

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Annual Report

2019 — 2020



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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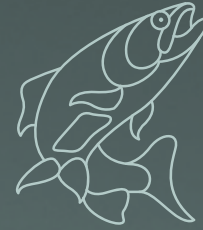


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GRAND CHIEF

Alvin Fiddler

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In all that we do, the value of relationships cannot be overstated. I remain committed to ensuring that the Treaties are the basis of the relationships we are building.



B oozhoo! Wacheya! Greetings to the Chiefs and citizens of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, I am pleased to present NAN's Annual Report 2019 – 2020. Before proceeding, I would like to acknowledge and honour the Leaders we have lost over the past year. Their important contributions and unwavering commitment to NAN communities will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration.

Despite the unprecedented crises that we have confronted this year, NAN First Nations Leadership, Elders, Women, and Youth have made concerted efforts to support one another and decrease the risks of COVID-19 in NAN territory. I acknowledge the NAN Chiefs for their courageous responses to this new and unexpected health and safety threat. Your tireless efforts have kept NAN citizens safe. This is remarkable, considering the lack of warning about the pandemic, and the speed with which the Leadership has had to respond.

When the pandemic was declared we recognized the danger upon us, and the unique vulnerabilities of NAN First Nations. For most of 2020, we have focused on protecting communities and have taken extraordinary steps to ensure the safety of NAN citizens. We immediately organized coordination teams to monitor issues including Housing and Infrastructure/Emergency Response, Social Services, Community Wellness, Education and Health and Urban Planning. We also quickly assembled a team of medical, emergency response and field experts to support our internal team. I thank all team members for their invaluable contributions.

NAN has consistently raised concerns to federal and provincial governments that this situation places added strain on existing issues in NAN territory. We initiated the Trilateral Table process with key government officials, which has resulted in improved information-sharing and expedited action. The launch of NAN Hope, a telephone and virtual confidential mental health support service, is a success story and an example of what can be achieved through collaboration. It is critical that these new systems and supports are maintained long after this crisis. Rest assured that we will advocate strongly to preserve these initiatives.

Before COVID-19, we made significant progress in the NAN-Ontario *Far North Act* Process. The preservation of NAN First Nations' ability to protect their lands

remains a key priority. NAN and Ontario reached an agreement to develop a joint process for engaging in discussions to review the *Far North Act* and develop recommendations to guide amendments to the legislation. We have recently completed our examination of the recommendations and will remain in contact with the MNRF as they re-engage directly with communities.

We also began the process to create regulations to bring the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) under the *Police Services Act*, further to the major funding agreement negotiated in 2018. The ability to opt into the legislation would guarantee that the NAPS force would be maintained at the same standard as its municipal counterparts. We will work to make this objective a reality.

We continue to work with communities on the Choose Life program, a life-saving and life-changing initiative. It is amazing to see the innovative approaches to supporting children and youth that have been developed and implemented by our communities for our communities. Many youth continue to access mental health supports and well-being activities, such as cultural and land-based programming. As stated in the *Declaration of Nishnawbe Aski*, the solutions to our problems must come from within our communities. I will continue working to ensure that the overwhelming success of Choose Life is recognized by the federal government, so that it may become the permanent program that our communities deserve.

In all that we do, the value of relationships cannot be overstated. I remain fully committed to ensuring that the Treaties are the basis of the relationships we are building. In fact, it is not uncommon for me to bring Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No. 5 booklets to share with Ministers and government officials when meeting for the first time. It is essential that the foundation of any interaction with our provincial and federal governments is our Treaty Relationship.

I am thankful to work with such a strong team at NAN. I am especially grateful to my wife Tesa for her continued love and support, and to our two beautiful children who inspire me everyday with their bravery and kind hearts. It has been an honour to serve our communities in these challenging times, and I remain committed to the work ahead.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alvin Fiddler'.

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

Derek Fox

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I am proud and honoured to be apart of the recent changes and successes that we have seen in education and justice within our NAN communities.



Since I was elected as a NAN Deputy Grand Chief, I have dedicated my time and energy to ensuring a more equitable future for our children and youth. I regularly travel to our NAN communities because I want to hear directly from our community members.

People talk about the new 'norm'. What does that mean? It does not mean that we leave the teachings of our ancestors. The lands and languages are who we are. The language binds us. The land holds medicine. We have an opportunity now to rediscover our roots.

As Indigenous people, we have fought hard for our voices to be heard by the provincial and federal governments and I know that no one knows what change they want to see better than those living in the communities.

My team and I are dedicated to driving change for social justice, language and education in our youth because they are our future leaders. The safety of our youth is one that I hold close to my heart, as there have been far too many injustices against them.

I am proud and honoured to be apart of the recent changes and successes that we have seen in education and justice within our NAN communities.strong. I see NAN as a resilient people. We don't know what the future holds but the common cause that unites us is the people. Hold on to your practices. Bind yourselves together.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Derek Fox".



DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

Walter Naveau

“

Booshoo! Wacheya! Chiefs, Elders, women, youth and citizens of Nishnawbe Aski. I am honoured to present my annual update as Deputy Grand Chief. A lot of things have changed because of the pandemic but it has also brought us together as a nation. It validates who we are. We fight for all our people.



People talk about the new 'norm'. What does that mean? It does not mean that we leave the teachings of our ancestors. The lands and languages are who we are. The language binds us. The land holds medicine. We have an opportunity now to rediscover our roots.

One way is through the various programs that NAN supports. These programs have a big impact on communities. My portfolio areas include Social Services and Community Wellness.

We have focused on several key initiatives throughout 2019/20 including First Nations jurisdiction over Child Welfare. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services issued a Directive under the Child and Youth Family Services Act, that was effective January 30, 2020. Tikinagan Child and Family Services is now providing child welfare services to Tikinagan affiliated First Nations in the District of Thunder Bay.

This year, we negotiated and secured evergreen funding for the Family Well-Being Program. This announcement is positive for our communities as the program has proven to be very effective in improving the overall health and well-being of NAN families across the region.

Bill C-92, 'An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families' came into force on January 1, 2020. Its purpose is to affirm the rights of Indigenous governments and organizations to exercise jurisdiction over First Nation, Inuit and Métis child and family services. Canada has not guaranteed funding to enable First Nations to undertake the important work of developing their own laws and determining the governance structures/systems required to implement them.

The Remoteness Quotient (RQ) work has enjoyed renewed discussions at the CHRT Remoteness Quotient Table. It has provided a new and innovative approach to funding child welfare agencies and communities by taking into consideration various degrees of remoteness across NAN territory. This approach can also be considered in other sectors such as education, health and justice. NAN will continue to advocate for the implementation of the RQ. The Community Wellness Crisis Team provides supports

to NAN communities both on and off reserve. In the 2018-2019 the team responded to hundreds of incidents involving the majority of NAN communities. The Community Wellness Department's goal is to provide community support in times of need and foster the creation of community-based programs in the areas of prevention, intervention and aftercare. It has been another busy year.

Our team continues to train front line community workers in Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, along with specialized module training intended to meet the educational needs and skill development of the Crisis Coordinators in the communities.

Choose Life continues to assist communities and partnership organizations to provide supports to at risk children and youth in NAN territory. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year \$76,392,748 was given through the Choose Life Project to serve 20,664 children and youth. In March 2019, the NAN Choose Life program received a three-year extension, which has allowed for long-term planning and created more opportunities for our children and youth.

NAN continues to advocate for continued sustainable funding for the Choose Life Program through the ongoing evaluation being conducted by Lakehead University's Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research team in corporation with community based Choose Life Coordinators. Community participation is strongly needed.

We continue to spend considerable time advocating for NAN and negotiating with Canada and Ontario to ensure that our position and voice remains strong. In dealing with a government bureaucracy, progress can seem slow but, every meeting, if it moves the marker an inch, it is good. We are strong. I see NAN as a resilient people. We don't know what the future holds but the common cause that unites us is the people. Hold on to your practices. Bind yourselves together.

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

Jason Smallboy

“

My message to you is that during these times of uncertainty, we need to continue to work together and focus our efforts on forestry, the environment, energy, climate change, mining, and economic development to strengthen our unity. This will help us to continue to strive for a better life for our people and protect what we have now for future generations.



Wacheya! Booshoo! Greetings to Chiefs, Elders, women, youth, and friends of Nishnawbe Aski Nation!

As always, I am honoured to present to you my annual report from 2019-2020 along with the rest of the Executive. This past year has been quite challenging in terms of my portfolios; however, we have made progress in many areas and continue to advocate on behalf of the communities through various means. In the last year, we have brought on key staff members that include an Energy Coordinator and an Environment and Climate Change Director and have also hired two more staff members to help us address food insecurity and other food-related issues.

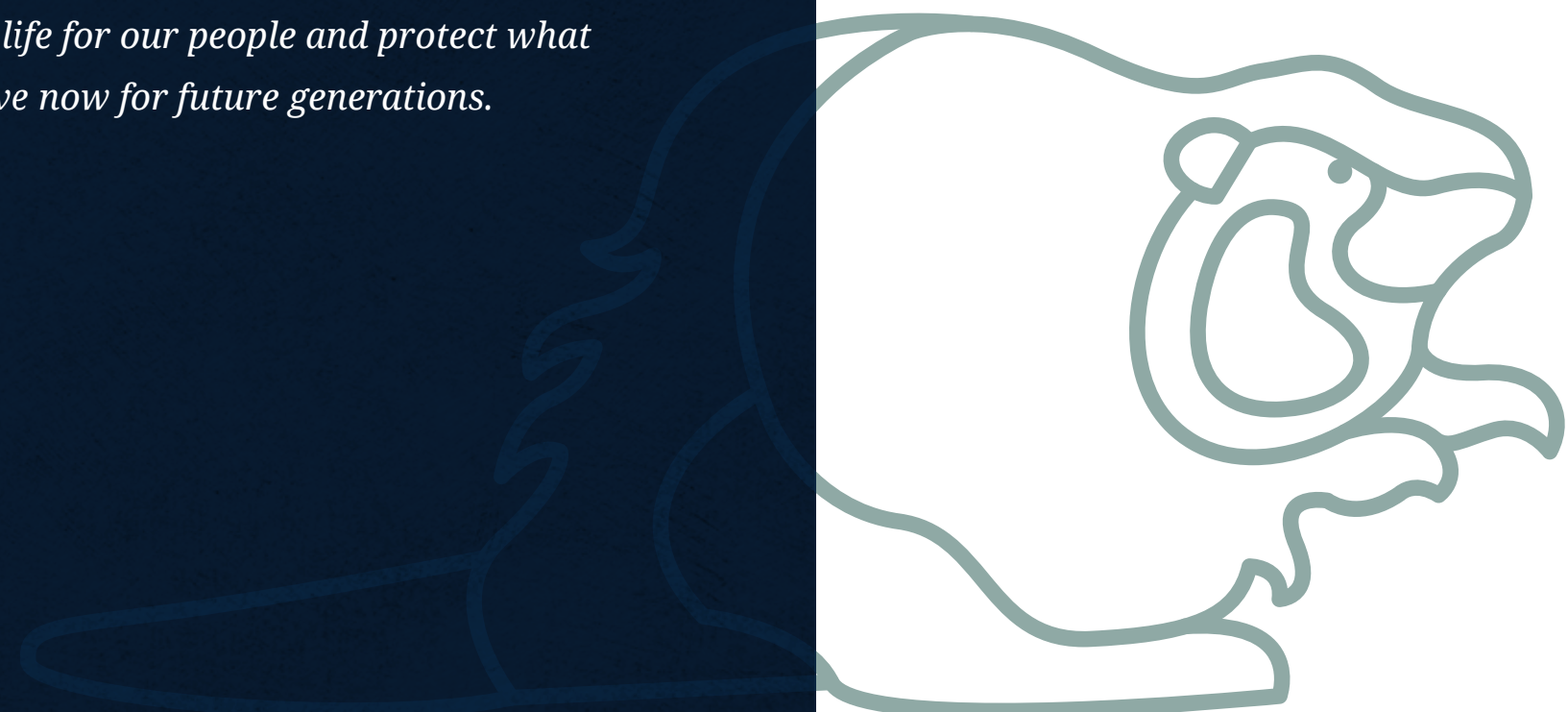
Although our team is small within our portfolios, we have an efficient and knowledgeable team. We have assisted several community energy issues within the past year and have also reached out to our other organizations within NAN to see where collaboration is possible and where help is needed.

We have been working with government agencies within our portfolios to advance NAN and our member First Nations.

We have made progress in some areas, but others are lacking progression due to the way Ontario has behaved over the last year. Many issues within our portfolio, such as forestry, have taken a few steps back and although we have made efforts to work with Ontario, they have shown us time and time again that their priorities do not include First Nations.

My message to you is that during these times of uncertainty, we need to continue to work together and focus our efforts on forestry, the environment, energy, climate change, mining, and economic development to strengthen our unity. This will help us to continue to strive for a better life for our people and protect what we have now for future generations.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year and as always, I will do my best to advocate for the communities and people of NAN.



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Travis Boissoneau

“

I am pleased to present the Nishnawbe Aski Nation 2019-2020 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements.

It has been another busy and productive year in our work to re-vamp and streamline our efforts to meet the needs of NAN First Nations continues. NAN continues to be at the forefront of advocacy and influence with various levels of government and I am proud of everything we have accomplished.



The work that is highlighted in this Annual Report reflects the direction of our Chiefs and the leadership of the Executive Council; both of which has led us to achieve milestones that strengthen our Nations.

Once again, NAN has ended the past fiscal year in a positive financial situation, carrying a fiscal surplus into the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We have continued to secure increased core funding and additional sources of revenue, allowing us to better support our work for our communities. I give special thanks for our strong fiscal position to the Chiefs Finance Committee for their continued guidance.

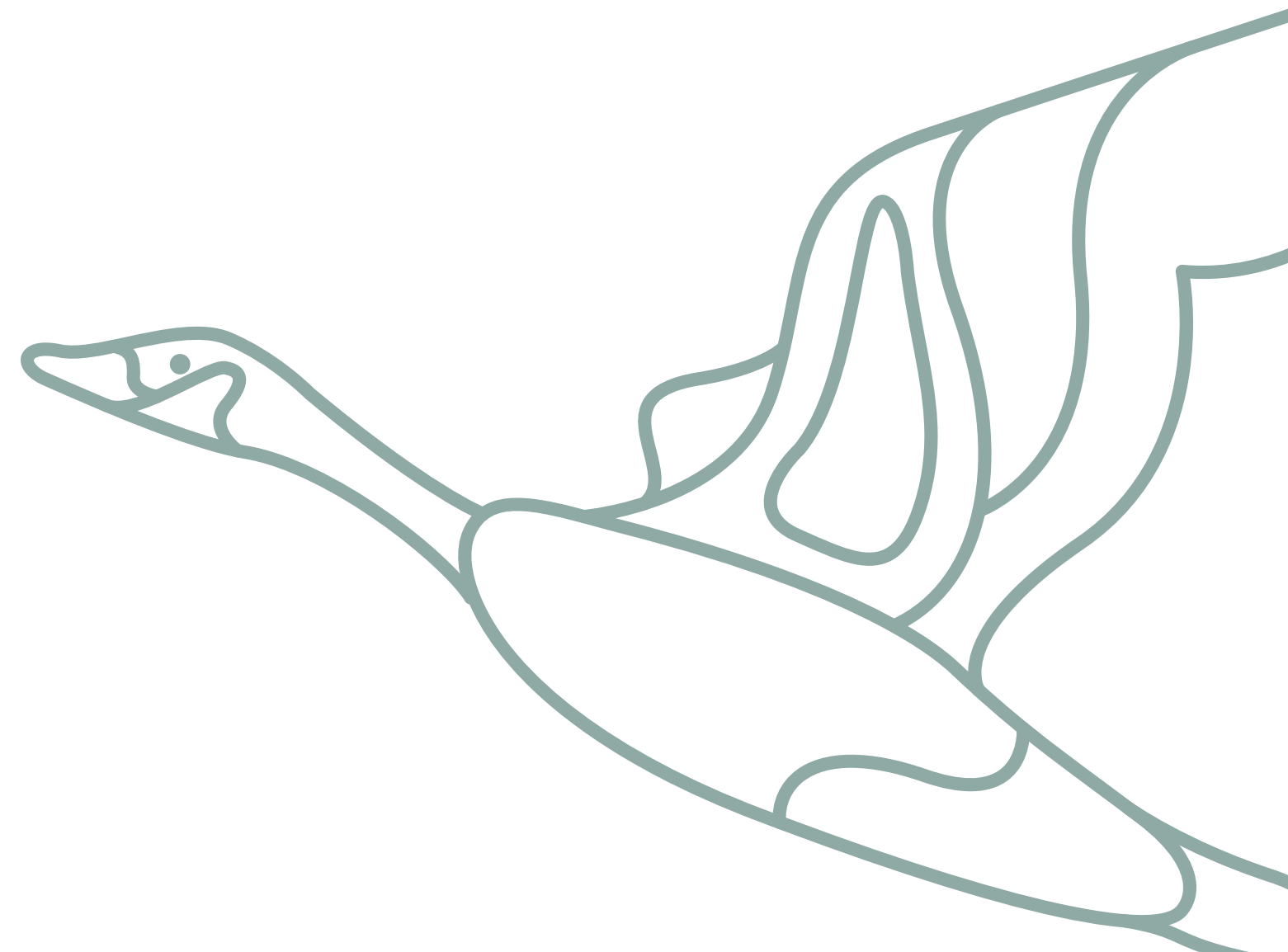
I am proud to support the work of the Executive Council and lead the NAN Team as we fulfill the mandates given to us by our Chiefs. Our senior

managers and staff are hardworking and talented, and we are utilizing our resources more efficiently and effectively than ever. NAN is a fast-paced and challenging environment and we continue to create a more balanced and healthier working environment.

As always, Unity, Strength, Success is a commitment for all of us at Nishnawbe Aski Nation. There will always be challenges ahead of us, but I am confident that we are better prepared than ever to meet them.

Miigwetch.

A stylized, handwritten signature in a light teal color, consisting of a series of loops and curves.





In Memory

Nishnawbe Aski Nation honours the leaders we have lost over the past year for their commitment to their communities and the development of our Nation. Their contributions are immeasurable, and their leadership and friendship has improved our lives.



CHIEF CELIA ECHUM
Ginoogaming First Nation



**CHIEF EDMUND
HUNTER**
Weenusk First Nation



CHIEF JACOB STRANG
Poplar Hill First Nation



About Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) was established in 1973, and was originally known as Grand Council Treaty No. 9 until 1983. Grand Council Treaty No. 9 made a public declaration – A Declaration of Nishnawbe-Aski (The People and the Land) – of our rights and principles in 1977.

NAN territory encompasses James Bay Treaty No. 9 and the Ontario portion of Treaty No. 5, a landmass covering two-thirds of the Province of Ontario, spanning 210,000 square miles.

NAN represents 49 First Nations with a total population (on and off-reserve) of approximately 45,000 people grouped by Tribal Council. Six of our member Nations are not affiliated with a specific Tribal Council.

Our people traditionally speak Cree and Algonquin in the east, Ojibwe in the west, and Ojibway in the central south area.

NAN advocates on behalf of our member First Nations for self-determination with functioning self-government through partnerships and agreements with our Treaty partners - the governments of Canada and Ontario.

First Nations & Tribal Councils

Independent Bands

- 1 Hornepayne
- 2 Mishkeegogamang
- 3 Moccreebec Council of the Cree Nation
- 4 Sandy Lake
- 5 Wahgoshig
- 6 Weenusk (Peawanuck)

Independent First Nations Alliance

- 7 Lac Seul
- 8 Muskrat Dam
- 9 Pikangikum

Keewaytinook Okimakanak

- 10 Deer Lake
- 11 Fort Severn
- 12 Keewaywin
- 13 McDowell Lake
- 14 North Spirit Lake
- 15 Poplar Hill

Matawa First Nations

- 16 Aroland
- 17 Constance Lake
- 18 Eabametoong
- 19 Ginoogaming
- 20 Long Lake #58
- 21 Marten Falls
- 22 Neskantaga
- 23 Nibinamik
- 24 Webequie

Mushkegowuk Council

- 25 Attawapiskat
- 26 Chapleau Cree
- 27 Fort Albany
- 28 Kashechewan
- 29 Missanabie Cree
- 30 Moose Cree
- 31 Taykwa Tagamou

Shibogama First Nations Council

- 32 Kasabonika Lake
- 33 Kingfisher Lake
- 34 Wapekeka
- 35 Wawakapewin
- 36 Wunnumin Lake

Wabun Tribal Council

- 37 Beaverhouse
- 38 Brunswick House
- 39 Chapleau Ojibway
- 40 Flying Post
- 41 Matachewan
- 42 Mattagami

Windigo First Nations Council

- 43 Bearskin Lake
- 44 Cat Lake
- 45 Koocheching
- 46 North Caribou Lake
- 47 Sachigo Lake
- 48 Slate Falls
- 49 Whitewater Lake



First Nations in NAN

<i>Aroland First Nation</i>	<i>Kasabonika Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Nibinamik First Nation</i>
<i>Attawapiskat First Nation</i>	<i>Kashechewan First Nation</i>	<i>North Caribou Lake First Nation</i>
<i>Bearskin Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Keewaywin First Nation</i>	<i>North Spirit Lake First Nation</i>
<i>Beaverhouse First Nation</i>	<i>Kingfisher Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Pikangikum First Nation</i>
<i>Brunswick House First Nation</i>	<i>Koocheching First Nation</i>	<i>Poplar Hill First Nation</i>
<i>Cat Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Lac Seul First Nation</i>	<i>Sachigo Lake First Nation</i>
<i>Chapleau Cree First Nation</i>	<i>Long Lake #58 First Nation</i>	<i>Sandy Lake First Nation</i>
<i>Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation</i>	<i>Marten Falls First Nation</i>	<i>Slate Falls Nation</i>
<i>Constance Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Matachewan First Nation</i>	<i>Taykwa Tagamou Nation</i>
<i>Deer Lake First Nation</i>	<i>Mattagami First Nation</i>	<i>Wahgoshig First Nation</i>
<i>Eabametoong First Nation</i>	<i>Mishkeegogamang First Nation</i>	<i>Wapekeka First Nation</i>
<i>Flying Post First Nation</i>	<i>Missanabie Cree First Nation</i>	<i>Wawakapewin First Nation</i>
<i>Fort Albany First Nation</i>	<i>Mocreebec Council of the Cree Nation</i>	<i>Webequie First Nation</i>
<i>Fort Severn First Nation</i>	<i>Moose Cree First Nation</i>	<i>Weenusk First Nation</i>
<i>Ginoogaming First Nation</i>	<i>Muskrat Dam First Nation</i>	<i>Whitewater Lake First Nation</i>
<i>Hornepayne First Nation</i>	<i>Neskantaga First Nation</i>	<i>Wunnumin Lake First Nation</i>

NAN Advisory Councils

NAN has several advisory councils that advise and support the work of the Executive Council and staff

NAN ELDER’S COUNCIL

The NAN Elders Council was established on March 24, 1988. The NAN Elders Council consists of 12 members selected from all geographic areas of NAN territory.

They are selected for their vision and experience, and range from 60 to 80 years old. The Elders Council mandate is to review NAN resolutions and to provide guidance and advice to the NAN Chiefs, NAN Executive Council, and all other people of NAN on major issues.

Our Elders provide direction on their understanding of Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No. 5, stating that the treaty arrangement would protect First Nations way of life, and that First Nations never surrendered their title to their land.





The NAN Women's Council. (Back row L-R: Cecilia Spence, Brenda Fox, Bertha Sutherland, DGC Walter Naveau, Diane Andrews-Wesley, Ila Beaver. Front Row L-R: Celine Sutherland, Teri Fiddler, Theresa Sutherland.)

NAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

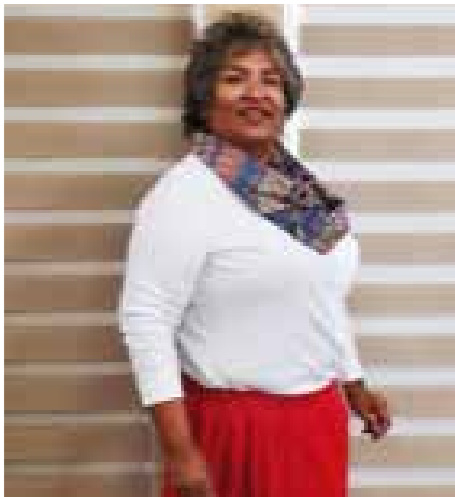
The NAN Women's Council represents women and families in the governance of NAN. The primary purpose of this leadership role is to ensure that women's issues, family issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed within NAN.

The NAN Women's Council honours its leadership role by:

- ▶ Ensuring that women have meaningful participation in the strategies and initiatives led by NAN.
- ▶ Promoting and facilitating community-based and governmental action required to address women's issues by leading forums, advocating for resources and embracing leadership.
- ▶ Providing support and direction to the Deputy Grand Chief responsible for the portfolio on women's issues.
- ▶ Representing women and families in the decision-making process of NAN Chiefs Assemblies.
- ▶ Working to support the collective needs of women's issues, concerns and priorities.

The Women's Council would like to take this opportunity to honour a member we have lost this year, Karen Kaminawaish. Karen represented the spirit of this council and we will carry our memory of her moving forward.

In loving memory of
Karen Kaminawaish



OSHKAATISAK
(ALL YOUNG PEOPLE'S)
COUNCIL

The Oshkaatisak (All Young Peoples) Council represents the youth of NAN. The Oshkaatisak Council strives to promote youth empowerment and engagement with the goal of improving the livelihood and hope for the future of all NAN youth.

The Oshkaatisak Council supports its fellow youth in the following ways:

- ▶ Advocates for NAN youth at the local, regional, national and international level;
- ▶ Shares and promotes the successes of NAN youth and other First Nations youth;
- ▶ Creates opportunities for NAN youth to enhance leadership skills and healthy behaviours;
- ▶ Actively participates in NAN Chiefs Assemblies as the voice of NAN youth; and
- ▶ Identify ways to increase advocacy, coordination and strategic ways to increase resources and supports for NAN youth.



The Oshkaatisak Council at the 2019 Chiefs Spring Assembly in Toronto

Affiliated Organizations

Support and lobbying efforts throughout the 1980s and 1990s helped to establish several important institutions and agencies that NAN is proud to consider part of a strong partnership network.

CHILD WELFARE

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services, Timmins
www.kunuwanimano.com

Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Sioux Lookout
www.tikinagan.org

Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services, Moosonee
www.payukotayno.ca

EDUCATION

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute, Thunder Bay
www.oshki.ca

MEDIA & CULTURE

Ojibway Cree and Cultural Centre, Timmins
www.occc.ca

Wawatay Native Communications Society, Timmins-Sioux Lookout
www.wawataynews.ca

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Thunder Bay
www.nadf.org

POLICING & JUSTICE

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Thunder Bay
www.naps.ca

Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation, Thunder Bay
www.nanlegal.on.ca

HEALTH

Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Special Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre, Thunder Bay
www.kanachihih.ca

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Sioux Lookout
www.slfha.com

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Moose Factory
www.waha.ca

Administration

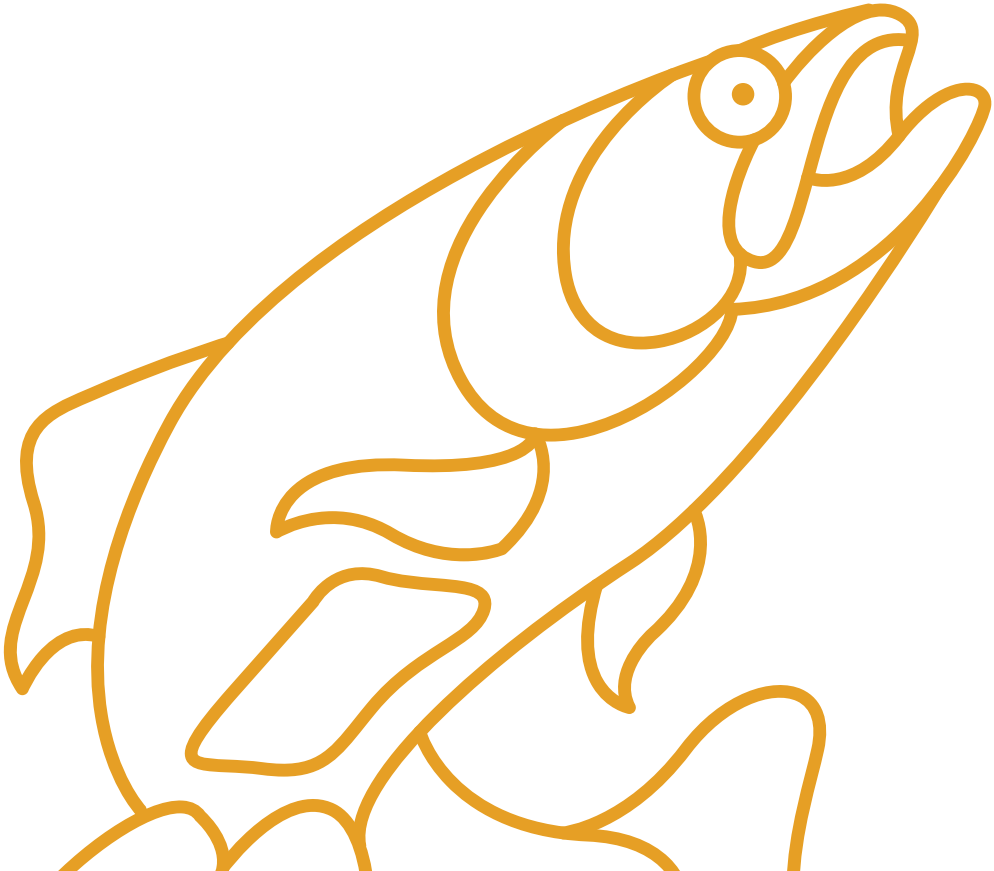
FINANCIAL POSITION

Overall, Nishnawbe Aski Nation is in a strong financial position. In comparison to the prior year, cash resources have dropped by \$5 million (from \$24 million to \$19 million), which is reflected in the reduction of accounts payable at year-end from \$19 million to \$14 million. Capital assets have also increased because of the improvements done to the new building during the year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Our full-time equivalent staff is at 127

This number may fluctuate as projects and initiatives, that are generally of a time-limited nature progress. Our staff complement is approximately **63% Indigenous** with **68% being registered members of NAN First Nations.**



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Communications, Media & I.T.

OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Communications, Media & Information Technology Department produces and distributes information regarding issues and events affecting the people and communities of NAN. Department staff ensure messages and perspectives of NAN are effectively and consistently communicated and received throughout NAN territory, to the media, and to the public on a local, regional, national and international level. The department includes strategic planning for publications and communication materials, media relations, special events, photography, consultation and branding.

Communications focus on increasing awareness of NAN and NAN First Nations through conventional and emerging media. It maintains effective media relations to communicate the needs, challenges and positions of NAN and NAN First Nations to various levels of government and the public. On an ongoing basis, the department recommends specific internal and external communication initiatives/strategies to the NAN Executive Council, NAN leadership (Chiefs), First Nation Councils, First Nation members and other departments in NAN.



Rally to seek help on disastrous James Bay community flooding



Peaceful protest in solidarity with land defenders and rights holders



Launch of the NAN Pride Flag - Kingfisher Lake, July 2019

In coordination with the NAN Executive Council, Communications utilizes media-relations to advocate on behalf of NAN First Nations and supports their initiatives including:

- ▶ Strategic planning through consultation with Executive Council, Chiefs, Elders, community representatives and department managers.
- ▶ Preparation and distribution of news releases, coordination of press conferences, promotion of all NAN Assemblies and events.
- ▶ Promotion of positive news stories (e.g. legal challenges, youth achievements), while positively addressing detrimental issues at the community level (e.g. suicide, crime).
- ▶ Advocacy through media to support First Nations following tragedies and declaration of States of Emergency.

