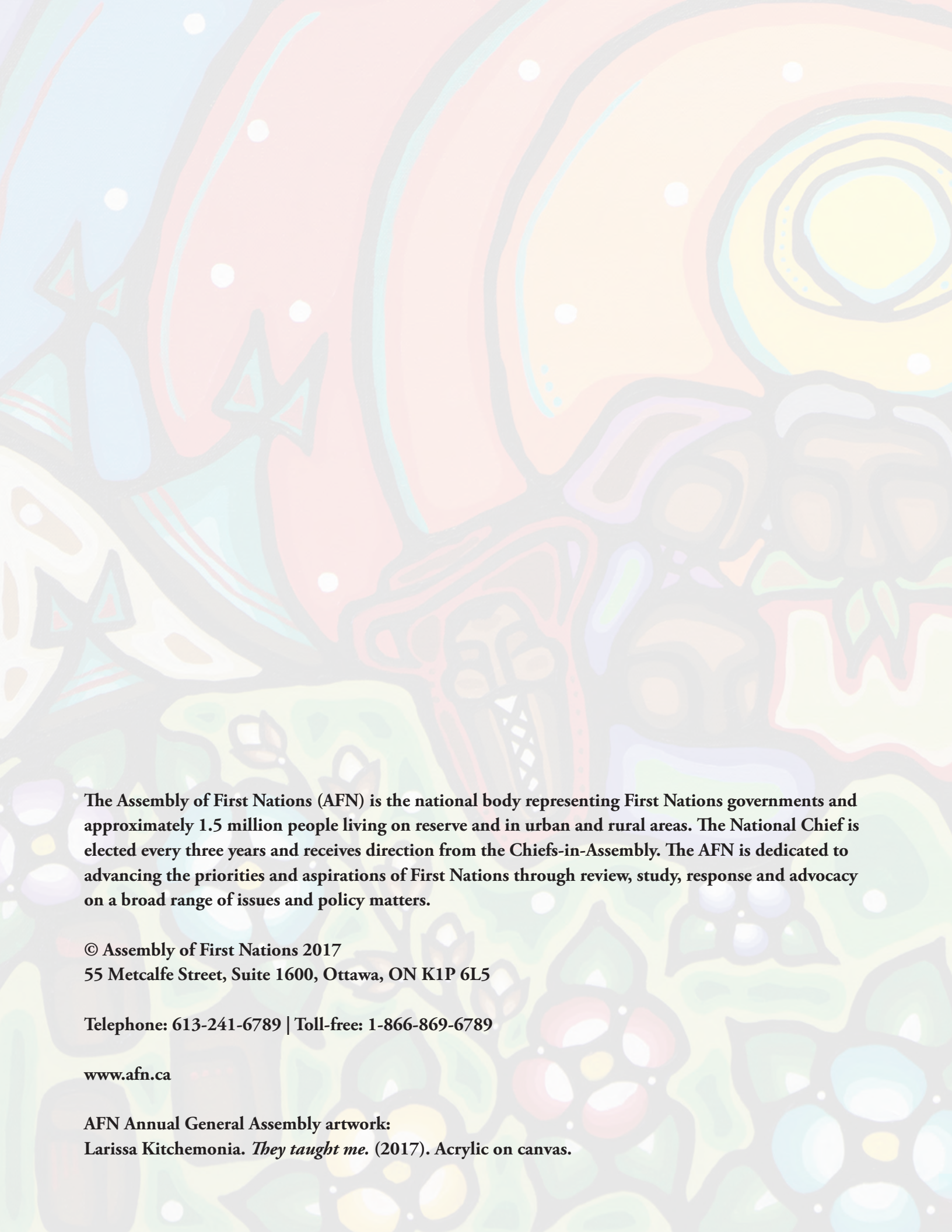




ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
Annual Report 2016-2017



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

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AFN Annual General Assembly artwork:
Larissa Kitchemonia. *They taught me.* (2017). Acrylic on canvas.



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NATIONAL CHIEF PERRY BELLEGARDE

Assembly of First Nations

Fellow leaders, friends and relatives:

This past year, First Nations priorities dominated the national dialogue.

I have been honoured to work with my colleagues on the Assembly of First Nations Executive to support leadership across our territories on Turtle Island. We have worked diligently to establish and maintain a high profile for First Nations priorities in government, and in the public mind, throughout the year.

We have succeeded in setting the table and creating opportunities for Chiefs to lead discussions with the federal government in many key areas where change is needed. Chiefs Committees in key areas such as First Nations languages and fiscal relations have been established or revived; and provide important places for Chiefs to cooperate and explore strategies for solidarity across First Nations. We now also have a process to sit regularly with members of the federal Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, to assess and discuss progress and priorities. These are all mechanisms that will support the direction and the priorities of First Nations.

By working together and jointly applying pressure where it is needed, we now have processes where Chiefs can work:

- to press for steady progress and concrete measures to close the socio-economic gap;
- to map options for First Nations to renew fiscal relations with Canada;
- to secure a statutory base to protect and revitalize Indigenous languages;
- to develop a national action plan for implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including discussion of a legislative framework to support implementation;
- to establish a joint process to review federal laws and policies to ensure they align with First Nations rights while keeping First Nations Treaty rights and inherent rights, title and jurisdiction front and centre.

I thank my colleagues on the Executive and commend the Chiefs and First Nations leaders in all territories, who have given countless hours and valuable

insight and advice in many important Chiefs committees, while working on the front lines for our people.

I am always inspired and energized by the many First Nations leaders, activists, young people and volunteers across our territories who work daily to bring about the realization of our inherent rights and a better quality of life for our people. I have been honoured to visit with leadership in diverse Treaty territories and First Nations across this land and have learned much in the many assemblies I have attended.

We continued to fight for fiscal resources and investments that must flow directly to First Nations as governments, and have fought for respect for Treaty and inherent rights, title and jurisdiction.

We take opportunities to celebrate that we are still here, and to witness the resurgence of our laws, ceremonies, cultures, languages and knowledge traditions.

We can see the slow but steady shift in our relationships with governments and with industry as First Nations reassert inherent rights, title and jurisdiction across our lands on a daily basis. We will continue to assert our rightful place and to do so wherever we must – whether in the courts, through grassroots actions or at the United Nations. There is a shift and we have an opportunity to advance the change each First Nation seeks for itself by working together and supporting one another where we can.

Budget 2017

We know better than anyone the needs and priorities for our peoples. We know our families cannot wait. Following an intense effort by the Assembly of First Nations Executive, this year's federal budget allocated \$3.4 billion for Indigenous Peoples' priorities over five years to help close the socio-economic gap for First Nations, in addition to the \$8.4 billion in Budget 2016.

First Nations have worked hard to secure key investments in the last two budgets. Key investments and support for First Nations in Budget 2017 included housing and infrastructure, education and training, policing, and





health. The budget recommits to the co-development of an Indigenous Languages Act, and provides resources to enhance, support and archive Indigenous languages.

We continue to press for change and results to happen faster in a system that must move more quickly and efficiently.

First Nations working together for New Fiscal Relations

The past year has seen the launch of our work to map options for First Nations to consider for new fiscal relations with the federal government and the ultimate goal of sufficient, predictable and sustained funding.

Canada has much work to do with us to reverse the damage done over 20 years by the 2% cap on base funding for essential government programs and services, and to ensure funding commitments flow in an efficient manner. In response to the Assembly of First Nations' federal budget advocacy last year, we saw escalators of 4.5% on kindergarten to grade 12 education, and over 3% for child and family services this year

AFN's Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations has been focusing on the following priorities:

- Pressing for future escalators on all programs and services that would be based on First Nations' needs, demographics and other relevant factors.
- Ensuring that new fiscal arrangements include an accounting for the impacts and shortfalls caused by historic underfunding for essential government services.
- New transfer mechanisms that reflect a government-to-government relationship, similar to the fiscal transfer arrangements between the federal government and provinces. First Nations are the first order of government in these territories and we are claiming our rightful place and our rightful share of the revenues and riches taken from our lands.
- A single, whole-of-government agreement would reduce the burden on accounting and reporting, address the time it takes to flow funding and help with implementing First Nations autonomous decision making.

- Mechanisms for accountability between the Government of Canada and First Nation governments with primary accountability to First Nation citizens as guiding principles. Building on earlier work to explore a First Nation Auditor General is one option for discussion.
- Investigating other revenue streams in addition to government transfers.

The Right to Self-Determination – Pressing Canada for First Nations Inherent Rights, Title and Jurisdiction

In May the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) marked the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). At the UNPFII, the AFN highlighted the need for concrete measures to respect First Nations' rights to self-determination and the need to co-develop a legislative framework for the implementation of the UN Declaration.

This session of the UN Permanent Forum included discussions advancing the participation and recognition of Indigenous peoples and governments in UN bodies, including the General Assembly. **At our urging, Canada formally abandoned its 2014 statements on paragraphs 3 and 20 of the 2014 Outcome Document from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and in doing so, put Canada formally on record as fully committed to the standard of free, prior and informed consent stated in the UN Declaration.**

Speaking at the UN, I called on the Permanent Forum to ask that States work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, as self-determining peoples, in decision-making processes that impact our rights. The applicable international standard is free, prior, and informed consent; and States should not proceed with unilateral actions. Consistent with Article 19 of the Declaration and Paragraph 3 of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), I also called on Canada and other States to work with Indigenous Peoples to build a solid framework to ensure future governments do not reverse any constructive advances – including legislative, administrative, and constitutional measures, including the co-development of Indigenous languages legislation.





The next step is to work on a National Action Plan for implementation of the UN Declaration as required by Canada's international obligations.

Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities

In June, on behalf of the Chiefs in Assembly, I signed the *Assembly of First Nations – Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities* with Prime Minister Trudeau on unceded Algonquin territory in Ottawa. The MOU establishes a commitment for Canada to meet with the AFN at least three times a year, with one of those meetings being chaired by the Prime Minister. The purpose of these meetings is to help ensure that the government's priorities are consistent with First Nations priorities. First Nations will set direction for these meetings and the AFN will ensure we are making progress on an agenda as determined by First Nations. They will be used to mark progress on priorities and to identify key issues and solutions to barriers facing First Nations in advancing their rights and objectives. The priorities under the MOU will be reviewed on an annual basis. The MOU identifies joint work on a National Action Plan to implement the UN Declaration, including developing a legislative framework to ensure implementation is an ongoing commitment.

Engaging regularly with the key people who make federal laws and policies in order to affect and implement proper changes that respect inherent Indigenous and Treaty rights is necessary to affect real change. These meetings are part of that approach.

Since December 2014, Prime Minister Trudeau has addressed the Chiefs-in-Assembly on two occasions; the first time a sitting Prime Minister has addressed our leaders from across Turtle Island. AFN Assemblies and AFN Executive Meetings regularly feature involvement from senior Cabinet ministers and officials. The MOU on joint priorities is part of this ongoing engagement, and provides an opportunity to organize joint work and discuss priorities across all portfolios and priority areas with Canada on a regular basis.

Protecting Our Children

The AFN continues to fight to have the January 2016 decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal fully enforced and implemented. The AFN has continued the litigation it began in 2008 with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to bring an end to racial discrimination against our children and to uphold Jordan's Principle. We have been very successful in court in seeking compliance orders against Canada. Canada must accept the leadership and the jurisdiction of First Nations on what is needed to ensure our children thrive and to meet their health needs when they are in care, regardless of the jurisdiction or child welfare agency.

In May, the Tribunal found that Canada is taking an overly narrow approach to honouring Jordan's Principle, and said that the Principle applies to all First Nations children in need of care, regardless of where they reside. The ruling set out a number of directives and timelines for compliance, following two previous non-compliance orders issued in 2016. The AFN and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society jointly filed the complaint in February 2007, alleging the provision of First Nations child and family services by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs was flawed, inequitable and thus discriminatory under the *Canadian Human Rights Act*.

The Assembly of First Nations will continue to work with all governments to ensure First Nations children have every opportunity to thrive and experience the safety and nurturing they deserve.

Update on Federal Legislative Response to Descheneaux vs. Canada

In May the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples heard testimony on Bill S-3, an Act to amend the Indian Act with the intention of eliminating sex-based inequities in registration. In this second appearance before the Committee, I focused my remarks on the standards required by the UN Declaration for legislative measures. I also addressed the need for additional financial resources to provide essential government services to





new registrants as well as the need for additional reserve land entitlements to account for increases in new members. Finally, I emphasized First Nations' authority over First Nations' citizenship and identity.

Proposed amendments to the *Indian Act* are intended to address three forms of gender-based discrimination found in the *Descheneaux* decision: (a) first cousins whose grandmother lost status due to marriage; (b) women who were born out of wedlock between September 4, 1951 and April 17, 1985; and (c) minor children who were born of Indian parents, but lost entitlement to Indian status because their mother re-married a non-Indian after their birth.

The Court initially gave the federal government 18 months to amend the *Indian Act*. In November of 2016, the Assembly of First Nations recommended that Canada apply for an extension to make greater efforts to meet its legal obligations. The Senate Committee agreed and Canada made the request. In January of this year the Court granted a five-month extension to July 3, 2017 for Canada to fix sections of the Act. On June 22, the Senate declined to pass Bill S-3 and deferred their final vote until fall, thus ignoring pressure to meet the court-ordered July 3 deadline. The Government now has an extension to August 3, 2017 when it may apply again to the Quebec Court of Appeal for another extension.

The AFN has clearly stated our support for the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination, and called for a thorough and effective response to end discrimination under the *Indian Act's* treatment where Indian status and band membership entitlement are concerned. We have provided regular updates on developments and have been clear that the ultimate solution lies with First Nations exercising their inherent jurisdiction over all aspects of First Nations identity. The AFN has also developed a citizenship law template for interested First Nations.

Indigenous Languages Legislation

The Assembly of First Nations has pressed the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues to act on AFN Resolutions and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action that call for federal legislation that would

support a secure funding base as well as recognition of the special status of First Nations languages as the original languages of these lands.

The Prime Minister responded by stating the commitment of his government to work with First Nations to this end.

On June 15, guided by the resolution of the Chiefs-in-Assembly from our December 2016 Special Chiefs Assembly, I participated in a joint announcement with the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, on the co-development of an Indigenous Languages Act, aimed at revitalizing, protecting, recovering, and maintaining Indigenous languages. There are more than 58 distinct Indigenous languages and more than 90 distinct languages and dialects spoken within our territories. None are considered to be safe.

The recognition, promotion, and recovery of First Nations languages – the original languages of these lands – is a vital part of self-determination. Language is culture and central to our songs, stories, and ceremonies. Nearly three quarters of Canadians (74%) support the creation of an Indigenous Languages Act, providing widespread support to see this legislation through.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

This year, following advocacy on the part of the Assembly of First Nations for this change, June 21st was renamed as National Indigenous Peoples Day, reflecting the growing recognition of the tremendous contributions made by Indigenous Peoples throughout these lands. National Indigenous Peoples Day is a name consistent with the international recognition of Indigenous peoples and consistent with the AFN resolution calling for the name change.

The Prime Minister marked the day with two other significant announcements. The first was that 100 Wellington Street in Ottawa, a prominent building opposite the Parliament buildings, will now become a permanent space for Indigenous peoples to do with what we wish. This includes space adjacent to the building on which a new structure can be designed and built, and the funding to redesign and maintain the building. The AFN will be reaching out





to First Nations to make sure this new facility has a purpose that fulfills our needs and goals, and will follow protocols for the Algonquin peoples as the Host Nation.

Also announced on June 21, the former Langevin building will now be known as the Office of the Prime Minister and the Privy Council. I wrote to the Prime Minister some months ago asking that the name Langevin be dropped from this place, in recognition of the link with Residential Schools and that terrible history. It's a small but important change that signals the Government is listening as we rebuild the relationship and seek justice through our work together. I took this occasion to speak to the myth of two founding peoples, and the ongoing work required to educate Canadians on the vital contributions of First Nations from which all Canadians benefit.

The Assembly of First Nations is active across the full range of key portfolios led by the AFN Regional Chiefs, and Chiefs Committees. Work continues on the Specific Claims Joint Technical Working Group and Specific Claims dialogue sessions; a National Advisory Committee meets regularly on Child Welfare; there are meetings of working groups or committees on aquaculture, climate action and the environment, housing and infrastructure, fisheries, and on landless Bands. First Nation directors of education held a national forum in Calgary in March; we continued the national conversation on energy at our forum in Ottawa, including special guest speaker Dr. David Suzuki in March, and held an emergency management forum in Calgary.

In April First Nations veterans joined the Prime Minister, the Governor General, Prince Charles and Princes William and Harry and more than 30,000 Canadian students, veterans and families to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Sons of Membertou drum group opened the ceremonies, along with hoop dancers Marika Cockney and James Jones. Knowledge Keeper Ed Neveau and his wife Madelain Hardisty-Neveau also travelled to Vimy to lead our delegation with a pipe ceremony and a sunset ceremony on the site before the Vimy commemoration. First Nations veterans have served in all major world conflicts, including World War I and World War II, where thousands enlisted in Canada's armed forces despite being exempted

from conscription. It was very moving to see our veterans and our ceremonies marking this occasion.

I was pleased to accept the invitation to visit with many First Nations to provide support on a broad range of issues. I was happy to join Treaty 8 First Nations to lend support for their opposition to Site C. I have stood with leadership to press the federal government for more action and support for community-based solutions to support wellness and hope for First Nations children and youth. And I have been honoured to join you in ceremony, and hope to see many more of you in your territories throughout the year ahead.

This year will be focused on securing many of the gains we have realized in legislation, in order to protect this progress. We will continue to fight to have our Treaty and inherent rights, title and jurisdiction realized. We will continue to fight for quality housing, clean water, proper funding of First Nations health care and education, policing and fire protection services, an end to the violence that plagues First Nations women, and the discrimination in funding for services that our children face in care, both on and off reserve.

I look forward to our discussions at the Annual General Assembly and to working with you in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Kinanāskomitin,

National Chief Perry Bellegarde





Regional Chief **MIKE SMITH**

Yukon

On behalf of our Chiefs from Yukon Region, I share my greetings with the National Chief, the Elders, Women's and Youth Councils, members of the Executive Committee, and all delegates attending the 38th AFN Annual General Assembly.

This report is a summary of major activities and regional issues, in addition to other fiscal year-end (2016-2017) reporting. As mentioned in previous reports, our issues remain the same for the most part—different governments, same issues. After the passage of 20 years or more, there remain problems with implementing self-government. The complicating factor is the devolution of responsibilities from the Department of Indian Affairs to the Yukon Government. The net effect of transferring all funding to the Yukon Government is that Yukon First Nations cannot get the resources needed to implement their jurisdiction over education, child welfare, justice, and all other matters within First Nations jurisdiction as agreed to in the Self-Government Agreement. As mentioned, under the Devolution agreement both the services and the funding were transferred to Yukon. These funds became “Yukon money” and were included in the Yukon budget for all Yukoners. Yukon First Nations have no say in the Budget preparation, no separate consultation with the Yukon Government.

However, with the election of the new government under the Liberals, First Nation Chiefs have attended a number of meetings with the Yukon ministers to develop a better relationship that respects the Self-Government Agreements. The intent is to begin implementing the provisions and jurisdiction of First Nations, with the take down of jurisdiction in matters of education, health, justice, and child welfare as key components of Self-Government in Yukon. However, the Yukon Government is very reluctant to part with its jurisdiction and control. Their vision is assimilation—one government with First Nation involvement in their overall provision of government services. In wanting to retain control, it is using the resources it receives directly from the federal government as a lever to achieve this. This is where Assembly of First Nations can play a role in advocating on behalf of Yukon First Nations.

Similarly, with respect to the Final Agreements, as witnessed by the countless court cases on the interpretation of the Agreements, only government initiatives are being implemented. Their objectives and capacity building

progress while the provisions favouring First Nations remain on the back burner. In March of this year, Yukon Chiefs attended the Supreme Court of Canada on an Appeal by the First Nations regarding the Peel Planning Commission Final Report, which was rejected by the government, who then carried out a brief consultation with all Yukoners and amended the report, which in effect dismissed the findings and recommendations of the Planning Commission. Yukon appeared before the Supreme Court in favour of the Court of Appeal recommendations that the Peel Commission report be resubmitted to the Yukon Government. First Nations did not agree, hence the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The governments of Canada and Yukon have not honoured the commitments they made under the Agreements. It is the intent of Yukon First Nations to ensure that the Final Agreement, in favour of Yukon First Nations, is adhered to and that the roadblocks be removed for full Self-Government jurisdiction to be recognized and implemented. In meetings with Canada and Yukon, these representations have been made; however, nothing concrete has been accepted. Canada, the Crown party to these Agreements, is absent, delegating its obligations to the Yukon, who as party to the Agreements came with nothing and left it seems with everything.

The three First Nations without Agreements, who have rejected the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), remain under the *Indian Act* and receive their services directly from Canada. They still retain their rights under the Canadian *Constitution* and under the *Indian Act*. None of the three First Nations is prepared to enter into negotiations with governments based on the UFA. Canada still holds out the UFA as a condition precedent to negotiations.

The Final Agreements extinguish Section 35(a) on all Yukon lands except Settlement Lands of the First Nations. On Settlement land, Section 35(a) continues to exist subject to the Final Agreements. This is rather ambiguous. This is a clear breach of the understanding that was reached in 1988 Agreement in Principle, where it was agreed by the Parties to not extinguish Aboriginal Rights on Settlement land.

Under the new leadership of Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), the plan is to change the organization from a program delivery agency to a political body



to begin the process of relationship building on a government-to-government basis. After 30 or more years, the Chiefs have agreed that very little is being accomplished on the program delivery model of the central organization. Too much time was being spent on funding applications and reporting. Further, the funding of central programs was a block for individual First Nations for applying for funding at the community level. The plan is to move program delivery to the communities rather than at the central organization level, since the central organization does not have any self-governing powers, but remains a society under Yukon legislation.

With respect to national issues Yukon Chiefs have agreed to participate in certain Chiefs Committees, but remain uncertain as very little attention is given to North of 60 issues. Yukon Chiefs know that they are not included in national announcements from Canada, such as the \$8.3 billion. Other than housing, that money does not go to the North. Devolution to the territories prevails over direct funding to North of 60 First Nations. This has to be on the national agenda and addressed by the AFN if we are to have a national organization represented by all First Nations. These are critical issues for Yukon First Nations. With the support of the AFN, these issues can be properly addressed and acknowledged and the concerns of our Chiefs can be resolved.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Smith
Regional Chief, Yukon





Regional Chief **BILL ERASMUS**

Northwest Territories

Since the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly last year in Niagara Falls many issues have arisen in the North.

We are pleased that there is a policy and legislative review that will look at the application of government in Canada. In the North, this includes reviewing the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) because they exist as an act of parliament. They do not have provincial authority and must ultimately follow the lead of the federal government.

This review must recognize that the systemic way Canada deals with our people is racist. This has become clear by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision on First Nations child welfare.

We have requested that the devolution of power from the federal government to the GNWT be part of this federal review. Devolution was forced upon the people of the NWT and many communities have not agreed to it. Devolution goes against the Treaty relationship the Dene have with the Crown.

We also look forward to the results of the AFN-Crown fiscal relations table that is working to transform the financing to our communities. Direct transfers are needed from Treasury Board to our bands to eliminate the middle man in the process.

We take note that the international Paris Agreement of 2015 is having results. This year's Canadian federal budget recognized and allocated \$83 million to Indigenous knowledge. This is a move in the right direction. However, we have to make sure this funding gets to our people to support their needs.

In the NWT, we have some communities that have reached agreements to govern themselves. The problem is Canada is not prepared to implement the agreements. This is a big problem that needs to be dealt with. The Assembly of First Nations has to play a role in assisting these communities.

In the NWT, our people are being forced to move away from Dene government and to accept public government. This is not right; we have the human right to govern ourselves.

There is much that needs to be done and we can only make improvements if we work together.

Canada is celebrating 150 years but we don't find much to celebrate. It's time the Canadian government recognizes that we are the owners of our lands and territories. We proved this in the *Paulette* Case of 1973 when Justice William Morrow declared that Treaty #8 and Treaty #11 are peace and friendship instruments.

We still have lots of work ahead of us.

Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief
AFN Regional Chief, NWT





A/Regional Chief

MAUREEN CHAPMAN

British Columbia

INTRODUCTION

Greetings to Chiefs, Leaders, Elders, Women, Youth, and community members at the AFN Annual General Assembly taking place on Treaty 4 Territory in Regina, Saskatchewan. As the Acting Regional Chief for the BC Assembly of First Nations and on behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to provide you with this regional update.

I am from Skawahlook First Nation, situated in the Chilliwack Valley of British Columbia, the traditional territory of the Sto:lo people. Prior to my role as BC's A/Regional Chief, I have been the hereditary Chief of Skawahlook First Nation since 1999 and continue to serve my community in this capacity. I have served on the BC AFN Board of Directors since 2007, as well as on a number of other committees and boards related to my work at the Sto:lo Nations Chiefs Council and on the Lands Advisory Board.

BCAFN VISION, MISSION, MANDATE AND PHILOSOPHY:

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

BC Assembly of First Nations Vision Statement:

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

BC Assembly of First Nations Mission Statement:

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

BC Assembly of First Nations Mandate:

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

BC Assembly of First Nations Philosophy:

Honouring our Ancestors

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

BCAFN TRANSITION

As the BC Region continues to move forward in this transitional period, the BC Assembly of First Nations held a Special Chiefs Assembly on March 27-28, 2017 in Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Territory in Kamloops. The agenda for this two-day meeting included items such as governance options related to the BCAFN Constitution and Bylaws, Office of the Regional Chief, an update on the BCAFN Economic Strategy, BC Election options, mental health issues/suicide crisis, revitalization of Indigenous languages, fiscal relations with the federal government, as well as other important issues for BC First Nations. A number of important resolutions were passed, including but not limited to, support for



Tripartite Education Framework agreement renewal, jurisdiction over children and families, respect for Stk'emlúpsəmc te Secwepemc nation Pípsell decision rejecting the proposed Ajax Mine (which included my participation at the June 11th ceremony at Jacko Lake), protection of orca whales and habitat, support to end Aboriginal homelessness, and support for Bill S-215, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women)*.

