

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



Cover Artwork by Raven Davis

The AFN Annual General Assembly artwork, "Together As Nations: Educate, Empower, Enlighten", includes representation of family and community, the transferring of teachings and knowledge, and communication between Nations. It reflects the importance of listening to the voices of our Elders and youth. The eagle feathers held by the children are a symbol of hope. The turtle, representing Mother Earth, creation and the beginning of all good things, features the Mi'kmaq Hieroglyph which means I'nu or in English, "The People". The 8 pointed star is a traditional Mi'kmaq quillwork design and a modified version of a Mi'kmaq Petroglyph in Nova Scotia. The original 7 pointed star spoke to the 7 districts of the Mi'kmaq Nation. The 8th point is believed to have been added to represent the British Crown when the Mi'kmaq began signing treaties with the Crown. The colours represent the medicine wheel as well as the earth, sky and sacred fire.

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REGIONAL CHIEF MORLEY GOOGOO

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland

Welcome Elders, Chiefs, youth and delegates to beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia, site of this year's Annual General Assembly.

In May 2014, I was re-elected by the Chiefs of Nova Scotia/Newfoundland. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with all of you as Regional Chief and the important efforts of supporting our Nations here in the Atlantic and all across Canada.

I am proud of the work being done by M'ikmaw Kina'matnewey(MK), which signed a new five-year agreement in June that will ensure that MK provides quality education to Mi'kmaq students, in a way that fosters our language, culture, and traditions. We are also proud that 15 students graduated high school from the first Mi'kmaq Immersion program that started 14 years in Eskasoni, Nova Scotia. They are able to read, write, and speak their Mi'kmaq language proudly, and we thank



them and their parents for blazing an educational path forward. We hope there are many more Mi'kmaq immersion graduates to come.

National Education Portfolio

I've had the opportunity and privilege to chair the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE), allowing me to support our communities across the country while sharing their insight and concerns over the federal proposal for a new First Nations Education Act.

Since my December 2013 report, much has transpired. In response to the federal proposal of October 2013, AFN Resolution 21/2013, *Outlining the Path Forward: Conditions for the Success of First Nations Education*, was carried at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Gatineau on December 11, 2013. Through the resolution, the Chiefs-in-Assembly rejected the federal proposal, and put forward five conditions for the success of First Nations education. My efforts stemming from this resolution have been to advocate for the federal government to meet these conditions with a focus on the following:

- 1) Fair, equal, adequate and predictable funding.
- 2) First Nation control over First Nation education.
- 3) Support for our languages and culture.

Our efforts to bring focus to the priorities included direct advocacy with key senior government officials, along with formal correspondence, in an effort to make clear the meaning and importance of the conditions of Resolution 21/2013.

In February 2014, the Prime Minister announced \$1.9 billion in new education funding. This was followed by Minister Bernard Valcourt tabling in Parliament Bill C-33, First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act.

During the ensuing weeks since the tabling of Bill C-33, a great deal of debate and analysis took place by First Nations leadership and educators alike. Moving forward from the tabling of Bill C-33, our efforts focused on encouraging First Nation leadership to engage the federal government directly to address their concerns and priorities as they pertained to the legislation. As the rights holders, only First Nations communities themselves have the authority to determine the path forward in relation to any proposed legislation.

As a result of the many concerns expressed over Bill C-33, a Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) was convened in Ottawa on May 27, 2014. At the SCA Chiefs unanimously supported a statement for Canada to "withdraw Bill C-33 and engage in an honourable process with First Nations that recognizes and supports regional and local diversity leading to true First Nation control of education based on our responsibilities and inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights". Chiefs also passed Resolution 01/2014, *Advancing First Nations Control of First Nations Education*, which rejected Bill C-33, and called on the government to negotiate a new fiscal arrangement with First Nations, and to immediately release the \$1.9 billion in funding, with the 4.5% escalator.

While much work remains to secure the quality, culturally-appropriate education our children deserve, I am comforted by the fact that there is consensus on the underlying principles upon which we all wish to see our education systems built. I look forward to the Annual General Assembly in Halifax where I hope to see focused and forward looking debate on next steps for First Nations education.

I wish everyone a great experience in our beautiful region and I wish to thank the host committee for all of their hard work which I am certain will make your experience here a memorable one.

Wela'lin,

Regional Chief Morley Googoo

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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 AFN's 35th Annual General Assembly.

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

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

I am proud to announce the Third Annual Fisherman's Pow Wow —"Spirit of Peace and Friendship" will be taking place June 30 - July 1, 2014 at the Waterford Green Park, Miramichi, New Brunswick. The huge success of last year's event is evidence of our communities and cultures collectively working together in the spirit of peace and friendship. The pow wow will showcase First Nations, Irish, Scottish, and Acadian cultures through song, dance and art.



Education

The Assembly of First Nation Chiefs of New Brunswick shares the following positions on the Bill C-33: First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act:

- The level of funding proposed, including the end of the 2% cap, is a serious attempt to address funding issues and deserving of discussion on how to move forward. It would be a loss to see the status quo remain when this new funding could make a real difference in early literacy, First Nations language preservation, and services to students with special needs.
- New Brunswick's trilateral agreements in education are working, with guarantees on reinvestment of
 First Nations tuition fees into a fund co-governed with First Nations. The Act must ensure a role for these
 arrangements.
- We do have concerns around the provision for sending students with special needs out of their communities rather than ensuring funding; on the freedom of First Nations to choose indicators for success; and on the future autonomy to establish First Nations governing bodies.
- We have been disappointed with the regional office of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
 (AANDC) and Minister Valcourt's unwillingness, after the promising initial announcement, to meet face-to-face
 and discuss these issues in detail and as equals. This sudden reversion to the old style of legislating has created
 distrust where there was initial optimism and hope for the work of former National Chief Atleo and the level of
 funding commitment.
- We still believe that the Act can be saved and not scrapped. This opportunity can be seized and we are prepared to work with First Nations to do so. We urge the government to show openness to address legitimate concerns

and First Nations to show patience and optimism to ensure we deliver new resources for our children, whose need to learn and read will not wait for the political failings of adults.

National Fisheries Portfolio

The AFN National Fisheries Committee (NFC) met on February 18-20, 2014 in Moncton, where participants and observers discussed a range of issues such as the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource Oceans Management Program (AAROM) program, *Fisheries Act* changes, NFC Governance, employment insurance, Inland/Northern resource and capacity, food social and ceremonial and test fishing, catch monitoring, taxation, Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) review, a national fisheries forum, trans-boundary issues, and implementation of Supreme Court decisions.

The NFC also discussed the concept of a New Relationship Dialogue Table (NRDT) and most of the participants, with the exception of Ontario, have supported the concept. The NFC has provided additional recommendations to design a "without prejudice" process or tables that are responsive to the priorities of First Nations. These tables can broaden discussions in fisheries, to facilitate linkages, work beyond the policy and program scope, and establish framework tables to address priority issues such as implementation of Supreme Court decisions, natural resource development, the *Fisheries Act*, and what they mean to First Nations. The NFC discussed the need to establish relationship opportunities with other sectors and departments. Additional input is required from the NFC and others.

"Inland" Fisheries continue to receive negligible support from the department, subsequent to the discontinuation of the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) in 2011. One possibility for enhanced regional capacity is through engagement at a NRDT - First Nations organizations and governments which lack existing funding sources from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) specifically should be capable of accessing capacity funds to engage with the NRDT. The NFC participants also suggested that there should be a formal binding agreement to meet with the Minister and Deputy Minister regularly with the National Chief and Executive that is consistent with the direction laid out in the AFN Resolution 52/2012, Establishment of Agreements for Regular Meetings with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Work continues with an ad-hoc working group to address the implementation of Supreme Court decisions, and the NFC has recommended that this become a formalized group to discuss details contained in the draft four prong strategies outlining various options for political, technical, communications, and legal aspects for input and implementation. Gladstone representatives have planned a meeting on June 15-17, 2014 in Bella Bella, B.C., however the AFN was unable to send representatives to this meeting. It was expected that Haida, Heiltsuk, Grand Council of the Crees, Ahousaht and possibly Atlantic representatives would be invited to participate.

For the 2014-15 fiscal year, the AFN would still like to undertake planning for either a North American Indigenous Fisheries Forum or a National Fisheries Forum in 2015. Increased enthusiasm for the forum has attracted interest from several potential sponsors from the Atlantic region. The forum will create a framework to enhance collaboration on fisheries. Suggested topics may include intertribal trade, marketing, resource sharing, habitat protection and traditional governance and management.

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National Economic Partnerships Portfolio

Economic Partnerships activities and priorities include the following:

AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) met on November 13-14, 2013 in Moncton, N.B. Discussion focused on past strategic approaches that were promoted by the CCED, such as the CCED's blue print strategy, including reaching out to establish new relationships with the corporate community. In addition the CCED explored the concept for an energy strategy to support First Nations economies; revenue options conference; investment committee; and a natural resources development working group.

During the December 2013 Special Chiefs Assembly, the CCED (chaired by Richard Nerysoo) hosted a preparatory session to discuss the energy sector and a First Nations approach to energy issues/opportunities. The preparatory session was followed by a SCA panel, where Mr. Nerysoo requested the Chiefs-in-Assembly's initial consideration of issues, challenges, and priorities related to the energy sector. The discussion was considered as a good first step to the range and scale of issues and opportunity, which will help inform the CCED in its preliminary planning. During the SCA, the CCED also hosted two short workshops on key legal cases dealing with natural resources development. A past discussion paper on energy resources and capacity was also circulated to support delegates attending the sessions. The AFN has submitted a proposal to continue work on involvement by First Nations in the energy industry.

First Nation Labour Force Development

The First Nation Technical Working Group on Human Resources Development (TWG) last met on December 11-12, 2013 in Gatineau during the Special Chiefs Assembly. As part of this meeting, a First Nation Human Resource Development Technical Working Group Workshop on 2015 Renewal of Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy was also held, following which a summary report was completed and circulated to technical networks.

The AFN co-ordinated First Nations ASETS holder presentations in February and March 2014 to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA Committee), for its Study on Aboriginal Labour Force Supports and Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS) Renewal. Information on the national workshop was provided to the HUMA Committee, as well.

A resolution calling for the establishment of an ASETS renewal negotiating table between First Nations leadership, ASETS technicians and Employment and Skills Development Canada (ESDC) was introduced at the December 2013 SCA and subsequently supported by the AFN Executive Committee.

The TWG prepared a discussion paper on National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (NARAM) for March 31, 2014.

The AFN Director of Safe, Secure and Sustainable Communities presented to the Parliamentary Human Resource Development (HUMA) Committee on February 6, 2014.



As per Resolution 02/2010 and Resolution 80/2011 on Economic Development, the AFN continues working on resource revenue options, green economy, inter-nation trade, procurement, broadband and high speed internet, and a five-year poverty study. With the benefit of Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) consideration during their November 2013 meeting, a Working Group on Natural Resource Development was proposed to examine and build recommendations that will support First Nation participation in natural resource development projects. The aim of the project is to identify ways to ensure that First Nations are positioned to participate in major resource projects, with a focus on the federal role. The working group itself has the latitude to select specific areas of study within these broad parameters. A recommendations report is planned for six months after the working group starts it work, an orientation and preliminary planning meeting was held on March 27, 2014.

Connectivity

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development continues to advocate for increased access and support towards First Nations Information Communications Technology (ICT).

Efforts have focused on the development of a draft First Nations e-Community strategy which broadly supports the spectrum of First Nations ICT growth requirements and community development aspirations. Assessing the ICT human resource requirements of First Nations communities is an area of focus for inclusion into the e-Community strategy. Communications and awareness activities have focused on communicating First Nations ICT interests and priorities and the promotion of the First Nations e-Community model as a critical piece to broader community development. Recent activities have included ICT focused workshops hosted during the AFN National Infrastructure Conference, and ongoing advocacy efforts related to inclusion of First Nations specific considerations in the Digital Economy Strategy for Canada.

Budget 2014 included \$305 million has over five years to extend and enhance broadband internet service for Canadians in rural and Northern communities. The AFN will continue to advocate for program funding criteria that includes specific consideration of the needs of First Nations communities.

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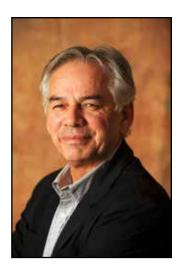


REGIONAL CHIEF GHISLAIN PICARD

Quebec and Labrador

Persistent and vicious attacks from federal and provincial governments on our fundamental and treaty rights to govern ourselves for the benefit of our First Nations citizens have kept Chiefs and Councils in our territories under high pressure during this last year.

The federal attempt to take away our authority and responsibility over the education of our children was certainly the centerpiece of this shameful strategy against our self-government. It is far from the only attempt of this government to extend its control of First Nations. The simple strategy of offering an exchange of our basic rights for money brings us back to five centuries ago. Being cynical enough to publicly state that Bill C-33 is aimed at giving us control over our education when it is doing the exact opposite shows not only a lack of respect to First Nations, but also to Parliament and the Canadian public. Obviously the honour of the Crown is a notion that this federal government has chosen to ignore, and not only on this shameful occasion.



While the Chiefs and Councils in our territories had no choice but to invest a lot of their precious time and resources on fighting this federal attack on our education, they also have to pay attention to numerous issues of importance to our Nations such as health, social services, adoption rules, and employment measures, just to name a few. The chronic lack of will demonstrated by both the federal and provincial governments to work together with us to make programs and services work for the benefit of our people is a major problem, and the price to pay is always on our end. In our territories we are developing a major initiative based on First Nations governance on health.

Many other initiatives will have to be undertaken urgently, again considering the absurd situation created by those two bureaucracies – federal and provincial – which are unable to adequately focus on the needs of our people.

The province of Quebec has been led by three governments in the past 20 months. The election of a majority government last April may be good news in a way, but this new government will have to demonstrate in the very short term that it is willing to work closely with First Nations and at a fast pace. The needs of our First Nations have been on the back-burner for far too long.

I opened this statement referring to the high pressure that these hard times are imposing on our Chiefs and Councils. Fortunately, it has been obvious to the Chiefs in our territories that we have to reinforce our organizations and our capacity to work together to the benefit of our First Nations. We have to allow ourselves to debate subjects of major importance and we will all benefit from the sharing of various opinions. But we shall never give any other government, federal or provincial, the satisfaction of success in dividing and conquering over us. They have not — and let's make it clear to them.



This year the federal government's proposed education bill proved very demanding for First Nations in terms of the work and resources involved in elaborating positions and actions aimed at stopping the federal government's efforts to impose its vision and increase Ministry control over First Nations education. Key analyses were produced, presented and discussed at AFNQL Assemblies and circulated to AFN Chiefs.

These analyses demonstrated that the federal consultation process did not respect the obligation to consult and accommodate. Subsequently, on December 23, 2013 the AFNQL sent a letter to the Minister setting out the minimal conditions that must be taken into account.

Upon the Minister's failure to respond, the AFNQL decided to proceed with an application for a judicial review with the support of all but one of its member communities. The First Nations Education Council (FNEC) Secretariat and the community of Akwesasne also supported this endeavour.

Promoting Retention and Academic Success

The AFNQL attaches great importance to the promotion of education. As in the past, the AFNQL Chief took every opportunity to participate in events highlighting the perseverance and success of First Nations students. At the elementary and secondary levels, the AFNQL Chief participated in interschool games organized annually by the FNEC. Chief Picard has supported a variety of activities at Kiuna, a post-secondary institute offering programs intended primarily for First Nations and directed by First Nations. This was a major success among young people.

Employment and Training

The First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) is responsible for the development of the workforce and labour market in 29 First Nations communities and the entire urban Aboriginal population in Quebec. The employment integration of participants is supported by training and employment measures as well as the canvassing of other labour market stakeholders.

Since the Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2013, the FNHRDCQ entered the 5th and final year of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and the 6th year of implementation of its *Directional Plan*.

The last few months were marked by the:

- negotiation of funding agreements relating to adult education, vocational training, labour force profiles and employment integration of First Nations;
 - in the case of adult education and vocational training, dual-jurisdiction of training for Aboriginal people continues to be a major obstacle to a strong and sustained commitment of the various levels of government;
 - o with respect to the labour force profiles and employment integration, the partnership that was established with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) under the Strategic

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Partnerships Initiative was extensively amended by the Department at the time of implementation, which greatly limited its scope;

- participation in talks in connection with the renewal of the ASETS scheduled for April 1, 2015;
 - o FNHRDCQ was mandated to represent, along with an agreement holder from Saskatchewan, the First Nations interests in the national committee for the revision of the National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (NARAM);
 - o FNHRDCQ was invited to testify before the HUMA Committee about the ASETS and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people;
 - o the Employment Insurance file continues to be discussed with Service Canada and ESDC;
- pursued efforts in order to get a Departmental Strategy for the First Nations and the Inuit adopted by the Quebec Department of Employment and Social Solidarity (MESSQ);
 - the election of a new government in Quebec had the effect of delaying talks about the Departmental Strategy, which will therefore need to be promoted and integrated within the liberal agenda;
 - o the reactivation of the *Plan Nord* which is planned to involve First Nations and Inuit, especially in training could represent an opportunity to showcase the structuring quality of the proposed Departmental Strategy.

lame,

Regional Chief Ghislain Picard

REGIONAL CHIEF STAN BEARDY

Ontario



Wahcheeyeh, warm greetings to Elders, leadership and citizens participating in the AFN's 35th Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Mi'kmaq Nation territory.

In June 2014, the Ontario region celebrated our 40th Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference where much of the regional political discussion and business were under the themes: "resurgence, rebuilding and re-occupying" as we continue to assert jurisdiction on our portion of Turtle Island. Subject to 80% cuts in total federal and provincial funding, it has been a severe challenge to operate at the organizational level.

Despite funding cuts, we have continued to engage the public to educate on First Nations inherent and Treaty rights having participated in meetings with newspaper editorial review boards, Rotary Clubs, the Ontario Economic Summit and the Law Society of Upper Canada, amongst others.

Since the AFN AGA in July 2013, some of the key issues and activities that the Ontario region has been engaged in have included:

Provincial Initiatives

Leadership in Ontario have been responding, to the best of available resources, to provincial initiatives on taxation, youth, policing, health, justice, gaming, education, social, environment, amongst others.

Efforts to engage the province through inquiry processes on key issues in resource development like the Ring of Fire, such as Treaty rights, the duty to consult and resource revenue sharing, has also been a challenge.

In the seven years since the Ipperwash Inquiry released its report, only 4 out of 100 recommendations have been met. Furthermore, in February the Ontario government indicated that they did not have an interest in focusing on the recommendations themselves but instead to "collaborate on a project basis on matters of common priority that are relevant to the Ipperwash Report." The province has also spent large amount of money litigating on First Nations matters in Ontario in cases like *Keewatin* and *Kokopenace* as additional provincial inquiries have been taking place.

On June 12, 2014 Ontario saw its 41st general election. With the aim of informing First Nations, the Ontario region played a role in determining the responses of three different parties on key issues affecting First Nations. One community in the far north refused to host a polling station due to lack of attention from candidates and the longstanding inability of the government to address issues such as the lack of running water or sewage for the majority of homes in that particular First Nation.



Federal Initiatives

Leadership in the Ontario region have been outspoken on their positions on education. Starting in 2010, when the federal government announced it would work with the AFN to establish a national panel addressing First Nations education, Ontario First Nations were clear in their response. In 2012, they developed a report called: "Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision - First Nation Jurisdiction Over First Nation Education in Ontario". This report has been the foundation for responding to federal initiatives this year like the proposal for a Bill on First Nation Education in October 2013 and the proposed Bill C-33: First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act announced in February 2014. It has also been the foundation of the Ontario leadership's role in the reinvigoration of the AFN Confederacy of Nations which held their first meeting on May 14, 2014.

Some opportunities this year were taken to meet with federal Minister of Health (see below), Minister of Finance (to discuss eFirst Nation economic development) and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (to discuss funding cuts and education). Engagement has been requested with Minister of Natural Resources on the issue of mandatory reporting for extractive industries which is an issue of concern for First Nations in Ontario.

Members of the federal opposition have also been lobbied on Bill C-10, a proposed *Act to Amend the Criminal Code* (*Trafficking in Contraband Tobacco*) which will make it an indictable offence to sell tobacco without paying taxes. First Nations in Ontario are deeply concerned that the Government of Canada has not fulfilled its legal duty to consult and that the parliamentary committee has concluded their review without due consideration of the inherent and Constitutional rights of First Nations. Opposition to Bill C-10 was strongly provided. On May 14, 2014, a National Day of Resistance took place on Parliament Hill to raise awareness on this issue along with that of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

AFN Executive Committee Portfolio Responsibilities on Health

As chair of the national Chiefs Committee on Health, a number of CCOH meetings have been convened as health was identified as a national priority. An AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2013, Regional NIHB Roundtables and a National Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Forum in March of 2014 also took place. On February 24, 2014, a meeting was convened with the federal Minster of Health and a verbal commitment was obtained on a joint review of the NIHB program. The option of partnering with the Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Dental Association and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association is being explored. At the 2014 AFN Annual General Assembly we are hoping for more dialogue and discussion of strategies on the draft NIHB Action Plan.

Closing

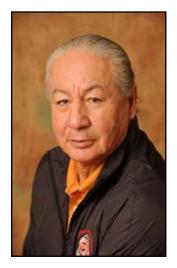
In conclusion, I again want thank you in advance for your participation in our discussions at the 2014 AFN AGA. If you have any questions about the content of my report or any other matters related to Ontario, please feel free to approach or get in touch with me.

Meegwetch,

Regional Chief Stan Beardy

REGIONAL CHIEF BILL TRAVERSE

Manitoba



Greetings from Manitoba! On behalf of Manitoba First Nations, I would like to thank the Membertou First Nation and Glooscap First Nation for hosting the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 35th Annual General Assembly in Mi'kmaq territory.

I am a member of the AFN National Executive, hold the AFN Housing portfolio (Chiefs Committee on Housing) and participate in meetings of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. and Southern Chiefs Organization.

CURRENT ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Mining

Mining companies have applied for and received exploration permits for our traditional territories. Hudbay was successful in acquiring an injunction against the Pukatawagan

First Nation.

The issue with mining in Manitoba is the absence of a meaningful consultation process with the First Nations. This is an issue for our Chiefs because there are mining companies receiving permits for our traditional territories without our knowledge and approval. Our Chiefs are fighting for the protection of our lands and environment and in doing so they are insisting on consultation with our First Nations prior to any exploration permits being issued.

Flooding

The main issue is that there are still 2,000 evacuees living in urban centres and hotels who are getting sick, dying and dealing with personal issues such as addictions, suicide and family breakdowns.

Some of our First Nations have been dealing with annual flooding for more than a decade. As a result, the federal government owes one of them \$14 million in unpaid flood claims.

Little Saskatchewan, Dauphin River, Lake St. Martin and Peguis First Nations still have many issues to deal with as a result of the 2011 flooding and annual flooding. They continue to struggle with evacuation status with no end in sight. I am frustrated with both the provincial and federal governments because of how they have dealt with this issue. This spring, Waywayseecappo and Birdtail Sioux First Nations experienced flooding and evacuation as well. I will continue to work with these flood-affected First Nations until all evacuees are back home.

Without consulting First Nations, the government recently transferred the coordination of evacuee benefits and services to the Red Cross. This has many impacts on the evacuees: fewer resources available to them; ongoing

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changes and lack of consistency with the program; and people losing their benefits/allowance. The rental allowance was recently reduced again. This is forcing our evacuees to inadequate homes and, in some cases, to the streets.

I recently coordinated a meeting hosted by Chief Glenn Hudson of Peguis First Nation with Scott Stevenson, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Manitoba Regional Director General to discuss flooding, a regional command centre, unpaid flood claims, and the immediate housing needs related to flooding. As a result of this meeting, after numerous submissions to the federal government, they are now considering funding for a central Manitoba Regional Command Centre for long-term coordinated actions against flooding in First Nations.

In 2011, the Minister appointed Sid Dutchak as the Ministerial Special Representative for flooding related to the Fairford River water control structure to advance negotiations for comprehensive final settlement packages for Little Saskatchewan, Dauphin River, Pinaymootang and Lake St. Martin First Nations; however, Mr. Dutchak only received his official mandate in February 2014. We hope that now that Mr. Dutchak has the mandate, this will allow for the evacuees to return home soon.

Housing

There is a current backlog of 85,000 units nationally and a recent AANDC study indicates there is a projected backlog of 130,000 units by the year 2030.

Homelessness is currently not a mandate of AFN Housing and Infrastructure. There continues to be an increase in homelessness among First Nations citizens. Many find themselves on the streets of Winnipeg looking for shelter. I don't want these people to be forgotten. I will work towards having homelessness added to the mandate of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing.

Shelter allowance through the income assistance program is not available to all regions including Manitoba. I am currently working on Manitoba First Nations' ability to access this funding. Currently, only those First Nations who have the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (section 95) in their communities are eligible to receive the shelter allowance once the mortgage is paid in full. However, if the First Nations implement a rental regime in the community, then those units would be eligible to collect shelter allowance. Implementing a rental regime is posing a problem for some First Nations because of our belief that housing is a Treaty right and due to this, these members are opposed to paying rent. This leaves us in a difficult situation with the need to resolve the immediate housing issues in our communities without imposing on or violating our Treaty rights.

AANDC Intervention Policy Issues

The new intervention policies are even more difficult to navigate. It would seem that it is easier for AANDC to put our communities into third party at a huge expense, then to fund our First Nations adequately. Two thirds of Manitoba First Nations are in some type of intervention. This is the result of Manitoba First Nations being the most highly monitored by AANDC, considerably more so than any other province in Canada. Currently, AANDC is using

outdated per capita policies which put us in a position to be the administrators of our own poverty. The population on and off reserve continues to increase and our First Nations are not resourced to accommodate the increase.

The new AANDC intervention policies also have an impact on First Nations' ability to access the CMHC section 95 housing allocation which requires a Ministerial loan guarantee.

I continue to assist and advocate for these communities as they sift through the bureaucracy to survive and provide effective programs and services for their communities.

AANDC Cutbacks 2014

In January, I chaired a National Tribal Council Directors meeting in Ottawa, and Brenda Kustra, Director General of Governance, AANDC, attended for a portion to answer questions. Our tribal councils and Provincial and Territorial Organizations (PTOs) are struggling to adjust to the new funding levels that came into effect April 2014. As a result of this meeting, we discovered that there is no consistency with the roll out of the new funding levels and that it is at the discretion of the regions as to how this is going to happen. The problem with this is that the interpretation of the new policy at the funding officer levels may be different than intended and create confusion.

Ms. Kustra committed to bring the previous tribal council policy review and recommendations to the Minister and to apprise tribal council directors once this had taken place. As well, she committed to reviewing the effectiveness of the policy changes and their implementation moving forward. There has been no response or follow up received from AANDC to date.

I will continue to work with the AFN Executive to develop future plans for advocacy and action.

Education

We, as people with relations with the Crown through our Treaties, are being compromised by participating in negotiations on legislation like Bill C-33, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*. As a member of the National Executive I did not feel I was kept apprised of the alleged talks between the Prime Minister, AANDC Minister and the national office/National Chief on Bill C-33. Also, we were not informed of the potential content of the Bill until the day of the announcement in Alberta.

The position of the numbered Treaty Chiefs is that we have a Treaty Right to Education and cannot be legislated. What happened with Bill C-33 created a lot of controversy amongst our leadership and I hope going forward that the Confederacy of Nations is re-established to ensure we have political accountability.

Provincial Initiatives

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC)

- Attended AMC assemblies and executive meetings.
- Attended Special Chiefs Assembly on First Nations Families and Child Welfare.