As the incoming workload has expanded, the Communications Department has begun the process of restructuring to ensure that increased demands are met. The Department will remain at three staff members, and the titles of each position will change to better reflect the work that is being done. These changes will come into effect on April 1, 2020.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Website and Social Media

Key Issues and Activities

The NAN website provides a vast amount of information on NAN advocacy, programs, departments, history and culture along with reports, photos, videos and publications. Also, included on the website are media releases, media conferences, events and schedules.

As COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, Communications took a lead role working with the NAN Task Team by creating a new website (www.nancovid19.ca). This website ensures that our leadership and communities are kept up to date on the latest information. This guarantees the immediate needs of our members are met, including those who live off-reserve. The website will provide information on how members living in urban centres can access support during the pandemic. This will be a positive step to streamline information sharing with our communities.

Communications also developed and monitors the email: emergency@nan.ca. This email address ensure that community leadership and members both on and off-reserve have access to assistance when needed and/or are looking for additional COVID-19 information.

Communications also maintains NAN’s social media presence through Facebook (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) and Twitter (@NANComms). These accounts are updated regularly and receive new users and followers daily.

Facebook is used extensively to:

- ▶ Promote political positions of NAN and NAN First Nations.
- ▶ Highlight issues and challenges faced by NAN First Nations.
- ▶ Publicize NAN events and events of NAN First Nations.
- ▶ Advertise employment opportunities within NAN and NAN-affiliated organizations.

Twitter allows NAN to communicate directly to the many members of the news media who follow our “feed”.

To expand our social media presence, NAN has created an Instagram account (nishnawbe_askination). Instagram allows Communications to share photos, videos and go live from our events. Communications will continue to increase use of this platform into the next fiscal year.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) unit consists of the IT Manager and IT Technician who manage the NAN network including the Administration office and Timmins office. The IT unit oversees and implements strategy, planning, acquisition and deployment of the NAN network and supports ongoing training, network and end user support, hardware and software updates. Additionally, the unit supports communications with NAN members and partners through videoconference, webcasting, online and in-person meetings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Communications has supported the Executive Council and NAN departments on several major announcements and events, including:

- ▶ Kashechewan First Nation rally to seek help on James Bay community flooding – April 30, 2019
- ▶ NAN’s 1st Parliamentary Reception at Queen’s Park – May 8, 2019
- ▶ Nishnawbe Aski Police Service 25th Anniversary – June 18, 2019
- ▶ NAN & Carleton University Leadership Summer Program – July 24, 2019
- ▶ NAN Youth Appointment to the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee – August 22, 2019
- ▶ Annual Student Orientation – September 10, 2019
- ▶ Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler Ride Along with Thunder Bay Police Service – October 5, 2019
- ▶ NAN Health Summit – November 19-21, 2019
- ▶ Supported Neskantaga First Nation at the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs’ pre-budget consultations - January 21, 2020
- ▶ Oshkaatisak Annual Youth Gathering -February 14-16, 2020
- ▶ Community Justice & Safety Symposium – March 3&4, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

1,005,304 page views on the NAN website
(increased by 432,859 the previous fiscal year)

3,502 page views on the NAN COVID-19 website
(was created on March 16, 2020)

12.2k followers on Twitter
(increase of 3,578 from previous fiscal year)

7,280 followers on Facebook
(increase of 3,475 from previous fiscal year)

319,093 Facebook engagements per month
(through likes, comments, shares, views, etc.)

1,016 followers on Instagram
(account created on February 19, 2019)

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Seven Youth Inquest

OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Inquest Coordination oversees the implementation process for the Jury Recommendations resulting from the Inquest into the Deaths of Seven First Nations Youth in Thunder Bay.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Mandate

Resolution 16/78: *Implementation of the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations* directs the NAN Executive Council to take all reasonable steps to advocate for the full and timely implementation of all 145 Inquest recommendations and to provide regular updates to the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ NAN continued to work on implementation of the 25 Inquest recommendations directed to NAN.
- ▶ NAN continued to work with all Inquest parties in the overall implementation of Inquest recommendations aimed at improving the safety and education outcomes of NAN First Nations youth.
- ▶ Families of the Seven Youth requested an update on the implementation of Inquest recommendations. In response, NAN organized and hosted the NAN Families Gathering in November 2019. Six families of the Seven Youth attended this three-day event in Thunder Bay. At this event, Inquest parties had the opportunity to present updates on the positive changes that have been made possible through the implementation of the Jury's Recommendations, since the Seven Youth Inquest concluded in June 2016. The families were happy to gather and hear about the systemic changes that have been made and the work that continues, in response to the Jury's Recommendations to ensure the safety of students.
- ▶ NAN continued to coordinate meetings between Inquest parties to help facilitate collaborative discussions on how to address the Inquest recommendations and the issues raised at the Seven Youth Inquest. Throughout the year, productive discussions were held at various Inquest tables created through the Inquest process or at the working groups created to implement specific Inquest recommendations. Inquest implementation process participants included Inquest parties and community stakeholders who continued to work together to find solutions to issues or challenges experienced by First Nation students. Partnerships with governments and community stakeholders were therefore important, necessary and vital to try to achieve the systemic change that is greatly needed in many areas for NAN First Nations.

- ▶ NAN worked with Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO), Matawa Education and Care Centre (Matawa) and the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) in raising issues to government partners at Inquest tables. These organizations operate First Nations mandated schools off-reserve and/or deliver secondary school support programs for students attending secondary school off-reserve. Since they operate off-reserve and are classified as private schools, these organizations have historically not received comparable funding to band-operated First Nation schools or Ontario provincial schools. These schools are anomalies in terms of their funding; yet, even as the federal government has made seismic changes to a major policy and funding approach, i.e. First Nations Education Transformation and the new funding formula, these schools are still excluded. For KO, Matawa and NNEC, the Inquest recommendations are supposed to be transformative by fundamentally improving First Nations education off-reserve. Four years after the Seven Youth Inquest concluded, the First Nation Inquest parties are still trying to be fully included and be adequately funded to operate their schools and deliver their student support services.
- ▶ Funding continued to be a major issue that was consistently raised at Inquest tables. Since 2017, some investments did result from the Inquest recommendations and other investments were made to address youth at risk or youth in crisis. The Choose Life Program and the Emergency Education Action Plan Initiative are examples of funded programs or activities which have had a significant impact in supporting student mental health and student well-being. Therefore, the First Nation Inquest parties want to see the proposal-based programs that are working become permanent programs. Core funding is desperately needed for student support activities off-reserve. Reliable, predictable, stable and sustainable funding was to result from Inquest recommendations for KO, Matawa and NNEC. Meanwhile, funding commitments or investments still tend to be short-term, unreliable, unpredictable and are far from being sustainable. Funding is also mostly proposal-based, which is a barrier to long-term planning when proposals must be submitted year to year.
- ▶ Another notable issue was the Education Partnerships Program (EPP) review and significant funding guideline changes. Since 2016, the EPP has funded Inquest coordination activities for the First Nations Inquest parties and has also indirectly supported the implementation of Inquest recommendations through funded activities by NAN and Tribal Councils. Prior to the EPP review, there was uncertainty each year as to whether Inquest coordination activities would be funded. Due to funding guideline changes to EPP and the funding program being made available to all First Nations in Canada in 2020-2021, this has resulted in even greater uncertainty for Inquest funding, which includes funding for Inquest Coordination. Inquest coordination is integral to keep the momentum of the implementation process going and to ensure all Inquest parties are kept accountable to fulfil and complete Inquest recommendations.
- ▶ Some community leaders have asked about the Inquest recommendations at the community-level and when these recommendations will be addressed and has also been expressed at Inquest tables. There are some challenges in implementing community-level recommendations for a variety of reasons, including the fact that Inquest coordination is inadequately resourced to focus on those recommendations. Implementation of community-level recommendations would further require community participation and engagement. NAN will continue to try and secure funding to be able to engage NAN First Nations.
- ▶ In the 2018 final report of the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) review of the Thunder Bay Police, the OIPRD recommended that at least nine deaths of Indigenous people be reinvestigated. The four cases of the Seven Youth are included in the nine reinvestigations recommended. NAN participates on the Executive Governance Committee overseeing the investigation process and regular updates are brought to Inquest Political Table meetings to keep KO, Matawa and NNEC informed on the progress of the investigations process affecting their former students.

HIGHLIGHTS

Status of Recommendation	Quantity	Recommendation #
The content or intent of the recommendation is already in place	6	5, 7, 137, 143, 144, 145
Implemented	7	33, 50, 76, 77, 90, 91, 94
Will be implemented or in progress	10	21, 36, 40, 44, 47, 49, 81, 87,114, 116
Rejected	1	35
Rejected due to flaws	1	61
Total	25	

- Recommendation 21: The NAN Women and Youth Department has been developing a Youth Leadership Training Manual for a youth leadership training program to be used by youth leaders or youth councils. Once the manual is completed, youth will be engaged and trained at the community level, if funding is available to NAN to help conduct the training.

► Recommendation 33: The NAN Education Department continues to work with the federal government and First Nations on the Education Jurisdiction negotiations. Community consultation sessions were held in two NAN communities and an update on the negotiations was provided at the Chiefs Special Assembly on Education held in Thunder Bay in February 2020.

► Recommendation 36: The NAN Mental Health Interdepartmental Group began to focus on mental health services at the community level. Part of the work involves aligning current departmental activities, the NAN resolution on the NAN-Wide Life Promotion Strategy and the NAN-wide suicide prevention strategy referenced in Recommendation 36. The Choose Life program, which is intended for youth at risk of suicide, was extended into March 2019 for another three years. The evaluation is ongoing and NAN will continue to advocate
- for Choose Life to become a permanent funded program. A concept paper on Life Promotion Hubs was prepared and presented to Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller in February 2020. NAN proposed a Community Hubs Pilot Project as part of its larger Life Promotion Strategy to be developed and implemented across NAN territory.

► Recommendation 40: NAN Inquest Coordination and NAN Health Transformation started a project to adapt and share existing health resources on the consequences of substance misuse or abuse. These resources will be shared with NAN First Nation community health clinics and schools, parents and students, as well as the off-reserve First Nation schools. Some content may be developed for radio broadcast to promote information in the First Nations languages in NAN territory, pending availability of funding.

► Recommendation 44: It was initially contemplated that a comprehensive information package on school options was to be developed in response to this recommendation. NAN Education will instead develop an interactive website on school options with a simpler hardcopy version for those communities with unreliable internet. Information collection is ongoing.

NEXT STEPS - MOVING FORWARD

- Continue to work on the outstanding Inquest recommendations directed to NAN and in collaboration with other Inquest parties, including all other Inquest recommendations to ensure Inquest parties continue implementation activities.
- Continue to provide coordination and administrative support to the implementation process, including, but not limited to the Political Table, the Education Table, the Task Teams and working groups.
- Continue to work with the Education Table and the Task Teams to implement action items identified on work plans and to seek necessary resources as required.
- Continue to identify a process to engage with NAN First Nations for the Inquest recommendations at the community-level and to seek necessary resources, as required.
- Complete reporting to NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly, as required.
- Complete reporting on the Seven Youth Inquest, including supplying copies of reports to the families of the seven youth.

- Recommendations 47, 49, 81 and 87: NAN Education held a meeting in August 2019 to engage and consult with education representatives from NAN First Nations and organizations and school boards. Discussions included expanding the role of education counsellors to high schools attended by students from their First Nation, the need for comprehensive student assessments, continuity of care plans for students who are sent home or transferring between school and harm reduction strategies. Participants were interested in continuing to work together to identify solutions to help students transition between schools.
- Recommendation 91: A second launch of the “Am I Missing?” initiative was held in Thunder Bay in September 2019, with other Inquest parties. As part of the launch, print resources were distributed to NAN First Nations to promote the “Am I Missing?” initiative in the community. NAN is also developing an educational guide on what to do in a missing person matter or search, which will be distributed to the NAN First Nations for their information.

IN MEMORY



Jethro Anderson



Reggie Bushie



Robyn Harper



Kyle Morrisseau



Paul Panacheese



Curran Strang



Jordan Wabasse

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Justice

OVERVIEW

In 2019, Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s (NAN) Justice Portfolio was organized into four sections to help organize the vast amount of justice issues at hand:

- Community Relations
- Government Advocacy
- Community Development (both urban and community level)
- Recommendations and Strategies

The main objectives of each section were narrowed down to:

- ▶ Empower and support Indigenous community justice systems.
- ▶ Ensure justice recommendations - Calls to Action are being implemented with the nation to nation perspective in mind.
- ▶ Advocate for fair access to justice for Indigenous peoples at all government levels.
- ▶ Promote creative community-based justice systems.
- ▶ Deliver a wide range of law-related services including: legal, public legal education and law reform services.

The ultimate goals of the Justice Portfolio are to:

- ▶ Ensure justice legislation and policies are being drafted with Indigenous inclusion where traditional laws, restorative justice practices, community by-laws and the unique holistic justice systems of our communities are being respected.
- ▶ Advocate and develop innovative programming towards reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples.
- ▶ Ensure Indigenous Youth in the Criminal Justice system are at the forefront of this portfolio.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Justice Objective 1:
Empowering and Supporting Indigenous Community Justice Systems

NAN Youth Justice Conference

The NAN Youth Justice Conference was held on June 17 and 18, 2019. The event was held to raise awareness of justice systems and to provide an opportunity for youth to speak openly on what matters most to them. This mini conference provided workshops over the two-day period. The number of participants was limited to allow for more focused workshops and directed outcomes. During the conference, NAN youth were asked three main questions and provided feedback.

What are the justice issues in your community?		
Taken into jail for “nothing”	Favoritism	Wrongly accused
Not knowing their rights	Lack of support	Without restorative justice
Wrongly mistreated	Arson	Murder
Nepotism	Vandalism	Lack of parenting skills
Abuse	Parents that are too mean and that do not keep track of their children	Not knowing how the justice system works
Lack of police officers and resources	People get to walk away when they shouldn’t	Young youth are unaware what they are doing is wrong
What kind of ways are there to make a wrong right?		
One way is to confront it don’t deny what happened. It happened and it should be dealt with.	Teach others how to take responsibility	Restorative justice
Love, do not hate	Pray and apologize	Land based learning and healing
Facilitate a healing circle	We need Tim Horton’s on reserve TH= Happy	Learn and accept your faults
Going to sweat	Focus on healing NOT PUNISHMENT!	Admit your mistakes, no denial
Share your story	Healing lodges not correctional centers	Grow from your mistakes
Take responsibility for your actions		

Moving Forward- What ideas do you have that would prevent youth from becoming involved with the justice system?		
Land base activities	Youth centres	Better job opportunities
Prevention services	Child support workers	Training opportunities
Cultural activities, like company hunting, harvesting, gathering	Continuous recreational activities	More resources and programming gearing towards culture land base lifestyle
Internships or apprentice program	Provide a gym for youth to workout their problems	Education on Rights and types of crimes
Arenas	Youth workers	Youth councils
Show our options such as traveling, traditional teachings, fully funded activities for the youth	More information regarding safe places for youth that feel unsafe within their communities that have high or low crime rates	Information sessions.
Lengths of sentences	How the justice systems work	How a criminal-records affects your life
Daily sports	More funding for the choose life program	Prevention services

Community Justice & Safety Symposium 2020

NAN hosted and led the first joint symposium between NAN, Nishnawbe Aski Police Services (NAPS) and Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) on March 3 and 4, 2020, at the Victoria Inn Conference Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Steering Committee members were equally represented by NAN, NAPS and NALSC. The Committee began planning an agenda in the Fall of 2019 to ensure all issues at hand were covered.

The Symposium strengthened many Indigenous and non-Indigenous relationships by bringing partners together to network, discuss and speak about the barriers to justice within the current mainstream justice system. NAN show cased and presented what each organization/corporation has been doing within communities. The Symposium empowered communities by providing a platform for community members to speak on specific issues and have panel discussions with experts who work directly in northern Ontario.

There was a total of 200 delegates, staff and partners in attendance per day. The interactive online justice website was developed for the public to locate information on the symposium (www.nanjusticesummit.ca).

The final report on the Symposium is being developed and will be available Fall 2020. Delegates will be given an opportunity to provide feedback and an evaluation on the successes of the symposium.

Justice Objective 2: Ensuring Recommendations, Calls to Action are Being Implemented

Innovative Programming Development

The NAN Justice Department has explored many avenues and opportunities to support programming and justice advocacy work. The Department is striving to promote awareness around the revitalization of Indigenous laws and the equity for Aboriginal People in the legal system. In keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations, to establish an Indigenous law institute for the development, use and understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice.

Justice Objective 3: Advocating for Fair Access to Justice for Indigenous Peoples at All Government Levels

Ministry of Attorney General, Ontario, Indigenous Justice Division Advisory Group Indigenous Justice Group (IJG)

Advocating for Aboriginal rights, Indigenous rights regarding Aboriginal Law, Canadian Law and Traditional Law is learning to balance both systems and ensure all systems can co-exist and not infringe upon any person’s basic human rights. The group strives to drive change alongside other Indigenous Nations across Ontario to push the justice mandates of the Indigenous Justice Group at the provincial and federal level. This group stems out of the Ministry of Attorney General’s Indigenous Justice Division. The IJG’s membership and status will become a permanent advisory group to the Indigenous Justice Division at the Ministry of Attorney General. The terms of reference will be drafted to reflect this change of an important driving force for First Nation justice rights.

Corrections Jails Facility 2020 Review

The Justice Policy Analyst attended information and recommendation sessions regarding the new corrections/jail facility set to be completed in 2025 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Feedback was provided during these sessions. This new facility will house jail and corrections inmates, both male and female, with a total of 325 beds and expanded rehabilitation spaces.

Kenora Justice Centre Pilot Project

Through the Ministry of Attorney General’s Criminal Law Division, funds have been confirmed for an Indigenous Focused Justice Centre that will be built and developed to support the Kenora District’s overwhelming social issues surrounding the judicial system. The NAN justice sector sits on the planning and advisory council directing this pilot project. Agreements on this Centre are currently being negotiated. More information can be found here: <https://kenora-cjc-ccj.ca/>.

Ontario Human Rights Commission

NAN helps to raise awareness of the awful conditions and overcrowding happening at the facilities of Kenora District Jail and Thunder Bay District Jail.

Justice Objective 4: Ex-Officio Board Member, Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation

Indian Day Schools Class Action

NAN has joined NALSC in aiding members to put in their claims and offers aftercare for mental and spiritual supports through the NAN Wellness Department. However, caution is advised as the process of inputting a claim can be triggering and overwhelming.

Bill 161: Smarter, Stronger Legal Services Act

NAN Justice Department is working with NALSC to ensure protective measures that are currently recognized within legislation (Legal Aid Services Act) and protective measures of Indigenous rights to justice are put in place. Bill 161 went through its first reading Fall 2019 and if the Bill is passed, it will amend many legal acts without proper or true consultation. NAN Justice Department is working to bring awareness to this and is working on a legislative plan to address concerns with this bill as it stands.

Legal Aid Ontario

Many changes came to how Ontario handles legal aid and due to cuts, some changes were put in place regarding certificates. There is also additional pressure to modernize its services. Soon, there will be more efforts to work together with Indigenous peoples in Ontario and Legal Aid Ontario programming.

OTHER ACTIVITES

Law School

The NAN Justice Department developed relationships and participated on the Lakehead University Law School Council and attended restorative justice sessions.

Urban Council

The NAN Justice Department sits on the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council.

A short-term justice goal is to begin networking in the Timmins area/East District of NAN to sit on similar committees to the Crime Prevention Council or Release from Custody Task Force that in the early stages of forming in that area.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Attorney General for Ontario, has announced the appointment of six new justices to the Ontario Court of Justice that will come into effect May 23, 2019.

Justice Evelyn J Baxter has extensive legal experience, including ten plus years as an adjudicator with the Independent Assessment Process; the federal tribunal adjudicating cases involving former students of Indian Residential Schools.

Justice Baxter has also recently served as an adjudicator for the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and as the Chair of the Mercury Disability Board. She has been a keynote speaker at various conferences and organizations, including the United Nations.

Justice Baxter is Anishnawbekwe from Northern Ontario and is a member of the Marten Falls First Nation in the Treaty #9 area. Chief Justice Lise Maisonneuve has assigned Justice Baxter to Kenora. NAN Executive, Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, attended in support of Justice Baxter.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Policing

ISSUE SUMMARY

This briefing note provides an update on the journey to securing a legislated First Nation policing option in Ontario.

A previous briefing note was provided on this topic in May of 2019. In that update, we summarized the contents of the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019, which enacts the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (the Act). Section 32 of the Act creates a mechanism by which a First Nations Police Service can opt-in to the set of standards that applies to all other police services in the province of Ontario, under the Police Services Act (PSA).

Once a police service “opts in”, that service would be held to the same legislated standards as other police services in Ontario, and the Act also establishes measures to ensure adequate funding. For example, the same standards for recruitment or equipment procurement would apply to Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) as already apply to a municipal non-Indigenous police force.

MANDATE

Through Resolution 16/82: Implementation of Draft Statutory and Regulatory Framework for NAPS, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the NAN Executive Council to take the steps necessary to ensure that the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) becomes designated as an essential service, backed by the force of legislation.laws, restorative justice practices, community by-laws and the unique holistic justice systems of our communities are being respected. Advocate and develop innovative programming towards reducing the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples. Ensure Indigenous Youth in the Criminal Justice system are at the forefront of this portfolio.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS/
IDENTIFIED ISSUES

Legislative Background:
First Nations policing opt-in
under the Community Safety
and Policing Act, 2019

In February 2015, NAN, NAPS, and Ontario signed Terms of Reference for an Adequacy Standards Table (AST). This led to negotiations regarding legislative changes that would create a system enabling NAPS to be treated like any other non-First Nations police service in Ontario. After an extensive drafting process involving significant NAN input, the previous Liberal government passed the Safer Ontario Act (Bill 175) in the Spring of 2018. This historic legislation contained provisions setting out a mechanism by which First Nation communities/ police service boards could “opt in” under the same policing standards that apply to non-First Nations police services. Bill 175 was scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2019. However, following the election of Premier Doug Ford, the Safer Ontario Act was revoked just days before it was set to come into effect.

Despite this setback, Premier Ford’s government eventually proved willing to continue developing this process, in large part thanks to advocacy from NAN. In 2019, Premier Ford’s government enacted new legislation that incorporates the relevant provisions of the previous Bill 175. The new legislation, the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (the Act), has been enacted, but it is not yet in force. Most importantly, the Act includes an almost identical opt-in model for First Nation police services as the model originally contained in the previous Bill 175.

A summary of key features of the legislation is below.

Highlights of The Legislative
First Nation Policing Option
- The need for legislation

The status quo of First Nation police services existing and being funded through tripartite agreements has long been recognized as wholly inadequate. Insufficient funding and a lack of legislated adequacy standards threatened safety in First Nation communities. The 2013 Public Safety Notice issued by NAN outlined the failures and shortcomings of the status quo:

- ▶ Chronic underfunding;
- ▶ Provincially-mandated standard of policing as mandatory but unattainable;
- ▶ Absence of promised modular units; and
- ▶ Detachments without adequate fire suppression systems.

As explained in previous briefing notes, there are five key features in the new legislation that pertain to First Nation police services and boards. These features were negotiated through the AST, involving NAN and NAPS.

1. Cultural Autonomy: Inclusion under the new legislation is at a First Nation’s request only. Ontario must consider any such request and may provide funding and guidance to assist with the process. Once a First Nation board is legally constituted, First Nations retain control of their police service boards, which are not required to have government members. First Nation boards must consult with communities to ensure cultural values and traditions are considered when developing board policies. Once a board is constituted, Ontario cannot alter a First Nation police service’s status without considering the safety needs and cultural traditions of affected communities.

- 2. Opting into Safety Backed by Rule of Law: Once a First Nation board is constituted, First Nations policing organizations will be subject to the same legal standards and required to provide the same services as all other police forces in Ontario.
- 3. Funding Follows Need: In addition to government program funding, which is not responsive to actual public safety requirements, First Nations can seek supplementary funding from Ontario to ensure compliance with legal standards. Instead of limiting police services by inadequate funding, Ontario would be required by law to provide enough resources to meet adequacy standards in the context of empirical community needs. Once constituted under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, any dispute over that additional funding would be decided by an independent arbitrator. The legislation recognizes that funding for First Nation police to provide “adequate and effective” services must cover adequate, effective, and culturally appropriate services: the arbitrator must consider whether any First Nation board policies intended to reflect the cultural traditions of First Nation communities affect the funding required.
- 4. Equal Status: First Nation policing will finally be considered an essential service, as First Nation police officers will have the same legal status as all other police officers in Ontario.
- 5. Culturally Competent Oversight: First Nation communities can finally count on the same level of oversight for their police as the rest of Ontario, conducted by the same oversight agencies. Bill 68 introduces changes to the oversight bodies, but these changes apply across the board. Oversight agencies will be required to establish the cultural competence to work in and with First Nation communities on matters of public safety.

DIRECTION/FOLLOW UP REQUIRED

NAN and NAPS are currently involved in two major ongoing processes. One has been running for over a year, while the other is just now commencing:

1) NAN-NAPS Adequacy Standards Table: Opt-in Process

Work continues negotiating a NAPS-specific process, negotiated at the Adequacy Standards Table, that would establish the steps necessary for NAPS to opt in under the Act.

A first major step in this process was a visit to NAN territory from officials at ISC and the Ontario Solicitor General’s office, on February 3-4, 2020. During this visit, NAN, NAPS, Canada, and Ontario had the opportunity to discuss strategies for improving NAPS capacity in advance of a planned transition to operating under the Act. Government officials also benefitted from learning about the NAN/NAPS context, including the challenges of remote policing.

At the moment, NAN and NAPS continue to engage in developing what that “opt in” process will look like. The first major step is a Readiness Assessment, which will help identify NAPS capacity needs and how it can be supported to meet the policing adequacy standards. NAPS is also involved in the earliest stages of developing a Comprehensive Proposal and Implementation Plan.

2) NAN-NAPS Police Funding Negotiations Table

On January 10, 2018, the federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced a federal investment to support priorities such as officer safety, policing equipment and salaries for First Nation communities currently served under the First Nations Policing Program (FNPP) across Canada.

In response to that funding announcement, NAPS requested and was granted the establishment of a new NAPS Funding Negotiations Table. The stated goal of this Funding Negotiations Table is enhancing the quality and sustainability of First Nation policing in NAN communities.

Over the summer of 2020, NAN, NAPS, Canada, and Ontario discussed and developed the Terms of Reference for this negotiating table on the issue of NAPS funding. A finalized draft of the Terms of Reference has been circulated, and has already been agreed to by NAN, NAPS, and Ontario. We are hopeful Canada will agree soon.

The Terms of Reference acknowledge the recently passed Act (described above), including its explicit principle of “ensuring that all parts of Ontario, including First Nation reserves, receive equitable levels of policing.” All Parties therefore approach the Funding Negotiations Table in the knowledge that NAPS is currently working towards opting in under the Act, with all the adequacy standards and funding expectations that entails.

Once the Terms of Reference are finalized, the Funding Negotiations Table will begin meeting virtually. It is expected the Funding Negotiations Table will continue remotely for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the concern caused by revocation of the original Bill 175 just ten days before the legislated Indigenous



NAPS Constables participate in Weenusk First Nation’s Community Basketball Tournament.

policing option was to come into force, the achievements of the AST in negotiating a legislated option have not been lost. The hard fought-for provisions and framework are reproduced in Bill 68, which received royal assent in early 2019. While the COVID-19 pandemic put a pause on negotiations relating to the opt-in process and to funding, it is anticipated that these negotiations will be picking up imminently. Ontario has recently reached out to NAN to discuss regulations and policy guiding the opt-in process. As mentioned, we are now only waiting on Canada to agree to a Funding Table Terms of Reference that has already been approved by NAN, NAPS, and Ontario. Going forward, NAN and the NAPS Board will continue to work with Ontario and Canada to develop a step-by-step process for NAPS to opt in under the general policing standards, so that NAN communities may benefit from the same standards for policing that apply to all other non-Indigenous communities in Ontario.

NAN and the NAPS Board also look forward to commencing the NAPS Funding Negotiation Table soon, guided by its stated purposes of improving the delivery of police services under the First Nations Policing Program.



NAPS Constables at Ministik Public School’s Kindness Week.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Governance and Treaty

OVERVIEW

The programs and activities of the department include the Specific Claims Research Program, Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination (RIRSD) Treaty Table, Fur Trapping and Licensing Program, Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement and monitoring of the hunting and fishing, trapping and harvesting activities of its member communities.

The main objective is to protect Treaty and Aboriginal rights held by the communities and community members of Treaty No. 9 and No. 5 and to ensure these rights are not infringed upon. It is also intended to move beyond programming and focus on assisting Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations move beyond the Indian Act governance systems to self-governing Nations.

INDIGENOUS MEANING Treaty Table Discussions

NAN continues to engage with Canada on the co-development of a Treaty dialogue mechanism that could lead to a Treaty Table Protocol Agreement. This was mandated by NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly through Resolution 14/04: *Treaty Implementation*, “to explore a process to reconcile the Treaties” and Resolution 14/38: *Treaty Implementation and Treaty Community Tables*, “to set-up a Treaty table and/or community Treaty tables with our Treaty partners”. Over the past year, NAN has had five face-to-face meetings and six conference calls with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to discuss a process such as the NAN First Nations Treaty Table as mandated by the leadership.

The federal government has shifted its approach to engaging with Indigenous peoples on their rights with a focus on co-developed paths going forward and flexible solutions, moving away from the pre-determined, colonial and paternalistic processes.

In 2016, Canada introduced exploratory tables that will advance the recognition of Indigenous RIRSD. It is part of the “Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework” that was announced in February 2018. The first step in the RIRSD process is the preliminary agreement such as the MOU, Protocol, or a Term Sheet. The Preliminary Agreement is a process agreement that sets out how the parties will work together to develop joint mandate(s) for negotiations. Once the joint mandate is finalized, the parties will begin negotiations on substantive agreements. The minister has the authority to sign the preliminary agreement(s) without a cabinet mandate. If the negotiations lead into a final agreement, the minister will seek a cabinet mandate to implement the final agreement.

At the February 13-14, 2020 meeting, CIRNAC reported that they had gone through a preliminary consultation with the people involved with the approvals and indicated that they are prepared to recommend the NAN proposal (Treaty Table) to the Federal Officials Group (FOG) and Federal Steering Committee (FSC).

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, work had begun drafting the Treaty Protocol Agreement. Due to pandemic and global shut down, NAN and Canada agreed to adjust work plan timelines and continue developing the draft protocol through conference/video calls. Canada had also indicated that the FOG and FSC work is suspended and will reconvene after the restrictions are lifted. This delay will give more time to continue work and prepare internal engagements with NAN leadership.

National Office of the Treaty Commissioner

The Liberal government continues to focus on reconciliation during the Throne Speech and remains a core priority as it continues to move forward on the journey of reconciliation.

The Throne Speech highlighted nine key commitments that the Liberal government wants to achieve during the current mandate: “Take new steps to ensure the Government is living up to the spirit and intent of treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements made with Indigenous Peoples”.

CIRNAC Minister Carolyn Bennett’s mandate letter included a provision to “co-develop with Indigenous Peoples, a new distinctions-based process for the ongoing review, maintenance, and enforcement of Canada’s treaty obligations between the Crown and Indigenous communities. This work will be supported by a new National Treaty Commissioner’s Office that will be designed and established with Indigenous partners”.