On March 4, 2017, Shane Gottfriedson resigned from the office of BC Regional Chief. As a result, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed three resolutions related to the office of the Regional Chief and organizational gaps. The Chiefs-in-Assembly called to hold a general election on October 12, 2017 in Musqueam Territory, Vancouver, BC. At that time, the newly elected Regional Chief will immediately begin a term of three years. Further to this, the Chiefs-in-Assembly supported Chief Maureen Chapman in her capacity as a BCAFN Board member to carry out duties and activities related to the office of the Regional Chief. In addition, the Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the establishment of a Governance Committee to review the BCAFN Constitution and Bylaws and Policy Manuals to address any organizational and governance gaps that have come to light with the resignation of Shane Gottfriedson as Regional Chief. Recommendations will be presented for consideration to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the BCAFN Annual General Meeting in October 2017.

INITIATIVES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Economic Development and Fiscal Relations Strategy

The BC Assembly of First Nations remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting communities and Nations in their economic pursuits by delivering timely and relevant information, building capacity through education, and creating windows of business and economic opportunity through ongoing advocacy. BCAFN is committed to the vision of economic reconciliation, as evidenced by the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Columbia Business Council (BCBC) which was signed in September 2016, and the formation of the 'Champions Table' in early 2017.

Our first step was to seek out strategic partners to advance this important work. When we set the goal of economic reconciliation it was immediately apparent that we required a better understanding of the state of the BC economy and the gaps between it and the many current and emerging on-reserve and regional/territorial economies. We also determined that the Provincial government was also looking to support economic development in our respective territories, so it would be in our best interest to align ourselves, where possible and practical, with the BC Jobs Plan.

BCAFN's strategy commenced in 2016 with the first round of Regional Sessions on Sustainable Economic Development. Here, we learned several key facts which led to the regional restructuring of BCAFN's provincial strategy to encompass the eight economic development regions in BC. Phase II of the

Regional Sessions saw BCAFN travel to the eight regions of BC from January to February 2017. During the regional sessions, Chiefs, Councillors, Economic Development Officers, and various other key groups dialogued over the vision for economic development for their respective territories, regions, and communities. Data was collected to help inform policy and program priorities as we continue with implementation.

BCAFN is working closely with the Castlemain Group on implementing the vision of the Champions Table as defined by September 2016 BCBC-BCAFN MOU. The Champions Table is composed of 11 First Nations leaders and the 11 BCBC corporate representatives. The Champions Table is currently developing a work plan to focus on regional economic development priorities and strategies. The Champions Table is also, in partnership with Vancouver Island University, planning an intensive Indigenous Youth Internship programme, which will be announced in June 2017.

BCAFN co-hosted the Indigenous Business Forum on March 30, 2017 in Vancouver, BC with the organizers of the Nation2Nation forum, as well as BCBC. The forum focused on industry and First Nations relations. As part of the Sustainable Economic Development & Fiscal Relations Strategy, this forum provided an opportunity for delegates to discuss "economic reconciliation" and relationship building between First Nations and industry partners. Over 140 participants had the opportunity to hear and participate in discussions about the many latent economic opportunities available to BC First Nations.

Many First Nations people are interested in developing an enhanced understanding of business, economics and the law. While there are many programs, grants and supports available through organizations such as the Aboriginal Business Investment Council, the information is either not known to BC First Nations, or not accessible. To this end, BCAFN has created an online resource centre to feature education and economic development resources available to First Nations. Moreover, an interactive map with regional and community economic development profiles was created for BCAFN's website to display relevant economic development data for First Nations, industry, government, and the public to access and better understand local economic priorities. Both the online resource centre and the interactive map will be updated periodically with relevant information.

BCAFN is currently undertaking consultations and preliminary research for the development of the 'Black Books' project. The 'Black Books' project, a follow-up initiative to former Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould's 'Governance Toolkit,' will provide interested First Nations with a robust economic development guide. BCAFN will be engaging with First Nations leaders, community members and economic development experts to ensure the project is meaningful and useful for communities and those interested in pursuing economic development. As this initiative is still in the development phase, BCAFN will be updating our website with more information over the coming months.



Lastly, in light of the pronounced gaps in data collection methodology for BC First Nations, BCAFN and our partners are embarking on the creation of a Data Governance Centre made for and by First Nations. For the sustainable economic development and fiscal relations strategy to be successful, it is essential that user-friendly, accurate, baseline data exists that captures the required metrics to inform First Nations economic development in BC.

At the national level, BCAFN has partnered with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) to develop and implement a national strategy that mirrors the work being undertaken by BCAFN provincially, with some variations. Research has been conducted, and an environmental scan is expected to be complete in the coming weeks. From here, both BCAFN and CCAB will be engaging with relevant economic development experts and First Nations leaders and communities to develop the parameters for rolling out the national work.

Indigenous Languages Act

The federal government has committed to the revitalization and restoration of Indigenous Languages in Canada. Prime Minister Trudeau formally announced at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December that the government intends to invest \$89.9 million over the next three years to support Indigenous culture and languages. The AFN has committed to work with the federal government in co-developing and drafting the new legislation. BC Representative on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages, Kukpi7 Ron Ignace, worked with the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) in organizing and delivering regional sessions throughout BC during May and June 2017. As the goal of these sessions was to ensure BC language experts are well informed of the national process and have an opportunity to provide input, FPCC will be compiling a report based on the information gathered at these sessions. Further to this, BCAFN has been working with AFN, AFN Yukon, the First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs to host an Indigenous Languages Session on June 22-23 at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver. This session is intended to provide an opportunity for language champions and leaders to provide input into the proposed Indigenous Languages Act. If you were unable to attend, we encourage your Nation to develop their own submission to Minister Joly at the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The New Fiscal Relationship

The federal government has committed to establish a new fiscal relationship that lifts the 2% cap on annual funding increases and moves towards sufficient, predictable and sustained funding for First Nations communities. In July 2016, the AFN and INAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to commit to a process to comprehensively review the existing fiscal relationship, research and develop proposals and recommendations for the design of a new fiscal relationship with the intent to:

- Establish funding approaches and financial transfer mechanisms that support government-to-government relationships;
- Develop shared accountability frameworks with First Nations to close socio-economic gaps between First Nations peoples and other Canadians, including appropriate metrics and performance indicators;
- Promote the delivery of programs and services in an efficient and cost-effective manner, including the consideration of collective or cooperative arrangements; and
- Support First Nations in moving beyond the *Indian Act*.

The AFN has established a Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations to provide guidance and direction for its work under the current MOU. BC Representative and Chiefs Committee Co-chair Chief David Jimmie has been active in moving the dialogue forward and ensuring that BC First Nations are engaged and provided with an opportunity to submit positions, principles and general feedback. Further engagement is expected. This engagement will take the form of regional dialogue sessions to obtain the insights of First Nations Chiefs and technicians prior to reporting to the Joint Committee. All the input received will inform the development and revision of the options, proposals and recommendations for the report to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in December of 2017.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Review

The federal government made a commitment to immediately review the Canadian Environmental Assessment (EA) processes with the objective of restoring trust and introduce new processes. On August 15, 2016 Minister Catherine McKenna from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change announced the establishment of a four-person Expert Panel to conduct the review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). The AFN has been engaging the federal government on this and other climate change related matters through the AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE). BC representation on the ACCAE includes Grand Chief Ed John, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Chief Bryon Louis and Chief Aaron Sam.

BCAFN has provided substantive recommendations through our submission to the Expert Panel in December 2016 as well as through our response to the Expert Panel's recommendations which were released in April 2017. We have been working with our First Nations Leadership Council counterparts and the First Nations Energy and Mining Council to ensure strong and robust positions continue to be put forward to the Ministry that speak to complete reform of the current process.



BC Women's Dialogue Session

BCAFN hosted a two-day dialogue session in Vancouver on March 16-17 that brought together female Chiefs, key supportive leaders, community leaders and others to dialogue around priorities and strategic approaches with respect to advocating and advancing the well-being of Indigenous women and girls, as well as promoting healthy families, communities and nations through engagement, activism and advocacy. Dialogue and feedback was recorded and collected with respect to the development of a draft Declaration. The Declaration addresses the role of Indigenous female leadership in the community: what we have lived through, where we are today and a number of foundational principles including resilience, respect, health and wellness. BCAFN has provided this to our membership and to the attendees for further commentary and feedback. Further to this, BCAFN intends to hold another Women's Session in Fall 2017 to follow up on the Session and continue the momentum to ensure our women have a safe space to be heard, and strategize together about action to be taken. Details will be forthcoming.

Housing Forum

BCAFN hosted a two-day Housing Forum on March 13-14 in Victoria, BC. We witnessed a high turnout and interest for this important issue at the January FNLC-INAC Joint Gathering, and this formed the intention to host the Forum as a way to continue this important dialogue. This Forum allowed BC First Nations leadership and community housing technicians to engage in open socio-political discussions on First Nation housing and infrastructure issues, resulting in a draft report that continues strong community-driven directives and recommendations. This forum was also a regional complement following the AFN National Forum on Housing and Infrastructure which took place in November 2016. Follow up includes further discussion on the proposed BC First Nations Housing Authority and recommendations flowing from the draft report.

Children and Families

On May 30 and 31, 2016 the Province of British Columbia and First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) co-hosted the First Nations Children and Families Gathering in Vancouver, BC. The purpose of the Gathering was to engage First Nations leaders, community organizations and service agencies, and provincial and federal government representatives to identify and promote short, medium and long-term opportunities to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families. At the close of the Gathering, the provincial government, the federal government and the First Nations Leadership Council committed to initiate a Tripartite Working Group (TWG). The purpose of the TWG is to address current policy and legislative frameworks related to First Nations children and families. The TWG will focus on identifying opportunities to influence and realize systemic change to British Columbia's child welfare

system, including the development of recommendations related to governance and jurisdiction, and planning for implementation.

Sustained collaboration respecting First Nations child and family well-being is intended to support the mutual goal of improving outcomes for First Nations children and families. With commitment from the federal government, the Tripartite Working Group will contribute to this goal by:

- Supporting improved relations and engagement between First Nations, the Province and Canada as they relate to child and family well-being;
- Identifying potential governance models for First Nations communities relating to child and family well-being; and
- Identifying equitable and impactful investment approaches for governance matters relating to child and family well-being in First Nations communities.

The Working Group has established and supported a Reconciliation Charter, Terms of Reference, and a work plan which outlines short, medium, and long-term objectives. The Reconciliation Charter, which was agreed and signed on April 7, 2017 is a foundational and principled commitment piece by the Working Group that outlines the shared goals to work towards to achieve "meaningful reconciliation in the caring of First Nations children and youth; to support First Nations exercise of self-governance and jurisdiction in the manner they choose with regard to the well-being of their children, youth and families; and to clarify the relationship between First Nations, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada." This work has been supported by resolutions passed at the UBCIC, BCAFN and FNS. The Working Group is currently focusing its work on a refined and detailed work plan and budget.

Commitment Work of the First Nations Leadership Council and the BC Government

In 2015, BC and FNLC jointly presented the Commitment Document at the BC Cabinet-First Nations' Leadership Gathering. The Commitment Document articulates our commitment to a government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal Title and Crown jurisdictions.

At the BC Cabinet-First Nations Leadership Gathering in September, 2016, the FNLC and BC jointly presented an update on the Commitment Document work, and sought review, input and guidance on this work from our partners. Specifically, the FNLC and BC have finalized the Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives document ("Vision") and have completed a terms of reference to guide the multi-year draft work plan addressing other initiatives found in the Commitment Document.



In short, we have completed the *Joint Agenda: Implementing the Commitment Document Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives* and in addition to this, the Joint Core Working Group is committed to a three-year work plan (*Concrete Actions: Processes, Structures, and Legislative and Policy Change*) as well as completing the Terms of Reference for the Joint Core Working Group. We are in the midst of populating sub-committees and developing draft terms of reference, as prioritized in the following areas:

1. Provide First Nations leadership with models for an Independent Indigenous Commission.
2. Move forward on key strategies for implementing changes to legislation and/or published policies in three (3) identified priority areas, including implementation plans for each area:
 - Indigenous child and family jurisdiction and self-government;
 - Environmental assessment; and
 - Forestry.
3. Identify future priority areas in legislation, policy and practice that are ready for review and reform.
4. Develop a joint set of innovative and creative principles for how negotiations with the Crown and industry may be conducted in new ways and collate existing material.
5. Advocate for a comprehensive, multi-year *Reconciliation in BC Strategy* that can be shared publicly and tracked to ensure it is consistent with the priority areas.

At the time of writing, British Columbia is in a state of uncertainty regarding the incoming governing party. The BC Legislature will resume sitting on June 22 and it is expected that there will be a non-confidence vote in the Liberal government. Following that, BCAFN is committed to working in partnership with the governing party to ensure we secure our equal and rightful place at the table as decision makers and title holders in BC.

CONCLUSION

As the Acting Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations, I am looking forward to working in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, and with our partners, to strongly advocate on behalf of BC First Nations. I committed to working towards the improvement of the quality of life for all First Nations and support First Nations in their journey towards implementing their Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights. There are a wide range of issues that require our focus, depth of knowledge, and skills and expertise. As Chief of Skawahlook for almost two decades, and as a BCAFN Board Director for over a decade, I have committed my life's purpose to making advancements regarding these key issues that affect our communities: from children and families, to the safety and security of Indigenous women and girls; the recognition of our Aboriginal Rights and Title; and supporting sustainable economic development. I believe these issues are important and need to be addressed as we continue the fight to protect our heritage and culture, including preserving access to our territories, water and waterways.

As your Acting Regional Chief, I am committed to holding the office of Regional Chief and the BC Assembly of First Nations to the highest of standards. Principles of integrity, transparency, professionalism, and efficiency will guide the organization today and beyond the Regional Chief election in the fall of 2017. Furthermore, I recognize the importance and intent of the organization to be guided by the resolutions passed by our Chiefs at our Special Chiefs Assembly and our Annual General Meeting. The mandate and the vision provided by and directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly continue to guide the organization and the work it does. I will work in partnership with sectoral councils and other partners as we strive to fulfill all resolutions passed at our respective meetings.

I look forward to continuing to support the BCAFN and AFN in any way I can as we move forward in breathing life into the standards articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. While this year marks Canada's 150th Birthday as a nation, We, the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, have been here since time immemorial and will continue to thrive as Nations well into the future. As your Acting Regional Chief, I commit to utilizing this opportune time to bring awareness, thoughtful dialogue and consideration regarding the true history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. While I strive to be a strong advocate for BC First Nations, I fully understand that it is First Nations governments, communities, Nations, and individuals who will chart their own journey, on their own terms, and I will be here to support your decisions that are in the best interests of your community.





Regional Chief **CRAIG MAKINAW**

Alberta

INTRODUCTION

Tansi and Greetings! It is my pleasure to provide this submission to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 2017 Annual Report.

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

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIP

The Prime Minister of Canada in his mandate letter to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada stated, “No relationship is more important to me than the one with Indigenous Peoples” and called for a “renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.” He stated that his engagement would lead to “real progress on issues most important to First Nations—issues like housing, employment, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education.”

There are many different views on what the nation-to-nation relationship means; however, the key to a renewed relationship with First Nations is one that is founded on trust and mutual respect. The Government of Canada must work with elected First Nations leadership within their defined territories to establish trust and come to a mutual understanding of what a nation-to-nation relationship looks like. There are no shortcuts. Treaty 6, 7 and 8 First Nations within the boundaries of the province known as Alberta are clear that the Prime Minister and Cabinet must work directly with them and not the Assembly of First Nations to establish this relationship. First Nations are frustrated waiting for “real progress on issues most important to them.”

In its series of dialogue sessions around the nation-to-nation relationship, the Institute on Governance identified four common themes central to the relationship including Nation Building and Nation Re-Building; Jurisdiction; New Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations; and Wealth Creation (resource revenue-sharing).

TREATY

Treaty Right to Education

First Nations within the boundaries of the province known as Alberta are very strong on Treaty, including but not limited to the Treaty right to Education and a belief in lifelong learning. Treaty-based funding models have been developed. There is still ongoing work with the Memorandum of Understanding on Education comprising Treaty 6/7/8 and the Government of Alberta and Canada.

Treaty Right to Health

Treaty 6 First Nations have reaffirmed their Declaration on the Treaty Right to Health and the Treaty 6 Health Model.

E-Petition – Calling on Canada to Reinstate Treaty Cards

I would like to bring to the attention of the Assembly an E-Petition, which calls on Canada to recognize the Treaty Right to Citizenship by reinstating the Treaty Cards for Treaties 1-11 Citizens. The petition is E-1035 (Aboriginal Affairs) initiated by Jeanne Crowchild, Tsuu T’ina Nation and sponsored by Romeo Saganash, Member of Parliament for Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta Chiefs Summit on Climate Change

Treaty 7 First Nations hosted an Alberta Chiefs Summit on Climate Change October 26-27, 2016 in Edmonton, Alberta. Day one of the Summit provided an



opportunity for Chiefs to meet with their respective Treaty areas to discuss climate change issues. Regional Chief Makinaw extended the invitation to the Chair and Co-chairs of the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE). Regional Chief Kevin Hart, co-chair for the ACCAE, provided comments on day two of the Summit. Joining Regional Chief Makinaw in providing an update on the work of the committee were Danika Littlechild and Eriel Deranger. Chiefs in attendance were provided with copies of the AFN's submissions to Canada on *Adaptation and Climate Resilience*, *Carbon Pricing Mechanisms*, *Clean Technology Innovation and Jobs*, and *Specific Mitigation Opportunities*. Day two offered an opportunity for Chiefs to hear from invited speakers Richard Feehan, Minister of Indigenous Relations, and Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and the Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office. Other speakers included Cheryl Baraniecki, Climate Change Canada, and Susan Tiege, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Indigenous Environment and Climate Change Education Symposium

The AFN Alberta Region in partnership with Indigenous Climate Action (ICA), North Peace Tribal Council (NPTC) and Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) held a two-day Indigenous Environment and Climate Change Education Symposium on December 12-13, 2016. The goal of the symposium was to bring together First Nation leadership, Elders, youth and community members to increase awareness and knowledge on climate change, government priorities and discuss the impacts of climate change in the various Treaty Regions. The symposium featured presentations of regional perspectives from community organizers and environmental leaders. Presenters also provided information on Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, Canada's global commitments and approach to achieving their targets, consultation, ecological and environmental implications of climate change, historical impacts and the future of energy, the importance of human rights and the treaty perspective in informing climate discussions, food sovereignty, traditional knowledge practices and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, international instruments and the global climate change agreement. The symposium also featured presentations on local solutions and renewable energy options. Delegates had the opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions and provide solutions during panel discussions.

Environment and climate change impacts and challenges identified over the course of the two days included: Alberta Tar Sands open pit and in situ mining, toxic tailing ponds, contaminated waters, pipelines, coal, agriculture, forest fires, and high level of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide and methane), and governments' lack of consideration for cumulative impacts. First Nations challenges include lack of consultation and free, prior

and informed consent; impact of development on Indigenous and Treaty rights; lack of adequate infrastructure on reserve, clean drinking water, transportation, isolation; food insecurity; and on-reserve economies.

Solutions included highlighting the importance of Indigenous perspectives and asserting Treaty rights to protect the water, land and environment utilizing the nine United Nations Conventions on Human Rights and Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; ensuring First Nations are a part of the conversations in developing frameworks, policy and law; working towards biodiversity; intergenerational knowledge transfer, learn the 'why' of stewardship; establish Indigenous Protected Areas, and our own systems for mapping and monitoring; develop climate change adaptation plans; community solutions that include preservation, solar energy or other alternative renewable energy sources, recycling, protections, and restoration of original seeds and the buffalo, community gardens and hemp production.

First Nations Clean Energy Training Program

In January 2017 I wrote a letter to the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks and Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office to express my support for a First Nations Clean Energy Training Program conducted by the Clean Energy Technology Centre ("CETC") in Drayton Valley, Alberta. The CETC is a first of its kind not-for-profit innovative facility in Alberta that provides services for First Nations training, business development, business incubation, and applied research and development. The CETC seeks to share their expertise in training programs for greenhouse gases accounting and reporting (carbon footprint) conducted through a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) on First Nation lands; highlighting the financial and environmental benefits that come with it. The opportunities and benefits presented included reduced energy costs through sustainability, energy efficiency, attracting investment, greater involvement in the growing First Nation Credit Markets, and being at the forefront of the climate change fight. Through our efforts in partnership with the CETC, we will begin the education process amongst the First Nations communities that will allow us to begin effecting positive change at home, and abroad.

SIXTIES SCOOP SURVIVORS

I was pleased to provide a letter of support for the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta to facilitate the engagement of Sixties Scoop survivors in Alberta. The work the Society wishes to undertake in Alberta is needed to ensure the voices of all Sixties Scoop survivors and their descendants are heard and that they receive the acknowledgement and justice they deserve.



MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

On May 25, 2017 Chiefs and representatives from Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 met with Minister McKenna at her invitation. The meeting was to discuss opportunities to enhance First Nations participation in the environmental assessment review process and receive preliminary feedback on the independent Expert Panels report titled, *Building Common Ground: A New Vision for Impact Assessment in Canada*.

In response to Chiefs' concerns regarding the role of the Assembly of First Nations and the National Chief, the Minister stated that she understood the National Chief was a helper and they needed to get out in the communities. They will be providing funding to communities to participate in the review and there would be other ways to provide submissions. She assured the participants that the meeting was not to 'tick off a box,' but they were 'here' to learn. In amending the current *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) they wanted to ensure everyone benefits and impacts are minimized, and if impacts are too significant, they will not go ahead. The Minister's department will issue a discussion paper on how the recommendations might actually work on a project. The Minister mentioned the timeframes were tight because it takes time to introduce laws and they would like to do this by December.

Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

On April 19, 2017 Regional Chief Makinaw, Grand Chief Rupert Meneen and Chief Tony Alexis met with Minister Hajdu. The Minister was new to the portfolio and wanted to find out the challenges with the Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). She also wanted to know more about the First Nations vision for education, and employment and training for unemployed and underemployed adults, youth and women.

Concern was expressed about the one-year extension and the need for renewal, and the Minister was advised that First Nations also need a seat at the policy table when the changes are being made. The Minister was advised ASETS Agreement holders, management and staff have jumped through hoops to meet their reporting obligations; working within the funding parameters, however, each pillar identified as a priority (government's priority) is severely underfunded; up to 75% in some cases. The Minister was also informed that better coordination was needed between the social program and ASETS for the 18 to 24-year-old demographic and concern was expressed that 25 to 30-year-olds would be forced into the same type of program as the First Nations Job Fund, causing more strain on the already underfunded programs.

Minister Hajdu advised the \$50 million allocated to ASETS for the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget was just to get 'us' through to the ASETS Renewal. Her vision for the ASETS Renewal was to transform the program and deliver on multi-year funding agreements. In advance of the ASETS Renewal, First Nations need to provide her with feedback on their vision, what specific goals they have identified, and what they need to reach those specific goals. They want to empower First Nations to achieve their goals.

Also discussed was the Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) Program. Towns bordering First Nations often hire TFW for low-skilled labour; however, First Nations youth in the region are underrepresented in employment positions in these towns. The Minister requested that First Nations provide her with specific details on what the company's engagement encompassed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Indigenous Nations Games

The Games will take place July 2-9, 2017 in Enoch Cree Nation, the City of Edmonton and within the Treaty 6 territory. Events will include opening and closing ceremonies and traditional Indigenous games, held in conjunction with global discussion forums, technology conference, youth conference, author's conference, environment conference, RedX Talks, and the Enoch Powwow Celebration. We have been advised over 30 countries have already confirmed their attendance from the Asia / Pacific / Australia / New Zealand region, the Arctic Circumpolar Region, Central and South America, and the United States of America. Invitations have been extended to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and various Ministers, and other Heads of State, such as the President of Bolivia.

The World Indigenous Nations Games 2017 will be a celebration of sport, traditional Indigenous games, and Indigenous cultures of the world, and provide the unique opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to present to the world, their centuries old traditional games, sports and cultures. The Indigenous Games have the potential to instill passion and pride for sport, traditions, culture and sustainability in Indigenous Peoples not just in Canada but throughout the world, and will create an opportunity to increase solidarity, cooperation, coordination, and the promotion of peace and reconciliation among all peoples.

National Gathering of Elders

The Gathering will take place in Edmonton, Alberta, Treaty 6 Territory from September 11-14, 2017. I value our Elders and place them in high regard. But they are starting to leave us. We have the opportunity with this Gathering to show Elders we value their words, their teachings and we honour their legacy and their resilience. Elders have a wealth of knowledge and lived



experience. Elders can be teachers, advisors, role models, traditional healers, and grandparents. I have called upon my Elders for their counsel on many occasions. They are our moral compass for how we interact with each other, Mother Earth and all beings. They hold within their collective memories our history, our treaty, our Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and teachings, songs and ceremonies, which have been passed down for centuries. The Gathering is for all Indigenous Elders – First Nations, Metis, Innu and Inuit – and is an opportunity to build bridges and foster greater understanding. We are also inviting youth to attend and in doing so we have the opportunity to break down generational barriers and foster pride in their heritage.

CONCLUSION

I am looking forward to meeting once again with the Chiefs-in-Assembly as well as my counterparts in the Assembly of First Nations.

Hai Hai, ekosi.





Regional Chief

BOBBY CAMERON

Saskatchewan

On behalf of the 74 Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chiefs in Assembly, staff and the Executive, it is a continued honour to contribute to the work of the Assembly of First Nations. Since being elected in October 2015 as FSIN Chief and Saskatchewan AFN Regional Chief, I have served in the portfolio areas of Education and the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy. We extend our sincere best wishes to all Chiefs and Councils, Elders, Veterans, Youth and citizens of our First Nations for better times ahead of us all.