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO)

- Attended the MKO Annual General Assembly.
- Worked with MKO to secure the bid to host the 2015 AFN Annual General Assembly (National Chief election year).
- Attended the MKO Justice Assembly.
- Attended the Natural Resources Transfer Act Conference in Calgary, co-hosted by MKO and Treaty Seven.

Southern Chiefs Organization

Attended the SCO Assembly, election and executive meetings.

AFN

- Participated in the Executive meetings and assemblies.
- Chair of the Chiefs Committee on Housing.
- Attended the AFN National First Nations Infrastructure Conference & Tradeshow.

In closing, I believe that our Treaties are sacred and should be treated as such. I will endeavour to pursue the implementation of our Treaties as our ancestors intended while keeping in mind the needs of our future generations.

Regional Chief Bill Traverse

REGIONAL CHIEF PERRY BELLEGARDE

Saskatchewan



Tansi:

Greetings from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). I greet all of you in a humble and respectful way. Maintaining the collective voice of Saskatchewan First Nations through securing own source revenues for core operations has been among my main priorities. Upholding inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights through supporting the AFN and FSIN's intervention into the *Keewatin* case at the Supreme Court of Canada stands as one of our most significant efforts of the past few months. Further, maintaining our unity and collective voice remains my commitment as we, together, address not only the issues surrounding Bill C-33 but our collective and diverse needs to implement our inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Below is a report on these highlights as well as an outline of FSIN Executive portfolios.

Maintaining the Collective Voice of Saskatchewan First Nations

Maintaining our strong, unified, collective voice is essential in order to present and address the many needs of our people to governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and other entities in Canada and around the world. The significant federal government funding cuts that were first announced in early September 2012 and June 2013 and then implemented as of April 1, 2014 saw more than \$2 million removed from the FSIN's core operations. This meant that funds for policy and legal analysis, communications, the Offices of the Chief and Vice Chiefs were significantly reduced and have negatively impacted the FSIN's ability to address our collective interests such as federal legislation and Supreme Court cases. You may recall that in order to exercise fiscal and organizational prudence, the FSIN served all of its staff layoff notices earlier this year with the uncertainty associated with these cuts. I am pleased to say that in late May, the Chiefs-in-Assembly in Saskatchewan voted to stabilize FSIN operations using gaming revenues from our six casinos operated by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA). This is made possible from the revenues which will flow from 250 additional slot machines as agreed to by the Province of Saskatchewan and the requisite change to our Gaming Framework Agreement (GFA). The additional funding allows the FSIN to stabilize its operations and reinstate most of the core functions. Achieving greater financial autonomy for the FSIN is a goal which I have communicated regularly and with this, we can now sustain our commitment to uphold inherent Aboriginal and treaty rights and be a more effective lobby and advocacy organization.

Upholding Inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights through Supporting the Assembly of First Nations' and FSIN's Keewatin Supreme Court Intervention

On May 14, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada heard another crucial case of *Andrew Keewatin Jr. and Joseph Fobister v. Minister of Natural Resources and Abitibi Consolidated Inc.* At stake is the unique constitutional position of First Nations and the special fiduciary role of the federal government where First Nation interests are concerned. Further, at issue



is whether or not the Court will consider the interpretation and implementation of Treaty 3, one of the numbered Treaties, in a manner consistent with a purposive and progressive interpretation of Canada's *Constitution* and the upholding of the doctrine of interjurisdictional immunity which had been raised in the November 2013 hearing of *William v. British Columbia* (the Tsilhqot'in case). While Canadian law recognizes that Indigenous peoples may hold ongoing title to their lands that predates colonization, no Canadian court has ever affirmed such Indigenous title.

The AFN and FSIN joined other intervenors and called on the Supreme Court to uphold the unique constitutional position of First Nations, and the special fiduciary role of the federal government where First Nations interests are concerned. Again, we urged the Supreme Court to seize this moment to give practical application to human rights standards affirmed in international law including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Addressing Issues Surrounding Bill C-33: First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act

Bill C-33 and its development process was seriously flawed and not in keeping with principles associated with a collaborative relationship between First Nations and the Crown. As such, the majority of the Chiefs-in-Assembly of Saskatchewan have confirmed that they are opposed to the passage of this legislation dealing with First Nations education. Now, we have to engage the Crown in a dialogue which respects inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including our right to self-determination, and principles of reconciliation.

I take this opportunity to outline the responsibilities of myself as the FSIN Chief along with our Executive. As Chiefs, our responsibilities are set out, in part, through a system of Portfolios and Commissions:

Perry Bellegarde Office of Chief

- AFN Regional Chief
- National Treaty Portfolio
- Legislative Assembly
- Executive Council/Indian Government Commission
- Lands and Resources Commission
- Gaming Commission
- Justice Commission
- Treaty Governance Office
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Treasury Board
- Treaty Rights Protection Fund
- Health & Social Development Commission
- First Nations Women's Commission

Kimberley Jonathan Office of the 1st Vice-Chief



Bobby Cameron Office of 2nd Vice-Chief

Edward Dutch Lerat Office of 3rd Vice-Chief

- Education and Training Commission
- Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre
- First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv)
- Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
- Saskatchewan Indian Training and Assessment Group
- 2014 Pow Wow
- Sports, Culture & Recreation
- Economic & Community Development Commission
- Senate
- Veterans & Bold Eagle
- Indian Resource Council
- Centre of Excellence
- Independent Bands
- North American Indigenous Games 2014

In unity,

Perry Bellegarde Chief, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Regional Chief for Saskatchewan, Assembly of First Nations



HUNGÂKEBI CAMERON ALEXIS

Regional Chief of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 (Alberta)

Aba Washded, Tansi, Oki, Edhanete, Bijou, Greetings from the region of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, and Treaty No. 8. It has been a full year since we gathered in Whitehorse, Yukon at the 2013 AFN Annual General Assembly (AGA). We have held many events, we have made achievements and we have weathered many challenges; yet we come together as Nations of the first peoples of these lands with true spirit and intent to build a better future for those generations yet to come.

I first wish to acknowledge the First Nations and the peoples of the Mi'kmaq territory who are our hosts for the 2014 AGA. I extend our heartfelt appreciation for being allowed to gather in their traditional lands.

I acknowledge our former National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and extend my personal gratitude for the long hours and many sacrifices made over the nearly five years he served as National Chief and a total of 11 years on the AFN Executive. The



work is at times difficult and often goes unappreciated; however, the vision of supporting and enabling the success for all First Nations I wish to recognize in a good way, Ishnish.

Indian Residential Schools

Our region was honoured to host the seventh and final national Truth and Reconciliation Event, March 27-31, 2014. I acknowledge all of the Residential School Survivors and their families. No one can comprehend what they endured and/or suffered from their personal experiences while attending school. I would like to offer my own apologies for what they have had to go through. Many lost their language and their traditional ways while being in the residential schools. While our traditions and our Indigenous heritage remains a strong and powerful tool, for many of the survivors that was taken away from them for a part of their lives and has had an intergenerational impact on our peoples. The event had over 36,000 participants, bringing together survivors and witnesses from across Canada to share their stores and help with the healing journey.

Portfolios

Currently I have been assigned the following portfolios: Justice, Murdered and Missing Women (MMW), Environment and Treaties.

Justice/Murdered and Missing Women: I have been working with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), a national group that includes provincial and territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and leaders of the five national Aboriginal organizations (NAOs). The group works to improve conditions for First Nations, Inuit

and Métis people, including on issues such as education and skills training, improving economic development opportunities and taking action to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

Regular meetings with Premiers, Ministers and NAO Leaders are held to share profound concern about the implications of violence against Aboriginal woman and girls and discuss the concrete actions being taken across the country to address this issue. The working group continues to adapt the Framework for Coordinating Action to End Violence Against Aboriginal Woman and Girls. The Working Group and FPT Justice Ministries continue to work together. While the FPT Justice Framework is more focused on the justice and public safety sectors, there are clear opportunities for coordination and mutual support between those frameworks.

There is an urgent need for action on ending violence against Indigenous women and girls, including the high importance of achieving justice for the family and friends of victims. Ending violence against Indigenous women is an urgent priority for First Nations across the country. The AFN continues the call for coordinated National Action Plan, including a National Public Commission of Inquiry, as well as immediate direct investments in the shelters and preventative support to keep the most vulnerable of our citizens safe and secure.

Environment: As Indigenous peoples, we take our responsibilities to the lands very seriously. We advocate when called upon by First Nations to protect the land, water, wildlife and air for future generations. Issues involving industries and development impacting First Nations lands are becoming increasingly confrontational in parts of our country.

Floods, particularly in the prairie regions, have dislocated many First Nations peoples. Each province has taken its own approach in addressing those whose homes have been damaged and/or totally lost. Alberta in 2013 responded quickly to First Nations communities such as Siksika, while Manitoba took years to reach agreements with some but not all First Nations to get their citizens out of temporary shelters.

Treaties: I was appointed to work along with Saskatchewan Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde on Treaties. Through the AFN, a series of meetings were facilitated to bring together Treaty leaders to conduct follow-up to the commitment made by Prime Minister Harper to work collectively towards reaching consensus on a process to implement the Treaties. A concern was expressed regarding a Senior Oversight Committee (SOC) comprised of representatives from the federal government and First Nations. While there had been initial work done on the development of Terms of Reference, the committee was not established. At the Special Chiefs Assembly held in December 2013, a Resolution was passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly to "Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief – Treaties Portfolio holder, and other members of the AFN Executive, to eliminate the implementation of Treaty through the Senior Oversight Committee/ Treaty Working Group process, until such time as Treaty Chiefs have fully informed and obtained the free consent of their Treaty members to move forward with a Treaty Nations – Crown dialogue." Currently the work in this area has ceased pending further directives of the Chiefs.

Regional Activities

Incidents within our region regarding questionable conduct of police officers dealing with First Nation members became an item on the agenda for our Chiefs at their Assembly of Treaty Chiefs meetings. An agreement was



reached with the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT), an independent investigation unit who has authority over all police in the province, to include First Nation representative(s) in the team. This was the result of a Resolution of the Chiefs. It has been my responsibility to follow up on this and we are pleased with the response received from the Director of ASIRT.

In the area of Education, the Chiefs had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for First Nations Education in Alberta along with the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. Considerable work has gone into developing a structure for First Nations education that will close the gap between First Nation students and the rest of Canada and Alberta. Work has also been undertaken to develop a First Nations Education Act with the assistance of Dr. Leroy Littlebear and Dr. Wilton Littlechild that will serve to promote the jurisdiction and authority of First Nations in the area of education.

Recent actions by the federal government have resulted in disappointment by many of our Chiefs. In the February 7, 2014 announcement, Prime Minister Harper said his government would work with the First Nations in the development of an enabling legislation that would provide a statutory guarantee for \$1.9 billion new investment into First Nations education and lift the 2% cap on the funding. The Prime Minister also stated in his announcement that the enabling legislation would be introduced into the House of Commons by the fall of 2014. Instead, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs introduced Bill C-33 and was intent on fast-tracking it through the process without the involvement of First Nations as announced by the Prime Minister. The resignation of the National Chief brought this process to a halt when the Minister placed the Bill on hold. This Bill has caused division that is apparent – there are those First Nations who fully reject the legislation, while others were prepared to move forward. What can be agreed upon is the status quo of First Nations education is not acceptable. First Nations leaders will continue to work in the best interests of our students.

A resolution of the Chiefs addressed the *Alberta Wildlife Act* and called for an amendment so that possession and trading by First Nations peoples of sacred or culturally significant artifacts that may originate from animal species are no longer unlawful under the Act. This is in response to a number of First Nation citizens being charged under this Act for possession of eagle feathers used in ceremonies.

Closing

The foregoing is a brief synopsis of this past year. There have been so many events attended, so many issues impacting our peoples regionally, nationally and internationally and far too many challenges being faced by our Indigenous peoples, we cannot do justice merely summarizing in a brief report. These are formidable times; however, it is during these times that we must look to our ancestors and the example they lead with by pulling together in unity for what is best for our peoples not only today but for generations to come. When many of our ancestors entered into sacred ceremonies with newcomers to our lands that resulted in Treaties, we must recall the true meaning of the spirit and intent of our ancestors at Treaty times, they built the foundation that each generation that follows are to build on. We owe it to our ancestors and we owe it to our future generations to support one another in a good way that will promote harmony and a better future for our Indigenous peoples.

Ishnish.

Regional Chief Cameron Alexis

REGIONAL CHIEF PUGLAAS (JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD)

British Columbia



Elders, Chiefs, delegates, and guests, on behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), welcome to the 2014 AFN Annual General Assembly in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Last year saw the passing of Nelson Mandela, a leader in bringing about decolonization and reconciliation in the modern era. Mandela taught us that beyond the important work of truth telling and of healing, reconciliation also requires state laws to change and policies to be rewritten. For our Peoples, this is equally true. Reconciliation requires federal and provincial laws and policies to change, our legitimate political institutions to be recognized and empowered and the laws they make enforceable.

Whether it be through addressing land rights or developing institutions of contemporary governance, implementing treaties or other agreements, or simply engaging with our citizens to talk about change and moving beyond the *Indian Act*, our Nations are making progress towards reconciliation. To support our Nations in their

respective efforts at Nation rebuilding and to advocate for true reconciliation between our Peoples and the Crown, we continue to implement the BCAFN four-pillared action plan: 1) strong and appropriate governance, 2) fair access to lands and resources, 3) improved education, and 4) individual health.

Working with my colleague Ghislain Picard, Regional Chief for Quebec and Labrador, much of our energy at the BCAFN last year under the pillar **fair access to lands and resources** was directed to working with federal officials to try to fundamentally change Canada's approach to reconciliation and "comprehensive claims" with our Nations. In the wake of the 2012/2013 Idle No More protests, pressure was placed on the federal government to establish two high level tables: one dealing with treaty implementation and one dealing with questions of un-extinguished Aboriginal title and comprehensive claims. As a result of our efforts, the joint committee on comprehensive claims assisted in helping federal officials to develop draft fundamental principles with respect to recognition and reconciliation. In addition to these principles, the committee also made a number of recommendations dealing with Canada's outdated approach to comprehensive claims including developing a broader overarching, cross-government federal reconciliation framework to instruct all federal policy and departments.

While this work was substantially completed in December of 2013 and was provided to both the National Chief's office and the Prime Minister's Office in accordance with our terms of reference, it has not been acted upon. Unfortunately, we have had no formal response from the Prime Minister's Office where the recommendations currently sit waiting for direction. We strongly urge the government to embrace this work as committed to and ensure that a broader and necessary discussion can take place with our individual Nations across the country. This work was solution-oriented, looks to break down federal policy silos, and supports our Nation rebuilding efforts, including settling the land question and the necessary transition from the *Indian Act*. This work is extremely important to our Nations in BC who, whether looking to settle the land question inside or outside of the BC treaty-making process, are, for the most part, extremely frustrated with Canada's current mandates and approach.



The pressing need for a broad federal reconciliation framework to address questions of Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, is perhaps most clearly evident in the growing controversy surrounding the federal government's recent announcement to approve Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipelines project. Trying to short-circuit or side step the fundamental work needed to resolve the land question in favour of seeking support for specific natural resource projects is proving very naïve, counterproductive and dangerous. Issues of decolonization and Aboriginal title and rights cannot be divorced from questions of future economic development. The hard work, effort and investment that is required to build relationships and rebuild our communities cannot be avoided. Likewise, our Nations cannot simply be bought off in order to advance government priorities. This is not how the Crown is expected to act and is not honourable. The Crown has constitutional responsibility for our Peoples.

Indeed, the honour of the Crown and what is required to achieve true reconciliation with respect to legitimate Aboriginal title claims will no doubt be front and center in the widely anticipated decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *William* (the Tsilqhot'in Nation Aboriginal title and rights case). Hopefully the decision will create the necessary incentive for the Crown to engage in meaningful reconciliation with our respective Nations based on recognition and not an impoverished understanding of our Peoples' title and rights.

With respect to **strong and appropriate governance**, our Nations continue to lobby for federal legislation that would require the government to recognize a First Nation or group of First Nations as self-governing when the citizens of those Nations vote to move out from under the *Indian Act*. At the BCAFN, we are also currently working on a second and substantially revised edition of our BCAFN *Governance Report* setting out what our Nations in BC are doing in the area of governance reform and advancement.

With respect to **improved education**, BC First Nations continue to advance our regional approach to the education of our kids through our education initiatives with Canada and BC. While the national debate around the pros and cons of the federal government's so-called *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act* continues, our primary focus in BC will be to ensure that nothing, including any proposed legislation, detracts or takes away from, but rather supports, the work well under way in our province. While all regions share a common objective to secure adequate resources from Canada to support the provision of education, each region, indeed each of our Nations, needs to consider what is the best institutional framework for providing education to its citizens. Rest assured, there is no question that in BC our leadership cares desperately about the quality of education that our kids receive and we will not let politics, neither federal nor First Nations, interfere with meeting our goal of improved education outcomes.

With respect to **individual health**, in accordance with the 2011 Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nations Health Governance, our region is now in our first full year of administering healthcare to our citizens under the auspices of the province-wide First Nations Health Authority. While there have been the inevitable growing pains and difficult decisions to be made, this is an incredibly important opportunity for our Nations to demonstrate our acumen at delivering programs and services to our citizens based upon our own health care priorities and plans. Of course securing adequate financial resources to do what we know needs to be done always remains a challenge.

Whether it is in education, healthcare, fair access to lands and resources or governance our Nations in BC are making progress in moving beyond the *Indian Act*. In light of this work, and particularly over the past year and since

the resignation of former National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, it is becoming clearer to me that in order to better support our Nations the structure of our provincial and national organizations must better reflect a post-*Indian Act* reality. In truth, both the BCAFN regionally, and the AFN nationally, are examples of a paradox. That is, our respective governance structures both rely on the very institutions of *Indian Act* government (the federally created "band") that we are seeking to move beyond through our Nation rebuilding activities. In many ways, as the "band" system can hold back our communities at the local level, so too can it regionally and nationally. This is something we have recognized in BC and are doing something about.

In BC we have started a process to reform the BCAFN constitution and bylaws to better reflect the source of our Nations' authorities, the nature of our traditional and emerging governance frameworks and to ensure our provincial organization can transition, as our individual communities transition. We also continue to work through the BC First Nations Leadership Council with our other two provincial organizations, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the First Nations Summit, to create synergies and to the extent possible reduce duplication in services provided and advocacy undertaken on behalf of our Nations.

Nationally, I believe, we also need to revise our foundational documents as recommended in the 2005 AFN Renewal Commission report, *A Treaty Among Ourselves*, to better reflect our emerging reality as post-*Indian Act* governments. I believe the recent debate and confusion with respect to the Confederacy of Nations, an organ of the AFN that has been dormant for some 10 years, is in part symptomatic of a bigger problem in the AFN structure and the disconnect between our emerging reality as Nations, whether treaty or not, and the inherent limitations and contradictions within the AFN Charter. This needs to be fixed. How the AFN evolves over the next few years will be telling for its future relevance as a voice for our Peoples nationally. In the shorter term, I look forward to the discussions over the coming months with respect to the operations of the Charter and the need for immediate governance reform within the AFN.

In closing, there will be a federal election in 2015. There are at least a dozen federal ridings across the country in which the Aboriginal vote could determine or change the outcome of the election. It is important that we use this influence strategically. I know some of our citizens choose not to participate in non-First Nation elections so it is important that we have a strategy leading into the next election. In this regard, having a new National Chief elected as soon as possible would be beneficial.

On this note, and on behalf of the Chiefs of British Columbia, I would like to extend our warm and heartfelt thanks to A-in-chut for his over 10 years of service, both as National Chief and as BC Regional Chief. We wish him well and know that he will continue to advocate for our Peoples in whatever direction his future takes him.

In closing, I would like to remember all of our leaders who passed on this year and to recognize their contributions to laying the legal and political foundations for our future. It is in their footsteps that we continue our collective efforts towards improving the lives of our people.

Gilakas'la.

Regional Chief Puglaas (Jody Wilson-Raybould)



REGIONAL CHIEF MIKE SMITH

Yukon

Greetings to all! I wish to acknowledge the First Nations of Nova Scotia where we are gathering for this year's AFN Annual General Assembly (AGA).

It's not news to anyone that 2014 has marked another challenging year for First Nations, and another dark page in Canada's history of First Nations-Crown relations. And unfortunately for First Nations North of 60, the policies of this government have a direct impact as there is no "provincial shield" as in the provinces. This year has seen the full impact of anti-First Nations federal laws being passed unilaterally, in a rush prior to the next federal election. Punitive amendments to the *Indian Act* and amendments to North of 60 federal legislation have passed or are in the process of becoming law, without due regard to consultation with First Nations. And at the same time, this government continues to undermine First Nations' programs with ever-increasing cuts to funding. The tabling of Bill C-33, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*, has been a bitter pill, leading to the resignation of



National Chief Atleo and internal dissension amongst Chiefs and regions. That being the case, the challenge is how to provide the leadership that is needed to bring back the unity that is essential in this time of crisis. The year ahead will continue to be a challenge for the AFN as a national organization, and the need for understanding, and clear and strategic leadership must prevail over regional differences.

The emergence of the Confederacy of Nations also presents a unique challenge and an opportunity for the AFN to renew and to move forward to protect First Nation interests and rights on Treaties, modern agreements, lands and jurisdiction. The status quo and business as usual are not acceptable. While Yukon First Nations may be exempt from amendments to the *Indian Act*, Bill C-33, and other measures such as Bill C-10, the *Contraband Tobacco Act*, we are not immune from this government's actions as can be seen with the delegation of Crown responsibilities under our Agreements to our new "Indian Agent", the Yukon Government; the erosion of rights to protect lands and water, and fisheries; and amendments to enabling legislation on our Agreements. While we do participate in "consultation" on issues such as the amendments proposed to the *Yukon Environment Assessment Act*, the Peel Watershed, and fiscal arrangements under our Agreements, the consultation is only done to meet the minimum requirements of the law. Yukon First Nations bear the full burden of this federal government's anti-First Nation policies and laws.

This report will cover the work and priorities of Yukon First Nations, both First Nations with Final Land Claims Agreements and those First Nations that have declined acceptance of Canada's Comprehensive Claims Policy.

Yukon First Nations were honoured to host the 2013 AGA in Whitehorse. The Assembly joined us in celebrating the completion of Yukon First Nations Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements following more than 30 years of negotiations. The event planning and organization included participation by Yukon First Nations, the Governments of Yukon and City of Whitehorse and the two host First Nations of Ta'an Kwach'an Council and Kwanlin Dun First

Nation. The involvement of both First Nations was crucial to the planning and hosting of the AGA. We acknowledge the support provided by our sponsors, volunteers and staff. And we extend our goodwill and wishes to the host First Nations of Nova Scotia and the AFN.

First Nations with Agreements continue to work on implementation issues with governments, and have made very little progress on issues of Financial Transfer negotiations, land development, housing, education, and family and child welfare matters. First Nations without Agreements are dealing with constant encroachment of governments, mining companies and other developments, which have resulted in court challenges.

As mentioned, First Nations without Agreements have been forced to bring legal action against the Crown to protect their interests — which have been successful in forcing governments to consult and accommodate First Nations' interests. The Ross River First Nation case is quite significant in that it the government has a duty to consult with First Nations when recording mineral claims in the community's traditional territory. The court found that the duty to consult exists even though the relevant legislation gave essentially no discretion to the officials recording the claims under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, which permits free entry staking on Crown land.

The White River First Nation case further elaborates on the Crown's duty to consult. In this case, the court dealt with the scope and extent of the duty to consult and accommodate the First Nation regarding the government's approval of the mining company's plans for exploration work on their mining claims. The court ruled that the Crown's honour cannot be interpreted narrowly or technically, but must be given full effect in order to promote the process of reconciliation mandated by section 35.1 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

The results of these cases have forced the government to amend the Acts after due consultation with Yukon First Nations; that process is currently under way.

Related to this, a number of meetings have been held with mining companies and First Nations. The message on consultation and accommodation has been well received by the companies who have entered into agreements with the above mentioned First Nations, and without government involvement. These are business arrangements and did not require First Nations to surrender their rights and title, as would happen if consultation was carried out with governments.

Implementation still remains an issue, not only for Yukon First Nations but for all First Nations with modern treaties and self-government. Yukon First Nations have held a number of meetings with fellow members of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC), which has also met with the AFN Yukon office to clarify the AFN's role with respect to the LCAC. This is follow-up to the resolution requesting that the AFN assist Yukon First Nations with implementation. Yukon First Nations have an agreement providing funding for self-government which replaced Band Funding, and for negotiations for 5-year agreements, which the government wanted to replace with a formula funding arrangement. This issue is very contentious as the government has carried out what appears to be consultation, held meetings with the LCAC, and has managed to force most First Nations to accept this take-it-or-leave-it offer, notwithstanding the provisions in the Self-Government Agreement in the Yukon. However, one First Nation has refused and insisted the government meet its obligation under the agreement; while their 5-year agreement has expired, the First Nation continues to be funded while it carries on "discussions" with Finance and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.



While Yukon First Nations have participated in discussions on the AFN resolutions demanding First Nations control of First Nations education, they have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to explore a possible partnership with the territory, as have other First Nations in their respective regions. The federal government's introduction of legislation pertaining to First Nations education presents a different problem for Yukon. According to statements by the government, Self-Governing First Nations are exempt from the Act. The federal government's recent announcement on funding for education is under review by Yukon First Nations. Yukon First Nations are confused by the process and application of the proposed Education Act and whether it will affect the Yukon and whether Yukon First Nations will be involved in future development of the First Nation Education Act. The Yukon Region has been monitoring the issue, despite not having been included in the blueprint or national consultations carried out by the government.

Another major initiative for Yukon First Nations is the need to provide the certainty required by banks and developers on Settlement land held by First Nations. A number of meetings have been held with banks, governments, agencies and interested third parties with respect to land registry matters. The Yukon government is currently developing a Yukon Land Registry Act and has met with interested First Nations. However, Yukon will not develop a separate land category or recognize First Nations title; instead they have stated that once a First Nation has agreed to restrict their powers and accept the application of Yukon laws applying to the land under question, their registry will accept registration of the First Nation's land. Interested First Nations are reviewing this offer. In the meantime, a number of First Nations have joined together to develop a Yukon First Nation Land Registry system based on the model developed under the Nunavut Land Registry and are working to modify it to fit the Yukon Settlement land under ownership and title of Yukon First Nations. Work is well underway. The registry work is expected to be completed by this summer, and once a First Nation has passed their land law and land registry law, this First Nation registry will be implemented by September 2014. This registry will see the continued application of First Nation laws applying to the lands, retained Aboriginal Title, and retained benefits of income tax, GST, and gas tax revenue from the developed lands which may be held by third parties, and First Nation citizens and companies. The significance of this initiative is that the precedence of working together to develop common, uniform laws can be applied to all matters within the jurisdiction of Yukon First Nations and in the development of First Nations laws respecting all matters in the Self-Government Agreement, such as child care, resources, environment, and education, to name a few. Once these laws are in effect, they replace and prevail over federal, territorial and municipal laws.

In closing, Yukon First Nations have participated and look for more meaningful involvement and support from all regions in protecting our people, lands and resources.

Gunalchish, Mahsi Cho.

Michael Smith, Regional Chief, AFN Yukon Region

REGIONAL CHIEF BILL ERASMUS

Northwest Territories



Welcome to the AFN's 35th Annual General Assembly in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Much has changed since we last met here in 2001. We are pleased to be here in the territory with AFN Regional Chief Morley Googoo and the First Nations who are hosting this great event for us.

