

Responses to Jury Recommendations
Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26
(*Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,*
Kyle Morriseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Introduction

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) remembers the Seven Youth, their families, and their communities on this, the fifth anniversary of the Seven Youth Inquest (the Inquest) verdict as we continue with the implementation of recommendations intended to prevent any further loss of our children. The following progress report will provide an update on the Inquest recommendations that were directed to NAN or directed to other parties and NAN participated in collaborative efforts.

Mandate & Approach

The NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 16/78: *Implementation of the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations* to formally express appreciation of the Inquest jury's tireless work, and to direct the NAN Executive Council to take all reasonable steps to advocate for implementation of the recommendations. To this end, Inquest tables were created and include: 1) the Political Table, and 2) the Education Table.

The Political Table is a forum to hold all Inquest Parties accountable for their role in implementing the recommendations. In June 2020, a meeting was scheduled in one of the NAN First Nations, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Plans are underway to hold the next Political Table meeting in September 2021.

The Education Table and three task teams address education-specific recommendations related to: 1) infrastructure, 2) programs, services, and funding, and 3) student well being. Representatives include some of the Inquest Parties, and community agencies or service providers that can contribute significantly to implementation activities. The Education Table representatives met in November 2020, and the task team representatives met in November and December 2020. Plans are underway to hold meetings for the Education Table and task teams in September 2021.

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

After the COVID-19 pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020, NAN had to adapt and find other ways of continuing mandates while working remotely and using virtual platforms. NAN also had a huge role in the pandemic responses of the 49 NAN First Nations to ensure the communities were safe and their needs met.

For the Seven Youth Inquest process, the pandemic and subsequent waves of COVID-19 and variants halted or slowed momentum, especially for implementation activities conducted in collaboration with other Inquest Parties due to organization responses to the pandemic or public health measures and restrictions. Despite this, NAN departments continued to address the recommendations directed to the organization, and NAN's responses to its 25 recommendations is contained in the table below.

The pandemic also created unprecedented difficulties for NAN First Nations as they worked to protect their staff and students from the devastating virus while continuing to deliver education programs and services. From the closure of schools to the closure of communities, to creating

pandemic plans and creating continued learning plans, NAN First Nations worked to secure the best possible outcome for their students. It was clear however, that they needed to change the way they delivered education programming to address the new COVID-19 reality. NAN First Nations had to reconsider issues such as facilities management, teacher recruitment, safety standards and social distancing guidelines as well as rethinking the various methods of providing educational programs and services. Required moves to online learning brought to the forefront the longstanding issues in insufficient connectivity and bandwidth for students. Among the biggest issues faced by the NAN First Nations were:

- Funding
- Broadband/Connectivity
- Teachers (Staffing)
- Student Engagement
- Safe Spaces/Learning Environments
- Teaching Strategies

While some education-specific COVID-19 funding was provided, the funding was provided after the start of the 2020-2021 school year and was not sufficient to properly meet the needs of the communities in addressing COVID-19 educational requirements. NAN educators stepped up and proved their resilience by making the most of what they were given while providing education services. Students also began to experience mental health issues due to the increased fear, stress and isolation brought on by the pandemic.

As COVID-19 and variants continue to impact the NAN First Nations, students and educators continue to work through issues and difficulties that surround learning during a pandemic.

Community-Level Recommendations

Significant progress continues to be made by the First Nation Inquest Parties that support NAN First Nation youth attending high schools off-reserve. However, there are approximately 70 recommendations suggesting change at the community-level and this is an area that has not received adequate attention through the Inquest process. NAN is aware of leadership in the NAN territory that want to see recommendations be implemented in their community and they have asked when this will happen. To bring in the NAN First Nations to the Inquest process has been challenging. Discussions were started through Inquest Tables about obtaining additional resources to liaise with the NAN First Nations, but so far these efforts have been unsuccessful. For the recommendations to be reasonably addressed or implemented, the relevant Inquest Parties should ensure that the NAN First Nations have an opportunity to determine how the community-level recommendations are implemented. NAN-wide processes currently underway in Education Jurisdiction and Health Transformation should lead to some of the changes suggested in the recommendations to the benefit of people from the NAN First Nations in the long-term. Because NAN is leading this work there is assurance that the communities will be consulted, engaged, and included in the development of the NAN-wide processes.