First Nations Labour Force Development / Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)

The Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) was busy in the last year with its revitalization and working on the mandate it received through resolution to pursue a new distinct labour market policy framework with Canada. This framework was to ensure that it reflected a government-to-government relationship, designed to address skills and employment gaps, address capacity for service delivery, respond to northern and remote costs, and access and secure long-term funding.

First Nations have submitted documents for consideration to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) for preparation of its Memorandum to Cabinet. We anticipate a positive response to this submission and that it will result in a new distinct policy framework. This framework must be followed with a new financing model that will foster success and allow First Nations to assert their authority and jurisdiction for skills and training specific to their citizens. Together we will seek a more inclusive process that will foster successful implementation and stability to a new strategy that reduces over-reporting burdens and where the client's needs are being met so they can be successful in their training and future careers.

Education

The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) is active along with the National Indian Education Council and the technical advisory table. The First Nation Directors of Education National Forum was held in February 2017 in Calgary

at the beautiful Grey Eagle Resort. The staff worked tirelessly to put together and host this national event. This forum brought together educators, administrators and leadership for collaboration and sharing of best practices.

In November 2016 the CCOE and the Government of Canada developed a *Terms of Reference for Joint Collaboration between the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and Canada as represented by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to develop new funding mechanisms for First Nations Education that support First Nations development of a holistic, culturally-responsive, high-quality education for First Nation students (2016-2018)*. Since January 2017 task teams have been meeting to discuss issues of Early Childhood Education, Post-Secondary Education, Funding Mechanisms, Statutory Funding, and Measurement and Mutual Accountability. The CCOE has been meeting regularly to discuss the work being done by the task teams and review any recommendations developed by the task team. The work of the task teams is also reviewed by the Joint Working Committee (JWC) which is co-chaired by the Director General of INAC, Chris Rainer, and myself. The CCOE has strongly been advocating to the JWC for a task team on the Unique Needs of Northern and Remote Communities.

In recent months, the CCOE has largely focused on the bureaucracy that exists within the federal government and how it continues hindering the work that is being done by the task teams, as well as a renewed nation-to-nation relationship. The CCOE has recommended to Minister Bennett: that all INAC public servants be required to take First Nation training; to stop promoting Canada Student Loans as a Funding Option for First Nations to access post-secondary schooling; as well as for First Nations to lead the 2017-2018 Indigenous comprehensive and collaborative review. The CCOE has also reached out to Treasury Board President Scott Brison to request a meeting regarding the joint development of legislation that impacts First Nations.



Regional Activities to Note

Memorandum of Understanding with urban municipalities of Elbow and Regina City – “Elimination of Racism throughout our Ancestral Lands/ Province”

We attended the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) convention in February with an interest in promoting knowledge of Treaty and Inherent rights of First Nations by working with municipalities to highlight reconciliation and the participation of First Nations people in the landscape of the economy of urban and municipal areas through the elimination of racial discrimination. The messaging to delegates focused on discrimination and racism that is directed at First Nations people and how that prevents participation in the economy.

Discrimination is major determinant in the overall health of a community. First Nations people have been continuously and harmfully discriminated against. This discrimination was founded on colonial policies of assimilation that lead to residential schools and the intergenerational effects that continue to be experienced by Indigenous people in their own ancestral lands where discrimination is endangering the lives of Indigenous people.

Continued relationship bridging through commitments and meaningful events lay the foundation for the elimination of discrimination. The objective is to one day eliminate, through these commitments, attitudes that are founded in a deeply woven fabric of discrimination that has created an environment where racism endangers the lives of Indigenous people. Racism threatens the peace and prosperity of these territories, of this province, of its cities, of its towns and its rural areas.

On April 25, 2017, the FSIN and the Mayor of Elbow signed an agreement committing to eliminating racism by providing educational initiatives for the staff and elected officials of the municipality, including history of Treaty, residential schools and colonialism, and the Treaty and inherent rights of Indigenous people. On June 13, 2017, I joined the File Hills Qu'Appelle Chiefs and Mayor Fougere of the City of Regina to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at First Nations University of Canada.

We look forward to continuing to come together, to share concerns and address issues and in unification to be effective in our work for our nations, our communities and our future generations.

Hiy Hiy,

AFN Regional Chief Bobby Cameron
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief
Witchekan First Nation, Treaty No. 6 Territory





Regional Chief **KEVIN HART**

Manitoba

Greetings to all Elders, youth, respective leaders and community members attending the Assembly of First Nations 2017 Annual General Assembly.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I have been travelling to First Nation communities in Manitoba to meet with First Nation Chiefs, as well as attending meetings pertaining to my portfolios. I am pleased to report that many significant developments have been made in the last year however we still have a long way to go to close the gap between First Nations and Canada.

National Housing and Infrastructure Forum

In November 2016, Winnipeg hosted the AFN National Housing and Infrastructure Forum. There were over 500 participants including Chiefs and technicians from across the country. First Nations leadership and their representatives had the opportunity to provide their substantive input into the future of housing and infrastructure reform as envisioned from their perspective.

As the Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, the time is now to take control of our own destiny when it comes to housing and infrastructure needs. First Nations care and control of housing and infrastructure has been the guiding principle with the end goal of getting INAC and CMHC out of the business. We must continue to engage with the federal government to ensure First Nations lead the development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy.

Federal Budget

The Trudeau government announced that First Nations will be receiving 440 housing units, with 220 of those units going to Manitoba. The houses will be distributed throughout First Nations in Manitoba. Budget 2017 proposed to invest an additional \$4 billion over 10 years, starting in 2018–19, to build and improve housing, water treatment systems, health facilities and other community infrastructure.

Habitat for Humanity

Last year the Flying Dust First Nation in Saskatchewan and Habitat for Humanity built the first on-reserve Habitat for Humanity build. A 10-unit Elders lodge was opened and the Elder's original homes were retrofitted / refurbished and remodeled for 10 young families. This project should open the way for other First Nations to consider working with Habitat for Humanity on similar projects. Habitat for Humanity and First Nations will meet to work on shared goals and priorities.

Bringing YouthBuild International into Canada

YouthBuild programs help to introduce youth to skilled trades beginning in high school. As a member of the Chiefs Committee on Human Resource Development, helping Indigenous people to fill the labour shortage in the trades sector is beneficial as the current generation of skilled trades workers is aging out.

Gaming

In April 2016 I attended the National Indian Gaming Association's Indian Gaming and Tradeshow Convention in San Diego. As the largest gathering of tribal leaders and casino executives in the U.S, the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention is both the meeting place where the community gathers to learn, network and exchange industry-specific ideas which help our people become economically sustainable and a cultural celebration of success, strength and self-reliance.

Child and Family Services

To support Child and Family Services (CFS) reform, the former National Advisory Committee on Child Welfare and Family Services (NAC) was reinstated to oversee recommendations for medium and long-term relief related to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) decision and to provide general advice on program reform, including the application of Jordan's Principle. The NAC and Regional Tables is a joint committee composed of First Nations child and family service experts appointed by AFN Regional Chiefs, the AFN, the Caring Society, and INAC.



On May 17–18, 2017 the NAC held its third meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. During this time the NAC members began to develop work plans for their respective Action Tables they occupy. The Action Tables include:

- i. Practice & Community Needs (Children, Youth & Families);
- ii. Agency & Administration;
- iii. Governance & Legislation;
- iv. Jordan's Principle; and
- v. Internal INAC/GOC reform, Training, Education and Communication.

The next meeting of the NAC is scheduled for July 18-19 in Ottawa, Ontario.

MMIWG Outreach Program

It was identified that many of First Nation families affected by the loss of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) have not had direct support in health and wellness related to the trauma experienced from horrific crimes. The MMIWG Outreach Sessions are assisting families by providing help with translation services, internet access and registration with the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The primary focus of the MMIWG Outreach Sessions in Manitoba is to ensure families are presented with clear information of the process and to ensure that proper health and wellness supports are available to families who request healing.

The Assembly of First Nations, Manitoba Region, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) portfolio completed the northern tour of Community Outreach Sessions, which began on March 15th and concluded on March 20th and a second MMIWG Outreach Session from March 25th to 31st in southern First Nation communities. A second round of MMIWG Outreach Sessions is scheduled for 2017.

The long-term focus is to administer an MMIWG Outreach Program to continue the support to the families in the communities that are registered with MMIWG Outreach Sessions during North and South tours. Families in northern Manitoba have been identified as having the least interaction of services and communication regarding support services related to MMIWG and the National Inquiry. The focus of the outreach sessions is a response to families who are requesting support and information.

Climate Change

As a co-chair of the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, I travelled to the COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco to lead our AFN delegation with Elder Francois Palette from the NWT in November 2016. The world's leaders were in attendance at COP 22. The National Chief had tasked our delegation to ensure First Nations peoples had a strong voice at the discussions and played a role in designing the COP 22 Climate Change action plan. The conference successfully demonstrated to the world that the

implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway and the First Nations have a key role to play in intergovernmental climate action.

Last July Manitoba Chiefs met with Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources. This was a direct result of an invitation at the 2016 AFN Annual General Assembly to Minister McKenna to meet with our leadership in Manitoba. Topics discussed included winter roads, climate change, environmental issues, and rail lines affecting our First Nations. A recent pipeline spill in Saskatchewan and pipelines in general were brought forward. I indicated my strong position to Minister Carr that as AFN Water portfolio holder that I do not support pipeline development.

Trade Mission to China

I was asked to step in for National Chief to attend the Canadian Trade Mission to China in June. On the agenda was learning about environmentally sustainable 'clean tech', which First Nations in Canada should consider as an option to our current resource industries.

As one of the world leaders when it comes to Clean Tech, there was interest in travelling to China and observing their World Clean Technology Fund to witness their leadership when it comes to designing green technology in the world.

Water & Infrastructure

INAC has begun engagements on the review of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*. They have proceeded with their engagement strategy without significant input from First Nations, and have not indicated they will adequately address outstanding concerns with the Act. I will continue to provide advice and guidance on the appropriate next steps on these engagements, as well as advocate for ongoing support to address the key questions and challenges to this Act.

The infrastructure gap in First Nations communities is large, and significant investments are needed not to only water and wastewater, but roads, bridges, connectivity, energy systems and fire protection. We are working with INAC and Infrastructure Canada on a path forward to provide long-term sustainable solutions for First Nations including the creation of a First Nations Infrastructure Bank, and a detailed analysis of the infrastructure needs in First Nations communities. We continue to advocate for improved funding programs, so that more money gets into the hands of First Nations communities more quickly.

Lastly, we are working to ensure renewed effort to work with Government of Canada staff, including but not limited to INAC, CMHC and Health Canada, to ensure program funding related to Budget 2016 and 2017 is delivered fairly and timely manner.





Regional Chief ISADORE DAY

Ontario

I extend warm greetings to our Youth, Elders, Leadership, and citizens from the Ontario region who are participating at this week's AFN Annual General Assembly in Regina. I particularly want to thank all our local hosts, including FSIN Regional Chief Bobby Cameron. And I want to belatedly congratulate FSIN for changing its name to the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

This is a very significant and symbolic change – from “Saskatchewan Indian” to “Sovereign Indigenous”. We are all sovereign Nations. We all have distinct identities, languages and cultures across this land known as Canada. We all signed Treaties – going back to the 1764 Treaty of Niagara – to share the lands as equals with the newcomers. In fact, our Peoples know this land as Turtle Island. There are no borders between provinces, between countries.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. As more and more Canadians are becoming aware, First Nations are not celebrating 150 years of colonization, 150 years of genocide. Professor James Daschuk, of the University of Regina, reminded Canadians in his award-winning book *Clearing the Plains* that the western provinces were created in part after stealing lands, forcibly removing, starving, or supplying contaminated foods to many of our Peoples.

The legacy of how Canada was created continues to be grim for many of our Peoples – the residential school system, the *Indian Act*, children in care, missing and murdered, racism, and discrimination are all injustices that far too many of our Peoples endure on a daily basis. Last month, Human Rights Watch issued a report about police abuse of Indigenous women in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. There are ongoing incidents in cities from Thunder Bay to Val d'Or.

This why I have proposed a four-cornered table involving First Nation leaders, federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) Regional Chief Ghislain Picard has agreed to co-chair the table, which will hold its first meeting during this week's Annual General Assembly. I want to share a declaration on ending racism and violence that was passed at our Annual All Chiefs Conference last month:

“The Ontario Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) of the Chiefs of Ontario has shared with the Chiefs in Assembly that they must feel safe and welcome in their communities in order to fulfill their potential to have a stronger, and healthier future for their peers and for the next seven generations to come;

In March 2016, the Youth Voices Survey commissioned by the OFNYPC found that the prevalence of racism throughout Ontario continues to be unaddressed and that this has caused harm to their mental and physical well-being, confirming the link between racism and violence;

The 2016 Coroner's Inquest into the deaths of the Seven First Nations Youth – which investigated the deaths of seven First Nations youth attending high school in Thunder Bay – recommended, among many calls, to Canada to provide adequate funding supports for youth which include mental health, social workers, and other transition supports to meet their unique needs;

As First Nations leaders we must respond to the needs of our youth and citizens, and support the calls for action on the part of all levels of government in order to prevent further harm against our First Nation Citizens.

Article 2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples confirms that, “Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.”

In recognition of cases of violence, death, and missing First Nations citizens constitutes a human rights crisis. For far too long, the hostility and racial profiling of our First Nations citizens has prevented our people from living healthy and fulfilling lives free of violence.

We, the Chiefs in Assembly, hereby stand united to condemn all acts of racism, violence and ineffective policing that is occurring throughout the Province of Ontario against our First Nation Citizens.



We call upon the people of Ontario and Canada to ask yourselves, what actions would you demand if your son or daughter were hurt, missing, or found deceased?

We call upon everyone to stand up and take action to end racism and violence, to save lives, and to choose to make a difference.”

I will now briefly provide an update on the work being done in the Ontario region that will enable us to secure a better future for our children, our youth, and our Elders. Over the past year, the Political Confederacy and Chiefs of Ontario staff have been engaging with the provincial and federal governments on a variety of critical issues from health and environment, to education and economic development. Progress is being made with Ontario, thanks to the 2015 Political Accord.

Two significant commitments made in the April 28th provincial budget were salary parity for First Nation police officers (which Canada has yet to commit), and eliminating hydro delivery charges for on-reserve citizens. This is a result of months of advocacy and lobbying by community leaders from all corners of the province. Ontario is also investing nearly \$222 million in health over three years, followed by sustained funding of \$104.5 million annually.

While this much needed funding is focused on northern First Nations where health circumstances are often critical, the commitments also include investments in Indigenous health care across Ontario in home and community care, primary care, diabetes prevention, and management both on and off-reserve.

This past May 30th marked the first anniversary of Premier Wynne’s Statement of Reconciliation and the *Journey Together* commitments. Implementing government Resource Revenue Sharing will be a top priority of our work with the province over the next year, before the June 2018 election. In the meantime, at the May 2-3 Special Chiefs Assembly, our Chiefs unanimously endorsed the Sovereign Wealth Fund, which would see a collective First Nation equity ownership of Hydro One. If approved at the community level, this would represent a significant investment that would pay dividends for future generations.

It has now been over 20 months since the federal Liberals were elected to a majority government with the power to enact positive change. Unfortunately, despite the ministerial mandates to improve Indigenous relations as the top priority, there is still a great deal of work ahead. There has been little if any improvement to First Nation quality of life, despite the \$8.4 billion in federal funding earmarked in the March 2016 budget with an additional \$3.4 billion in the March 2017 budget.

As we all know, just two days after National Aboriginal Day, the federal government has again appealed the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordering

Canada to fund First Nation children with the same level of health services provided to mainstream children. The objection that more time is needed for medical consultation is merely another delaying tactic and a slap in the face in this age of Truth and Reconciliation.

The 2 per cent cap has resulted in an accumulated shortfall of \$30 billion over the past two decades. To date, our Chiefs and band administrators are not seeing any significant funding increases to address abject poverty. Two months ago, I reminded the federal Ontario Members of Parliament and Ministers that the bureaucrats must act now on the government mandates to eradicate First Nation poverty.

The status quo, indeed the practice of failing to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars to our communities, is simply unacceptable. The Ontario Liberal Caucus now wants to follow-up with our leadership at a special meeting to ensure that our priorities are addressed.

We continue to impress upon INAC Minister Bennett and Health Minister Philpott – in coordination with their provincial counterparts, Ministers David Zimmer and Eric Hoskins – to pressure their bureaucrats into acting effectively and efficiently on health, child care, clean water, and education. We will continue to advocate for more infrastructure funding to address the housing crisis. Funding must also flow to those communities who are shovel-ready to end Boil Water Advisories (BWAs). Ontario has approximately 60 per cent of all BWAs in Canada. We have the expertise to end this water crisis in several years.

The Province has stated more than once that it is ready to assist the federal government to end BWAs in Ontario sooner rather than later. The Province is also committed to making significant progress on the critical files that the Chiefs of Ontario have advanced since last November’s meeting with Premier Wynne. As per the Cabinet Minister’s mandate letters, we expect to see significant movement in key areas such as poverty reduction, health, climate change, education, economic development, infrastructure, and justice/policing.

Work between the Assembly of First Nations and the federal government will soon be entering a critical phase, beginning with cabinet level meetings to be scheduled at least three times per year. The Prime Minister will attend one of these meetings per year. As you know, National Chief Bellegarde signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prime Minister Trudeau on June 12th. A number of members of the AFN Executive had concerns about the draft MOU. I voted against the MOU.

When the MOU was reviewed at AFN Executive a new priority was added – Public Safety and Policing. I agree that this is a very critical priority for many communities, and many of our Peoples who are subject to racism and violence in towns and cities across this country. Our Chiefs have been unable to meet



at the federal level with Public Safety Canada for the past year. We look forward to Regina MP and Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale, appearing this week to provide details on how Canada intends to address this situation.

In the meantime, the first meeting to advance the MOU on Joint Priorities will take place in September, 2017. The process will reconfirm previously made joint commitments with the AFN. Priorities include the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action; co-drafting of the Indigenous Languages Act; co-drafting of a legislative framework and a national action plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; continued work under the Canada–AFN MOU on fiscal relations; a joint federal law and policy review to map a path to decolonized federal law; and other priorities to be determined.

As Regional Chief, I am committed to monitoring and providing as much information as possible during this very critical process. There is also an opportunity for any interested Chiefs to provide input and become directly involved through Chiefs Committees. Chiefs are welcome to participate, present or observe.

As Chair of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Health, I presented Minister Philpott with the First Nations Health Transformation Agenda, which called for an additional \$1.58 billion in order to immediately stabilize health programming that has been underfunded for the past decade. While Budget 2017's \$828 million over 5 years falls short, it will still go a long way towards addressing and reversing the critical health problems that plague our Peoples on a daily basis. This funding includes immediate and long-term investments in suicide prevention and life promotion, and will complement the \$222 million committed by Ontario. There is also a national Indigenous Health Summit planned for this fall.

As Co-Chair of the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, I am very much involved in the current review of legislation that directly affects and impacts all of our communities from the Great Lakes to James Bay. This includes the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA); and the environmental and regulatory reviews of the National Energy Board (NEB), the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Navigation Protection Act*. Our First Nations must be fully involved in protecting our lands and waters for future generations.

This is a very critical time. We are counting upon our collective leadership – our Chiefs, our Grand Chiefs, our Regional Chiefs, our National Chief – to move our agenda forward. We need to continue to press for positive change now in order to *Secure Our Rightful Place in Ontario and Canada*.

Miigwetch!





Regional Chief

GHISLAIN PICARD

Quebec and Labrador

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) has undertaken a broad reflection on the notions of respect, security and non-violence towards all members of our Nations, and most particularly, our women and our young girls, as steered by the Elected Women Working Group and by Chiefs Adrienne Jérôme and Karen Loran, both responsible for the file in our Assembly, and with the collaboration of the Quebec Native Women who have been sitting in our Assembly for the past 25 years. A group consisting of two female chiefs and two male chiefs has been mandated by our Assembly to make recommendations in the short term designed to propose concrete actions in the direction of respect, security and non-violence.

The denunciations of our women in the fall of 2015 with regard to reprehensible actions committed by Sureté du Québec officers in the Val-d'Or region and the rejection of these denunciations by the judicial system in Quebec sparked indignation and raised the awareness of our populations, our Assembly and people in general.

Pressured by our leaders to finally assume its responsibilities, the Provincial Government finally decided to hold an inquiry on relations between Aboriginal Nations and a range of public services that fall under provincial authorities. The report of this formal investigation will be submitted in the fall of 2018 and comes as an addition to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and to another investigation on Violence against Indigenous Women being led by a Commission of the Quebec National Assembly.

The AFNQL intends to remain very vigilant and will ensure that the voice of our women and our most vulnerable members will be heard in the course of conducting these three investigations and that specific proposals will derive from it in an effort to put an end to discrimination and systemic racism of which members of our nations have been the victims for too long.

Our Assembly is also gravely concerned by the reaction of the Trudeau Government to the Quebec Superior Court *Descheneaux* ruling and to the legislation proposed by the government following this ruling. Our Assembly is and has long been profoundly outraged at the discrimination against our women and their descendants by the *Indian Act*. Our Assembly is equally

concerned by all the measures adopted by the Trudeau Government and several of the previous governments, supposedly to correct this blatant discrimination enshrined in this law. These successive decisions have had a major impact on our nations. Our Assembly has clearly indicated to Prime Minister Trudeau that he must not through his actions replace the will of our populations and that of our elected representatives on any matter relating to our nations' membership: it is for each of them to decide exclusively upon these fundamental issues. This is a major opportunity for the Trudeau Government to demonstrate its genuine will to develop respectful relations with our nations.

Despite their exasperation with the provincial government, our Chiefs have indicated their intention to look for the resumption of a productive dialogue with Premier Couillard's Provincial Government. A meeting with him is scheduled in the very near future. Our Chiefs will once again try to commit the Premier to the recognition of our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Title. Our Chiefs continue to ask for the co-management and the joint conservation of the territory, for meaningful consultation mechanisms and for the sharing of royalties. Denial of these rights is unacceptable and is contrary to the obligations of the Province, in addition to having serious adverse consequences on the development of our economies and on the future of our youth.

On the other hand, the Provincial Government is soon expected to announce its "Aboriginal Social Development Government Plan". Developed without meaningful consultation of our elected representatives, the implementation of this plan will be monitored with the utmost diligence by the AFNQL.

First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec

The First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) is a collective of 29 First Nations communities in Quebec mandated to administer the agreements of the AFNQL in the areas of employment and training, support the development of Quebec First Nations' workforce and labour market, and expand its service offering (programs, services, support, financing) to all its member communities, including their populations living off reserve and all Aboriginal citizens living in urban centres throughout Quebec.



Relations with the Federal Government

- In May 2016, the AFNQL shared its expectations with the federal Minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, in a letter stating five criteria for an enhanced relationship, putting the focus on a bilateral approach and mutual respect which apply to the designing and the accountability of the new strategy via a substantial upgrading of the federal financing.
- The FNHRDCQ produced a detailed study on the cumulative impacts of inflation and demographic growth since 1999, and on the need for the federal government to adjust the funding formula. This study was presented at the two conferences on the renewal of the strategy in the months of June and July; it was then transmitted directly to the Minister's office, to finally be incorporated in the AFN study on the funding of a federal strategy for the First Nations.
- The Chief responsible for the employment and training file at the AFNQL level sits on the AFN Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development, and the FNHRDCQ sits on both the AFN Technical Committee and the Sub-Committee.
- Relations with Service Canada, Quebec Region, have deteriorated to the extent that a meeting had to be organized with the Assistant Deputy-Minister to make her aware of the many forms of interference on the part of her personnel and to remind her of the importance of maintaining healthy relationships at all levels.
- As for the relationships with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), it remains more constructive with the involvement of the department in the development of the organizational capacity needed to strategically plan the workforce and to partner with other players of the labour market.

Relations with the Province

- Beyond the federal agreements – which provide the majority of the financing for First Nations labour force – there is a need to directly involve the Province, since employment and training fall under provincial jurisdiction and because it is only through greater complementarity that clients will be successful in their journey to employment with maximum support from all players.
- In the urban environment, the FNHRDCQ and Emploi-Québec have an agreement which is renewable every three years; it funds a significant share of services provided directly or indirectly to the clientele; this helps free up financing for active measures of employment and training.
- For the clientele in the communities, it has always been more challenging to secure the participation of Emploi-Québec. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, efforts were made to negotiate the terms of a *Ministerial Strategy for the Professional Integration of First Nations and Inuit People*, including an action plan aimed at bringing all stakeholders together and facilitating access to provincial resources by the clientele. Envisioned as a five-year initiative, it will be implemented in 2017-18.

Local and Regional Development

- Success stories in terms of partnership with the private sector: *Mining Essentials* training program provided in Matimekush with the mining company Tata Steel: 13 graduates, including 12 women; French-speaking workers who will be working in an English environment in Labrador.

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)

The FNQLSDI was created in 2000 by the AFNQL in order to respond to the needs expressed by the First Nations. The mission of the FNQLSDI is to provide First Nations with a dynamic service hub supporting their actions towards maintaining healthy territories and resources; developing sustainable communities and promoting the recognition of their rights. This support is provided via the establishment of expert networks, the creation of tools, the dissemination of information, the organization of training, symposiums and workshops and by monitoring files that affect First Nations directly.

For the FNQLSDI, this past year's priorities were to carry on the existing projects, such as the protection of species at risk, climate change, and housing energy efficiency, in addition to strengthening strategic and territorial planning partnerships established with various communities. Many initiatives were added to the previous mandates of our organization.

In the past year, the FNQLSDI has, for example, inaugurated its Center of Expertise in Consultations in Quebec and Labrador which, assisted by its network of First Nations experts, reviewed a myriad of essential issues, such as the modernization of the National Energy Board and the environmental assessment processes. The Center of Expertise organized two large-scale events in Montreal and in Quebec to promote participation and to ensure that First Nations challenges are better taken into account in the consultation and accommodation processes.