The theme of this assembly is "Together as Nations: Educate, Empower, Enlighten". As you know, there are many Treaties in place that guide us and we are compelled to follow and honour them. The peace and friendship treaties between the Crown and First Nations are commitments that must be respected to this date. To reflect this peace and harmony, our people have organized themselves accordingly. For 35 years we have been assembling together as one. This gives First Nations people from our communities the strength to succeed and to carry on as nations for another 35 years. However, knowing, understanding and teaching our youth about treaties is very important and will safeguard our future as peoples. Everything that we are is in our

treaties, from spiritualism to our economies.

In recent times, we the Dene have entered into treaty with the British Crown and this year marks 115 years for Treaty #8. We celebrated this historic event at the 44th Dene National Assembly in Fort Smith. The treaty party came to the 60th parallel in July 1899 to confirm Treaty #8. We congratulate the people of Treaty #8 and also Treaty #11 which occurred similarly in 1921 further north to the Beaufort Sea. This vast tract of land and territory is recognised in law as the homeland of the Dene, our people. We still retain our self-determination and sovereignty in our ancestral lands and therefore must decide for ourselves what our future will be. Canada is founded on this premise, subject to the treaties, and this is recognised and affirmed in its *Constitution* under section (35). Without our treaties, there would be no Canada. This is important to know, remember and understand because we have granted the provinces under section (92) and the federal government under section (91) authority to care for themselves.

Our people therefore have always insisted that we have to honour the agreements that we have entered into. Canada's courts have ruled in favour of the Dene as original land owners — in a case led by Chief Francois Paulette in 1973, Justice William Morrow's judgment in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories found that we still maintain our interest in 450,000 square miles of land. Our duty is to enforce these court rulings; they exist right across Canada as author Bill Gallagher illustrates in his most recent book. In our homeland we find other governments wanting to manage and administer our lives. This cannot continue because it violates the terms of the treaties as entered into.

In regards to some of our people to the south of us who have not entered into treaty with other authorities, like Great Britain, they too have original rights that are recognized and affirmed with a legal interest vested in them. Frank Calder from the Nisga'a Nation came to our Dene National Assembly in 1989 in Inuvik and explained that to



us. He also led a Supreme Court of Canada decision on Nisga'a title and since then his people have entered into a treaty with the Crown, in right of Canada.

What this all means is that we have to all work together amongst ourselves and with other sovereigns that live amongst us. Let's not be afraid to sit down and work out our differences to have them reflected in the future for our children. It's clear that when we work together, we are all rich and will be successful as the Creator intended.

We would like to once again thank AFN Regional Chief Morley Googoo and his region who have worked hard to make this Assembly happen. We look forward to this opportunity to work in unity and make decisions that are guided by our Creator and respectful of our treaties. Thank you for your attention and the honour to work for you and our peoples. We encourage everyone to speak their minds at this Assembly and to be considerate and courteous to others.

Sincerely,

Bill Erasmus AFN Regional Chief, NWT

AFN ELDERS COUNCIL

Since the inception of the National Indian Brotherhood and transition to the Assembly of First Nations, there has always been a place of honour and distinction for the Elders. Elders provided both spiritual and political guidance in the formation of the organization, its structures and its Charter. The Elders helped to shape AFN policies and the relationship with the federal government and other national and international organizations. During the past 35 years, the AFN's leadership has relied upon the historical and cultural knowledge of its Elders, especially in matters relating to Treaty rights and First Nation governance.

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

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

Resident Elder Barney Taa-eee-sim-chilth Williams of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations provided guidance and shared knowledge at meetings and gatherings throughout the year.

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

AFN Elders Council Guidelines and Protocols

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

AFN Tri-Council

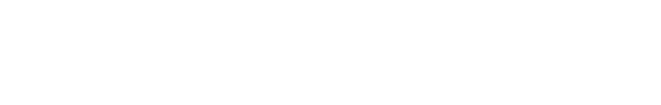
The Elders Council continues to provide guidance and vision to AFN Tri-Council meetings with the Women's and Youth Councils.

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NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

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





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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The Council has been engaged in various meetings and activities that address matters of concern to First Nations women and their families. The Council Chair and co-Chair have actively participated on the Executive Committee and, as such, have kept the Council apprised of Executive activities and discussions. Also, the Chair has been participating in monthly calls with the chairs of the Youth and Elders Councils, and the Chief Executive Officer, as a way to establish improved communication between the AFN Secretariat and the Tri-Council.

In August 2013, representatives of the Council had a discussion with Tracy Robinson, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, and Dinah Shelton, Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on the need to take urgent action to end violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Last October, the Chair attended the World Conference on Indigenous Women that took place in Lima, Peru. Indigenous women from around the world came together to discuss issues that affect them, and there was a particular focus on violence against Indigenous women and girls. A number of recommendations were put forward to be presented at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples planned to take place in September 2014 in New York.

The Council has been involved in a number of activities including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event in British Columbia, the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development, Sisters in Spirit Vigils across the country, the National Fisheries Committee, and the Specific Claims Gathering.

The Council would like to express appreciation to former National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo for his genuine and deep commitment to take action to end violence against Indigenous women and girls.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- The Council is highly committed to support and engage in the implementation of the Action Plan to Ensure Safety and Security for Indigenous Women and Girls.
- The Council will be discussing fundraising ideas to support its activities.
- Council members will continue to be active in their regions.
- The Council will discuss next steps in response to the recent reports by the RCMP on murdered and missing Aboriginal women as well as the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Council will also continue to work with the Youth and Elders Councils to continue to implement Resolution 02/2012 as well as the Tri-Council Strategic Plan.

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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, based within the structure of the AFN, represents First Nations youth across the country on issues that impact them on a daily basis. The NYC provides insight to the AFN committees and working groups, as well as the AFN secretariat on various youth-related issues.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

4th AFN National Youth Summit

The AFN NYC, in partnership with Montreal Lake First Nation and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), hosted the 4th AFN National Youth Summit in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, this past November. More than 500 youth from across the country attended the three-day gathering. Youth participated in workshops that cut across a variety of subjects and themes that the AFN NYC had identified as priorities and interests for First Nation youth. There were a number of speakers including Minister Bernard Valcourt, FSIN Princess Faith Ketchemonia, Olympian Waneek Horn-Miller and current Canadian Football League player JR Larose.

The discussions throughout the summit renewed calls for new programming and expansion of existing programs to better address youth needs. A recurring message and sentiment brought forth by the youth was the need for better engagement with them whenever policy and legislation concerning youth is discussed and developed. In addition, the delegates expressed a desire to meaningfully incorporate culture and tradition into every aspect of everyday life, as well as in how we collectively address youth priorities and issues.

The AFN NYC has been working to produce two pieces that reflect the messages and desired actions brought forth from the youth at the summit. The first is an engagement plan that speaks to key sectors that wish to engage First Nation youth. The second piece is an action plan for the AFN NYC. This plan would take the messages and priorities outlined by the youth at the summit and shape activities for the Council to address these priorities.

At the December 2013 Special Chiefs Assembly, Chiefs-in-Assembly expressed their support for annual Youth Summits in Resolution 39/2013. The next Summit will take place in advance of the 2014 Annual General Assembly in Halifax.

4Rs Youth Movement

The AFN NYC is currently engaged with the 4RsYouth Movement. This movement began as a collaboration of five national youth-serving organizations, six national Aboriginal organizations and three national charitable foundations, in Canada. The movement has grown and now includes several new partners.

Through this youth-to-youth initiative, the desire is to deepen understanding of our common heritage, to challenge prevailing views of the contribution and potential of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and to forge a new path forward together. Substantial efforts have been put forth, by all involved, to find a common vision and mission statement to guide the efforts of this movement. In the coming months, guided by the vision of this collaborative, the movement hopes to further define activities that this group will collectively carry out. These activities will reflect the vision as well the goal of forging a new path forward together.

IndigenACTION

The AFN NYC continues to lead the way on this important initiative which seeks to make our communities healthier. Another successful run/walk was held at last year's Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Whitehorse. The NYC also included daily physical activities as part of the agenda at the youth summit in Saskatoon and the Special Chiefs Assembly this past December. A run/walk is also planned for the 2014 AGA in Halifax.

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Forum

The AFN NYC was represented at the NIHB Forum which was held this past March, in Toronto, Ontario. The AFN NYC offered a youth perspective throughout the many discussions and workshops that took place during the forum.

National First Nations Infrastructure Conference (NFNIC)

Members of the AFN NYC attended the NFNIC in Toronto, Ontario, this past February. Council members participated in various workshops and offered comments and youth perspective throughout the various discussions and presentations.

Special Claims Gathering

The AFN NYC was represented by portfolio holders for Exercising and Implementing Rights at the Specific Claims Gathering that took place in Vancouver this past March. Youth Council representatives provided input and feedback to the discussions and presentations at the gathering.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN NYC will share their engagement plan widely, and provide to the upcoming National Youth Summit in Halifax in July 2014, in an effort to facilitate engagement of First Nation youth across a variety of sectors.
- The AFN NYC will complete its 5-Year Action Plan to address the issues and priorities that were identified and discussed at the Youth Summit in November.
- The AFN NYC will continue to engage with the 4Rs Youth Movement and contribute to the development of the
 overall vision and subsequent activities.
- The AFN NYC will work to maintain a visible and substantial presence within the activities, meetings and
 conferences that are conducted through the AFN Secretariat and its various sub-committees and working groups.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the 35th Annual General Assembly (AGA) in beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia. This has been a challenging year for the Assembly of First Nations on a number of levels. The first and most public has been the sudden and unprecedented resignation of former National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo. I personally want to thank former National Chief Atleo for his service.

The past year has been very difficult from a financial standpoint as well. The 2013-2014 fiscal year began with notification of significant funding reductions three months into the fiscal year. This late notice put us behind and we spent the rest of the fiscal year trying to close the gap this created. This year is shaping up to have a similar beginning. With the new project funding process being put in place for Aboriginal Representative Organizations, there again have been significant delays in receiving notification of when funds will be received. At the writing of this report we still do not have any confirmation of when funds will be received for our work this year.



However, in and amongst all of this turmoil, the work of the Assembly of First Nations continues. The AFN Secretariat has been active as ever to protect and pursue the rights and interests of First Nations. We continue in our human rights complaint against the federal government for their failure to provide equitable child welfare funding and services on reserve with our partner the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. We have intervened in Supreme Court cases such as *Williams Lake* and *Keewatin* to help ensure that First Nation rights are not eroded.

The AFN has also sought to ensure that First Nations' priorities are reflected in national and international arenas. Nationally, we remain engaged with the Council of the Federation to focus Provincial and Territorial governments on our priorities such as ending violence against Aboriginal women, housing, education, economic development, disaster mitigation and emergency management. Internationally we continue to look at forums such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other potential opportunities such as the proposed September 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as key opportunities to ensure our priorities and issues remain on the forefront.

The policy and advocacy work at the AFN Secretariat remains firmly rooted in the resolutions passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly. The area with the most attention has been the efforts on First Nations education. Naturally the focus has been on Bill C-33 and the proposed changes to how K-12 education is provided on reserve. However, we have continued advancing other work — including advocating for First Nations to control all data related to education, which conflicts with plans that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has with their Education Information System. In addition we have been continuing to advocate for the need for increased resources for post-secondary funding.

We continue work on Treaty implementation as we support each Nation to determine their path forward. The AFN's work on comprehensive claims has us pressing the federal government to shift from their current position of denial of rights and extinguishment to a position of recognition and reconciliation of section 35 rights.

We continue to engage with partners and increase public support on a call for a national inquiry and action plan to address violence against Indigenous women. We strongly pushed for the Special Parliamentary Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women to do so. The recent announcement from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that over 1,200 Indigenous women were murdered or are missing over the past three decades shows that such action is urgently needed.

The AFN has also been active advocating for changes in the way that the federal government provides financial resources to First Nation governments. We have been pushing for specific changes to the General Assessment that determines the funding instruments available to First Nations. First Nations need access to funding tools and transfers that are reflective of the government services they provide and recognize their jurisdiction.

There are many other highlights to note. Our work on the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement has included ensuring that there is awareness of the Personal Education Credits that are available to Common Experience Payment recipients. We are active in a strategic review and advocacy around the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. The AFN is active in the specific claims process, including the 5-year review of *Justice at Last* and advocating for proper research funding. We held a national Infrastructure Conference where more than 500 delegates came together to look at innovations to address water, wastewater and housing issues.

Additional information can be found later in this report and in other materials that are available on www.afn.ca. I encourage you to spend some time to examine the breadth and depth of the work underway. You will appreciate, as I do, the incredible professionalism and dedication of the staff at the AFN Secretariat. We are all fortunate to have them working with us.

Finally, I would like to thank the AFN Executive Committee for their support through a difficult time – this has been appreciated by the entire AFN Secretariat.

I wish you all the best for a successful AGA as we continue focus on the work – and the results – our Nations and citizens direct us to achieve.

Peter Dinsdale Chief Executive Officer



INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY AND ACTIVITY

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has been actively advocating the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in communications with the federal government and other governments, with the private sector and with Canadians in general. More specifically, the advocacy regarding the implementation of the UNDRIP is captured in policy discussions with federal officials and in appearances on Parliament Hill regarding various legislative and policy studies.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSR) visited Canada from October 7 to October 15 2013. The UNSR met with a number of First Nations representatives across Canada and at the AFN offices in Ottawa. An advanced unedited version of UNSR report on Canada was released on May 7, 2014 and a final version will be released at the UN Human Rights Council in September 2014. The UNSR's report makes 15 recommendations specific to First Nations which call on Canada to improve the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and to meet internationally accepted, and legally binding minimum standards. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is recommended as a common framework to address the concerns of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

In the late summer and early fall, the AFN met with Commissioners from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) regarding the high numbers of murdered and missing Indigenous women in Canada.

The AFN hosted a side event at the sixth session of Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus on the side event was on reframing the conversation on environment and development with dialogue on Indigenous rights, resource development and sustainable development. Sustainable development and environmental issues were also the focus of the AFN's attendance at the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technological and Technical Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, from June 23 to June 27, 2014.

To support work on reframing the conversation on environment and development, the AFN met with the Plurinational State of Bolivia on similar measures being undertaken by that government, as well as the possibility of collaboration between First Nations and the government of Bolivia. Similarly, the AFN attended an event at the invitation of the Embassy of Ecuador on the environmental and human rights impacts of multinational corporations

and the importance of rule of law. Representatives from the AFN and Amnesty International met with Indigenous leaders from Colombia who continue to face grave threats to their land and territories due to the extractive industry.

The AFN attended an informal interactive dialogue on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on June 17-18, 2014. The World Conference is scheduled to be held on September 22-23, 2014 in New York. An approach to this conference will be discussed at the upcoming Annual General Assembly in Halifax.

Canada has released its report on compliance with its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Canada is currently scheduled to report to the Human Rights Council in July 2015. A list of questions will likely be compiled by the Council in October 2014.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continued advocacy regarding the implementation of the standards set out in the UNDRIP within the laws
 and policies of Canada regarding Treaties, comprehensive claims, self-government, and the full range of issues
 affecting First Nation and Canada relations.
- The AFN plans to work with Indigenous partners and international social justice organizations to host a session in Fall 2014 on implementation of the recommendations of the UNSR report on Canada.
- Continued advocacy efforts in the international fora and international relationship building.
- Chiefs-in-Assembly will determine whether and how to engage on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including informal interactive negotiation sessions in advance of the Conference.
- Assembling a delegation for the Conference of the Parties of the CBD, in October, 2014.
- Preparing a shadow report for and possibly attending Canada's reporting to the Human Rights Council on its
 obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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PARLIAMENTARY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Assembly of First Nations continued work to build strong relationships with Parliamentarians and provincial and territorial governments. Along with specific focus on building and maintaining connections between First Nation leadership, Parliamentarians and senior public servants, the AFN monitors and provides strategic input and communications on legislation affecting First Nations.

The AFN has continued to advance strategic issues of relevance to First Nations as part of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) created in August 2009 by the Council of the Federation (CoF). This has included focused work in priority areas, such as education, economic participation, ending violence against Indigenous women and girls, housing and disaster mitigation.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Parliamentary Advocacy, Outreach and Engagement in Parliamentary Processes

It has been a very busy year in monitoring and engaging in Parliamentary processes. During this session the AFN continued focus on the clear and consistent priorities First Nations have expressed through resolutions, asserting our rights and affirming our responsibilities and ensuring that the federal legislators respect and understand First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction over matters on their lands and with regards to their citizens.

During this session the former National Chief, AFN Regional Chiefs, Youth Council members and secretariat staff have made 10 committee presentations in addition to numerous written submissions in both the House of Commons and the Senate.

As in previous years, the AFN participated in the Pre-Budget consultation process, outlining priority areas for significant and sustained investments. This advocacy saw new investments announced for First Nations education to bridge the funding gap and ensure ongoing growth in budgets. Based on Resolution 01/2014 the AFN is continuing advocacy for this funding to be provided to First Nation schools immediately.

The AFN actively engaged in advocacy with First Nations and parliamentarians in efforts to ensure First Nation concerns were understood, and provided clear messages that First Nations will use every avenue available to them to stop the derogation of their rights, and harm to their resources.

Throughout the session, AFN officials have maintained consistent communication with Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators to ensure they are aware of First Nations' concerns. Opposition MPs and Senators have been instrumental in raising the profile and awareness of First Nation issues in the House of Commons, the Senate and during committee business.

In addition, the AFN facilitates direct access of First Nations to Parliamentarians and assists with securing and supporting meetings and committee appearances along with organizing an annual reception for Chiefs and Parliamentarians at the Special Chiefs Assembly.

The AFN provides weekly e-mail updates while the House of Commons is in session and these are also posted on www.afn.ca.

Council of the Federation / Aboriginal Affairs Working Group

The Council of the Federation (CoF) is a body formed in 2003 consisting of all provincial and territorial Premiers. The CoF has invited leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) to meet with them in advance of their regular annual meeting every year since 2004. As a direct response to calls by the AFN at the CoF in 2009, the Premiers agreed to establish an Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) consisting of provincial and territorial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and NAO leaders to follow-up on work between annual meetings of the CoF. The AAWG typically meets once or twice per year to review work and make recommendations to the CoF. Officials from the NAOs and Provinces and Territories collaborate throughout much of the year in preparation for these meetings.

In July, 2013, former National Chief Atleo, along with the leaders of other national organizations met with Premiers and Territorial leaders in advance of the CoF meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The focus continued on Education, Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women & Girls, Economic Development, Crisis & Emergency Management and Housing. Premiers and Territorial leaders all supported the call for Canada to strike a national inquiry on murdered and missing Indigenous women.

The AAWG Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders met twice in the past year, in November 2013 and April 2014. Following on the clear support and direction for a National Inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women, the AAWG has adopted a coordinating framework to end violence against Aboriginal women and girls to be used by all levels of government to make progress in preventing, ending and addressing violence. Provincial and Territorial Ministers and NAO Leaders endorsed continued co-operation on all priority issues. Additionally, they recommended the creation of a working group on child and family services. The AAWG Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders are scheduled to meet next in November 2014 in NWT to further key priorities from the meeting of the CoF in Charlottetown on August 26, 2014.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue facilitating access to Parliamentarians and key decision-makers.
- 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.
- Continued work at the CoF / AAWG forums to further First Nations rights and interests.



SUPPORTING FIRST NATION GOVERNMENTS

The Assembly of First Nations continues to pursue a broad vision endorsed by Chiefs-in-Assembly that includes advocacy and research to support First Nation governments to implement their jurisdiction in a manner and pace that they choose.

As a key plank of this work, the AFN is committed to the pursuit of new fiscal arrangements that embody the Nation-to-Nation relationship, have clear and mutual accountability requirements and support First Nation self-determination.

The sustainability and equitability of funding levels has a significant impact on the ability of First Nation governments to provide adequate services to their citizens. First Nation citizens face some of the most difficult social and economic problems in Canada and as a result First Nation governments often have a more difficult task than other governments delivering services.

If there is to be reconciliation between the rights and interests of First Nations and the sovereignty of the Crown, then Canada must renew its relationship with First Nations. It must recreate a relationship built on the principle of respect for Nations, for people and for the land, the principle of sharing and the principle of community responsibility to ensure we all succeed together for now and seven generations hence. A sustainable funding base is essential to create the conditions for First Nations to develop economically.

Additionally, in light of Nation-building efforts, First Nations have been reflecting on the organization and decision-making structures at the AFN. Last summer, Resolution 20/2013: AFN Transition to Nation-building Structures and Processes directed further examination of how to reframe AFN structures and processes to allow engagement and participate as Nations.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to facilitate the sharing of information, experiences and challenges to assist First Nations to chart their paths forward by learning from practical experience of the many communities demonstrating and strengthening self-governing capacity.

Fiscal Relations

First Nation leaders since the Penner Report have been calling for new financial arrangements. This has been demonstrated through several years of national advocacy, resolutions and AFN pre-budget submissions.

Since 2012, the AFN has been advancing exploratory discussions on new fiscal mechanisms and more responsive approaches to First Nations through a Joint Working Group on Financial Arrangements (WGFA). The WGFA has held a number of sessions with First Nation Chief Administrative and Financial Officers as well as focused dialogue at the 2013 Special Chiefs Assembly on financial agreements for 2014-15. Early in January, the AFN coordinated a

session with Tribal Council administrators and leadership to discuss Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) funding levels and methodologies, as well develop a strategy for future advocacy.

The majority of discussions of the WGFA to date have focused on:

- a) Identifying the existing range of funding mechanisms between First Nations and the federal government and where they fall short of these core financing principles.
- b) Exploring models currently used to identify standards (i.e. General Assessment tool, ISO, etc.) to help assess governance and capacity within First Nations.
- c) Reviewing and providing recommendations for improvement to the General Assessment (GA) Tool as the tool used to define "high-performing governance systems."

The AFN also convened a working session in March 2014 with First Nation Financial Administrators that have experience in managing agreements, to discuss broadly how to move towards financial self-sufficiency, including identifying barriers and administrative supports that may be needed. Overall, the discussion focused on a number of fiscal relations elements that support the path towards financial self-sufficiency. These include:

- · Funding authorities and resource models
- Supporting governance functions
- Reciprocal accountability and reporting
- Community planning frameworks
- Institutional support
- Dispute resolution and relationship monitoring

The workshop concluded with a session on identifying key recommendations First Nations would make to move towards a renewed fiscal relationship with the Crown. Specifically, the following were suggested as next steps that would improve the existing Crown-First Nations fiscal relationship:

- a) Create <u>one</u> broad authority based on First Nation community priorities and a First Nation Community Development Model;
- b) Adjust existing funding/program authorities to align authorities with appropriate eligibility criteria and include incentives for developing toward "high performance". Also expand implementation of Block authorities and develop agreements that respect organizational capacities and priorities.
- c) Create a flexible resourcing model categorizing: treaty-based sectors and services; community based social service needs; and considerations on geography and population;
- d) Target support strategies for challenged First Nations communities and build governance functions to move towards self-sufficiency;
- e) Adjust contribution funding agreements to support the use of own-source revenue (OSR)/capital on related funded activities as supporting economic self-reliance catalyst (rather than a punitive measure);
- Establishing an online resource that matches "high-performing" First Nations with more challenged communities to support peer-to-peer mentoring and sharing of expertise and knowledge;
- g) Re-focus reporting requirements within funding agreements on compliance measures which support First Nations moving towards self-sufficiency; address community needs/challenges through specific compliance measures, and targeting performance measures only on First Nations communities who are already "high-functioning".



- h) Strengthen policies by working with First Nations on opportunity-based language/approaches; include specific accountability metrics for co-managers and Third Party Managers' interventions based on sustainable capacity building; and include clearly articulated de-escalation strategies based on triggers and community needs.
- Establish a First Nations Auditor General/Ombudsman fully resourced by an external agency to monitor First Nations' financial activities.
- Develop a governance advisory council for First Nations that supports and advocates community capacity development through community led planning, communications and implementation activities.
- k) Develop a capacity building strategy designed to improve performance.
- l) Shift AANDC organizational culture to align with changing the accountability bargain by reframing Government of Canada's involvement from "overseer" to "investor" and supporting an independent assessment process (e.g. Piloting completion of the General Assessment process by external capacity building institutions such as AFOA/FNFMB).
- m) Implement a reciprocal accountability regime, monitored by a First Nations Auditor General that is based on inclusion, shared information, administrative simplicity, and a level playing field.

Nation Building

To further direction in Resolution 20/2013, an ad hoc group was brought together throughout the fall of 2013 to identify options and key questions for moving forward. A panel presented to the December 2013 SCA on this work and efforts were made to strike a formal Task Group to engage in dialogue at the Nation and regional levels. In the absence of such a Task Group, a short discussion paper has been prepared and shared with all First Nations with options for AFN decision-making to reflect engagement as Nations. The resignation of National Chief Atleo has also brought attention to the AFN's organizational structure and this will be a focus of dialogue at the 2014 AGA.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to support First Nations efforts at Nation-building and re-building as they direct.
- Explore options and seek recommendations to transform AFN decision-making and processes to reflect Nationbuilding efforts.
- Compile and share information on governance, fiscal and economic approaches and practices of First Nations governments to share best practices and support all communities.
- Continue to advocate for a new fiscal relationship between Canada and First Nations, one that is reflective of the Nation-to-Nation relationship and includes sustainable and adequate funding transfers.
- Continue to identify targeted strategies for building sustainable governance capacity and functions (e.g. a First Nations Auditor General/Ombudsman to monitor financial activities and help balance the need for transparency and effective reciprocal accountabilities).

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Media and Public Relations

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

The Communications Unit prepares press releases, media advisories and statements which are distributed nationally (in English and French) to Aboriginal and mainstream media, with regional distribution as applicable. The Communications Unit prepared and distributed more than 140 press releases/statements during the 2013-14 fiscal year. Communications also prepares media lines, backgrounders, op-eds, letters to the editor and editorials on current and priority issues.

The Unit prepares speaking notes for the National Chief and AFN spokespeople that are used at a variety of events for wide-ranging audiences, including First Nation governments, groups and organizations, professional associations, national and international organizations, and federal and provincial governments. Key events during this reporting period included Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada national events, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) on First Nations Child Welfare, the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, and numerous regional assemblies and gatherings.

Communications seeks to establish the profile of First Nation peoples and issues through media. The Communications Unit is active in media outreach and media relations and has setup background briefings and editorial boards with media.

Over the past year, there have been several developments that have resulted in widespread national and international media coverage for the AFN, including First Nations education, the CHRT on First Nations Child Welfare, Treaties, comprehensive claims, the anniversary of the Royal Proclamation (and advance work on the anniversary of the Treaty of Niagara), resource development, and federal legislation impacting First Nations.



Public Awareness and Public Education

The Communications Unit works to raise awareness and understanding of First Nation issues and the AFN's role, responsibilities and activities in this regard. The AFN understands 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 fax, e-mail, AFN website, and social media.

Canada has new anti-spam legislation coming into effect on July 1, 2014, and the AFN is working to secure personal consent to its e-mail lists in order to continue sending electronic updates to individuals. The AFN has sent an electronic notice to its distribution lists notifying individuals of this requirement and inviting them to confirm their consent to continue receiving AFN updates including press releases, bulletins and event notices.

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, are distributed via social media, and posted online in both print and video format.

The website (www.afn.ca) is updated regularly to provide current information on AFN activities and priorities. The AFN offers live webcasting of all Assemblies and coordinates electronic distribution of daily updates to delegates during Assemblies. There is currently an initiative underway to do a full update of the information AFN website.

The AFN continues to expand its use of social media, including two Twitter accounts (AFN_Updates and AFN_Comms) with more than 24,000 followers combined and the AFN Facebook page (Assembly of First Nations/Assemblée des Premières Nations), which has more than 18,000 "likes".