For other processes, and in particular the processes currently being implemented by the federal government such as ISC's Education Transformation, there are ongoing concerns and dissatisfaction on how the government is opting to engage with First Nations at the national level with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The most recent instance that demonstrates this dissatisfaction is, in November 2020, Chiefs of Ontario (COO) withdrew Ontario's representatives from the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education and the AFN National Indian Education Council due to lack of consideration for the funding needs of First Nations in Ontario and a flawed decision-making process that pits Regions against one another. At that time, Ontario was looking at significant funding cuts in both the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program and the Education Partnerships Program (EPP). The Chiefs of Ontario decision to withdraw from national tables was upheld by resolution at the COO Special Chiefs Assembly held in February 2021. A working group

through COO (made up of members from COO and the First Nation Education Coordination Unit) has been struck to work with ISC in the bilateral process, which is in the early stages of development. NAN is represented in the working group.

Funding

The concerns and dissatisfaction with government processes includes funding. Since 2017, NAN and its First Nation Inquest Partners have stated that the Seven Youth Inquest should have its own funding committed for the implementation activities identified to address the recommendations. Various government funding has made implementation possible but with some of these resources, there continue to be uncertainties because of short-term commitments or (impending) changes to funding programs. For example, it is unknown to what extent the Education Partnerships Program (EPP) and Choose Life will continue as reliable programs going forward. These two programs have allowed NAN First Nation organizations and schools to create and build successful initiatives for their students attending high school off-reserve. The EPP continues to go through guideline changes, which if implemented will lead to significant funding cuts, as noted above, to NAN, Tribal Councils and First Nation education organizations. Choose Life is in its final fiscal year of committed funding. First Nation organizations and schools off-reserve have benefitted immensely from Choose Life, and now there is a great risk of losing the successful programs and services they have built for their students.

NAN has included similar funding issues and concerns in past Inquest annual reports. After five years of implementation activities, if the recommendations from the Seven Youth Inquest are to truly be considered as implemented, there should be no risk of losing what has been achieved through the Inquest for the First Nation Inquest Parties and potentially being back to 'square one'. Before any Inquest Party should be stating that it is time to move to a post-Inquest phase and integration into regular operations, the recommendations from the Seven Youth Inquest should be implemented to the satisfaction of the NAN First Nations, and the First Nation organizations and schools with students attending schools off-reserve. Going forward, NAN and its First Nation Inquest Partners will explore other ways of informing the NAN First Nations about the recommendations at the community level, while also continuing to pursue the resources to be able to engage the communities through the Inquest process.

Reinvestigations

The reinvestigation of nine deaths of Indigenous people in Thunder Bay as recommended by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director in its review of the Thunder Bay Police Service includes four of the seven youth: Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Kyle Morriseau and Jordan Wabasse. The families of the youth have anxiously awaited the final report of the reinvestigations, which was to be completed by late summer last year but was delayed due to the pandemic. The final report is expected to be completed in summer 2021, and NAN remains committed to supporting and standing with the families of Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Kyle Morriseau and Jordan Wabasse in their pursuit of answers through this process.

Participation in Other Inquest Recommendations

NAN continues to be involved in some recommendations directed to other Inquest Parties. One of these recommendations is Recommendation 17 assigned to Ontario to assist Indigenous individuals and communities to access government programs, services, and funding. The following overview highlights the work being conducted regarding government issued identification.

Barriers to Accessing Government Issued Identification

NAN, in collaboration with ServiceOntario, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) and Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (IAO), has developed a document titled, "Assessment

of Potential Actions to Address Barriers Accessing Government-Issued Identification in Remote Northern Communities”. This document outlines the priority areas and actions that need to be taken. Two high priority areas of focus are access and financial barriers.

To assist with carrying out the work outlined in the document, NAN and IAO are coordinating a multi-party working group with representation from MGCS, IAO, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Health, Service Canada and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), NAN Health, Education and Social Services Departments, Matawa Education and Care Centre, and Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education. The working group has been active since May 2020 and has developed a work plan and critical pathway document to guide the work and ensure accountability. To date significant data has been collected and analyzed and information shared between provincial and federal governments on processes and new initiatives, such as Ministry of Transportation drivers license testing in communities that can be used as a model for providing direct services in communities. Currently, NAN, IAO and MGCS are preparing a business case to be provided to the Minister of Government and Consumer Services in early fall 2021 with recommendations and comprehensive data to support those recommendations.

The following sub-committees have been developed to further assist in the work:

1. Financial Barriers and Data Analysis Sub-committee focus to better understand the extent of the financial barriers being experienced and to identify potential options to address for discussion at the multi-party working group. The following barriers are being examined: Fees for documents and for delayed registrations (e.g., birth certificates), method of payment (e.g., lack of credit cards to pay online), costs to access services related to obtaining ID (e.g., cost, distance, time, and practicality of travelling to ServiceOntario location).
2. Jurisdictional Scan Sub Committee provided a summary and preliminary analysis of birth registration processes across Canada. Further analysis will focus on Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick who have processes in place that warrant consideration by Ontario, such as free birth certificates for all newborns.