In September of 2016, the FNQLSDI also proceeded with the inauguration of its Center of Expertise on Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) whose objective is to support First Nations in the various stages of the complex process of negotiating an IBA, all the while, avoiding the financial burden associated with such negotiations. In the month of February, the Center of Expertise also hosted two days of conferences and workshops on the negotiation of IBAs in Wendake.

In addition, in 2016 the FNQLSDI initiated a three-year pilot project in comprehensive community planning (CCP). The CCP is a holistic process which enables a community to build a roadmap to sustainability, self-sufficiency and enhanced governance. The primary objective of the pilot project is to help communities in their first steps towards CCP. Two communities will be accompanied throughout the entire 3 years (Kebaowek First Nation and Abitibiwinni First Nation), and two additional communities (Kahnawá:ke and Listuguj) will be assisted for at least one year.



And finally, the enduring presence of Indigenous languages is another important aspect of the FNQLSDI works. As a matter of fact, two new titles on energy efficiency and sustainable development have been added to our collection of multilingual books in 2016-2017. The works of the FNQLSDI are beaming with pride in the field of education and in homes of First Nation communities.

To conclude, it's possible to view the scale of services provided by the FNQLSDI in French and in English in First Nation communities and at various symposiums and workshops, by visiting the following website www.iddpnql.ca.

Institut Tshakapesh | tshakapesh.ca

For the past 40 years, INSTITUT TSHAKAPESH has been pursuing three primary goals: safeguard and transmit the Innu LANGUAGE; preserve and promote the Innu CULTURE; support and develop the EDUCATION of young Innu. The very concrete offering of services and programs is directed towards 7 Innu communities of the Upper North Shore: Essipit, Uashat mak Mani-utenam, Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuanit, Unaman-shipit, Pakut-shipit and Matimekush-Lac-John.

Based on a strategic plan developed with members of the communities, a whole range of actions and activities were achieved, with a focus on personalised services updated and adapted to the current needs of the main clientele, and on the implementation of a number of communications initiatives.

Mobilization of Resources, Sharing of Knowledge and Breaking of Isolation

Pursue the works of various regional committees (School committees, remedial tutoring teacher, Innu language teachers, pre-school, French and mathematics teachers); events (*Grand Rassemblement des diplômés innus du secondaire*, *Colloque Tshakapesh*); hiring of cultural agents in each community to promote the transmission of culture.

Bringing our Common Heritage to the Fore

Compilation of the living memory of our Elders; access to the documentation centre for the safeguard and preservation of cultural and historical documents.

Visits to Member Communities

Regular visits to schools to ensure that adequate and personalised support is provided; visits to the communities for governance purposes and for education transformation; first Innu-aitun awareness-raising tour.

Development of Instructional Materials and Programs

Development of the 'Agir tôt' program and parent-child accompanying material (in Innu and in French); Production and sales of books by Éditions Tshakapesh; continued development of the Innu language teaching curriculum at the elementary level; production of educational material consistent with the Innu language (learning scenarios, Innu-French/French-Innu dictionaries, lexicon, grammar and online material such as conjugation guide, interactive games, blog, catalogue of oral stories); adult Innu dictation; production of standardized regional tests in the Innu language, in French and in mathematics. Signing of the tripartite agreement on the Education Partnerships Program (EPP); development of traditional trades program (TTP).

Sharing Expertise

Cultural awareness program through the 'Sous le Shaputuan' tour; participation in a number of working committees of our various partners and Aboriginal organizations; development of pilot projects that meet the various specific needs of our community members.





Regional Chief

ROGER J. AUGUSTINE

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

Pjila'si. It is my great honour to welcome the Elders, Chiefs and delegates from across Canada to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly. I am Roger Augustine, the Regional Chief for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. I have had the honour and pleasure of holding this title for 9 years and continue to support and advance First Nation issues at the regional and national levels. I have the additional honour of being a Sante' Mawi'omi Keptin for Natuaqanek – Sikniktewaq. In English, my people are from Eel Ground First Nation. I'm very proud of our people who have taken the lead to uphold their rights to their lands and waters. Leaders in my regions have called on me to support their many efforts to exercise their rights and preserve their nation-to-nation relationship so I'd like to note some of those regional events this year.

Under the Mi'kmaq Confederacy PEI, which represents both Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations, the Chiefs have been working on building a relationship with the provincial government to fully enjoy their rights. Some of the other First Nations in New Brunswick have filed a major land claim for one-third of the province. This demonstrates the importance of the assertion of rights and laws over our territories. During the spring flooding in the region emergency coordination was required and as leaders we worked together to secure federal government support of \$1.7 million to help First Nations communities in New Brunswick.

As part of my efforts for reconciliation and building new relationships in my region, I am again hosting through the Sixth Annual Fisherman's Pow Wow – "Spirit of Peace and Friendship." It is a showcase of First Nations, Irish, Scottish and Acadian cultures through song, dance and art held on July 1 & 2, 2017 at the Waterford Green Park in Miramichi, New Brunswick. During these events, we've been pleased to welcome dignitaries, leaders and friends to share the important work towards reconciliation and building new nation-to-nation relationships.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As an AFN Executive member I chair two important committees: the AFN National Fisheries Committee and the Management & Restructuring Committee. Both committees have been extremely active this year with an

extraordinary amount of change as the Indigenous agenda has taken centre stage in Canada.

The AFN Management Committee

The number of changes to both the structure and function of the organization have increased the committee's workload, in part to accommodate the enormous shift by the current government's focus on Indigenous peoples and expectations for participation in a greater number of areas. This has placed higher demand on staffing and an important transition for the organization. I view this as a positive development and I have endeavored to balance the work and my responsibilities for these two important committees very carefully.

AFN National Fisheries Committee

First Nation fishing rights intertwine with our diverse interests in economic opportunities and environmental protection of a resource that is constantly facing competition from the impacts of industry operations, environmental disasters, pollution, spills, climate change and natural events. It is for this reason that the National Fisheries Committee (NFC) meets twice a year with Chiefs across the Pacific, Atlantic, northern and inland fisheries to discuss common priority issues. The multi-jurisdictional nature of water and fisheries make for a complex mix of discussions on governance, and the recognition of our inherent rights to ensure we have sustainable fisheries for future generations.

These important discussions will ensure that all AFN work advances and supports the recognition and implementation of First Nation inherent rights, title and all rights recognized under international human rights law. Our approaches utilize the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, various studies and other instruments at every possible opportunity to hold Canada accountable.



National Fisheries Committee priorities include:

Legislative Reviews – Fisheries Act and Navigation Protection Act

The National Fisheries Committee is committed to advancing our Aboriginal and Treaty rights and working to ensure they are upheld during all stages of law, regulatory and policy development through engagement and consultation processes. The health and abundance of our fish and their habitat must be protected for future generations and First Nations must be part of Federal Legislative Reviews.

AFN Fisheries has focused on sharing information on the changes to the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigation Protection Act*, in the context of legislative and policy changes including the impacts of amendments associated with Bill C-38 and C-45 respectively. Many First Nations participated in the Standing Committee process and provided detailed submissions on the changes to the *Fisheries Act* and *Navigation Protection Act*.

The National Fisheries Committee met with Minister LeBlanc at the 2016 Special Chiefs Assembly and as the Chair of the NFC, I sent a follow-up letter to the Minister to emphasize the direction of the leadership to request an extension for First Nation submissions, to address the lack of meaning consultation and engagement and to establish a process for the development of a joint legislative drafting mechanism.

The Implementation of Supreme Court Decisions

Some of the victories in Canadian courts are decades old—they need action. There is some potential through a joint law and policy review to help change the future of Indigenous fisheries and continue advocacy to include rescinding capped funding formulas like the endpoint Cabinet directive on fish allocations. This will require the commitment and support from these departments to fund capacity programs to provide the access tools and capacity support to inland, northern and coastal communities.

National Aquaculture Working Group (NAWG)

The aquaculture industry in Canada consists of salt and freshwater finfish, shellfish and marine algae cultivation. Each combination of species and environments presents unique considerations for regulation, policy, management, science and technical and legal analysis. These unique considerations coupled with multiple levels of governments and multiple

departments involved in the regulatory framework create high levels of complexity. This year NAWG met for the first time, and identified four co-chairs to guide the ongoing work identified by the NAWG.

Emerging Issues

Marine Emergency Response Protocol (MERP) is something I feel is important in the work we do in our fisheries. The ongoing spill issues and marine emergencies have elevated the importance of response to marine emergencies such as rescue, oil spills and disaster relief that can impact First Nation fisheries. AFN Resolution 93/2016 on Marine Emergency Information Management Protocol, passed at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2016, supported the reopening of the MERP. It is anticipated that there will be future opportunities for a formal signing ceremony between the National Chief and the DFO Minister and others.

This year, Canada has furthered its legislative agenda to reform the *Oceans Act* and other related areas such as the *Canadian Petroleum Act* regulations, a new *Aquaculture Act*, *Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)*, *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* and *Marine Protected Areas*. It will be important for us to have an opportunity to discuss these important issues and coordinate where we can on best approaches forward.

We will continue our work with you to develop the best options and approaches that will bring tangible and practical outcomes for our peoples. We hope to identify opportunities to assert our governance and laws over our fisheries that will allow us to take our rightful role as decision makers in all aspects of fisheries management in true nation-to-nation relationships.

I look forward to working with you all, and hope you will join us at the AFN National Indigenous Fisheries Forum in February 2018. I want to thank all the Chiefs for your continued commitment and input, and I look forward to our positive and productive discussions in the future.

Woliwon, Wela'liq.





Regional Chief

MORLEY GOOGOO

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland

I would like to begin by welcoming every one of the Chiefs and delegates to the 2017 AFN Annual General Assembly. I am pleased to share some highlights on activities I have had the opportunity and privilege to be involved in.

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

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

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

As AFN Regional Chief for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland I have engaged my office in championing or participating in the following projects to advance Mi'kmaq and First Nations issues within the region and abroad.

Grand-Pré 2017

Grand-Pré 2017 will bring national exposure to the historic relationship between the Mi'kmaq and Acadian cultures. The event is funded by both the federal and provincial government along with community organizations and corporate sponsors. The event is already garnering media attention and plans are falling into place for the event to include a Cultural Village, Vendor Marketplace, Main Stage with national and regional entertainers and a Powwow Circle. The event will be free to the public and will bring attention to the host communities of Glooscap, Annapolis Valley, Acadia and Bear River. Press conferences are planned for the coming weeks. This footprint may become a template for future cultural events produced by the Regional Chief's office.

The revelation of the relationship between the Mi'kmaq and Acadian people is unique and one that is a shared history. We have embraced working with the Acadian community and we look forward to a tremendous reunion 400 years in the making this August on the UNESCO world heritage site at Grand-Pré.

Grand Entry Scotiabank Centre

Through a partnership with Atlantic University Sport (AUS) we were able to showcase Mi'kmaq culture during a live broadcast of the championship game on the Bell Media Network. The Grand Entry featured a video production of drummers from Eskasoni, Traditional dancers from across the region, the majority of our Chiefs in Nova Scotia as well as the Mayor of Halifax, the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage Tony Ince and MP Andy Filmore.

Legacy Room Project

I conceived the Legacy Room project in partnership with the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Initiative. It is an opportunity for schools, businesses, organizations and others in the corporate sector to answer Gord Downie's call to action for reconciliation. "Do something." Legacy Rooms also answer the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 92.

Launched in November 2016 the Legacy Room has engaged a number of organizations and companies to designate areas, rooms and in some cases public spaces toward reconciliation in the name of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack. A team which includes Mike Downie, Media Fuse, Media Style, Ulnooweg and myself as Chair is rolling out a national launch of the Legacy Room project in the coming month.

TRC Symposium

As the national portfolio holder for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) at the AFN, I have continued to push the federal government for meaningful actions to follow-up on the TRC Calls to Action. In addition to our national efforts, I am working to secure a regional symposium to be held in 2017. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Tripartite Forum

As Executive Chair of Tripartite Forum, it is my goal to provide a structure that improves communication and to establish a commitment to making the organization more efficient and effective.



Mi'kmaq Language Conference

As the AFN portfolio holder for Languages my office worked extensively with Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey (MK) to develop a Mi'kmaq Language Conference that was held in Dundee in the Fall of 2016. It was an amazing gathering of Elders and youth that was very successful. The program included keynote speakers, community exchanges and discussion, cultural learning and entertainment. The final report and recommendations were to be released in March 2017.

Establishing Nation-to-Nation

As Regional Chief for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, my office has organized and chaired several meetings to address developing a model for nation-to-nation governance and structuring the Mi'kmaq government while liaising with the federal government. The platform for Mi'kmaq government is well underway with continued discussions with the Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould.

Second Nova Scotia Chiefs/MPs Summit

After an incredibly successful first NS Chiefs/MPs Summit, a follow-up event will be held at Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia on August 9th in conjunction with the cultural event being held there August 10-13. There will be continued discussion on items tabled at the first summit with a go forward strategy to be developed. The program will consist of meetings, tour of the Grand-Pré festival site, a press conference and social activity.

The summit is the back drop for knowledge exchange and sharing and setting an agenda for pressing issues facing Indigenous people in Nova Scotia. I am leading this initiative alongside MP Andy Filmore and MP Darrell Samson.

Engagement with Newfoundland

I will continue to work with Conne River and Qalipu and host an NL Chiefs/MPs Summit similar to the MP Chiefs Summit in Nova Scotia.

Additionally, a current priority of mine is working with the NL communities in providing assistance to Mi'sel Joe, Chief of the reserve at Conne River in southern Newfoundland, not far from a former Beothuk excavation site. This is the location of the last known Beothuk people who were killed in the 1820s and whose remains were taken from a burial site, shipped to Britain to study, and later stored at a museum in Edinburgh where they currently reside. The aim is to repatriate the remains from the National Museum of Scotland back to Newfoundland.

The remains of Demasduit (Mary March) and her husband — a chief named Nonosabusut — have been stored at the museum for years. The pair is the

aunt and uncle of Shanawdithit, the last known member of the extinct Beothuk people, who died in St. John's in 1829. My office is supporting Joe in advocating for the Beothuk people.

Athletics, Sport & NAIG

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are the largest continental sporting and cultural gathering of Indigenous people, welcoming more than 5,000 athletes, 2,000 volunteers and a number of spectators and dignitaries from across North America. The City of Toronto will host the 2017 North American Indigenous Games from July 16-23, 2017. I will attend the Games as the AFN portfolio holder for Sport.

Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta – Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program Opportunity

Waterfront Development, in partnership with Sail Training International (STI), is excited to collaborate with my office as Regional Chief as well as the Assembly of First Nations to recruit 45 participants, mentors and facilitators to work together to develop a program that will provide Aboriginal youth from across Canada the opportunity to sail on board a tall ship for the month of August 2017, where they will develop essential team building and leadership skills as well as share cultural and life experiences. Participants will each be paid a wage of \$650/week for 5 weeks in addition to all expenses being covered.

The Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta (RDV 2017) is a 7,000-nautical mile transatlantic race, visiting six countries. Tall ships will visit ports across Canada, including Quebec City, for Canada's 150th and 11 ports in Nova Scotia. Led by STI, thousands of young people from around the world will benefit from this sail training experience across multiple tall ships. Waterfront Development, on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, is working with partners to showcase our province and country to the world. Key elements of the Nova Scotia program include Aboriginal cultural programming.

As a key event of Canada 150, RDV 2017 provides a unique opportunity to host this once-in-a-lifetime sail training program. Halifax is the start line for the final leg of the race. The ships will depart Halifax on August 1 and sail to Le Havre, France in a month-long voyage.

The Regional Chief's office is to develop the regional recruitment program (30% national / 70% regional) and lead development of the cultural program.

Canada C3 Expedition

As the AFN portfolio holder for Truth and Reconciliation, I have been engaged to work with the Canada C3 program, which is designed to engage millions of Canadians. The centrepiece is a 150-day sailing journey from Toronto to



Victoria via the Northwest Passage that will connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast. C3 will be a transformative journey that will capture our hearts and imaginations and help inspire a deeper understanding, appreciation and future vision for Canada. In collaboration with Canada C3 ambassadors, partners, and the many communities we visit, Canada C3 will explore the four key themes of Canada 150 that represent both challenges and opportunities for Canada: Diversity and Inclusion, Reconciliation, Youth Engagement, and the Environment. There will also be a Legacy Room designated on-board the C3 Canada vessel.

Corporate Relations

Over the past year, my office has established several new corporate relationships. We met with Sobeys to discuss better community relations, cultural sensitivity, human resources development for Mi'kmaq, and better engagement by Sobeys.

Waterfront Development approached me to develop the Aboriginal Tall Ship program. WDCL hopes to work with together on future initiatives to promote Mi'kmaq culture. This year on the Halifax Waterfront, Mi'kmaq cultural activities will be in place during Tall Ships 2017 and Aboriginal Day.

Bearhead LNG has committed to sponsoring Grand-Pré 2017 and has expressed interest in working more closely with the Regional Chief's office for advisement and consultation.

These new working relationships and partnerships with banks will help to grow our projects and support on a national level. Meetings were held with TD, RBC and Scotiabank. Scotiabank and TD have committed to sponsorship of Grand-Pré 2017 and hope to work with National Chief on other initiatives.

DAREarts Foundation

As part of my Arts and Culture portfolio, I sit on the Board of this national organization dedicated to youth, arts and mentorship. DAREarts is a Canadian charitable organization that uses educational experiences in the arts to empower children and youth facing life challenges, with confidence, courage and leadership skills to unlock their potential and ignite change in their lives and communities. I am currently working with the chair of the board to bring the program to Atlantic Region communities.

APTN Aboriginal Day Live

APTN has chosen Halifax as one of the 8 cities that will be featured in a special Canada 150 TV special that will celebrate Aboriginal Day. My office is engaged in the planning and execution of the broadcast in Halifax. Other cities will

include Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Toronto and Yellowknife. APTN has partnered with the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre to enhance the Friendship Centre's event. The Friendship Centre will hold day-long cultural activities on the Halifax Common with APTN continuing the celebrations on the Halifax Waterfront. Along with their major concert event, they will also showcase cultural activities on the Waterfront, including Todd Labrador and his birch bark canoes, a Mi'kmaq Sacred Firekeeper with a Sunrise Ceremony and Chef Ray Bear demonstrating and sampling Indigenous foods. APTN expects 15,000 people to attend. APTN has consulted with me on this event. APTN will also promote Grand-Pré at this event. Future cross promotion with APTN is planned.

Army Museum – Passchendaele Centennial

With the Great War Centennial of Passchendaele approaching, the Army Museum Halifax Citadel is developing new displays to honour Mi'kmaq warriors. These will augment existing exhibits that highlight two of the most highly decorated Indigenous servicemen, Sam Gloade of the Royal Canadian Engineers who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and Stephen Toney of the 85th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery. The new displays will be unveiled in the fall of 2017 in partnership with the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (specifically working with Dr. Don Julien) coinciding with Mi'kmaq History Month and leading up to the Centennial of the Battle of Passchendaele. The government of Belgium has invited me to attend commemorations and to assist in facilitating a smudging at the site of the battle and at the Menin Gate on Nov. 10, 2017. I helped to facilitate Dr. Julien's engagement in this project and we aim to facilitate a legacy trip to the region in November.

While in Belgium the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and I will host a summit with the United Nations – UNPO (The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization). UNPO is an international pro-democracy organization. It was formed on February 11, 1991 in The Hague, Netherlands. Its purpose is to facilitate the voices of unrepresented and marginalized nations and peoples worldwide. Technically, it is not a non-governmental organization (NGO) as some of its members are governments or government agencies of unrecognized states. Its members consist of Indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognized or occupied territories. The UNPO works with groups to advocate for their causes and people effectively. Some former members have gained full independence and joined the United Nations. It is the intention of the Regional Chief's office to host a Summit for Indigenous people, in particular Mi'kmaq people, with UNPO representatives to extend the discussion on establishing a nation-to-nation structure.



In Closing

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

Wel'lalin

In the Spirit of Peace and Friendship,

Regional Chief Morley Googoo
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland



AFN ELDERS COUNCIL

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Elders Council continues to play an important role in all facets of the organization and its operations. The Elders Council includes representatives from each of the AFN's 10 regions.

The Elders Council carries forward the collective voices of Elders from each region, together walking on a sacred path for the betterment of First Nations. In recognition of Elders' responsibilities to our Nations, the Elders Council will work together for the sacred life of our Nations as guided by the seven sacred teachings (love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth).

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Elders Council works tirelessly to make significant contributions to AFN initiatives and communicate the work being done at the national level back to their regions. Over the course of the past year the Elders worked on the following four areas:

Environment / Climate Change

The Elders Council has become an integral and driving part of the AFN's climate action. Under the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE), an Elders' Subcommittee was created in order to position Elders at the forefront of any climate action.

The Council has produced an Elders' Statement on Climate Change that outlines key principles and values for climate action moving forward. The Elders Council will use the Statement on Climate Change as a foundational document in their work with regard to land protection and lands and resources.

Nation Building

The Elders Council recognizes and recommends that First Nations people from all traditional territories work together as nations in defining the nation-to-nation relationship. The Elders Council further recognizes the importance of building this relationship, and views the work moving forward as a new beginning. As part of the new governance relationship, the Elders gathered to discuss First Nations wellness and how we can work with the government in addressing issues that affect each region and territory.

Communication

Members of the Elders Council are making efforts to engage with other Elders in their regions to share information and communicate national messages to the grassroots. The Elders Council is an advocate for ensuring that First Nations traditions, languages and ceremonies are shared and kept alive as they are the foundation to building stronger communities and Nations.

Over the span of several Council meetings, the Elders discussed the missing link between First Nations communities and government. The Council advised that communication efforts increase to raise awareness in our communities of the programs and policies that impact the lives of First Nations people living both on and off reserve.

The Elders Council recommends that First Nations grassroots need to be included and communities need to have a voice in directing the work of governments.

AFN Tri-Council

The AFN Tri-Council (Elders, Women's, and Youth) came together in Winnipeg, Manitoba on February 17-18, 2017. This session focused on strategic planning for each of the individual Councils and collectively as the AFN Tri-Council. A strategic work plan for the AFN Tri-Council was developed as a result of this session.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- **Climate Change and Environment:** To share knowledge and assist in identifying ways to mitigate climate change for the protection of our land, water and fish. Work towards regional engagement and advocate for more research on the health of our people and food security.
- **Relationship building with Government:** To educate government and work to ensure the principle of free, prior, and informed consent is implemented. If we use our own way to deal with issues, it will be done in a good way, by using our ceremonies. A nation-to-nation relationship includes connecting with the land.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** working together towards implementation of the UN Declaration.
- **Languages:** The Council recommends that all Elders have a role in the development of the Indigenous Language Act and support First Nations' efforts to keep our languages alive.



AFN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

In February 2017, the AFN Women's Council participated in a Tri-Council (Women's Council, Youth Council, and Elders Council) session to develop individual Council work plans for 2017-2019, and a strategic plan for the Councils to work together. The AFN Women's Council held a three-hour session immediately following the conclusion of the Tri-Council meeting on February 18th. The purpose of this session was to further discuss short-term priorities with a sustainable development lens for long-term priorities extending 5 years to 2022, and to ensure developments align with AFN priorities.

The Women's Council also provided leadership and engagement in the pre-inquiry activities for the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and in particular Chief Denise Stonefish attended the February 8, 2017 meeting with National Inquiry Commissioners. The Women's Council also participated in the National Indigenous Women's Summit in March 2017.



AFN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

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

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

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AFN NYC: Calls to Action on Life Promotion in First Nations Communities

The AFN NYC Calls to Action on Life Promotion in First Nations Communities were developed as a result of a roundtable dialogue with Minister of Health, Jane Philpott. The AFN NYC subsequently shared the Calls to Action with youth delegates at the AFN Youth Summit for further discussion and input. The Calls to Action were supported by the Chiefs-in-Assembly through AFN Resolution 1/2016. The Calls to Action were formally released on September 10, 2016, coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day.

A second roundtable was held with Minister Philpott on December 5, 2016 in Gatineau, Quebec. This roundtable was an opportunity for the AFN NYC to officially present the Calls to Action to the Minister. The meeting was also an opportunity for the Minister and the AFN NYC to discuss how they can work together and along with other federal partners to implement the Calls to Action. From this meeting, both the Minister and the AFN NYC resolved to continue to work together highlighting three short-term objectives: 1) Work together to support regional youth gatherings focused on Life Promotion activities and information dissemination; 2) Training for youth/peer based intervention supports; and 3) Supporting AFN NYC identified land based and life promotion initiatives such as the We Matter Campaign.

As a result of the ongoing commitment to collaborate on the implementation of the Calls to Action, the AFN NYC met with officials from Health Canada on February 4, 2017 in Ottawa. The focus of this discussion was building upon the ongoing partnership to promote and implement the Calls to Action, specifically how Health Canada can support the AFN NYC promotion efforts. The main outcome from this discussion was for Health Canada to provide direction to regional Health Canada offices to work with AFN NYC representatives in their respective regions towards the delivery of regional youth gatherings focused on Life Promotion.

AFN Tri-Council

The AFN Tri-Council (Elders, Women's, and Youth) came together in Winnipeg, Manitoba on February 17-18, 2017. This session focused on strategic planning for each of the individual Councils and collectively as the AFN Tri-Council. A strategic work plan for the AFN Tri-Council was developed as a result of this session.

Mental Wellness

The AFN NYC continues to support work within the AFN on mental wellness. This includes ongoing participation on the AFN Mental Wellness Committee and the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum – Implementation Team.

The AFN NYC provided testimony to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs and their “Study of Suicide Among Indigenous Peoples and Communities”. Will Landon (ON) presented to the committee on October 19, 2016, in Ottawa. The presentation centered on the AFN NYC developed Calls to Action on Life Promotion in First Nations Communities and the need for partnership with Government, addressing common interests with particular focus on improving the lives of First Nations people.

AFN NYC – AFN Secretariat

The AFN NYC continues to participate on committees and working groups coordinated by the AFN Secretariat. This includes participation on the AFN National Advisory Committee on Child and Family Services and the AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment. Additionally, the AFN NYC also participated in the First Nation Directors of Education National Forum, AFN Energy Forum and the AFN Emergency Management Forum. The AFN NYC participated on panels and in workshops offering their advice and input.