The creation of the Treaty Commissioner’s Office has not started. NAN has been advised that the work is being undertaken internally by CIRNAC and their policy team is taking the lead. This will ensure that the NAN-Canada Protocol Agreement will make a smooth run up the ladder as it gets vetted through the system. NAN will continue to monitor this commitment and report to leadership once it gets implemented.

Ontario Human Rights Commission – UNDRIP Strategy and Policy Framework

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has committed to engage in a strategy to use the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the UN Declaration) to frame its work to address racial discrimination and inequality in service provision experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit (“Indigenous”) Peoples in Ontario.

The OHRC has committed to take steps to clarify and demonstrate how the vision of the UN Declaration can be used to understand, interpret and implement human rights for Indigenous Peoples under the Human Rights Code.

The OHRC aims to develop a policy framework for using the UN Declaration to address racial discrimination and inequalities in service provision under the Human Rights Code and will demonstrate how the framework should be applied, using examples and case studies related to lived experience in selected service areas. The policy will offer guidance for First Nations, Métis and Inuit on how to use Ontario’s human rights system to realize rights protected in the UN Declaration and will include recommendations for government, organizations and individuals on meeting their human rights obligations to Indigenous Peoples.

In May 2019, the OHRC formed an Indigenous Reconciliation Advisory Group to guide them in their work and invited NAN to participate. The task of the Advisory Group is to provide advice and feedback to the OHRC regarding various aspects of the work including, for example, the scope of issues and areas of focus, background research, engagement with Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous stakeholders and the content of publications and communications.

Prior to COVID-19, the Advisory Group had completed the Terms of Reference and had begun discussions regarding the scope of policy development. Initially, the Advisory Group members had been asked to identify one service area to focus on in detail when developing a policy. While members advanced several different service areas, there was also significant support for finding a way to take a more holistic approach highlighting the interconnections and interrelationships among service areas and the discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples. It was agreed that rather than focusing on particular service areas, the Advisory Group might instead look at the “values” or “world views” that underlie colonial social and political systems in contrast to those that underlie Indigenous social and political systems.

The Working Group had planned a two-day meeting to discuss how the holistic approach would relate to the UN Declaration and the Human Rights Code. The meeting was scheduled for March 30-31, 2020 but had to be postponed due to COVID-19; the work will resume once it is safe to do so.

Specific Claims

NAN continues to assist NAN First Nations in researching and submitting their specific claims. NAN receives funding from Canada through CIRNAC to pay for the research and legal costs related to the development of a claim. In 2019, two First Nations successfully ratified and concluded their Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims. Four First Nations are still negotiating their TLEs. NAN is currently researching two new claims and have identified six more claims in our workplan for 2020-21. Furthermore, we are currently experiencing delays in accessing records from the government archives due to COVID-19.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement

The Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) program continue to be funded both by Canada and Ontario. CORDA continues to support First Nation communities, organizations and individuals by funding diverse local projects related to:

- ▶ Trapping
- ▶ Forestry
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Resource-Based Tourism
- ▶ Traditional Harvesting
- ▶ Stewardship Activities

In addition, it provides a partnership forum between Provincial Treaty Organizations, the Independent First Nations, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to work collaboratively on a common goal of supporting economic development initiatives of First Nations.

In fulfilling this mandate, CORDA funded 36 projects for 2019-20 fiscal year across the province. Of those, nine NAN projects were funded; seven projects supported trapping related activities; one supported a fish hatchery and training; and the other supported a sawmill project.

NAN Fur Management and Licensing

The Fur Management and Licensing program is responsible for administering and issuing Fur Harvesters Licenses to NAN trappers. The NAN Fur Depot is available to NAN trappers so they can continue to access the international markets through the auction houses. The program also provides technical support in access to private and crown lands, trap line allocation and building trap and incidental cabins to member First Nations.

Licensing

NAN has been issuing fur harvesters licenses since 1996 through the NAN Fur Harmonization Agreement with Ontario, an agreement that recognizes the NAN Fur Harvesters License.

- ▶ The NAN License can be issued for one year or three years at the cost of \$10 or \$25.
- ▶ Approximately 113 Fur Harvester Licenses were issued during the 2019-20 season.
- ▶ 84% of the trappers are male.
- ▶ 16% female (a slight increase from the 2018-19 season).
- ▶ The three-year license is the most preferred by NAN trappers.

Fur Auction Industry



North American Fur Auctions, 2017

The fur industry and trappers learned of an unexpected announcement on October 31, 2019, by one of North America’s largest and oldest auction house, North American Fur Auctions (NAFA), that it had filed for a creditor protection. The court protection allowed NAFA to restructure, reorganize their business operations and develop a plan for their financial affairs. This resulted in NAFA ceasing their operation and giving the fur industry a bleak future.



Fur Harvesters Auction Inc., 2018

This action impacted NAN trappers who had shipped their fur to NAFA the previous season. According to NAFA, there are approximately 300 unsold wild fur from NAN harvesters and a large percentage of the fur are marten. It was unclear whether the unsold fur would be recovered or returned to trappers. NAFA had reassured NAN that trappers will not lose their furs and would seek to include them on the Fur Harvesters Auction’s March sale. Unfortunately, the FHA sale was cancelled due to COVID-19 and the auction has been rescheduled to August 20-22, 2020. There is uncertainty as to whether the auction will proceed.

The Fur Harvesters Auction has become the only auction house in North America. As a result, the FHA had to make some changes to their business operations to accommodate all the trappers, including the former NAFA customers. Some of these changes include increasing fur storage (warehouse), hiring more workers and the discontinuation of issuing advances. This means, the NAN fur depot had stopped issuing fur advances to NAN trappers and are still receiving furs and coordinating the shipments.

NAFA will continue to be monitored as well as the work with the Auction houses to ensure that any unsold furs are properly credited to trappers and not to the creditors of NAFA.

Promotional Video

NAN is preparing a short educational video about trapping. The video project started in October 2019 and the production commenced in December to February 2020. The purpose of the video is to encourage and educate the youth about the importance of trapping and intends to bring awareness of their harvesting rights. This work involved the video crew taking field shots and conducting interviews with the community members and youth about the importance of trapping. The video is currently at the editing stage and the completion date is expected to be delayed due to COVID-19. The video will be made available to NAN communities once completed.

Trapper Training

As part of promoting trapper education and awareness, we continue to support NAN communities by assisting in the delivery of Fur Management and Conservation training. The purpose of this training is to encourage novice trappers to learn safe handling of new, powerful traps and devices and be aware of the International Humane Trapping Standards.

This past year, four communities (Mishkeegogamang, Cat Lake, Attawapiskat and North Caribou Lake) delivered courses to their members and in total, 30 students completed and received their certificates.

HIGHLIGHTS

The highlight for the NAN Fur Management and Licensing are as follows:

30 students successfully completed the Fur Management and Conservation Course.

Post-production of the NAN Fur Trapping Education Video for promoting youth in commercial trapping.

NAN issued 113 Fur Harvester Licenses.

NAN Fur Depot received approximately 500 wild furs.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Education

OVERVIEW

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) works with NAN Chiefs, organizations and First Nations in carrying out the mandates given by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and requests for advocacy. The mandates provided by the Chiefs-in-Assembly through resolution shape the political direction, goals and objectives undertaken by the Education Department.

The NAN Education Department advocates for quality education programs and services for NAN First Nations; adequate and sustainable funding from the Government of Canada; and educational advocacy for the NAN First Nations and First Nation organizations. The Education Department is mandated to work with the NAN Education Committee.

The Education Department provides information, analysis and coordination related to First Nations education to Chiefs-in-Assembly, the NAN Chiefs Committee on Education, the NAN Education Committee, NAN Education Organizations and NAN First Nations. This includes information from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Ontario Ministry of Education (EDU), Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Chiefs of Ontario (COO), and other relevant Ministries, Organizations and Initiatives as required.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Transforming First Nations
Elementary and Secondary Education

Resolution 17-48: *NAN Specific Process for Education*

Resolution 18-08: *Interim and Regional Education Funding Formula*

Resolution 17-48: *NAN Specific Education Process* provided the mandate for the Executive Council to advocate with the federal government for a NAN specific process on education.

Resolution 19-08: *Interim and Regional Education Funding Formula* provided the mandate to the NAN Education Committee to undertake work relating to the Interim Funding Formula.

There is a process underway to modernize the First Nations Elementary and Secondary Funding. NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly have called on the government to commit to the principle of equity and to work with NAN to determine funding and support service levels. These commitments will allow NAN First Nations and education organizations to provide high quality education programs and services as determined by NAN First Nations. An "Interim Funding Formula" was developed by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). First Nations and First Nation organizations now receive their education funding based on the interim funding formula.

When the Interim Funding Formula was introduced, the federal government implemented a three-year funding protection window. This window ensures that the funding for First Nations and First Nation organizations does not drop below the 2017/2018 funding allocations while Regional Education Agreements are negotiated and the Interim Funding Formula is reviewed.

Language Strategy

The Language Strategy has a body of language experts and Elders that have collaborated through face-to-face meetings and have provided wisdom, teachings and a meaningful roadmap for ways language can be mobilized in homes, communities, classrooms and on the land.

In 2019-2020, the Language Strategy Committee joined a meeting in collaboration with other Tribal Councils and language experts to develop a language framework for urban students. The work is a draft concept framework that has yet to be complemented, revised and proceeded forward.

To support language learning and youth recreational engagement, the Education Team travelled to two First Nation communities and one youth focused sporting event.

Kingfisher Lake First Nation held its first annual co-ed broomball and hockey tournament. This event was a success as it brought together youth to highlight good mental health, health and wellness.

The Lil Bands Hockey Tournament was held in Dryden the week of February 3 to 9, 2020. The Education Team attended to show their support and assist with activities relating to language. The participants showed great interest in the language activities that were offered since they were tailored to their level of language engagement.

The Mushkegowuk Cup is a youth focused hockey tournament that was held in Timmins on February 14 to 16, 2020. Three Mushkegowuk language teachers were recruited to run the language learning initiatives for the youth. The program was like the language learning program that was previously held and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

In 2018, the Language Strategy Committee was approached by the NAN Mental Health department to assist in the development of a model that focuses on mental health. Out of the collaboration, along with the Matokan Model, a draft mental health concept model was developed and is currently transitioning to be used as an option model within the Land-based Learning Framework. The Land-based Learning Framework is an optional education delivery developed to support First Nation communities surrounding COVID-19 disruptions.

First Nations Life Long Learning Table

First Nation Lifelong Learning Table (FNLLT) is a bilateral table between the Province of Ontario and NAN which examines the enhancement and accommodation of the academic, mental health and health and safety needs of all First Nation students within NAN.

The First Nations Life Long Learning Table (FNLLT) project runs from August 2019 to July 2020 with the final reporting due at the end of July. Due to project revisions and redistribution focuses, some of the long term planned activities were unmet; thus, as advised by the Indigenous Education Office, the budget has been repurposed to facilitate the needs of the students during the COVID-19 crisis.

Emergency Education Action Plan Initiatives

On-Call Communication Centre Call Line and promotion cards

- ▶ The On-Call Communication Centre Call Line was maintained and was renamed as the Student Help and Dispatch Line.
- ▶ Updated promotion cards were printed and distributed to partners.
- ▶ Promotion cards are to be handed out at all student events.

Student Urban Living Transition Workbook

- ▶ A series of student transition workbooks are in development.
- ▶ The first book in the series is a 50-page, student-focused, activity-based workbook for students to begin preparing for their transition prior to moving into their boarding home.
- ▶ The first book will also include activities to help students become comfortable in their new environment.
- ▶ The language used in the workbook is simple and students can be guided through by any adult.

Land-Based Activities

- ▶ The NAN Land-Based Program was supported through the Emergency Education Action Plan Initiatives.
- ▶ The Community Wellness department has more information on this activity.

Virtual Learning Environments

- ▶ Funding was provided to Matawa, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council and Keewaytinook Internet High School to expand their eLearning programming.

Student Safety Brochure

- ▶ A Student Safety Brochure was developed and printed.
- ▶ This brochure provides students with quick tips for making safe choices while attending high school in a new community.



Student Safety Brochure

Inquest Recommendations – Education

Ontario-Wide Boarding Home Review Gathering

- ▶ An Ontario-Wide Boarding Home Review Gathering was conducted in February 2020, which invited First Nations organizations from all over Ontario to attend a conference where current boarding home practices were discussed.
- ▶ A follow-up report resulted in recommendations for standard expectations of boarding homes.

Community Protocol Guide

- ▶ A Community Protocol Guide was developed to act on Recommendation 49.
- ▶ This guide informs non-Indigenous community partners on how to create positive relationships with NAN communities.
- ▶ Training events in Timmins, Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Dryden were scheduled for March 2020, but the restriction on gatherings postponed the training and new dates will be considered.

Off-Reserve School Options Database

- ▶ The Off-Reserve School Options Database will act on Recommendation 44.
- ▶ This recommendation states that students should be able to attend school wherever they like as they should be able to make informed decisions.
- ▶ The Off-Reserve School Options Database has profiles for all English Public and English Catholic High Schools from Kenora to North Bay and has a total of 77 school profiles.
- ▶ Information is still being collected for schools with the website scheduled for launch in 2020/2021.
- ▶ The database will be an interactive website where students can select criteria that interest them such as science, trades programs or extracurricular activities.
- ▶ After selecting the criteria that they are interested in, students will see a list of potential schools that match their interests.
- ▶ This process will prevent students from becoming overwhelmed by having to look up each school on their own.

Education Partnerships Program – Student Safety Activities

Online Boarding Parent Training Modules

- ▶ Work began on providing an online option for boarding home training as some boarding parents are unable to attend in-person training sessions.

Student Information Database

- ▶ A student information database is ready to be piloted.
- ▶ This database is intended to increase the efficiency of partner front-line workers responding to student needs after school hours.

OTHER ACTIVITES

Ontario Technical Table – Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA)

NAN Education continues to participate as a member at the OTTIFA table where the Interim Funding Formula and funding issues are reviewed and discussed by ISC and the OTTIFA table members. Membership at the table consists of representatives from each PTO and/or region within Ontario, as well as representatives from ISC.

Through these discussions, several issues have been identified in the Interim Funding Formula. Many of these issues have been put into a ‘parking lot’ where they are waiting to be dealt with; however, six issues have been

identified as priorities and have been assigned to task teams (subgroups within the OTTIFA table) for more immediate attention. These six issues include:

- ▶ Funding for high school students over the age of 21
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Remoteness/isolation
- ▶ Special education
- ▶ Small schools
- ▶ Achievement gap

Task Teams were created in early fall 2019 to address these items in a timely manner. Due to the federal election in the fall of 2019, all business had to stop and no further meetings occurred at either the Task Team or OTTIFA level.

Once the new government was sworn in, several meetings were held by some of the task teams. Progress was made in working toward various solutions. **Although the agreed-upon solutions were brought by ISC Ontario to the national office, no final approval has been received as of this time.** All priority issues remain unresolved at this time.

It is important to note that only one year of the three-year funding protection window remains, while the Interim Funding Formula continues to require much work and attention.

First Nation Education Coordination Unit (FNECU)

NAN Education has continued to regularly participate as a member of the FNECU as organized through the Chiefs of Ontario. The FNECU provides members with information and updates from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) table which sits at the national level.

The Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) is a program that supports First Nations established post-secondary education institutions and First Nations directed community-based programming.

An issue that was recently brought forward at FNECU involved the PSPP. In determining the regional funding allocations for 2020/2021, several options were brought forward that provided various allocation calculations. In all three options, Ontario’s allocations showed a decrease in funding by \$1.7 to \$1.9 million. Ontario did not agree with any of these options and several other options were reviewed. No consensus could be reached by the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the decision was brought to the Chiefs Committee on Education for a decision.

Education Department staff are also engaged in:

- ▶ Graphic design (visual aids, posters, newsletters)
- ▶ Note-taking for various meetings (FNECU, COO, Education Committee)

HIGHLIGHTS

Language Strategy

When the vision and intent of the projected work for languages began in 2017, its focus was to provide advocacy and support in areas of promotion, preservation and protection for the people within NAN territory.

From the three declarative goals, the main guiding principle has been youth focused while instilling pride, courage and wellness. This is done through encouragement of language use, delivery of language activities and tangent demonstrations of acknowledgement through various communicative means.

Through these initiatives, it is the standing hope that NAN youth will continue to develop, grow and understand their heritage, culture, language and understand their relationship as well as responsibility to the land and stewardship.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Education Jurisdiction

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Nishnawbe Aski Nation-Canada Education Jurisdiction Agreement Negotiations

The Education Sectoral Self-Governance Negotiations were supported in part under the Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussions Tables Program for the mandated Education Jurisdiction negotiations with Canada.

Mandate:

Resolution 98-75: *Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Governance and Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreements:*
Authority to sign the Framework Agreement and to move towards Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) negotiations.

Resolution 16-79: *Education Jurisdiction:*
Education AIP focused negotiations and will set aside the Governance negotiations until Education Jurisdiction Negotiations are completed.

Resolution 18-23: *Support of Participating First Nations-Education Jurisdiction AIP:*
Upon completion of the Education Jurisdiction Agreement-in-Principle (AIP), the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 18-23 which supports the Education Jurisdiction AIP as basis for moving into final Education Jurisdiction Agreement negotiations and authorizes the Grand Chief of NAN to sign the non-legally binding AIP on their behalf.

Key Issues and Activities

The Education Jurisdiction Negotiation Team has been meeting regularly since October of 2019. Initially, the Team met for training and for preparation of negotiations with Canada on the Final Agreement for Education Jurisdiction. This included going through the approximate 62-line items as identified in the Agreement in Principle (AIP) which is our guide for the Final Agreement.

Each line of the AIP was discussed in terms of the following:

- ▶ Time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Over-all priority from a community perspective.
- ▶ Over-all priority for the Negotiation Team.
- ▶ Resources needed to complete the work on each item and task.

The major priorities are researching and preparing best practices. This involved the review of various education jurisdiction models from First Nations groups across the country. It also included options for the delegation of participating First Nations powers, drafting of local education codes and detailed roles and responsibilities of the Territory Wide Education Body (TWEB).

NAN brought on board a Lead Negotiator, Norm Wesley, in September. Meetings with Canada began in November; with a teleconference held for updates and monthly face to face meetings. The Education Team met prior to the start of the meeting with Canada to prepare and after, to de-brief the lessons learned on the progress. This schedule continued in to March, up until the COVID 19 pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, the Team decided to continue with the momentum established and decided upon weekly teleconference calls with Canada. This moved to more technical drafting work of specific chapters including: Chapter 1: Definitions and Interpretations, Chapter 12: Future Negotiations, Chapter 14: Relationship of Laws and Chapter 22: Harmonization of Governance and Education Agreements; to name a few. Canada then introduced a draft on Dispute Resolution. Unfortunately,

Canada has been slow to respond to some of the work due to other department staff availability and the pandemic; however, progress is still being achieved.

In January, the Lead Negotiator stepped down due to health reasons and Andrew Solomon, Director of Education, stepped in to fill the void which helped to keep the momentum going. Canada also had a change in their Lead Negotiator in March.

The Team and staff continue to teleconference weekly to prepare for meetings despite not having a Lead Negotiator. Much time has been spent working together and as a result, the Team has achieved synergy as the Team works well together and it is apparent through the level of productivity.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

With pandemic restrictions still in place, there will continue to be limitations to what can be accomplished. The earliest time that a face-to-face meeting may be held is in September; however, that may not be possible. Finding a Lead Negotiator is critical at this point and needs to occur as soon as possible. It is important to have this person on the team prior to any face-to-face negotiations because it will take a few months to bring the new Lead Negotiator up to date and familiarize them with the Education Jurisdiction file.

During this pandemic, another limiting factor going forward is Canada. Given that NAN/Canada negotiations are not considered an essential service, negotiators have limited access to those individuals who are delivering essential services. The biggest impact is on the availability of other government departments for consultations. While the Government of Canada’s emergency plan is activated, there is no ability to work around this constraint.

As a result, the team will continue to work on drafting chapters that Canada’s negotiation team has authority over. These will likely include: Chapter 8: Education Standards, Chapter 9: Access to Education Programs and Services, Chapter 15: Transitional Provisions and Chapter 17: Approval and Ratification to name a few. Moreover, it is hopeful that research in the areas of Local Education Laws and possibly the Territory Wide Education Body, will be completed.

Interim Measures (Education Jurisdiction Preparatory Work)

Interim Measures is a project that supports the preparatory work for the NAN Education Jurisdiction Final Agreement. The preparatory work involves supporting community capacity and awareness of the process, allowing for a well-informed membership for when the Education Final Agreement ratification vote is required.

Mandate:

Resolution 98-75: Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Governance and Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreements
Resolution 16-79: Education Jurisdiction
Resolution 18-23: Support of Participating First Nations-Education Jurisdiction AIP

Key Issues and Activities

Over the past year, the Education Jurisdiction team continued to work with communities to house a Community-Based Coordinator (CBC) by providing CBC job descriptions, suggested hosting requirements and supports for the positions. The development of CBC toolkits began which assists and supports community education jurisdiction activities and input into the process. CBC equipment and materials were also purchased to be shipped when CBCs are in place.



Youth from the NAN & Carleton University Youth Leadership Summer Program outside Parliament for a tour of the House of Commons in 2019

Structural Readiness (EPP)

In its seventh year, Structural Readiness (SR) activities are preparing NAN First Nations for the implementation of the framework for a First Nation education system.

Mandate

Resolution 18/23: Support of Participating First Nations – Education Jurisdiction AIP, adopted at the June 2018 Chiefs Special Assembly on Education, gave support to the Education Jurisdiction Agreement-In-Principle. Parallel to Education Jurisdiction, Structural Readiness is continuing communications in this fiscal year informing communities of the three-tier education system.

Resolution 17/65: Community Engagement Communication Plan - First Nations of NAN Education System allowed for the Community Engagement Communication Plan to inform citizens of the draft education framework.

Resolution 16/33: Development of a NAN Education Structure-System is the basis that provided direction for the Development of a NAN Education Structure/ System and the mandate to identify options for a comprehensive second and third-level education system.

Resolution 17/32: First Nations Education System in NAN Territory, by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, provided the mandate to develop options and models for a comprehensive First Nation Education System in NAN territory, leading to this current education framework.

Key Issues and Activities

SR held three meetings throughout 2019-2020 in Thunder Bay, Timmins, and Sioux Lookout. In total, 27 communities sent delegates from their education staff to participate. Their feedback and comments on funding, budgeting, reporting, education governance, as well as other issues, were recorded and compiled into a report that was shared with the Executive and the negotiation team. The issues raised vary from community to community, some more complex than others. How these issues are addressed will be up to each community's governance processes. Overall, the report was successful in showing the areas that need to be worked on and in some cases, pointing out new parties that need to be included to offer meaningful solutions to the issues raised.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

In 2020-2021, SR will be looking at local governance structures and education laws with education staff. Currently, due to the pandemic, we are considering holding smaller sessions in NAN member First Nations or having the meeting online.

OTHER ACTIVITES

Structural Readiness

- ▶ This year, SR will be creating education report templates, typically used by school boards, that can be added to their existing data management applications. It is expected that some of this work will be done with the Tribal Councils.
- ▶ Additionally, we will continue to work on creating a larger data aggregate for the region through Sharing Protocols.
- ▶ The Education Jurisdiction program has three groups, education staff from the communities (Working Groups), community members (Community Based Coordinators) and the Negotiation Team. To allow all three groups to meet, NAN's Structural Readiness program would like to host all three at an Education Summit.
- ▶ To support understanding of the Education Jurisdiction program, CBCs will be positioned to present on the different components of the program using the toolkits. To facilitate, SR will run three regional training sessions for the CBCs to review the information, with the objective of creating an understanding on the Education Jurisdiction process in the 37 participating First Nations.

Chiefs Special Assembly on Education

On February 12-13, 2020, the Chiefs Special Assembly on Education was held at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay. Sol Sanderson gave a keynote address on "Inherent Rights and Treaties". Additionally, presentations at the Special Assembly included:

- ▶ Achievement Gap
- ▶ Community Readiness and Participation
- ▶ Education Database
- ▶ Education Infrastructure Needs Assessment
- ▶ Education Jurisdiction and Negotiations
- ▶ Education Partnership Program
- ▶ Interim Funding Formula
- ▶ NAN Education Committee Program Successes
- ▶ NAN Special Needs Strategy Update
- ▶ Overview of NAN Negotiations and Models

HIGHLIGHTS

Noah Kakekaspan receiving a Special Recognition Award for his outstanding educational dedication and achievements. Noah attends Lakehead University and is in his third year of a four-year Physics Degree with a minor in Math. He has consistently made both the Dean's and President's Lists during his time at Lakehead for his academic achievements. His current average in Physics is 86.5% and his Math average is 95.7%. Upon completion of his degree in May 2021, he plans to pursue his Master's and PhD.



Noak Kakekaspan

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Education Partnership

OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Education Partnership Program (EPP) is a partnership between NAN, INAC and the Ministry of Education to advance First Nation student achievements in First Nation and provincial schools at elementary and secondary levels. The development and implementation of activities undertaken in this fourth year of the Partnership Advancement Phase are carried out in consultation with NAN community educators and local education representatives, Tribal Council Education Advisors, NAN Education Committee and the EPP Steering Committee.



PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Education Partnerships Program

Mandate

NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 12/26: *Education Partnerships Program* which approved the EPP Memorandum of Understanding with INAC and the Ministry of Education in Principle. This Resolution gave the NAN Chiefs Committee on Education the final approval of the Memorandum of Understanding and requested Letters of Support or Band Council Resolutions to opt into the program.

Key Issues and Activities

The key objectives of the EPP are as follows:

- ▶ To develop First Nation provincial or territorial arrangements and strategies to improve programs and services for First Nation students attending provincial schools or territorial schools.
- ▶ To mutually share expertise and provision of services (e.g. professional development, culturally appropriate curriculum, working with other First Nations schools and school systems).
- ▶ To improve coordination between First Nation and provincial or territorial schools to ensure smooth student transitions.
- ▶ To create better linkages between elementary and secondary education on reserves and early childhood programs and planning for transitions to postsecondary education or labour market training programs through partnership activities involving other federal and provincial or territorial departments.

Other components of the EPP include Structural Readiness, which supports capacity and governance development. A new component to EPP in 2020-2021 is the Regional Education Agreement which aims to fundamentally improve the way ISC funds elementary and secondary education, while supporting regional and local diversity and implementing the principle of First Nation control of First Nation education.

This new component supports the delivery of information sessions, establishment of regional technical tables, and development and negotiation of regional education agreements.

Next Steps - Moving Forward

In 2020-2021, the NAN Education Partnerships Program will continue to build upon activities undertaken in previous years; especially those involving First Nation student well-being and safety. Other activities involve improving relationships between NAN First Nation communities and the Ontario provincial district school boards (DSBs) within the three catchment areas of Timmins, Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout.

The following new and continuing implementation activities have been proposed:

- ▶ EPP Liaisons and DSB Leads Meetings
- ▶ First Nation Resource and Curricula Sharing
- ▶ First Nation School Designation Discussions
- ▶ Implementation of Inquest Recommendations
- ▶ Mental Health Roundtable
- ▶ Partnership Agreements with DSBs
- ▶ Student Accommodation Provider Training & Train the Trainer
- ▶ Student Database Pilot Launch
- ▶ Student Orientations (Timmins, Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout)
- ▶ Student Safety Initiatives
- ▶ Tuition Agreement/Reciprocal Education Approach Training
- ▶ Tutoring Programs Implementation
- ▶ Youth Outreach: Extra-Curricular Extravanzas and Culture Days

OTHER ACTIVITES

Student Success Initiatives

As the federal Interim Funding Formula was implemented in April 2019, 2018-19 became the final year of the First Nation Student Success Program funding (FNSSP). NAN retained a small portion of the former FNSSP funding to continue minimal second level services, such as continued advocacy and support for the former FNSSP partners under the NAN agreement.

Those partners include:

- ▶ Mattagami First Nation
- ▶ Pikangikum First Nation
- ▶ Lac Seul First Nation
- ▶ Weenusk First Nation
- ▶ Northern Nishnawbe Education Council
- ▶ Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KNET)

Under new funding agreements, these partners continued to deliver various student success initiatives in 2019-2020, while K-Net continued to provide data management services for three partners. NAN will provide this funding to five partners in 2020-2021 with continued advocacy and support.

HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the Partnership Advancement Phase, the NAN EPP Joint Work Plan activities in 2019-2020 continued to emphasize the well-being and safety of NAN First Nations students. These activities were achieved through the following:

- ▶ Continued Secondary Transitions Program Development.
- ▶ Implementation of Inquest Recommendations.
- ▶ NAN Youth Conferences.
- ▶ On-Call Student Worker Certificate Training.
- ▶ Student Database Development Review.
- ▶ Student Orientations.
- ▶ Tutoring Programs Implementation.
- ▶ Youth Outreach: Extra-Curricular Extravaganzas and Culture Days (Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Dryden).



Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum November 5-7, 2019, Airline Hotel and Conference Centre, Thunder Bay, ON- Student Panel Discussion

In addition, the following resources, dealing with the on-going concerns of First Nations student safety and awareness of urban living environments, continued to be distributed 2019-2020:

- ▶ Attendance, Retention, and First Nation Student Success
- ▶ City Orientation Curriculum
- ▶ Grade 8 Summer High School Transition Program
- ▶ High School Student Safety Protocol Guide
- ▶ Know Your Rights and Responsibilities Pocket Card
- ▶ Know Your Rights and Responsibilities Resource Document (Thunder Bay and Timmins versions)
- ▶ Life Skills and Transitions Curriculum
- ▶ Parent-Student Communication Guide (Oji-Cree, Ojibway, Cree and English)
- ▶ Student Accommodation Provider Guide

The documents below were created with aim to be distributed in 2020-2021:

- ▶ Secondary Transition Resources
- ▶ Tutoring Programs Best Practices Toolkit

The involvement of First Nation communities and provincial partner organizations is crucial to the success of the NAN EPP. The following activities were held in 2019-2020 to bring the partners together:

- ▶ Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum
- ▶ Boarding Home Parent Training sessions
- ▶ EPP Liaison & School Board Indigenous Leads Coordination meetings
- ▶ First Nation Community Visits
- ▶ First Nation Curricula Sharing
- ▶ First Nation Resource Material Sharing
- ▶ Partnership Table Meeting with Ontario, Canada & NAN
- ▶ Student Accommodation Provider Train the Trainer

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Women’s Council

OVERVIEW

This year the Women’s Council was part of the Social Development Department. The team was strengthened by the creation of the Women’s Policy Analyst role to help carry out the vital work of the Women’s Council. An overview has been provided in the previous submission for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Annual Report.



PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Resolution 19/34: Support for Full Implementation of the National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice

- ▶ Through Resolution 19/34, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly affirmed their support of the Calls for Justice within the National Inquiry into MMIWG.
- ▶ NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize that NAN families were not consulted adequately throughout the inquiry.
- ▶ A mandate has been provided to ensure NAN communities receive support relating to MMIWG.

Throughout the year the NAN Women’s Council drafted the NAN Women’s Declaration.

- ▶ This document was signed at the NAN Women’s Gathering.
- ▶ The Declaration re-affirms the unique role of women within their communities
- ▶ Further to this the NAN Women’s Declaration demands equitable treatment for the women of NAN.
- ▶ The Declaration will continue to help support the Women’s Council in their initiatives.

OTHER ACTIVITES

Women’s Council member Theresa Sutherland accompanied Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau and staff visited Toronto and met with Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women’s Issues. They presented several vital needs of the community relating to Violence Against Indigenous Women.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual NAN Women’s Gathering was held February 4 and 5, 2020, at the Best Western Nor’Wester Hotel in Thunder Bay. The gathering hosted 35 participants from across the 49 NAN communities. The gathering is a chance for women to come together to learn and grow; topics that were discussed included: human trafficking, grassroots activism and intergenerational trauma with a spirit of hope and resilience.