NAN commissioned the Canadian Center for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) to analyze the data NAN had collected when holding ID clinics in 10 NAN communities. Based on the data CANCEA was able to project the potential number of NAN members who may not have birth certificates and the significant amount of benefits families may not be receiving under the Child Benefits program. The report has limitations based on the small sampling size but it does show the potentially high numbers of people requiring ID and will be useful data in preparing the business case to the Minister.

Conclusion

After more than five years of the Seven Youth Inquest implementation process, much more work remains to be completed. To cease the Seven Youth Inquest process, as suggested, should not be a consideration until the First Nation Inquest Parties and NAN First Nations have every opportunity and been included in tables or processes to implement recommendations either within their organization, their school or in the community if that is what they desire. Shortly after the conclusion of the Inquest, the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution for the full and timely implementation of the Inquest recommendations. This has not been achieved yet. NAN remains hopeful that the intended systemic changes identified in the Inquest recommendations will be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO NAN:

#s: 5, 7, 21, 33, 35, 36, 40, 44, 47, 49, 50, 61, 76, 77, 81, 87, 90, 91, 94, 114, 116, 137, 143 through 145

REC. #	ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSE	OCC RESPONSE CODE
5	<p>Living Space or Supported Living Arrangements for Students</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN supports and advocates for KO, MLC, and NNEC, upon request so that no student is denied access to a provincial or First Nations high school program for lack of space or supported living arrangements.</p> <p><u>NNEC School Facilities</u></p> <p>NAN continues to support NNEC as they advocate for facility replacements and improvement for Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Pelican Falls First Nations High School and Pelican Falls Centre. This work is also related to Recommendation 59.</p> <p><u>New School Facility and Student Living Centre for MECC</u></p> <p>The Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) acquired a building in Thunder Bay which they renovated into a new school facility. MECC is currently completing renovations on the site to accommodate a new student living centre. This work is also related to Recommendation 59.</p> <p><u>Housing Capacity Issues</u></p> <p>The lack of housing for staff and students in the Sioux Lookout area remains an ongoing issue that impacts KO and NNEC as the housing shortage limits the number of students from remote NAN First Nations that can attend high school in Sioux Lookout. This work is also related to Recommendations 76 and 77.</p> <p><u>Reciprocal Education Approach</u></p> <p>In May 2018, the Ontario government passed amendments to the <i>Education Act</i>, which set out the legislative framework for the Reciprocal Education Approach (REA). The regulations to initiate REA came into force on September 1, 2019. REA is a new framework designed to improve access, remove barriers, and strengthen parent and guardian choice for First Nation students transitioning between schools of school boards and First Nation schools in Ontario. It will help to ensure that First Nation students are not denied a space in a publicly-funded school.</p>	8
7	<p>Reconciliation: Principles of Interpretation</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as both the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p>	8

	<p>The spirit behind the principles of interpretation was incorporated into the Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in the NAN Territory between its Treaty Partners (Canada and Ontario). The NAN Chiefs formally reaffirmed their commitment through Resolution 19/10: <i>Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination</i>.</p> <p><u>Guiding Statements</u></p> <p>NAN continues to be guided by the document “A Declaration of Nishnawbe Aski (The People and the Land)”, and further affirms its inherent rights and jurisdiction on its territory.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Working with Treaty Partners is an ongoing process towards fulfilling obligations and recognition of rights in Treaty No. 9. NAN and Ontario signed a Treaty Relationship Agreement in April 2018, and the NAN-Ontario Relationship Table is coordinated in partnership with the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. In the last year, three Table meetings were held to develop solutions to issues. ii. The NAN First Nations exercise inherent control over their education systems. iii. The NAN First Nations have the right to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social, and economic affairs. iv. NAN will continue to advocate for improved conditions in NAN First Nations in areas of housing, water, health, mental health, social issues, and to close the gap in education outcomes between First Nations and non-First Nations students. v. NAN supports the NAN First Nations as they develop local solutions to the effects of the doctrine of discovery and imposed colonial policy including paternalistic legislation and government policy, and assimilation through the Indian residential school system and the Sixties Scoop. vi. NAN continues to advocate for the NAN First Nations in the application of Jordan’s Principle to ensure access to and the timely delivery of publicly funded services for children. 	
21	<p>Youth Leadership Training Program</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as both the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>Implementation plans for the Youth Leadership Manual were revised due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elements of the Youth Leadership Training Program were adapted to online delivery with accessible webinars in the overall Youth Initiatives plan for youth across the NAN Territory.</p> <p>The following activities were completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health focused live webinars for all NAN Youth to support wellness during the pandemic and to increase interactions with youth peers, cultural Knowledge Keepers, and healthy supports. 	8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual NAN Youth Gathering was hosted in March 2021 via virtual platform and included themes in leadership and identity development, cultural teachings, and allowed for interactions with NAN youth across the territory. • The NAN Youth Newsletter focused on sharing resources on wellness during the pandemic. Print and web versions of the newsletter are available, and copies were distributed to NAN First Nation schools and band offices. 	
33	<p>NAN-Wide Education System</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as both the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p><u>Education Jurisdiction</u></p> <p>NAN and Canada signed a Framework Agreement in 1999, in which the parties committed to the negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) with respect to Education Jurisdiction in elementary and secondary education. In December 2018, an Education Jurisdiction AIP was signed by NAN and Canada. NAN continues to negotiate with Canada to further the education jurisdiction process with drafting the majority of chapters for a Final Agreement.</p> <p>The Final Agreement will lead to self-determination in education for NAN Participating First Nations. They will exercise their jurisdiction by delivering education through a system that is designed and run by the First Nations themselves. This will bring these First Nations out from the Indian Act provisions on education, putting First Nations in control of their own education systems with the ability to pass their own laws pertaining to education, developing their own education standards and related educational resources.</p> <p>To build community understanding about Education Jurisdiction, the Final Agreement, and progress made on negotiations, ongoing presentations are provided to Chief and Councils, Local Education Authorities and Tribal Councils. Community-based coordinators have been hired by Participating First Nations for about 25% of the 39 Participating First Nations, with the primary goal to share and gather information on Education Jurisdiction and the Final Agreement with their respective communities.</p>	8
35	<p>Method for Measuring and Establishing Equivalence in Health Outcomes and Services</p> <p>Recommendation remains rejected and an alternative approach will be implemented.</p> <p><u>Health Transformation</u></p> <p>In February 2017 NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 17/21: <i>Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in NAN Territory</i>, mandating the Executive Council to sign the Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in the NAN territory.</p>	4