Public information is also distributed to more than 2,100 subscribers through the e-mail subscription service (listserv). Users can sign up on the AFN website.

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

Communications Strategies

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

This past year, the Communications Unit has worked with the policy areas to develop communications plans related to Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls, the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, Indian Residential Schools Personal Education Credits, the 4th National First Nations Youth Summit, National First Nations Infrastructure Conference, and AFN Assemblies.

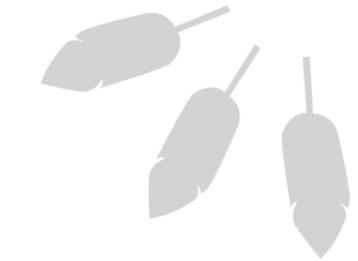


Translation

The Communications Unit coordinates all French/English translation requirements to ensure that the Canadian public and First Nations are able to access and understand all public materials produced by the AFN in both French and English. As per AFN policy, all public documents that are distributed nationally (including those posted on the AFN website) are available in French and English. Translation projects during the 2013-14 fiscal year totaled more than 630,000 words.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

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



IMPLEMENTING RIGHTS

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

TREATY IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

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.

Treaty-making processes of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries were undertaken in the spirit of peaceful co-existence and mutual respect by First Nations with the Crown. However, the imposition of the *Indian Act* and other legislation has directly undermined Treaties, which manifest in nation-to-nation relationships with the Crown. First Nations' understandings about the nature of Treaties, the significance of the Treaty-making processes and the spirit and intent of Treaties are critical, as are the oral histories and First Nation laws that governed at the time of Treaty-making.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Treaty Nations and leadership have been frustrated by the lack of progress made in advancing Treaty implementation and finding common ground with the Crown. The work described in the National Strategy on Treaty Implementation, as well as the First Nation Treaty Parties Statement on the Observance and Enforcement of Treaties, builds upon the endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) by Canada in fall 2010. Article 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

"Indigenous Peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements."

The endorsement of the UN Declaration provides a significant coordinating point for a Treaty based dialogue with the Crown and between Treaty holders. The UN Declaration represents minimum human rights standards to guide Treaty implementation, self-determination and the recognition of rights.

On January 11, 2013, the Prime Minister of Canada agreed to create a high level working process for establishing frameworks with the necessary mandates for the implementation of Treaties on a Treaty-by-Treaty basis, between Treaty parties and nation-to-nation. Treaty leadership met on several occasions thereafter to discuss engagement with the Crown through a Senior Oversight Committee / Treaty Working Group process.

In December 2013, Resolution 22/2013, *Principles of Conduct in Facilitating Discussions on Treaty Implementation*, was passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly calling on the AFN Executive to "eliminate the implementation of Treaty" through this process.

Efforts to foster a follow-up strategy with Treaty nations and leadership are ongoing, as are efforts to support the marking of the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Niagara.



The Treaty of Niagara is foundational to the relationship between First Nation peoples and Canadians. It recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples and set out rules for the treaty-making process. As such, it is important to acknowledge this unique event that set the stage for the treaty relationship between the Crown and First Nations.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

In accordance with Resolutions 07/2010 and 22/2013, the AFN will work to support Treaty nations and leadership by coordinating the necessary dialogue and facilitating the advocacy efforts lead by each Treaty region, including:

- Supporting the development of engagement strategies for each Treaty nation that wishes to engage in a process of Treaty implementation with the Crown.
- Supporting First Nation / Crown public awareness on the importance of the Treaty of Niagara in understanding the Treaty relationship from Indigenous perspectives.

LAND RIGHTS AND CLAIMS

The Land Rights & Claims heading encompasses several distinct areas, most notably Comprehensive Claims, Specific Claims, and Additions to Reserves (ATR). The Assembly of First Nations has held focused sessions on these areas over the past several years at several of its Assemblies. During these sessions, a variety of issues and new resolutions were reviewed including:

- 71/2011 Comprehensive Claims Policy Reform Initiative
- 26/2012 Additions to Reserve Policy and Process Reform
- 31/2013 Specific Claims Funding

A number of additional topics are also associated with Land Rights & Claims, including Claims Over \$150 million, Landless Bands, and Modern-Day Treaty Implementation. These are reflected in various other resolutions and activities.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Comprehensive Claims

The reform of Canada's Comprehensive Claims Policy (CCP) has been a focal point for AFN advocacy since it was advanced as a priority at the January 11, 2013, meeting with Prime Minister Harper.

Outcomes from the January 11 meeting included a commitment from the Prime Minister to establish a joint high-level mechanism to review the CCP, which led to the establishment of a joint Senior Oversight Committee (SOC). The SOC met on eight occasions in 2013 co-chaired by BC Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould and AFNQL Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, and included representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council Office, Minister Valcourt's office, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

The focus of the work to date has been on the development of 10 draft federal principles on recognition and reconciliation to guide Canada's engagement with First Nations based on s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, as well as preliminary recommendations relating to legal recognition techniques (an aspect of "certainty"), shared territories, and governance.

No joint work has taken place since December, pending a review of the recommendations. Further progress is expected to be made in 2014 and reporting will take place accordingly.

Specific Claims

In October 2008, the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* came into force. This meant that most claimants not satisfied with Canada's response to their claims would have access to an impartial, binding tribunal. Canada's efforts to process the backlog of hundreds of claims since the Tribunal was created, however, has created significant new challenges for First Nations. While Canada claims to have cleared the claims backlog, regrettably, only a small proportion of these



claims have resulted in settlements (less than 15%) – the vast majority have been "rejected" or have had their file "closed".

A 5-year legislative review of the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* is expected to begin in 2013-14. A claims gathering was held in March 2014 which had more than 100 participants including Chiefs, technicians, community members, legal counsel and other experts. Overall, the gathering was centred on the challenges related to the proper implementation of *Justice at Last* in light of its upcoming review. Key concerns include the high number of rejected claims, partial offers, Canada's processing and funding of claims, and inadequate negotiation procedures. In April, the AFN released an e–newsletter "State of Claims" reflecting the discussions that took place at the gathering (available at www.afn.ca).

The Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC) met last March after the gathering to discuss future direction on Specific Claims and Additions to Reserve. The CCoC highlighted the importance of engaging in the 5-year legislative review as an equal party, as well as other advocacy activities to urge Canada to restore funding to research organizations and properly implement *Justice at Last*.

The Specific Claims Tribunal of Canada has been processing a total of 56 claims. The Federal Court of Appeal heard a judicial review of the Tribunal's decision in *Kitselas* April 7-8. The results of the review are pending, but Canada recently signaled its intention to seek a judicial review of the Tribunal's decision in *Williams Lake* as well. This decision will set standards on how the Tribunal can rule on similar claims.

Additions to Reserve

Efforts to improve the ATR policy and process have been the subject of an AFN-Canada joint working group (JWG) since late 2009. Progress on this work has been the subject of regular review by the Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC). The draft ATR policy was released for public comment during the fall of 2013. The response was such that the original time-frame for public comment was extended to accommodate the significant public interest. Following the period of public comment the draft ATR policy underwent further changes, again with CCoC oversight. The draft ATR policy is currently awaiting Ministerial approval before being officially released by Canada. Further information will be made available as timelines are confirmed.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Further progress and information relating to the Comprehensive Claims Policy reform initiative will be made available as work resumes in 2014.
- The AFN will continue to support advocacy and engagement in anticipation of the 5-year review of the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act*.
- The new ATR policy is expected to be released by Canada during the spring/summer of 2014.

BORDER CROSSING

First Nations have Indigenous and Treaty rights to travel and trade freely across the US-Canada border, as recognized and affirmed in the Jay Treaty of 1794, section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and Article 36 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Issues of interest in this policy area are cross-border mobility and trade, enhanced border security, transport of sacred items, and the development of First Nation identification card systems.

The Chiefs-in-Assembly have asserted that the remedies that are currently available, including passports from Canada and the US and the Secure Certificate of Indian Status from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) do not meet the needs of First Nation citizens and continue to violate inherent and Treaty rights. Resolution 20/2010 calls for the use of Indigenous passports and urges the Government of Canada to work with First Nations in establishing their own systems of secure identification, based on their nationhood, citizenship, jurisdiction, and inherent rights. In addition, Resolution 52/2011 reaffirms First Nations sovereignty as reflected in Treaty relationships with the Crown and the responsibility to protect the resources of First Nation lands and the rights of First Nation citizens; the resolution further recognizes the jurisdiction and sovereignty of each distinct Nation to develop, create, and circulate their own identification cards. Resolution 78/2011 directs the AFN to seek resources to convene the Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit in Akwesasne.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit

The AFN is working on securing the resources to host the Second International Indigenous Border Security Summit in collaboration with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The Summit is planned for fall 2014. All Chiefs are encouraged to attend the Summit which will provide an opportunity to discuss border-related issues with representatives of the Canadian and US governments, as well as to share expertise and build Indigenous networks around issues, such as cross-border travel, trade, policing, and emergency preparedness.

Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS)

AANDC is accepting applications for the in-Canada format of the SCIS by mail. A number of AANDC offices are also accepting applications, including AANDC Headquarters in Gatineau and other offices listed on the AANDC website. The AANDC website advises that the remaining offices and First Nations will continue to issue the current version of the status card (CIS). AANDC has received assurance from the US Department of Homeland Security that US officials will continue to accept the domestic SCIS as well as the CIS for entry into the US by land and water.



NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Information sharing and dialogue on First Nation border crossing issues, especially as they relate to the rights of First Nation citizens to travel and trade freely within their territories and as citizens of their First Nations.
- Planning the Second International Indigenous Border Summit and co-hosting the event in fall 2014.
- Seeking updates from AANDC on the implementation of the Secure Certificate of Indian Status and continued advocacy for changes, based on input from Chiefs.
- Supporting dialogue on the development of Indigenous identification cards and systems that meet international identification management standards.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The AFN supports First Nations as leaders in the environment and ensures they have the information and analysis needed to empower decision-making and exercise of their responsibilities. Key functions in environmental stewardship include advocacy at the national and international levels to ensure clear recognition and protection of First Nations rights and title, and information sharing, research, analysis and knowledge dissemination to support First Nations.

Environmental Health activities are focused on generating knowledge, disseminating knowledge and in advancing First Nations rights and interests using knowledge on chemical exposure and other environmental health issues. This is accomplished through the First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study, the First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network and a range of policy-based processes such as the Chemicals Management Plan, the Metals Mining Effluent Regulations and the National Pollutants Release Inventory.

Biological Diversity activities are focused on Species at Risk. The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) came into force in 2004 to protect, recover and ensure the sustainable management of wildlife in Canada. On biological diversity, the AFN continues its advocacy to recognize and advance the rights of Indigenous peoples in international negotiations at the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The AFN remains engaged with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on options for the long-term management of spent nuclear fuel waste. In this fiscal year, the AFN has worked to improve long-term risk assessment of potential host sites.

Finally, the AFN continues to work on facilitating nation-to-nation linkages between tribes and First Nations on adaptation to climate change.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study

Mandated through Resolution 30/2007, the First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES) is jointly led by the AFN in partnership with academic researchers. Funded by Health Canada, the FNFNES aims to document and establish baseline information on First Nations peoples' diets and exposure to contaminants through traditional foods and drinking water. While the study was originally conceived to address concerns around chemical contamination of traditional foods, other components were added to address emerging issues such as pharmaceuticals in surface water, food security and barriers to accessing traditional foods. Conducted in partnership with First Nation communities who choose to participate, the FNFNES is community-based and results will be used to support advocacy and benefit First Nations.

To date, the FNFNES has reported results for First Nations in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. Data has been collected in Alberta and is currently being analyzed while First Nations in the Atlantic are now being engaged as the next region to participate in 2014. The FNFNES will work with approximately 12 First Nations in the Atlantic



to collect data throughout 2014 by hiring and training Community Research Assistants. First Nations own their FNFNES results in accordance with the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession.

The AFN is responsible for the communications component of the FNFNES and also has contributed to the water components. Included is the AFN's role in ensuring that First Nations are appropriately involved at all stages of the project and that the research will benefit First Nations by addressing First Nations' concerns and research questions.

High rates of food insecurity have been one of the main findings of the study to date, and as a result a follow-up project to address this important issue is being planned in partnership with First Nations from regions which have publicly available FNFNES results. Other issues that the FNFNES has quantified include barriers to accessing and using traditional foods, low-levels of consumption of some nutrients and vitamins and recommendations on dietary choices to reduce exposure to harmful contaminants. To date, the FNFNES has found that the diet was better on days when traditional foods were eaten than on those days when it was not. As such, the recommendation is to promote the consumption of traditional foods for First Nations.

The AFN continues to look for opportunities to translate the FNFNES results to advocacy and action for First Nations to improve access to traditional foods and to benefit the health of our communities and ecosystems.

First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network and Chemicals Management Plan

The First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network (FNEHIN) strives to create linkages between First Nations who are interested in environmental health research and academic researchers. The network aims to assist First Nations in identifying, researching and solving environmental health issues by facilitating capacity development and partnerships, by providing relevant information and tools to strengthen institutions and promote self-reliance.

The AFN has a seat on Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) Stakeholder Advisory Council which provides advice to Environment Canada and Health Canada on the ongoing risk assessment and risk management of chemical substances. The AFN also participates in the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) Working Group which provides advice to Environment Canada on recommendations for the reporting of pollutant releases by facilities in Canada.

The FNEHIN provides resources on funding opportunities, research guidelines, publications, environmental health news, monthly newsletter and a directory of researchers and First Nations who are looking to create a partnership. FNEHIN no longer receives the funding levels it once did and so unless supplementary funding can be identified, activities will need to be reduced and the future of the network needs to be considered.

The FNEHIN continues to seek out partnerships with academic researchers that would promote First Nations' environmental health research capacity and to promote knowledge translation and dissemination activities specific to First Nations. An example of this is the partnership with CAREX Canada that established a First Nations Knowledge Translation Advisory Committee to adapt training materials and resources that CAREX Canada had developed for First Nations' needs.

The CMP continues to assess a number of high risk chemical substances as well as specific categories of chemicals. While progress is slow from the initial draft risk assessment of any particular chemical to the finalization of risk management activities, the CMP is progressing on a large number of chemicals simultaneously and faster than in other jurisdictions. The AFN is involved in providing advice on the process and progress of the CMP and how First Nations may be involved or affected. The AFN also conducts outreach directly to First Nations to educate and encourage First Nations involvement in the program.

The NPRI continues to make changes to improve the rigour of the data collected, ease of reporting for facilities and to assess when reporting requirements need to be changed. The NPRI Working Group is currently assessing whether to support a number of proposals that would require reporting of additional chemical substances and in new activities. By improving knowledge of the pollutants being released in Canada to air, water and land, First Nations will gain a greater knowledge of the potential impacts to health and the environment of their communities and traditional territories.

Species at Risk Act and National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) is Canada's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It came into full force in 2004 as legislation to protect, recover and to ensure the sustainable management of wildlife in Canada. AFN work in this area focuses on the implementation of the SARA on federal lands and the importance of ensuring First Nations' issues are included in joint federal-provincial-territorial discussions and initiatives on species at risk issues.

The AFN is currently working with the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR). Established through the SARA under section 8.1, the NACOSAR is mandated to advise the Minister of Environment on the administration of the Act and to provide advice and recommendations to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council. The NACOSAR is comprised of representatives from the AFN, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Native Women's Association of Canada, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Chief Byron Louis of the Okanagan Indian Band was appointed by the Minister as the AFN representative on the NACOSAR.

Under the SARA, the Minister of Environment is required to convene a Minister's roundtable every two years with persons interested in matters of the protection of wildlife species at risk in Canada. The roundtable provides interested groups an opportunity to advise the Minister on matters and concerns relating to species at risk and the SARA.

The AFN is preparing for the upcoming roundtable, which is scheduled for the fall of 2014. This roundtable will provide the opportunity to follow-up on discussions from the 2012 Ministers roundtable during which the AFN provided recommendations on matters concerning First Nation funding, inclusion, traditional knowledge, and creating a socio-economic approach during the species listing process in regards to the SARA.

Internationally, the AFN continues to advocate for the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in international instruments such as the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *Nagoya Protocol for Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge*. AFN advocacy is currently focused on ensuring Indigenous peoples are fully and effectively engaged in assessing compliance with both



the Convention and the Protocol and in ensuring that international environmental instruments are implemented consistent with the UNDRIP.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

The AFN is currently working with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on development of scenarios-based risk assessment modeling, as well as exploring greater opportunities for engagement of youth, and particularly First Nations youth, by the NWMO.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Complete FNFNES data training workshops in Ontario, reporting and analysis in Alberta, data collection in the Atlantic and engagement of First Nations in selecting the next region for participation in the study.
- Ongoing participation as an equal partner in the FNFNES to ensure that First Nations are involved in all stages
 of the project.
- Disseminate FNFNES results to First Nations and advocate for follow-up initiatives and research projects to address First Nations' concerns.
- Develop a proposal in partnership with First Nations for more in-depth study of food security, including efforts at the community level to address food insecurity and access to traditional foods.
- Conduct outreach activities to continue to grow the FNEHIN network, maintain up-to-date information on the
 website and ensure that First Nations have an appropriate network that can provide them with the information
 they need to address their environmental health concerns.
- Continue to identify partners to engage in providing training and resources to First Nations on environmental health research, including utilizing the FNEHIN network for knowledge dissemination.
- Continue to monitor developments under the CMP and the NPRI while assessing the links between the two programs and the potential impact upon First Nations.



The AFN works to promote First Nations' self-determination related to aquatic resources management, fisheries governance and fisheries practices. The AFN advocates on behalf of First Nations for full engagement in the fisheries sector and for meaningful processes to ensure First Nations' input on fisheries legislation, policies, regulations, and management decisions. This work is guided by the AFN National Fisheries Strategy (AFN-NFS 2010-15), which is designed to support First Nations in promoting sustainable fisheries through the recognition, protection, and support for the implementation of their Aboriginal and Treaty rights. In addition, the strategy addresses a broad range of initiatives that support approaches to governance, access to resources, building capacity, and supportive activities and continued advocacy on the implementation of Supreme Court decisions.

Fisheries, aquatic and ocean resources continue to represent an integral part of the diet, socio-economic well-being and cultural survival of First Nation communities. First Nations depend on healthy watersheds in order to fully engage in economic activities like fishing, aquaculture and other aquatic harvesting practices. In accordance to the mandates received by Chiefs-in-Assembly, the strategy is aligned to respond, support and promote a broad range of priority issues by achieving a balance between importance of sustainable economies, environmental protection and assertion of their inherent rights.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Changes to the Fisheries Act: Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 Legislative Reform

The Fisheries Protection Policy, which implements many of the changes to the *Fisheries Act* announced in the Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 omnibus budget bills, continues to be released in the form of new regulations and new policy statements. The AFN is in the process of informing First Nations of the changes to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) policies and regulations, as well as providing forums for First Nations to receive information directly from DFO. To date, BC is the only region that is undertaking regional information sessions. As a result of amendments to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, *Fisheries Act*, and *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, new policies and regulations are being created to implement legislation with respect to the governance or protection of aquatic resources.

The impacts of current government initiatives to implement these amendments may: (a) weaken the protection for First Nations fisheries and aquatic resources, (b) render liability unclear for damages to First Nations fisheries and aquatic resources, (c) alter the governance system from "proactive" (i.e., preventing pollution) to "reactive" (i.e., leaving it to First Nations to pursue legal options against proponents in the event of damages), (d) create a large degree of business uncertainty for activities in or near water ways (e.g., regulatory uncertainty issues for First Nations aquaculture projects or shoreline projects), and (e) potentially lower the reporting and compliance threshold for major projects.

The AFN hosted one session on October 1-3 2013 in Toronto and another session on *Fisheries Act* changes with senior officials to fully understand the scope and plans for changes to the *Fisheries Act*. The AFN combined the second session with the National Fisheries Committee (NFC), and invited Provincial-Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and Aboriginal Aquatic Resource Oceans Management (AAROM), and other interested First Nations to a meeting on



February 18-20, 2014 to assess progress of these discussions, to maximize participation and seek direction for next steps. Additional sessions at the national and regional levels are required to fully understand the scope and definitions and to provide input on the changes to the *Fisheries Act*. Given the scope, content and limited engagement on several DFO documents on the recent changes to the *Fisheries Act* and the diversity of First Nations within Canada, further discussions are needed with rights holders to fully understand their impacts and implications during the entire *Fisheries Act* reform process. First Nations expressed this concern directly to senior level officials at the February 2014 meeting, including the need for resources and capacity for inland and northern areas.

The AFN has called on Transport Canada to request that funds are made available for First Nation participation on reforms to the Navigable Waters Protection Policy and on a study regarding marine oil spill response and preparedness. The AFN has also called on DFO to engage with First Nations on a proposed Fisheries Protection Policy and regulations that contemplate listing Aboriginal fisheries exempt from *Fisheries Act* protections. The AFN is engaged in talks with Environment Canada to determine government interpretations of the amended prohibition against the deposit of deleterious substances in fish bearing waters (i.e., substances harmful to fish life). The AFN will continue to develop various advocacy tools to assist First Nations to request for adequate notice and timelines for responses and specific resources for regional engagement.

Inland Fisheries

Since 2011, DFO has not funded Aboriginal capacity programs for inland regions. This has caused a major impediment in obtaining input, research, capacity from inland areas and northern regions. The main inland issues include: fish market access, potential Freshwater Fisheries Marketing Corporation reform, policy/regulatory engagement capacity, pollution, aquatic invasive species, and resource development impacts. Resolution 48/2012 calls for inland capacity funding. The AFN continues to urge DFO to create a new inland program or transparent engagement processes that provides mechanisms for dialogue that can address potential infringements on their Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Without essential capacity, they are unable to effectively respond, or participate in various processes that may affect the governance, management and conservation of fish habitat policies and regulations.

Inland commercial fisheries are also faced with a single desk marketing Crown Corporation known as the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC), which forces Aboriginal fishers to sell their fish to one processing plant that holds a monopoly as a market broker. A range of issues associated with the history of the FFMC has caused some prairie provinces to pull out of the FFMC, while others are looking for alternate ways to sell their fish outside the FFMC. Inland Fisheries are interested in developing a First Nation Fisheries Co-op and inter-tribal trade between nations in North America.

DFO Review of Aboriginal Capacity Programs

DFO is conducting reviews of Aboriginal Capacity Programs that currently support capacity activities in fish management, policy development, and enforcement. These include Aboriginal Aquatic Resource Oceans Management Program (AAROM), the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS), and the Aboriginal Guardian Program (AGP). Previous evaluations of programs have been conducted through the DFO Evaluation Branch, which can be perceived as a conflict of interest. The AFN continues to investigate the evaluation methods, standards, mandates,

and scopes. First Nations have expressed the need to be involved in all program reviews, to ensure they meet their requirements. The AFN wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to advocate for the renewal of the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) and Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative programs.

Aquaculture

As a relatively new industry, aquaculture is unlocking new prospects for jobs and enhanced economic prosperity in rural and coastal First Nation communities across Canada. Some First Nations are well positioned to take advantage of these opportunities and have had some degree of success, while others are expressing interest in obtaining additional information on how to start aquaculture — while there are other First Nations who do not want aquaculture in their territories.

The AFN has several resolutions on aquaculture, including Resolution 83/2008 Strengthened and Renewed Mandate for the National Fisheries Strategy to fully share in Economic Opportunities, Resolution 66/2011 Successful Aquaculture Governance, and Resolution 46/2011 Duty to Consult on Aquaculture. In response to these directives, the AFN has established a National Aquaculture Working Group (NAWG) to begin to formulize ways to move forward on three key aspects of Aquaculture: 1) Governance, 2) Policy Development and Regulations, and 3) Business and Economic development. All three areas are inextricably connected to each other, and must move forward together. It is anticipated that there will be future meetings, development of terms of reference and a work plan to move these mandates forward.

Fish Marketing Consortium

First Nations are mobilizing to develop unique seafood product labels, marketing strategies and brands. The AFN has been directed to advocate for such efforts through Resolution 26/2011, *Establishment of First Nations Fisheries Product Certification Body*. It was suggested that the AFN can assist in developing a national network of resources and listing of fish enterprises through a Fish Marketing consortium. This can be achieved through the establishment of supportive networks through local, regional and national consortiums to connect to marketing for wild or cultured products. First Nation fish marketing companies can learn from each other, build business relationships and build larger markets that can withstand competitive prices domestically and internationally.

Suggested strategies include developing tools that can assist in building understanding of markets, fish harvester training in fisheries management, and the development of guide books and workshops on successful fishing enterprises. Specific programs should be developed to market a niche for First Nation fisheries products. The AFN has had one meeting of a National Marketing Working Group to gauge interest, and hopes to explore ways to continue this group to facilitate further direction.

National Fisheries Committee

Regional priority areas have been identified for the AFN National Fisheries Strategy 2010-15 to engage and assist in this fiscal year including: regulatory and policy development on fisheries and habitat protection, aquaculture, and aquatic invasive species; DFO program review; a National Fisheries Forum; secretariat support to the National



Fisheries Committee and ad-hoc policy committees; and continued communication and outreach. National priority issues identified by the NFC include fisheries self-determination, First Nations priority access to fisheries, government recognition of First Nations' commercial fisheries, government recognition of treaty and rights-based fisheries, adequate fisheries protection, species at risk, regulatory and policy reforms, adequate consultation and accommodation on fisheries measures, and recognition of tax-exempt status for all First Nations' fisheries.

National Fisheries Forum 2015

It has been over 13 years since the AFN has hosted a National Fisheries Forum. Many exciting and innovative advancements have occurred over the years. Increased interest and enthusiasm for the concept of an upcoming Forum has attracted interest from several potential sponsors from the Atlantic region. The Forum will create a framework to enhance international and national collaboration on fisheries. Suggested topics may include intertribal trade, marketing, resource sharing, habitat protection, and traditional governance and management.

Research

The AFN has been awarded funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a joint project entitled Fish-WIKS (Fisheries Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) on improving fisheries governance by better incorporating western and Aboriginal traditional knowledge. Partners to the project include: Dalhousie University, Vancouver Island University, University of Toronto, University of Guelph, Government of Nunavut, First Nations Fisheries Council of BC, and the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. The project is expected to create educational opportunities for First Nations students and has budgeted for 18 students at the undergraduate, master, doctorate and post-doctoral levels. The project is expected to conclude in 2017.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Consultation and engagement processes have not been adequate to date with First Nations. The AFN will continue to advocate about engagement mechanisms on policies and regulations created under the amendments to the *Fisheries Act*. The AFN continues to update National Fisheries Committee through emails and conference calls on new developments as well as continuing advocacy for regional consultation processes.
- There is also an indication that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation will be reviewed at some point in the near future. Should a reform be announced, the AFN will advocate full First Nation participation for affected regions.
- The AFN is advocating for a fully funded multi-year renewal of coastal and nation Aboriginal programs and the creation of an inland program.
- Development of a multi-year strategy to further priorities as identified by the National Fisheries Committee.
- The AFN plans to host a National Fisheries Forum that is targeted for 2015. An internal working group and an
 external steering committee with the National Fisheries Committee will be established to determine a date and
 location and a corresponding budget, as well as work with the steering committee to set an agenda, and engage
 with the tri-council as the process moves forward. Sponsorships will be sought to deliver this event.