This year, the gathering sought to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by including speakers who explored identity and strengthened relationships. A highlight at the gathering this year was the panel led by the Women’s Council, which encouraged empowerment of all NAN women and recognized the importance of creating space for laughter and joy.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Youth Council

OVERVIEW

The Oshkaatisak (All Young Peoples) Council represents the youth of NAN. The Oshkaatisak Council strives to promote youth empowerment and engagement, improve the livelihood and hope for the future of all NAN youth. The Council meets monthly to discuss key issues being faced by youth within NAN territory.

The Oshkaatisak Council supports its fellow youth in the following ways:

- Promotes the needs of NAN youth at the local, regional, national and international level.
- Shares and promotes the successes of NAN youth and other First Nations youth.
- Creates opportunities for NAN youth to enhance leadership skills and healthy behaviours.
- Actively participates in NAN Chiefs Assemblies as the voice of NAN youth.
- Identifies ways to increase advocacy, coordination and strategic ways to increase resources and supports for NAN youth.

Updates on priorities and events of the Oshkaatisak Council are presented regularly to the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

The NAN Executive Council supports the work of Oshkaatisak Council by advocating to ensure youth engagement and opportunities continue with a sustainable and long-term approach.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

The Oshkaatisak Council hosts and participate and hosts a multitude of activities including:

- ▶ Autism Summit – May 3 & 4, 2019
- ▶ COO Assembly – April 9 & 10, 2019 in Toronto, ON
- ▶ NAN Education Language Meeting – April 24 & 25, 2019
- ▶ NAN Spring Chiefs Assembly – May 7 & 8, 2019 in Toronto, ON
- ▶ May Education Jurisdiction Summit – May 21-24, 2019 in Toronto
- ▶ NAN Youth Justice Conference – June 17 & 18, 2019 in Thunder Bay at the Best Western Nor'Wester
- ▶ Education Jurisdiction Meeting – June 18-20, 2019 in Eskasoni, Nova Scotia
- ▶ NAN Keewaywin Conference – July 16-18, 2019 in Kingfisher Lake, ON
- ▶ Youth Leadership Summer Program at Carleton University – July 20-27, 2019 in Ottawa, ON
- ▶ Shelter House Supper – August 27, 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON
- ▶ Fishing Camp Out – August 30, 2019
- ▶ Moose Hunting Camp – September 19-21, 2019
- ▶ NAN Fall Chiefs Assembly – November 13 & 14, 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON
- ▶ NAN Health Summit – November 19-21, 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON
- ▶ NAN Special Chiefs Meeting on Education – February 11 & 12, 2020 in Thunder Bay, ON
- ▶ NAN Youth Gathering 2020 - February 14-17, 2020 in Thunder Bay at the Best Western Nor'Wester
- ▶ Youth Engagement – February 28-29, 2020 in Kingfisher Lake, ON
- ▶ National Women's Association of Canada's National Forum on Cannabis – March 5, 2020 in Halifax, New Brunswick



The Oshkaatisak Council participated in the Language and Culture Camp Initiative funded by the Province of Ontario. These camps were hosted in various communities and regions to promote leadership and communication skills, foster a positive identity and cultural pride as well as build confidence within the youth. Through the Language and Culture Camp Initiative, youth were taken fishing, moose hunting, and on a community visit to Kingfisher Lake. During these camps, the Council had the opportunity to take on supporting roles, this included: planning, guiding, cooking and mentoring the youth in attendance. Language and culture activities were held at the Little Bands and Mush Cup Youth Hockey Tournaments. The Annual Wabun Youth Gathering and NAN Youth Gathering were supported by the Language and Camp Initiative as well as planned Dog Sledding expedition between the Neskataga and Webequie. The Council will also participate in and provide feedback to the Youth Leadership Project Phase 1, which includes a literature review, youth leadership models and feedback in the development of a training manual. The contracted work is expected to be completed in Fall 2020. Phase 2 of the Project will be implemented in 2020-2021, where the Oshkaatisak Council will provide leadership engagement sessions for youth in NAN communities.

The Oshkaatisak Council will play a large role in the planning of this event. The goal of the event is to create a safe and culturally appropriate space for young people. NAN youth will be able to engage in activities and continue to build healthy relationships and set goals for a prosperous future. The topic for the 2021 Youth Conference is yet to be determined.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Council has monthly teleconference calls to communicate as a group. The meetings are facilitated by the Youth Initiatives Coordinator.
- ▶ The Council will attend Chiefs Assemblies.
- ▶ The Council will attend portfolio meetings regularly.
- ▶ The Council is planning on engaging youth in NAN communities on Youth Leadership.



Oshkaatisak Council members and Youth Conference delegates join together in a Round Dance at the Annual Youth Gathering on February 15th, 2020.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Health Transformation

OVERVIEW

In February 2017, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 17/21 **Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in NAN Territory (the Charter of Relationship Principles)** that states the status quo is not acceptable.

The work for the 2019-2020 fiscal year focused on developing the NAN Health Transformation Team; developing the Five Pillars of Health Transformation and work plan; meeting with various groups, organizations, and partners; establishing an immediate needs process and visiting the NAN communities.

During the 2019 NAN Chiefs Spring Assembly, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed *Resolution 19/10: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination*, rejecting the application of the *People’s Health Care Act, 2019* (the Act) and collectively declared non-cooperation with the Act. This Resolution mandated NAN, as part of the NAN Health Transformation process, to develop a wholistic health framework that would form a NAN health system in parallel to the provincial system.

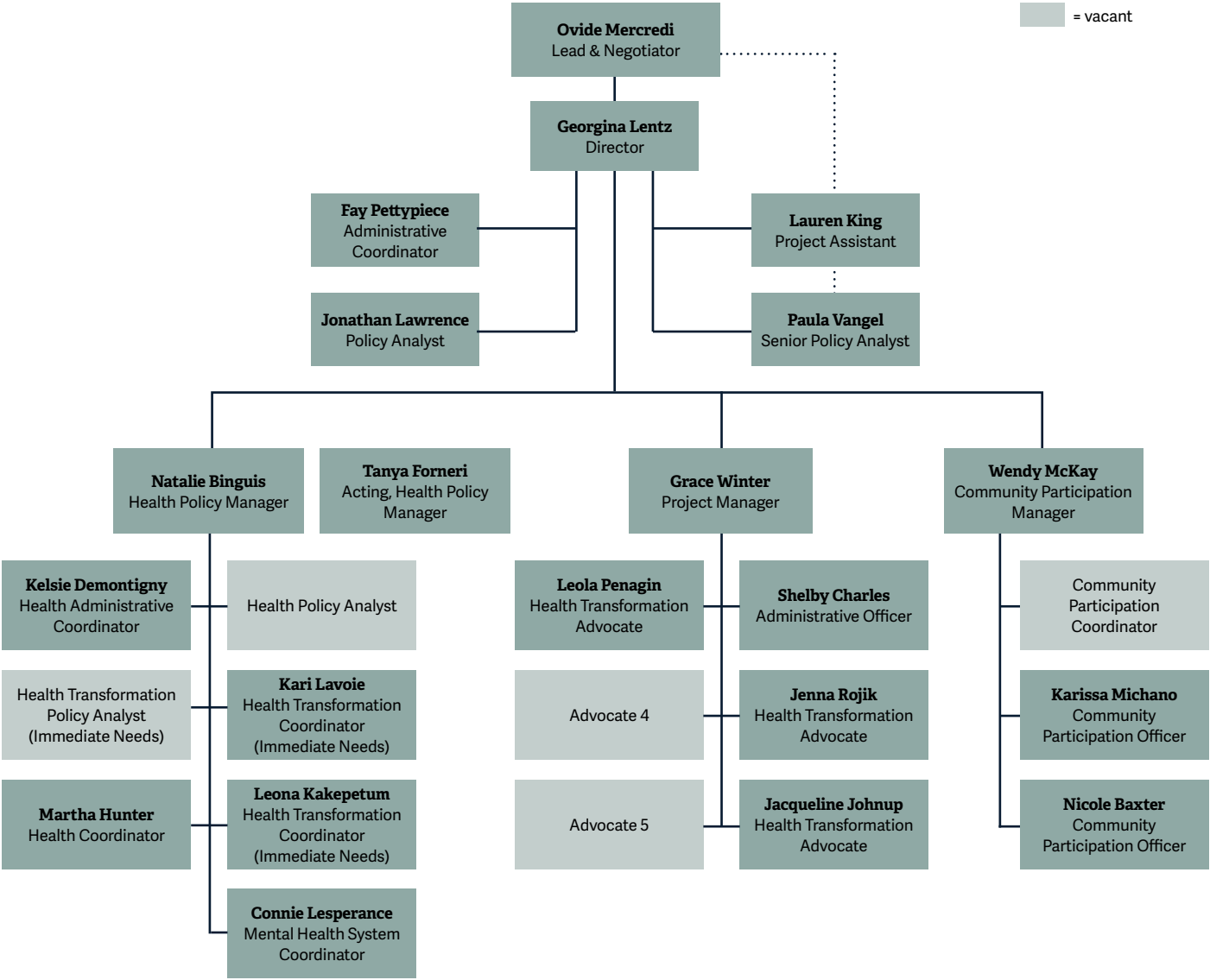
KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ The NAN Health Transformation process will be First Nation-led with process and operations oversight from the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation (CCHT) with guidance from the Health Transformation Advisory Council (HTAC) alongside the NAN Health Transformation team internally.
- ▶ A new system is required to replace the current colonial health system to improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations in NAN territory.
- ▶ The development of a five-pillar approach to NAN Health Transformation: Community Participation, Immediate Needs, Fiscal Review & Funding Models, Policy & Legislative Review and Reclamation of Indigenous Laws.
- ▶ The development of a NAN health entity; a ‘commission’ concept for NAN First Nations communities.
- ▶ The development of a concept for the establishment of a hospital within one or more of the SLFNHA member First Nations.
- ▶ The development of a business case and plan for Paramedic Services and/or Community Paramedicine located in all NAN First Nations communities with an on-reserve population.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Development of the NAN Health Transformation Team

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



Five Pillars of the NAN Health Transformation Process

Five pillars have been established under NAN Health Transformation to guide the work: Community Participation, Immediate Needs, Fiscal Review and Funding Models, Policy and Legislative Review and Reclamation of Indigenous Laws.

Community Participation

- ▶ Bringing awareness to NAN First Nations on the NAN Health Transformation process continues to be a priority for the Health Transformation Team.
- ▶ From April 2019 until March 2020, the NAN Health Transformation Team has visited 10 First Nations and completed four Urban Community Participation sessions.
- ▶ A total of 26 initial Community Participation Sessions completed to date.
- ▶ The purpose of each NAN Health Transformation visit has always been to keep the First Nations informed and to gather feedback that will help to design the new wellness system.
- ▶ As part of the health transformation process, the Community Participation Team would like to return to each community with the approval of the First Nation leaders.
- ▶ Many of the NAN First Nations communities have closed their borders to non-essential travel due to COVID-19. This has resulted in the NAN Health Transformation team exploring innovative approaches to community participation to continue the community participation process for initial and second visits virtually.
- ▶ Additionally, as part of the initial phase of community participation, the NAN Health Transformation team met with and provided presentations to approximately 100 groups/ organizations in the 2019/20 fiscal year. This included NAN Tribal Councils, NAN First Nations, health authorities, health organization, federal/provincial officials and others.

Community Health Representative Gathering

- ▶ The Gathering was held October 22 - 23, 2019, in Thunder Bay.
- ▶ Attended by approximately 73 delegates representing 23 NAN communities.

- ▶ A full report can be found on the NAN website under Health Transformation.

NAN Health Summit

- ▶ The Summit was held November 19-21, 2019, in Thunder Bay.
- ▶ Attended by approximately 231 delegates representing 46 NAN communities.
- ▶ A full report can be found on the NAN website under Health Transformation.

Health Transformation 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 including: First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) training, ASIST Mental Health, orientation and literacy support.
- ▶ There were two HTA recruited in November of the 2019/20 fiscal year.
- ▶ The HTAs and eight NAN Health Transformation team members are taking the FNHMA Certified Health Manager training. This training will allow the health transformation staff will be able to provide additional support to the HTAs:
 - CFNHM 100 – Health Issues & Systems Tool – completed.
 - CFNHM 200 - Leadership and Strategy (Organization and Direction) – completed.
 - CFNHM 300 - Health Management Services 1 (What will we do) – completed.
 - CFNHM 400 - Health Management Services 2 (How we will do it) – completed.

- CFNHM 500 - Professionalism, Ethics and Cultural Awareness (Our values and approach) – end date August 2, 2020.
- The final exam will be September 28-30, 2020 online.
- ▶ HTAs have also participated in additional training and conferences listed below:
 - Jan 13–18, 2020: Mushkegowuk Special Assembly – Fort Albany & Kashechewan Community Visits
 - Feb 11, 2020: IFNA Health Summit - Thunder Bay, ON
 - Feb 19, 2020: Palliative Care Conference - Teleconference
 - Feb 24–27, 2020: Chiefs of Ontario Conference - Toronto, ON
 - March 7, 2020: Creating Education Pathways for Indigenous Midwives in Community Event - Thunder Bay, ON

Immediate Needs

- ▶ The immediate needs process identifies five categories of Immediate Needs:
 1. Case-Specific Issues
 2. Barriers to Safe & Effective Care
 3. Advocacy & Strategy Development Across Sectors (NAN-wide)
 4. Community Priorities
 5. Regional Priorities
- ▶ The proposed process is intended to address the following:
 - Develop community-led solutions to the problems they have identified.
 - Research items to produce the best courses action (at the direction of the community).

- Ensure that each item has an action plan which is monitored regularly through tracking and triaging.
- Community-specific issues are linked to larger, NAN-wide issues, which are also researched within a broader context. These are also monitored and linked to the various related departments within NAN.
- ▶ Position for a Health Transformation Coordinator and a Health Transformation Liaison have been developed and filled as an addition to the NAN Health Transformation Team.
- ▶ NAN continues to be informed on immediate needs through community participation visits, gatherings, regional meetings, partners, other NAN departments, and person-specific situations.
- ▶ Work on immediate needs to date includes:
 - Follow up on approximately 48 person-specific issues between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. This includes assistance with advocacy, overcoming barriers in health and is done in collaboration with others (i.e. Community and Tribal Council Health Directors, navigators, hospital staff, etc.).
 - Continual learning on the barriers to safe & effective care, tracking themes and policy applications.
 - Advocacy & strategy development across sectors related to health.
- ▶ Regional Priorities: attending meetings and supporting priorities.
- ▶ Overall themes have included:
 - Diabetes
 - Dialysis
 - Long Term Care
 - Medical Transportation
 - Mental Health
 - Public Health

Fiscal Review & Funding Model(s)

- ▶ Explore options to create a funding model for NAN First Nations that is flexible, reflective of need and provides community control over distribution of resources and that is founded upon Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.
- ▶ NAN has developed a partnership with First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB) to gather support, guidance and initiate the fiscal review and funding model(s) development pillar.
- ▶ A proposal and budget were created in partnership with FMB to begin reviewing the fiscal process for NAN and develop potential options of new funding models to be presented to the NAN Chiefs. This was submitted to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in March 2020, right before the declaration of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Policy & Legislative Review

- ▶ A policy and legislative review will be conducted to determine First Nation entitlements to health services, including holding the government accountable to providing legal obligations and Treaty health rights.
 - All NAN First Nations should be receiving the same level and quality of care at home that all other Ontarians are receiving.
- ▶ The review is being led by Bernd Christmas and is still in progress.

Reclamation of Indigenous Laws

- ▶ Communities will be supported in the exercise of their jurisdiction over health and the development of their own laws. This will include building upon traditional laws as well as developing contemporary laws and exploring options for a legislative basis to establish a legally embedded system in NAN territory.
- ▶ The Working Group on Reclamation of Indigenous Laws is being led by Adam Fiddler of Sandy Lake First Nation.
- ▶ The Indigenous Law Development group met in Toronto on February 26 -27, 2019, to discuss how to move the work of health transformation forward while honouring traditional law, especially around the health commission concept.

Traditional Knowledge Keepers Gathering

- ▶ The Gathering took place September 24-26, 2019, in Fort Albany First Nation.
- ▶ Attended by approximately 53 delegates representing 14 NAN communities.
- ▶ Regional protocols are being followed and respected in the release of a report. Notes of the gathering are on file and are being used to inform the direction of this essential work.

Partnerships

Partnerships have been developed with:

- ▶ Ornge
- ▶ University Health Network – Peter Munk Cardiac Unit
- ▶ Canadian Red Cross
- ▶ Paramedics Association of Canada
- ▶ Register Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO)
- ▶ Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP)
- ▶ College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO)
- ▶ College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)
- ▶ Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)
- ▶ Association of Midwives (AOM)

Relationship Accords have been developed to be signed with each partner during the April 2020, Spring Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa; however, it was postponed due to COVID-19. Alternative methods to sign virtually are being explored.



NAN Health Entity, such as a ‘commission’

- ▶ In May 2019, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed *Resolution 19/10: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination* directing NAN to proceed with health self-determination and develop a wholistic health framework that would form a NAN health system outside of the provincial system. A NAN-wide entity such as a “commission” is being explored. This entity would support the NAN-wide system and would be the vehicle to carry the ongoing process of Health Transformation forward.
- ▶ Mae Katt, Nurse Practitioner, was recruited to lead this process.
- ▶ A NAN Health Commission Reference Group was developed to guide the work of the ever-evolving development of the health commission concept. It is comprised of representatives from the health authorities, tribal councils and HTAC. Additionally, a Health Human Resources group was established to aid in developing potential solutions to address the shortage of health care professionals in NAN communities.
- ▶ A draft NAN Health Commission concept of the functions, legal structure and governance model(s) is being developed with a draft to be shared with leadership in the Fall of 2020.

SLFNHA Hospital Concept

- ▶ In September 2019, the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 19-23: *Mandate for New Hospitals within the SLFNNHA Member First Nations*.
- ▶ This resolution mandates NAN Health Transformation process to “pursue the establishment of a hospital within one or more of the SLFNHA member First Nations”.
- ▶ NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed *Resolution 19/49: New Hospital(s) Within the SLFNHA Member First Nation* in November 2019 supporting NAN Health Transformation and SLFNHA in this work.
- ▶ A hospital concept paper is currently being drafted.

Northern First Nations Paramedic Services

- ▶ In November 2019, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed *Resolution 19/44: Community Paramedicine and Ambulance Services*, directing, that based upon the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) Paramedic Services that provides Paramedic Services to five First Nations communities and the town of Moosonee.
- ▶ Of the remaining 44 NAN First Nation communities, 6 do not have an on-reserve population; resulting in 38 NAN First Nation communities not having Paramedic Services and/or Community Paramedicine located in their community, which are a vital link to emergency services that will ultimately save lives.
- ▶ A business case and plan are being developed by NAN Health Transformation in direct collaboration and partnership with the Northern First Nations Paramedic Task Force.

- ▶ Membership includes:
 - Weeneebayko Area Heath Authority
 - Cochrane District Social Services & Administration Board - Paramedic Services
 - Paramedic Association of Canada
 - Ornge
 - Indigenous Services Canada – First Nations Indigenous Health Branch,
 - Ontario Ministry of Health,
 - Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs.
- ▶ Once finalized, this will be submitted to the federal and provincial government.

Negotiations – Wechedowin Document

- ▶ As the next step to the Charter of Relationship Principles, the Wechedowin (Helping Each Other) document is being drafted to begin to develop a framework for the negotiation process.
- ▶ The Wechedowin document is intended to be a ‘bridge document’ that will establish the goals, objectives and scope of the discussions so that each of the partners can respectively use it as the basis to seek a mandate to conclude a subsequent agreement based on the key elements contained in this document.
- ▶ This document is intended to promote efficient, effective, orderly and timely negotiations towards the implementation to the provisions outlined in the Charter of Relationship Principles.
- ▶ The development of the Wechedowin document is in the very early stages.

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ The 2020/2021 NAN Health Transformation workplan will continue to address immediate needs, focus on finalizing the NAN Health Entity concept, such as a ‘commission’, finalize the business case and plan on Paramedic Services in NAN First Nations communities, further develop the SLFNHA Hospital Concept, develop innovative approaches to engage the communities through community participation, recruit additional Health Transformation Advocates, and begin the work of the fiscal review and funding model(s) development.
- ▶ NAN Health Transformation will be working closely with ISC to highlight the hard work completed since 2018 for the Treasury Board Cabinet Submission to continue to work past March 31, 2021.
- ▶ All key events such as: A Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders Retreat, NAN Health Summit and a special Governance Summit in partnership with NAN Education, Social Services and Housing and Infrastructure have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Partnerships to be signed off with: Ornge, University Health Network – Peter Munk Cardiac Unit, Canadian Red Cross, Paramedics Association of Canada, Register Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO), Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP), College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (OCFP), College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and Association of Midwives (AOM). NAN will also continue to explore additional partnerships.
- ▶ Further develop the Wechedowin document and begin the negotiation process.
 - A federal negotiator, Roger Jones, has been identified; the province has yet to put a name forward.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Health Transformation – Health Policy Unit

OVERVIEW

In March 2019, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Health Policy and Advocacy Department amalgamated with the Health Transformation Department under Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler's portfolio. This collaboration has helped to advance work on health issues and improved transformative efforts.

The NAN Health Transformation - Health Policy Unit (HPU), provides advocacy, strategic policy analysis and planning related to health issues impacting NAN territory. This includes provincial and federal First Nation health initiatives and the planning, coordination and development of NAN-wide, multi-level and cross-jurisdictional health strategies. With an increased focus on immediate health needs, the HPU integrates existing and emerging priorities into overall goals of the NAN Health Transformation process.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Advocate for equitable access to quality health care, successful community-based health programming and services.
- ▶ Advocate for improved health infrastructure, partnerships and the capacity to support healthier communities.
- ▶ Advocate for improved health and well-being of NAN First Nations and ensure the priorities, cultures and uniqueness of the territory are reflected in the work undertaken.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Diabetes

Mandate

- ▶ Resolution 94/21: *Diabetes* mandates NAN to lobby for continued provincial and federal funding to ensure greater involvement in prevention and promotion programs and increased access to professional services to reduce the incidence of diabetes and its complications.
- ▶ Resolution 01/07: *Diabetes* mandates NAN to access funding for diabetes programs and projects.

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ In May 2018, NAN was approached by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care now the Ministry of Health (MOH) to consider an enhancement in additional base funding for diabetes support in the 2018-19 fiscal year from the Ontario First Nations Health Action Plan. The funding was intended for NAN communities and Tribal Councils to enhance community diabetes services and regional planning initiatives. These funds were available again in 2019-20.
- ▶ 46 communities accessed MOH funds to develop and/or enhance existing diabetes programs and services based on immediate needs in the community and/or gaps identified in 2019-20.
- ▶ Activities included, but were not limited to:
 - The purchase of exercise equipment for community use
 - Traditional and healthy food programs
 - Foot care services
 - Educational workshops
 - The purchase of diabetic supplies

- ▶ Seven Tribal Councils and Five Independent Bands accessed planning and coordination funds from the MOH to continue regional planning that could help address collective diabetes needs in their areas.
- ▶ The MOH provided minimal funding to support diabetes chiropody (foot care) services in NAN First Nations. Seven visits to First Nation communities occurred in 2019-20 with over 273 people seen at clinics and through home visits. Additionally, several chiropody and specialized foot health presentations occurred in NAN communities.
 - Surplus chiropody dollars were provided to Tribal Councils and Independent Band communities to assist with the COVID-19 response in March 2020.

Next Steps - Moving Forward

- ▶ Complete the MOH diabetes reporting for fiscal year 2019-20 and support access to funds in 2020-2021.
- ▶ Continue to lobby for continued provincial and federal funding that support diabetes needs and planning at the community and regional level through Health Transformation.

Elder Care and Palliative Care

Mandate

- ▶ Resolution 18/20: *Elder Care Planning* mandates NAN develop a continuum of care for Elders from the stages of independent living and assisted living, through to palliative care (in partnership and with considerations outlined in the resolution).

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ In August 2019, the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (MSA) held an Indigenous partners meeting, requesting feedback from Indigenous organizations on the province’s 2019 Senior Strategy.
 - Based on feedback from the Health Advisory Group (HAG), and previous reports on Elder priorities and key issues, HPU submitted a feedback review to MSA on August 30, 2019.
- ▶ In October 2019, the Center for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH) invited NAN to present at the fall 2019 CERAH Palliative Care Booster.
 - HPU coordinated the development of materials for CERAH’s Palliative Care Booster panel presentation.
 - This included the coordination of panel speakers including:
 - Shibogama Health Director, Howard Meshake.
 - Windigo Nurse Manager, Patty Everson.
 - Wabun Community Health Nurse, Christine Dobson.
 - Material developed was reflective of the NAN 2018 Nowiigeway Palliative Care Conference Report.

- ▶ On March 3-4, 2020, NAN HPU collaborated with NAN’s Justice Department to plan and organize a panel comprised of health experts and community representatives to present on substance use and addictions at the Community Justice and Safety Symposium.
 - Panel members included:
 - Dr. Claudette Chase, Community Physician for Eabametoong First Nation.
 - Mae Katt, Nurse Practitioner.
 - Edna Quequish and Swanson Kenequanash, OAT staff for North Caribou Lake First Nation.
 - The presentation was chaired by Georgina Lentz, NAN Director of Health Transformation.
 - Topics of the panel touched on:
 - Elder and addictions issues
 - Addiction crisis and best practices to move forward
 - Suboxone research
 - Social impacts on Elder safety

Next Steps - Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to lobby for continued provincial and federal funding that supports Elder Care in NAN First Nation communities.

NAN Health Advisory Group

Mandate

- ▶ Resolution 10/39: *Establishment of a NAN Health Advisory Group* mandates NAN to establish and operate the Health Advisory Group (HAG) to be the main planning and advisory entity for NAN on health-related matters, supported by a Chiefs Political Group when appropriate.

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ Meetings this year were held on July 30, 2019 and November 19, 2019, in Thunder Bay.
- ▶ Items reviewed included, but were not limited to the following:
 - Palliative Care
 - The Nowiigeway NAN Final Report
 - The Mental Health Systems Coordinator Proposal
 - The NAN Submission to the Provincial Seniors Strategy
 - STBBI Funding
 - Chiropody Funding
 - Activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- ▶ The HAG welcomed a new representative from the NAN Women’s Council, Cecilia Spence.
- ▶ Celine Sutherland also joined as the new Alternate from the Women’s Council.
- ▶ On February 24– 26, 2020 the HAG was invited to join the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation and Health Transformation Advisory Council at their meetings in Toronto. This included input into Health Transformation activities (e.g. NAN Health Commission concept) as well as Indigenous Law Development.

Next Steps Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to collaborate with the HAG members on COVID-19 response.
- ▶ Continue to consult the HAG for technical support and recommendations on existing HPU activities and mandates to help inform the on-going NAN Health Transformation process.

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

- ▶ The HPU continues to support and advocate for NAN First Nation needs at the NIHB policy review lead by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in collaboration with Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) - First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB).
- ▶ This includes advocacy work surrounding challenges in accessing NIHB benefits for NAN members, and ongoing analysis of NIHB policy gaps and barriers.
- ▶ The HPU continues to support Health Transformation's Immediate Needs Team on NIHB related immediate needs issues as they arise and relate to NIHB including:
 - Medical transportation benefits
 - Meal and accommodation coverage
 - Drug benefit coverage
 - Dental coverage
 - Access to Traditional Medicines and Healers
 - Other activities

Next Steps Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue collaboration and advocacy work on NIHB policy review with COO and AFN by ensuring feedback and perspectives from NAN community members and partners accessing NIHB services on the ground are shared.
- ▶ Continue supporting the immediate needs process through ongoing relationship building with COO's Regional NIHB Navigators, and outreach to relevant partners as required to respond to immediate needs requests efficiently and promptly.

Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy (IHWS)

- ▶ The HPU supports, monitor and participates in IHWS meetings and develops materials upon request in collaboration with the NAN Health Transformation, Community Wellness and Social Development Departments.
- ▶ Overall, HPU continues to support IHWS activities in the following way:
 - To address and support the implementation of IHWS programming and address the broader areas of health policy programming on behalf of NAN First Nations.
 - Reviews of current work on-going at NAN in various departments to facilitate wholistic and collaborative health and mental health approaches to the Social Determinants of Health.
 - Continues to support knowledge translation with NAN First Nations, governments, service providers and individual advocacy calls as required to address health and mental health needs in NAN.
 - Development of research on existing health and wellness issues with a focus on NAN Chiefs Resolutions on health/mental health as the primary focus to examine access to services, with respecting Indigenous cultures, language and knowledge as the foundation of the work.
 - To be responsible for planning related to community, regional, secondary and tertiary health services necessary to support the implementation of IHWS.
 - Assist in providing technical support and coordination of NAN wide-health initiatives.
 - Provide on-going liaison, consultations with NAN communities and participate in policy to support of the implementation of the strategy.

- Address the broader areas of family healing/ family violence and health policy and programming in NAN First Nations.
- Assist with project coordination and support of existing health activities of NAN communities, HAG and others.

Next Steps Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to provide technical support, expertise, policy recommendations and research as required to support communities through the IHWS and will continue to support other departments as involved and/or as required.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- ▶ The HPU gathers relevant information pertaining to mental health and addictions in NAN territory from health partners and service providers to better support and respond to NAN community needs.
- ▶ This is done through managing and coordinating material development for NAN's Interdepartmental Mental Health Working Group; responding to immediate needs surrounding mental health and addictions issues; and supporting the NAN Health Transformation team in advocacy efforts that support addressing gaps in mental health services on the ground.

- ▶ In September 2019, and with guidance from the HAG, the HPU submitted a proposal to acquire funding to hire a Mental Health System Coordinator and Mental Health Information Specialist.
 - The role of the Mental Health System Coordinator would involve researching, reviewing and monitoring provincial and federal programs, services and initiatives that impact the mental health, mental health services and self-determination in health for NAN members.
 - They will also collaborate with partners and the NAN Health Transformation team and advise the NAN Executive Council, HAG, Health Transformation Advisory Council and Chiefs Council on Health Transformation on mental health and substance use issues.
 - The Mental Health Information Specialist will work to conduct literature reviews, apply extensive mental health system knowledge and incorporate analysis techniques designed to support research projects of broad scope and complexities.
- ▶ Funding for the proposal was received very late for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. As a result, the funds for 2019-2020 were re-directed to support COVID-19 response.

Next Steps Moving Forward

- ▶ Funding related to the Mental Health System Coordinator and Mental Health Information Specialist roles for 2020-2021 are being adjusted and revised to reflect the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ The HPU is hoping to fill these positions as soon as possible and to align work with COVID-19 pandemic response.

PYAKATISOWIN
PIMIWICHIHITOWIN MAMOW
ASHITAIMAK-ONAN (Mamow)
(NAN Interdepartmental Mental
Health Working Group)

Mandate

- ▶ Resolution 17/04: *NAN Wide Life Promotion Strategy*
 - ▶ Resolution 17/09: *Strategy to address sexual violence in NAN*
 - ▶ Resolution 17/16: *Comprehensive review of mental health services for children and youth*
- ▶ Mamow also discussed Mental Health and Addictions Environmental Scans that had been completed by the Northwest LHIN.
 - ▶ Members of Mamow started a departmental inventory and asset mapping exercise.
 - ▶ Mamow was scheduled to meet again on March 20, 2020; unfortunately, this meeting had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ On February 21, 2020, a restart meeting was held to continue this important work.
- ▶ NAN representation at this meeting included Health Transformation, Housing and Infrastructure, Education, Social Services, Community Wellness, Social Development and the Seven Youth Inquest Coordinator.
 - Helen Cromarty continued as the group’s Elder.
- ▶ The group reviewed all work to date that had been conducted as part of Mamow.
- ▶ Other topics on the agenda included:
 - Internal communication plans
 - The Terms of Reference
 - Updates on departmental initiatives relating to mental health
- ▶ Susan Harrison, a consultant working on the Sioux Lookout Area Mental Health and Addictions Scan, presented on this scan’s proposed approach.