A new system is required to replace the current colonial health system to improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations in the NAN territory. In order to achieve self-determination and develop a NAN Health and Wellness system, the work of the Health Transformation team is guided by the following five pillars:

1. Community Participation
2. Immediate Needs
3. Fiscal Review & Funding Model(s)
4. Policy & Legislative Review
5. Reclamation of Indigenous Laws

As the NAN Health Transformation process continues to progress, the health transformation team has worked to expand its capacity to accommodate the growth and continues to adapt.

Community Participation

- Due to the pandemic, all Community Participation sessions will be conducted virtually until it is safe to travel to communities again. 15 community meetings have taken place since October 2020 through virtual platforms. The virtual Community Participation sessions are done through Microsoft Teams or teleconference. The Community Participation Team is hosting webinars to continue to inform people of Health Transformation and to invite community members to share their experiences.

Immediate Needs

- NAN Health Transformation followed up on approximately 17 person-specific Immediate Needs issues between April 1, 2020, and March 23, 2021. Solutions have been found for the 17 person-specific issues.
 - Due to disruptions by the pandemic and added barriers, there are an additional eight person-specific situations that are still active from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.
- Immediate Needs work includes assistance with advocacy, overcoming barriers in access to health care, and collaboration with others (i.e., Community and Tribal Council Health Directors, navigators, hospital staff, etc.).
- The Health Transformation team continues to learn about the barriers to safe and effective care for NAN members and continues to track themes and policy applications.
- Regional priorities include attending meetings with partner organizations and supporting priorities. Overall themes have included: mental health, diabetes, dialysis, long term care, medical transportation, and public health.

Advocates

- NAN received a one-year commitment to begin the initial phase of the Health Transformation Advocates (HTA) Plan. The plan focused on capacity building with recruiting and training individuals in health advocacy, planning and governance. NAN provided training, coordination, and support to the HTAs such as First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) training, ASIST Mental Health, orientation, and literacy support. In total, six Health Transformation Advocates were recruited in