Indigenous Youth Leaders at the Senate

AFN NYC Co-Chair Jennifer O'Bomsawin took part in the Indigenous Youth Leaders at the Senate program which took place on June 8, 2017 in Ottawa. Activities for the day included the opportunity for the nine young leaders to testify at the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. Their testimony focused on the Committee's current study on a new relationship between Canada and First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.





NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN NYC will continue to collaborate with Minister Philpott and other key federal officials on the implementation of the Calls to Action. Another roundtable with Minister Philpott is anticipated for the summer of 2017.
- The AFN NYC will continue their collaboration with the AFN Elders and Women's Councils (Tri-Council) with a focus on finalizing and advancing their collective strategic plan.
- The AFN NYC will work to maintain a visible and substantial presence within the activities, meetings and conferences of the AFN Secretariat and its various sub-committees and working groups.
- Planning and coordination of the 2017 AFN National Youth Summit which is anticipated to take place in December in Ottawa, Ontario.





CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the 38th Annual General Assembly (AGA) Regina, Saskatchewan, in the Land of Living Skies. It has been another productive year as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) continues to build on previous successes to ensure that last year's unprecedented commitments result in concrete outcomes for First Nations.

I am honoured to have been entrusted with leading the AFN Secretariat as Acting Chief Executive Officer and am pleased to provide this brief report on the 2016-2017 activities of the Secretariat. Ongoing action has been undertaken to restore AFN's capacity to advance the resolutions passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly and to meet increased demands for engagement and collaboration from a variety of partners.

The AFN remains active in ensuring the rights and interests of First Nations are fully respected and that First Nations children are our number one priority. Work continues to ensure that last year's landmark ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal is implemented to the fullest extent.

The AFN remains engaged with the Council of the Federation to ensure that our Provincial and Territorial government partners recognize First Nations governments and are focused on priorities such as reforming child welfare, and language revitalization. Internationally, the AFN continues to support the recognition of the human rights of First Nations at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and in UN Climate Change meetings. The AFN also continues to press all levels of government to do their part in implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a roadmap for reconciliation.

The policy work of the AFN Secretariat remains firmly guided by the resolutions passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly. In implementing these directions, the AFN is making progress toward a new fiscal relationship between Canada and First Nations. Ongoing engagement with First Nations and the Government of Canada is undertaken to: reform K-12 education systems; address post-secondary education issues; shape the development of a First Nations National Housing Strategy; ensure that First Nations rights and

jurisdictions are embedded in Canada's Impact Assessment regimes, and support other key priorities.

Reflecting on the year that has been and looking to the work ahead, I would like to acknowledge the AFN staff. They are dedicated professionals who can always be counted on and who provide unwavering commitment regardless of the pressures the organization faces. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to work with them.

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

I wish you all the best for a successful AGA. Nia:wen!

Dr. Paulette Tremblay, Ph.D., ICD.D, CAPA
A/Chief Executive Officer



COMMUNICATIONS

The AFN Communications Unit is mandated with the task to ensure that all First Nations receive timely and relevant information on international, national, provincial, regional and local issues, priorities, policies and decisions that can impact First Nations. The Unit is responsible for a number of organizational communications functions, including strategic communications planning, media and public relations, social media, public awareness, and producing and coordinating publications, videos and translation. The Unit provides communications support to all policy areas within the AFN and assists the National Chief's Office.

The Communications Unit distributes information in a wide variety of formats and delivery services including print, broadcast fax, video and audio messages, e-mail blasts, web-based content (including the AFN website), Indigenous and non-Indigenous media and social media.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Media and Public Relations

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

The Communications Unit prepares press releases, media advisories and statements which are distributed nationally (in English and French) to Indigenous and non-Indigenous media, with regional distribution as applicable and international media where relevant. The Communications Unit prepared and distributed more than 115 press releases, statements and media advisories during the 2016-17 fiscal year. Communications also prepares media lines and talking points, backgrounders, op-eds, letters to the editor and editorials on current and priority issues.

The Unit assists in preparing speaking notes for the National Chief and AFN spokespeople for a variety of events for wide-ranging audiences, including First Nation governments, groups and organizations, professional associations, national and international organizations, and federal and provincial governments.

Communications seeks to raise and maintain the profile of First Nation peoples and priorities through a variety of media, including print, broadcast and web-based media. The Communications Unit is active in media outreach and media relations and has set up background briefings, interviews and editorial boards to further understanding and awareness of the AFN's activities and First Nations issues.

The Communications Unit engages in daily media monitoring to track, assess and evaluate coverage of First Nations and Indigenous issues. Over the past year, there have been several developments that have resulted in widespread national and international media coverage for the AFN, including forging new relationships with governments, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, First Nations child health and welfare (including the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision and follow-up issues), education, health, resource development, Indigenous languages, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, among many others.

Public Awareness

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

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

The website (www.afn.ca) is updated regularly to provide current information on AFN activities and priorities. Since the last annual report, the AFN has created and staffed an IT Manager position who, among other duties, oversees the AFN website and is managing the re-design and updating of the website.

The AFN provides live webcasting of all Assemblies and key gatherings. The AFN now has the ability to do its own in-house webcasting of events, meetings and webinars, some of which are interactive and accessible to the online audience. Webcasts over the past year include the AFN Dialogue



Session on Specific Claims (June 19-20/2017), the National Chief's response to the Federal Budget (March 23/17), press conference on the 10 Year Anniversary of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Complaint on Discrimination against First Nations Children (February 23/17), a press conference on the Wapekeka First Nation Suicide Crisis (January 19/17), AFN Special Chiefs Assembly (December 2016), Advancing Indigenous Rights, Right Now! – How to Use the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and International Processes (December 5/16), Update on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Decisions on First Nations Child Welfare and Jordan's Principle (November 16/2016), and the AFN Annual General Assembly (July 2016).

The AFN continues to expand its use of social media, including Twitter ([AFN_Updates](#)) with more than 35,500 followers and the AFN Facebook page ([Assembly of First Nations/Assemblée des Premières Nations](#)), which has more than 46,000 followers as of the end of June 2017. Videos are posted on social media, including the Assembly of First Nations [YouTube](#) channel which has more than 540 subscribers. The National Chief has his own Facebook page and Twitter account that are managed separately from the AFN accounts and are administered by the National Chief's Office.

Public information is also distributed to more than 1,700 subscribers through the AFN e-mail subscription service ([listserv](#)). Users can sign up on the AFN website.

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

Communications Strategies

The Communications Unit develops and implements global AFN communications strategies as well as targeted strategies and communications plans for specific events, issues and initiatives. The Unit provides advice, recommendations and communications support to the AFN Secretariat inclusive of all policy areas and to the National Chief's Office. Communications advice and recommendations are also provided to communities or Nations upon request whenever possible.

Translation

The Communications Unit coordinates all French/English translation requirements to ensure that the general public and First Nations are able to access all public materials produced by the AFN in both French and English. As per AFN policy, all public documents (including those posted on the AFN website) are available in French and English. Translation in other languages is coordinated as required. Translation projects during the 2016-17 fiscal year totaled 739,212 words.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Enhanced monitoring of print, broadcast and social media using new analytics tools.
- Public opinion polling initiatives to inform strategic communications activities.
- Ongoing media and public relations efforts and initiatives.
- Publication of Bulletins and other public information materials.
- Ongoing French translation of public materials.
- Ongoing editing and desktop publishing of AFN publications.
- Ongoing updates of the AFN website.
- Increased and enhanced use of new media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and mobile applications.
- Increased use of in-house webcasting and video production ability.



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Economic Partnerships portfolio focuses on economic development, trade, revenue options, labour force and human resources development, agriculture and connectivity. This portfolio area also assists AFN efforts in regard to organizational revenue opportunities. In the past several years, the Chiefs-in-Assembly has passed national resolutions on the importance of resource revenue sharing, new investments, e-community, procurement, inter-nation trade, agriculture, wealth creation and sustainability.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

First Nations and Energy Development

The opportunities and the regulation that accompany the development and transmission of energy resources are of great interest to First Nations. Natural resource development and the transition to a clean energy economy are critical components of Canada's economic prosperity and there are a number of First Nations interested and/or presently leveraging the benefits of resource development and green(er) energy.

In follow up to Resolution 04/2015, the AFN hosted an Indigenous energy resource development forum. The event, titled *First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities*, was hosted in Vancouver, BC, and focused on First Nations' approaches to economic and energy development and the role, rights and jurisdiction (including consent requirements) of First Nations in development regulation to ensure environmental protection and sustainable, responsible development. The forum was an important opportunity to continue the dialogue on First Nations involvement in this sector.

To build on this work, the secretariat also hosted a focus group on energy during the 2017 AFN Energy Forum. The AFN gathered technical and leadership guidance in an effort to inform the discussion of how the framework for establishing a First Nations Energy Strategy could unfold. In support of this process, the AFN prepared a draft options paper that explores the substantive issues pertaining to the creation of a First Nations Energy Strategy for consideration of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED). The common themes and recommendations of the secretariat's work related to the energy sector are pending validation and support of the CCED.

Trade Relations

The inherent right to trade and trade relations continues to be a priority for First Nations. Strategic considerations regarding First Nations trade relations

must be based on the inherent right to trade within and between Nations. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms that "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions to be secure in their enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities" as guaranteed under Section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

There are a number of Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions that provide direction to the AFN through the CCED to affirm the First Nations inherent right to trade, and to undertake efforts to advocate for First Nations economic growth and the development of options to secure greater economic independence.

The AFN has conducted research and has advocated for enhanced Indigenous peoples' trade networks in North America and globally. The work to date on cooperative trade development has included approaching the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to establish a work relationship on trade; a memorandum of understanding on trade cooperation with the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED); and the 2009 AFN InterNation Trade and Economic Summit which initiated discussions on trade options among First Nations and other Indigenous peoples. On March 29, 2017, the AFN hosted a Trade Roundtable to initiate a technical dialogue on the elements of a First Nations trade strategy. The AFN proposed activity includes continuing the dialogue on the development of a First Nations Trade Strategy with First Nations leaders and First Nations trade experts.

First Nation Agriculture Strategy

In July 2016, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 47/2016 – First Nations to Access Economic Opportunities Through a First Nations Agricultural Strategy. This resolution mandated the AFN to engage with the Government of Canada, and specifically the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), to help facilitate First Nation agricultural development.

On December 2016, the AFN held a meeting with AAFC officials to establish a working relationship based off mutual priorities and to scope out the potential parameters and premises for how work will proceed. The AAFC, following discussions with the AFN, hosted two initial outreach sessions. The purpose of these two events was to help build awareness, among First Nation leadership and agricultural practitioners, of the AAFC and the current programming.



These one-day sessions were also an opportunity for department officials and First Nations to meet and dialogue.

The AFN is working with AAFC to develop a path forward to fulfill its mandate and to engage with First Nations for the formation of a First Nations Agricultural Strategy. As directed by resolution, the AFN is examining methods for engaging with First Nation leadership and AAFC to collaborate on furthering this strategy.

Human Resource Development

The current Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) ends March 31, 2018. Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Service Canada have put in place an interim agreement as of April 1, 2017 with ASETS organizations.

The Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) was re-established in June 2016. The Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the CCHRD to work jointly with ESDC to frame a Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) policy document. Resolutions mandated that:

- CCHRD establish a distinct First Nations Strategy that is long-term, based on needs;
- CCHRD establish a model that seeks to foster success, be inclusive, address the disadvantaged and accommodate the geographical challenges and costs of isolated, remote and northern communities;
- work begin toward a legislative process that will solidify the creation and funding of that strategy;
- work be guided by a nation-to-nation/government-to-government relationship and uphold recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership; and,
- will result in a recommendation for a new First Nations labour market authority.

The CCHRD met in Vancouver on March 30, 2017 to receive updated information on the work in progress and to review: a First Nations policy paper on a New Labour Market Strategy, the Funding Formula Analysis and Funding Options for consideration; a legal analysis; and, the recommendations to the Minister on legislation needs. The update included organizing better to advocate and support First Nations labour market needs at the national and regional levels. Discussions also included an update on the status of a joint policy development process. First Nations leaders and technicians have continued to call for a joint policy development process; however, ESDC officials indicated that an MC developed with First Nations would not be possible. The AFN also advocated for involvement in the development of a communications and implementation strategy for a post 2018 Distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy as appropriate.

The AFN developed its own version of an MC-like paper for ESDC officials. The CCHRD directed that the information be used as the foundation to inform ESDC officials and incorporated into the policy document for approval by Cabinet and the bringing forward of a new distinct First Nations Labour Market Strategy and policy framework for 2018 and beyond.

The AFN has received positive feedback from ESDC officials on the use and incorporation of the issues and policy direction provided to them in the preparation of their submission.

Natural Resources Development

Regional Chief Hart participated in the 2016 Energy and Mines Ministers Meeting on behalf of the AFN. As part of this event, a session between ministers and Indigenous leaders was coordinated. This was an opportunity to comment on First Nations inclusion; the need for establishing fair regulatory systems that are efficient and respect First Nations rights; and designing solutions with First Nations. Additionally, this was an opportunity to specifically note the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A Working Group on Natural Resources Development (Working Group) was launched in December 2013 and their work came to a close in March 2015. The Working Group prepared a report titled, *First Nations and Natural Resource Development: Advancing Positive, Impactful Change (March 2015)*. Importantly, they noted that the report was not intended as a final word on any of the subjects discussed. It aimed to provide a starting point for a more comprehensive dialogue. The report's thematic areas focused on governance, environment, prosperity, and finance. Action was called for, as follows:

- to undertake a more comprehensive dialogue among First Nations governments, federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and others to advance discussions on the four main themes (governance, environment, prosperity, and finance) of the report, leading to actions and a road map to facilitate meaningful First Nations involvement in natural resource development in Canada;
- to convene a national discussion on resource revenue sharing as a best means to eliminating socio-economic disparities;
- to establish a knowledge and information resource to assist and enable First Nations who may be seeking information and technical resources; and
- to hold an international forum on trade and international partnerships to support First Nations involvement in resources development, trade, business partnerships and access to markets.



First Nations e-Community

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development includes focus on First Nations connectivity and advocating for increased access and support for First Nations Information Communications Technology (ICT). Resolutions 11/2006, 16/2008 and 53/2011 provide direction to advocate for appropriate programs, services and investments in First Nations ICT. The First Nations e-Community Strategy is the basis of planning to help promote connectivity infrastructure, capacity and management broadly amongst First Nations communities. The portfolio remains an unfunded activity at the AFN and this has limited the activity in the portfolio as it relates to national discussions and strategic initiatives.

First Nations Gaming

The AFN is developing a discussion paper to be considered by a Chiefs Committee on Gaming for which resources will be sought. The discussion paper also will be provided to the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development.

Poverty Action Research Project (PAR Project)

The AFN, through the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development, has established the Make First Nations Poverty History Expert Advisory Committee. As part of its activity, the committee has been successful in obtaining a five-year research grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH). Work on this research project continues independently with First Nations communities and local and regional project advisory committees. The work involves designing and implementing a strategic plan to help create a sustainable economic base and improve the health and well-being of community members. The most recent national meeting of participating communities and researchers was held on May 29-31, 2017 in White Point, NS.

- Collaborate, where possible, with the National Congress of American Indians on trade and revenue options.
- Pending confirmation of funding, develop principles for engagement and coordination regarding the development of First Nations economic policy and in cooperation with First Nations Economic Development Officers (EDOs), national technical and regional organizations, and First Nations business representatives.
- Work with First Nation leadership and agricultural practitioners and the Government of Canada to establish a First Nation Agricultural Strategy.
- Continued support for the Poverty Action Reduction Project and report to the AFN on the development of this initiative.
- Continue to focus on addressing data and information management gaps within the economic partnerships policy portfolio. Efforts to identify funding will continue for economic research and analysis on First Nations trade and investment, procurement approaches and improvements, investment tools, economic incentives and other areas that have been affected.
- Propose options for activity to Chiefs Committees providing guidance for the AFN portfolio.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Follow-up on the report of the First Nations Forum on Energy: Setting Priorities recommendations including further dialogue on First Nations Energy Strategy options.
- Continue to work with First Nations leadership, technicians and ESDC on the communications and implementation strategy for a new First Nations labour market agreement.
- Continue to advocate for First Nations connectivity priorities and seek opportunities to provide a First Nations perspective and policy input on federal connectivity related matters and discussions.
- Pending confirmation of funding, coordinate and plan for a First Nations Trade Meeting to seek the broader input of First Nations leaders and First Nations trade experts on a comprehensive trade strategy.



EDUCATION

AFN Education, its Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) work and advocate to ensure the Government of Canada fulfills its obligation to recognize and affirm First Nations inherent and Treaty rights to education. First Nations Control of First Nations Education reflects our vision of a quality education for all First Nations students, including:

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

Budget 2016 included an investment of \$2.6 billion over five years to support First Nations education. Part of this funding was to support the transformation of First Nations elementary and secondary education through a respectful and honourable engagement process with First Nations. First Nations and the Government of Canada are committed to working collaboratively to outline a path forward for First Nations education while respecting the principle of First Nations Control of First Nations Education.

Through Resolution 16/2016 the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved that an honourable process to develop recommendations to support First Nations Education reform be developed in collaboration with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). From this resolution a joint collaborative process, in the form of Joint Task Teams, between First Nations and INAC, was established to address key policy areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Post-Secondary Education
- Funding Mechanisms
- Statutory Funding
- Measurement and Mutual Accountability

This report highlights how this collaborative process is developing and how the AFN Education Sector is moving education resolutions into action.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) task team has chosen K4/K5 kindergarten programs as a starting point. One of the key goals for the

ECE task team is to expand quality K4/K5 programming on-reserve. This will include expanding programming to full-time, and defining what quality programming is. The ECE task team has discussed how we can work with and complement the work of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) working group. Federal mapping of early childhood programs has been provided by Health Canada and INAC so that a better picture can be drawn as to what is available to children and families living on-reserve. Furthermore, a draft literature review on pivotal First Nations Early Childhood Education documents has been commissioned.

Post-Secondary Education

The Post-Secondary Education (PSE) task team is recommending changes to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) guidelines to take effect 2018-2019. The NIEC and CCOE are working with INAC as well as Employment Services Development Canada (ESDC) to develop a response to the Budget 2017 announcement regarding a Post-Secondary Education review:

“The Government will undertake a comprehensive and collaborative review with Indigenous partners of all current federal programs that support Indigenous students who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The purpose of the review will be to ensure that these programs meet the needs of individual students while supporting attendance at, and completion of, a post-secondary degree or credential.”

The comprehensive review is mandated by Treasury Board to INAC and ESDC and the use of the word Indigenous is inclusive of: First Nations Status, First Nations Non-Status, Inuit and Métis. The CCOE believes that the First Nations element of the comprehensive review be conducted as a separate review and the partnership of the NIEC and CCOE lead the review under the agreed upon Terms of Reference that govern the Task Teams. In order to ensure accountability and First Nations control of First Nations education, the review needs to be led by First Nations.

Funding Mechanisms

The Funding Mechanisms Task Team has completed analysis of the current federal funding management regime for 2017 and shared regional research and analysis of education funding to better understand options for regional frameworks and/or funding mechanisms.

The Task Team has identified recommendations for modernizing the existing, outdated and inadequate INAC funding for education. These recommendations



will be put forward to CCOE and NIEC and ultimately be used to develop a Memorandum of Cabinet for the fall 2017. The recommendations support regional approaches and regional models for First Nation education and include the following:

- Transferring the majority of proposal-based funding to direct core funding for first- second- and third-level services that support all First Nation students.
- Eliminating the current INAC national program guidelines and the extensive reporting burden for proposal-based programs.
- Replacing the existing funding approaches with regional funding allocation models that are responsive, flexible and transparent to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for First Nations communities and education organizations.
- Developing distinct regional funding allocation models by First Nations regions with a base allocation that ensures comparable access to education opportunities similar to that of the provincial/territorial education system.
- Enhancing base allocations so that each regional funding allocation model will include funding that is adapted to meet the specific and unique realities of First Nations schools and students. Including additional direct, core funding for programs such as: language and culture; land-based education; adult education; vocational education; technology; and personal home placements.

Statutory Funding

Federal legislation has been identified by governments, academics, educational professionals and First Nation leaders as a required instrument to support First Nation control of education. Specifically, legislation is required to direct the behavior of the federal government and to ensure a statutory guarantee of education funding from the Government of Canada to First Nations. Statutory funding will ensure predictable and non-discretionary funds are provided for education.

The Task Team has shared research and analysis of education funding to better understand options for establishing a statutory guarantee of funding for First Nations, including:

- Federal funding transfers for Francophone students.
- Federal funding transfers to provincial governments and other organizations.
- Existing federal and provincial legislation that includes components that support a First Nation vision of supporting predictable, sustainable and stable funding.

The Task Team on Statutory Funding, the AFN and CCOE have identified a number of considerations for pursuing a statutory guarantee of funding and will be looking for direction to continue this work. These considerations would be in addition to the non-legislative modernization of education funding being

undertaken in each region, and supported by the Funding Mechanisms Task Team, that aim to provide additional protection for First Nation education funding.

Measurement and Mutual Accountability

In order to release transformation funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, INAC must provide a results framework which is to be jointly developed with First Nations to the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) by fall 2017 and turned to the Measurement and Mutual Accountability task team to explain regional perspectives of reporting. The task team met with representatives of TBS to gain further insight as to how requirements could be satisfied based on existing regional perspectives as national reporting requirements are unrealistic. The proposed indicators that have been chosen are based on what First Nations are currently reporting on in order to reflect what First Nations education looks like in the present (2017). There are many contributing factors that make targets unreliable and misrepresentative. In order to uphold mutual accountability, First Nations are advocating for performance indicators that INAC must submit to First Nations regarding more timely and predictable release of funding.

Education Forum

The First Nation Directors of Education National Forum was held March 1-2, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta and had over 800 participants from across Canada. The theme of the forum was *Leading Educational Change: Restoring Balance* and was rooted in the teachings of the medicine wheel for holistic life-long learning.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

Early Childhood Education

- Defining what quality K4/K5 programming means to First Nations (regional approach)
- Looking at frameworks that exist in the regions
- Assessing the skills children need when entering into Grade 1 (strength-based approach)

Post-Secondary Education

- Complete recommendations to Post-Secondary Student Support Program guidelines
- Define the scope of the First Nations review process to the Post-Secondary Student Support Program guidelines and post-secondary education federal suite of programs





Funding Mechanisms

- Identify First Nation cost drivers, such as costs for language, culture and land-based education programming
- Continue to support regionally-based fiscal funding mechanisms and models that will replace current INAC funding methodologies
- Continue to provide research that informs a new submission to Cabinet in the fall 2017

Statutory Funding

- Present considerations for statutory funding to CCOE and Chiefs-in-Assembly as required
- Seek direction for continuing with the Statutory Funding Joint Task Team based on the considerations proposed to date

Measurement and Mutual Accountability

- Finalize Regional Perspectives Framework to go to Treasury Board (August)

Education Forum

- AFN Education Sector has begun planning the 2018 Education Forum to be held February 20-22, 2018

Additional Task Team

- AFN Education Sector is committed to developing an additional Task Team to address the Unique Needs of Northern and Remote Communities



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management sector advocates for more prominent consideration and presence of emergency management issues in First Nations before, during and after events that befall communities. This is achieved through analysis of existing policies and procedures to ensure a First Nations voice and that consistent information is maintained at all levels, as well as recommending and advocating for the implementation of needed changes. The AFN works toward the objective of increasing consideration of First Nations Emergency Management through: advocating for fair, adequate, and equitable emergency management and response services; facilitating discussion on emergency management and response; analyzing policies and advocating for change, improvement and the inclusion of First Nations in issues of direct concern; initiating and engaging in discussion on current emergency issues management and response for First Nations; and, analysis and knowledge sharing with various First Nations groups and organizations regarding emergency issues management and response.

Resolution 03/2015 directed the AFN to call upon the Government of Canada to include First Nations in the development of of trilateral or bilateral agreements between First Nations and Canada related to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery planning, as well as to ensure Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and provincial partners work collaboratively with First Nations leaders.

There is an ongoing issue with the inordinate amount of time it takes to repatriate First Nations evacuees to their home community or in one case, to establish relocation. As of June 19, 2017, 3,265 members are still away from home due to floods dating back to 2010. In Manitoba, 2,041 (up from 1,939) members are still away from home from the 2011 flood, and another 528 members from the Alberta flood of 2013. There are also 146 members evacuated from 2017 spring floods. While efforts are underway to repatriate and provide new housing, this is an unacceptable length of time to be away from home.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emergency Management funding proposal

The AFN has been managing the Emergency Management file since 2011 with funding from INAC Emergency Issues Management Directorate, now renamed INAC Emergency Management Directorate (EMD). This funding was not renewed after two years but AFN has been managing this without funding support for staff or for advocacy activities. In 2017 a new funding application

was submitted to INAC EMD for full funding support for AFN on this file. An advance is being considered to allow AFN to develop a work plan to support the remaining funding support for 2017-2018.

Emergency Management Forum

The AFN hosted an Emergency Management Forum on March 28 to 30, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta. The Forum was well-received with 166 participants. The Forum helped to inform delegates on emergency management programs and activities and demonstrated the size of the federal family related to First Nations emergency management. There was an overwhelming interest in an annual forum. The AFN will be seeking funding to host the 2nd Annual Emergency Management Forum in 2017/2018.

Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management (CCEM)

The AFN established a CCEM as part of the Emergency Management Forum and held the first teleconference on May 18, 2017. The AFN has requested funding to host face-to-face CCEM meetings and conference calls.

National Roundtable for Disaster Risk Reduction

AFN Alberta Regional Chief Craig Makinaw attended the 7th Annual National Roundtable for Disaster Risk Reduction on November 21-22, 2016 in Montreal, Quebec. In addition, Regional Chief Makinaw represented the AFN at the March 7-9, 2017 Fifth Session of the Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Montreal. The AFN will continue to take part in these discussions.

