,790	89,395				
Trade show fees	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	11,250	11,250				
	460,386	161,786		2,364,859	55,654	96,800	—	—	953,951	7,531,242			5,355,242	
<b>Expenses</b>														
Advertising, promotion and publications	792	3,273		2,796	—	4,440	—	—	10,192	49,720			92,582	
Allocation of administrative expenses	48,206	14,799		110,423	7,259	8,800	—	—	(1,026,231)	(642,012)			(1,220,051)	
Amortization of capital assets	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	137,939	137,939			149,772	
Insurance	263	74		897	—	87	—	—	1,930	7,496			7,110	
Bad debt	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—			27,041	
Miscellaneous	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	48,941	48,941			18,974	
Office expenses	11,143	8,470		24,556	—	4,561	—	—	(95,238)	106,744			(162,320)	
Professional fees	80,005	6,436		1,826,114	48,395	2,000	—	—	145,126	2,927,897			1,394,067	
Regional service delivery	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	(16,750)	(16,750)			(26,473)	
Rent	8,584	32,119		29,779	—	5,452	—	—	23,170	231,837			242,579	
Salaries and benefits	310,905	94,566		363,446	—	71,460	—	—	215,939	3,125,906			2,095,954	
Travel and meetings	488	2,049		7,638	—	—	—	—	(165,704)	(120,250)			8,462	
	460,386	161,786		2,365,639	55,654	96,800	—	—	(720,686)	5,857,468			2,627,697	
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	—	—		(780)	—	—	—	—	1,674,637	1,673,774			2,727,545	





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