	<p>the beginning of November 2019 and five individuals have successfully completed the program, including four NAN staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2021, 21 Health Directors/Community Wellness workers from various NAN First Nation communities have been financially sponsored to take the full 5-course FNHMA training to become Certified First Nation Health Managers. This investment is intended to provide resources and training opportunities to existing staff that may not be available due to limited funds at the community level. <p>NAN Health Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NAN Health Commission team is working towards a wholistic health model that is founded upon the Inherent and Treaty rights of NAN First Nations. This health model will support the health service providers and communities in delivering the needed health services and programs to on and off reserve citizens. • It will support communities, Tribal Councils, existing and future Health Authorities/Co-Operative to achieve their goals, such as maintaining autonomy and decision making over local and regional health systems delivering services to NAN First Nations community members on and off reserve. 	
36	<p>Suicide Prevention Strategy</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and is completed.</p> <p><u>Choose Life</u></p> <p>NAN continues to work with NAN First Nations on the Choose Life program. In 2020-2021, approximately 15,727 children and youth benefited from the funding provided to NAN First Nations and First Nation organizations. Many youth and students continue to access mental health supports and student well-being activities through Choose Life, for example, mental health professionals and services, and cultural and land-based programming. Two evaluations were completed to review the program and its effects on NAN youth. It is evident that this community-based and community-led program has had a great impact for youth, children, and communities, and that it is essential to continue the positive momentum gained from the meaningful work Choose Life has started. A Choose Life Video was launched on April 30, 2021. It is available for viewing on the NAN website. Currently, Choose Life does not have commitment beyond March 2022, which could have detrimental setbacks on the healing journey NAN children and youth have embarked on. NAN continues to advocate for this program to become a permanent funded program for NAN First Nations and organizations.</p> <p><u>Community Wellness Training Program</u></p> <p>In 2020-2021, the NAN Community Wellness Training Program offered 11 virtual training sessions through the Crisis Team Training Program. The objectives of the Crisis Team Training Program are to increase capacity of Crisis Team Coordinators and Regional Crisis Coordinators to provide an effective and coordinated approach to crisis response in their communities and to decrease</p>	1

the impact of trauma on victims and survivors. The focus of this training program is to increase skills to work towards reducing the incidence of suicide and family violence in northern and remote First Nations. Session topics include:

- 5 Training Information Sessions
- Stress Management during COVID-19
- Family & Kinship Mini-Virtual Conference
- Medicine Wheel Teachings
- Trauma and Victims of Violence
- Woodland Painting
- Hoop Dance Aerobics

The Crisis Team Program was able to purchase new workstations for Crisis Team Coordinators and Regional Crisis Coordinators to support work effectiveness and efficiency. Other program supplies were also provided to support the activities hosted by Crisis Team Coordinators in the communities. Supplies included:

- A 10'x20' portable canopy for outdoor community activities
- Portable Filing Cabinets
- Life jackets
- Waterproof Flashlights
- First Aid Kits

Suicide Prevention Strategy

A suicide prevention strategy was to be created to address the continuing intergenerational suicide trauma experienced by children and youth in the remote NAN communities. While Choose Life was not originally intended to be the strategy, it has been the program to successfully provide the programming and services to help youth who require mental health and well-being supports. Other initiatives do continue to be proposed and developed to address the needs of youth in other areas.

Mental Health System Coordinator and Mental Health Information Specialist

The Mental Health Information specialist was contracted in June 2020 to begin work on an environmental scan and the Mental Health System Coordinator was hired in September 2020 to research both internal and external documents/resources to identify mental health services available and the gaps. A living document, "Dashboard of Services" was developed. The Mental Health Coordinator and Mental Health Information Specialist worked collaboratively with the Immediate Needs staff to support mental health issues as the issues arose for input and feedback, and to respond to individuals with discharge issues, the Opioid crisis in Thunder Bay and with NAN Tribal Councils to navigate outreach issues. The Mental Health System Coordinator position ended on March 31, 2021, and recruitment for a Mental Health Policy Analyst position is underway.

Payakatisowin Pimiwichitowin Mamow Ashitamakwonan "Mamow group"

The mandate of this group comes from three NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions that speak to mental health and the need for

	<p>greater coordination in related programs and services across NAN territory. Those resolutions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 17/04: <i>NAN Wide Life Promotion Strategy</i> • Resolution 17/09: <i>Strategy to address sexual violence in NAN Territory</i> • Resolution 17/16: <i>Comprehensive review of mental health services for children and youth</i> <p>The Mamow group is mandated to respond to these resolutions in a coordinated way through fostering interdepartmental knowledge exchange and communication. The Mamow group is also mandated, through the adoption of Resolution 16/78: <i>Implementation of the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations</i>, to implement that Jury's recommendations, many of which would have impacts on mental health in NAN territory.</p> <p>Due to immediate needs prioritization during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, NAN's Health Transformation Health Policy Unit staff were redirected for COVID-19 response. In early December 2020, the group reconvened to resume discussion on existing mental health initiatives and pathways moving forward. The work set out by the resolution mandates is continuing, with each department within NAN providing internal roundtable updates on mental health or other relevant initiatives.</p>	
40	<p>Health Promotion to Address Youth Substance Abuse</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>Development is ongoing for health promotion materials intended for youth and parents in the NAN First Nations and students of the First Nation off-reserve schools.</p>	1A
44	<p>Comprehensive Information Package of School Options</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>A website was developed to provide students with an interactive database where they can research off-reserve high school options based on various criteria, including geographical location, school type, academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, and Indigenous student specific supports available. Students can use this website to easily access a summary profile that provides detailed information about what each school has to offer, and links to each school's websites. The database currently includes off-reserve high schools from Kenora to North Bay. A print version of the school profiles will be available for students in NAN First Nations who might have limited Internet access or insufficient bandwidth to search an interactive database. This print version will include an index of what schools match what criteria to make navigating the document easier. The document is expected to be ready and distributed by the end of August 2021. A poster was also produced to promote the website and interactive database to students and parents in NAN First Nations and will be distributed along with the official launch of the website database.</p>	1