Next Steps Moving Forward

- ▶ Develop a plan for aligning Mamow with the work that is underway to address mental health and substance use issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Complete the departmental inventory and asset mapping initiative.
- ▶ Address emerging issues on an individual basis with the group.

OTHER ACTIVITES

Advocacy

Over the course of 2019-20, HPU worked within the Health Transformation Immediate Needs process to support requests for assistance with health advocacy from NAN communities, community members (in both communities and urban centers), Health Directors, Tribal Councils, other departments at NAN as well as organizational partners.

Some of the issues included the following:

- ▶ Barriers and access to specialized and/or traditional treatment.
- ▶ Dental issues.
- ▶ Identification barriers.
- ▶ NIHB issues related to escorts, medical transportation, medical equipment and supplies and medications.
- ▶ Palliative and end of life care.
- ▶ Supports while accessing health services in urban centers.

Although not every request could be resolved quickly or favorably, NAN attempted to empower and work collectively with people, their communities, Tribal Councils, partners and internally towards positive outcomes, connections and resources. It was valuable to be aware of these concerns because they help to provide insight on policy, process and practice changes that are required as we move forward the NAN Health Transformation process.

Special Events

Committees and NAN Partner Events

The HPU had the opportunity to participate in several regional committees focused on First Nations health, advocacy and equity.

The following is a brief list of groups:

- ▶ Joint Ontario Indigenous Cancer Committee - Cancer Care Ontario
- ▶ NIHB Networking Group – Chiefs of Ontario
- ▶ Opioid Surveillance Steering Committee – Chiefs of Ontario
- ▶ Seven Youth Inquest Recommendation #40
- ▶ Seven Youth Inquest Recommendation #114 Working Group
- ▶ Seven Youth Inquest Task Team on Student Well-Being

The HPU was also able to attend events organized by our partners, including:

- ▶ Mushkegowuk Council Health Summit
- ▶ IFNA Health Summit
- ▶ Matawa Health Forum
- ▶ COO Health Forum

HIGHLIGHTS

In March of 2020, many of NAN Health Transformation and HPU staff were re-deployed within NAN to support COVID-19 response. As COVID-19 has further emphasized gaps in First Nation’s health experiences and in the Social Determinants of Health, we will continue to respond and to bring these teachings back to Health Transformation, HPU files.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Community Wellness

OVERVIEW

The Community Wellness Department provides support to communities in times of need and maintains a consistent and supportive relationship. This fosters the creation of community-based programs in the areas of prevention, intervention and aftercare; with a focus on self-reliance and self-determination at the community level. These programs sustain culturally appropriate services and supports for all community members in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory, while continuing to promote the model of well-being and highlighting the spirit and resiliency of NAN membership.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To have permanent and adequate mental health supports readily accessible within the First Nations Communities for members on a continual basis.
- ▶ To be able to respond to crisis in a timely and sufficient manner with the appropriate supports necessary.
- ▶ To promote community level programming to reduce youth suicide rates.
- ▶ Provide ongoing training and professional development to Regional and Community Crisis Coordinators, Choose Life Coordinators and community frontline workers.
- ▶ Ensure prevention, intervention and after-care services are available in the community and continued advocacy for funding to make certain that these resources are sustainable.
- ▶ Enhance and empower the natural skills of community members and continue to build upon their strengths and capacity.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Choose Life Program



October 2019 Choose Life Training Choose Life Coordinators Thunder Bay, ON

Mandate: Resolution 18/36: Support for Choose Life Pilot Project

In March 2017, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) sought a Choose Life Order with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal against the Government of Canada. A Choose Life Working Group was created to develop a simplified process for the First Nation communities in NAN territory to apply for Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative funding. As a result, the Choose Life Working Group was established with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC – formerly Health Canada) to advocate the needs of First Nations children and youth at-risk of suicide where gaps in mental health services and supports exist. Choose Life aims to establish a fast-tracked process for communities in crisis to access Jordan's Principle funds to deliver suicide prevention training, counselling services and land-based healing. SC and NAN's have a joint commitment to ensure communities are being updated accordingly on the ongoing status of the Choose Life Program.

In March 2019, the NAN Choose Life program received a three-year extension which has allowed for long-term planning and creation of opportunities for our children and youth to benefit from community services and programs. The Choose Life Team at NAN held four training, capacity building and information sessions for Choose Life Coordinators. These sessions included: a Choose Life orientation, an application and reporting session, a professional development session and a skill building workshop. The topics focused on during these sessions were child and youth mental health, FASD, intergenerational trauma and training in Mental Health First Aid.

The Choose Life Team also hosts monthly networking sessions to keep Community Coordinators up to date and informed and provides opportunity for discussions and updates.

Other Activities

The Choose Life Program will:

- ▶ Implement appropriate training for the Choose Life Workers on the program’s application and reporting processes at the community level.
- ▶ Advocate for communities with their proposals and promote success for the children and youth to Choose Life.
- ▶ Assist communities in accessing suicide prevention training for Choose Life Workers.
- ▶ Promote Land-based Healing with Coordinators.
- ▶ Host monthly meetings with Indigenous Services Canada regarding the delivery of the Choose Life program.
- ▶ Host monthly networking sessions to keep Community Coordinators up to date and provide opportunity for discussions and panels.
- ▶ Create a video montage to capture Choose Life Programming in action which will lobby for funding and promotion and acknowledge the great efficiencies of the program.
- ▶ Conduct an evaluation on the Choose Life Projects at the community level to highlight the success of the program and show its impact on our children, youth, families and community and why this program needs to continue.



Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters Healing Walk September 30, 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON

Highlights 2019-2020

GRAND TOTAL: \$76,392,748 was given through the Choose Life Project to serve 20,664 children and youth in 2019-2020.

69 Applicants:

- ▶ 46 Community Applications
- ▶ 6 Educational Applications
- ▶ 3 Tribal Council Applications
- ▶ 2 Health Services Applications
- ▶ 2 NAN Applications
- ▶ 1 Application was withdrawn
- ▶ 1 Application was referred to Jordan’s Principle
- ▶ 1 Application was denied

Residential School Program

- Resolution 96-43:** Implementation of the Residential School Conference Recommendations
- Resolution 97-65:** Residential Schools Awareness and Education Model
- Resolution 05-58:** Continued Program and Services for Residential School Survivors and Intergenerational Impacts

The Indian Residential School (IRS) Program works to promote education and awareness on the legacy and lasting impacts of the IRS among NAN territory First Nation communities to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

The NAN Health Support Officers provide emotional support services to survivors and their families and helps them navigate the options available. Different types of support include identifying and making referrals to appropriate services to safely address wellness issues related to the impact of the IRS experience. The NAN Health Support Officers also offer support to other program’s clients to highlight the impacts of the IRS system in hopes to offer guidance, healing and cultural and language reclamation for new generations. Most recently, the NAN Health Support Officers assisted in cross program/departamental initiatives.

Key Issues And Activities

April 2019-March 2020	# of Communities Assisted	# of Clients Assisted
Community Workshops/ Information Booths/Events	22	4969
Emotional Support	22	1263
Referrals for services	22	841

Next Steps – Moving Forward

The IRS program will continue to reach out to NAN communities to facilitate workshops toward helping IRS survivors and their families embark on their healing journeys.

Some of the activities the IRS Program will continue to provide include:

- ▶ Conducting healing/sharing circles
- ▶ Hosting life skills workshops
- ▶ Setting up IRS information booths at events
- ▶ Disseminating information and education to new generations for the reclamation of Indigenous traditions, culture, and language

The NAN Health Support Team (HST) continuously seeks counsel from Elders and IRS survivors to enrich their knowledge on how to best serve the survivors and their families. Cultural support is a continuous effort of the HST when planning activities which support the importance of land-based activities for future gatherings and workshops.

Although NAN has not yet received specific mandates for Day School survivors, the HST has also been working to provide information and counsel to those who have been impacted by the Day School system.

In addition to providing support to navigate the referrals to a variety of services for IRS survivors and their families, the HST also assist those individuals adversely affected by the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry when required.



Medicine Walk with Elder Tom Chisel (not pictured) during Men's Healing Gathering August 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON

Men's Healing Initiative

Resolution 09/70: Support for Victims of Ralph Rowe

The NAN Executive Council was mandated to advocate for programming and support for all individuals and families ane assist them in immediate and long-term needs for recovery and healing.

Key Issues And Activities

Three Healing Gatherings were organized to provide continuity in the healing journeys of the Men's Healing Group; these sessions included:

- ▶ Sharing circles
- ▶ Grass roots cultural activities
- ▶ Peer and elder support
- ▶ Discussions on ideas to improve the program to the most beneficial degree

The first gathering focused on specific information from the men to determine their needs moving forward and their individual healing journeys.

The second gathering focused on training and capacity building to enrich the men's knowledge to provide healing for each other and other men who have been affected by sexual abuse.

The third gathering addressed the intergenerational effects and healing for survivors and their invited family members.

NAN continues to work with the Boy Scouts of Canada to engage with survivors by providing a formal apology as a means of reconciling the abuse and trauma that has occurred. NAN has been in contact with Archbishop Lydia Mamakwa of Mishamikoweesh (Indigenous Diocese) of the Anglican Church to determine how she can support them with their healing journey.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN will continue to provide ongoing support to the group involved in the Men's Healing Initiative, along with their families. NAN will also take a more active approach in providing education and awareness to the effects of sexual abuse on men to promote healing and to break down the stigmas which prevent victims from disclosure.
- ▶ The Men's Healing Initiative (MHI) Coordinator has built a strong rapport with the group of men and continuously provides them with emotional support and guidance, along with referrals to necessary resources. The MHI Coordinator continues to work with survivors who are not a part of the group to reach out for support. The group is growing at a rapid pace; therefore, NAN is looking to advocate for additional funding to support the growth of Ralph Rowe Survivors and is looking to accept victims and survivors of similar perpetrators.
- ▶ NAN continues to foster the support between the MHI and the IRS program to ensure the continuity of shared resources. NAN aims to provide more exposure and awareness to the effects of both atrocities to promote healing for victims, survivors and their families.

- ▶ In August 2018, Jack Wicksey, former counselor and house parent for Pelican Falls Residence, was extradited from Texas back to Canada to face numerous allegations of a sexual nature allegedly perpetrated against students under his care. To this point, 9 men have come forward and it is estimated that this number will continue to grow. NAN is providing support to the claimants and their families during the court proceedings. Wicksey was being detained in the Kenora District Jail and has been denied bail; however, Wicksey was released to palliative care at the Thunder Bay Regional Health and Sciences Centre prior to being diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer. It is likely Jack Wicksey will die before the men will see justice. NAN continues to work with the Crown Attorney, the OPP and the Kenora Victims Services to keep communication flowing in terms of new developments regarding the status of this case, in conjunction with and in support of the victims involved. NAN will seek additional funding to provide ongoing support to the survivors to promote healing, education and awareness in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner.
- ▶ The NAN MHI Coordinator works with Wicksey's victims to determine next steps and bridging resources for the fight moving forward in the event of Wicksey's death.



Youth Life Promotion Program

The Youth Life Promotion Program (YLP) was established in May 2016. The Mandate of the YLP is to provide holistic teachings and support to the youth residing in Thunder Bay for educational purposes. The program is designed to encourage the reclamation of traditional practices as well as promote healing for NAN youth using a variety of both clinical and traditional methods.

Key Issues And Activities

This initiative focuses on proactive measures of life promotion by working with the youth to build their skills in a holistic nature. Building resiliency by addressing and acknowledging the importance of culture, language and identity reclamation, will work to build capacity and self-determination with the hope of reducing suicide statistics amongst NAN youth.

- ▶ In October 2019, NAN purchased a parcel of land located on Dog Lake Road in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and work is ongoing with surveying and obtaining building permits.
- ▶ To provide land-based activities, NAN has also purchased four travel trailers to be utilized for youth to travel out on the land while in its developmental phases.
- ▶ NAN will collaborate interdepartmentally to develop, organize and implement programming and extend these activities to the youth involved with other departmental programs.
- ▶ With the land development being in its infancy stages, the hope is to connect with other Land-Based programs offered by partnership organizations for consultation and collaboration in program development.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

The Youth Life Promotion Program will:

- ▶ Develop policies and procedures that outline the cultural protocols pertaining to the land and other sacred items cared for by NAN.
- ▶ Consult with knowledge keepers, the Elders council, the Youth Council and the Women's Council to collaborate on program development.
- ▶ Establish partnerships with Thunder Bay schools and interdepartmentally within NAN to provide traditional and cultural activities and workshops to promote mental health and well-being of our NAN youth.
- ▶ Consistently evaluate the programs and processes of the YLP program to ensure it is meeting the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs of NAN youth in the most culturally appropriate way.
- ▶ Host an annual Youth Land Based Cultural Gathering commencing this fall when the youth have returned to their studies. The initial Gathering will be a research-based initiative to determine what the youth would like to experience for Land Based Gatherings moving forward.
- ▶ Promote and provide cultural workshops, activities and information on the Land-Based Program to support the communities experiencing youth mental health hardships as well as support new high school students relocating to urban centres. The Anishnawbe Watisiwin Program Coordinator will travel to NAN Communities to conduct this work.
- ▶ Promote the Land-Based Mental Health Program interdepartmentally among NAN staff and within existing programs occurring in the organization.



Land preparation on Dog Lake Road Thunder Bay, ON

Crisis Team Program

The Community Wellness Crisis Team provides Community Crisis Response to NAN communities and membership while dealing with crises and traumatic events in NAN First Nation communities or in an urban area where the traumatic event took place.

Crisis Response includes responding to emergency requests, crisis coordination, support, accessing resources and advocacy. Emergency management, with coordination assistance, has also been requested regarding flood and fire response this last fiscal year.

Individual supports include:

- ▶ Acting as a coordinator/mediator with funders, other agencies and support services.
- ▶ Arranging accommodations, groceries, meals, travel and supplies for family members.
- ▶ Arranging charters.
- ▶ Assisting in crisis coordination.
- ▶ Assisting with funeral arrangements.
- ▶ Conferencing calls.
- ▶ Coordinating searches for missing NAN members.
- ▶ Establishing command centers.
- ▶ Locating mental health support to the families affected.
- ▶ Organizing vigils.

The Crisis Response Team networks and coordinates with the First Nations, Tribal Councils, Health Authorities, social service agencies and government to avoid duplication of services and to promote cost effectiveness. During this past year, we have partnered with Matawa, ISC, Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy, Red Cross, IFNA, SLFNA, NODIN, Windigo, WAHA, NAN Programs, Executive and NAN First Nations.



NAN Emergency Food and Supplies Distribution Site for COVID-19 March 2020 in Thunder Bay, ON

During this period, we continued to struggle to find clinicians and crisis volunteers to work during times of crisis to support community. The shortage of clinicians and trained personnel to fill positions is greatly impacting program services and burnout in the communities and in the urban setting. During the third quarter, six suicides, one murder and three sudden deaths occurred. Crisis response is dependent on volunteers and locating volunteer crisis teams and counsellors were difficult, especially during the holidays. This is not a sustainable model when crises are inevitable and volunteers are not permanent or paid to return. Additionally, we had problems trying to communicate with contacts and their offices since they were closed. In the future, prior on-call arrangements should be made with the Tribal Councils and NAN First Nations during office closures.

We have had to look outside the usual supports and do a “volunteer call out”. A positive example and creative response like this occurred when Neskantaga First Nation could get volunteers from community members living in Thunder Bay to assist in responding to a crisis issue. A recommendation coming from this crisis includes the possible creation of volunteer crisis teams in the urban settings or “hubs”, which would be frequently visited or used by NAN members to assist when a shortage in supports occur. Partnerships are a crucial method in responding to community needs. The Community Wellness Crisis Program will work harder to find more resources and strengthen our communications during these difficult times.

Community needs during times of crisis are sometimes extensive; direction, responsibilities and limits in relation to response and spending may need to be determined. Clinicians, charters, accommodations, meals and groceries are some of the most requested items. When funding is not available, NAN Executive can advocate on behalf of the First Nation. An example of this is funding needs being in-city crisis funding which has not been approved since being submitted in 2018.

Program Activity

Key Issues and Activities
Mental health support, suicide response, missing persons, assaults and addictions.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

Assisting in supporting communities with evacuations due to water contamination, fire and flood.

Other Activites

March 2020 the Covid-19 coordination of food and distribution site; essential items included dry food, diapers, formula and emergency cleaning supplies that would be shipped to the communities during the pandemic.

Statistics

Reported Suicides in NAN Communities
April 1st, 2019 – March 31st, 2020

Age	Deaths (42 in total)
10 – 15 years	6
16 – 20 years	13
21- 25 years	4
26 – 30 years	10
31 – 35 years	2
36 – 40 years	5
41 – 45 years	0
46 – 50 years	1
51 - 55 years	0
56 – 60 years	1

Victim Quick Response Program

The Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) offers timely assistance to victims of violent crimes who do not have access to other services. The type of criminal code offences in which victims may seek VQRP assistance are as follows: domestic violence, sexual assault, serious physical assault, homicide, attempted murder, hate crimes and human trafficking.

Key Issues And Activities

- ▶ Attended student orientations to provide awareness and education regarding the program.
- ▶ Provided brochures to the Thunder Bay District Court House and Victim Services.
- ▶ Provided information seminars and VQRP brochures to NAN Crisis Coordinators and Choose Life Coordinators.
- ▶ Shipped brochures to numerous NAN communities.
- ▶ Connected with police services that serve NAN communities.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to provide literature and awareness of the program via Chiefs Assemblies and community trainings for Crisis Coordinators and Choose Life Coordinators.
- ▶ Continue to create awareness through client interaction via NAN’s Crisis Department.
- ▶ Support individuals by making referrals and community visits.
- ▶ Work with sister organizations, Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services and Matawa, to deliver VQRP program.

Crisis Team Training

The Crisis Team Training Program fosters excellence by encouraging and promoting the personal and professional growth of Crisis Teams working in the communities while also offering and facilitating specialized training intended to meet the educational needs and skill development of the Crisis Coordinators.

NAN has internal staff who are trained to provide the following certificate training workshops:

- ▶ Mental Health First Aid –Basic.
- ▶ Mental Health First Aid – Adults Who Interact with Youth.
- ▶ Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.
- ▶ safeTALK.
- ▶ Module 1 Training Workshop – Understanding our Past.
- ▶ Module 2 Training Workshop – Healing Ourselves to Move Forward.
- ▶ Module 3 Training Workshop – Mental Health Matters.
- ▶ Module 4 Training Workshop – Be the Change: Traditional Family Awareness.
- ▶ Module 5 Training Workshop – Critical Incident Group Debriefing.

Program Activity

The training team developed and delivered the Module 4 Training Workshop, which focused on traditional family awareness to share how community members could incorporate Anishinaabe culture into their personal and professional lives. The team also developed Module 5 Training Workshop on Critical Incident Group Debriefing, which offered participants the knowledge to hold group debriefing sessions in their communities. The training team continues to support and assist with the coordination of events hosted by the Oshkaatisak and Women’s councils, such as the Youth Gathering and the Women’s Gathering and participated in professional development opportunities to support the development of the Module trainings.



Training participants during Module 4 - Traditional Family Awareness discussing Tipi Teachings
October 2019 in Thunder Bay, ON.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue to provide professional development opportunities to the Crisis Coordinators in the community that enhance skill development and promote educational learning opportunities.
- ▶ Provide curriculum development for Module Training Workshops as needed and continue delivery of existing Module trainings.
- ▶ Continue to support the Women and Oshkaatisak Council’s in their initiatives.

Highlights

- ▶ Participant Training 2019-2020
- ▶ Wahgoshig First Nation - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- ▶ Thunder Bay - Gender Based Violence
- ▶ Constance Lake First Nation - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- ▶ Sioux Lookout - Mental Health First Aid
- ▶ Thunder Bay - Module 4; Traditional Family Awareness
- ▶ Thunder Bay, ON - Mental Health First Aid
- ▶ Timmins – Module 4; Traditional Family Awareness
- ▶ Thunder Bay – Module 5; Critical Incident Group Debriefing
- ▶ Missinabe Cree First Nation - Mental Health First Aid

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Social Services

OVERVIEW

The Social Services Department has been focused on several key initiatives throughout 2019/20 including First Nations Jurisdiction over Child Welfare, the Remoteness Quotient Table, access to Canadian Human Rights Tribunal funding and Social Assistance Reform.

The Chiefs Committee on Children Youth and Families (CCCYF) is mandated by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Resolution 13/06: *Ontario Aboriginal Child and Youth Strategy*. The mandate of the CCCYF is to develop a NAN specific Aboriginal Child and Youth Strategy with respect to Social Services, Child Welfare, Special Needs, Jurisdiction and other areas as identified through the Strategy, while providing guidance and direction to the Department.

The Childhood Development & Planning Department provides advocacy, coordination, planning and development of Special Needs Strategy, Early Years Strategy, Birth Registration, Midwifery, and Jordan’s Principle.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Currently, the CCCYF has been overseeing the following activities:

- ▶ Act respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families
- ▶ Autism Programing
- ▶ Charter on the Rights of the NAN Child
- ▶ Developing a NAN Children and Youth Services Model (Coordinating Body and Regional Service Delivery Models)
- ▶ First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare (federal and provincial processes)
- ▶ Implementation of the Family Well-Being program (FWBP)
- ▶ Income Assistance Reform
- ▶ Issues to Accessing Government Issued Identification
- ▶ NAN as Intervener in The First Nations Caring Society Case with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
- ▶ NAN Special Needs Strategy
- ▶ NAN-Ontario Bilateral Process

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Proceedings (“CHRT”)

In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (“the Tribunal”) issued a landmark decision which found that Canada is racially discriminating against First Nation children by not providing adequate funding for child and family services on-reserve. In May 2016, NAN was granted Intervenor Status in order to ensure that remedies address the unique challenges of service delivery to remote communities.

Key Issues and Activities

Because of the Tribunal Orders (March 2017-Compliance Hearing Orders, December 2017-Immediate Relief Orders and September 2019-Compensation Order), the following activities have taken place:

- ▶ In December 2018, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) passed a Resolution deciding upon a funding formula to distribute the 2019/20 “Community Based Prevention” and “Community Wellbeing and Jurisdiction Initiative” (CWJI) funding using the Casino Rama Formula (CRF).
- ▶ Funding letters were sent out to communities outlining their allocations on May 17, 2019.
- ▶ The most significant decision of the CHRT is that it ordered Canada to develop systems and fund actual costs of expenditures, retroactive (January 26, 2016) and going forward, which include:
 - Band representative funding
 - Mental health
 - Prevention, legal fees, intake and investigation and building repairs for First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies
- ▶ The NAN Department of Social Services in collaboration with Tikanagan and the Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA) hosted a “Working Together to Help Families” Conference in Thunder Bay on May 22-23, 2019. Representatives

from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) attended the conference to provide advice, clarification and support regarding the application process for Jordan’s Principle and Band Representative Funding.

- ▶ This funding will be available until Canada develops an alternative funding model/system which is agreed upon by the Parties (Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Caring Society, COO and NAN).
- ▶ On September 6, 2019, the CHRT ordered Canada to pay compensation to individuals affected by Canada’s discriminatory child and family services funding practices.
- ▶ The Tribunal has awarded compensation in the maximum amount possible under the Canadian Human Rights Act, specifically:
 - \$20,000 for pain and suffering (s. 53(2)(e)) to each First Nation child, parent and grandparent affected by the discrimination, as described further below; and
 - \$20,000 in special damages (s. 53(3)) to each First Nation child, parent and grand-parent affected by the discrimination, as a punitive award based on Canada’s reprehensible conduct.
 - Any parent or grandparent who had more than one child removed from their care is to be awarded \$20,000 per child removed under s. 53(3).
- ▶ The Tribunal has retained jurisdiction and will determine the process for distributing compensation later. Compensation will go to the victims/survivors directly and is not to be used to pay for services and healing activities in place of direct financial compensation.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

NAN Social Services Department will continue to support community-based applications for Band Representative Services as well as advocate for additional funding from ISC to implement and monitor this process. The Department will also continue to advocate for NAN Child and Family Service Agencies to be reimbursed at actuals. NAN will continue to ensure that the CHRT orders are adhered to and the application and approval process is not burdensome to communities or agencies. NAN will continue to ensure that the unique needs of NAN territory are considered when developing the framework for the CHRT Compensation Order. NAN Social Services will develop a communication strategy to ensure that the those that are eligible have the correct information.

Remoteness Quotient Table

Key Issues and Activities

Based on the Agreement between NAN and Canada, the CHRT issued a consent order to establish the Remoteness Quotient Table made up of NAN and ISC representatives with the purpose of developing a child centred approach to comprehensive child welfare reform that includes research on remoteness costs. NAN developed the concept of the Remoteness Quotient (RQ) to address the issue of inadequate funding mechanisms that fail to address the increased costs of service delivery to remote communities. The Tribunal ordered that ISC and NAN work to develop and implement a RQ for the three child welfare agencies (Tikinagan, Payukotayn and Kunuwanimano). The experts have explained that the RQ method they developed in Ontario can be applied in other jurisdictions, provided similar data is available. The Remoteness Quotient Phase 2 report was filed with the Tribunal on March 29, 2019. For unexplained reasons, ISC did not agree to file the report jointly.

- ▶ Funding for Tikinagan must increase by 68% to account for remoteness;
- ▶ Funding for Payukotayno must increase by 59% to account for remoteness; and

- ▶ Funding for Kunuwanimano must increase by 47% to account for remoteness.

Canada refused to implement the RQ work and in response, NAN filed a Notice of Motion with the Tribunal on October 4, 2019, seeking the following relief:

- ▶ An order that ISC cease using the inequitable CRF and its 10% remoteness allotment to distribute child and family services funding and any related funding, to NAN First Nations.
- ▶ An order for application of the RQ work and conclusions in the reports prepared by the Barnes Management Group and filed with this Tribunal to all distributions of child and family services funding, and related funding, by ISC to NAN First Nations.
- ▶ An order that ISC fund the three NAN agencies for their remoteness costs in accordance with the RQ work.
- ▶ An order for direction regarding next steps in developing the national dimension of the RQ work.
- ▶ An order that Canada implement the Calls for Justice issued by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, specifically as it relates to child and family services.
- ▶ NAN filed Affidavits in November 2019 in support of relief NAN is seeking flowing from the Final RQ Report.
- ▶ There has not been a date set that this motion will be heard before the Tribunal.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

The CHRT is reviewing this study and has committed to considering how it can be applied and adapted to meet the needs of remote First Nations across the country. NAN will continue to advocate for the implementation of the RQ. It is also the expectation that this approach can be considered in other sectors such as education, health and justice.

NAN-Ontario Bilateral Process

Mandate

In 2017, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 17-69 *Framework Agreement: Children, Youth and Families* manding the NAN CCCYF to, “develop a Framework Agreement to ensure a more integrated and holistic system within NAN territory”.

NAN and Ontario have been working on a Relationship Agreement to formalize discussions that have been ongoing for several years. A Relationship Agreement (NAN-Ontario Relationship Agreement on Child, Youth and Family Wellbeing) was negotiated and signed in April 2018. NAN and MCCSS have been continuing the work and have an initial draft of a Framework Agreement.

Key Issues and Activities

The purpose and scope of the Agreement is, “to confirm the commitment of NAN and Ontario under the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy (OICYS) to their shared goal of developing a transformed, more responsive wholistic approach to NAN child, youth and family wellbeing”. The Agreement sets out the commitment to advance the following:

- ▶ Engaging in discussions; with a view to developing an integrated and holistic service system.
- ▶ Commitment to develop mechanisms to increase First Nations decision making and oversight over services such as an independent institution (Children and Youth Coordinating Body).
- ▶ The development of pathways towards policy, regulatory and legislative mechanisms to address First Nations laws and ways in which they may be given legal effect within the Canadian legal system.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue working with Ontario in developing the NAN Ontario Framework Agreement. NAN and the CCCYF will continue to advocate the Ontario government to continue the work under the OICYS and the NAN-Ontario Bilateral Process.
- ▶ This will include securing the existing funding to support the work of the CCCYF as well as the commencement of a negotiation process to develop the Framework Agreement to guide the transformation of the child welfare system in NAN territory.

Children and Youth Coordinating Body

The CCCYF has identified an urgent need for coordination to break down service delivery silos and disconnected planning processes. Options for a NAN-wide Children and Youth Coordinating Body have been explored by the CCCYF and were presented for feedback at the February 2017 Child, Youth and Family Forum, where Chiefs and delegates spent time discussing each of the pillars and possible functions. Additional presentations have been made at NAN Chiefs Meetings.

As mandated by NAN Resolution 17/67 *Children and Youth Coordinating Process*, the CCCYF is acting as the Interim Coordinating Body and is tasked with:

- ▶ Coordinating discussions on developing appropriate funding frameworks for new programs for children youth and families.
- ▶ Develop a community engagement process to guide the strategic direction and coordination of services.
- ▶ Coordinate the process with the Health Transformation process.

Key Issues and Activities

The vision of the Children and Youth Coordinating Body is described as, “a system where NAN children will grow and thrive with their family, in their community and in their culture and language. Communities will have authority in accordance with their inherent jurisdiction to care for their children and youth. First Nations will have decision making power to design the service system that is grounded in culture and language and best meets the needs and priorities of their families”.

DRAFT Framework – Pillars of Coordination and Unity	
Partnerships – Communication & Information Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Build on and recognize roles of communities, Tribal Councils and agencies.▶ Mechanisms to communicate and coordinate.▶ Partnerships across sectors.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Advocacy for jurisdiction and funding.▶ Advocacy to address root causes (e.g. poverty, water, housing, food security).▶ Coordinated advocacy strategy to lobby government (e.g. Jordan’s Principle).
Strategic Planning – Decision Making driven by Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ A strong governance structure and system-wide consensus building process.▶ Build on existing community protocols.▶ Strategies and models that build upon regional models and plans.
Wholistic Wellness and Traditional Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Incorporate natural helpers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Kokums.▶ Support community-based initiatives and approaches to healing.▶ Traditional values and family raising practice.
Oversight and Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Development of our own standards.▶ NAN-wide evaluation framework.
First Nations Jurisdiction, Policy, Governance and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Charter of Rights of the NAN Child.▶ Develop a flexible funding framework based on needs.▶ Recognition of inherent jurisdiction.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ The CCCYF to continue activities associated with its role as Interim Children and Youth Coordinating Body.
- ▶ Resources to be negotiated to develop a comprehensive community engagement to determine the role, function and options for a permanent Children and Youth Coordinating Body.
- ▶ Coordinating discussions on developing appropriate funding frameworks for new programs for children, youth and families.
- ▶ Develop a community engagement process to guide the strategic direction and coordination of services.
- ▶ Coordinate the process with the Health Transformation Process.

Bill C-92 ‘An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and and Metis Children, Youth and Families’

Key Issues and Activities

The *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (“the Act”) passed into law on June 21, 2019. On September 10, 2019, then ISC Minister, Seamus O’Regan, announced that the Act will come into force on January 1, 2020. The purpose of the Act is to affirm the rights of Indigenous governments and organizations to exercise jurisdiction over First Nation, Inuit and Métis child and family services. Canada has not guaranteed funding to enable First Nations to undertake the important work of developing their own laws and determining the governance structures/systems required to implement them.