Public Safety Canada

Public Safety Canada is seeking to work with AFN on the development of an engagement strategy on the National Emergency Management Strategy to include Search and Rescue (SAR), Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) and the National Public Alerting System (NPAS).

Public Safety Canada and the F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management

On May 5, 2016, National Chief Perry Bellegarde was invited by the Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale, to attend a meeting of F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management. The National Chief was invited to present views on First Nations Emergency Management. The outcomes



of this meeting included the National Chief outlining the concerns of First Nations regarding emergency response and recovery. PSC and INAC EMD have addressed some of the concerns raised at this meeting.

On May 25, Regional Chief Makinaw participated in a dedicated meeting on Indigenous Emergency Management with F/P/T Ministers responsible for Emergency Management in St. John's, Nfld. co-hosted by Minister Goodale and Deputy Minister Jamie Chippett, Department of Municipal Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador. The outcome was agreement to undertake an inventory of First Nations emergency management plans as a first step to determine the preparedness of First Nations. The AFN will develop a proposal to carry out this inventory.

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

The AFN was invited to a discussion on the report prepared by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). The lead federal department is Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN). The Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy was created under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) in 2005. Given increased strains being placed on firefighting resources, it is expected that fire management agencies will leverage the refreshed strategy to seek additional resources to help increase investments in fire prevention and mitigation and to supplement existing firefighting resources. First Nations may have significant interest in the strategy from at least two perspectives. The first is related to options to mitigate risks from forest fire around communities in forested regions. The second is related to the possibility of training and mobilization of Indigenous people in fire suppression.

INAC Emergency Notifications

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

Canadian Red Cross

The AFN maintains an ongoing relationship and engagement with the Canadian Red Cross and, in conjunction with the AFN Health Secretariat, has been working on reviewing and revising the current Memorandum of Understanding between the organizations into a "Relationship Protocol" with a more operational component. Reflected in the draft protocol, the Red Cross is interested in working with First Nations in a mutually respectful and supportive manner to explore culturally appropriate and sustainable ways to deliver its three key programmatic areas across the country: Emergencies & Disasters, Community Health, and Prevention & Safety. This is ongoing.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN will work with Public Safety Canada on re-establishing First Nations involvement with the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM) body. The F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management is still considering this request.
- The AFN will develop a proposal to carry out an inventory of First Nations Emergency management plans as a first step to determine the preparedness of First Nations.
- The AFN will develop a work plan for the EM program to include the work needed to host the Chiefs Committee on Emergency Management, and to provide support for information sharing and engagement for the other EM departments such as the Wildland Fire Strategy, Transport Canada, Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Coast Guard, INAC EMD, Health Canada, and Public Safety Canada.
- The AFN will continue to develop its connections, advocacy and networking to coordinate EM efforts between representative regions, organizations and communities, as well as with federal and provincial organizations, and engage with First Nations in an effort to continue to build knowledge, capacity, and possible training.



ENVIRONMENT

The Environment unit focuses on all environmentally-based issues affecting First Nations, including fisheries. Recently recreated as a stand-alone unit, Environment staff work directly with two Chiefs committees: the National Fisheries Committee (NFC), and the newly created Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE). Mandated by a wide array of resolutions, the Environment unit has become active in a range of key areas set out below, while also maintaining a broad focus on other issues that may grow over the coming year. These could include chemicals and contaminants, natural resources and water, as well as greater engagement with academic institutions and in the international context.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fisheries

The Assembly First Nations (AFN) supports all First Nations in the exercise of their inherent and treaty rights over aquatic and oceans resources, through facilitating and coordinating national First Nations perspectives on policy, program and legislative developments. Using consensus-based and collective strategies, the AFN National Fisheries Committee (NFC) works to support the self-determination and jurisdiction of First Nations over all fisheries resources. In accordance with the mandates received through resolutions, the National Fisheries Strategy is aligned to respond, support and promote a broad range of priority issues by achieving a balance between sustainable economies, environmental protection and the assertion of Aboriginal rights.

The NFC provides guidance to the AFN Secretariat in the development and implementation of a National Fisheries Strategy that includes First Nation perspectives from across Canada, including all coastal, northern and inland regions. The National Strategy is based on four underlying principles on rights, access, capacity and accountability. The centrepiece of this work is focused on supporting First Nations rights to fish, to ensure that Canada recognizes and respects the inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights protected under the s. 35 rights of the *Constitution*. It also ensures that the Crown upholds the legal obligations consistent with case law and ensures all levels of Government in Canada respects the principles set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

National Aquaculture Working Group

The AFN has re-established the National Aquaculture Working Group (NAWG) as a sub-technical working group under the National Fisheries Committee to

engage on new Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Aquaculture policies and with regional technical experts. The aquaculture industry in Canada consists of salt and freshwater finfish, shellfish, and marine algae cultivation. Each combination of species and environments presents unique considerations for regulation, policy, management, science, and technical and legal analysis. These unique considerations coupled with multiple levels of governments and multiple departments involved in the regulatory framework create high levels of complexity. This year NAWG met for the first time, and identified four co-chairs to guide their work. The NAWG will report back to the NFC and Chiefs-in-Assembly as progress develops. First Nations should also be ready to engage in anticipation of the DFO looking to undertake the development of a new Aquaculture Act.

Marine Emergency Response Protocol

The ongoing spill issues and marine emergencies have elevated the importance of the re-opening the Marine Emergency Response Protocol (MERP) drafted in 2006 to deal specifically with marine emergencies such as conflicts on the water, rescue, oil spills, and disaster relief that can impact First Nation fisheries. AFN Resolution 93/2016 on Marine Emergency Information Management Protocol passed at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2016 supported the reopening of the MERP. It is anticipated that there will be future opportunities for a formal signing ceremony between the National Chief and the DFO Minister and others around this issue.

Environmental and Regulatory Reviews

In June 2016, the Government of Canada announced the review of key environmental and regulatory legislation, including the modernization of the National Energy Board (NEB), *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), the *Fisheries Act*, and the *Navigation Protection Act* (NPA). In the subsequent months, each review used different methods to “engage Canadians”: an Expert Panel for the CEAA and NEB reviews, and a Standing Committee for the Fisheries Act and NPA. Following these engagement periods, each review released a report for consideration from the federal government, which – following the completion of a public comment period – will lead to a federal Discussion Paper that will set out the action for legislative reform, leading to a Memorandum to Cabinet.

As per Resolution 86/2016, Meaningful Consultation and Engagement with First Nations in the Environmental and Regulatory Review, the AFN is involved in this review, seeking to “engage in a focused dialogue with First Nations



to substantively identify, recognize and engage the protocols, elements and processes to conduct joint legislative drafting.” The AFN has facilitated a variety of information sessions and technical meetings across the country for all four reviews in an effort to ensure proper engagement processes for the upcoming federal consultations beginning during the summer of 2017.

Species at Risk

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) was jointly developed with First Nations in the 1990s and came into force in 2002. The focus of the Act is to prevent wildlife from becoming extinct and to determine necessary actions for their recovery when they are threatened. The Act provides for the legal protection of wildlife species and the conservation of biological diversity, in accordance with Canada’s commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The SARA is also the only piece of federal legislation that explicitly recognizes the critical role of Indigenous Peoples in the administration and implementation of the Act through the establishment of the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR), an advisory committee to the Minister of Environment under Section 8(1) of the Act.

In addition to the establishment of the NACOSAR, the SARA also provides the Minister of Environment the authority to establish additional advisory committees as necessary under Section 9(1) and 9(2) respectively. In accordance with Resolution 120/2016, the AFN is now working with officials from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to support the inclusion of First Nations interests in species protection and conservation. In March 2017, the AFN received confirmation from the Minister of ECCC for its recommendation to establish a Section 9 First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) in accordance with the Section 9(1) provisions of the SARA. To date, efforts have focused on preliminary discussions between AFN staff, the AFN’s Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) and ECCC department officials on the necessary steps for the establishment of such a committee. It is expected that the inaugural meeting of the FNAC will occur in fall 2017.

Climate Change

With support of the ACCAE, AFN participated in the Pan-Canadian Framework (PCF) on Clean Growth and Climate Action process announced in March 2016, leading to a First Ministers Meeting (FMM) in December 2016. This included the submission of an AFN Climate Action Priorities document, which included an Elders’ Statement developed at an Elders’ Gathering hosted in Fort St. John, BC, in October 2016, and described five key areas for First Nations’ climate action.

AFN Leadership, including National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Regional Chief Bill Erasmus, Regional Chief Isadore Day and Regional Chief Kevin Hart, participated in the FMM in December where the AFN and the Government of Canada jointly released a “Process Document for Ongoing Engagement on the PCF”, which included a commitment to establishing a bilateral First Nation/Canada table on climate change.

Following the release of the Process document, the AFN received confirmation for the establishment of a Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA), which would support ongoing engagement in the Pan-Canadian Framework process and other First Nations’ climate priorities. It is expected that the inaugural meeting of the JCCA will occur in fall 2017.

Pathway to Target 1

Canada established the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative based on an international commitment under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This target calls for the conservation of 17 per cent of terrestrial areas and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020 through the establishment of networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including “Indigenous Conservation Areas”. Parks Canada, which leads this initiative, has worked to engage First Nations through a variety of mechanisms and with the direct participation of First Nation and AFN representatives in all aspects of this initiative.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The Environment unit will continue to build capacity and engagement through its newly created Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE), alongside the already established National Fisheries Committee (NFC), while also enhancing the role of Elders and the AFN Elders Council in all of its work.
- Ongoing pursuit of joint legislative drafting relating to the four Environmental and Regulatory Reviews currently underway.
- A Steering Committee to be established to undertake the planning of a major National Indigenous Fisheries Forum (NIFF) to be held in February 2018.
- Identification of key First Nations priority areas for Species at Risk as part of the First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC), expected to meet in fall 2017.
- Establishment of the Joint Committee on Climate Action (JCCA) for its inaugural meeting in fall 2017.



FISCAL RELATIONS

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The National Chief and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a new fiscal relationship at the 2016 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Niagara Falls.

To provide guidance and direction to the AFN's efforts on implementing that MOU, the Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations was revitalized and has met six times during the past 12 months. In addition, three technical working groups were formed with AFN and Government of Canada officials. These were organized around the Prime Minister's commitment to a new fiscal relationship with First Nations that gives First Nations "sufficient, predictable and sustained funding" and have been meeting two or three times per month each. Government of Canada representatives at these meetings include officials from key departments and the central agencies. The AFN continues to develop ideas and proposals for a new fiscal relationship, confirming direction with the Chiefs Committee and seeking responses from Canada. The materials developed to date will be presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the 2017 Annual General Assembly in Regina.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

Preparations are being made for broader engagement with First Nations on the new fiscal relationship in the fall, setting the direction for a report outlining options and recommendations for the design of a new fiscal relationship to be presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in December 2017. Given the significance and complexity of these issues, the fiscal relationship will be an item for discussion at the joint priority setting meetings with the Prime Minister and federal Cabinet Ministers on an ongoing basis.



HEALTH

The Assembly of First Nations (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 the well-being of First Nations. This is achieved through policy analysis, communications, and most importantly, advocacy on behalf of, and supporting First Nations communities and individuals. A central goal of the AFN Health team is First Nations' control of the development and delivery of all health services and programs.

Details on a number of areas of high priority for 2016/17 in health can be found below. These are Mental Wellness and Substance Use, Non-Insured Health Benefits and the development of the First Nations Health Transformation Agenda, which sets the AFN's advocacy agenda on health. Beyond these priority issues, other areas of work undertaken by the AFN Health Sector team include disabilities, public health, chronic and communicable diseases, food security/sovereignty, emergency management and pandemic planning, tobacco, eHealth, health data, children's health, home and community care and palliative care, injury prevention and health partnerships, among others. More information on these areas of work can be found on the AFN health website at: www.health.afn.ca

STRATEGIC POLICY: FIRST NATIONS HEALTH TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

In 2016/17 the AFN continued to pursue a long-term vision of First Nations control of First Nations health systems with sustainable and adequate investments that result in better health outcomes.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In January of 2016 the National Chief and Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day strongly advocated for First Nations participation in the Health Accord process. The first meeting of the Health Ministers was in January in Vancouver where Regional Chief Day gave a presentation on First Nations health needs. He presented again at the Health Ministers' Meeting in Toronto in October. As part of the Health Accord process, Health Canada committed to supporting the AFN in the development of a paper meant to clearly articulate First Nations health priorities. The development of the paper—called the *First Nations Health Transformation Agenda (FNHTA)*—involved input and advice from the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH), the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN), a dedicated Task Team made up of

subject matter experts, the AFN Elders Council, health economists and experts in Aboriginal law.

Overall, the FNHTA includes 85 recommendations for Federal-Provincial-Territorial governments across a wide spectrum of priority areas including: Closing the Jurisdictional Gaps, including Jordan's Principle; Support for Traditional Healing; Ensuring Cultural Safety/Humility; Supporting First Nations Human Resources for Wellness; Investing in Adequate Health Facilities and Capital Supports; Ensuring Flexible and Adequate Primary Care Investments; Supporting First Nations Initiatives on Chronic and Communicable Diseases; Expanding Access to eHealth; Ensuring Access to Child and Family Programming; Supporting First Nations Mental Wellness and Addictions Programming; Ensuring Access to Home and Community Care, including Palliative Care; and Supporting First Nations Health Data Initiatives.

Beyond the specific policy recommendations, the overarching messages of the FNHTA are:

- **Getting the Relationships Right** – for all of those within the healthcare world, but in particular federal, provincial and territorial governments, to work with First Nations in a way which respects First Nations right to self-determination, as part of Treaty, inherent and international rights. The FNHTA seeks to push federal/provincial/territorial actors to engage with First Nations rights-holders in building these vital relationships.
- **Meaningful Investments in First Nations Health** – speaks to the need for significant and immediate investments in program areas across the board. First Nations health systems are profoundly underfunded, a fact which contributes significantly to the overall poor health outcomes of First Nations people.
- **Support First Nations Capacity First** – speaks to the need to support First Nations people, communities and organizations in building capacity in the area of health and wellness, rather than turning to mainstream organizations to do work on behalf of First Nations. First Nations have the right and the knowledge to develop our own healthcare and health systems solutions. The missing link continues to be capacity support.

While a federal/provincial/territorial agreement on the Canadian healthcare system now seems unlikely, the AFN will continue to deploy the FNHTA to advocate for real transformative change in First Nations health, at all levels



and to all audiences. The FNHTA is available on the AFN Health website at: www.health.afn.ca.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to build the relationship with Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) through the AFN-FNIHB Engagement Protocol.
- Finalize the Partnership Principles.
- Continue to advance the priorities within the First Nations Transformation Agenda.
- Work to ensure AFN health activities align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the Treaty and inherent right to health.

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

AFN work on NIHB has centered on the AFN-FNIHB NIHB Joint Review, called for in Resolution 56/2012. The established objectives of the Joint Review are to enhance client access to benefits, identify and address gaps in benefits, streamlining service delivery to be more responsive to client needs; and, increasing program efficiencies. The Joint Review began in earnest in September of 2014 and is guided by the Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC), made up of equal representation of First Nations and FNIHB staff including two Health Canada Deputy Ministers.

To date, the JRSC has fully reviewed one benefit area, the Mental Health Crisis Counselling Intervention Benefit. Recommendations and an implementation plan were developed and endorsed by the JRSC. Some of these recommendations were achieved through Budget 2017, including new funding for Traditional Healers and Elders within the Mental Health benefit. The work on the remaining benefit areas to inform the review is completed

and is awaiting endorsement from the JRSC. This work includes regional, community, service provider and client engagement. Once completed a final report will be issued that will include implementation plans for all of the JRSC recommendations. Given the substantial time required to complete a fulsome review of the NIHB program, the JRSC agreed at the outset of the process to implement changes where they are realized and not wait to coincide with benefit review timelines. For example, interim policy changes were made to the Medical Transportation Framework to reflect an enhanced response to the medical escort policies.

Resolution 126/2016 directed the AFN to secure ongoing commitment and resourcing from Health Canada for the implementation of NIHB Joint Review Recommendations; call on Health Canada to provide support and resources for communities and regions to explore governance options for the delivery of NIHB; and for the JRSC to explore legislative and legal options to ensure NIHB delivery is based on Treaty and inherent rights. The AFN, with direction from the CCOH, continues to pursue these objectives.

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

Similarly, the AFN also sits as an observer on the recently-formed NIHB National Oral Health Advisory Committee (NOHAC). The committee was established as an independent advisory body of highly qualified oral health professionals and academic specialists to advise the NIHB program and improve oral health outcomes of NIHB clients.

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

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Ongoing communication with FNIHB's Senior Official / Committees and the NIHB benefits management team.
- Ongoing collaborative efforts with the CMA, CDA, CPhA among others.
- Continued coordination role for the National Navigators Network.



- Continued progress on the AFN/FNIHB Joint Review and advocacy towards commitment to Joint Review Implementation.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

The Implementation Team began developing service delivery models for Land-based Programs and Crisis Prevention and Response. These service delivery models are articulated within the continuum of essential services as outlined in the Continuum Framework, and are intended to be community tools that guide the design, development, deployment, operation and evaluation of services. These models convey principles and standards from an Indigenous lens while ensuring cultural protocols and integrity are valued with the same integrity as standards of practice. For example, a standard of practice might be: rights, responsibilities and client safety.

The Implementation Team is also working on the development of a "How To Guide" to facilitate practical implementation of the Continuum Framework, to better assist government and non-government, as well as leadership in using the Continuum Framework.

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

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



NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

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

LIFE PROMOTION

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

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

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

Following this Roundtable, the NYC prepared formal Calls to Action to be presented at the Summit (July 10/16) for endorsement from a broader group of First Nations youth. The AFN NYC then took the youth-endorsed Calls to Action to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for formal recognition. The Calls to Action were then presented to Ministers Philpott and Bennett respectively during the 2016 Special Chiefs Assembly. The Minister of Health has committed to meeting with the AFN NYC again to discuss implementation of their Calls to Action.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

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

SUBSTANCE USE

Prescription drug abuse (PDA) is a complex and increasing concern for some First Nations communities. There is also growing concern over the high prevalence of illicit opioid misuse, including the recent spike in fentanyl and carfentanyl use that is moving from the west coast, eastward. The Chiefs-in-Assembly passed emergency Resolution 82/2016, Development of a First Nations Specific Opioid Strategy, calling for action to address the opioid problem.

Data regarding PDA is lacking. As such, the AFN participated in a PDA Data Collection Working Group to provide strategic advice, guidance and feedback on the development of a Methodology for Prescription Drug Abuse Data Collection in First Nations Communities. A PDA specific survey for optional community use has been completed and is now being pilot-tested within First Nations communities.

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

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

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with partners through the NNADAP TWG to ensure wage parity is addressed.
- Work in collaboration with partners to continue to develop a PDA Data Collection Survey.
- Continue working to expand access to community-based opioid-dependence treatment programs involving Suboxone®.
- Work on a First Nations specific opioid strategy, as guided by Chiefs Committee on Health.



- Continue to engage with partners to implement the Honouring our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada (FNIHB, AFN, NNAPF; 2011) framework, and the complementary FNMWC framework.

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA AND INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORTS PROGRAM

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

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

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

In light of the eventual sunset of IRS RHSP and recommendations made under the Joint Review of NIHB's Mental Health benefit, calling for compensation for Traditional Healers and Elders as service providers, the AFN is working with the Elders Council to create a discussion document to inform this policy shift. As a result of this forthcoming work, the 2017/18 Budget has announced new investments for the NIHB Mental Health benefit including compensation for Traditional Healers and Elders.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

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



HOUSING

AFN Housing unit facilitates and advocates for policy changes to address housing and infrastructure, with First Nations communities as the leaders of this change. AFN Housing unit is advocating for all First Nation members living on or away from their community to have a right to shelter and be provided with an opportunity to access safe, secure, adequate and affordable housing.

First Nations care and control of housing and infrastructure has been the guiding principle with the end goal of getting Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) out of the business.

AFN Housing unit in collaboration with First Nations, the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) and AFN Regional Housing Technicians are working towards the transition of full responsibility and resources for housing and infrastructure to First Nations control.

Resolution 96/2016 directs the AFN to work with federal government to establish a relationship protocol that will guide the relationship between Canada and First Nations, and ensure the effective development and delivery of sustainable housing and infrastructure programs and services to First Nations communities. Resolution 98/2016 calls for supporting the development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy based on the outcomes of a regional engagements process that informs fully the First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Forum, to facilitate First Nation control of housing.

The 2016 federal budget launched an engagement process on a new approach to on-reserve housing. INAC is the lead federal department for the development of a First Nations National Housing Strategy with support from CMHC. AFN Housing has been advocating that the strategy cannot be unilaterally developed by Canada, and that meaningful dialogue and engagement with First Nations is required prior to advancing any proposed recommendations to Cabinet, and First Nations will continue to assert their role and responsibility in determining their future vision for housing and infrastructure in a truly nation-to-nation relationship with Canada.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The AFN is working with INAC, CMHC and Health Canada (HC) on a new approach to on-reserve housing and infrastructure programming including long-term investments. The CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians continue to provide political and technical guidance with respect to AFN's engagement with INAC, CMHC and HC on housing and infrastructure related

issues. The AFN will continue to seek CCoHI support for the identification and development of strategies to pursue housing and infrastructure outcomes. In addition to CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians meetings, the AFN has been facilitating engagement sessions with First Nations as part of the continued coordinated approach.

National Housing and Infrastructure Forum

The AFN hosted a National Housing and Infrastructure Forum in November 2016 to move forward on improving and reforming the delivery of housing and infrastructure in First Nations communities. The CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians provided valuable support, advice and direction in determining the objectives of the National Forum on Housing and Infrastructure.

There were over 500 participants including First Nations leaders, Housing and Infrastructure capital managers, experts, federal officials from INAC, CMHC, HC and other government departments. First Nations leadership and their representatives had the opportunity to provide substantive input into the future of housing and infrastructure reform. The Forum focused on key topic areas including: Vision for Housing and Infrastructure; Funding and Finance; Skills and Capacity; and Governance and Delivery.

The current vision for housing and infrastructure is: "All First Nation members living on or away from their community have a right to shelter and they must be provided with an opportunity to access safe, secure, adequate and affordable housing". The AFN will continue to work with INAC and CMHC to facilitate First Nations engagement on the development of a First Nations National Housing Strategy to ensure it aligns with the outcomes from the AFN National Housing and Infrastructure Forum. A Forum Report has been produced and shared with all participants and First Nations communities, and is also available on AFN's website.

CMHC's National Contract awarded to OZHI First Nations Professional Services

Resolution 43/2016 passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly called for rescinding the CMHC Request for Proposals for technical services on reserve. Despite the serious concerns expressed by First Nations, CMHC made a unilateral decision to award a national contract to a single service provider to undertake progress and physical conditions reviews for CMHC's programs (On-Reserve Non Profit Housing Program and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program).





This has major impacts on First Nations, Tribal Councils and First Nations Technical Service Providers as they have been providing these services to their communities. Maintaining First Nations technical capacity and services at the community level is a priority for all First Nations. The CCoHI is continuing to provide advice and guidance to the AFN on how to move forward with addressing this issue. The National Chief has requested a meeting with Minister Duclos, Minister of Family, Children and Social Development, to discuss a path forward to address First Nations concerns.

First Nations Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS) Module Development & Piloting

The AFN is taking a lead role, in collaboration with Lapointe Architects, on the development of Modules for Learning in support of the First Nation Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS), a set of guidelines that will support First Nations with developing housing programs and standards.

The proposed modules explain how sustainable community development can be achieved while describing the advantages and disadvantages of design strategies and construction materials, and emphasizing their benefits to the community. These modules will support First Nations with the construction of affordable, durable, healthy, culturally-appropriate and sustainable housing in their communities. In 2016-17, two modules were completed with funding support from CMHC – Module 1: Identifying a Community's Needs, and Module 6: Designing in Harmony with Nature. The AFN is proposing the completion of the remaining modules for 2017-18.

Electronic Community Self-Assessment Tool (e-CSAT) Project – Mould

The 2011 Auditor General's Report revealed that despite having developed a "National Strategy to Address Mould in First Nation Communities", Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, CMHC and Health Canada had not allocated additional funding to address mould, determined the magnitude of the problem, estimated the costs to remediate existing mould, completed most items in the strategy, or met the strategy's timelines.

The First Nations Indoor Air Quality Committee (FNIAQC), which includes representatives from AFN, CMHC, INAC and HC, has the mandate to act as a forum for the development of an action plan to address the issue of mould in First Nations.

The AFN is taking the lead role, with funding support from CMHC, to better understand the full extent and causes of mould in First Nations homes across Canada. The AFN and the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) are working together to develop the electronic-Community Self-Assessment Tool (e-CSAT), a tablet-based application designed to assist First Nations to obtain information about the prevalence of mould in houses throughout their community. This tool will assist First Nations in capturing, storing and analyzing physical and operational characteristics, as well as facilitate reporting, prioritizing remedial measures, and document findings on a house-by-house basis.

In 2016-2017, Phase 2 of the e-CSAT Pilot Project supported the further development of the e-CSAT tool by gathering of data from a representative sample of houses to estimate the extent of mould problems in First Nations communities. The AFN and FNIGC are proposing to undertake Phase 3 this year to make enhancements and improvement to the e-CSAT tool and to plan for the National Roll-Out.

Fire Protection Strategy

Canada provides insufficient funds to First Nations under the community infrastructure program to adequately address the challenges related to fire prevention and protection. The lack of proper fire suppression equipment results in an unnecessary and preventable loss of life and infrastructure.

INAC and the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada jointly developed the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy (2016-2021) to promote fire protection on reserve. The AFN has not been involved in the development of this strategy and has some concerns with the establishment of a "level of service standards" with respect to the lack of First Nations financial resources required to implement regulatory structure on code compliance.