47	<p>Expanding the Role of Education Counsellors</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>In August 2019, NAN hosted a meeting where First Nation education representatives were able to liaise and discuss best practices with their counterparts in the provincial school boards and the off-reserve First Nation schools or education organizations. The meeting included discussion and collaboration on how to help students with a better transition between their communities and high schools off-reserve. Further engagement is needed to determine the interest and feasibility of expanding the role of First Nation education counsellors to include secondary schools off-reserve. The meeting was also intended to assess progress to date and determine further actions required to support the implementation of Recommendations 46, 47, 81 and 87. A draft meeting report was prepared which included information exchange strategies, and takeaways and considerations.</p> <p>Another session was planned for June 2020 to further engage with education representatives from the NAN First Nations and provincial schools, but it had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel and group restrictions. The second session is now planned for June 16, 23 and 30, 2021, and participants will discuss Continuity of Care strategies and impacts relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>This work is also related to Recommendation 81 and 87.</p>	1
49	<p>Community Partner Visits to NAN First Nations</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>A “Community Visit Protocol Guide” was produced to encourage community partners to visit and engage with students on-reserve and to provide information on how to approach NAN First Nations to develop good relationships. The 12-page guide was distributed electronically to organizations in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Timmins, and it was also printed. Due to COVID-19 travel and group restrictions, training sessions for the guide had to be postponed. Community responses to the initial call for the training sessions was positive so these sessions were rescheduled to a virtual platform and held on May 26-27, 2021. Feedback on the exit survey provided after the training sessions was positive.</p>	1
50	<p>Youth Participation in Decisions</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>The “Youth Voices Survey” and the creation of a youth council or a youth leadership position in the community was brought to the attention of the NAN Chiefs at the Emergency Special Chiefs Assembly in July 2017.</p>	1
61	<p>Duplication of Resources and Facilities</p>	

	<p>Recommendation was rejected due to flaws and remains rejected due to flaws.</p> <p>NAN respects the autonomy of partner organizations to coordinate activities and resources for their students.</p>	4A
76	<p>Quality Boarding Homes</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>In February 2020, an Ontario-Wide Boarding Home Review gathering was held in Thunder Bay where best practices for boarding homes was discussed. A draft report addresses boarding home standards, property codes, guardianship, student safety, student wellness, communication and best practices, and management and administration. The report will inform future work in establishing standards for Ontario boarding parents and boarding homes. The goal of the report, once completed and released, is to provide a basic standard for student boarding homes that must be met. The draft report is under revision and will be available upon approved.</p> <p>This work is also related to Recommendation 77.</p>	1
77	<p>Standardized Procedures for Boarding Homes</p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>See response to Recommendation 76.</p>	1
81	<p>Annual Harm Reduction Training Strategies</p> <p>Recommendation was accepted and is in progress.</p> <p><u>Engaging Education Representatives</u></p> <p>See response to Recommendation 47.</p> <p><u>Mental Health Supports</u></p> <p>The Choose Life program continues to address the gaps in mental health services for NAN First Nations children and youth at risk of suicide. The program allows communities to develop in-community services to prevent the loss of youth. It also provides youth the opportunities to access mental health supports and counsellors in and out of the community. Other supports include detox treatment centres, aftercare programs, suicide prevention training, and first aid and CPR courses. The NAN First Nations can also request to include this type of training in Choose Life applications.</p> <p>In 2020-2021, the NAN Choose Life department was able to provide virtual training opportunities for Choose Life frontline workers on topics around mental health and wellness, including: professional development and skill building; Living Works: Suicide Prevention Training; cultural teaching nights with Peter Shebagabow; Introduction to Turtle Concepts; SBE Group training opportunities such as emotional health, team building, self regulation, and bullying; Feather Carriers Leadership for Life Promotion Training; training with Tikinagan Child & Family Services on the responsibility</p>	1A