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

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EDUCATION

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

First Nations Education Legislation

With Resolution 21/2013, *Outlining the Path Forward: Conditions for Success of First Nations Education*, First Nation leadership across Canada rejected the October 22, 2013 federal proposal "Working Together for First Nation Students: A Proposal for a Bill on First Nation Education" as well outlined the necessary conditions for success. The five conditions are as follows:

- Respect inherent and Treaty Rights and contain First Nation jurisdiction of First Nation education as the overriding principle;
- Statutory guarantee for funding of First Nation education;
- Support and funding for full immersion and grounding of all education in Indigenous languages and cultures;
- Respect and support for diversity of First Nations such that they can implement First Nations control in the manner of their choosing; and,
- An agreed to process that fully respects and reflects partnership, consistent with Treaty relationships and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

On February 7, 2014 Prime Minister Harper announced \$1.9 billion in funding for First Nations education. This included new core funding of \$1.25 billion from 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 and then increasing 4.5% annually; \$160 million starting in 2015-2016 over four years for systems development; and \$500 million over 7 years beginning in 2015-2016 for infrastructure.

On April 10, 2014, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) introduced Bill C-33: First Nations Control of First Nations Education in the House of Commons.

On May 27, 2014, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 01/2014, Advancing First Nations Control of First Nations Education, which rejected Bill C-33 and called upon the government to withdraw it immediately. The resolution also called upon the Government of Canada to negotiate a new fiscal framework and immediately release the \$1.9 billion with a 4.5% escalator until such a time as a new fiscal framework is agreed upon.

Education Funding Human Rights Challenge

The AFN has worked with the First Nations Education Council (FNEC), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS) to prepare a Human Rights complaint pursuant to Section 5 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. The issue is that First Nations children and youth living on reserve and attending on-reserve schools across Canada are denied access to the same standard and quality of primary and secondary education programs and services to that available to children and youth living off reserve. This discrimination is historic, systemic and ongoing and affects approximately 70,000 First Nations children and young people. It is believed that potential success in the human rights case on discriminatory funding for First Nations child welfare will set a positive precedent for an education challenge.

The FNEC has taken the lead to encourage a Human Rights Complaint on Education regarding inequitable funding to First Nations schools, in conjunction with the AFN and other organizations, and has requested support from other First Nations across Canada. There is hope that more First Nations organizations will join the coalition to pursue this complaint. This tentative Human Rights Complaint has yet to be filed.

Post-Secondary Education

The Audit and Evaluation Branch at AANDC conducted audits of the Elementary and Secondary Education Program and the Post-Secondary Education Program in 2012-13. First Nations representatives from across Canada participated either on the advisory committee or as key informants in the evaluation. Reports are currently being analyzed.

In March 2010, the Government of Canada announced plans to review the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP). Despite intensive discussions between AANDC and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), there are no changes to the program at this point.

The administration of the Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) component of the PSE program was transferred from regional administration to headquarters. The implications of this decision are troubling. The process is set up to evaluate proposals against national government priorities and federal labour market needs. There are no assurances that local and regional priorities will be addressed. ISSP funds are used to support the delivery of accredited post-secondary programs. ISSP funding is an important funding source for Indigenous institutions of higher learning (IIHLs), capacity building programs for First Nations councils and organizations, and key First Nations programs at post-secondary institutions.

The AFN has advocated for broad application of the Indigenous Accord across elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. The AFN is participating with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges on the development of a protocol, similar to an Indigenous Accord created by Canadian Deans of Education in 2010. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada is currently exploring the expansion of the Indigenous Accord to the entire university sector. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has embraced and agreed to promote national application of an Accord for elementary/secondary education.

The AFN is participating in a multi-year project lead by the Canadian Career Development Foundation, funded by HRSDC, on the State of Essential Skills Practice among First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The key activities have been to conduct a literature review, develop an inventory of essential skills programs for First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and now considerations are being discussed for 'growing a community of practice'.

First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education, and Employment Survey (FNREEES)

Further to Resolution 19/2011, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), in collaboration with the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and National Indian Education Council (NIEC), and other national partners, has been identified to implement a survey in 2013-2014 on early childhood development, education, and employment for on-reserve and northern First Nation communities, that is compliant with OCAP principles and incorporates a holistic framework. The FNREES survey staff are now collecting data in the field.



First Nations Languages

The AFN continues to strongly advocate the need for more support for First Nations languages and culturally-relevant education. The AFN has released two key reports dealing with languages and improved education outcomes:

First Nations Languages and Improving Student Outcomes provides a review of current language research to examine whether language immersion or being taught in Indigenous languages facilitates the development of language and cognitive abilities, including mental flexibility, abstract thinking, and problem solving. This project provides an inventory of evidence from local, national and international sites to support Indigenous language immersion and instruction as a significant factor for improved outcomes for learners in all subject areas.

Soul of Sovereignty: The Impact of Culturally Responsive Education on the Academic Achievement of First Nations Students explores the importance and impact of culturally-competent teachers utilizing First Nations cultural knowledge in the elementary and secondary school experience for creating optimal learning environments so that students can maximize their learning potential and move successfully through a lifelong learning curve.

In addition, the AFN continues to monitor the work of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Study of Language and Culture and provide relevant documentation. Approximately 90 key documents dealing with First Nations languages and education are posted on the AFN website.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

An electronic network of First Nations Early Childhood Educators throughout Canada has been established. It is critical to continue to elevate the discussion on First Nations access to early childhood development and early childhood education programs which reflect First Nations identities and languages. Through the electronic network, the AFN provided information to brief the newly established Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) ECE Working Group to highlight issues in First Nations ECE.

Special Education and Student Support Services

An analysis of a Special Education comparability report commissioned by AANDC and released during the fall of 2012 reveals that several of its recommendations may enable First Nations to provide comparable levels of inclusive second and third level supports. While not as comprehensive as a full review of Special Education on reserve might be, the report may be useful for updating and amending the Special Education Program (SEP) terms and conditions which have essentially been the same since the program was first introduced in 2003 and strengthening the case for appropriate special education programming for First Nations schools. The analysis includes the above commentary and is in the process of being finalized as an AFN response to the Department and to stakeholders.

The AFN is also working to support the National Board of the Youth Solvent Addiction Committee (YSAC) to advocate for SEP funding for students housed within these centres.

It's Our Time First Nations Education Tool Kit

Grounded in the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and reinforcing First Nations teachings and values, this Tool Kit is part of a comprehensive strategy to reach out to First Nation students, teachers, schools, and the public to create a greater awareness and understanding of First Nations' rights, histories, and cultures. It has been successfully piloted in select First Nations and non-First Nations schools in Manitoba and a full implementation plan begins in the fall.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continued work supporting First Nations in their efforts to further Treaty and inherent rights to education and First Nations Control of First Nations Education which includes:
 - o equitable and sustainable funding for First Nations education within a lifelong learning context;
 - o quality of education based on First Nations driven education systems;
 - o change reflective of regional diversities;
 - o First Nations driven timelines and priorities; and,
 - First Nations Language recognition and revitalization.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The AFN Social Development Unit follows the mandate provided by the Social Development Policy Framework, which proposes the long-term vision of "an inclusive, holistic and culturally-based social development system under First Nation control that builds healthy, safe and sustainable communities". As such, the key priorities for the AFN Social Development Unit are to work in the areas of Income Assistance, Assisted Living, Family Violence Prevention, Child Welfare and Jordan's Principle. A number of key resolutions that guide work within Social Development, include:

- 01/2012, 02/2011, 61/2010: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada
- 17/2012, 17/2009, 23/2004: Chiefs Task Force on Child and Family Services
- 76/2011: Jurisdiction and Consultation on Child Welfare Policies
- 36/2011: Support for Child Welfare
- 37/2011: Income Assistance Shelter Policy
- 74/2010: Welfare Policies
- 06/2009: Children and the Canadian Human Rights Act
- 12/2008: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Income Assistance Program
- 13/2008: AFN-INAC Joint Working Group on Assisted Living
- 14/2008: Emergency Resolution on Child and Family Services
- 63/2008: Implementation of Jordan's Principle

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Income Assistance

Through the Federal Budget in 2013 the federal government has announced the creation of the Enhanced Service Delivery (ESD) and First Nations Jobs Fund (FNJF) programs. These programs have been developed out of a joint initiative, involving the federal government and First Nations, to reform the social welfare/income assistance program that is delivered to First Nations recipients on-reserve. The objective of the initiative is to move the program from a passive approach to a proactive approach that works towards moving income assistance clients into employment, where and when possible. The ESD and FNJF are designed to focus on youth between the ages of 18-24 engaged in the Income Assistance system, to provide an assessment, case management, basic skills as well as specific skills and training which will allow those youth who are able to move out of the Income Assistance system into employment.

In December, 2013, 23 First Nation Income Assistance Service Providers were approved for funding to deliver a condensed ESD service over the final three months of the past fiscal year. Each provider was afforded the opportunity to renew the program for this fiscal year through an abbreviated application process. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) has indicated that there are plans to expand the program, in 2014, to other income assistance providers with the capacity to deliver ESD.

The First Nations Income Assistance Working Group (FNIAWG) along with the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) continues to provide their unique and significant voices and perspectives to ongoing income assistance issues. The

FNIAWG and members of the AFN NYC met in early 2014 to discuss emerging issues and priorities. The discussion focused on the progress of the ESD and FNJF programs, continuing challenges with the Income Assistance Shelter Policy and a presentation on new initiatives that could have potential, positive impacts on the shelter policy issue. Directed by Resolution 37/2011, the AFN continues to call on AANDC to properly consult and negotiate with First Nations on the development of new policies where it relates to the Income Assistance Policy. The AFN continues to make it a priority to work in partnership with AANDC on all policy development related to Income Assistance.

Assisted Living

The First Nations Assisted Living Working Group (FNALWG) met in early 2014 to discuss emerging issues and priorities. AANDC Social Development staff presented on a number of topics including data collection. AANDC Social underwent an authorities renewal in late 2013. As a result, the Assisted Living (AL) program will renew discussions with Health Canada and First Nations related to program integration between AL and Home and Community Care (HCC). AFN Social and the Working Group conveyed to the AANDC staff at that meeting the need for rigorous and meaningful consultation on any programming changes.

Family Violence Prevention

Family Violence Prevention has taken on a heightened profile in the last number of years. This year, the AFN has strengthened its relationship with the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) including participating in and presenting at the NACAFV Annual General Assembly. Based on the input from this event, the AFN developed a submission guide for communities and shelters to better access AANDC Family Violence Prevention (FVPP) funding. Further, the AFN conducted a critical appraisal and provided recommendations on AANDC's data collection tool for the FVP program with an aim of safeguarding First Nations data while also providing the data to demonstrate the need for investments based on real need.

In addition, the AFN has continued to promote the video entitled "Live a Life of Integrity: Teachings and Lessons from Indigenous Male Role Models". The film includes youth, men and Elders, discussing their approach towards building and sustaining healthy violence-free families and communities.

Child Welfare

The AFN and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS) filed a human rights complaint on February 5, 2007, arguing that the federal government is discriminating against First Nations children by failing to provide equitable and culturally based services on-reserve. The case is currently before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Closing arguments for the Tribunal will take place in fall of 2014 with a decision expected late 2014 or early 2015.



Jordan's Principle

The AFN continues to participate in the Jordan's Principle Research Project being conducted by researchers at McGill University, in collaboration with UNICEF Canada, the Canadian Associations of Paediatric Health Centres, and the Canadian Paediatric Society. The research project seeks to explore the prevalence of situations in which status First Nations children living on-reserve experience delays, disruptions, denials, or restrictions of services that are ordinarily available to non-Aboriginal children.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Improving working relationship with AANDC, including securing AFN involvement in high level policy discussions with AANDC leadership responsible for social development.
- Secure and fulfill the 2014-15 Social Development workplan including, but not limited to, proposed activities such as developing tools that develop and enhance the capacity of social assistance service providers as well as examining and developing models, with input from the FNALWG, for Assisted Living Navigators to help facilitate a continuum of services for AL clients.
- In addition, the AFN will continue to work with youth, mainly through the AFN NYC, to ensure that the work around decreasing youth dependence on Income Assistance continues and that youth are engaged and informed with respect to Income Assistance reform.
- Continue to monitor and participate, as determined by leadership, in Child Welfare related activities including supporting the Human Rights Tribunal and potential Jordan's Principle related legal proceedings.



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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Implementation of the IRSSA is in the final stages of its mandate. The AFN continues advocacy work on behalf of former IRS students and their families as liaisons with service providers to facilitate the healing and reconciliation.

Common Experience Payment

The Common Experience Payment (CEP) is the first individual compensation program in the IRSSA, to be paid to all eligible former students who resided at a recognized IRS. A Trust Fund of \$1.9 billion was set aside to pay out the CEP, as well as the Personal Credits if there remained a surplus of \$40 million. The December 31, 2012 audit of the Trust Fund indicated a \$323,303 million surplus, triggering the Personal Credits process.

There are 78,750 Survivors that were eligible for the CEP. There are a number of applications to add schools to the IRSSA currently before the courts and, if granted eligibility status, those former Indian Residential School (IRS) students would still be eligible for the CEP, Independent Assessment Process (IAP), and Personal Credits as well as ongoing participation in TRC or Commemoration activities.

Personal Credits

A one-time Personal Credit of \$3,000 (no cash value) is available to CEP recipients and is redeemable for either personal or group educational services provided at approved educational entities or groups. Deadlines are October 31, 2014 for submitting the Acknowledgement Form and December 1, 2014 for submitting the Redemption Form. There is a one-time appeal process. Educational services and programs must be completed by April 30, 2015.

The AFN has four full-time regional liaisons to ensure that eligible CEP recipients are aware of the availability of Personal Credits and the application process to redeem the Credits. There have been many issues expressed with the timelines and administrative burden presented by this process. The AFN is working to assist eligible recipients as much as possible through this period and to advocate for appropriate responses to their needs and concerns.

Under the terms of the IRSSA, following the payment of Personal Credits to all eligible CEP recipients, including administration costs, all excess funds remaining in the Designated Amount Fund on January 1, 2015, will be transferred to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund (NIBTF) and Inuvialuit Education Fund (IEF) to be used for educational programs under terms and conditions agreed to between Canada, NIBTF and IEF.

The AFN has established the NIB Trust Fund with an independent Board of Directors that will be responsible for administering the Trust Fund following payout of the personal credits. The terms for use of these funds are currently being developed and will be discussed at the 2014 Annual General Assembly.

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Independent Assessment Process

The IAP is the second individual compensation program in the IRSSA and resolves claims of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and other wrongful acts causing serious psychological injury. It is administered by the Indian Residential School Adjudication Secretariat (IRSAS), a quasi-judicial tribunal that operates independently from the parties to IRSSA, including the Government of Canada. Almost 38,000 IAP applications were received by the September 19, 2012 deadline, over three times the original estimate. IRSAS expects to complete IAP hearings by spring 2016 and post-hearing work by spring 2018.

As of January 31, 2014, 68% of received IAP applications have been resolved and 32% are still in progress. There have been 20,098 hearings held with a total compensation of \$2.275 billion paid out, an amount that includes lawyers' fees and disbursements.

Resolution 54/2011 called on the AFN to request a three-year extension to the September 19, 2012 deadline. The AFN sent out notices via fax broadcast but to date has received limited personal requests from former IRS students for an extension. A current provision of the IRSSA is that any individuals who have missed the September 19, 2012 deadline must apply to the courts within their jurisdiction for consideration to be accepted into the IAP process.

Alleged Violations of the IRSSA and Financial Administration Act by Lawyers in the IAP

Under the terms of the IRSSA, the courts have a supervisory role in its implementation. The purpose of the courts' ongoing supervision is three-fold:

- 1. To protect the interests of absent class members;
- 2. To ensure the overarching principle that those to whom the settlement is intended to apply are treated fairly and equitably in the distribution of the award;
- 3. To ensure the timely and effective distribution of the benefits of the award by the Administrator of the Settlement.

On December 14, 2007, former Justice Brenner indicated that the IRSSA is clear and unambiguous, and it bans the assignment of any amounts payable under the Agreement.

Resolution 03/2012 calls on the AFN to support the Blood Tribe in their class action against Blott & Co. and Associates who have been alleged to arrange high interest loans for former IRS students which were inappropriately recouped from settlement funds. An assessment outlines that claimants have a valid legal action against Blott & Co. The AFN continues to provide support to the Blood Tribe leadership and liaise with claimants impacted as requested.

Two additional Requests for Direction have been filed by the Indian Residential School Adjudication Secretariat to investigate violations of the IRSSA. A Request for Direction was filed by the Court Monitor in relation to Bronstein & Company and a Form Filler, Ivon Johnny. On January 18, 2013 the Supreme Court of British Columbia issued an Order requiring Bronstein and Company hand over records concerning his dealings with Ivon Johnny. Stephen Bronstein was required to hire an independent lawyer, approved by the court, to serve as a "practice adviser" to his law firm to ensure that best practices in the handling of Indian Residential School claims are being followed.

The third Request for Direction was filed by the Chief Adjudicator of the IAP. This Request for Direction relates to Form Fillers in Manitoba who have been working with a number of law firms. It was alleged that both lawyers and form fillers were both charging contingency fees for the same work, resulting in an IAP claimant paying duplicate fees or fees above the maximum 30% allowable under the IRSSA. The Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench ruled that agreements with form fillers that contain contingency fees are not enforceable, nor are contracts where form fillers provided legal services. Lawyers who represent certain IAP Claimants are required to provide the Court Monitor with information on all payments made to IAP claimants, including information where a form filler was retained.

Day Scholars & Day School Class Action

Joan Jack and Spiritwind continue to seek justice for Day School students and Day Scholars. The former National Chief attended the 2012 and 2013 Day School Conferences in Manitoba in full support of Day Scholars and Day School students.

Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Sechelt First Nation launched a class action for Day Scholars from their respective communities. Former National Chief Atleo attended various meetings in support of Day Scholars including the launch of the class action. In a recent federal court hearing, Canada attempted to dismiss the case and have the matter returned to provincial courts; the Judge disagreed. Canada has now filed an appeal of the Judge's ruling.

Commemoration

Commemoration is another component of the IRSSA that supported regional and national activities that honoured, educated, remembered and/or paid tribute to former IRS students, their families and communities. The Commemoration Fund, a \$20 million fund, was jointly managed by AANDC and the TRC. Funding was allocated to 144 projects, including a joint project by the AFN and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF).

Resolution 26/2010 directed the AFN to work to ensure commemorative markers were in place for each and every Indian Residential School where First Nations children were placed. The AFN and the AHF worked on a national framework to establish 139 commemorative monuments for each IRS recognized in the IRSSA.

Funding for this initiative provided for tasks performed both centrally and regionally — in and by communities and overseen by a Steering and Advisory Committee. While the AFN resolution initially defined the project as one that is exclusively First Nations in character, as a national initiative the AFN acknowledged that many Inuit and Métis children attended Indian Residential Schools and their communities and families experienced losses akin to those suffered by First Nations.

The AFN established protocols with these organizations to ensure their active participation and support of the project. The AHF, as a partner, is also focused on healing the legacy of the residential schools for all those affected and as such is wholly inclusive in its approach.

In March 2014, five Indigenous artists came together to design the monument to honour IRS survivors. These monuments have been cast in bronze and sent to 139 communities – one for each Residential School site across



Canada. Grants were given to hold Commemoration Events to inform the community about the marker, to discuss where it would be placed and how the community would use their online commemoration page.

The AFN, the AHF and the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University collaborated to create the IRS Virtual Commemoration Map to gather precise geographic information on each of the IRSSA-recognized schools and to create a space online for virtual commemoration for communities to share stories, photos and videos. The virtual map was designed to integrate and display community-contributed and controlled information on an on-going basis. Mapping the locations of IRS was challenging as some schools have been demolished, making their physical traces difficult to locate. Others are still standing and have been re-purposed. The National IRS Mapping Project was launched in fall of 2013 to help map those IRS locations and is an ongoing project.

Truth & Reconciliation Commission

The TRC was created through the IRSSA to produce and submit to the Parties of the Agreement a report including recommendations to the Government of Canada concerning the IRS system and experience including: the history, purpose, operation and supervision of the IRS system, the effect and consequences of IRS (including systemic harms, inter-generational consequences and the impact of human dignity) and the ongoing legacy of the residential schools.

All Party Leaders have been meeting to address various issues regarding fulfilment of the TRC's mandate. The TRC was scheduled to have completed their mandate June 14, 2014; however, this has been extended to June 30, 2015. The additional year will allow for writing of the Final Report as well as receiving documents from the Library and Archives Canada.

The TRC released an Interim Report in February 2012 which contained 20 recommendations including: funding for increased public education, the need for resources to support the promotion of First Nations languages and cultures, enhancement of mental health support services, and using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for working towards reconciliation between First Nations and all Canadians. A Document Collection Working Group continues efforts to ensure that all relevant documents are available to the TRC to carry out its mandate. A Public Education Working Group continues to meet to discuss ways to promote the TRC's work as well as raise the profile of IRS in the public view. Both the work of the National Events Working Group and the All Party Coordinating Committee has been concluded.

A Final Report, to include roughly 80 chapters, is anticipated to be released in June 2015.

All seven National Events have now been completed. The TRC indicates they will have a national closing event in Ottawa in June 2015. Reconciliation Canada, a charitable project to promote reconciliation by engaging Canadians in dialogue that revitalizes the relationship between Aboriginal people and all Canadians, will hold reconciliation events.

Health Supports

Health Canada's Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP) provides mental health and emotional support services to former IRS students and their families before, during and after their participation in the Settlement Agreement processes. Health Canada continues to receive a \$65 million annual budget to deliver this program.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF), who received a \$125 million endowment for five years to continue healing programs, will be closing on September 30, 2014. The 11 Healing Centres and five pilot projects funded by the AHF closed on December 31, 2013. The closing of the AHF has had and continues to have a devastating impact on the health and well-being of former IRS students and their families.

Resolution 18/2012 requests that the AFN provide support and assistance to seek ways for the Healing Centre programs to continue their valuable work with former IRS students. The Healing Centres have experienced a demand in services resulting from the IAP deadline as well as the TRC and Commemoration events, all which trigger trauma that requires treatment provided by the Centres. The IAP process has provisions for post-IAP wellness plans that could include specialized treatment programming such as the programs offered by the Healing Centres. Current alcohol and drug treatment programming staff are not trained to deal with trauma related to Indian Residential School issues. Normally there are long waiting lists at alcohol and drug treatment programming before anyone can access the services. The Healing Centres provide essential services to support healing, wellness and reconciliation among former IRS students, their families and within their communities.

Advocacy & Partnerships (APIP)

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) administered the Advocacy and Public Information Program (APIP), a contribution funding program to support the sharing of information and to ensure that Aboriginal communities and former students and their families, are aware of all aspects of the IRSSA. From 2007-2013, over \$26 million has been invested in 138 regional and national projects across Canada. In 2013-2014, AANDC entered into agreements with nine organizations for a total of \$1.34 million. APIP funding is no longer available for IRS work.

Former IRS students still require regional supports as they navigate their way through a complex IAP process as well as a complicated Personal Credits process. The loss of regional funding puts greater pressure on national organizations whose funding was also cut. The frustration felt by former IRS students and their families is not conducive to the overall goals of healing and reconciliation in the IRSSA.



NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continued support and advocacy for justice for Day Scholars and Day School students.
- Continued advocacy with and for the Healing Centres to meet the ongoing specialized treatment programming needs of former IRS students, especially with the IAP expected to extend its hearing and completion dates.
- Continued engagement in the implementation of the roll-out of the Personal Credits in the IRSSA as well as active involvement in ensuring the NIBTF carries out its responsibilities with any surplus funds transferred to the Trust Fund.
- Continued advocacy, as directed by AFN Executive, to protect the interests of former IRS students in Requests for Direction with the courts.
- Continued engagement with the TRC and the All Party Leaders meetings as well as ongoing working group meetings.
- Continue obtaining information on IRS sites for the IRS Mapping Project and ongoing virtual commemoration.

SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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

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

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



HEALTH

The Health report is organized along the following headings: Strategic Policy, Public Health, Mental Wellness, Children and Youth, and Primary Care. Health strategies and decisions are developed in partnership with the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH).

1. STRATEGIC POLICY

The AFN is pursuing a long-term vision to have a First Nations controlled and sustainable health system that adopts a wholistic and culturally appropriate approach. This is achieved through policy analysis, communications, and advocacy to increase opportunities for First Nations to participate in and influence national health policy, health systems and programs. The ultimate goal is First Nations' control of the development and delivery of all health services and programs.

The AFN held a meeting on February 24, 2014 with the Minister of Health. The focus was to begin discussions on the development of a relationship to outline key roles and responsibilities between the AFN and Health Canada to improve the health of First Nations. Key areas of dialogue included:

- Nation-to-Nation Relationships
- Research and Innovation
- Sustainability Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
- Social Determinants of Health
- Mental Wellness
- North of 60
- Upstream Investments

The AFN and Health Canada's (HC) First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) are developing an Engagement Protocol that will outline the working relationship that is consistent with principles of transparency and accountability while advancing joint policy, planning and program development.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health focuses on the social, environmental, economic, and historical factors affecting health, and approaches health from the population level rather than the individual level. First Nations people suffer a disproportionately higher rate of morbidity across most diseases, and higher mortality as compared to the general Canadian population.

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



AFN National Public Health Experts Advisory Committee (NPHEAC)

The AFN NPHEAC met in January 2014. The meeting focused on updating the NPHEAC on the current work of the AFN, including discussion on: public health and population health surveillance, sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBIs), Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), cancer, ongoing work with various partners including Canadian National Aboriginal Working Group on HIV & AIDS (CNAWGHA), Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). The meeting also included discussion on transforming the AFN health unit to better reflect the updated First Nations Wholistic Policy and Planning Model, and how to best update the 2006 AFN First Nations Public Health Framework to better reflect a determinants of health approach.

Public Health Partnerships

The AFN continues to work closely with Health Canada (HC) - FNIHB on various programs and initiatives including, but not limited to: STBBIs, Program and Service Delivery Standards (PSDS), Upstream Renewals, Public Health Surveillance and Data Management, E-Health, and Departmental Evaluations. The ongoing work of the AFN in these areas is to stipulate that First Nations values, practices and approaches are both respected and reflected.

The AFN collaborates with various national organizations such as the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH), CPHA, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), and the CAAN, among others, to ensure the ongoing inclusion of First Nations in the development of new strategies to improve the health and well-being of First Nations.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work in partnership with FNIHB on the development of policies, programs and strategies relevant to First Nations to increase community well-being, specifically upstream renewals, STBBIs, and PSDS.
- Continue to work in partnership with various national organizations on the development of policies, programs
 and strategies relevant to First Nations to increase community well-being.
- Development of the AFN Wellness Model.
- Update and align the AFN Public Health Framework, AFN Health Plan, and the Wholistic Policy and Planning Model.
- Continuation of NPHEAC.

A. PANDEMIC PLANNING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

Health Emergency Preparedness has been a top priority for First Nations communities since the H1N1 pandemic. The AFN has been actively engaged with key stakeholders in an effort to ensure that all First Nations have access to appropriate prevention and treatment responses for any future health emergency.

Key Issues and Activities

The AFN continues to participate in and support the work of the First Nations Emergency Management Network (EMnet). The AFN Emergency Management Coordinator is working on a cooperative agreement with the Canadian



Red Cross. The agreement will work towards strengthening disaster management, first aid, swimming and water safety, and violence and abuse prevention programs among First Nations.

The AFN works closely with FNIHB during influenza season to ensure transparency in reporting on case reports, immunization status and vaccine availability.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to support EMnet.
- Continue to work closely with FNIHB on communicable disease and pandemic response plans.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Both the physical and built environments are important determinants of health. Be it contaminants in the air, water, food, soil, or factors related to housing, indoor air quality, or the design of communities and transportation systems, are all factors that impact health. Due to their close ties to the land, it is widely recognized that First Nations are at a higher risk of exposure than the general population. The AFN recognizes the importance of promoting wellness through environmental public health stewardship.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to act as Principal Investigator to the First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES), which reports on current traditional and store bought food use, food security issues, content of traditional foods for nutrient values and environmental contaminants, content of drinking water for trace metals, and, the amount and type of pharmaceuticals and their metabolites in surface water.