Bill C-92 works in two phases:

Phase 1: Federal Laws layer over Provincial/Territorial Laws	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Sections 10-17 of C-92 has substantive content about child and family services. This content touches upon:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Priorities when placing a child; emphasizing prevention when possible.● What to consider when assessing the best interests of a child.● Notice and participation in legal proceedings.▶ Federal Rules will apply in addition to the existing provincial or territorial laws. Most of the time, both laws will apply and the Federal Rules will act as a supplement. There are only a few Federal Rules and the provincial/territorial laws remain much more comprehensive.▶ If there is a “conflict or inconsistency” between the Federal Rules and the provincial/territorial ones, the Federal Rules will prevail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ C-92 says that the inherent rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis affirmed in s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 includes, “jurisdiction in relation to child and family services, including legislative authority in relation to those services and authority to administer and enforce laws made under that legislative authority” (s. 18).▶ To do so, an Indigenous government gives notice to the provincial and federal governments that it intends to exercise its jurisdiction and makes “reasonable efforts” to reach a Coordination Agreement with them. Once the Coordination Agreement is made, or after one year, then its law will have the same force as a federal law (see s. 20(3) and s. 21).▶ Section 20(2)(c) states that fiscal arrangements under Coordination Agreements must be “sustainable, needs-based and consistent with the principle of substantive equality”. This draws in the standard set out by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in the Caring Society case.
Phase 2: Indigenous Laws	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ C-92 has a pathway that First Nations and other Indigenous peoples can use to exercise their own jurisdiction in child and family services; this phase is optional. It will be up to Indigenous governments to decide whether to use it, when to use it and what their laws will say.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Indigenous, provincial/territorial and federal laws could apply together. If there is no “conflict or inconsistency”, all three will apply. If there is a “conflict or inconsistency”, C-92 sets out rules about which law prevails.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

NAN Social Services have received funds to host regional specific Bill C 92 Forums; when gatherings are allowed. NAN will continue to advocate at the political level for the funding needed to enable meaningful development and implementation of First Nations laws regarding child and family well-being.

Inherent Jurisdiction Over Children and Youth

Key Issues and Activities

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services issued a directive under the Child and Youth Family Services Act that was effective January 30, 2020. The goals of the directive are to set out the roles and responsibilities of societies providing child welfare services in the District of Thunder Bay, facilitate the coordination of services when roles and responsibilities intersect and to facilitate clear communication and respectful relationships between societies.

As of January 30, 2020, Tikinagan Child and Family Services is providing child welfare services to Tikinagan affiliated First Nations in the District of Thunder Bay and Aroland settlement Lands. Tikinagan and Dilico are still in the process of transferring files.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN will continue to advocate that NAN First Nations have inherent jurisdiction over their children wherever they reside as per Resolution 16/14: *First Nation Inherent Jurisdiction Over Children Wherever They Reside*.

Social Assistance

Key Issues and Activities

In December 2018, NAN Social Services responded to a request for proposals from ISC to engage NAN communities and make a report and recommendations. The project activities included community engagement sessions (completed from January to March 2019) and an Income Assistance Summit. This Summit took place April 2-4, 2019, in Thunder Bay, bringing together leadership, program directors, front line workers and clients of Ontario Works.

Summit participants identified their top five priorities for income assistance:

- ▶ Develop our own regulations; reflective of community's needs.
- ▶ Compensation for traditional jobs such as language keepers, natural healers, hunters and trappers.
- ▶ More job creation opportunities in communities.
- ▶ Capacity building at all levels in communities.
- ▶ Education and training for clients in economic and social development and benefits should reflect the actual cost of living.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services Department will continue to monitor opportunities to participate in Income Assistance Reform tables and discussions with ISC and Ontario. NAN sits on the Chiefs of Ontario Joint Social Services Table, which includes representatives from other Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTO) and First Nations Welfare Administrators; this table advocates for change to First Nations Social Assistance.

Family Well-Being Program

Key Issues and Activities

The Family Well-Being program (FWBp) was created to reduce violence against Indigenous women and its impacts on youth, families and communities. The program includes the design and implementation of prevention focused family well-being programs centered on FWBp Coordinators, capacity building, community programming and safe places.

In 2016, NAN entered into a three-year agreement with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to coordinate and deliver the FWBp. NAN entered into agreements with 47 First Nations to provide allocations to each community. The funding is considered “Evergreen” funding, meaning there is no end date and is an investment under “The Walking Together Strategy”: Ontario’s Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women and Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth. In November of 2019, NAN received notification from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services confirming the ongoing funding of the Family Well-Being Program.

- ▶ The FWBp is now its fifth year of implementation and is designed at the community level to address the unique needs of the community. A range of programs and services are being delivered at the community level focusing on, but not limited to healthy relationships, family violence reconnection to land and culture, program and community communication.
- ▶ The FWBp has been meeting with Tikinagan CFS Prevention staff at Tikinagan to discuss ways to best serve and strengthen families. We are looking to meet with the Kunuwanimano and Payukotayno to have similar conversations.
- ▶ NAN FWBp has developed the ‘Healthy Relationships Facilitator Manual’, FWBp Workshop-Facilitator/ Partnership Guide and a Peer to Peer support group for FWBp Community Coordinators. These training resources are used to assist community coordinators with their community programs.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Host the 4th Annual Family Well-Being Week from July 5–11, 2020.
- ▶ Organize the Men’s Initiative Conference in October 2020.
- ▶ Continue to assist community coordinators in providing effective programming for the FWBp.

Childhood Development and Planning

The Childhood Development and Planning team, under direction of the Social Services Department, provides advocacy, coordination, planning and development of Special Needs Strategy, Early Years Strategy, Birth Registration, Midwifery and Jordan’s Principle.

Key Objectives

- ▶ To advocate and coordinate regional approaches to equitable services and supports for children and families.
- ▶ To coordinate collaboration and partnerships with communities and regional organizations/services to better support healthier outcomes for children.
- ▶ To advocate for full implementation of Jordan’s Principle to ensure children’s needs are met and assist communities, regional partners and families in the completion of individual or group applications for children and youth.
- ▶ To advocate and assist in reducing the barriers associated with obtaining proper identification (e.g. birth registration, birth certificates, status).
- ▶ Advocate and assist as required in development of regional midwifery services.

Jordan’s Principle

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ Ensure that Canada fully implements Jordan’s Principle in compliance with the CHRT.
- ▶ Provided support to families/organizations in completing/submission and follow-up of application forms.
- ▶ Provided advocacy support for complex applications, denials and delays.
- ▶ Assisted and advocated for “lump sum” funding for Firefly and Mushkegowuk Special Needs Council to pay for resources and services upfront for families.
- ▶ Developed a database of community-based Jordan’s Principle Coordinators’ and held training/network event in March 2020.
- ▶ Representing NAN on Technical Jordan’s Principle PTO Working Group and National Jordan’s Principle Operations Committee.

Total number of communities served: 27

Total number of children served who live on-reserve: 26

Total number of children served who live off-reserve: 26

Total number of children referred to regional JP focal point for Service Access Resolution funding: 29

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Advocate for and assist/train Jordan’s Principle workers in each community.
- ▶ Advocate for changes in current funding process regarding Capital for building spaces for accommodation and programming.
- ▶ Build capacity and assist in coordination of regional organizations and communities to implement Jordan’s Principle.
- ▶ Collaboration with regional partners to increase access to Jordan’s Principle.
- ▶ Guide Jordan’s Principle contacts in each community, Tribal Council, Health Authority or First Nation organizations and groups in completing Jordan’s Principle applications.

Family Directed Respite Services through Jordan’s Principle Funding

Key Objectives

The focus is to support and provide families with resources that are flexible to meet the unique needs of individual families regarding family directed respite services. Families have the decision-making power and control of who they choose as their respite worker; this has led to the success of this program.

Key Issues and Activities

Wesway staff works in partnership with families to create personalized service plans built on individual strengths, needs and preferences. Caregivers are encouraged to arrange their periods of respite directly with their workers or volunteers.

Since nobody can predict when an emergency might occur such as a death, illness or other extraordinary situation, crisis respite funding is available to support families through difficult challenges.

135 NAN families are receiving respite funding. Wesway staff have visited many NAN communities and assisted families with the application.

Families have been sharing their stories with NAN and Wesway. Here are two recent stories:

One grandma shared that the respite funding has made a difference for her granddaughter who struggles with severe mental health issues. This grandma stepped in to care for her granddaughter after the death of her mother. The grandma shared a picture of one of the activities that the granddaughter had participated in with the support of a respite provider. The picture was taken after a hunting trip and it depicted the provider holding the antlers of a bull moose while standing beside both the granddaughter and her young cousin. The grandma pointed out the smiles of the children as they reflected pride, tradition, and the benefits of traditional teachings. The grandma proceeded to share in detail how her granddaughter had help clean and dress the animal. She shared that she intended to continue making traditional teachings a part of her grandchild’s respite for years to come.

One mom reached out for crisis support when she was notified that she had finally been scheduled for organ transplant surgery. The entire treatment process involved her being away from home for three months. Thankfully, she was able to receive crisis funding to arrange for her son’s grandmother to move into her home to care for him. Her son has autism. Receiving care from a known provider while remaining within his own home helped him better cope with the change and stress involved with his mom’s extended absence.

ISC has approved increased funding to further reach 160 families in 2020-2021.

Next Steps-Moving Forward

- ▶ Provide training to family directed respite workers in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), Autism and other exceptionalities.
- ▶ Work with Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to streamline and increase access to Ontario Disability Support Program for children turning 18 years of age.

Early Years

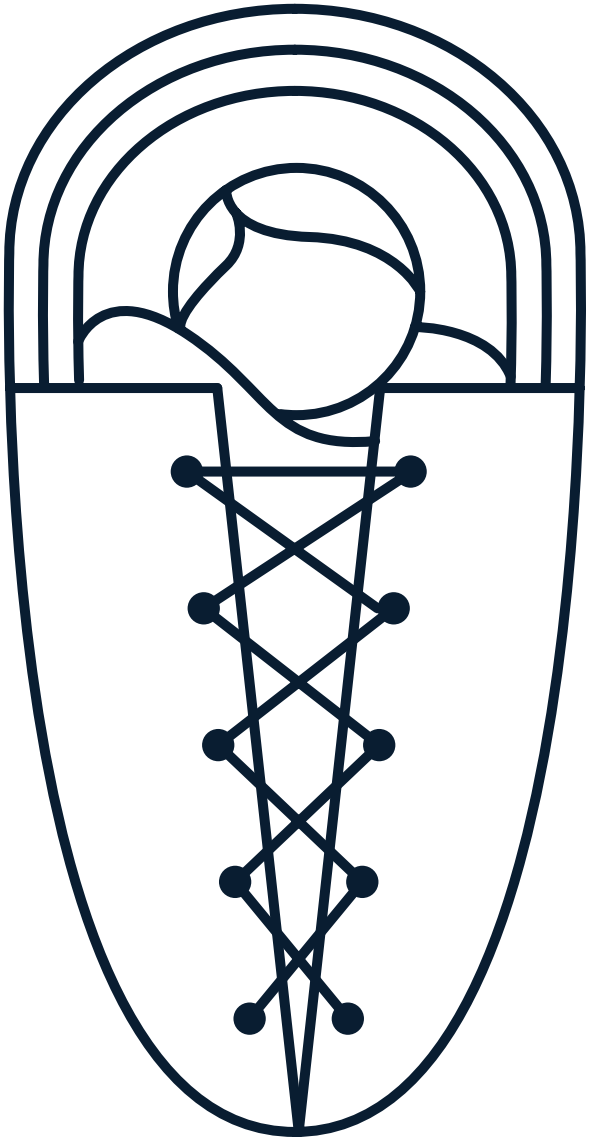
The Early Years program is mandated by Resolution 14/09: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Early Learning Framework. NAN is seeking funding and program commitments from the Ministry of Education and Indigenous Services Canada to support the development of a NAN-specific process and draft NAN Early Learning framework.

Key Issues and Activities

- ▶ Lack of infrastructure continues to be a barrier in providing safe, accessible early years programming at the community level.
- ▶ Continued to advocate for direct funding agreements between ISC Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care and communities. As of March 31, only four communities are in the process of setting up direct agreements.
- ▶ Support and assistance to AHBHC and FASD community-based workers regarding reports, resources and program development.
- ▶ Limited communication with Provincial Ministry of Education on next steps in the Journey Together funding.
- ▶ Continued development of key priorities and action items for early years framework.
- ▶ The Early Years’ Gathering: Adding to your Bundle took place in March 2020 with over 240 participants from most of the NAN communities. The participants included Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, FASD, Family Wellbeing, Choose Life, Jordan’s Principle and Mental Health Coordinators as well as education staff. The objective was to provide opportunity for multiple community-based workers to network, share and learn from each other as well as engage in skill building workshops. The final report will be available in early fall.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Build on recommendations from Adding to Your Bundle gathering.
- ▶ Support community and regional approaches to early years.



Birth Registration

Birth Registration is mandated by Resolution 07/42: *Birth Registration-Documentation Blitz*. The mandate is to work with relevant Ministries to address systemic barriers and develop strategies to address the situation in the long term.

Key Issues and Activities

Working to re-establish tripartite working groups with both levels of government to act on NAN's recommendations to remove systemic barriers. Providing advocacy in situations where a birth certificate was critical in getting health services. Issues encountered during the community ID clinics were grandparents as primary caregiver, but who do not have legal custody and not eligible to apply on child's behalf; high number of delayed birth registrations; and difficulty understanding the forms.

As an interim, NAN staff has visited the following communities to assist with ID applications:

NAN Birth Registration I.D. Clinics

Community	Date	Number of Birth Certificate	Number of Birth Registrations completed	Number of Delayed Birth	Number of Health Card Applications Completed	Total Applications in the Community
Cat lake First Nation	February 25-27, 2019	39	3	5	26	73
Weenusk/ Peawanuck First Nation	March 6, 2019	19	0	2	5	26
North Caribou Lake First Nation	April 24-26, 2019	58	1	7	6	72
Aroland First Nation	May 28-29, 2019	34	1	2	13	50
Eabametoong Fort Hope First Nation	July 29-30, 2019	53	4	0	29	86
Slate Falls First Nation	August 27-28, 2019	29	2	1	21	53
Fort Severn First Nation	September 13, 2019	37	1	2	26	66
Kingfisher Lake First Nation	September 17-18, 2019	44	3	1	51	99
Mishkeegogamang First Nation	October 22-23, 2019	49	4	15	5	73
Bearskin Lake First Nation	February 24-25, 2020	67	3	3	66	139
TOTAL:		429	22	38	248	737
Total Applications:		737				

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ Assist in crisis situations.
- ▶ Inform Seven Youth Inquest and Mental Health table on progress of work.
- ▶ Focus on removing barriers and increase access to ID services through the Tripartite Working Group.

NAN Special Needs Strategy-Mamow Sakinichinitoonanoowan Awashishaak Onci Together Holding Hands for the Children

The NAN Special Needs Strategy is mandated by Resolution 16/20: *Support for the Development of NAN Children and Youth Services Model*. NAN is mandated to work with individual communities, Tribal Councils, Health Authorities, NAN Child Welfare Agencies, NAN Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy bi-lateral table, NAN education entities, NIHB and other service providers on the development of NAN-specific children and youth services model.

Resolution 19/04: *Support for the Development of NAN Specific Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy*, mandates NAN to work directly with Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Association and other specialized services to see immediate training and to support a targeted ASD Strategy.

Key Issues and Activities:

- ▶ Three Regional Network meetings held with decision makers from key First Nation organizations in the region as well as families. Commitment to continue to work collaboratively on defining a vision, role and priorities for 2020-2021. A visual graphic representing the work and vision were accepted as well as the Elders’ teachings on the meaning of the tree and relevance to work being done.
- ▶ The third Parent Knowledge Exchange was held in Timmins in partnership with Mushkegowuk Special Needs Council and focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Parents and their respite workers provided recommendations to move forward.
- ▶ Developing a NAN Facebook Group page for parents of children with special needs to connect, network and share resources and strategies as well as helping to find information on a variety of topics.
- ▶ Case Management Tools & Templates under development: Draft Module 1: Getting Started – the background and building community teams; Draft Module 2: Case Management Framework and Tools and Templates; Draft Module 3: Privacy and Consent.
- ▶ Three community visits, Fort Albany, Mattagami and Ginoogaming to validate the draft community- based Case Management Framework and modules was completed and recommendations will be incorporated and reviewed by the action team Health Directors for further input and implementation.
- ▶ Indigenous Rehabilitation Assistant Training.
- ▶ The Clinical Mentorship Action Team, Oshki Wenjack Institute and Northern College are working collaboratively to develop specialized curriculum focusing on speech and language, physio and occupational therapy that will enhance the current Early Childhood Education and Indigenous Classroom Assistant programs offered at the colleges. The curriculum will integrate traditions, culture, languages and teachings. The goal is to develop and support the professional capacity and expertise of community-based workers to meet the needs of children where and when needed in their own communities. Additional funding was approved through ISC Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care to develop Indigenous Rehabilitation Assistants.
- ▶ A meeting was held in January, bringing together the Regional Network and Six Action Teams to develop priorities and work plans for 2020-2021; the report is available.
- ▶ Autism Action Team initial face-to-face meeting was held Dec 3, 2019, in Timmins, Ontario with 14 members of the group attending the full day meeting. This meeting assisted the Action Group members in determining next steps and moving forward with the goal of providing families of NAN communities with the following:

- ▶ A Holistic Approach to training and in community training opportunities, specifically focused on autism spectrum disorder.
- ▶ Parent support, cohesive services, advocacy, funding and accountability were all identified outcomes for the next steps in the Autism Strategy.
- ▶ Draft community, school and family autism tool kits being developed.
- ▶ Infant Mental Health three-year framework focused on developing community based IMH, including capacity training, curriculum, early years screening tools and mentorship.
- ▶ Integrating current research on infant brain development with First Nations knowledge and child rearing practices.
- ▶ Three to four communities to commit to three-year partnership, currently agreement with Payukotayno- CYMS- Prevention Initiative this year.



Next Steps – Moving Forward

Implement the recommendations from Regional Network and Action Teams.



I have used trees to teach my children because a tree that’s tall and strong and is by the river or lake and is deeply rooted, is being fed by sunshine and rain. No matter what happens, the tree stands still and strong. If you want your children to be strong-you start working at the bottom-work with them on how to be strong in areas where they have strength-soon they will be rooted and will be able to stand on their own with your help. Leaves are precious whether they are green or brown. Whatever you see, whether it is big or small, green or brown it is there for your benefit.

—Elder Jenosa Sainnawap

“Putting community ties and resources together. Someone is hanging by a thread – when times get tough and overwhelming.”

“As parents, we forget land because of all the electronics. How can our kids be inspired by something as simple as a spider or squirrel – it excites them, and they get imaginative. When we take our kids out on the land, there is real bonding and togetherness.”

“A safety net is catching our children that fall through the gaps. Families play together. We are the champions that lead the special services. Red and green lights represent emotional regulation. There is a skeleton that represents the knowledge base.”

“The NAN community is working together to break down barriers. Trees represent our landbase, cultural resources, our teachings and our roots. The skeletons are our ancestors who started us off. We have community champions and a truck that gets us where we need to go. A net allows children to get to where they need to go.

—Kenneth Wabasse
Webequie First Nation Parent on
Regional Network



Parent Panel and January Network Gathering-
Success stories on raising exceptional children.

Midwifery

The Midwifery program is mandated by Resolution 17/29: Support for Developing Midwifery Services Model in NAN Communities. NAN will seek further resources and funding to support the development of a midwifery services delivery model.

Key Issues and Activities

The Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM), along with key planning committee members: COO, NAN, SLFNHA, ISC, Grand Council Treaty #3, Midwifery Education Program and NACM, worked collaboratively to host planning meeting to move forward on implementation of midwifery training and mentorship in the north. The report and recommendations will be available late summer/early fall 2020.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

Review final report and continue to work with health authorities and AOM on next steps.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

A proposal was submitted to ISC May 2018, for resources to support the development of a Secretariat which would take direction from the CCCYF with a focus on Social Service Reform. The NAN Secretariat would provide technical support to the NAN Chiefs Committee on Child, Youth and Families. The proposal from ISC was not approved. The CCCYF continues to advocate and negotiate funding with ISC to develop and implement a Social Service Reform Secretariat.

NAN Social Services sits on the COO Social Services Coordination Unit, Joint Social Services Table and Tripartite Table. NAN as Intervener in the First Nations Caring Society Case with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, sits on the Consultation Committee on Child Welfare. Bobby Narcisse, Director of Social Services, also sits on the Confederation College Native Child and Family Services Program Advisory Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS

The passing of ‘An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and and Metis Children, Youth and Families’.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Compensation Order.

MCCSS Directive allowing Tikinagan CFS to operate in Thunder Bay District to serve NAN Families.

Renewed discussions at the CHRT RQ Table.

Negotiated and secured evergreen funding for the Family Well-Being Program.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Infrastructure and Housing

OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Infrastructure and Housing Department provides advocacy and support related to infrastructure, water, transportation, fire protection, emergency management and housing needs and issues.

As mandated by NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly, the Infrastructure and Housing Department is working on various plans, initiatives and projects involving infrastructure, fire protection and safety, transportation, water, housing and emergency management.



PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

NAN Housing Strategy

Mandate

Resolution 18/18: *NAN Housing Strategy*

In 2018, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly called for the “development of a modern NAN Housing Strategy, focused on supporting community-defined need and NAN communities’ self-determination in their housing systems” and “mandated [the NAN Executive Council] to advocate with the provincial and federal governments, and other partners, for the resources required to develop the Housing Strategy”.

The development of the NAN Housing Strategy is currently a three-year project that proposes a path forward for creating community self-determination in housing. NAN has partnered with Ryerson University’s Together Design Lab to begin developing the strategy. This project is beginning to define the scope of housing needs across NAN First Nations; providing training through workshops and seminars to develop housing metrics; and overall supporting First Nation self-determination of their housing systems. The findings from the NAN Housing Strategy will provide community advocacy tools that reflect the priorities and values of each community.

Objectives of this three-year project include:

- ▶ Work at the community and regional level to develop housing solutions and action plans that recognize the unique needs, geographies and cultures of NAN First Nations.
- ▶ Create a community-led approach for data collection and problem identification.
- ▶ Support of NAN First Nation’s right to self-determination in their housing systems.
- ▶ Encourage flexibility and creation of design solutions rooted in local lived experience.

Key Issues

- ▶ Existing standard housing solutions have not met immediate need, have not addressed future needs, and have not promoted or created wellness in the communities.
- ▶ Existing assessments of housing needs are conducted using national-level indicators not relevant to the climate, geographic and cultural needs of NAN members.
- ▶ Without appropriate indicators, the ongoing housing crisis cannot be properly defined and solutions cannot be created addressing the mental, physical and psychological needs of community members.

Key Activities

- ▶ In 2019, NAN and Ryerson University’s Together Design Lab partnered and successfully applied to the CMHC National Housing Strategy - Solutions Labs Initiative to develop and fund the NAN Housing Strategy as three-year project from 2019 to March 2021. The current project has five phases:
 1. Phase 1: Complete housing system profiles
 2. Phase 2: Develop metrics
 3. Phase 3: Create community surveys and collection of baseline data
 4. Phase 4: Identify goals
 5. Phase 5: Support community housing plans

- ▶ Between June and December 2019, NAN and the Ryerson team completed Phase 2 of the project by hosting Community Housing Workshops in eight NAN First Nations, including:
 - Brunswick House
 - Cat Lake
 - Fort Severn
 - Kasabonika Lake
 - Lac Seul
 - Marten Falls
 - Mattagami
 - Slate Falls
- ▶ Each community visit in Phase 2 looked to identify the specific housing needs, concerns and goals of community members.
- ▶ The three-day visit included community workshops and meetings with youth, Elders, Chief and Council, housing managers, construction crews and trainees and community health workers.
- ▶ NAN and the Ryerson team will be completing Phase 3 this summer and moving into the final stages over the next year.
- ▶ After identification, several common themes emerged from the visits:
 - Housing for those in greatest need, design and materials.
 - Training and skills, access to services and community growth.
- ▶ The identified themes provided valuable insights into the development of the NAN Housing Survey tools and further direction for policy and program research.
- ▶ In November 2019, an Advisory Lab was hosted to add the insights of experts' professional insights to the development of the Housing Strategy.
- ▶ The Advisory Lab invited housing professionals, architects, landscape architects, planners and health experts to discuss current barriers in the housing system. The one-and-a-half-day workshop focused on the pre-building phase including community engagement, design, tendering and procurement.
- ▶ Recommendations that came out of the event included:
 - Developing a code of ethics for external professionals and companies to follow when working in community.
 - Developing a resource list of professionals or companies with cultural competency training or experience working in NAN or similar geographies.
 - Planning and construction in the K-12 curriculum.
 - Tendering and procurement templates for communities and incorporating learning opportunities for design.
- ▶ Workshop recommendations provide further guidance for developing the Strategy.
- ▶ In February 2020, NAN and the Ryerson team hosted housing design charette workshops at the NAN Women's Gathering and NAN Youth Gathering.
- ▶ The Women's Gathering workshop provided an opportunity to explore themes, ideas and experiences of how the collective housing emergency impacts women.

- ▶ In the Youth Gathering workshop, youth had opportunity to design their own ideal homes, resulting in diverse set of designs including: studios, duplexes, multi-story housing and housing designed for families, singles, couples and roommates in a variety of sizes. The valuable input from these gatherings will help further develop the Strategy.
- ▶ Through workshops and events hosted over 2019 and early 2020, a series of metrics and survey questions have been identified to define housing need based on community member priorities.
- ▶ The development of community-based metrics will generate data that reflects the lived experience across NAN territory. Phase 3 will see these metrics reflected in the development and finalizing of the NAN Housing Survey tools, which will assist in developing local and regional housing plans as the project moves forward in Phases 4 and 5.
- ▶ The surveys, which are in their final drafts, have been divided into two parts: a household survey to be completed by one person in the house and an individual survey that can be completed by multiple household members. The two surveys take a holistic approach to housing with questions examining whether current housing meets the needs of each occupant, physical characteristics of the house, environmental issues and community features.
- ▶ Originally, NAN and the Ryerson team had intended to visit communities and train local community members on collecting information with the survey in Summer 2020; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an alternative survey deployment plan is being developed for Summer 2020 to pilot a training guide for local facilitators to undertake community surveying and related work.

Next Steps

- ▶ NAN and its partners at Ryerson University's Together Design Lab are currently finalizing the NAN Housing Survey tools and developing an alternative survey deployment for summer 2020 to pilot a training guide for local facilitators to undertake community surveying and related work.
- ▶ If your community is interested in deploying the survey, please reach out to Michael McKay, NAN Housing & Infrastructure Director.
- ▶ NAN had intended to host a NAN Housing Symposium in May 2020 for housing managers, but this has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If NAN is unable to host large events in 2020, this symposium may be cancelled and an alternate work plan to reach out to housing managers for their input may be developed for summer-fall 2020.



Aerial photo of the flooded Severn River, NAN staff participating in visual ice jam assessment with community members.

Other Activities Supporting NAN Housing Strategy

Immediate Housing Needs proposal

- ▶ NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly requested that NAN develop an immediate housing needs proposal as the development of the NAN Housing Strategy is currently a longer, three-year project. This immediate housing needs proposal was developed and presented to NAN Chiefs at the Spring Chiefs Assembly in May 7-8, 2019. A follow-up has yet to be decided.

National First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy

- ▶ In 2018, a position paper was submitted to the Assembly of First Nation (AFN) as part of the development of the “First Nations National Housing and related Infrastructure Strategy” to ensure that NAN First Nations’ views and needs are properly represented and incorporated into the national strategy.
- ▶ In 2019 and 2020, NAN has attended AFN conferences as part of the development of National First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy. During 2019, AFN undertook a national housing data gathering exercise, which was led by Chiefs of Ontario (COO) in the Ontario region. COO reported that 109 First Nations (81%) participated in this exercise. The data is currently being analyzed by AFN and the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and it is expected that findings will be presented at the AFN Annual General Assembly in 2020. To ensure the data collected was nationally representative, FNIGC developed the national sampling strategy, the technical infrastructure to house data, and is leading the data processing, statistical analyses and interpretation.

- ▶ NAN will be requesting aggregate data from AFN and FNIGC of the NAN First Nations that participated and completed the survey to help support the development of the NAN Housing Strategy.

Housing, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Indigenous Children’s Respiratory Health Project

- ▶ According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, housing directly affects the health of children and youth. First Nations and Inuit are disproportionately affected by crowded and inadequate housing, which has been associated with increased hospital admissions of children for respiratory tract illnesses.
- ▶ This study has evaluated indoor environmental quality in houses of 50-100 children living in four isolated communities in this area, in relation to respiratory health and related use of health care services.



Meeting with Elders of Mattagami on July 9-11, 2019



Meeting with Elders of Cat Lake on July 22-24, 2019

- ▶ The four participating communities of Kasabonika, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Lac Seul and Sandy Lake have been completed.
- ▶ The final report is expected to be completed in 2020.
- ▶ NAN Infrastructure & Housing Director Michael McKay is part of the research team.

NAN Homelessness Strategy

Mandate

Resolution 17/37: NAN-Wide Homelessness Strategy and Prevention

In 2017, the Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated NAN Executive to, “seek resources to develop a database system to enable NAN to collect data on homelessness both on and off-reserve” and “the data will be shared with the communities and used to develop a strategy on First Nations homelessness both on and off-reserve”.

- ▶ The NAN Homelessness Strategy is now being managed by the NAN Infrastructure & Housing Department as it coincides with work being conducted on the NAN Housing Strategy.
- ▶ NAN has established a partnership with Ryerson University’s Together Design Lab to develop the research methodology and an appropriate interview structure to gather information from NAN members who have previously experienced homelessness and document their pathway out of homelessness.

Key Issues

- ▶ The definition of homelessness must be expanded to include different types of homelessness NAN First Nation members experience.
- ▶ NAN communities face vastly different realities in the delivery of services because of which, many NAN members relocate to urban centers.
- ▶ Many factors can contribute to poverty and homelessness among NAN members, including:
 - Inadequate supports for those with mental health issues and addictions.
 - Mental health and addictions.
 - Racism and systemic discrimination in the justice system.
 - Rigid policies on housing and social assistance.
- ▶ NAN members experience an overwhelming shortage of housing and overcrowding on reserve.
- ▶ NAN members do not have equitable access to safe shelter when escaping domestic violence.
- ▶ Many families in remote, semi-remote and isolated First Nations face acute hardship due to the extremely high cost of living, including food, housing, fuel and basic expenses.

Key Activities

- ▶ NAN has established Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) to increase collaboration and pursue solutions to addressing homelessness with the Social Services Boards in Thunder Bay, Kenora and Cochrane.
- ▶ NAN has established a Collaboration Steering Committee with three district Social Services Boards (Cochrane, Kenora and Thunder Bay) to oversee the implementation of the commitments set out in the MOUs.

- ▶ NAN is establishing an internal team that is comprised of various departments whose work relates to homelessness to increase collaboration and share information.
- ▶ NAN and Ryerson University's Together Design Lab have developed appropriate research methodology and interview questions to establish pathways out of homelessness.

Next Steps

- ▶ Community visits, in collaboration with the NAN Housing Strategy, will take place to interview NAN members who have previously experienced homelessness.
- ▶ Data collected will be used to map pathways out of homelessness and services and supports available to individuals overcoming homelessness.
- ▶ Data collected will inform government of policy changes required to eradicate homelessness for NAN members and the necessary supports required.