	<p>and duty to report; as well as training opportunities with St. John's Ambulance. Individual and group sessions on Choose Life orientation, the application process, and reporting requirements are available upon request.</p> <p><u>Community Wellness Training Program</u></p> <p>In 2020-2021, the NAN Community Wellness Training Program offered 8 virtual training sessions through the Mental Health Program. One of the objectives of the Mental Health Program is to provide wholistic culturally appropriate programming to support the mental health of Indigenous peoples, (particularly at-risk children and youth/young people and their families). Though this program's intended audience are NAN Mental Health Workers, this program reaches many other front-line workers such as Crisis Team Coordinators, Regional Crisis Coordinators, Health Directors, Community Health Representatives, NNADAP Workers, as well as others, to work towards increasing individual, family, and community capacity to facilitate healing and contribute to long term wellness. Session Topics Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Resources • Self Care Techniques • Mental Wellness Mini-Virtual Conference • Youth & Elder Relationships • Empowerment workshop • Lateral Violence • Medicine Bag Teachings • Mitt Making <p>To promote mental health, healing, and wellness through improved availability of mental health and addictions services, the NAN Mental Health Program purchased Huawei tablets as a community resource for individuals to access NAN HOPE. One tablet was sent to each NAN community.</p> <p>The Mental Health Program was also able to purchase supplies to support Mental Health workers in NAN communities to offer self-care programming in their communities. Supplies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint Kits from The Creative • Beading Kits (beads, needles, thread, beading foundation, felt) • Sewing machine & sewing kits (material, notions, thread, bobbins, ribbon, rick rack packaged in a sewing bag) • Dreamcatcher and Lanyard craft kits from Halfords • Art supplies (canvas boards, paint, paint brushes) • Fishing rods • Outdoor cook sets 	
87	<p><u>Continuity of Care</u></p> <p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p><u>Engaging Education Representatives</u></p> <p>See response to Recommendation 47.</p> <p><u>Health Supports</u></p>	1A

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, NAN received several concerns from community leadership and members that the quarantines and lockdowns were having a negative impact on youth mental health, and that public health measures would cause a disruption in the drug supply to NAN First Nations, possibly leading to increases in withdrawals and acute mental health and behavioural issues. As a result, the Mental Health & Substance Use Working Group, a subcommittee of the NAN COVID-19 Task Team, was established with the following purpose and scope:

1. To gather and provide vital information to support NAN members with physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges because of COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To mobilize service providers to support community and urban members with counselling and support.
3. To identify professional services and consulting professional services for community professionals who are managing serious mental health conditions and require client management and treatment advice.
4. To identify cultural and spiritual considerations to support each community impacted by COVID-19 positive tests.

NAN supported a collaborative proposal that would support and enhance existing services during COVID-19, and an approach would provide 24/7 mental health supports to all of NAN territory through virtual and telephone supports, to provide immediate care to someone in crisis, and work to support them into closer ongoing services that can be accessed in community or through existing mental health supports in their area. The advocacy work to address gaps in mental health and substance use supports is ongoing. NAN Health transformation is exploring how to align temporary COVID-19 efforts with long-term transformative efforts.

NAN Hope

The NAN Hope program was created as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and launched in August 2020. It is available to all members of the 49 NAN communities no matter where they are living. It is a partnership between KO eHealth, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority and Dalton Associates. The approach to mental health and addictions support comes from a wholistic framework guided by an advisory committee of stakeholders, and includes wellness navigators, and clinical and traditional counsellors. The services aim to support individuals in English, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Cree languages.

NAN members can call, text, chat, and Facebook message to get connected with confidential support and resources, and the clinical and traditional counselling that best suits their needs. It provides 24/7 phone access to counsellors and crisis support, and access to text, chat or Facebook Messenger support every day from 8am-12am EST (7am-11pm CST). Streamlined navigation to existing community-based and regional support services; bridging possible gaps in services; rapid access to confidential counselling support

	<p>by telephone; and access to a 24/7 crisis/distress support line are available.</p> <p>The project is set to expire on August 31, 2021, and the program has been built so that it will have long-lasting staffing in Information Technology and Infrastructure, including Mapping, Policies, Procedures, Relationships and Networks. Additional resources for funding are being sought.</p>	
90	<p>Youth Participation in Decisions</p> <p>The recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>The “Youth Voices Survey” and the creation of a youth council or a youth leadership position in the community was brought to the attention of the NAN Chiefs at the Emergency Special Chiefs Assembly in July 2017.</p>	1
91	<p>Missing Person Investigations and Searches</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and is completed, in progress, or does not apply depending on the subsection.</p> <p>NAN continued to facilitate and participate in the working group created to address this recommendation and its subsections.</p> <p>Subsections i, iii, iv, v, vi, ix, x, xii remain completed.</p> <p>Subsections xi and xiii do not apply to NAN.</p> <p>ii. “Am I Missing?” is a public awareness campaign developed in 2018 to draw attention to the importance of reporting missing persons to police without delay. It was launched for the third time in August 2020 to keep raising awareness in Thunder Bay. The campaign was adapted in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police in Sioux Lookout, and launched in January 2021.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>vii. Development is ongoing for a missing persons search toolkit which will be an educational resource for NAN First Nations.</p> <p>This subsection is in progress.</p> <p>viii. NAN continues to consider its internal protocol and policy regarding missing persons who are members from NAN communities, and the role of its employees.</p> <p>This subsection is in progress.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5</p> <p>ii. 1</p> <p>vii. 1A</p> <p>viii. 1A</p>
94	<p>Joint Protocol</p> <p>The recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>The “Best Practices for Non-Police Community Volunteer Searchers” jointly developed by NAN and the Thunder Bay Police Service was compiled into a document and it was distributed to NAN communities for their information.</p>	1