The AFN has continued to support environmental health research in First Nations communities through the First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network (FNEHIN), which links First Nations communities with academic researchers, funding opportunities and important resources.

The AFN will continue to provide information and input on emerging issues related to Environmental Public Health, working collaboratively with partners to address linkages between climate change, environmental health, traditional knowledge, and traditional foods.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue participation as Principal Investigator on the FNFNES.
- Continue to support the FNEHIN.
- Raise awareness of environmental health issues among First Nations leaders and community members.

C. FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The AFN works towards ensuring and increasing First Nations participation in the development of food security related policies and initiatives in collaboration with FNIHB, PHAC, AANDC, First Nations regional organizations, and other partners and stakeholders. As per Resolution 78/2010, the AFN continues to monitor the progress of AANDC and HC in the development and implementation of the Nutrition North Canada (NNC) program.

Addressing food security and nutrition for First Nations communities involves addressing the socio-economic and cultural barriers to an adequate and comprehensive continuum of resources for a community's food system. The AFN is working to ensure a more sustainable model so all First Nations have the right to adequate food.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to work with HC on aspects of the NNC program, including providing feedback on the evaluation of the program, as well as the interim program framework.

The AFN also pursues partnerships in the examination of food security including with the Nutrition North Working Group, Food Secure Canada, Council of Canadian Academics, and various academic research partners. These collaborations work to ensure First Nations input into the development of food security related policy and initiatives and to raise the profile and awareness of food security issues in First Nations in Canada.

Together with academic partners, the AFN submitted a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant to look into the connection between food security and health in First Nations communities. If successful in obtaining the grant, this research will lead to effective policy recommendations to address food insecurity and health in First Nations communities.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with HC on the NNC.
- Continue to collaborate with various partners to address issues of food security and health in First Nations
 communities.

D. HIV/AIDS AND SEXUAL HEALTH

First Nations continue to be overrepresented in STBBIs and are acquiring HIV at a disproportionately higher rate than the general Canadian population. In particular, the rates among First Nations women and young First Nations adults (under 30 years of age) are much higher than those observed in general Canadian population. Two-thirds of new infections among First Nations are acquired through injection drug use, a proportion that is two times higher than seen in Canada overall.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN is working in collaboration with FNIHB to develop a National Framework to address STBBIs for First Nations on reserve.



The AFN works in close partnership with the CAAN to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C among Indigenous people in Canada. During Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (AAAW), former National Chief Atleo recorded a public service announcement that was disseminated through YouTube and the AAAW website and featured in CAAN's poster campaign. Together with CAAN, the AFN will be participating in the 2014 International AIDS conference, and the International Indigenous pre-conference on HIV/AIDS.

The AFN works in close partnership with the Canadian National Aboriginal Working Group on HIV & AIDS (CNAWGHA) to raise awareness of issues of HIV/AIDS in First Nations communities. The AFN continues to explore partnerships that can support and strengthen advocacy efforts to develop a First Nations National Sexual Health Strategy, which addresses the unique dynamics and needs of First Nations.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with HC FNIHB on a National Framework to address STBBIs for First Nations on reserve.
- Continue to collaborate with CAAN and CNAWGHA on raising awareness of HIV/AIDS among Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Continue to explore partnerships that can facilitate the development of a First Nations Sexual Health Strategy.

E. CANCER

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to work at a national level raising awareness of the cancer care continuum (risk factors, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, end of life and palliative care) including engaging with CPAC to facilitate collaborative multi-jurisdictional action toward shared cancer outcomes.

Working with CPAC since 2007 during its first five-year mandate, the AFN collaborated on development of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Action Plan on Cancer Control, including gathering information on the First Nations cancer patient journey, promising practices being used by First Nations to advance improved cancer control and a gaps analysis. This information gathering provided information about a number of culturally responsive resources which are available on www.Cancerview.ca. Advancing cancer control with and for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities remains a strategic priority and funding has been identified to provide an initiative to address the gaps. The new multi-year initiative is providing funding for 9 regions starting in 2014 on "First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Control Initiative: Advancing Improvements in Continuity of Care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Patients in Rural and Remote Communities". This will primarily focus on diagnosis delivery and discharge planning including patient identification.

In response to gaps in screening for cancer and the journey of AFN leadership, the AFN partnered with Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy to develop a cancer screening video called "Early Detection—The path to a good life". The video can be found in English at http://youtu.be/WslICngjGQs and in French - http://youtu.be/zsrIBSbO2nk.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to partner on the implementation of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Action Plan on Cancer Control raising the profile of cancer as an emerging crisis for First Nations.
- Continue the development of resources to complement the work of the regions and to increase awareness of the cancer-related issues.

F. DIABETES

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Diabetes activities have focused around exploring new partnerships and working with current partners to maximize knowledge exchange and use of resources. The AFN has been engaged in the evaluation and continued advocacy for the renewal of the Government of Canada Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) program to continue supporting health promotion and diabetes prevention activities and services. The ADI supports training for approximately 300 community diabetes workers. The ADI features four areas of enhanced focus, including; initiatives for children, youth, parents and families; diabetes in pre-pregnancy and pregnancy; community-led food security planning to improve access to healthy foods, including traditional and market foods; and, enhanced training for health professionals on clinical practice guidelines and chronic disease management strategies.

Just Move It - Canada (JMI) has been operational since March 2012, providing a web-based database of First Nations and Inuit community-based physical activity and healthy living programs across Canada (www.justmoveit.org/jmicanada). JMI has partnered with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Indian Health Services - Healthy Native Community Partners in the United States and FNIHB and just this past year a new partner, the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA). A JMI toolkit to increase awareness has been developed and JMI is working to increase its presence in social media.

The AFN has also provided direction to HC in their efforts to develop a National Chronic Disease Prevention Management (CDPM) Framework by ensuring the proper engagement of regions in the process. The CDPM initiative is a multi-year initiative that aims to develop and implement a framework to support communities, HC - FNIHB regions and the FNIHB national office in planning and strengthening efforts to prevent and manage chronic disease.



The AFN has partnered on the CIHR approved proposal for the research of TransFORmation of IndiGEnous PrimAry HEAlthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD) led by the University of Western Ontario. The research aims to improve the processes, surveillance and quality of data and collection in First Nations communities.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to raise the profile of diabetes amongst First Nations and nationally to explore promising evidencebased policy and research initiatives including a Social Determinants of Health perspective.
- Advocate for the renewal investments to ensure the continued investment in ADI.
- Continue to promote and seek sustainable funding for the JMI initiative.

G. TOBACCO

From a health perspective, the misuse of commercial tobacco has been shown to be a major risk factor of chronic diseases. Smoking increases the risk for diabetes by 50 per cent and lung cancer is the most common type of cancer amongst First Nations.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

As there have not been resources available to support the 2011 AFN National First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy (FTCS) Action Plan, there has been no ability for implementation. The AFN does, however, monitor the First Nations and Inuit Component of the renewed Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FNICFTCS) which was expected to provide approximately \$22 million in funding over 5 years (2012-2017).

HC indicated that in 2012-2013, they engaged with partners and reviewed the evidence to develop a revised approach. The AFN expressed that in the fall of 2012, the process of engagement was inadequate and Chiefs-in-Assembly subsequently passed a resolution in December 2012, recommending refraining from participating unless certain criteria were removed related to pricing, taxation and revenue re-investment. Former National Chief Atleo wrote a letter to the Minister of Health that resulted in a response that did not address the concerns adequately. Finally, after further AFN intervention and discussions into the winter of 2013, HC reframed the First Nations and Inuit component of the FTCS to a knowledge development initiative focused on reducing non-traditional use of tobacco. HC agreed to some of the recommendations put forth by the AFN to support a limited number of communities to develop and implement comprehensive tobacco control projects that are holistic, as well as socially and culturally appropriate. HC has also stipulated that the projects would have to include a full range of interventions under the following pillars:

- Leadership Protection and Reducing the Access to Tobacco Products
- Health Promotion Prevention and Education
- Cessation
- Research and Evaluation Data Collection and Monitoring

The AFN has been clear that implementing all components will hinder the ability of communities to submit proposals that meet all criteria. During the last week of March 2014, AFN staff shared the concerns with HC

about the process for approval, circulation and ongoing concerns with criteria. HC indicated that they would take the concerns back to the Minister for reconsideration. A revised FTCS has been provided, and concerns remain about potential infringement of rights and jurisdiction, in particular as it relates to economic development of both traditional and commercial tobacco.

The AFN also developed a submission on Bill C-10: An act to amend the criminal code (trafficking in contraband tobacco). The AFN opposed the draft amendments to the Criminal Code, citing the requirement of consultation and outlining that the bill is an excessive instrument aimed to restrict tobacco cultivation by First Nations people, due to the failure of taxation schemes and health programs aimed to accomplish this goal.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Provide continued advocacy, policy direction and advice on tobacco issues with particular focus on the infringement of rights, including providing a legal analysis of the concerns.
- Ensure First Nations are aware that HC may launch the call for proposals and the potential impacts on their rights and jurisdiction.

3. MENTAL WELLNESS

The Mental Wellness file includes the following priority areas: Mental Wellness, the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS), National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), Indian Residential School Resolution Health Supports Program (IRS RHSP), and Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA). Work consists of the development of a First Nations driven agenda, advocacy within federal funded programs and initiatives, and advocacy of First Nations engagements in national initiatives including, the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the National Collaborative on Suicide Prevention.

A. MENTAL HEALTH

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN Mental Wellness Committee (MWC) was established as mandated by the NFNHTN in April 2010. The mandate of the AFN MWC is to utilize technical expertise and knowledge of the national, regional and community level health issues surrounding mental health, addictions and related issues; provide recommendations; and, develop a strategic direction for the AFN, ensuring clarity and guidance on priorities within the mental wellness unit. The last meeting of the MWC was held in September 2013.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) and the AFN have been working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In addition to this, a work plan has been drafted to outline the opportunities for engagement and implementation of Strategic Direction #5 of the Mental Wellness Continuum Framework — Recognizing the Distinct Cultures and Mental Health Needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis within the Mental Health Strategy for Canada.



The First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework

FNIHB, the AFN and Indigenous mental health leaders have embarked on a joint process to develop a First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum. 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 a comprehensive framework of mental wellness services that outlines opportunities to build on community strengths and control of resources, in order to strengthen existing mental wellness programming for First Nations communities. The final draft is being prepared for endorsement by First Nations leadership in 2014.

Mental Wellness and Social Media

As mandated by Resolution 55/2012, the AFN was directed to explore how social media and social networking can be used as a tool to promote positive mental wellness and to bring together regions, communities, Elders, and youth. As a result, the AFN conducted a literature review and interviews with national and regional organizations to provide an examination of how other organizations and services use social media tools to support mental health. A wide array of information, including best and promising practices in the areas of social media and mental wellness was found and will inform how the AFN can promote and openly discuss positive mental well-being through these effective online tools. Mental health and well-being has been consistently noted as a primary concern for First Nations communities and will continue to be a priority for the AFN. This research confirmed the importance of promoting and openly discussing mental health through effective online tools such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Plan an AFN Mental Wellness Committee face-to-face meeting in the fall 2014.
- Continue to advocate for the inclusion of the provinces and territories in the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum work and support implementation activities.
- Ensure FNIHB is respecting First Nations processes and protocols on all mental wellness initiatives.
- Determine opportunities for engagement and implementation of Strategic Direction #5 of the Mental Wellness
 Continuum Framework Recognizing the Distinct Cultures and Mental Health Needs of First Nations, Inuit
 and Métis within the Mental Health Strategy for Canada.

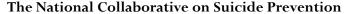
B. SUICIDE PREVENTION

The AFN continues to advocate for community-led suicide intervention programming that is inclusive of holistic and cultural approaches to wellness.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy

The NAYSPS program is part of the upstream renewal process and therefore is led by a working group comprised of FNIHB, ITK, and the AFN. The AFN continues to advocate for the renewal of the NAYSPS to support First Nations communities. In addition to this work, the AFN continues to advocate for First Nations within the work underway regarding the Federal Framework on Suicide Prevention.



The collaborative, through collective action, information sharing and collaboration will work together to prevent suicides and support postvention across Canada. The collaborative is comprised of social and health based organizations with an interest in the promotion of mental health, prevention of mental illness and prevention of suicides in Canada. The AFN is the only First Nations organization with a seat on the collaborative.

The Mental Wellness Storybook

The AFN invited youth, Elders, educators, and community members to contribute to a First Nations Mental Wellness Storybook. Stories, poems and artwork that expressed mental wellness within communities were collected, highlighting the strengths of communities. The goal was to honour the remarkable projects and activities happening in First Nations communities across Canada that support and promote mental wellness and community empowerment. The storybook was released and disseminated in June 2013.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work on the expansion of the NAYSPS program and its renewal.
- Continue to establish the First Nations Mental Wellness Framework inclusive of Suicide Prevention and to develop and implement a continuum of mental wellness services and programs.
- Continue to work with partners on the National Collaborative on Suicide Prevention.

C. ADDICTIONS

In partnership with the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) and FNIHB, the AFN continues to be a key partner in the NNADAP Renewal Process. The NNADAP Renewal Process has been exceptional in taking an approach to developing a renewed program framework that is informed by culture, evidence and needs.

The AFN participates on both the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) National Advisory and the Executive Committee. The Advisory and committee met March 28, 2014, to review the strategies within the CCSA and the First Do No Harm 2013 Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy. The CCSA and the AFN continue to meet to review the First Do No Harm 2013 implementation activities to date and to discuss future implementation activities.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Addictions

To date, projects such as the First Do No Harm Strategy by the CCSA 2013, Honouring our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada (FNIHB, AFN, NNAPF; 2011) and the most recent efforts to jointly develop a First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework have ensured that the unique needs of First Nations, remote, rural and isolated communities are taken into consideration. The next phase will be to work with partners in planning to implement the recommendations and evaluate the impact as the strategy moves forward. The First Nations partnerships include the AFN, NNAPF and the NNADAP Leadership Team.



Youth Solvent Abuse Committee (YSAC)

The AFN has been requested by the YSAC, to advocate on their behalf with AANDC, as well as raise awareness in various political forums to outline that there are many First Nations youth who are attending First Nations youth residential treatment centres that are currently not provided education resources under existing AANDC funding policies and streams. A letter was written from the National Chief to the Minister of AANDC encouraging him to meet with the YSAC Executive Director to discuss the issues.

NEXT STEP - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work with partners to identify implementation opportunities for NNADAP Renewal.
- Continue collaboration with partners such as the CCSA to ensure implementation of the First Do No Harm Strategy.

D. INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Resolution Health Support Program (RHSP) provides mental health and emotional support services to former IRS students and their families before, during and after their participation in the Settlement Agreement processes. As it is linked to the duration of the IRS Settlement Agreement, the IRS RHSP is set to sunset in 2016, at which time there will be little to no specific funding dedicated to the healing of IRS survivors.

Many IRS survivors and their families depend on the IRS RHSP, as it is the only federal health program that acknowledges cultural and traditional healers as equal to that of Western trained practitioners and provides funding to access these cultural support providers. First Nations communities, organizations and mental health experts continue to reinforce the crucial importance of traditional and cultural approaches to healing, thereby making the IRS RHSP indispensable to improving the health of First Nations in Canada.

The AFN is advocating for the continuation of the IRS RHSP beyond 2016, as mandated by Resolution 30/2013.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2009, FNIHB was instructed to provide mental health support at all Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) national and community events. As a result, the AFN has focused on advising FNIHB on the provision of mental health supports and planning for safe spaces through participation on the Resolution Health Supports Advisory Committee (RHSAC), participation at the regional level through Regional Implementation Working Groups and a direct working relationship with the mental wellness health support planning team.

In September 2013, the sixth national TRC event took place in Vancouver, British Colombia. The AFN was present for the four-day event and subsequently provided a summary report and analysis to HC - FNIHB with key recommendations around future health support coordination. The AFN also worked closely with HC - FNIHB and the TRC in planning the seventh national TRC event that took place in Edmonton, Alberta, in March 2014.

The AFN has been directed through Resolution 29/2013 to work with the federal government to document the role that cultural support providers (CSP) have played in the healing outcomes of IRS survivors and their families. As the RHSP and its partners have gained substantial experience having provided largely unprecedented health support services, the AFN has begun drafting a project, entitled the "Cultural Support Provider Healing Project", which focuses specifically on documenting the approach taken to providing health support services. The project will also document key lessons learned about the ongoing healing needs of those impacted by IRS, so that future mental wellness programming may be informed by this experience. This project will inform efforts to strengthen the currently weak evidence base in the area of cultural support services, and the knowledge that has been generated through providing services will also be used to support the continuation of the IRS RHSP beyond 2016.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- As mandated by Resolution 18/2012, continue to provide support and assistance to seek ways for the Healing Centre programs to continue their valuable work with former IRS students.
- Continue to support activities related to advocacy of the IRS RHSP to continue beyond 2016, as mandated by Resolution 29/2013.
- Continued participation on the RHSAC, tasked with advising FNIHB on mental health support planning for TRC events and activities, such as the national closing ceremony in Ottawa.

4. CHILDREN'S HEALTH

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

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Upstream Investments

The AFN continues to advocate for children's health issues. An important focus for children's health has been the Renewal of the Upstream Investments, which end their current five-year cycle March 31, 2015. Healthy Child Development has three areas that are up for renewal in 2014-2015: the Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve (AHSOR) outreach component which is \$5 million per year; the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program which is \$27 million per year; and, the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) which is \$6 million per year.

Childhood Obesity

With the Regional Health Survey (RHS) data demonstrating an alarming increase in childhood obesity rates, the AFN commissioned a report on childhood obesity, entitled, "Healthy Beginnings for Today, Tomorrow & the Future", featuring community-based interviews that serve to provide a better understanding of the key issues, best practices and challenges surrounding children and healthy eating, physical activity and food security in First Nations. The report is now available in English and French on the AFN website.



Children's Nutrition

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

Partnerships

Working in partnership with other non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) ensures that the issues affecting First Nations children remain a priority with the federal government. The AFN continues to be an active member of the CPS First Nations/Inuit/Métis Health Committee and participated in a site visit of the Northwest Territories (NWT) community of Behchoko in March of 2014. The AFN continues to be a member of the planning committee for the upcoming 6th International Meeting on Indigenous Children's Health (IMICH) which will be held March 20-2015, in Ottawa, Ontario.

The AFN collaborated with CanFASD and presented a joint Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) workshop at the November 19-21, 2013 AFN National Youth Summit. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness the impact of drinking and pregnancy can have an a pregnancy, as well to explain how FASD is not just a women's responsibility to prevent, but also that of the partner, and the whole community.

The AFN participated in the NCAAH's "Family is the Focus" workshop in March 2014, in order to explore the role and responsibilities of family in the health and well-being of children, families and communities; to identify supports for family well-being; to share information about family programs, practices and resources focused on rebuilding the cultural strength of families; to create opportunities for networking and information sharing; and, assist in the development of statement of family well-being.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN will continue to assist with the Renewal of the Upstream Investments programs.
- The AFN will continue to increase partnerships with high profile organizations such as CPS, UNICEF and other non-governmental organizations to ensure increased advocacy for the improved health of First Nations children and youth.
- Preparations will continue with the review of abstracts for IMICH and the facilitation of workshops at the March 2015 Conference.

5. PRIMARY CARE/ HEALTH BENEFITS

A. NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS

The NIHB Program provides benefit coverage for registered Indians and recognized Inuit on a limited range of medically necessary health-related goods and services that include pharmacy (certain prescription and over the counter drugs), medical supplies and equipment, vision care, dental services, medical transportation, crisis counseling, and approved services out of the country (for students and migrant workers). The AFN continues to make progress in addressing Resolution 56/2012 which called for a moratorium on cuts to the NIHB program

until such time as the AFN and FNIHB can conduct a joint review of NIHB in order to articulate shortcomings and identify potential efficiencies.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Since 2011, the state of First Nations health programming and NIHB, in particular, has reached a crisis point. The AFN has, by direction of the NFNHTN and the CCOH, decided to undertake a renewed campaign to demand fundamental changes to the NIHB program and focus on creating a concrete plan of action. Action-oriented meetings of the NFNHTN and the CCOH culminated in a plenary panel for the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the December 2013 Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) where leadership spoke strongly about taking action to advocate and mobilize First Nations for change. Following the SCA, Regional NIHB Roundtables were hosted by regional First Nations organizations (with support from the AFN) between January and early March 2014. The goal of these roundtables was to obtain regional input about the challenges with NIHB and, most importantly, to obtain regionally inclusive solutions and options on how to implement these solutions.

In March 2014, the AFN hosted a two-day National First Nations NIHB Strategy Forum in Toronto, Ontario. The forum brought together more than 300 delegates comprised of leadership, First Nations health directors and health technicians, as well as medical practitioners serving First Nations communities. The purpose of the national forum was to hear back from the regions on their respective roundtables and to garner additional regional input on the best options and actions to facilitate and create change in the NIHB program. Input and solutions derived from the national forum and the 10 regional roundtables will feed into a policy position document / directional concrete action plan that can be used by communities, regions, leadership, and others to take action on addressing the disparities within NIHB. The action plan will also include the development of a communications strategy utilizing both traditional and new media tools, and will explore partnerships with national associations and organizations to move the plan forward.

Aimed at meeting the mandate of Resolution 56/2012 and creating the necessary political momentum to improve NIHB, the AFN pushed for a meeting between the AFN and the Minister of Health, resulting with a meeting on February 24, 2014, where the Minister agreed to carry out a collaborative review of the NIHB program. Further to this, the AFN, in combined efforts with the Canadian Dental Association (CDA), effectively pushed for a formal announcement from the Minister, officially confirming a joint review with the AFN during her presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health on May 15, 2014.

The AFN has continued calls for sustainable funding to address population growth and increasing costs to NIHB that have, and continue to result for the most part, from the addition of new beneficiaries to the NIHB Program (resulting primarily from changes to *Indian Act* registration provisions and the newly created Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation from Newfoundland). While the Economic Action Plan 2014 announced no new funding for NIHB, it expanded the focus to address prescription drug abuse with a proposed \$44.9 million over five years to support new actions on this front. Overall, NIHB continues to fall short of the targeted \$573 million estimated for 2013-2014. Further advocacy is required to meet the estimated additional cost of \$805 million by 2015-2016 to address the growing gaps and existing shortfall and anticipated demands for new registrants.



The AFN continues to sit as an observer on the NIHB Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC) that provides recommendations for formulary changes to the NIHB Drug Benefits list. DTAC continues to be guided by AFN Resolution 57/2012 in directing NIHB not to include the generic form of Oxycodone on the NIHB Drug Benefit List. As such, NIHB continues to follow the DTAC recommendation in delisting generic Oxycontin and Tylenol No. 4. The committee also recommended that the current listing status of long-acting morphine remain as is (open benefit) and will continue to monitor client opioid doses until updated utilization data are brought back to DTAC for follow-up after the current opioid dose limit has been lowered. An update on the availability of the new commercial methadone product for addiction treatment (Methadone) and the new generic version of Suboxone was also tabled.

The AFN is also exploring partnering with the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), CDA, the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association (CPhA), and other agencies to advance collaborative efforts in moving the NIHB file forward. The AFN continues to call for improved benefits and health equality for First Nations through the NIHB/CDA Technical Working Group, CDA Parliamentary Days on the Hill, CDA National Oral Health Strategy, the Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons, the CMA's Health Care in the next Federal Election, as well as the annual Federal Dental Care Advisory Committee.

Efforts are ongoing at improving the NIHB program, as well as communications between the AFN and FNIHB NIHB unit via high level meetings with FNIHB's senior officials/ committees and bi-laterals with the NIHB Benefits Management team. In particular, the AFN continues to work with HC- FNIHB to push strategic opportunities to address the NIHB funding shortfalls and to undertake next steps in a collaborative review of NIHB that will examine both funding disparities and issues of policy, particularly in relation to other federally-funded health plans.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Ongoing communication with FNIHB's senior officials/committees and the NIHB Benefits Management team.
- Ongoing efforts to address the current NIHB funding shortfalls and overall improvements to the NIHB program
 and next steps in the joint review process.
- Ongoing collaborative efforts and exploring partnerships with the CMA, CDA, CPhA, and other health agencies to move the NIHB plan forward.

B. HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HCC) PROGRAM

Established in 1999, the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program (FNIHCCP) was designed to assist First Nations and Inuit communities to meet the increasing home care demands of community members living with chronic and acute illnesses. This in-home care enables First Nations to receive the required care in familiar surroundings and for the person requiring the care to be close to family, friends and community as long as possible to maintain some personal independence. The AFN continues to advocate for increased culturally appropriate prevention and intervention strategies and programming that will lead to improved outcomes for First Nations children and youth.



Palliative Care

Palliative Care was made an AFN priority at the NFNHTN meeting of June 4-5, 2013, in Halifax, Nova Scotia and affirmed through Resolution 7/2013. This resolution includes advocating for additional funding for palliative care and to engage with other organizations with similar interests in order to bring this priority forward.

The AFN partnered with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) and The Way Forward (TWF) Initiative to coordinate a national forum from September 17-18, 2013, in Ottawa. The purpose of the forum was to introduce First Nations participants to TWF initiative and the draft National Framework; engage partners and spark further dialogue in the shaping of a First Nations perspective within a national framework; hear from First Nations on the successes and challenges in providing palliative care to First Nations; and, initiate the dialogue on strategies that will best address the realities and needs of First Nations communities.

Home and Community Care

The AFN continued to review various versions of the presented First Nations priorities as they relate to HCC and submitted the AFN Ten Year Strategic Planning Report to incorporate into the overall First Nations and Inuit Home and Community 10-Year Plan 2013-2023.

Integration

The AFN through the AANDC Assisted Living Working Group and the AFN HCC Partners continues to push for inclusion in discussions between AANDC and FNIHB on the issue of integration, institutional care and reporting. There is also a need for improved communications to First Nation communities so they can make informed decisions as to whether integration will work for their community.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- HCC nurses have requested AFN support in both prioritizing palliative care and advocating to have palliative
 care classified as one of the essential service elements of the program, along with accompanying, sustainable
 funding.
- HCC nurses have expressed increasing concerns that diminishing formularies, poorer-quality equipment and lengthy approval processes are impacting their patient care, as they are spending too much time dealing with administrative issues pertaining to NIHB. The AFN will be increasing communications between First Nations HCC Partners and the NIHB Caucus.
- The AFN will continue to advocate for the health needs of Elders and seniors as our growing population ages.



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Economic Partnerships portfolio focuses on Economic Development, Resource Revenue Sharing options, Labour Force and Human Resources Development, Connectivity, and proposes increased activity on building revenue options. In the past several years, Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed national resolutions on the importance of resource revenue sharing and encouraging new investments to promote each of these focus areas. In line with revenue options and revenue sharing, the Chiefs-in-Assembly have also called for support toward specific First Nations gaming structures being coordinated in regions.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Resource Revenue Sharing

As per Resolutions 02/2010 and 80/2011 on Economic Development, the AFN continues working on resource revenue options, green economy, inter-nation trade, procurement, broadband and high speed internet, and a five-year poverty study. With the benefit of Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) consideration during their November 2013 meeting, a Working Group on Natural Resource Development was proposed to examine and build recommendations that will support First Nation participation in natural resource development projects. This project has sought federal funding, and if approved would also include technical and secretariat support provided through AFN staff and federal officials. The working group will endeavour to identify ways to ensure that First Nations are positioned to participate in major resource projects, with a focus on the federal role. The working group itself has the latitude to select specific areas of study within these broad parameters. As part of its outreach, their plan is to collect views from First Nations, government, elected officials, industry, financial representatives, academics, and others.