Resolution 100/2016 directs the AFN to urge Canada to create a fund specifically for the purchase of fire suppression equipment for First Nations communities under their Community Infrastructure Program. The AFN will continue to advocate for an increase in targeted funding for First Nations fire protection services including support for community awareness, training for personnel, and proper funding to build safe and affordable homes.

First Nations Market Housing Fund

The First Nations Market Housing Fund (\$300 million) was established in 2008 to support capacity development in a market housing environment and for the construction of 25,000 new homes within 10 years. The Fund facilitates market based housing for First Nations through the establishment of a “Credit Enhancement Facility” that provides a financial backstop that supports qualifying First Nations to guarantee their members’ housing loans from financial institutions. For example, should a First Nation be unable to meet its obligations, on behalf of their community member, as a guarantor, the financial institution/lender will be able to turn to the Fund for compensation according to the credit enhancement stipulations. The Fund also includes “Capacity Development” as an additional component to assist First Nations to further enhance their capacity in order to qualify and meet the Fund’s criteria.

The Fund was established through an Indenture Agreement which sets out the structure, authorities, limits and accountabilities for the Fund. The Fund is overseen by nine Trustees, including three First Nations representatives.

Resolution 16/2013 directed the AFN to urge the federal government to honour its intent of the transition of the FNMHF to First Nations control. First Nations engagement is required to develop a transition plan for the FNMHF to First Nation control, and to put forward options and recommendations to Canada for consideration. The AFN is developing a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFN and Canada to work collaboratively to ensure First Nations engagement on the development of a transition plan for transferring the FNMHF to First Nations control.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN is working towards establishing a Working Group with CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians, and INAC, CMHC and Health Canada to work collaboratively to facilitate engagement with First Nations on the development and implementation of a strategic plan with short, medium and long-term objectives that will contribute to the development of a National First Nations Housing Strategy and beyond transition to First Nations control. INAC Regional Offices will be undertaking regional engagement sessions; the AFN will continue to advocate for First Nations to take lead on engagement sessions.
- The AFN has submitted a funding proposal to INAC to host a National First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Forum and Think Tank Sessions to seek broader input from First Nations leadership, technicians, regional organizations and other stakeholders on housing and infrastructure reform.
- The AFN has submitted two funding proposals to CMHC to continue the work on the FNSDS and e-CSAT Projects for 2017-2018.
- The AFN will continue to seek direction from the CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians on the development of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFN and Canada to work collaboratively to ensure First Nations engagement on the development of a transition plan for transferring the FNMHF to First Nations control.



INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Indigenous Languages Initiative embodies a vision of self-determination as put forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action where Indigenous languages are concerned. Primarily, the recovery, revitalization and maintenance of our sacred languages are paramount. Believing that all of our sacred languages matter and knowing that no Indigenous language of First Nations peoples is safe, relevant interventions and measures for language recovery and revitalization are needed.

AFN Resolutions

Resolution 01/2015 – Support for the Full Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action

- Call to Action #14 calls for an Aboriginal Languages Act.
- Call to Action #15 calls for an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner.

Resolution 06/2015 – Revitalization of Indigenous Languages: Concrete Actions to Support Indigenous Language Teachers and Cultural Centres

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's December 6, 2016 Announcement for an Indigenous Languages Act to be co-developed by Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada

The Prime Minister announced that the Government of Canada will jointly develop legislation for the revitalization and recovery of Indigenous languages. Here is a brief excerpt from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's December 6, 2016 speech to the Chiefs-in-Assembly (emphasis added):

We know all too well how residential schools and other decisions by governments were used as a deliberate tool to eliminate Indigenous languages and cultures. If we are to truly advance reconciliation, we must undo the lasting damage that resulted.

So today, I commit to you that our government will enact an Indigenous Languages Act, co-developed with Indigenous Peoples, with the goal of ensuring the preservation, protection, and revitalization of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit languages in this country.

2017 Federal Budget Announcement

The Assembly of First Nations *Closing the Gap* document (2015) called for significant investments toward the revitalization of Indigenous languages. For the last number of years, an estimated \$5 million per year has been awarded to Indigenous peoples for Indigenous languages. On March 22, 2017, the federal budget contained significant increases in funds for Indigenous languages with \$89.9 million over the next three years to support Indigenous languages and cultures as follows:

- \$69M to significantly increase the Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI)
- \$14.9M to the National Library and Archives for digitization of Indigenous Languages
- \$6.9M to the National Research Council Canada for technology to be developed in collaboration with Indigenous stakeholders for converting speech to text to preserve oral histories

Since December 2014, deliberate efforts to bring the essential need to finance the recovery, revitalization, preservation and maintenance of Indigenous languages have yielded concrete results, the announcement of the Indigenous Languages Act to be co-developed with Indigenous peoples and the 2017 federal budget being two examples.

June 15, 2017 Announcement of the Co-Development Table

On June 15, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde together with the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage; Clément Chartier, President of the Métis Nation; and Natan Obed, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, made a declaration of intent to collaborate on the co-development of legislation to ensure the preservation, protection and revitalization of First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages. The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, was also present for this meeting. A set of principles were established to guide the co-development process:

- Work collaboratively, transparently and on a distinctions-basis to co-develop national First Nations, Inuit, and Métis languages legislation whose content will reflect the distinct geographic, political, legislative, and cultural contexts impacting language revitalization, recovery, preservation, protection, maintenance, and promotion.



- Co-develop legislation that addresses the revitalization, recovery, preservation, protection, maintenance and promotion of First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages, through two mechanisms: a joint co-development working group to discuss issues of common concern and bilateral working groups with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Assembly of First Nations, and the Métis National Council to address issues that are specific to each cultural group.
- Co-develop legislation in a way that supports the full and meaningful implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the federal government's commitment to a nation-to-nation, government-to-government, or Inuit-Crown relationship.
- Co-develop legislation that recognizes First Nations, Inuit and Métis language rights and jurisdictions, and that recognizes that Indigenous languages are fundamental to Indigenous self-determination. Such legislation would, among other things, further affirm and address the right of Indigenous peoples to revitalize, use, develop and transmit their languages to future generations, including through the control of their educational systems and institutions.
- Adopt a collaborative process that includes funding for all Statement parties to undertake meaningful engagement; regular meetings of co-development and bilateral working groups; and early agreement on roles and responsibilities, including terms of reference for a co-development process.
- Each of the Indigenous organizations will conduct engagements with their constituency, financed by Canadian Heritage; Canadian Heritage will assume responsibility for securing input to federal positions from other relevant departments and agencies; and where necessary, Canadian Heritage and each Indigenous organization will be seeking engagement from other governments, organizations and individuals.
- Work towards an introduction of the legislation in Parliament in 2018.

Assembly of First Nations Indigenous Languages Initiative Engagement Sessions

Co-developing federal legislation is not new to the Assembly of First Nations. As such, past practices and processes for successfully co-developing legislation and policy with the Government of Canada will inform the development of this Indigenous Languages Act.

Supported by motions of the Assembly of First Nations Executive and the Chiefs Committee on Languages, a series of engagement sessions regarding the federal legislation are being held as follows:

- British Columbia and Yukon First Nations: June 22 & 23, 2017 in Vancouver, BC
- All First Nations: July 24, 2017 in Regina, SK
- All remaining regions of Canada: September 2017
- First Nations National Roll Up Engagement Session: October 2017

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Creating concrete opportunities for First Nations entities and people to provide input into the development of the Indigenous Languages Legislation.
- Establishing and commencing the co-development process for Indigenous Languages Act.



INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

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

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

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum occurred from April 24 to May 5, 2017. 2017 is the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration and this was the overall theme of this year's forum.

At this year's Permanent Forum, Canada built upon their statement of unqualified support for the Declaration from the fifteenth session by formally abandoning its 2014 statements on paragraphs 3 and 20 of the Outcome Document from the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In so doing, Canada is formally on record as being fully committed to the standard of free, prior and informed consent expressed in the UN Declaration.

National Chief Bellegarde delivered a statement in the UN General Assembly Hall on behalf of the Coalition on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, stating, *"Since the adoption of the UN Declaration 10 years ago, a great deal of work has been done and significant progress has been made in acknowledging the importance of Indigenous peoples rights as a human rights priority. This session of the UN Permanent Forum is especially notable because discussions here have potential to bring us a step closer to greater participation and recognition as Indigenous peoples in UN bodies, including the General Assembly."*

Yesterday, Canada made a significant statement by formally abandoning its 2014 statements on paragraphs 3 and 20 of the 2014 Outcome Document from the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In doing so, the Minister

of Indigenous and Northern Affairs removed any lingering doubts respecting Canada's position and put Canada formally on record as fully committed to the standard of free, prior and informed consent expressed in the UN Declaration.

The next step is to work with Indigenous peoples to develop a National Action Plan for implementation as required by Canada's international obligations - a plan and a process to establish joint decision-making on all matters that impact our rights. The international standard is free, prior, and informed consent. States should never undertake unilateral actions impacting our inherent rights, title and jurisdiction - nothing about us without us.

We call on all States to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to develop the workplans and priorities for implementation. The adoption of the UN Declaration is a milestone in the history of advancing the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world. Let's move forward together to life to these rights."

In addition to the National Chief's statements, the AFN co-hosted a side event on *Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Opportunities in Canada* with the Métis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. The event was moderated by Grand Chief Edward John with participation from Minister Bennett and Chief Denise Stonefish, Chair of the AFN Women's Council.

Participation of Indigenous Peoples Representative Organizations within the United Nations

As follow-up from the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the President of the General Assembly appointed four advisers - two Indigenous representatives and two state representatives, to engage Indigenous peoples and states on proposals to improve the participation of Indigenous peoples in United Nations fora. The advisers held both formal and informal meetings at the Permanent Forum in 2016 and 2017.

The AFN participated in these informal meetings and has worked to secure Canada's support for greater participation of Indigenous Peoples representative organizations within the United Nations system. Proposals to improve Indigenous participation are now subject to negotiations between Member States and a final resolution will be addressed at the General Assembly in September 2017.





Climate Change

The Assembly of First Nations participates in meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to protect and advance the rights of Indigenous peoples in multilateral action on climate change.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Manitoba Regional Chief Kevin Hart and Elder Francois Paulette of the Dene Nation participated in the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Marrakech, Morocco from November 7-18, 2016. The AFN delegation worked to ensure that First Nations peoples had a strong voice at the discussions and to play a role in designing the COP 22 Climate Change action plan.

AFN participated on the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice 46 (SB46) Open Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform. At the session, Canada committed to leading the ongoing operationalization of the Platform, including hosting an informal dialogue session in September 2017, leading to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 23 meeting in Bonn, Germany, in November.

Domestic Education and Lobby Efforts

The AFN continues to work with federal departments, Parliamentarians, First Nations, Indigenous, civil society and non-Governmental Human Rights organizations to share information and advance First Nations priorities with international dimensions within Canada.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* by its State parties. The 93rd Session of the CERD is scheduled for July 31 - August 25, 2017. National Chief Bellegarde will attend the session of the Committee as Canada's most recent report is reviewed.
- September 13, 2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The AFN will be observing this important milestone with a ceremony at Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- With the signing of the AFN-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities on June 15, 2017, the Government of Canada has committed to developing a strategy for implementation of the UN Declaration in partnership with the AFN and First Nations.
- The AFN will develop a strategy to engage with First Nations on the development of a National Action Plan and a legislative framework for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

AFN's participation in the upcoming 23rd Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) November 8-17, 2017 in Bonn, Germany, will be important to advance the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform, and other international climate priorities.



LEGAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

The Legal Affairs & Justice Unit is primarily responsible for providing legal advice and support to all areas of the Assembly of First Nations to ensure that the organization's activities are conducted in accordance with the AFN Charter, governing policies and relevant jurisprudence. The Legal Affairs & Justice Unit provides support on issues concerning the organization's financial transactions, audits and other administrative matters. The Unit is responsible for ensuring that all agreements and contracts to which the AFN is a party are drawn up in proper legal form. In doing so, the Legal Affairs & Justice Unit plays an important role in the negotiation, drafting and clearance of contracts and other legal instruments. The Legal Affairs & Justice Unit has been assigned responsibility for monitoring, analyzing and interpreting federal legislation and regulations. The Unit supports the Executive Committee in providing evidence before Parliamentary Standing Committees on any draft legislation under consideration. Finally, the Legal Affairs & Justice Unit directs any litigation that the AFN is involved in.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Government of Canada launched the independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls ("National Inquiry") in September 2016. AFN Resolution 37/2014 mandates the AFN Executive to take a "Families First" approach to ensuring that there is a respectful inclusion of voices and perspectives of the families in the discussions and development of action plans on the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

On February 8, 2017 the Commissioners met with the leadership of AFN, as well as representatives from the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), Women of the Métis Nation, and an observer from Pauktuutit. The AFN encouraged the Commissioners to take a "families first" approach.

On June 13, 2017 the AFN was granted full rights, standing (Part II National Standing) and funding to participate in the National Inquiry. In preparing for our future work, an AFN representative attended the first family hearing in Whitehorse on May 29 to June 1, 2017 as an observer. On June 15, 2017 Regional Chief Kevin Hart participated in a meeting with the National Inquiry's Commissioners.

Border Crossing

On December 16, 2016 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Minister Carolyn Bennett appointed Mr. Fred Caron as a Ministerial Special Representative ("MSR") mandated to engage with First Nations in border areas and with national First Nations organizations to discuss their views on Canada-US border crossing challenges and potential solutions. MSR Caron is currently scheduling engagement sessions with First Nations located along the Canada/USA border to discuss the border crossing challenges they face and perspectives on potential solutions. MSR Caron is scheduled to provide a report on his engagement sessions to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs in August 2017.

In response to the Senate's report and the federal government's decision to appoint a Special Representative, the National Chief and the AFN Executive struck a Chiefs Committee on Border Crossings. The AFN Executive also appointed Mike Mitchell as the AFN Special Representative on Border Security Issues. Mr. Mitchell is mandated to meet with Canadian and USA officials to discuss the development of a secured Indigenous identification border access card.

On November 9-10, 2016, Mr. Mitchell facilitated an AFN Working Group on Border Security and Border Crossing meeting in Niagara Falls. In attendance were Canadian officials from Public Safety; Canadian Border Services Agency; Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship; and INAC as well as officials from Homeland Security in the USA and representatives from First Nations in Canada and tribes in the USA. During the meeting the parties discussed some of the obstacles and possible solutions for development of the secured Indigenous border access card.

Gaming

First Nations are largely excluded from the gaming industry through the operation of the *Criminal Code of Canada* and provincial regulations. As a result, the majority of First Nations cannot take advantage of the revenue opportunities offered by the gaming industry. The AFN has initiated discussions with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General in regards to consider options for amending the sections of the *Criminal Code* which negatively impact First Nations asserting jurisdiction over gaming.



The AFN has also retained a consultant, John Hill, to provide a research report on the various options for First Nations to assert their jurisdiction over gaming. The AFN Executive has approved the establishment of a Chiefs Committee on Gaming.

Policing & Public Safety

On June 12, 2016, the AFN and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) signed a Relationship Building Protocol. The first of many meetings was held at RCMP National Headquarters, Ottawa on September 22, 2017. This meeting aligned the objectives of the partnership, identified potential challenges and established the ongoing processes to operationalize the Protocol. The AFN and RCMP are working towards jointly identifying possible incidents and issues of discrimination in the RCMP and developing a long-term strategic response.

The AFN has also initiated discussions with Public Safety Canada and Emergency Preparedness to ensure the interests of First Nation are kept safe, while protecting the rights of First Nation citizens. In particular, the AFN's advocacy has focused on: the repeal of the problematic elements of Bill C-51; getting handguns and assault weapons out of urban centres; responding to weather-related emergencies and natural disasters; and addressing gaps in services to Indigenous Peoples and those with mental illness throughout the criminal justice system.

AFN Charter Renewal

Over the past 20 years, there have been numerous efforts to bring about renewal within the Assembly of First Nations. Resolution 77/2016 was passed during the December 2016 Special Chiefs Assembly which refocused the mandate of the Chiefs Committee on AFN Charter Renewal. There is recognition that the AFN needs stronger, more inclusive, accountable governance structures and processes.

The Chiefs Committee on AFN Charter Renewal met on September 22, 2016, February 16, 2017 and May 25, 2017 to continue their work on possible Charter amendments. The work of the Chiefs Committee on AFN Charter Renewal has focused on: (a) appropriate governance consistent with nation building; (b) the role of leaders of traditional governance systems, clans and modern governance arrangements; and (c) making AFN more representative of First Nations and all of their citizens, regardless of where they reside or their status under the colonial *Indian Act*.

Litigation

The Legal Affairs & Justice Unit is involved in a number of court actions that are of national interest to First Nations communities. 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.

The AFN has used the law strategically to effect social change. Recent positive outcomes were achieved in the child welfare complaint now before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Canada has increased funding to First Nation Child and Family Services (CFS) agencies, reformed the application of Jordan's Principle and is engaged in overhauling the on-reserve CFS program. The AFN has also been heavily involved in legal matters arising from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The AFN recognizes that not all former students have equal access to the courts and, thus, the AFN has participated in legal action to ensure the former students have access to the full benefits available under the settlement agreement. Finally, the AFN has intervened in the Williams Lake Specific Claims case before the Supreme Court of Canada. As a co-drafter of the *Specific Claims Act*, the AFN supported the Williams Lake Band and sought to restrict Canada's ability to appeal every decision of the Tribunal that Canada does not agree with.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The Legal Affairs & Justice Unit will continue to pursue positive changes to legislative, policy and common law principles that reflect reconciliation, and the entrenchment of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



NATIONAL ADVOCACY – CANADIAN PARLIAMENT, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

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

The AFN continues to reinforce First Nations' priorities in federal, provincial, territorial forums. Identified priorities in these areas include advocating for effective involvement of First Nations peoples in intergovernmental work, child welfare reform, safety and security for Indigenous women and girls, Indigenous language revitalization, climate action, housing and water improvements, and implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Parliamentary Advocacy, Outreach and Engagement in Parliamentary Processes

The AFN continued to advance the priorities expressed through resolutions, asserting our inherent rights and affirming our responsibilities and jurisdiction over matters on our lands and with regard to our citizens. Prime Minister Trudeau has addressed the Chiefs-in-Assembly on two occasions since 2015—the first time a sitting Prime Minister has addressed our leaders from across Turtle Island. AFN Assemblies and AFN Executive Meetings regularly feature involvement from senior Cabinet ministers and officials.

With the signing of the Assembly of First Nations – Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities on June 12, 2017, there is now a commitment from the Prime Minister to engage regularly with First Nations leadership. The MOU is an agreement to meet a minimum of three times a year, with one of those meetings being chaired by the Prime Minister. The purpose of these meetings is to help ensure that the federal government's priorities are consistent with First Nations priorities. First Nations will set direction for these meetings. The AFN will monitor and report on progress made on the priorities of First Nations. These meetings are not a decision-making table. They will be used to mark progress on priorities and to identify key issues and solutions to barriers facing First Nations in advancing their rights and objectives. The priorities identified for discussion under the MOU will be reviewed on an annual basis.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to communicate how Canada must respect inherent Indigenous and Treaty rights in its own decision-making; how the federal bureaucracy must change to match this government's commitments and to advocate for the processes and resources needed at the regional and the Nation level as determined by First Nations right-holders.

The AFN is also committed to climate action through their participation in the First Ministers Meeting on Climate Change (FMM) which took place in Ottawa, in December 2016. AFN continues to play a leadership role on the environment and meets regularly with federal officials and international organizations, as well as ensuring First Nations have a voice in discussions, planning and implementation on environmental matters. The AFN Elders Council and the AFN's Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment (ACCAE) met in April 2017 with the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and senior federal officials to discuss environmental and regulatory reviews. The ACCAE will continue to provide political oversight and technical expertise on engagement with Canada in anticipation of another FMM on Climate Change in fall 2017.

In the past year, political representatives and secretariat staff made presentations to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Standing Committee on Finance, Standing Committee on Health, Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Standing Committee on International Trade, Senate Committee on Transport and Communications in addition to numerous written submissions to both the House of Commons and the Senate.

As in previous years, the AFN participated in the pre-budget consultation process for federal budget 2017, outlining priority areas for significant and sustained investments. In addition, National Chief Bellegarde and members of the AFN Executive Committee met with federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau prior to the budget to outline First Nations priorities based on need. The 2017 federal budget included \$3.4 billion in investments, building on the historic investments of Budget 2016's \$8.4 billion.

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





NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue facilitating access to Parliamentarians and key decision-makers to promote respect and protection of First Nations' rights;
- Focused advocacy throughout the year;
- Continue providing timely information to First Nations on the activities of Parliament, including legislation and committee business;
- Continue to monitor key legislative initiatives, provide information to First Nations and advocate on their behalf to Members of Parliament and Senators; and,
- Continued work to advocate for First Nation inclusion at the various intergovernmental forums in order to further First Nations rights and interests.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Social Development unit aims to create healthy, safe and sustainable First Nations communities by way of an inclusive, holistic and culturally-based social development system that promotes First Nations control and jurisdiction. Key areas of work include early learning and child care, child and family services, urban issues, poverty reduction, and family violence prevention. The work of the Social Development unit is driven by the vision of an ongoing partnership between First Nations and the Federal and Provincial/Territorial governments to ensure a continuum of high-quality and culturally-relevant services. We envision a comprehensive, integrated social development approach that includes capacity development at the community level to improve local control and jurisdiction over key services for First Nations.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Child and Family Services

In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) (2016 CHRT 2) found that the federal government underfunds child and family services on reserve, and ordered the federal government to completely overhaul its on-reserve child and family services program. Since the initial ruling, three further compliance orders have been issued on April 26, 2016, September 14, 2016, and May 26, 2017. The May 26, 2017 ruling (2017 CHRT 14) determined that the Government of Canada has been non-compliant with the 2016 CHRT 2 ruling, specifically to the orders made regarding the implementation of Jordan's Principle. In their findings, they ordered a number of immediate actions to help remedy the continued discrimination against First Nations children and families. The AFN Social Development unit continues to advocate for First Nations children and work with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and regional and community partners to create meaningful change on this front.

As called for by AFN Resolution 62/2016, the Social Development unit re-established the National Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services (NAC) to oversee recommendations for medium- and long-term relief related to the CHRT decision, and to provide general advice on federal program reform, including implementing Jordan's Principle. The NAC is chaired by Grand Chief Edward John, and is composed of regional representatives, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada representatives, AFN representatives, and is observed by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and any interested parties. The NAC is comprised of five Action tables, dedicated to the following areas of focus: Practice and

Community Needs (Children, Youth and Families); Agency and Administration; Governance and Legislation; Jordan's Principle; and Internal INAC/Government of Canada Reform, Training, Education and Communication. The work plans of each table are intended to guide the work of the NAC over the next year, with a final report of recommendations anticipated by January 31, 2018.

The NAC reconvened on January 24-25, March 20-21, and May 17-18, 2017, and will meet again in early July 2017. On February 13-14, 2017, the AFN and INAC, in partnership with the AFN National Youth Council, held an Indigenous Youth Engagement Forum, where a small group of youth from across Canada were brought together to discuss a possible larger youth gathering, which the youth in attendance supported. Planning for this event is still underway, and the AFN has participated in a number of conference calls regarding the organization of this event.

Using funding from INAC for the work of the NAC, an update to the 2005 Wen:de reports was made to adjust the recommendations from the initial reports for inflation. This was completed by Dr. John Loxley in April 2017. The results of the inflation adjustment show that the actual funding levels, even with the inclusion of new investments and immediate relief in 2016, fall far short of the investment levels recommended by Wen:de by \$21.5 million in the 2016 fiscal year. Budget 2016 identified \$634.8 million over five years for First Nations child welfare. A separate announcement came in July 2016 from INAC, announcing \$382 million for Jordan's Principle implementation over three years. Budget 2017 did not make any specific updates or new funding announcements pertaining to Indigenous child welfare.

Representatives from Health Canada have approached the AFN to develop a Jordan's Principle Working Group (JPWG). The Working Group would be at the staff/working-level and is intended to be co-chaired with the AFN, alongside a director or DG-level lead. The JPWG would develop short- and long-term engagement approaches, since engagement is a key component of Jordan's Principle and underpins all activities in the immediate implementation of the child-first approach and long-term care.

The Jordan's Principle Working Group/Action Table is in its preliminary stages. It would be in the best interest of the work to be carried out, to have proper regional and expert representation from the onset. Members of the group include representatives from the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN), National Indian Education Council (NIEC), National Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services (NAC), and may also potentially include federal regional executives from matching regions



to First Nations representatives. The first planning meeting is scheduled for June 22-23, 2017.

Early Learning and Child Care

The AFN National Expert Working Group on First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) was formed, in part at the direction of AFN Resolution 39/2016. This working group oversees regional and community engagement processes to identify and confirm key principles, priorities and actions of a First Nations ELCC Framework.

The ELCC National Expert Working Group met in March, April and June 2017, with the next meeting anticipated in early July. Since March 2017, regional engagement sessions gathering input for the First Nations ELCC Framework have been held in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec/Labrador, Northwest Territories and the Atlantic, with Ontario and Alberta anticipated in the next few weeks. The timeline for engagement and reporting for the ELCC Framework submission process has been considerably short, and regions have had some challenges conducting meaningful engagement in such short timeframes. Initial engagement sessions revealed that the common goals of a Framework among regions include: child-centred approach; culture and language; equity of services and funding; quality; and accountability.

Urban Issues

Throughout the summer of 2016, INAC delivered several engagement sessions in urban centres across Canada. The purpose of these engagement sessions was to gather input from key stakeholders on how to strengthen urban programs and services for Indigenous peoples residing in urban centres. The AFN received funding to conduct two additional national engagement sessions in Edmonton and Montreal to gather First Nation-specific input. These sessions, however, had limited participation and it was conveyed by both participants and those who did not have the opportunity to attend that more engagement was needed on this issue.