114	<p>Alternative Facility for Intoxicated Youth</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p><u>Safe Sobering Sites</u></p> <p>NAN continued to support KO, MLC, and NNEC in their Safe Sobering Sites when assistance was requested.</p> <p><u>Fourth Detox Facility</u></p> <p>The working group created for the recommendation continues to try to create a fourth facility to serve all youth who are 25 years of age and younger in the City of Thunder Bay. Community service providers that have a role in supporting youth are now a part of the working group, which has started on a preproposal process.</p>	1A
116	<p>Local and Social Media Campaign and Public Forum</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN will continue to work with KO, MLC and NNEC to increase public awareness of the obstacles, challenges and issues experienced by First Nations youth in Thunder Bay. Student safety continues to be of utmost importance for all First Nation Inquest partners for students attending high school off-reserve.</p> <p><u>Public Awareness Campaign</u></p> <p>NAN continues to participate in the working group creating the social media campaign to educate people in Thunder Bay on the issues faced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay.</p> <p><u>Issues Experienced by NAN First Nations Students at the Hospital</u></p> <p>NAN continues to work with representatives from KO, Matawa, NNEC, Tribal Councils, and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (the Hospital) to address specific issues and challenges faced by students at the Hospital. Further progress was made this past year regarding changes in the youth discharge process at the emergency department but more remains to be done. Work is also ongoing to develop a student safety call line for improved support student by on-call workers when a student is in the Hospital or being discharged.</p> <p><u>NAN Youth Initiatives Supporting Partnerships</u></p> <p>NAN provided wellness kits for youth who live in the City of Thunder Bay, through a partnership with the Regional Multicultural Youth Council. This was done to support wellness throughout the COVID-19 pandemic while regular youth programming was paused.</p> <p>The NAN Virtual Youth Gathering hosted 75 youth in March 2021. Several workshops were delivered on identity, cultural teachings, and healthy expressions through art by presenters throughout the event.</p> <p>The NAN Oshkaatisak Council presented on various health and social challenges and issues experienced by young people in the NAN Territory to raise awareness and to gather support.</p>	8

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations in October 2020 and February 2021 at virtual NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly meetings. • In August 2020, the youth presented to the trilateral table on a COVID-19 plan to support youth wellness. • In October 2020, the youth met with MP Eric Melillo. 	
137	<p>Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action – Recommendations 18 through 20</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p><u>NAN Health Entity</u></p> <p>Work on Health Transformation and the Health Commission concept resumed in July 2020 with virtual meetings and planning session. The Health Human Resource Working Group was the most active as the pandemic exposed major gaps in public health capacity, clinical preparation, and recruitment. Additionally, governance models were explored and adapted to the unique features and infrastructure of NAN territory. A review of global Indigenous public health models were also explored and integrated into the development of the NAN Health Entity (working title HC). The governance model has youth prominently featured in an advisory role.</p>	8
143	<p>Annual Reporting</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN has prepared its annual reports each June 28 since 2017 and will submit its fifth annual report on June 28, 2021. NAN will continue to provide an annual report on each anniversary date until all recommendations received are rejected or implemented. NAN will send by email a copy of the annual report to any person who requests the report.</p>	8
144	<p>Posting of Annual Reports</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>Annual reports will be posted to the NAN website until such time it is determined there are no more annual reports to be posted.</p>	8
145	<p>Revision of Internal Policies</p> <p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p>	8

OCC Response Codes

Response Code	Response Legend
1	Recommendation <i>has</i> been implemented
1A	Recommendation <i>will</i> be implemented
1B	Alternate recommendation <i>has been</i> implemented
2	Under consideration
3	Unresolved issues
4	Rejected
4A	Rejected due to flaws
4B	Rejected due to lack of resources
5	Not applicable to agency assigned
6	No response
7	Unable to evaluate
8	Content or intent of recommendation is already in place

List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations
Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26

(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,
Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)

Canada (Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)

City of Thunder Bay

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFCHS)

Health Canada

Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO)

Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)

Matawa Learning Centre (MLC)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS)

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC)

Office of the Chief Coroner

Ontario (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)

P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)