The Working Group met on March 27, 2014 to begin orientation of the span of resource development issues and work currently underway. With respect to recent events, including the resignation of former National Chief Atleo, the Working Group has noted that time is needed among leaders to consider top of mind issues. The Working Group will begin to request meetings with First Nation leadership in regions as soon as it is deemed appropriate.

First Nations and the Energy Sector

The CCED recommended during their November 2013 meeting that work begin on exploring First Nations participation in, and benefits from, the energy sector. In addition, last fall, the AFN Executive Committee suggested an initial discussion be planned among leaders on energy issues during the December 2013 Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA).

As such, the CCED hosted a preparatory session to discuss the energy sector broadly as it relates to First Nations' priorities. The preparatory session was followed by a SCA panel discussion of similar issues, challenges and priorities, to help inform the CCED in its preliminary planning. During the SCA, the CCED also hosted two short workshops on key legal cases dealing with natural resources development. The AFN has submitted a proposal to continue work on involvement by First Nations in the energy industry.



Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted a resolution to form a national negotiating committee on Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) renewal with engagement form First Nation leadership, First Nation human resources experts and federal officials from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The current strategy ends on March 31, 2015. Former National Chief Atleo sent correspondence to Minister Jason Kenney, ESDC, in regard to ASETS 2015 renewal. As of May 30, 2014, a reply is still pending. A session with necessary updates is being planned for the July 2014 AGA in Halifax.

On February 6, 2014, the AFN presented on the critical work being done by First Nations human resources development organizations delivering programs funded by the ASETS, as well as the need to strengthen a renewed ASETS program in 2015 to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development. The committee built on AFN's recommendations and adopted these into its report, tabled in late May 2014.

The AFN continues to organize its technical activity with the guidance of the First Nation National Action Plan on Human Resources Development, which focuses on themes to improve relationships, resource enhancement, employment parity and private sector engagement. The First Nation Technical Working Group on Human Resources Development (TWG) met on December 10-11, 2013. The topics designated by the TWG for discussion included strategic planning, federal activity on improving the ASETS, a workshop on post-2015 renewal to the ASETS, Employment Insurance reform, and data issues. The TWG is also monitoring federal efforts to examine the National Aboriginal Resources Allocation Model (NARAM). As part of this work, two TWG members are participating on the ESDC-led NARAM Working Group.

The TWG continues to use as a guiding reference the exchange by former National Chief Atleo and Minister Kenny (ESDC) and their agreement that ESDC, AFN and First Nations employment and training agreement holders need to work closely together on the 2015 federal strategy to continue to build First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples' skills and employment capacity and opportunities – including the next federal flagship strategy that will follow ASETS.

The AFN continues to monitor federal efforts to implement the First Nations Job Fund (FNJF) which is geared toward youth currently on income assistance. The FNJF is administered by both AANDC and ESDC.

In addition, an Aboriginal ASETS Renewal and Labour Forum has been proposed to be held in Ottawa in September 2014. The AFN has indicated an interest to participate based on TWG advice.

The AFN is awaiting a response to its proposal for funding for continued technical activity in this area.

First Nations e-Community

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development includes focus on First Nations connectivity and continues to advocate for increased access and support for First Nations Information Communications Technology (ICT).

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Resolutions 11/2006, 16/2008 and 53/2011 provide direction to advocate for appropriate program, services and investments in First Nations ICT.

The First Nations e-Community strategy is the basis of planning to help promote connectivity infrastructure, capacity and management broadly amongst First Nations communities. Current proposed activity includes updating data on the status of First Nations connectivity and a greater focus on the human resource requirements to support the development of the First Nations e-Community. The AFN is also working in collaboration with Google to share information on Google initiatives and digital resources that may be of interest to First Nations communities.

An update on the status of the First Nations e-Community portfolio was included as part of the AFN CCED meeting held November 13-14, 2013. The AFN hosted an information session on the First Nations e-Community model as well as a workshop focused on successful broadband partnerships as part of the AFN National First Nations Infrastructure Conference held February 3-5, 2014. The AFN also hosted a Technology and First Nations Emergency Management focus group on March 26, 2014. Discussion focused on the critical role of technology in enhancing First Nations Emergency Management systems.

Upcoming plans to further support advocacy efforts include: seeking opportunities to provide First Nations input into programs being developed for recently announced rural and remote broadband funding; discussing a mapping project with Google; planning for a focus group of First Nations rural and remote internet service providers related to upcoming Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) hearings; and, developing an information guide profiling First Nations ICT infrastructure projects and partnerships. The AFN will continue to follow the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as it relates to the status of Indigenous-specific recommendations and discussions.

Recent activities have also included advocacy efforts related to inclusion of First Nations specific considerations in the Digital Economy Strategy for Canada and monitoring potential next steps resulting from the federal budget 2014 announcement for a \$305 million initiative over five years in order to extend and enhance broadband internet service for Canadians in rural and Northern communities. The AFN will continue to advocate for program funding criteria that includes specific consideration of the needs of First Nations communities.

Research Supporting First Nations Economic Policy

With decreased organizational funding, a number of areas including economic research and analysis on First Nations trade and investment activity, procurement approaches and improvements, investment tools, and other economic incentives have been affected. As such, research continues at a slower pace on a number of these areas. Next steps on AFN-led research on the "Public Sector Procurement in Canada: Possible Actions to Increase First Nations Opportunities and Benefits" report, "Improving Access to Bonding Instruments by First Nations Businesses", and "Trade and Export in Today's First Nations" will need to be examined as funding or other technical assistance becomes available. Other strategic efforts for the CCED's immediate consideration shall continue to be researched.

First Nation Ad-hoc Advisory Working Group on Taxation

The AFN held a meeting of the ad hoc working group on taxation (WGT) at the 2013 Annual General Assembly in Whitehorse, Yukon. In addition, for those members not available to attend, the AFN offered to provide individual briefings. During the WGT meeting there was further consideration of a potential national conference on taxation and revenue options that would include issues related to immunity, current status of case law, governance systems, fiscal matters, and revenue options. The AFN has submitted a proposal for funding which remains pending. In addition to cases monitored by AFN legal counsel, the secretariat also monitors tax issues and priorities related to economic development. Finally, a meeting of WGT will be proposed during the 2014 Annual General Assembly in Halifax.

Poverty Action Research Project (PAR Project)

The AFN, through the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development, has established a Make 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).

The PAR Project identified five volunteer First Nation communities in different parts of Canada who are interested in working with the Research Team. This involves designing and implementing a strategic plan to help create a sustainable economic base, reduce poverty, and improve the health and well-being of community members. The communities participating in the PAR Project have completed activity that includes establishing local advisory committees, put in place key researchers, begun to gather base level data and information, and have drafted community profiles. Their second national meeting which brings together all participating communities and researchers is planned for June 17-19, 2014 in Ottawa.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continued focus on sectoral collaboration with economic partnerships, health, education, housing and infrastructure, water, and emergency issues management portfolios areas.
- Finalizing funding for current fiscal year's activity.
- Work with the First Nation TWG on Human Resources Development, and HRSDC, to discuss planning toward the next 5-year strategic initiative to support First Nations and labour force participation; research initiatives; awareness building; and the First Nation involvement in the First Nations Job Fund.
- Propose participation and coordination in a discussion dedicated to revenue options among First Nations.
- Continue to work to support the Working Group on Natural Resources Development in their efforts to identify
 recommendations related to First Nations involvement in the natural resources sectors.
- Continue to investigate and promote resource tools, economic incentives, programs and services to assist First Nations involvement in the economy.
- Continued focus on addressing data and information management gaps within the economic partnerships policy portfolio.
- Distribution of the First Nations e-Community strategy and specific research follow-up activity.



- Participate in Aboriginal Affairs Working Group process on economic development, including those discussions related to connectivity recommendations.
- Examination of the feasibility to hold a national summit on First Nations Revenue Options, Trade and Taxation.
- Research and data gathering on revenue streams, agreements, foreign investment agreements, foreign direct investment, and global trade support requirements.
- Collaborate, where possible, with the National Congress of American Indians on trade, connectivity and taxation.
- Continued support for the PAR Project and report to the CCED on the development of this initiative.
- Continue to assist wherever possible AFN organizational sustainability and NIB Trust planning.



The Assembly of First Nations is mandated through resolutions to pursue changes within the criminal justice system to respond to the needs of First Nation peoples, and advocate for the return of control to First Nation communities, so that they may determine their own destinies.

First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights to govern themselves according to their own laws, enforcement and dispute resolution processes. However, these rights have been interfered with through the imposition of non-Indigenous governance and legal systems. As a result, First Nation citizens face many challenges related to the Canadian justice institutions.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Community Safety and Ending Violence

The AFN continues efforts to support the calls for attention to the urgent issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women throughout Canada and the need for a national action plan to end violence against Indigenous women and girls. A National Action Plan to End Violence was presented and endorsed at the 2013 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Whitehorse, Yukon and work has continued to engage partners to take all efforts to move forward on the action items identified in the plan.

This furthers the personal pledge made by Chiefs and delegates at the AGA to "live violence free and to personally work to achieve safety and security for all Indigenous peoples — women and men, girls and boys". This pledge is available online and AFN continues to encourage all Indigenous citizens and Canadians to sign-on as part of the "i pledge. end violence." campaign to mark the National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Sisters in Spirit Day, October 4th.

The National Action Plan builds on presentations and recommendations brought forward at the National Forum on Community Safety and Ending Violence, co-hosted by AFN and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) in April 2013. Almost 400 participants attended the Forum, including leadership, justice and community workers, shelter and support staff and the families of murdered and missing women. Please go to www.afn.ca to see presentations from the Forum and provide input to the National Action Plan to End Violence.

The AFN co-lead work as part of the Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Working Group to develop a Provincial and Territorial Coordinating Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls, which was endorsed by Ministers and Leaders at their meeting in May 2014.

The AFN continues to support the work of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) and recently presented the AFN's activities related to ending violence at the NACAFV annual general meeting in Ottawa. The AFN looks forward to continuing to work together at identifying the needs and priorities of community shelters and shelter activities that provide services towards prevention of violence against First Nations women and children.

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In December of 2011, the AFN and RCMP signed a work plan on missing and murdered Aboriginal persons. The objective of this work plan was to establish trusting and reciprocal relationships among the parties with the goal of jointly addressing the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal persons. This includes resolution of historical cases and related issues, prevention of new incidences, and communication with victims, families and the community at the earliest possible opportunity.

In May 2014, the RCMP released results from a comprehensive study recently that acknowledges the considerable over-representation of Indigenous women among those murdered or missing. The incidences and rates of violence against Indigenous men are also over-representative and the AFN is working on a strategy and recommendations for ensuring safety of all First Nation citizens as well as reviewing the workplan to assess its effectiveness and next steps.

Developments Towards a National Inquiry

Momentum continues to build and there is tremendous support for a National Public Inquiry into violence against Indigenous women and girls, including those that have been murdered or are missing.

On February 14, 2013, Parliament voted to create a Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women (IWFA) that will conduct an investigation into the high incidences of violence, identify root causes and provide recommendations for solutions. The committee has one year to complete its study and table a report. The AFN welcomed the re-constitution of the Special Parliamentary Committee after Parliament prorogued, and wrote an open letter with Amnesty International and NWAC in August 2013 urging the committee to hear fully from the families of murdered and missing women and to bring forward tangible and concrete outcomes. The AFN presented to the Committee on December 5, 2013.

The final report of the Special Committee was a disappointment to families of murdered and missing women and advocacy organizations alike and the AFN has begun work with other national Indigenous organizations to clearly define the scope and mandate of a national inquiry and to move forward in unity on needed actions to end violence against Indigenous women and girls.

At the meeting of Premiers and Aboriginal leaders in July 2013, Premiers unanimously supported the call for a National Public Commission of Inquiry. Other civil society organizations continue to lend their voices to this call.

Aboriginal Justice Strategy

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS) funds critical community-based and community-directed programming which supports sentencing, restorative justice initiatives, victim services and responsible post-sentence reintegration. These programs work to ensure the safety and security of First Nation citizens and promote the positive reintegration of offenders. Funding for the AJS is approved on a five-year basis and had expired as of March 31, 2012. There have been two one-year renewals since that time and this funding uncertainty is having significant impacts on First Nation communities. The AFN will continue advocacy for ongoing and predictable support and former National Chief Atleo had raised this matter directly with the Minister of Justice.



First Nation police services play an important public safety role in our communities. Unfortunately First Nation police services are not afforded the same respect or recognition as mainstream police services as they are underfunded on a year-to-year basis and are designated as enhancement to either provincial police services or the RCMP as opposed to essential police services.

Despite the evolution of First Nation police services over the years, the First Nations Policing Policy (FNPP) and program has not been updated to address chronic underfunding or the legal designation of our police services. A more sustained effort is required by federal and provincial governments including the RCMP to continue building working relationships nationally and regionally to address the current gaps in First Nation policing i.e. chronic under-funding and legal designation, which in turn would lead to safer and secure communities and families.

The AFN has engaged in dialogue with Public Safety Canada and the RCMP to advocate for improvements in policing to First Nation communities, including strengthened support for stand-alone police services.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue advocacy for a National Public Commission of Inquiry on violence against Indigenous women and girls, including an investigation of root causes and preventative factors.
- Work to further the First Nations National Action Plan to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls and the Provincial and Territorial Coordinating Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls.
- Advocate for ongoing and predictable funding for community-based justice programs, including those funded by the Aboriginal Justice Strategy.
- Continue advocacy to declare First Nations Policing Services as essential services, with sustainable and predictable funding.
- Facilitate meetings with First Nation leadership and Minister of Public Safety to examine new funding models
 and approaches to the First Nations Policing Program including committed funding over a 10 to 20-year
 timeframe.
- Evaluation of the AFN RCMP work plan on missing and murdered Aboriginal persons and recommendations on how to move forward on this work.



HOUSING

The AFN Housing Secretariat advocates for improved housing outcomes and resources for First Nations citizens living in and away from their community. Objectives of this work are to secure adequate resources to ensure First Nations enjoy a quality of life that is safe, secure and sustainable.

This is achieved through analysis of existing policies, advocating for changes and working closely with regional housing representatives and the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure to seek input and advice. Activities include:

- advocating for adequate housing to meet the needs of all First Nation citizens whether living in or away from their community;
- research and data gathering;
- facilitating discussion and monitoring housing challenges with federal departments;
- providing a forum for increasing the knowledge and sharing of emerging programs and initiatives throughout Canada in order to assist First Nations;
- analyzing policies and advocating for policy improvement;
- · engaging in discussion; and,
- analysis and knowledge sharing on legislation impacting First Nations.

Federal programs are not meeting housing need nor are they decreasing the current backlog of housing in First Nation communities. Between 2010 and 2034, it is estimated that there will be a backlog of 130,000 units, 44% of the existing units requiring major repairs and 18% requiring replacement. Mold is prevalent in many homes. The federal government has identified a strategy to examine the presence but not to remediate the mold. Flooding has plagued some First Nations. As of April 4, 2014, Manitoba was faced with 1,897 displaced members and Alberta was faced with 1,057 displaced members due to the 2011 and 2013 flooding.

Increased insurance rates are making it nearly impossible for First Nations to have insurance on their homes. Shelter Allowance is an issue in some provinces, causing greater financial burden on First Nations to maintain housing stock.

Facts

- In a March 2012 report, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) estimated that between 2010 2034 there would be a need for 130,197 new units to accommodate household and family growth, 11,855 replacement units to accommodate the deteriorated stock and major renovation of between 8,261 and 10,861 units.
- 43.5% of adults with asthma and 52% of those with chronic bronchitis are living with mold in their homes.
 (Regional Health Survey Phase II)
- 23.4% of First Nation adults lived in overcrowded housing which is defined as having no more than two
 people per bedroom, parents should have a separate room, children aged five and older should not share with
 the opposite gender and unmarried household members 18 and older should have a separate bedroom.

- 3% of existing Section 95 operating agreements with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation were expiring by the end of 2013, affecting approximately 1,036 units.
- Approximately 1,103 Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) renovations are expected for 2013, 788 for 2014 and 523 units for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Additional housing facts are available on the AFN website at www.afn.ca.: http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/policy-areas/housing/resources-updates/fact-sheet

Resolutions

Several AFN resolutions address the critical need for safe, secure and adequate housing for First Nations. The resolutions direct the AFN to call on the federal government to respect the jurisdictional authority of First Nations and their duly mandated organizations in exercising roles and responsibilities for housing.

Resolutions also call on government to respect its fiduciary responsibility to provide for housing based on the Treaty Right to Shelter. The government has taken the position that housing is nothing more than a social obligation and not a fiduciary responsibility based upon Treaty rights. A number of resolutions have framed the current AFN approach to housing which calls for more direct engagement of First Nations in a new rights based National First Nations Housing Strategy.

- Resolution 81/2008 First Nations Housing Evaluation
- Resolution 83/2011 Housing as a National Priority
- Resolution 19/2012 Development of a National First Nation Housing Strategy
- Resolution 15/2013 Implementation of a National First Nations Housing Strategy
- Resolution 16/2013 Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nation Control

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Habitat for Humanity (HfH) and the AFN formalized a statement of partnership on December 5, 2011 to explore the opportunity of assisting interested First Nations in enhancing their current housing programs with the Aboriginal Housing Program offered through HfH. As per the Statement of Partnership, HfH and the AFN established a voluntary committee to oversee the work to be carried out under the agreement and assess its effectiveness. The AFN aims to engage First Nations on the Aboriginal Housing Program offered by HfH.

National First Nations Housing Strategy (NFNHS)

The NFNHS is an evergreen document which will be improved through time based on input from stakeholders. The document has been shared with the tri-council, AFN Executive, AFN Housing Technicians, Regional Housing Committee meetings (Ontario and Atlantic), and presented at the National First Nations Infrastructure Conference and Tradeshow.

The NFNHS is available on the AFN website at:

http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/policy-areas/housing/key-issues-activities/national-housing-strategy



Work with HfH and Frontiers Foundation, research on issues related to timber frame housing construction, exploration of Riba ("interest" in Arabic) Free mortgages and revolving loan funds further priorities in the strategy to address alternative housing construction, financing and partnership potential. Exploration on new and innovative housing models, practices and research will continue.

National Housing Liaison Committee (NHLC)

The NHLC consists of members from AANDC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Health Canada, AFN Regional Housing Technicians and the AFN. The objectives of the NHLC are to support First Nations and First Nation organizations in their housing roles and responsibilities; identify housing issues; and to advise on broad policies and processes to enhance housing outcomes on-reserve including settlement lands and self-governing First Nation territories. It will also provide a regular forum for exchanging information on First Nations housing matters, including recommendations to the authorities related to programs, policies and practices that will contribute to enhanced housing outcomes on First Nations. Health Canada is the current chair of the NHLC for 2014.

A face-to-face facilitated strategy session occurred in Toronto, February 6-7, 2014. The session brought together the CCoHI, AFN Technical Working Group and the NHLC members (minus Health Canada) to put forward a strategy to address the outcomes from the 1996 On-Reserve Housing Policy Evaluation, discuss housing challenges and provide updates on what partners are working on and supporting within their regions. Minutes of the joint meeting are available from any member of the CCoHI, AFN Housing Technicians or AFN Housing Staff.

AFN / Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation (AAFN) / Holmes Group (HG) Pilot Project In July 2010, the AFN entered into a Statement of Partnership with the Holmes Group to seek out and partner with a First Nation community (Atikameksheng Anishnawbek) in Ontario to construct a housing and community subdivision (the "Pilot Project"). The Pilot Project consists of multi-levels, incorporating the retrofit of existing housing units, construction of new houses, construction of community buildings (water and waste water systems, schools and administrative offices) and incorporating green technology and clean energy sources. The Pilot Project shall lead to the development of a First Nation Community Planning Tool, a Housing Centre of Excellence, and a First Nation Green Housing Standard for the use of all First Nations, more recently entitled the First Nations Sustainable Development Standards (FNSDS).

As announced by Chief Steve Miller at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2013, the FNSDS is nearing completion. A subsequent presentation was made at the First Nations National Infrastructure Conference and Tradeshow. The target date for the document to be available for public distribution is July 2014.

The Statement of Partnership is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/policy-areas/housing/key-issues-activities/holmes-group-atikameksheng-anishnawbek-project

Shelter Allowance as it Relates to Housing

The AFN is working to resolve housing challenges related to income assistance shelter allowance. Currently, First Nations who have CMHC's not-for-profit housing program (Section 95) in their communities are only eligible to receive the shelter allowance until the mortgages are paid in full. If, however, the First Nation implements a universal rental regime in the community, then the tenants residing in the units are eligible to collect shelter

allowance. Similarly, band-owned or self-funded units are eligible as well to collect shelter allowance from income assistance clients. The benefits of this will be realized in the budgets for housing, as the First Nation will be able to collect the rent from those individuals and use it for maintenance, repair and potential remediation of mold. A meeting occurred with AANDC which sought written confirmation that those First Nations which adopt and enforce a universal rental regime will be eligible for shelter allowance. Impacted regions are primarily in the Prairies, but this also affects the Atlantic and British Columbia regions.

First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF)

The FNMHF has informed the AFN that as of March 31, 2014:

- 126 First Nations are working with the Fund;
- 56 First Nations have been approved for credit enhancement and capacity development over \$621 million in credit approved;
- 32 First Nations have been approved for capacity building only, working toward qualifying for credit enhancement;
- 38 First Nations are currently in the assessment process;
- Loans for 55 homes had been guaranteed by the Fund; and,
- More than 60 of the First Nations working with the Fund have accessed capacity building funding for more than 500 initiatives.

Former National Chief Atleo met with the Chair of the Trustees, John Beaucage, along with AFN staff to discuss the existing program and seek commitment from the FNMHF Trustees to work together on exploring the potential for the fund to be transferred into First Nations control along with improvements to FNMHF information or approaches which may assist in generating new interest among First Nations. This provision to explore "potential transfer to the First Nations community of responsibility for the mandate and accountability of the Fund" is contained in the "Indenture of Trust" agreement.

First Nation Indoor Air Quality Committee

The AFN has been active in a First Nation Indoor Air Quality Committee. As a partner in this group AFN has been working with CMHC to develop an application for First Nations to conduct a self-assessment tool (e-CSAT) for mold in housing. The AFN is working with CMHC on furthering the tool and ensuring outcomes are achieved for all parties, federal and First Nations. This tool will help communities better understand the extent and causes of mold problems in each house and across the community, identify which houses may need attention first and to organize an effective remediation strategy. A funding proposal has been submitted to AANDC for further support for this project.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) to ensure access to good data regarding the national housing situation.
- Ongoing research into building code requirements for log and square timber frame homes.
- Draft a memorandum of understanding outlining the willingness and commitment of both AFN and the FNMHF to work together to initiate discussion on the transition of the Fund to First Nations control.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships with other organizations such as Frontiers Foundation.



- Continue to explore the newly released requirements by CMHC for building inspection compliance through their Section 95 social housing program. A letter outlining First Nation concerns has been sent to Minister Jason Kenney and the President of CMHC.
- Ongoing exploration on insurance, financing alternatives, new building techniques, eviction processes and other challenges.
- Create greater awareness and understanding of First Nations' critical housing needs and encourage investments and adequate resources.
- Continue to support and model promising practices from the AFN-Holmes Group-Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Pilot Project.

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WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

National First Nations Water Strategy

Resolution 45/2012 directs the AFN to continue to actively facilitate discussion and seek input from First Nations, regional technical working groups and other organizations to further refine the development of a comprehensive National First Nations Water Strategy (NFNWS), to be overseen by the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure. In addition, Resolution 81/2012 directs the AFN to follow Indigenous protocols and laws to ensure that ceremonies are conducted to honour the water spirits to ensure that work is done in a proper and respectful way.

An updated version of the Strategy and a draft First Nations Water Declaration was presented at the 2013 Annual General Assembly (AGA). The AFN continues to seek input on the Strategy and the Water Declaration for ongoing improvement. The draft First Nations Water Declaration was presented at the November 2013 Youth Summit in Saskatoon to seek input from the youth. A revised Water Declaration with input from the Youth Council was distributed at the AFN National First Nations Infrastructure Conference and Tradeshow in Toronto on February 3 - 5, 2014.

As part of the NFNWS, the AFN has been developing a watershed mapping tool to provide water and watershed related information to First Nations. The tool would show links between watersheds, First Nations communities and activities. This would provide a resource to First Nations in the development of their watershed management plans and source water protection plan. This tool would also serve as a climate change resource tool where First Nations will be able to share the impacts that climate change has had on their environment, as well as adaptation practices, and will encourage the exchange of experiences and knowledge among participant communities. The AFN is actively seeking other sources of funding for continuation of this project.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Budget 2014 allocated \$323.4 million over two years to continue the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan.

Budget 2014 also re-announced funds from Budget 2013 — \$155 million over 10 years for First Nation infrastructure as part of the new Building Canada Fund. This equals \$15.5 million per year for the next 10 years. This amount will be combined with First Nations Gas Tax Fund allocation, approximately \$26 million annually, for a total amount of \$42 million to be available annually under a renewed First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF). The previous FNIF was heavily oversubscribed indicating a huge need for basic community infrastructure funding. The Gas Tax Fund, which was sun-setting in 2014 for municipalities, was guaranteed in 2011 to be continued beyond 2014. While there has been no similar official announcement that the First Nation portion is guaranteed beyond 2014, this suggests

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that the First Nations' portion of the GTF is being allocated for this purpose. AANDC officials have committed to confirm in writing that the GTF will continue for First Nations as it has for municipalities.

First Nation communities are asked to work with AANDC Regional Offices to identify FNIF (Gas Tax Fund) eligible projects on their First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plans (FNIIPs). As this is a transition year, AANDC Regional Offices may still accept proposals as well. First Nations are encouraged to seek further information from their respective AANDC Regional Offices. Headquarters will manage the Building Canada Fund portion of FNIF totaling \$15.5 million a year that will initially be allocated to large, multi-stakeholder, and possibly multi-year projects. Any portion of this fund that is not devoted to these projects will be dispersed to regions proportionately by the same percentages as the FNIF Gas Tax Funds. AANDC is working to update its website regarding the FNIF.

The annual Gas Tax Fund allocation table which includes the First Nations portion can be found at: http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/prog/gtf-fte-tab-eng.html.

First Nation Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP) Evaluation

AANDC has completed an evaluation of the performance and relevance of the First Nation Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP). The AFN participated as a member of the working group along with the AANDC Community Infrastructure Branch.

The evaluation looked at the performance of the program since it replaced the First Nations Water Management Strategy (FNWMS) in 2008. AANDC approved the report in September. Health Canada has also approved the report and action plan. Web posting and publication of the evaluation is pending.

Pikangikum Working Group (Friends of Pikangikum)

The Pikangikum Working Group (PWG), a social action group of which AFN is a member, secured funding to install water and wastewater systems in 10 homes in Pikangikum First Nation. The PWG plans to continue to raise funds to continue its work in the community.

The AFN Associate Director for Housing, Infrastructure and Emergency Management participates in PWG to provide advice on technical issues and government programs that may be available to support the community's needs.

Former National Chief Atleo visited the community in November 2013 to meet with the Chief and Council, Elders, educators and students. He was able to see firsthand the work of the PWG regarding the provision and installation of the 10 water cisterns and wastewater holding tanks.

Community Infrastructure Partnership Program

Work has continued with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on the AANDC-funded Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP) project that has developed a toolkit, now in its second revision, to foster

ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS 111

relationships between First Nations and adjacent municipalities across Canada, encouraging mutually beneficial service agreements – particularly those pertaining to water and wastewater infrastructure. The project continues to seek interest for FCM facilitated workshops from First Nations and their neighbouring municipalities. Funding for fiscal year 2014/15 has not been secured and work has been suspended.