Fire Protection, Fire Prevention & Emergency Management

Mandate

Resolution 16/35: Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

On May 19, 2016, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly launched Amber's Fire Safety Campaign (AFSC) to increase fire safety and help prevent tragic house fires that have devastated our communities and claimed far too many lives. AFSC continues to promote the campaign in NAN First Nations through four pillars: education, training, capacity building and partnerships.

Resolution 19/30: NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service

In 2019, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the Executive Council to begin the development of a Fire and Emergency Management Service for NAN First Nations, including a mandate to seek funding and resources to complete an assessment of fire protection and prevention infrastructure and capacity, level of operation and maintenance funding, and a data history of fire threats and occurrences for NAN communities. The development of this service is expected to be guided by a working group, building upon existing partnerships established by Amber's Fire Safety Campaign.

Key Issues

- ▶ Within NAN territory, tragic house fires continue to devastate families due to lack of fire protection infrastructure as well as inadequate housing.
- ▶ Most recently, a house fire in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation on May 2, 2019, resulted in the loss of five lives, including four children.

- ▶ Emergencies such as the Bearskin Lake flooding in November 2019, have highlighted the gaps in emergency management within NAN territory. According to a report by the AFN *First Nations Emergency Management Think Tank* in March 2019, on-reserve First Nations are 18 times more likely to be evacuated due to natural disasters than the general population and these emergencies are only increasing in frequency, severity and duration with the compounding effects of climate change.

Key Activities

Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

- ▶ At the launch of the campaign in 2016, NAN developed a three-year plan and received a letter of support from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) dated July 8, 2016, stating, "INAC will partner with NAN on this important three-year initiative to promote awareness and education of Fire Prevention in NAN communities". This three-year initiative ended March 31, 2019.
- ▶ In 2019, NAN sent a letter to ISC requesting additional support of Amber's Fire Safety Campaign in the long-term. For the fiscal year 2019-2020, ISC provided some additional funding; however, longer-term support for Amber's Fire Safety Campaign has not yet been guaranteed by ISC. A proposal to continue the campaign in the fiscal year 2020-21 has not yet received a response from ISC.
- ▶ In 2019, NAN continued the work of Amber's Fire Safety Campaign by delivering fire prevention education at NAN First Nation schools and in communities.
- ▶ NAN continues to coordinate the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign Working Group that consists of ISC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ontario First Nations Technical

Services Corporation, Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada, Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal as well as the Fire Chiefs of Sioux Lookout, Greenstone, Timmins and Thunder Bay.

- ▶ The working group meets at least twice a year to discuss and review campaign updates and initiatives as well as provide guidance.
- ▶ Fire safety awareness and promotion was delivered to community members through radio, print publications and increasingly on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.
- ▶ The campaign has provided fire prevention education to schools in 27 NAN First Nations as well as fire prevention education resources to all 49 NAN First Nations.
- ▶ The campaign developed a 'Home Fire Safety Guide' brochure on testing battery-operated smoke alarms, changing the batteries and developing home fire escape plans for families in NAN First Nations.
- ▶ The Home Safety Guide brochure has been distributed at Amber's Fire Safety Campaign booths at the First Nations Housing Conference and was part of a mass-mail out of fire safety resources to NAN communities in 2019 through the Family Well-Being Program.



Mamawmatawa Holistic Education Centre in Constance Lake First Nation on November 19, 2019

- ▶ Through the Woodstove Exchange Pilot Project, the campaign has provided Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) training to six NAN First Nations since 2016 in partnership with the NAN Environment & Climate Change Department. These courses trained students on the safe installation and inspection of woodstoves and wood burning systems.
- ▶ Through this partnership, the campaign also developed a 'Woodstove Maintenance Guide' brochure featuring woodstove safety tips that will be mailed to NAN communities in summer 2020.

Next Steps

- ▶ NAN has submitted proposal to continue Amber's Fire Safety Campaign in 2020-21 and continues mandate of increasing fire safety and helping to prevent tragic house fires in NAN territory.

Other Activities Supporting Fire Protection, Fire Prevention & Emergency Management

- ▶ The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution no. 89/2017: *Support for the Creation of the Indigenous Fire Marshal Office (IFMO)* mandated the Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada (AFAC) to create a national indigenous fire safety office to support First Nation communities in their efforts to improve fire safety and protection of people, property and the environment.
- ▶ NAN participated in AFAC's consultation process to develop IFMO on November 27, 2018, and October 24, 2019, in Thunder Bay. In May 2020, the IFMO Project will transition into the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council Project (NIFSC), which will continue work on improving fire safety through development of capacity-building and risk-mitigation programs and services.
- ▶ For more information:
<https://indigenousfiresafety.ca/>

NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service

- ▶ NAN has requested ISC funding to develop a NAN Emergency Management Branch (EM Branch) that will do a full policy review of all currently documented emergency management agreements and protocol for NAN territory.
- ▶ The EM Branch will comprise of two positions, an Officer and a Coordinator, who will report to the Director of Infrastructure & Housing.
- ▶ This review will serve as the basis for a new Trilateral Emergency Management Agreement and Steering Committee as well as revised NAN Emergency Management protocol.
- ▶ NAN's currently active Trilateral Agreement, "Emergency Response and Evacuations Protocol Agreement" was established in 1997 and outlines specific NAN First Nations concerns and issues which remain relevant to this day.
- ▶ The development of a new protocol presents the opportunity to revise the agreement to include all types of situations that would be covered by Emergency Management including natural disasters, failure of critical infrastructure and pandemics, as well as highlight and reconcile the ongoing First Nation concerns from the 1997 document.
- ▶ NAN is a member of the Northwestern Ontario First Nations Emergency Management Working Group that was established in January 2020. This group is co-chaired by Independent First Nations Alliance and Indigenous Affairs Ontario and focuses on region specific emergency management issues and concerns.
- ▶ Within the scope of COVID-19, NAN has also been doing emergency management work revising the NAN Corporate Continuity Plan and establishing Pandemic Plans for both internal and external NAN operations.

Next Steps

- ▶ NAN has submitted a proposal to ISC to establish an EM Branch that will undertake a full review of current emergency management agreements and protocol to guide the development of new ones that will increase the capacity and resiliency to address emergency management related matters within NAN territory.

NRCAN Improving Access to Bioheat in NAN Communities Project

Mandate

Building upon the success of NAN Woodstove Exchange Pilot Project of 2018-2019, this project will expand to additional communities and build upon existing communities bioheat programs, training and capacity.

Key Issues

- ▶ This new project aims to expand the previously successful project to six more communities.
- ▶ This project captures NAN's vision of building a stronger local economy, energy efficiency and independence, fire safe practices and lessening community impact on the climate.
- ▶ This project also aims to increase community capacity for wood harvesting and provide additional infrastructure for harvesting, processing, curing and storing firewood.

Key Activities

The following activities have been completed so far:

- ▶ Visited Sandpoint First Nation's sawmill operations to support proposal development.
- ▶ Contacted communities (Wapekeka, Nibinamik, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and Eabametoong (Quonset hut and wood harvesting only).
- ▶ Completed community agreements.
- ▶ Requested quotes and received for necessary equipment and training programs.
- ▶ Completed supplier agreements for wood stoves and Quonset huts.
- ▶ Ordered and delivered wood stoves by winter road.
- ▶ Ordered and delivered Quonset huts and associated materials by winter road.

Next Steps

The following items are anticipated to be of highest priority once communities have been re-opened:

- ▶ Community visit to Wapekeka to introduce BioHeat project.
- ▶ Creation and printing of educational/promotional materials.
- ▶ Initial house assessments for suitability.
- ▶ WETT training sessions scheduled and agreements signed.

First Nation Drinking Water

Mandate

Resolution 12/29: *Rejection of Bill S-8; Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*

In 2012, Chiefs-in-Assembly manded the NAN Executive to “advocate for safe drinking water solutions that respect the jurisdiction of First Nations and the fiduciary obligations of Canada”.

Resolution 15/22: *NAN First Nation Water and Wastewater Facilities*
In 2015, Chiefs-in-Assembly declared they, “support NAN in the development of a comprehensive assessment of all NAN First Nations water and wastewater facilities with a beginning focus on the elimination of all long-term (greater than one year) Boil Water Advisory (BWA) in NAN communities”.

Resolution 16/34: *Tri-lateral Working Group on First Nation Drinking Water*
In 2016, Chiefs-in-Assembly declared they, “support the participation of technical staff in the Tri-Lateral Working Group on First Nation Drinking Water.”

Key Issues

- ▶ The Federal Government is currently not on track to have all Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories (LTDWAs) removed by March 2021.
- ▶ The Federal Government has not committed to the repeal of the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act.
- ▶ Operation and maintenance funding for water and wastewater treatment facilities continues to be insufficient for operating and maintaining this infrastructure to provincial standards.

Key Activities

- ▶ The Infrastructure & Housing department is working with NAN communities and Tribal Councils to increase members’ knowledge and skills to more accurately evaluate their drinking water systems, determine current gaps in funding for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of water systems and determine a path towards better source water protection.
- ▶ In partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), working with Tribal Councils, completed six on-site assessments of Water Treatment Plants in NAN communities:
 - Deer Lake
 - Kee-way-win
 - Fort Albany
 - Moose Cree
 - Kasabonika
 - Wunnumin Lake
- ▶ This information will be used to develop a comprehensive NAN Water Needs Assessment.
- ▶ Participation in a Trilateral Technical Working Group comprised of program and technical experts from ISC, MECP and Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation, developed an action and implementation plan to eliminate LTDWAs.
- ▶ Working towards the development of an O&M Business Plan for Water Treatment Plants with Tribal Councils and Ontario First Nations technical services corporation, including a comparison of water treatment O&M costs in FN communities vs. similarly sized municipal plants.

Next Steps

- ▶ Complete 11 remaining water treatment plant assessments once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

- ▶ Organize meeting with Tribal Councils and Independent First Nations via tele/ videoconference or in person once COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted.
- ▶ Continue to work with COO and AFN on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act repeal, alternatives or reforms.
- ▶ Continue to work with COO and AFN on an Asset Management based approach to O&M funding for NAN communities.

Education Infrastructure

Mandate

Resolution 17/71: *NAN Education Infrastructure Needs Assessment*

In 2017, Chiefs-in-Assembly declared they, “support the development of the NAN Education Infrastructure Needs Assessment and the ongoing work that must be done to keep this working document updated to reflect the current infrastructure situation across NAN territory, including operation and maintenance issues”.

Key Issues

- ▶ Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) initiated a feasibility study for work to repair, renovate or replace infrastructure at Dennis Franklin Cromarty and Pelican Falls First Nation High Schools.
- ▶ Delays were encountered due to disagreements between NNEC, Prologica (the enrollment projections consultant) and ISC with respect to the enrollment numbers provided.
- ▶ First Nations Engineering Services Limited (FNESL) was hired to adjust the projection numbers based on consultation with NNEC and additional background study.

- ▶ Currently, negotiations with ISC are taking place regarding the final enrollment number; this is required to continue with the feasibility study.

Key Activities

- ▶ NAN will support NNEC through the feasibility study and act as a liaison between FNESL and other project team members.

Next Steps

- ▶ The feasibility study will require a minimum three months to reach completion once an agreement has been reached on the enrollment projection numbers provided by FNESL.

Community Support Initiatives

Mandate

- ▶ Upon request from NAN Chiefs, the NAN Infrastructure & Housing Department has been called upon to provide technical support to communities during challenging community events.

Key Activities

- ▶ Assisted Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug on reviewing fire protection program after May 2, 2019 tragic house fire.
- ▶ Assisted with Bearskin Lake flooding emergency.



Bearskin Lake First Nation flooding.

- ▶ Supported North Spirit Lake’s Infrastructure requirements during their Public Health crisis.
- ▶ Worked with Cat Lake to sign agreement to work towards ending housing crisis on July 22, 2019.
- ▶ Worked with Kashechewan in the development of the relocation agreement.
- ▶ Worked with Neskantaga First Nation during current water crisis to help with providing bottled water and working towards the lifting of the Boil Water Advisory.

Remote Northern Airports

Mandate

Resolution 16/48: *Aviation Safety in First Nation Communities*

In 2016, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 16/48 that stated, “NAN is committed to the improvement of safety standards for public and commercial air service in NAN First Nations by upgrading current radar systems in remote airports to meet the Canadian standard.”

- ▶ NAN has been lobbying both the federal and provincial governments for essential upgrades to the infrastructure at remote northern airports.
- ▶ The airports require additional staff and an on-call provision to guarantee service as well as Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) approaches coupled with high intensity runway lighting.
- ▶ Achieving these goals would result in safer air travel in northern Ontario and a guarantee of service for remote community’s dependent solely on-air travel.

Key Issues

- ▶ Remote First Nation communities are solely dependent on-air travel for transportation of people and goods.
- ▶ Currently, there is no guarantee of out-of-hour service at remote northern airports.
- ▶ Current staffing is weekdays only (74% of Medevac flights land after hours).
- ▶ Airport staff must provide Medevac carriers with a visual runway condition report before dispatching.
- ▶ Geographic location of the airports results in a low ceiling height for a large part of the year.

Key Activities

- ▶ Four community visits in 2019 offered the opportunity to assess some of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) remote northern airports and provide reports to the Remote Northern Transportation Office (RNTO) on deficiencies identified at each location:
 - Bearskin Lake First Nation
 - Fort Severn First Nation
 - Kasabonika Lake First Nation
 - Marten Falls First Nation
- ▶ Meeting with new MTO Minister Caroline Mulroney’s Senior Staff, MTO Regional Director and Member of Provincial Parliament Sol Mamakwa to discuss improvements required at MTO’s remote northern airports and potential funding sources.
- ▶ The NAN Aviation Needs Assessment was provided to the previous MTO Minister, Jeff Yurek, in spring 2019, as well as to the current MTO Minister Caroline Mulroney in December 2019.

- ▶ Meeting with Ornge CEO and President, Homer Tien, and the NAN Health Transformation Team to discuss patient transfer issues related to land ambulances and Ornge prioritization of Medevac calls.
- ▶ Ongoing communication with NAV Canada about the decommissioning of community Non-Directional Beacons (NDB); ensuring communities are aware and respond to related inquiries from leadership.
- ▶ Providing support to Wawakapewin First Nation in the development of a Remote Airport Proposal to guarantee Medevac Services and the ability to travel year-round.
- ▶ RNTO finished installing 19 backup generators at remote northern airports with automatic transfer switches and all generators are now in service.
- ▶ RNTO has six remaining communities left to upgrade runway lighting.
- ▶ Ongoing discussions with Transport Canada about flight tracking capability and security screening to decrease illegal contraband shipments into remote communities.
- ▶ Ongoing discussions and advocacy for MTO’s remote northern airports to be considered remote and essential by Transport Canada and receive federal funding to support their infrastructure.
- ▶ Completing four Community Asset Inventories to provide support to communities in procuring local work through the provincial government, such as brush clearing, equipment rentals, catering, accommodations, etc.

Next Steps

- ▶ Advocacy will continue at both levels of government for the funds needed to support remote airport infrastructure improvements, additional staffing and improved navigational technology.
- ▶ A meeting will be requested with the Federal Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, to discuss federal funding to support remote airport infrastructure.
- ▶ NAN will continue to monitor capital projects and maintenance at remote northern airports.

MTO Remote Airport Employee Taxation Support

Overview

- ▶ NAN has been working with employees from airports located off-reserve or partially off reserve to address the longstanding issue of payroll taxation.
- ▶ 11 remote airports in NAN communities are located off-reserve or partially off-reserve and their staff have been subject to payroll taxation since the airports were constructed.

Key Issues

- ▶ The affected employees should not be subject to payroll taxation since the airports were constructed in those locations simply because the geography was more suitable.
- ▶ The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) applies the “Connecting Factors Test” to determine if an employee’s wages can be placed on-reserve and therefore, not subject to taxation.

- ▶ The key components of the Connecting Factors Test include:
 - Status Indian under the Indian Act
 - Live on-reserve
 - Employed by the MTO
 - Duties preformed both on and off-reserve
 - Proximity of the airport to the reserve
 - Creation and use of the airport in relation to the reserve community
- ▶ The affected employees met the requirements of the CRA's Connecting Factors Test, placing 100% of their income on reserve for the year objected to.
- ▶ The CRA will only review 10 years previous from the date the objections were filed to apply the ruling.

Key Activities

- ▶ 11 affected airport employees have filed Objections and Adjustment Requests with the CRA for previous years worked and the CRA accepted those requests.
- ▶ All other affected employees or previous employees in the past ten years, including retired staff, must also file Objection and Adjustment requests with the CRA to have this ruling applied.
- ▶ The eleven affected employees that filed with the CRA have begun receiving their payroll tax reimbursements.

Next Steps

- ▶ NAN will assist all affected employees in pursuing this ruling with the CRA.
- ▶ NAN will begin the process of seeking a CRA ruling on the case to establish that the connecting factors will not change and prevent employees from having payroll tax deducted in the future.

- ▶ Currently, all affected staff must annually self-assess when reporting their tax information to the CRA and state whether their situation remains the same (Connecting Factors Test) to have the ruling applied and be reimbursed tax paid from the previous year.

Commercial Vehicle Safety

Mandate

Resolution 19/46: *Commercial Vehicle Safety and Improved Driver Training* – “Nishnawbe Aski Nation is committed to the improvement of safety standards and training requirements for commercial vehicle operators on provincial highway networks by implementing In-vehicle Monitoring Systems and dash cameras”

- ▶ Collaboration with MTO Commercial Vehicle Safety Division to identify gaps in commercial vehicle driver training and regulations.

Key Issues

- ▶ Currently, commercial driver training is not standardized across Canada and requirements vary provincially.
- ▶ Dash cameras are not currently required by commercial vehicle operators.
- ▶ Commercial vehicle operators are currently able to work for multiple employers simultaneously, without a system to efficiently track employee hours with multiple employers.
- ▶ Commercial vehicles 25 years old or newer have in-vehicle monitoring systems and a fatality must occur for law enforcement to obtain the device for evidence.
- ▶ First Nation communities located adjacent to provincial highway networks require pedestrian crosswalks to allow safe crossing.
- ▶ School buses in remote First Nations are not receiving semi-annual safety inspections.

Key Activities

- ▶ The MTO will be implementing an online log system for commercial vehicle operators to allow digital tracking of driver hours next year.
- ▶ The MTO has increased inspection frequency of buses, school purposes vehicles and accessible vehicles to semi-annually, rather than annually.
- ▶ The MTO Traffic Division in Thunder Bay has proposed options for voluntary, non-compliance school bus inspections in NAN remote First Nations to identify safety deficiencies.
- ▶ Working with MTO Traffic Division to identify necessary supports to open Motor Vehicle Inspection Stations (MVIS) in NAN remote communities and increase availability for MVI's in hub locations during winter road season.
- ▶ Identified key areas of focus to improve commercial vehicle safety include:
 - Standardization of driver training across Canada.
 - Implementation of dash cameras be required for all commercial vehicles.
 - Addition of pedestrian crosswalks along provincial highways adjacent to First Nation communities.

Next Steps

- ▶ Work will continue collaboratively with the MTO Commercial Vehicle Safety Division to identify changes required to current legislation to improve commercial vehicle safety.
- ▶ Meetings will be requested with the provincial and federal Ministers of Transportation to discuss improvements to commercial vehicle safety provincially and across Canada.

OTHER DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Provided construction management support to NAN leadership through the development of the new NAN office building.
- ▶ Worked with the Community Wellness department to co-ordinate site development at the proposed NAN Traditional Learning site at 461 Dog Lake Road.
- ▶ Provided infrastructure support to the Seven Youth Inquest Department to ensure that infrastructure concerns are recognized and brought to the forefront during Seven Youth Inquest discussions.
- ▶ Hired various students and recent graduates to support projects such as the NAN Housing Strategy and Amber's Fire Safety Campaign and to encourage careers in housing and infrastructure, including a summer student from May-August 2019 and a housing intern in September 2019-February 2020. NAN has now hired this intern as the new Emergency Management Officer as of March 2019.
- ▶ In March 2020, the department also had a student placement to help support department projects and learn more about their chosen career path.



New leveled area for tipi, trailers, fire pit at NAN Dog Lake Road property.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Environment and Climate Change

OVERVIEW

The Environment and Climate Change Department is under the portfolio of Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy. The Department works alongside a team of directors and staff within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). The Director of Environment and Climate Change position was filled in January. Currently, the department is overseeing two projects: Woodstove Project and Recycling Project.

Woodstove Project

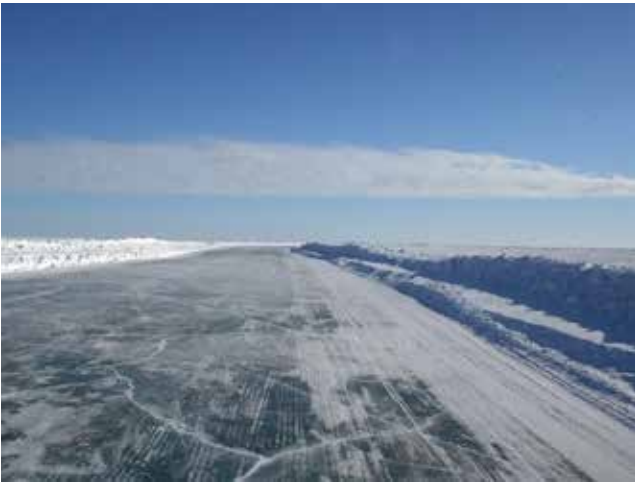
The Woodstove Project began with community assessments of five NAN First Nations between 2018-2019.

In 2019, nearly 200 woodstoves were purchased, shipped and installed in five NAN First Nations:

- ▶ North Caribou Lake First Nation (25)
- ▶ Sandy Lake First Nation (60)
- ▶ Deer Lake First Nation (45)
- ▶ Fort Hope First Nation (30)
- ▶ Wunnumin Lake First Nation (20)

Poplar Hill First Nation received their assessment and installation of woodstoves in February 2020.

Winnipeg Chimney Services installed all woodstoves and were hired to provide Wood Energy Technology Training (WETT). The three-week training was given on code of compliance, wood burning systems, site basic inspections and the final inspection of wood stoves.



Four NAN First Nations have completed the training:

- ▶ North Caribou Lake First Nation
 - Seven community members participated in training.
 - One candidate to be (WETT) certified.
- ▶ Sandy Lake First Nation
 - Seven community members participated in training.
 - Two candidates to be (WETT) certified.
- ▶ Deer Lake First Nation
 - Four community members participated in training.
 - Two candidates to be (WETT) certified.
- ▶ Wunnumin Lake First Nation
 - Seven community members participated in training.
 - One candidate needs to take 1 course to be WETT certified.

Fort Hope First Nation had completed WETT training before the project started through Matawa First Nations Management.

Poplar Hill First Nation’s WETT training was cancelled due to challenges in student retention and success.

It should be noted that many community members needed to take all three courses of WETT training and pass a final exam for WETT certification. Many students successfully completed two out of three courses but may have been unable to attend the one out of the three courses to become WETT certified.

The Recycling Project

Phase 1 of the Recycling Project was completed in January. The department has participated in three meetings with NAN Infrastructure and Housing staff and Ontario Recycling Council staff to begin planning work on Phase 2 of the project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Prepared material to support Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy in meetings with provincial and federal ministers.
- ▶ Developed a proposal for regarding environment and climate change (due to COVID-19 outbreak this proposal is currently on hold).
- ▶ Contacted four non-government organizations regarding funding for projects dealing with Climate change. Three responses have been received to date.
- ▶ Reached out to Ontario Power Generation regarding funding projects at NAN.
- ▶ Received contact from the New Democratic Party on how NAN can work together with them on issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

Research to determine the provincial and federal government’s plans for addressing climate change is ongoing.

The percentages of party agendas on climate change:

Green Party	.....52%
Bloc	.....32%
Conservatives	.....10%
NDP	.....35%
Liberals	.....34%

Elections Issues percentage by Province dealing with Climate Change:

Quebec	.....32%
Ontario	.....28%
Atlantic Canada	.....28%
Manitoba	.....27%
BC	.....19%
Alberta	.....11%
Average	.....25%



Chateau Cree

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Energy

OVERVIEW

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) received funding from the Independent Electricity Service Operator (IESO) to conduct a residential and commercial energy efficiency pilot project in four NAN communities. The communities selected to participate in the pilot project are:

- 1. Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- 2. Wunnumin Lake First Nation
- 3. North Caribou Lake First Nation
- 4. Sachigo Lake First Nation

The funding has allowed for the hiring of an Energy Coordinator at NAN as well as local Community Energy Coordinators. These coordinators will oversee the project within their respective communities and work closely with technicians from Ecofitt to provide energy efficient upgrades, audits to homes and commercial properties in the communities. Upgrades that are included in this project are:

- ▶ Upgrading lightbulbs
- ▶ Low flow aerators and shower heads
- ▶ Wrapping hot water tanks
- ▶ Insulating hot water pipes
- ▶ Adding floor and attic insulation
- ▶ Energy efficient block heaters

The other issues that fall under Energy that NAN is involved with include the Greenhouse Gas Price Pollution Act and general advocacy and support work at the community level.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Thus far, the four communities selected for this project have been positively benefited. Each community has received funding to hire a local Community Coordinator for up to 18 months. The coordinators are being trained to conduct energy audits and are learning about energy saving-related products and technologies. Launch events were held in the communities that allowed for community leaders and members to interact with and learn more about the project from representatives from NAN, Ecofitt and IESO. Ecofitt technicians have been working closely with the coordinators and community members to help educate and spread the word about the pilot program. The program is free to everyone, with the goal to have every home and commercial building undergo an energy audit and receive energy saving measures that will see a smaller electricity bill once the community is connected to the grid via the Watay transmission line soon.

Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a risk assessment has been created that adjusts the long-term work plan of this project in the event of a two, four or nine-month delay. Originally, the pilot project was slated to wrap up by June of 2021; however, NAN, IESO and Ecofitt

do not wish to compromise the goals and overall impact of this project due to the unforeseen circumstances. With this, they will be looking at the possibility of extending the time frame of this project until the end of 2021.

A regional working group to examine the Greenhouse Gas Price Pollution (GHGPP) Act (the Act) was established by the Chiefs of Ontario in 2019. The working group is comprised of technicians and Chiefs from the region’s Provincial Territorial Organizations and Independent First Nations, including NAN. Lawyer Kenneth Young, has also been participating, providing legal analysis of the Act and its implications for First Nations in Ontario.

In March 2020, the GHGPP Working Group met with Minister Wilkinson and his staff via teleconference, but low attendance prevented any meaningful headway. Next step to be completed are increasing pressure on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change as well as the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to ensure provisions of the *Indian Act* are maintained and that Canada continues its fiduciary responsibility to protect First Nations property.



Kasabonika

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Forestry

OVERVIEW

In recent years, the Forestry file at Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has been operating with no budget and no dedicated forestry staff. As a result, forestry and forest management planning has been idle. Securing resources has been a priority at the NAN organizational level over the past year.

In November 2019, resolution 19-15, *Developing a New Approach to Ontario Forestry Strategy with NAN First Nations*, was motioned and passed. The resolution highlights the need to call for a review and revision of the Crown Forestry Sustainability Act (CFSA) as part of the development of a new provincial forestry strategy that would allow First Nation land use models and forest management planning to achieve more equal benefits from forestry in their traditional territories.

NAN First Nations wants to ensure that a current customized consultation approach in the Forest Management Plan Manual (FMPM) is developed. This approach is to improve the implementation process with the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and to improve First Nation’s direct roles as stewards of the land, while measuring the sustainability described under the CFSA.

On December 4, 2019, Ontario released a draft Forest Sector Strategy for feedback through the Environmental Registry. In their release announcement, the provincial government stated they would also consult with Indigenous partners and engage municipal leaders on the draft for advice on how to best help protect existing jobs and create new ones. It was also stated that they will help the industry innovate and attract new investments, while ensuring our forests continue to be managed sustainably for the future of Ontario’s communities and families. February 5, 2020, is the final day for public comment on the draft Forest Sector Strategy.

Some individual NAN First Nations have been actively advocating for meaningful engagement with government and industry with an eye toward the long-term goal of viable economic development opportunities. However, the announcement of the draft Forest Sector Strategy left little time for appropriate, meaningful government-to-government discussions to take place. The draft includes a reasonable amount of focus on First Nation concerns, including mentions of revenue sharing and involvement of Indigenous youth on the management of forests. Despite Ontario’s assertion that they would, “continue to engage and consult with Indigenous communities as elements of the forest sector strategy are developed,” their subsequent actions did not support that claim.

On December 11, 2019, a letter was sent to Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler inviting NAN to participate in regional consultation sessions that would be held throughout six locations across Ontario, including Thunder Bay and Timmins in January 2020, to discuss the Draft Forest Sector Strategy and receive comments from Indigenous communities.

Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy attended the Timmins session with Chiefs from surrounding NAN communities to observe the session. They clearly stated that they were not viewing the session as consultation and Ontario should not misconstrue their attendance to be viewed as such.

Concurrent to the advocacy work being undertaken by NAN, funding proposals were submitted directly to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO), requesting capacity dollars to support NAN forestry advocacy work and specific endeavors, such as the NAN Chiefs Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Impacts of Forestry and a NAN Forestry Summit. Although initially well received by IAO, both ministries rejected the funding proposals.

NAN will continue to advocate for funding to ensure the customized consultation and forestry strategy are initiated and communities are fully engaged.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Special Initiatives – Cannabis Legalization

OVERVIEW

In 2015, the Government of Canada committed to legalizing, regulating and restricting access to cannabis in its Speech from the Throne. On April 13, 2017, Bill C-45 (*the Cannabis Act*) was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Justice. On October 17, 2018, the *Cannabis Act* came into effect, making the sale and use of recreational cannabis legal in Canada.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) previously received funding to provide education and awareness on the legalization of cannabis to member communities in fiscal years 2017/2018 (Phase 1) and 2018/2019 (Phase 2). A team of NAN staff, federal and provincial government representatives, medical experts and economic development advisors was put together to which they conducted community visits that were very well attended and well received.

In September 2019, NAN received funding approval from Health Canada to continue with “Phase 3” of its public education and awareness project.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

The goal of “Phase 3” was to continue to provide education and awareness about cannabis in general, including its history, biology, the past prohibition and its legalization for medical use while also examining the federal and provincial legislation and regulations specific to the recreational use of cannabis. Other topics to be covered included: the development of community by-laws, enforcement issues, medical/therapeutic cannabis, public health considerations, harm reduction strategies/approaches and the connection between the treaties and cannabis legislation.

While Phases 1 and 2 focused on community visits, the current project proposed the coordination of two regional sessions with up to 15 communities participating at each session. The regional sessions were to be augmented by up to 10 community visits. Thunder Bay and Toronto were chosen as the regional session sites.

The first regional session took place in Thunder Bay on December 10 and 11, 2019 and was attended by 14 delegates representing six communities: Bearskin Lake First Nation, Slate Falls Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Keewaywin First Nation and North Caribou Lake First Nation.

Scheduling difficulties ultimately prevented community visits from taking place. The second regional session was scheduled for March 26 and 27, 2020, in Toronto; however, this session was cancelled due to the global COVID-19 pandemic which was declared on March 11, 2020. Due to this exceptional circumstance, a request to defer the unspent funding into fiscal year 2020/2021 will be made so that all activities can be completed as originally proposed.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Economic Development

OVERVIEW

Within recent years, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has been without dedicated Economic Development staff or resources. Now, sectors like forestry are seeing activity ramp-up after the significant economic downturn that was experienced in 2008. The looming resource development opportunities, such as the Ring of Fire, continue to be on the radar of the current provincial government. These and other sectors present potential economic development opportunities for NAN communities.

Food security is included within the Economic Development Portfolio and continues to be a substantial issue in NAN communities. Access to healthy foods impacts all aspects of community health including: maternal and child health and development, educational outcomes, mental health and substance use, cultural connection and community development and prosperity. Although there are opportunities for positive change within communities, this critical component of NAN citizen's health remains considerably under resourced.