The Urban Aboriginal Strategy expired on March 31, 2017. In its place, Budget 2017 identified an investment of \$118.5 million over five years for the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples to support Indigenous peoples living in urban centres. Despite this commitment through Budget 2017, AFN Resolution 109/2016 calls for further discussion and engagement to address urban First Nation needs and priorities.

Poverty Reduction

In November 2016, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) approached the Social Development unit regarding the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), seeking the AFN to lead a non-comprehensive engagement strategy on the PRS. During this time, the AFN officially withdrew their

application for the Poverty Reduction Strategy due to the limitations in funding, time constraints with other engagement plans and an overall concern that, under these restrictions, the AFN would not be able to effectively develop an engagement plan that truly captures the lived realities of the communities it represents.

Following a meeting in March 2017 with the ESDC Minister's office, the AFN resubmitted a revised proposal in April 2017 for an engagement literature review; to date, the funding sought has not been received.

Family Violence Prevention

In December 2016, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 70/2016 on inequitable funding for on-reserve women's shelters. The AFN is to call upon the federal government to work with women's shelter directors to develop a new funding formula that would be equitable to off-reserve shelters, and implement the Johnson Research Inc. Reports' recommendations (2006 and 2011).

A letter was sent from Regional Chief Kevin Hart to Minister Bennett on this matter in April 2017 asking to discuss a new funding formula for the Family Violence Prevention Program on reserve. Budget 2016 announced \$89.9 million over two years for shelters for victims of family violence, including \$10.4 million over three years for the renovation and construction of new shelters for victims of family violence on reserve, and an additional \$33.6 million over five years to support shelters serving victims of family violence in First Nation communities.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- The Social Development unit will continue working with the NAC, which will continue to work towards creating recommendations to reform the on-reserve child and family services program. The AFN will also continue to work with the youth to plan a larger youth engagement gathering for later in 2017. A full report of recommendations is anticipated by January 31, 2018.
- The Social Development unit will continue working with the ELCC National Expert Working Group, which will host a strategy and engagement session at the 2017 AFN Annual General Assembly to collect additional input from Chiefs and community members, and to finalize the direction of the First Nations Framework submission on Early Learning and Child Care.
- From July to October 2017, the co-development of an Indigenous ELCC Framework will take place between the federal government and national Indigenous organizations. The Indigenous ELCC Framework is anticipated to be brought to First Nation leadership for final approval at the December 2017 Special Chiefs Assembly.



- As per AFN Resolution 109/2016 (pursuant to AFN Resolution 18/2010), the Social Development unit will continue to lobby INAC to support the creation of the First Nation Urban Strategy Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will eventually assess the program and guide engagement with First Nations on the development of a First Nations Urban and Rural Strategy.
- The Social Development unit will prepare a literature review on engagement for the poverty reduction strategy, pending receipt of funding from ESDC. The Social Development unit will work with key stakeholders and leadership to develop this and identify key priorities for an updated Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- The Social Development unit will continue to lobby INAC to discuss a new funding formula for the Family Violence Prevention Program on reserve, and will work with leadership and the federal government to set priorities and goals of a new funding formula.



TREATIES, RIGHTS AND CLAIMS

Treaties, Rights and Claims includes: Treaties, comprehensive claims, specific claims, additions to reserves (ATR), and First Nations without reserves lands. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has held focused sessions on these issues at several of its assemblies. Recent resolutions on these issues which mandate AFN work include:

- 07/2010 – Sacred Treaties – Sacred Trust: Working Together for Treaty Implementation and Advancing our Sovereignty as Nations;
- 12/2016 – Moving Beyond Federal Legislation to Establish a Nation-to-Nation Relationship;
- 47/2015 – Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform Based on Full Recognition;
- 46/2015 – Specific Claims Call to Action; and,
- 17/2016 – Call on Canada to update the Additions to Reserve Policy (ATR).

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Treaties

The AFN has participated in numerous Treaty initiatives over the years to facilitate Treaty implementation. The AFN national strategy on Treaty implementation is guided by Resolution 07/2010, Sacred Treaties – Sacred Trust: Working Together for Treaty Implementation and Advancing our Sovereignty as Nations. This resolution calls on AFN to support Treaty First Nations by coordinating the necessary dialogue and facilitating advocacy efforts led by each Treaty region.

The last effort at the national level to move Treaty implementation forward with Canada occurred in 2013 with the Senior Oversight Committee (SOC) process. While initially promising, the Chiefs-in-Assembly ultimately chose to withdraw from the SOC process due to a lack of clear federal mandates.

In 2016, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 12/2016 which calls on Canada to work with First Nations to develop a comprehensive consultation process that clearly defines the nation-to-nation relationship and includes the full implementation of Treaty rights.

With the current federal government, an opportunity exists to once again move Treaty implementation forward. The Prime Minister has stated that no relationship is more important than the one with Indigenous peoples, and has committed to seeking reconciliation through a nation-to-nation relationship.

For many First Nations the nation-to-nation relationship finds meaning and is defined by Treaties.

Building on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Priorities, signed between the AFN and Canada on June 12, 2017, the AFN remains committed to working with First Nation Treaty rights holders and Treaty regions to facilitate the full implementation of the Treaties based on the spirit and intent.

Comprehensive Claims

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

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

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

Specific Claims

In 2007 Canada introduced *Justice at Last: A Specific Claims Action Plan* (JAL). A key component of JAL was the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* (SCTA) which came into force in October 2008. The Tribunal provides First Nation claimants dissatisfied with Canada's response to their claims access to an impartial, binding decision-making body.

Canada's efforts since JAL, however, have led to new challenges for First Nations. Fewer than 15 per cent of claims have resulted in settlement – the vast majority of claims have either been "rejected" or simply "closed".



Inadequate funding has also increased pressure on First Nations and the Tribunal, ultimately undermining Canada's commitments in JAL.

A key component of JAL was a 5-year review of the SCTA. The review was unilaterally undertaken by Canada in 2010. Working with the Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC) the AFN carried out significant advocacy to ensure First Nation perspectives were represented. The review was finalized in 2014, but former federal Minister Valcourt refused to release it. In 2016 the new federal Liberal government made the review public, and tabled a Minister's report to Parliament acknowledging First Nation concerns and committing Canada to work with the AFN to develop recommendations for change.

In fall 2016, following the Minister's report, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released an audit of the specific claims process. The audit found that Canada had failed to adequately implement JAL and included 10 recommendations for change. Canada accepted the OAG recommendations and again committed to working with First Nations and the AFN to address the specific claims process.

These commitments resulted in the development of an AFN-Canada Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) mandated with examining Canada's specific claims process and developing recommendations for change. The JTWG began meeting in November, 2016, and has held a number of meetings since then.

The JTWG is made up of AFN policy staff, First Nation technical experts from across Canada and INAC officials. The JTWG is looking to develop recommendations for review by First Nation leadership by winter 2018.

Additions to Reserve

Efforts to improve the Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy and process have been the subject of a joint AFN-Canada technical working group (JWG) process that was initiated in late 2009. Progress with this working group was based on regular engagement with the Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC), and ultimately resulted in the release of a new ATR policy in 2016.

The AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 17/2016 calling on Canada to release the new policy and to create a high-level policy interpretation and oversight role for the AFN-Canada JWG to ensure the new policy was implemented consistently and effectively throughout a period of policy transition. INAC accepted an AFN proposal in fall of 2016-17 to this end.

Despite the initial commitment to work jointly on ATR policy transition and implementation, new federal partners at the AFN-Canada JWG led to a shift away from joint work. As a result the CCoC directed the AFN to withdraw from the JWG process until INAC was willing to engage jointly.

Canada has recently indicated a desire to re-engage and discuss joint work. The AFN is seeking direction from the CCoC on next steps.

Landless Bands

Over the past number of years First Nations without reserve lands has been an ongoing focus of AFN advocacy at the ATR JWG table. However, despite ongoing emphasis by the AFN, Canada has always been hesitant to have a substantive discussion on the issue.

In 2015-16 AFN held several strategy sessions to better understand who was without reserve lands, and what common issues they shared. Building on this initial scan, the AFN hosted a session for First Nations without reserve lands on April 18, 2017 in Ottawa. The session was chaired by the National Chief and included First Nations and several senior INAC officials. The result was a commitment by Canada to finally engage in a substantive discussion with the AFN.

First Nations without reserve lands requires substantive discussion with our regional partners in order to identify First Nations who are affected and the differing circumstances and policy gaps that surround the reasons they are without land.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue working at the Specific Claims JTWG towards the development of recommendations to address First Nation concerns with Canada's specific claims policy and process.
- Seek renewed engagement with Canada at the ATR JWG and ensure the implementation of AFN Resolution 17/2016.
- Seek renewed engagement with Canada on Treaty implementation by First Nation Treaty rights holders.
- Begin engaging with Canada on First Nations without reserve land issues with the goal of working with AFN regions to create a substantive environmental scan by 2017-18.



WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Recent resolutions include: Resolution 74/2015 which calls for the creation of a First Nations Water, Infrastructure and Housing Commission towards full First Nation control of housing, water and infrastructure; Resolution 76/2015 which calls for a repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*; and, Resolution 98/2016 which calls for supporting the development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy based on the outcomes of a regional engagements process that informs fully the First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Forum, to facilitate First Nation control.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Housing and Infrastructure Forum

The AFN hosted a National Housing and Infrastructure Forum in November 2016 to move forward on the commitment to improving and reforming the delivery of housing and infrastructure in First Nations communities. The CCoHI and AFN Regional Housing Technicians provided valuable support, advice and direction in determining the objectives of the National Forum on Housing and Infrastructure.

There were over 500 participants including First Nations leaders, Housing and Infrastructure capital managers and experts in the field, and federal officials from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Health Canada and other government departments. First Nations leadership and their representatives had the opportunity to provide their substantive input into the future of housing and infrastructure reform as envisioned from their perspective. The Forum focused on key topic areas including: Vision for Housing and Infrastructure; Funding and Finance; Skills and Capacity; and Governance and Delivery.

The AFN will continue to work with INAC and federal partners to facilitate First Nations engagement on the development of a First Nations National Housing & Infrastructure Strategy to ensure it aligns with the outcomes from the AFN National Housing and Infrastructure Forum. A Forum Report has been produced and shared with all participants and First Nations communities, and is also available on AFN's website.

Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

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

At the 2015 Annual General Assembly, the Prime Minister, then leader of the Liberal Party, indicated that the Act was an example of “the government dictating terms rather than working in partnership to support First Nations governance”. Resolution 76/2015 directs the AFN to advocate for repeal of the Act. The Government has a commitment to conduct a full review of legislation unilaterally imposed on Indigenous Peoples by the previous government.

INAC has proceeded with its engagement strategy unilaterally and has not indicated they will adequately address outstanding concerns with the Act. Concerns include the lack of meaningful engagement on the Act as both Bill S-11 and Bill S-8; the incorporation of provincial regulations; the lack of funding associated with the Act; and the increased liability placed on communities to meet regulations. Engagements begin in mid-June 2017 and are proceeding until September 2017.

The CCoHI will continue to provide advice and guidance to the AFN on the appropriate next steps on these engagements, as well as ongoing support to address the key questions and challenges to this Act.

Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey

Infrastructure Canada and Statistics Canada are undertaking a survey collecting statistical information on the stock, condition, performance and asset management strategies of Canada's core public infrastructure assets owned or leased by various levels of government. The survey will cover: social and affordable housing; bridges and tunnels; culture, recreation and sport



facilities; potable water; public transit; roads; solid waste; storm water; and, wastewater.

Infrastructure Canada has expressed interest in extending this survey to First Nations communities commencing in September 2017. The CCoHI will continue to work with Infrastructure Canada to ensure the appropriateness of the survey and that results are meaningful and will support improved flow of funding for core infrastructure in First Nations communities.

- Continue to support regional and national engagement activities on water and infrastructure with the goal of providing information to central agencies to develop and support a long-term sustainable plan; and,
- Move forward on planning and preparing for national-level forums to specifically address implications from the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*, and a broader discussion on infrastructure in First Nations communities.

First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF)

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

Priority Ranking Frameworks

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

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- Continue monitoring developments related to the repeal of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* and how First Nations may need to prepare for engagement;
- Continue to support the CCoHI and the First Nations Technical Water Advisory Group to synchronize regional efforts;
- Take on a renewed effort to work with Government of Canada staff, including but not limited to INAC, CMHC and Health Canada, to ensure program funding related to Budget 2016 and 2017 is delivered fairly and in a timely manner;



Financial statements of

National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2017

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National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2017

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Council of
National Indian Brotherhood

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets (deficit) and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

July 25, 2017

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National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) (Schedule 1)	15,512,540	6,952,259
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Schedule 2)	233,200	-
Canada Mortgage and Housing Agency (Schedule 2)	405,475	-
Employment and Social Development Canada (Schedule 2)	1,058,946	234,429
Public Safety	-	201,386
Environment Canada (Schedule 2)	140,000	100,000
Elections Canada	-	366,758
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Schedule 2)	140,853	141,006
Health Canada (Schedule 2)	4,065,772	3,363,513
Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (Schedule 2)	129,896	129,599
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Schedule 2)	571,166	578,638
Other department (Schedule 2)	1,630,861	1,638,719
	23,888,709	13,706,307
Expenses		
Advertising, promotion and publications	55,701	48,238
Amortization of capital assets	38,164	20,010
Bad debt	-	335,488
Insurance	24,524	30,090
Miscellaneous	2,254	252
Office expenses	1,317,940	991,954
Professional fees	5,557,999	877,595
Regional service delivery	1,498,216	1,227,555
Rent	820,507	828,752
Salaries and benefits	7,765,222	6,240,753
Travel and meetings	6,587,069	2,854,774
	23,667,596	13,455,461
Excess of revenue over expenses	221,113	250,846

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	831,678	2,261
Asset held in trust (Note 3)	15,281	15,281
Grants and contributions receivable (Note 4)	1,401,145	950,447
Other accounts receivable	450,140	479,911
Due from the Trust Fund	90,635	39,747
Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	871,245	240,899
Inventory	116,399	31,764
Prepaid expenses	180,097	95,387
	3,956,620	1,855,697
Prepaid expenses	378,805	452,122
Capital assets (Note 5)	314,765	140,036
	4,650,190	2,447,855
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Bank loan (Note 9)	-	253,117
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,450,227	1,861,747
Government remittances payable	125,953	170,421
In trust liability (Note 3)	15,281	15,281
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	495,421	191,483
Excess contributions (Note 7)	17,722	535,333
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	96,000	96,000
	5,200,604	3,123,382
Long-term debt (Note 8)	176,000	272,000
	5,376,604	3,395,382
Contingencies and commitments (Notes 9 and 10)		
Net assets (deficit)		
Invested in capital assets	314,765	140,036
Unrestricted deficiency - general operations	(1,041,179)	(1,087,563)
	(726,414)	(947,527)
	4,650,190	2,447,855

On behalf of the Executive Council

Perry Bellegarde, National Chief

Roger Augustine, Regional Chief, Management Committee

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of changes in net assets (deficit)

year ended March 31, 2017

	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted deficiency - general operations	2017 Total	2016 Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	140,036	(1,087,563)	(947,527)	(1,198,373)
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	221,113	221,113	250,846
Acquisition of capital assets	212,893	(212,893)	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(38,164)	38,164	-	-
Balance, end of year	314,765	(1,041,179)	(726,414)	(947,527)

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of cash flows year ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	221,113	250,846
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of capital assets	38,164	20,010
Increase in deferred contributions	303,938	177,034
Increase (decrease) in excess contributions	(517,611)	40,778
	45,604	488,668
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items (Note 11)	1,396,711	199,460
	1,442,315	688,128
Investing activity		
Increase in due from Trust Fund	(50,888)	(39,531)
Acquisitions of capital assets	(212,893)	(19,935)
	(263,781)	(59,466)
Financing activities		
Net change in bank loan	(253,117)	(532,662)
Repayment of long-term debt	(96,000)	(96,000)
	(349,117)	(628,662)
Net cash inflow	829,417	-
Cash, beginning of year	2,261	2,261
Cash, end of year	831,678	2,261

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

1. Description of the organization

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

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

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

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

2. Significant accounting policies

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

Basis of presentation

The financial statements 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 12 of the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

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

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

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

Financial instruments

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

Capital assets

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

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

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Excess contributions

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

Allocation of expenses

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

Use of estimates

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

3. Asset held in trust

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totaling \$15,281 (2016 - \$15,281) for Kelly Morrisseau's children. These funds were donated by individuals and organizations.

4. Grants and contributions receivable

Grants and contributions receivable are as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Indian Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)	342,772	183,331
Heath Canada	-	318,579
Employment and Social Development Canada	444,007	49,737
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	141,166	56,638
Environment Canada	140,000	100,000
Public Safety	-	242,162
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	100,000	-
Canadian Environment Assessment Agency	233,200	-
	1,401,145	950,447

5. Capital assets

	2017		2016
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	90,936	43,516	47,420
Office equipment	236,570	129,352	107,218
Leasehold improvements	232,415	72,288	160,127
	559,921	245,156	314,765

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

6. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	191,483	14,449
Contributions received during the year	24,192,647	11,655,626
Contributions recognized as revenue during the year	(23,888,709)	(11,478,592)
Balance, end of year	495,421	191,483

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

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
SSHRC - Fishers Western Indigenous Knowledge System	-	9,657
Health Canada	460,280	89,507
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	35,141	75,994
Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Canada	-	16,325
	495,421	191,483

7. Excess contributions

Excess contributions are as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)	17,722	494,555
Public Safety Canada	-	40,778
	17,722	535,333

8. Long-term debt

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Term installment loan, maturing January 2020, payable by 5 consecutive monthly payments of \$80,000 followed by 75 consecutive monthly installments of \$8,000 for capital bearing interest at prime plus 1%	272,000	368,000
Current portion	96,000	96,000
	176,000	272,000

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

	\$
2018	96,000
2019	96,000
2020	80,000

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

8. Long-term debt (continued)

Credit facility

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%. The loan is secured by a general security agreement representing a first charge over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is \$nil (2016 - \$253,117).

9. Contingencies

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

10. Commitments

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

	\$
2018	1,012,465
2019	1,002,390
2020	965,835
2021	802,125
2022 and thereafter	786,784
	<u>4,569,599</u>

11. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Grants and contributions receivable	(450,698)	(380,471)
Other accounts receivable	29,771	270,166
Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	(630,346)	(30,030)
Inventory	(84,635)	(4,151)
Prepaid expenses	(11,393)	89,249
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,588,480	136,331
Government remittances payable	(44,468)	118,366
	<u>1,396,711</u>	<u>199,460</u>

12. Controlled entity

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

12. Controlled entity (continued)

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

Summarized statement of financial position

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Assets	151,266,206	153,899,032
Liabilities	615,684	107,422
Fund balances	150,650,522	153,791,610
	151,266,206	153,899,032

Summarized statement of operations

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue	6,775,793	156,871,654
Expenses	9,916,881	3,225,368
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(3,141,088)	153,646,286

13. Executive salaries

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

14. Pension plan

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and Regional Chiefs. Contributions are up to 8% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$400,929 (2016 - \$317,587).

15. Financial instruments

Fair value

The fair value of long-term debt is determined using the present value of future cash flows under current financing agreements, based on the Corporation's current estimated borrowing rate for loans with similar terms and conditions. The fair value of the long-term debt as at March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016 approximates its carrying value.

Credit risk

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

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

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

National Indian Brotherhood

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2017

15. Financial instruments (continued)

Interest rate risk

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

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National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Schedule 1
year ended March 31, 2017

	Basic Organizational Capacity	Core Like	Urban Aboriginal Strategy	Additions to Reserve	Specific Claims	Support for the AFN to attend National Women's Summit 2017	WEN'DE Revisited	Supporting Children and Families	AFN Trade Roundtable
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue									
Contribution/grant - INAC	5,545,725	3,190,348	128,694	250,000	300,000	10,000	5,891	442,341	50,000
Miscellaneous	15,598	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registration fees	758,558	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade show fees	12,320	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6,332,201	3,190,348	128,694	250,000	300,000	10,000	5,891	442,341	50,000
Expenses									
Advertising, promotion and publications	11,034	15,517	-	115	39	-	-	138	-
Allocation of administrative expenses	61,243	-	10,791	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	6,970	3,054	-	-	815	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	100	1,704	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office expenses	365,186	170,646	1,307	29,063	15,032	-	-	30,841	709
Professional fees	370,396	1,217,406	13,324	24,784	63,346	-	5,891	62,443	17,460
Regional service delivery	1,387,359	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent	227,884	68,125	8,175	14,842	15,438	-	-	50,738	2,177
Salaries and benefits	2,880,629	694,338	46,892	104,110	99,096	-	-	199,070	16,729
Travel and meetings	1,030,335	1,022,175	48,205	77,208	106,652	10,006	-	99,282	13,408
	6,341,136	3,192,965	128,694	250,122	300,418	10,006	5,891	442,512	50,483
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(8,935)	(2,617)	-	(122)	(418)	(6)	-	(171)	(483)

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations (continued)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) - Schedule 1
year ended March 31, 2017

	First Nations Forum on Energy: Next Steps	Housing & Infrastructure/ Emergency Management Network	Emergency Management Network	Education	AFN engagement to develop a Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change	2016 Total	2017 Total	2016 Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contribution/grant - INAC	170,000	2,015,476	25,832	1,400,507	1,191,250	14,726,064	6,350,218	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	15,598	153,419	
Registration fees	-	-	-	-	-	758,558	417,454	
Trade show fees	-	-	-	-	-	12,320	31,168	
	170,000	2,015,476	25,832	1,400,507	1,191,250	15,512,540	6,952,259	
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	38	6,487	-	251	236	33,855	6,795	
Allocation of administrative expenses	-	-	-	-	-	72,034	149,196	
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	
Insurance	222	634	-	-	1,138	12,833	8,810	
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	1,804	-	
Office expenses	7,913	59,409	-	80,700	30,444	791,250	379,715	
Professional fees	44,016	786,987	-	166,494	435,442	3,207,989	215,355	
Regional service delivery	-	4,139	-	-	-	1,391,498	1,015,997	
Rent	9,374	27,704	-	41,049	54,794	520,300	368,622	
Salaries and benefits	69,568	242,363	-	452,517	313,311	5,118,623	3,551,997	
Travel and meetings	39,086	887,840	25,832	676,415	355,885	4,392,329	1,265,085	
	170,217	2,015,563	25,832	1,417,426	1,191,250	15,542,515	6,961,690	
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(217)	(87)	-	(16,919)	-	(29,975)	(9,431)	

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations
Other funding agencies - Schedule 2
year ended March 31, 2017

	Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)	Environment Canada	Nuclear Waste Management Organization	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	Health Canada	University of Ottawa - First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study	Health Canada Chemical Managements Plan	Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue								
Contribution/grant - other	1,058,946	140,000	140,853	233,200	3,976,125	52,246	19,054	129,896
Contribution/grant - prior years	-	-	-	-	89,507	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	140	26	244	-
Registration fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trade show fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,058,946	140,000	140,853	233,200	4,065,772	52,272	19,298	129,896
Expenses								
Advertising, promotion and publications	1,711	-	48	-	1,397	-	-	63
Allocation of administrative expenses	-	25,000	15,839	-	370,159	4,752	2,885	11,780
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	-	-	4,157	-	-	-
Insurance	754	-	214	-	4,661	-	-	314
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bad debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office expenses	50,843	-	11,050	17,454	210,410	408	1,069	18,828
Professional fees	329,047	20,000	2,297	45,784	1,108,274	-	651	1,390
Regional service delivery	-	-	-	-	70,742	-	-	-
Rent	51,103	-	13,620	6,136	156,125	-	-	11,172
Salaries and benefits	312,663	82,014	97,776	38,147	1,386,451	40,089	14,980	86,549
Travel and meetings	313,052	13,303	12	126,703	753,513	7,000	2,237	-
	1,059,173	140,317	140,856	234,224	4,065,889	52,249	21,822	130,096
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(227)	(317)	(3)	(1,024)	(117)	23	(2,524)	(200)

National Indian Brotherhood

Statement of operations (continued)
Other funding agencies - Schedule 2
year ended March 31, 2017

	Dalhousie University SSHRC Fisheries Western						Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Transport Canada	Public Health Agency of Canada	Other	2017 Total	2016 Total
	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Canada	Indigenous Knowledge Systems	\$	\$						
Revenue												
Contribution/grant - other	571,166	255,955		43,350	-	75,000	75,000			70,000	6,840,791	4,834,010
Contribution/grant - prior years	-	-		9,657	-	-	-			16,325	115,489	14,449
Miscellaneous	-	149,520		-	57,000	-	-			686,810	893,740	1,204,565
Registration fees	-	-		-	-	-	-			317,322	317,322	587,808
Trade show fees	-	-		-	-	-	-			208,827	208,827	113,216
	571,166	405,475		53,007	57,000	75,000	75,000			1,299,284	8,376,169	6,754,048
Expenses												
Advertising, promotion and publications	814	1,150		482	-	39	-			16,142	21,846	41,443
Allocation of administrative expenses	34,639	33,677		-	-	6,818	6,818			(584,401)	(72,034)	(149,196)
Amortization of capital assets	-	332		-	-	-	-			33,675	38,164	19,892
Insurance	977	196		-	-	-	-			4,575	11,691	21,280
Miscellaneous	-	-		-	-	-	-			450	450	252
Bad debt	-	-		-	-	-	-			-	-	335,488
Office expenses	20,705	16,198		16,745	-	755	884			161,341	526,690	612,239
Professional fees	8,986	220,118		29,421	-	-	394			583,648	2,350,010	662,240
Regional service delivery	-	-		-	29,410	-	-			6,566	106,718	211,558
Rent	34,914	-		-	-	822	4,034			22,281	300,207	460,130
Salaries and benefits	274,866	116,082		-	-	24,248	30,608			142,126	2,646,599	2,688,756
Travel and meetings	195,314	21,854		6,403	159	42,352	32,417			680,421	2,194,740	1,589,689
	571,215	409,607		53,051	29,569	75,034	75,155			1,066,824	8,125,081	6,493,771
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(49)	(4,132)		(44)	27,431	(34)	(155)			232,460	251,088	260,277