Fire Inspections

On July 28, 2012, the Labour Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) advised AANDC that as of March 31, 2014, they will be discontinuing service related to first inspections of community buildings in First Nation communities. AANDC has inherited the responsibility for the Fire Inspection/Engineering Services. Recent information indicates that AANDC will be adding the inspection process as part of the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS).

As of 2014-15, the ACRS building inspectors are required to have sufficient qualifications and knowledge of the appropriate national/provincial/territorial Building Code and Fire Code, and these qualifications must enable him/her to identify deficiencies related to those codes and provide recommendations to address them. Deficiencies related to Fire Codes will now be tracked with all other ACRS deficiencies, and First Nations will be required to indicate in their First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plans (which are updated annually) how they plan on addressing the deficiencies.

First Nations Fire Protection Strategy

The Aboriginal Firefighters' Association of Canada has shared recommendations with AANDC for priority areas under a renewed fire strategy, with the aim of refocusing activities around tangible, measurable deliverables. Proposed activities include enhancing fire prevention, improving inspections, exploring options to improve compliance with infrastructure codes on reserve, and modernizing the Department's Levels of Service for Fire Protection Services (which directs support for training, capital investments, etc.). AANDC and AFAC continue to discuss updates to the strategy and are aiming to have an updated version available later this summer/early fall.

National First Nations Infrastructure Conference and Tradeshow

The AFN hosted a very successful National First Nations Infrastructure Conference and Tradeshow on February 3-5, 2014 in Toronto. The conference featured presentations on community infrastructure financing, private public partnerships, and alternative procurement options, sustainable housing approaches, innovative technologies for small water and wastewater systems, connectivity, and many more. It also featured a sell-out tradeshow of 50 exhibitors covering all aspects of community infrastructure. The conference attracted more than 500 delegates, presenters, guests, and exhibitors. The conference was highlighted by an opening address by former National Chief Shawn Atleo and a luncheon address by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. Conference evaluation forms indicated an overwhelming response for this to be an annual event. A project proposal has been submitted to AANDC for another national infrastructure conference in 2014-15. Presentations can be found at: http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/national-first-nations-infrastructure-conference-and-tradeshow.

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The AFN First Nations Technical Water Advisory Group (FNTWAG) met during the Infrastructure Conference in order to discuss how regions are preparing for upcoming water regulations developing from the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*. FNTWAG members discussed concerns such as communities under drinking water advisories without capacity to adhere to new regulations, no allocation of resources, management of facilities, and compliance/enforcement of new regulations. Many regions agreed the best way to prepare for upcoming regulations was to influence regulations in the development stage. The AFN has developed a proposal for a national workshop on regulation development.

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

The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples invited witnesses to provide general background on the broad question of financing infrastructure on reserves which could relate to capital projects, schools and housing. Hearings began in November 2013 with presentations from AANDC and CMHC. They continued throughout the winter with presentations from the First Nations National Building Officer's Association, First Nations Market Housing Fund, First Nation Financial Management Board, Health Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Office of the Auditor General. The hearings closed on February 11, 2014 with presentations from former National Chief Atleo, Chief Madeline Paul from Eagle Village First Nation, Quebec and Chief Glen Hudson from Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. Having heard from these witnesses, the Standing Senate Committee decided to carry out a formal study on this subject and has invited several witnesses to present before the committee.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to support Fire Prevention services in First Nation communities and the efforts and activities of duly mandated firefighting organizations, as directed in Resolution 33/2011.
- Continue monitoring and supporting activities from the *Safe DrinkingWater for First Nations Act* and how First Nations may need to prepare for it and continue discussion with FNTWAG to synchronize regional efforts.
- Continue to implement the National First Nations Water Strategy, with updates as needed, and promote the National First Nations Water Declaration.
- Continue to participate on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods General Policy Advisory Council.
- Explore funding opportunities to develop a watershed mapping tool for First Nations.
- Continue to participate on the Steering Committee for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Community Infrastructure Partnership Program.
- Follow progress of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples study of First Nations Housing and Infrastructure.
- Continue to advocate for increased infrastructure funding, facilitate opportunities for investigation alternative
 financing options, continue to make links from innovative technology processes and systems to provide costeffective infrastructure management, and provide opportunities for information sharing and interactions through
 conferences, tradeshow, seminars, etc.
- Monitor progress of the various proposals that have been submitted for Housing, Infrastructure and Emergency Issues Management projects.

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The AFN advocates for more prominent consideration of, and presence in First Nations emergency issues management 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 EIM 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.

There are various funding arrangements or agreements between AANDC and the provinces for the delivery of emergency management services for First Nations communities. These agreements ensure that First Nations have access to comparable emergency assistance services available to other nearby non-First Nation communities in their respective province.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM)

The AFN is a member of the Aboriginal Working Group, which is part of the larger SOREM group, and has been contributing to the development of the Statement of Principles Concerning Emergency Management for Aboriginal Communities, the Guidelines for Developing Agreements for Emergency Management Services of On-Reserve First Nations Communities in Canada, and the Terms of Reference for the working group.

As of April 8, 2014, the AFN and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami participants have been excluded from the SOREM Aboriginal Working Group. This effectively leaves the SOREM-AWG without any representation for two of the three Indigenous groups meant to be represented by this group. The AFN has requested a meeting with the AANDC Emergency Management Directorate for further explanation on the rationale of this decision.

The AFN has worked in good faith with AANDC in an effort to enhance and ensure First Nations' capacity to respond to emergencies, monitor emergency events and advocate for better conditions for First Nations experiencing dangerous natural, technological or human-induced conditions. This recent development raises questions on how or if necessary steps will be taken to engage in discussions with First Nations regionally regarding the creation of agreements between the federal and provincial governments, and how the provision of on-reserve

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emergency management and response services will be finalized. The AFN will continue to make best efforts to convince federal counterparts to include First Nations in all matters impacting communities and EIM.

Aboriginal Affairs Working Group

The AFN has been engaging with the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Working Group (AAWG) on various aspects of First Nations emergency management and response issues, and the development of an action plan to assess and identify gaps and shortfalls between First Nations, provincial governments and various emergency management organizations.

AANDC Emergency Notifications

Through cooperation with the AANDC 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. To further facilitate this process, the AFN will engage regional technicians to refine the EIM process within First Nations.

Transport Canada and Railway Association of Canada

The AFN has been monitoring Transport Canada's rail mode and the recent safety directives that have been issued from the organization concerning hazardous commodities and their transport, emergency response regimes, the receipt of aggregate hazardous commodities transport, and their applicability to the 114 First Nations with federally regulated rail lines passing in, on or near their communities and territories.

The AFN has engaged with and developed a working relationship with the Railway Association of Canada (RAC) and is awaiting decision on a funding proposal to provide First Nations emergency responders (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) with access to the Railway Emergency Response Course developed by Transport Canada and the RAC. The provision of this course will enhance emergency management and response capabilities of those First Nations having a rail line in, on, or near their communities and territories.

Canadian Red Cross

The AFN maintains an ongoing relationship and engagement with the Canadian Red Cross and, in conjunction with the AFN Health and Social Secretariat, has been working on reviewing and revising the current Memorandum of Understanding between the organizations into a "Cooperative Agreement" with a more operationalized component.

First Nations Emergency Management Network

The First Nations Emergency Management Network (EMnet) is an ongoing development. The EMnet includes AFN regional representatives holding an emergency management file or position, AFN health technicians, First Nations Water Technical Advisory Group (FNTWAG), and various federal organizations as contributing members, as well as non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross.

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The EMnet will serve to help First Nations communities develop emergency management and response by the sharing of information, best practices, and possible capacity development and training. The Emergency Issues Management (EIM) section of the AFN website serves a depository for the collected information.

Funding has been sought for a national forum and to help expand EMnet's scope to include the various provincial emergency management organizations. In addition, this work will aim to enhance strategies for a process in relation to the four pillars of Emergency Management, build capacity in First Nations for a Community Emergency Response Coordinator, and will research approaches to gain more community involvement.

Canadian Risk and Hazards Network

The AFN has developed a relationship with the Canadian Risk and Hazards Network (CRHNet), and recently cooperated in the 2013 CRHNet Annual General Meeting in Regina, Sask., developing a successful Aboriginal component to the annual conference. This led to an invitation for an associate membership on the CRHNet board and to continue in the development of the Aboriginal component.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- The AFN will press for the continued presence of AFN on the SOREM Aboriginal Working Group to ensure that
 perspectives and needs of First Nations are represented.
- The AFN will continue to develop its connections and networking to coordinate EIM efforts between
 representative regions, organizations and communities, as well as with federal and provincial organizations, and
 engage with First Nations in an effort to continue to build knowledge, capacity, and possible training.
- The AFN will seek a decision on the proposal for continued funding on the development of the First Nations Emergency Management Network (EMnet).
- Where appropriate, the AFN will continue to provide updates and reports on its activities to AANDC, seek
 involvement and support with federal counterparts, and develop a more concerted connection with AANDC's
 Emergency Issues Management Directorate on related issues and joint efforts.

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Consolidated financial statements of the

National Indian Brotherhood

March 31, 2014

March 31, 2014

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Executive Council of National Indian Brotherhood

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014, and the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated 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 consolidated 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 consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated 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 consolidated 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 consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2014, 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, Chartered Accountants Licensed Public Accountants

July 13, 2014



Consolidated statement of operations year ended March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development		
Canada (AANDC) (Schedule 1)	10,212,639	11,238,656
Public Safety (Schedule 2)	76,377	19,849
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (Schedule 2)	10,000	-
Justice Canada (Schedule 2)	112,320	10,120
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	,•_•	,
(HRSDC) (Schedule 2)	250,000	250,000
Environment Canada (Schedule 2)	287,351	277,000
Commission for Environment Cooperation (Schedule 2)	50,151	75,000
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Schedule 2)	230,654	142,962
Health Canada (Schedule 2)	3,517,736	3,414,270
Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) (Schedule 2)	210,828	37,289
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Schedule 2)	575,956	573,440
University of Northern British Columbia	-	89,900
Other department (Schedule 2)	1,324,006	1,328,636
Trust Fund (Schedule 3)	28,580	1,500
	16,886,598	17,458,622
Expenses		
Advertising, promotion and publications	244,429	47,518
Amortization of capital assets	42,517	197,601
Insurance	31,291	19,554
Miscellaneous	5,387	4,818
Bad debt	67,964	-
Office expenses	1,063,890	879,051
Professional fees	2,202,520	1,644,315
Regional service delivery	1,294,675	1,341,495
Rent	1,163,138	2,230,227
Salaries and benefits	7,806,366	8,242,634
Travel and meetings	3,236,436	3,304,900
Scholarship	16,000	-
	17,174,613	17,912,113
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(288,015)	(453,491)

Consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Asssets		
Current assets		
Cash	271,803	_
Asset held In Trust (Note 3)	22,681	20,987
Grants and contributions receivable (Note 4)	986,279	1,181,731
Other accounts receivable	917,652	763,314
GST recoverable	428,446	541,253
Inventory	17,717	15,768
Prepaid expenses	106,915	364,500
	2,751,493	2,887,553
Prepaid expenses	598,757	672,074
Capital assets (Note 5)	159,568	279,356
	3,509,818	3,838,983
	100 00 00 00	
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Bank overdraft	-	613,392
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,024,432	2,235,491
Government remittances payable	64,506	74,007
In Trust liability (Note 3)	22,681	20,987
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	178,638	346,425
Excess contributions (Note 7)	420,372	
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	103,497	461,512
	3,814,126	3,751,814
Long-term debt (Note 8)	464,000	567,462
Long term debt (Note o)	4,278,126	4,319,276
	4,270,120	4,519,270
Contingencies (Note 9)		
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	159,568	279,356
Restricted funds (Note 10)	163,083	164,478
Unrestricted - general operations	(1,090,959)	(924,127
3	(768,308)	(480,293
	3,509,818	3,838,983

_____Roger Augustine, Regional Chief, Management Committee
______Ghislain Picard, Regional Chief, Management Committee

Consolidated statement of changes in net assets year ended March 31, 2014

	lavorted in	Restricted	Unrestricted	<u>Tota</u>	<u>ll</u>
	Invested in capital assets	funds (Note 10)	general operations	2014	2013
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	279,356	164,478	(924,127)	(480,293)	(26,802)
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	-	(1,395)	(286,620)	(288,015)	(453,491)
Disposal of capital assets	(250,144)	-	250,144	-	-
Purchase of capital assets	172,873	-	(172,873)	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(42,517)	-	42,517	-	-
Balance, end of year	159,568	163,083	(1,090,959)	(768,308)	(480,293)



Consolidated statement of cash flows year ended March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Net inflow (outflow) of cash related to the following activities:		
Operating		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(288,015)	(453,491)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of capital assets	42,517	197,601
Loss on disposal of assets	250,144	-
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	(167,787)	298,032
Increase (decrease) in excess contributions	420,372	(25,099)
	257,231	17,043
Changes in non-cash operating		
working capital items (Note 11)	1,262,314	(1,548,986)
	1,519,545	(1,531,943)
Investing		
Disposal of investments	<u>-</u>	9,530
Purchase of capital assets	(172,873)	(2,284)
	(172,873)	7,246
Financing		
Issuance of new long-term debt	-	1,000,000
Repayment of long-term debt	(461,477)	(21,513)
	(461,477)	978,487
	· · ·	
Net cash inflow (outflow)	885,195	(546,210)
Bank overdraft, beginning of year	(613,392)	(67,182)
Cash (bank overdraft), end of year	271,803	(613,392)

Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

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 with 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 consolidated 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 accounting and presentation

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

The financial statements include the accounts of the Corporation and those of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund which is controlled by the Corporation. All significant inter-organizational transactions and balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

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 equipment3 yearsOffice equipment3 yearsLeasehold improvements10 years

Revenue recognition

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.

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Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

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 consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes. In the opinion of management, these consolidated 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 and GST recoverable, 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 \$22,681 (2013 - \$20,987) 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:

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)	284,591	321,412
Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)	230,148	100,549
Commission for Environmental Cooperation	32,125	-
Dalhousie University	19,994	21,659
Health Canada	3,505	-
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)	25,000	25,000
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	53,956	525,941
Environment Canada	174,901	164,550
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	123,373	-
Justice Canada	33,686	10,120
Public Safety	-	7,500
Province of Ontario	5,000	5,000
	986,279	1,181,731

Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

5. Capital assets

			2014	2013
		Accumulated	Net book	Net book
	Cost	amortization	value	value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	1,825,198	1,822,858	2,340	16,675
Office equipment	808,010	679,855	128,155	12,537
Leasehold improvements	168,553	139,480	29,073	250,144
	2,801,761	2,642,193	159,568	279,356

6. Deferred contributions

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	346,425	48,393
Contributions received during the year	15,265,381	15,739,511
Contributions recognized as revenue during the year	(15,391,527)	(15,516,882)
Balance, end of year	220,279	271,022
Other deferred revenue	54,368	96,009
Other revenue recognized	(96,009)	(20,606)
	178,638	346,425

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

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Health Canada	-	55,690
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	-	90,733
Annual General Assembly	51,368	-
Canadian Partnership Against Cancer	82,031	163,261
Canadian Teachers Federation	3,000	-
Commission for Environmental Cooperation	-	18,026
Dalhousie University	39,239	13,439
Other	3,000	5,276
	178,638	346,425

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Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

7			
1.	Excess	contribution	เร

Excess contributions are as follows:

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	420,372	_

Long-term debt 8.

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
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%	560,000	1,000,000
Capital lease obligation, maturing in 2015, bearing interest at	•	
3%, payable by monthly installments of \$1,793, including		
interest	7,497	28,974
	567,497	1,028,974
Current portion	103,497	(461,477)
	464,000	567,497

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

2015	103,497
2016	96,000
2017	96,000
2018	96,000
2019 and thereafter	176,000

9. **Contingencies**

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

Credit facility

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%. The loan is secured by a general security agreement representing a first charge over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is \$NIL (2013 - \$NIL).

\$

Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

10. The National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund which is controlled by the Corporation. A summary description of this controlled entity is provided below.

The Trust Fund was established as a registered charity under paragraph 149 (i)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is comprised of the Language and Literacy Fund, the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund and the Heroes of Our Times Fund.

Restricted funds are comprised of the following and are to be used for the purposes described below:

- The Language and Literacy Fund was established to promote education of First Nations' citizens by way of scholarship awards and the promotion of research, seminars and conferences of an academic nature into First Nations' rights, histories and cultures among First Nations' peoples as well as the Canadian public.
- The Youth Healing Fund was established in 1996 to support efforts to improve the self-esteem
 and profile of First Nations' Youth in Canada by organizing events which may bring together First
 Nations' Youth with political leaders and elders for spiritual and leadership training and support in
 the Youth's representation of their Nations at conferences and gatherings in Canada and
 internationally.
- The Research Sponsor Fund was established in 2001 with the purpose to participate in research into economic, social and scientific problems of Indian communities with a view to proposing solutions to these problems.
- The Heroes of Our Times Fund was established in 2001 with the purpose of providing scholarship awards. The awards are made available to applicants who are able to demonstrate a proven record of intellectual and academic ability, integrity of character, interest and respect for fellow human beings, ability to lead, and the initiative to use their talents to the fullest. The awards are named in memory of the following figures of native history: Jake Fire (Criminology), Tommy Pierce (Native Studies), Walter Dieter (Social Work), Omar Peters (Political Science), Robert Smallboy (Medicine), James Gosnell (Law). The awards are presented each year at the Annual General Assembly of First Nations.

The Corporation appoints the Executive Council of the Trust Fund and ensures that the Trust Fund operates in compliance with the Corporation's Charter.

11. Changes in non-cash operating working capital items

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Assets held in trust	(1,694)	-
Grants and contributions receivable	195,452	1,117,479
Other accounts receivable	(154,338)	(155,823)
GST recoverable	112,807	(23,346)
Inventory	(1,949)	(6,050)
Prepaid expenses	330,902	(955,729)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	788,941	(1,452,901)
Government remittances payable	(9,501)	(72,616)
Liability held in trust	1,694	
	1,262,314	(1,548,986)

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Notes to the consolidated financial statements March 31, 2014

12. 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:

	·
2015	924,211
2016	898,568
2017	851,497
2018	809,572
2019	809,572
	4,293,420

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. Retirement assistance

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and Regional Chiefs. Contributions are up to 6% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$385,680 (2013 - \$403,296).

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, 2014 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 consolidated statement of financial position.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the adverse consequences of interest rate changes on the Corporation's cash flows, financial position, investment income and interest expenses. The Corporation's cash, investments, long-term debt and demand credit facility are exposed to interest rate changes. The long-term debt generally bears interest at fixed rates, except for the leasehold improvements payable, which matures in 2012. Consequently, the cash flow exposure is not significant. However, the fair value of loans having fixed rates of interest could fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The interest bearing demand credit facility has a limited exposure to interest rate risk due to its short-term maturity. The impact of adverse changes in rates is not considered material.

\$

National Indian Brotherhood

Schedule 1 - Statement of operations

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

year ended March 31, 2014

(96)	(218)	(194)	(473)	(129)	(5,702)	(159,484)	Deficiency of revenue over expenses
960'09	125,218	400,194	400,473	450,129	25,702	5,159,484	
10,911	37,642	167,254	103,539	66,093	17,255	387,923	Travel and meetings
40,573	45,715	162,747	166,699	274,058	654	3,014,437	Salaries and benefits
5,040	5,281	21,169	22,697	29,334		333,187	Rent
•	•	•	•	6,731		1,005,786	Regional service delivery
09	32,440	37,791	95,258	50,295	1,994	135,642	Professional fees
3,422	4,002	10,775	12,009	23,043	5,799	261,989	Office expenses
•	•	•	•			584	Miscellaneous
84	128	429	251	534	•	16,878	Insurance
•	•	•			•	•	Amortization of capital assets
•	•	•	•		1	•	Allocation of administrative expenses
9	10	29	20	41		3,058	Advertising, promotion and publications
							Expenses
60,000	125,000	400,000	400,000	450,000	20,000	5,000,000	
•	•	-	-	-	-	•	Trade Show
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Registration fees
•	•	•	•	-	•	•	Miscellaneous
•	•	•	•		•	•	Contribution/Grant - other
000'09	125,000	400,000	400,000	450,000	20,000	5,000,000	Contribution/Grant - AANDC
							Revenue
\$	₩	\$	\$	\$	\$	S	
Fiscal Relations	Specific Claims	Treaties	Review	Reserve	Event	Capacity	
			Claims Policy	Additions to	Proclamation	Organizational	
			Comprehensive		Royal	Basic	
					Treaty -		

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013-14

National Indian Brotherhood

Schedule 1 - Statement of operations (continued)

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

year ended March 31, 2014

	Advocacy and Communications IRS	Commemoration	Social Development	2013 AFN National Youth Summit	National Working Group on Natural Resource Dev.	E-Community Design, Capacity and Coordination
	₩	⇔	.	\$	s	S
Revenue						
Contribution/Grant - AANDC	150,000	1,325,228	330,000	100,000	42,724	150,000
Contribution/Grant - other	•			•	•	•
Miscellaneous	•	•	•	•	•	•
Registration fees Trade Show		•				
	150,000	1,325,228	330,000	100,000	42,724	150,000
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	41	186,804	937	•	-	20
Allocation of administrative expenses	•			•	•	•
Amortization of capital assets				•	•	•
Insurance	193	377	989	•	18	302
Miscellaneous			•	•	•	•
Office expenses	9,940	16,252	26,202	1,377	929	69'6
Professional fees	2,587	936,092	2,188	7,672	14	4,762
Regional service delivery		•	•	•	•	•
Rent	14,028	20,144	27,569	•	3,696	12,762
Salaries and benefits	93,420	121,082	200,384	14,453	27,475	100,343
Travel and meetings	30,030	44,477	72,787	77,469	10,844	22,652
	150,212	1,325,228	330,753	100,971	42,724	150,534
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(212)	•	(753)	(971)	•	(234)

National Indian Brotherhood

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Schedule 1 - Statement of operations (continued) year ended March 31, 2014

			Education		
	Housing	Emergency	and	Total	,
	and	Issues	Education		
	Infrastructure	Management	Supplementary	2014	2013
	\$	↔	\$	\$	↔
Revenue					
Contribution/Grant - AANDC	765,500	125,000	000'009	10,043,452	10,612,688
Contribution/Grant - other	•			•	91,330
Miscellaneous	54,564	•		54,564	•
Registration fees	114,623			114,623	19,018
Trade Show	ī		•	•	515,620
	934,687	125,000	000'009	10,212,639	11,238,656
Expenses					
Advertising, promotion and publications	8,751	20	185	199,896	8,723
Allocation of administrative expenses		•	•	•	
Amortization of capital assets	30	•	•	30	2,392
Insurance	821	255	1,239	22,195	12,423
Miscellaneous		•	•	584	150
Office expenses	57,209	12,359	55,981	510,728	527,508
Professional fees	33,533	1,046	16,309	1,357,683	811,968
Regional service delivery	17,500	•	•	1,030,017	1,188,052
Rent	54,178	12,533	48,355	609,973	1,572,222
Salaries and benefits	434,173	94,108	445,503	5,235,824	5,375,661
Travel and meetings	328,575	5,516	89,545	1,472,512	1,846,974
	934,770	125,837	657,117	10,439,442	11,346,073
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(83)	(837)	(57,117)	(226,803)	(107,417)

National Indian Brotherhood

Schedule 2 - Statement of operations

Other funding agencies year ended March 31, 2014

		Alberta Justice				Commission
	Public	and	Justice		Environment	for Environment
	Safety	Solicitor General	Canada	HRSDC	Canada	Cooperation
	⇔	\$	ss	\$	\$	€
Revenue						
Contribution/Grant - Other	30,000	10,000	112,320	250,000	287,351	32,125
Contribution/Grant - Prior Years	•	•		•	•	18,026
Sale of publications	•	•		•	•	•
Miscellaneous	9,044	•		•	•	•
Registration fees	33,714				•	•
Trade Show Fees	3,619				•	•
	76,377	10,000	112,320	250,000	287,351	50,151
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	2,615		2	136	2,882	2
Allocation of administrative expenses	•		10,120	•	25,500	2,244
Amortization of capital assets	•		•	•	•	20
Insurance	•		107	543	645	23
Miscellaneous	•		•	•	•	•
Bad debt	•		•	•	•	•
Office expenses	11,366		6,746	27,318	22,332	844
Professional fees	3,327		3,711	27,909	8,112	136
Regional service delivery			•	•	•	•
Rent	•		5,280	26,834	23,363	162
Salaries and benefits	48	-	66,525	125,634	183,138	25,629
Travel and meetings	62,326	10,388	20,109	42,415	21,933	21,597
	79,682	10,388	112,600	250,789	287,905	20,657
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(3,305)	(388)	(280)	(789)	(554)	(206)

National Indian Brotherhood

Schedule 2 - Statement of operations (continued)

Other funding agencies

year ended March 31, 2014

	Nuclear Waste		Canadian	Fisheries &		Total	
	Management	Health	Partnership	Oceans			
	Organization	Canada	Against Cancer	Canada	Other	2014	2013
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	s
Revenue				•			
Contribution/Grant - other	230,654	3,459,864	47,568	575,956	60,410	5,096,248	4,925,854
Contribution/Grant - Prior Years	•	55,690	163,260		1,850	238,826	•
Sale of publications	•	•	•		20	20	·
Miscellaneous	•	2,182			923,074	934,300	891,027
Registration fees	•	•	•		263,355	297,069	214,399
Trade Show Fees	-	-	-	-	75,297	78,916	187,186
	230,654	3,517,736	210,828	575,956	1,324,006	6,645,379	6,218,466
Expenses							
Advertising, promotion and publications	32	3,725	514	42	34,583	44,533	38,795
Allocation of administrative expenses	38,425	319,499	19,166	36,000	(450,954)		(2,392)
Amortization of capital assets	•	8,090			34,377	42,487	197,601
Insurance	521	3,908			3,349	960'6	7,131
Miscellaneous	•			•	3,743	3,743	4,545
Bad debt	•			•	67,964	67,964	1
Office expenses	9,141	197,292	14,416	15,443	248,264	553,162	351,543
Professional fees	7,393	594,634	5,412	21,294	170,309	842,237	829,099
Regional service delivery		60,577		102,000	102,081	264,658	153,443
Rent	14,265	241,321	9,516	29,664	202,760	553,165	658,005
Salaries and benefits	126,024	1,365,344	91,504	220,127	366,569	2,570,542	2,866,973
Travel and meetings	35,668	723,790	70,300	151,386	593,697	1,753,609	1,457,926
	231,469	3,518,180	210,828	575,956	1,376,742	6,705,196	6,562,669
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(815)	(444)		•	(52,736)	(59,817)	(344,203)

National Indian Brotherhood

Schedule 3 - Statement of operations National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund year ended March 31, 2014

	7	Language and	Youth	Research	Heroes of	Total	
	General	Literacy	Healing	Sponsor	Our Time		
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	2014	2013
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	↔
Revenue							
Donations	6,080	•			22,500	28,580	•
Miscellaneous		•				•	1,500
	6,080		5		22,500	28,580	1,500
Expenses			•				
Professional services	•	650	650	650	650	2,600	3,248
Miscellaneous	1,060	•				1,060	123
Scholarships	•				16,000	16,000	ı
Travel	•	10,315	4		•	10,315	1
	1,060	10,965	650	650	16,650	29,975	3,371
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	5,020	(10,965)	(650)	(020)	5,850	(1,395)	(1,871)



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