NAN was unable to secure funding to support capacity at the organizational level which is critical to supporting NAN First Nations in identifying priorities and advancing their efforts. The lack of resources to support economic development across NAN is worrisome. With the impending resource development initiatives in northern Ontario, it is essential that a timely regional strategy and approach is developed so that a viable, sustainable First Nations economy within NAN territory can be achieved.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Food Security

As noted, the Food Security file has been under resourced and therefore, unable to effectively support the scope of activities necessary to address this critical issue. Past projects have been diverse and largely well received, but have not been sustained due to the lack of resources. Projects have included: price monitoring, community gardens, the NAN Food Day, NAN Food Symposium, Food Advisory Council and several research projects. Due to capacity, only the price monitoring project and the participation in several committees, working groups and collaborative initiatives could be sustained in 2019/2020.

Throughout 2019-2020, this period was year two of a three-year community led research project which has been funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation through the Local Poverty Reduction Fund. Four communities began the project: Nibinamik First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Fort Severn First Nation and Moose Cree First Nation, with each community receiving capacity dollars to hire a Local Food Developer. The project is led by the NAN Project Food Developer who works closely with the Local Food Developers and the research management team.

The goal of the project is to develop and document First Nations food knowledge and data to assist in food system evaluations, incorporating Indigenous knowledge and the expertise of Elders and Youth. Community Food Circles were one tool being utilized to document local food knowledge and stories. Surveys and door-to-door canvases are other tools that were being used to help set community priorities for change and explore models and initiatives for sustainable community food economic development.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, work on the project was impeded as all the participating communities were under shelter-in-place/quarantine orders. A revised work plan and goal modifications will be developed for the next and final year of the project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Nutrition North Canada

NAN has been very involved with Nutrition North Canada (NNC) on many fronts. Collaboration with the NNC Indigenous Working Group (IWG) has proved useful in communicating First Nations perspectives on current NNC practices and is an effective way to communicate community needs and priorities. NNC has been receptive to this and has shown a real interest in the improvement of their program. The new year (2020) should see the formation of a secondary group responsible for addressing the feeling of a lack of accountability and transparency which has been voiced by many communities. This group will contain IWG members, but will be group led and will have the main objective of improving relationships and ensuring all practices and work undertaken is done ethically.

The Harvesters Support Grant slated to roll out in the spring of 2020 is a much-anticipated support provided to NNC eligible communities and is administered by NNC. This grant has been structured so that many activities that may not have been included previously in the scope of traditional harvesting practices, are eligible for consideration. Examples include: funding for sewing machines to sew traditional dresses which may be worn at a feast to celebrate a harvest; costs for food processing; preparation and storage; and safety and rescue equipment. The variety of acceptable activities is large and many communities may benefit from this.

Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy

NAN sits as a member organization for the Thunder Bay Food Strategy since many of our goals are aligned. The Food Strategy is administered by Eco Superior and is available to view online. This group is an important resource for collaboration as many other community partners and Indigenous serving organizations within Thunder Bay regularly contribute.

Indigenous Food Circle

Established by Jessica McLaughlin and Charles Levkoe of Lakehead University in partnership with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to promote awareness of accessibility for traditional foods and increase access. NAN is a member organization on the administrative council of the Indigenous Food Circle.

Good Food Box

Administered by the Northwestern Women’s Centre, the Good Food Box provides monthly access to fresh fruit and vegetables for approximately 500 families in the District of Thunder Bay at a reduced cost. This is a crucial support for families and there are opportunities to make these services more widely available to NAN families residing in the district.

Healthy School Food Fund

Along with local partners Roots to Harvest and Thunder Bay Food Strategy, NAN is a member of the Healthy School Food Fund which is advocating for a national program that would see healthy and culturally appropriate snacks provided in all schools across Canada. The current structure uses a multitude of organizations and with consideration of First Nation’s schools, food choices are not school controlled and are not often culturally supportive. This collaboration wishes to give schools in the north control over snack options through a federally subsidized program that will ensure continuity and equity for NAN children.



Flour, Sandy Lake

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Justine Waite
Research & Policy Coordinator

SEVEN YOUTH INQUEST

Martha Loon
Inquest Coordinator

Scott Desmoulin
Inquest Assistant

Financial Statements



NAN Corporate Services
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For the year ended March 31, 2020

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Management's Responsibility

To the Member First Nations of NAN Corporate Services:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and ensuring that all information in the annual report is consistent with the statements. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Executive Council and Finance Committee (the "Council") are composed primarily of Directors who are neither management nor employees of the Organization. The Council is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Council fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Council is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the Organization's external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the members to audit the financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Council and management to discuss their audit findings.

September 21, 2020

Chief Administrative Officer

Finance Director

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Member First Nations of NAN Corporate Services:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of NAN Corporate Services (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

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

Supplementary Information

The supplementary information contained in the schedules is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not part of the basic audited financial statements. The information in these schedules was derived from the accounting records tested in forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Chartered Professional Accountants

September 21, 2020

Licensed Public Accountants

NAN Corporate Services
Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash resources	19,316,416	24,757,867
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	8,286,178	10,109,296
Prepaid expenses and deposits	68,038	82,057
	27,670,632	34,949,220
Capital assets (Note 5)	4,872,034	2,126,163
	32,542,666	37,075,383
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 6) (Note 13)	14,228,591	19,583,863
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	10,332,840	10,911,609
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	1,028,714	1,125,319
	25,590,145	31,620,791
Contingencies (Note 9)		
Commitments (Note 14)		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	2,080,488	3,328,431
Investment in capital assets	4,872,033	2,126,161
	6,952,521	5,454,592
	32,542,666	37,075,383
Approved on behalf of the Council		
Grand Chief	Deputy Grand Chief	
Deputy Grand Chief	Deputy Grand Chief	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

NAN Corporate Services			
Statement of Revenue and Expenses			
For the year ended March 31, 2020			
	2020 Budget	2020	2019
Revenue			
First Nations Organizations	-	65,000	285,000
Government of Canada			
Indigenous Services Canada (Note 10)	12,455,636	12,375,446	19,380,100
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB (Note 11)	11,147,939	11,162,183	11,555,960
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	-	522,859	192,800
Department of Natural Resources	224,451	562,794	-
Province of Ontario			
Attorney General	379,988	379,988	345,200
Children and Youth	10,733,818	10,665,213	14,932,581
Community Service (IHWS)	8,481,398	8,475,498	9,172,321
Education	1,529,224	1,454,224	3,943,331
Environment	99,660	99,661	2,054,628
Health and Promotion	3,816,689	4,231,121	3,136,600
Indigenous Affairs	980,000	1,095,000	529,360
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	-	251,352	333,920
Transportation	90,000	90,000	90,000
Trillium Foundation	-	278,000	139,000
Interest	-	628,283	516,495
Amounts repayable to funders	-	(3,014,571)	(4,483,980)
Other	2,656,423	2,473,335	2,270,901
Net change in deferred contributions (Note 7)	8,358,377	578,767	(716,113)
	60,953,603	52,374,153	63,678,104
Funds transferred for First Nations operations (Note 13)	(21,155,779)	(20,829,990)	(32,922,830)
Total net revenue	39,797,824	31,544,163	30,755,274
Portfolio expenses			
Bad debts	-	-	542,936
Bank charges and interest	-	45,526	10,647
Capital expenditures	-	3,094,199	2,038,977
Conferences, workshops and reports	15,392,925	10,614,688	9,798,105
Consulting and professional fees	5,600,680	5,168,076	3,335,893
Other	4,249,664	-	-
Public relations	-	112,958	128,586
Rent and utilities	-	685,605	577,455
Salaries and benefits	9,150,269	9,015,396	8,229,845
Supplies and resources	1,139,737	740,032	756,115
Travel	4,292,345	3,315,626	3,429,742
	39,825,620	32,792,106	28,848,301
Less: capital asset acquisitions included in expenses	-	(3,094,199)	(2,038,977)
Total expenses	39,825,620	29,697,907	26,809,324
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items	(27,796)	1,846,256	3,945,950
Continued on next page			

NAN Corporate Services			
Statement of Revenue and Expenses			
For the year ended March 31, 2020			
	2020 Budget	2020	2019
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items	(27,796)	1,846,256	3,945,950
(Continued from previous page)			
Other items			
Amortization	-	(348,327)	(281,070)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	-	(66,397)
	-	(348,327)	(347,467)
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(27,796)	1,497,929	3,598,483
Continued on next page			

NAN Corporate Services
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	Unrestricted	Investment in Capital Assets	2020	2019
Net assets, beginning of year	3,328,431	2,126,161	5,454,592	1,856,109
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	1,846,256	(348,327)	1,497,929	3,598,483
	5,174,687	1,777,834	6,952,521	5,454,592
Investment in capital assets	(3,094,199)	3,094,199	-	-
Net assets, end of year	2,080,488	4,872,033	6,952,521	5,454,592

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

NAN Corporate Services
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Excess of revenue over expenses	1,497,929	3,598,483
Amortization	348,327	281,070
Bad debts	-	542,936
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	66,397
	1,846,256	4,488,886
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	1,823,118	(2,680,096)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	14,019	36,422
Accounts payable and accruals	(5,355,271)	8,278,258
Deferred contributions	(578,769)	716,113
	(2,250,647)	10,839,583
Financing		
Advances of long-term debt	-	1,133,000
Repayment of long-term debt	(96,605)	(7,681)
	(96,605)	1,125,319
Investing		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,094,199)	(2,038,979)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	(5,441,451)	9,925,923
Cash resources, beginning of year	24,757,867	14,831,944
Cash resources, end of year	19,316,416	24,757,867

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

NAN Corporate Services (the “Organization”) is a First Nations political organization that advocates and operates projects to protect and promote the government and socio-economic interests of its member First Nations. The Organization receives funding through contribution arrangements and contracts with various funding bodies and First Nations. The Organization was incorporated in Ontario on February 19, 2009 as a not-for-profit organization without share capital. The Organization is dependent on grants and transfer payments from various government agencies to finance its continued operations.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations set out in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada, using the following significant accounting policies:

Fund accounting

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions and reports using fund accounting, and maintains three funds: Unrestricted Fund, Restricted Fund and Investment in Capital Assets.

The Unrestricted Fund reports the Organization’s revenue and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities.

The Investment in Capital Assets reports the Organization’s assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to NAN Corporate Services’ capital assets.

The Restricted Fund reports the Organization’s assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to NAN Corporate Services’ term projects and special initiatives.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with chartered banks and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost.

Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives. Artwork is not subject to amortization

	Method	Rate
Building	declining balance	4 %
Computer equipment and software	declining balance	30 %
Furniture and fixtures	declining balance	20 %

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

When the Organization determines that a long-lived asset no longer has any long-term service potential to the Organization, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of revenue and expenses. Write-downs are not reversed.

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Leases

A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership is classified as a capital lease. At the inception of a capital lease, an asset and a payment obligation are recorded at an amount equal to the lesser of the present value of the minimum lease payments and the property’s fair market value. Assets under capital leases are amortized on a declining balance basis, over their estimated useful lives. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and rental payments are expensed as incurred.

An arrangement contains a lease where the arrangement conveys a right to use the underlying tangible asset, and whereby its fulfillment is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset. After the inception of the arrangement, a reassessment of whether the arrangement contains a lease is made only in the event that:

- there is a change in contractual terms;
- a renewal option is exercised or an extension is agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement;
- there is a change in the determination of whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific tangible asset; or
- there is a substantial physical change to the specified tangible asset.

Revenue recognition

The Organization uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions and reports on a fund accounting basis.

Contributions from government funders related to the Organization's on-going operations and projects are recognized as revenue of general operations in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Restricted contributions for term projects and special initiatives are deferred and recorded in general operations in the year the funds are expensed.

All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable provided that collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the Unrestricted Fund when earned.

Contributed materials and services

Contributions of materials and services are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of revenue and expenses when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services are used in the normal course of the Organization’s operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Administration overhead charge

Recovery of indirect administration expenses is calculated at 12% of revenue for most programs and 6% on flow-through allocations. Each program records the applicable inter-program allocation for overhead expenses while administration records a recovery, which is netted against total administrative expenses.

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary.

Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

Accounts payable and accruals are estimated based on historical charges for unbilled goods and services at year-end.

Deferred contributions are estimated based on management's review of revenue received, but not spent at year-end.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenue over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Financial instruments

The Organization recognizes its financial instruments when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value, including financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in a related party transaction with management. Financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in all other related party transactions are initially measured at their carrying or exchange amount in accordance with CPA Canada Handbook 4460 *Related Party Transactions* (refer to Note 12).

At initial recognition, the Organization may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any financial instrument at fair value. The Organization has not made such an election during the year.

The Organization subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. With the exception of financial liabilities indexed to a measure of the Organization's performance or value of its equity and those instruments designated at fair value, all other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in the excess of revenue over expenses for the current period. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

3. Change in accounting policies

Capital Assets Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations

Effective April 1, 2019, the Organization adopted the Accounting Standard Board's (AcSB) new accounting standards improvements for not-for-profit organizations related to capital assets under Section 4433 *Tangible Capital Assets Held by Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Applying this new Section results in changes to the determination of impairment and write-downs of capital assets and allows for the recognition of partial impairments of these assets.

Pursuant to the transitional provisions, this change was applied prospectively, and the prior periods have not been restated. There was no material impact on the financial statements from the application of the new accounting recommendations.

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

4. Accounts receivable

	2020	2019
First Nations Organizations		
Chiefs of Ontario	-	15,000
Other	75,000	-
Government of Canada		
Harmonized Sales Tax rebates	1,825,763	1,467,208
Indigenous Services Canada	45,575	742,063
Employment and Social Development Canada	140,389	-
First Nation and Inuit Health	132,559	296,610
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	362,609	35,300
Department of Natural Resources	56,279	-
Province of Ontario		
Ministry of Attorney General	50,082	53,082
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	1,820,637	1,998,623
Ministry of Transportation	9,000	54,000
Ministry of Health	323,428	-
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	9,500	9,500
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services	262,789	262,789
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	185,233	140,633
Minister of Finance	-	76,471
Ministry of Education	2,192,451	2,717,689
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	283,438	1,834,583
Other		
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	126,000	126,000
IESO	372,383	121,300
Boost	-	55,000
Other	13,063	103,445
	8,286,178	10,109,296

5. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Land	396,681	-	396,681	226,500
Building	3,633,561	121,550	3,512,011	1,223,100
Computer equipment and software	660,996	372,849	288,147	363,767
Furniture and fixtures	911,555	256,814	654,741	292,342
Artwork	20,454	-	20,454	20,454
	5,623,247	751,213	4,872,034	2,126,163

Building includes capital renovations to the 200 Syndicate Avenue South office building with a carrying value of \$2,044,411. No amortization of this asset has been recorded during the current year because it is currently under construction.

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

6. Accounts payable and accruals

	2020	2019
Trade accounts payable	9,279,299	16,029,270
Wages and benefits payable	204,724	235,998
Repayable to funders	4,654,187	3,173,473
Government remittances payable	90,381	145,122
	14,228,591	19,583,863

7. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions relate to restricted funding received prior to March 31 that will be expended in a subsequent period. The balance is comprised as follows:

	2020	2019
Balance, beginning of year	10,911,609	10,195,496
Received during the year	51,747,838	40,947,659
Recognized during the year	(52,326,607)	(40,231,546)
Balance, end of year	10,332,840	10,911,609

8. Long-term debt

	2020	2019
RBC Royal Bank term loan bearing interest at Royal Bank prime plus 1% (3.45%) payable in monthly instalments of \$9,591 plus interest, due February 2021, with land and building at 200 Syndicate Avenue South, having a net book value of \$3,908,692, pledged as collateral.	1,028,714	1,125,319
Less: current portion	1,028,714	1,125,319
	-	-

Although due on demand, the bank has accepted payments of \$9,591 plus interest, per month over the remaining 108 month term. Principal repayments on long-term debt in each of the next five years, assuming long-term debt subject to refinancing is renewed are estimated as follows:

	Principal
2021	115,089
2022	115,089
2023	115,089
2024	115,089
2025	115,089

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$39,857 (2019 - \$3,814).

The Organization has pledged the building at 200 Syndicate Avenue South as collateral, with a carrying amount of \$3,908,692 (2019 - \$1,449,600).

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

9. Contingencies

The Organization has entered into contribution agreements with various federal and provincial government departments. Funding received under these contribution agreements is subject to repayment if the Organization fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

In addition, in the normal course of operations, the Organization becomes involved in legal actions. Some of these potential liabilities may become actual liabilities when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. The extent that the future event is likely to occur, and a reasonable estimate of the loss can be made, an estimated liability is accrued and an expense recorded on the Organization's financial statements. As of March 31, 2020, no contingent liabilities have been recorded in the financial statements.

10. Indigenous Services Canada funding reconciliation

	2020	2019
Indigenous Services Canada funding per statement of revenue and expenses	12,375,446	19,380,100
Indigenous Services Canada funding per confirmation	12,375,446	19,380,100

11. Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding reconciliation

	2020	2019
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding per statement of revenue and expenses	11,162,183	11,555,960
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding per confirmation	11,162,183	11,555,960

12. Related party transactions

The remuneration for the year of elected officials and senior management totalled \$678,145 (2019 - \$706,468). Amounts paid to elected officials and senior management for reimbursed corporate expenses amounted to \$110,048 (2019 - \$74,968). The Grand Chief and Deputies are provided salaries of \$114,575 and \$109,000 respectively plus 12% pay in lieu of vacation. Travel allowances include mileage reimbursed at \$0.575 per kilometre and meals/incidentals at \$104.10 per day. Specific salary, benefits and reimbursements were:

	Salary and benefits	Reimbursed expenses	2020	2019
Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler (elected August 2015)	141,697	4,683	146,380	156,230
Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum (defeated in August 2018)	-	-	-	66,131
Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau (elected in August 2018)	135,034	66,951	201,985	110,779
Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox (elected August 2015)	135,034	16,328	151,362	150,459
Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy (elected April 2016)	135,294	15,881	151,175	160,308
Chief Administrative Officer	131,086	6,205	137,291	137,259

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

13. First Nations flow-through

The Organization receives funding as agents for distribution to member First Nations and First Nation organizations for specific projects and initiatives. The First Nations and specific organizations report on the expense of these funds. During the year, \$20,829,990 (2019 - \$32,922,380) was transferred to member First Nations and specific organizations. Included in accounts payable and accruals is \$2,927,563 (2019 - \$6,829,689) owed to member First Nations at March 31, 2020.

	2020	2019
Indigenous Services Canada		
National Gathering	-	225,000
Structural Readiness	337,500	337,500
First Nation Student Success Program	515,233	5,668,725
Education Partnerships Program	2,899,837	2,611,891
Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement	103,812	-
	3,856,382	8,843,116
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services		
Youth Life Promotion	-	3,995,000
Family Well-Being	5,456,980	5,749,110
Amber File Campaign	-	21,765
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	734,180	733,757
Crisis	2,619,564	2,608,388
Healthy Babies Healthy Children	1,477,288	1,477,288
Ka-Na-Chi-Hih	-	450,560
	10,288,012	15,035,868
First Nations and Inuit Health		
Health Transformation - Tribal Councils	686,000	294,000
Health Transformation - Health Authorities	-	332,200
Crisis	3,483,610	2,321,711
	4,169,610	2,947,911
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change		
First Nations Wood Burning Systems	21,349	271,267
First Nations Diesel Fuel Rebate	-	333,837
	21,349	605,104
Ministry of Education		
Emergency Education Action Plan	-	2,653,308
Tribal Council Flow-Through	53,280	-
Virtual Learning Environment	235,272	-
	288,552	2,653,308
Ministry of Tourism		
Youth Cultural Centre	-	333,429

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

13. First Nations flow through (Continued from previous page)

Ministry of Health		
Land Based Healing	-	670,075
Diabetes	1,110,462	974,998
Health Transformation	-	385,450
COVID-19 Response	247,140	-
	1,357,602	2,030,523
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry		
Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement	103,597	205,346
Miscellaneous		
Recovery of Funding For Incomplete Programs	-	(65,939)
First Nation Requests	92,296	120,868
Determination Summit Overage	-	117,928
Miscellaneous Fees	-	60,988
Local Poverty Reduction	127,100	34,380
Department of Natural Resources	25,490	-
IESO	500,000	-
	744,886	268,225
	20,829,990	32,922,830

14. Commitments

The Organization has entered into various lease agreements for office and storage space with estimated minimum annual payments as follows:

2021	214,260
2022	6,558

15. Financial instruments

The Organization, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Credit concentration

As at March 31, 2020, three funders (2019 - seven) accounted for 70.2% (2019 - 93.9%) of the accounts receivable. The Organization believes that there is no unusual exposure associated with the collection of these receivables. The Organization performs regular credit assessments of its funders and provides allowances for potentially uncollectible accounts receivable.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization encounters difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. Liquidity risk includes risk that, as a result of operational liquidity requirements, the Organization will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction on the due date; will be forced to sell financial assets at a value which is less than what they are worth or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset. Liquidity risk arises from accounts payable.

NAN Corporate Services
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2020

16. Significant event

During the fiscal year-end, there was a global outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), which has had a significant impact on businesses through the restrictions put in place by the Canadian, provincial and municipal governments regarding travel, business operations and isolation/quarantine orders. At this time, it is unknown the extent of the impact the COVID-19 outbreak may have on the Organization as this will depend on future developments that are highly uncertain and that cannot be predicted with confidence. These uncertainties arise from the inability to predict the ultimate geographic spread of the disease, and the duration of the outbreak, including the duration of travel restrictions, business closures or disruptions, and quarantine/isolation measures that are currently, or may be put, in place by Canada and other countries to fight the virus. While the extent of the impact is unknown, we anticipate this outbreak will result in reduced/eliminated regular programming and the additional planning and consideration of funding implications as a result, the cancellation of all travel and gatherings, all of which may negatively impact the Organization's operations and financial condition.

17. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

NAN Corporate Services
Schedule 1 - Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2020

						2020	2019
	Health Policy & Advocacy (unaudited)	Housing and Infrastructure (unaudited)	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (unaudited)	Special Initiatives (unaudited)	Administration (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
Revenue							
First Nations Organizations	-	-	-	-	65,000	65,000	105,000
Government of Canada							
Indigenous Services Canada							
- Set contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,000
- Fixed contribution	-	100,000	439,437	200,000	709,342	1,448,779	4,020,383
- Flexible contribution	-	70,000	-	-	-	70,000	1,000,000
First Nation and Inuit Health							
- Flexible contribution	4,195,743	-	-	-	-	4,195,743	-
FedNor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	-	522,859	-	-	-	522,859	192,800
Department of Natural Resources	-	562,794	-	-	-	562,794	-
Province of Ontario							
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	355,459	-	-	-	-	355,459	990,000
Ministry of Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	236,592
Ministry of Health	3,062,933	-	-	1,168,188	-	4,231,121	1,015,700
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	-	-	75,000	720,000	795,000	430,000
Ministry of Transportation	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000	-
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	-	-	-	251,352	-	251,352	333,920
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	-	99,661	-	-	-	99,661	53,982
Interest	-	-	-	-	628,283	628,283	516,495
Amounts repayable to funders	-	(58,166)	-	(112,953)	(2,456,339)	(2,627,458)	(1,320,642)
Other	-	140,389	-	-	1,066,678	1,207,067	1,207,232
Transfer (to) from deferred contributions	230,539	(389,276)	-	29,512	2,524,771	2,395,546	(2,013,316)
	7,844,674	1,138,261	439,437	1,611,099	3,257,735	14,291,206	6,993,146
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	(2,043,782)	(25,490)	-	-	(92,296)	(2,161,568)	(1,437,559)
	5,800,892	1,112,771	439,437	1,611,099	3,165,439	12,129,638	5,555,587
Expenses							
Bad debts	-	-	-	-	-	-	400,000
Bank charges and interest	-	-	-	-	45,526	45,526	10,647
Conferences, workshops and reports	1,902,631	483,215	-	896,139	1,078,837	4,360,822	2,277,442
Consulting and professional fees	1,110,963	65,796	138,200	85,333	979,663	2,379,955	911,259
Inter-program allocations	829,279	94,633	36,576	(131,178)	(2,659,385)	(1,830,075)	(3,243,706)
Public relations	-	-	-	710	58,924	59,634	55,875
Rent and utilities	78,594	26,077	15,450	17,427	183,299	320,847	216,756
Salaries and benefits	1,267,803	353,615	173,434	448,387	1,831,324	4,074,563	2,683,729
Supplies and resources	46,152	11,590	6,399	29,953	432,520	526,614	533,467
Travel	619,954	57,534	69,378	103,290	376,252	1,226,408	922,538
	5,855,376	1,092,460	439,437	1,450,061	2,326,960	11,164,294	4,768,007
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	(54,484)	20,311	-	161,038	838,479	965,344	787,580
Capital allocations	11,574	-	-	161,038	2,879,749	3,052,361	1,805,383
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(66,058)	20,311	-	-	(2,041,270)	(2,087,017)	(1,017,803)

NAN Corporate Services
Schedule 2 - Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020					2019
	Administration (unaudited)	Languages (unaudited)	Justice (unaudited)	Urban Camps and Youth (unaudited)	Education and Education Jurisdiction (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
Revenue						
First Nations Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	115,000
Government of Canada						
Indigenous Services Canada						
- Fixed contribution	-	385,000	-	5,000	9,396,805	12,614,067
First Nation and Inuit Health	-	-	-	-	-	6,919,481
- Set contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Flexible contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
Province of Ontario						
Ministry of Health	-	-	-	-	-	2,120,900
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	9,122,293
Ministry of the Attorney General	-	-	50,000	-	-	31,174
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,646
Ministry of Education	-	-	-	-	1,454,224	3,706,739
Ministry of Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	-	275,000	-	-	-
Trillium Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	139,000
Amounts repayable to funders	-	-	(21,576)	(96,922)	155,711	(1,535,387)
Other	-	-	-	446,817	3,744	448,760
Transfer (to) from deferred contributions	-	-	(45,329)	88,622	(179,774)	1,412,198
	-	385,000	258,095	443,517	10,830,710	37,184,871
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	-	-	-	(4,248,531)	(22,363,705)
	-	385,000	258,095	443,517	6,582,179	14,821,166
Expenses						
Bad debts	-	-	-	-	-	142,936
Conferences, workshops and reports	264	43,080	192,399	469,301	2,184,385	3,778,128
Consulting and professional fees	47,093	90,000	-	2,560	959,085	1,587,870
Inter-program allocations	(496,175)	22,396	4,638	(252,562)	1,209,180	3,089,962
Public relations	16,927	-	-	-	4,002	43,247
Rent and utilities	11,467	5,000	4,100	-	94,877	178,084
Salaries and benefits	242,956	69,202	47,223	50,000	914,426	2,613,690
Supplies and resources	32,903	1,300	2,100	-	33,169	113,965
Travel	141,791	32,427	7,635	-	471,372	954,501
	(2,774)	263,405	258,095	269,299	5,870,496	12,502,383
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	2,774	121,595	-	174,218	711,683	2,318,783
Capital allocations	2,774	-	-	-	-	190,929
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	121,595	-	174,218	711,683	2,127,854

NAN Corporate Services
Schedule 3 - Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020						2020	2019
	Administration (unaudited)	Childhood Dev. & Planning (unaudited)	Community Wellness (unaudited)	Women's Initiatives (unaudited)	Social Services (unaudited)	Social Development (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
Revenue								
First Nations Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,000
Government of Canada								
Indigenous Services Canada								
- Set contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	347,540
- Fixed contribution	-	50,000	-	368,484	651,378	-	1,069,862	1,173,110
First Nation and Inuit Health								
- Set contribution	-	-	535,000	-	-	-	535,000	4,079,294
- Flexible contribution	-	4,434,400	1,642,545	-	-	-	6,076,945	-
Province of Ontario								
Ministry of the Attorney General	-	-	279,988	50,000	-	-	329,988	314,026
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	300,000	4,877,742	5,178,916	-	7,906,642	521,952	18,785,252	8,110,908
Ministry of Community and Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,881,701
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	99,360
Trillium Foundation	-	278,000	-	-	-	-	278,000	-
Amounts repayable to funders	-	(96,549)	(23,428)	(1,645)	(441,207)	(299,888)	(862,717)	(1,282,199)
Other	-	33,000	-	-	-	47,857	80,857	180,760
Transfer (to) from deferred contributions	-	(445,886)	(899,474)	205,059	(342,158)	(145,000)	(1,627,459)	(186,024)
	300,000	9,130,707	6,738,547	621,898	7,774,655	124,921	24,690,728	18,783,476
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	(5,822,179)	(2,619,564)	-	(5,456,980)	-	(13,898,723)	(8,788,137)
	300,000	3,308,528	4,118,983	621,898	2,317,675	124,921	10,792,005	9,995,339
Expenses								
Conferences, workshops and reports	-	1,212,631	1,057,456	182,935	700,968	138,547	3,292,537	3,600,267
Consulting and professional fees	224,278	274,481	209,470	129,347	375,516	-	1,213,092	785,178
Inter-program allocations	(569,517)	1,014,902	765,386	38,141	737,483	(151,804)	1,834,591	590,325
Public relations	1,911	1,352	290	-	11,856	-	15,409	29,200
Rent and utilities	13,198	35,164	127,249	1,555	34,262	15,600	227,028	172,557
Salaries and benefits	203,625	574,695	1,636,796	62,485	542,183	82,189	3,101,973	2,481,879
Supplies and resources	12,341	20,700	63,232	1,860	16,448	3,560	118,141	91,163
Travel	110,736	152,622	457,395	135,470	307,958	36,829	1,201,010	1,410,932
	(3,428)	3,286,547	4,317,274	551,793	2,726,674	124,921	11,003,781	9,161,501
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	303,428	21,981	(198,291)	70,105	(408,999)	-	(211,776)	833,838
Capital allocations	3,428	2,774	18,355	8,320	-	-	32,877	43,414
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	300,000	19,207	(216,646)	61,785	(408,999)	-	(244,553)	790,424

NAN Corporate Services
Schedule 4 - Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses
For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020				2019	
	Environment (unaudited)	Administration (unaudited)	Energy (unaudited)	Special Initiatives (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
Revenue						
Government of Canada						
First Nation and Inuit Health - Set contributions	-	-	-	354,495	354,495	557,185
Amounts repayable to funders	455,454	-	-	(17,063)	438,391	(345,752)
Other	-	-	734,850	-	734,850	434,149
Transfer (to) from deferred contributions	318,432	-	(176,044)	(195,227)	(52,839)	71,029
	773,886	-	558,806	142,205	1,474,897	716,611
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	(21,349)	-	(500,000)	-	(521,349)	(333,429)
	752,537	-	58,806	142,205	953,548	383,182
Expenses						
Conferences, workshops and reports	16,998	-	9,084	45,818	71,900	142,268
Consulting and professional fees	392,687	58,681	-	24,923	476,291	51,586
Inter-program allocations	21,523	(528,016)	-	14,500	(491,993)	(436,581)
Public relations	-	16,986	-	-	16,986	264
Rent and utilities	1,892	7,193	-	13,201	22,286	10,058
Salaries and benefits	98,763	288,895	43,519	83,876	515,053	450,547
Supplies and resources	9,288	12,417	1,500	2,600	25,805	17,520
Travel	49,880	143,844	1,929	39,330	234,983	141,771
	591,031	-	56,032	224,248	871,311	377,433
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	161,506	-	2,774	(82,043)	82,237	5,749
Capital allocations	3,414	-	2,774	-	6,188	749
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	158,092	-	-	(82,043)	76,049	5,000

