



Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
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# Annual Report 2021-2022

Unity • Strength • Success

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GRAND CHIEF

# Derek Fox

**A**s I reflect on my first year as Grand Chief, it is with the deepest gratitude that I have this opportunity to serve Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) people. This year has not been without challenges for our communities. Forest fires, floods, and COVID-19 have touched all of us, emphasizing inequities in infrastructure, addictions and mental health, health and social services, and emergency services in our communities. It is essential to promote sustainable and resilient communities, and to advocate for improved emergency management plans. Our community members know what they need to resolve the challenges they face, and we will continue to work together to push for equity. Now more than ever, it is essential we work together to progress.

I want to acknowledge the MMIWG, Residential and Day School Victims and Survivors, the families who have lost loved ones, and those who continue to live with the trauma of systematic oppression and institutionalization against our people. It is only by telling the past that we can make sure this history is not forgotten or repeated, and that our people can be properly compensated for these injustices.

I am proud of the work Oshkaatisak Council is doing and their willingness to advocate on behalf of the youth and future generations of our people. I am committed to being a positive role model for our youth. It has been important to me to engage with NAN youth during community visits, conferences, and multiple outings on the land.

We continue to move forward advocating for systemic changes and self-governance to better the lives of people from NAN First Nations. I look forward to visiting our communities and the opportunity to engage with each other in person again.





DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

.....  
**Anna Betty  
Achneepineskum**

**Wachiya and Boozhoo Ogimakanak, Elders, Women, Youth and Citizens of Nishnawbe Aski,**

*I was honoured to be elected to my second term as Deputy Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation last August. As a member of your Executive Council, I am committed to serving the NAN communities and working hard to make changes to ensure success, health and wellness, and safety of our people no matter where they are. In this Annual Report you will find department updates for Community Wellness, Early Years, Women's Initiatives, Justice, Reclamation and Healing, and Fire Prevention. For my message to you, it is my pleasure to highlight a few key initiatives where I was directly involved in the last year.*

*Last May, NAN was saddened to hear about the 215 unmarked graves found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, and the other findings announced thereafter. We heard from Survivors and leaders asking what NAN was doing to respond as there were seven Indian Residential Schools (IRS) in NAN territory that students attended, but we also know that students attended other schools in Ontario and Canada. To respond, we created the Survivors and Families Empowerment (SAFE) Council (an advisory council) and the Reclamation and Healing Department to develop and implement NAN's IRS Response Strategy. We are here for Survivors and their families. We know that addressing the IRS legacy, seeking justice and healing are long overdue and I want to assure you that NAN will implement the mandate given by the First Nations Ogimakanak in October 2021.*

**I** have spent much of my career advocating for our people and addressing the injustices, racial discrimination, and systemic racism that they encounter. The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) released its report, "Broken Trust", in 2018 and made key recommendations regarding nine death investigations conducted by the Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS) which were so problematic that these deaths should be reinvestigated. Eight of the nine deaths were NAN members, with three deaths being youth from the Seven Youth Inquest. In the report-back to the OIPRD, the report included a summary of investigative findings which identified investigative issues by the police service and coroners which are quite concerning. Needless to say, it was very disturbing to have it confirmed that the deaths of our people did not deserve proper investigations because they were Indigenous. An additional 16 cases were identified for further investigation, and these cases are currently with the Ontario Attorney General's office for review and next steps. There are also 25 unsolved cases of Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) with the TBPS. I believe that our people deserve answers for the death of their loved one, and I commit to continuing to pressure the police service, the Coroner's Office and the Attorney General to further investigate the additional cases and to solve the MMIWG cases.

Many crisis's continue to occur throughout our communities and for NAN members living in urban centres. In 2021-2022, the NAN Crisis Response Team responded to approximately 178 calls related to homicide, sudden deaths, suicides, COVID-19 cases, and other incidences of crisis. Crisis response is extremely stressful work but a desperately needed service that has not seen an increase in funding since 2015-2016. We are grateful for the people who respond when called upon despite the challenges. I want to acknowledge the NAN staff who give of themselves to be there for our people when requested, including the late Debbie Sault. Last year, on August 29, 2021, NAN suffered a great loss when Debbie, a long-time NAN Crisis Response Manager, passed away. Debbie loved to help and serve people in need, and she was passionate and dedicated to her work. We honour Debbie and thank her family for sharing her with us. She is dearly missed by those who knew her.

There are a few portfolio areas which currently are not adequately supported due to lack of resources making it extremely challenging to address and tackle these social issues that include the opioid crisis, homelessness, and life promotion (or suicide prevention). My intent is to develop a drug prevention strategy and a homelessness strategy so that we can start to deal with the social issues that are plaguing our communities and taking

our people's lives. Separately these social issues are overwhelming on their own, yet to address one issue it means simultaneously addressing related issues. These issues also fall into other Executive members portfolios which is not disadvantageous but an opportunity to work together and share information and resources. Some Tribal Councils are also making great strides in their response to create change in these areas, and we will advocate and support any initiatives that benefit NAN members.

Sadly, we continue to lose precious lives due to fatal house fires. In January 2022, three children tragically perished in a house fire in Sandy Lake First Nation. The loss of life due to fire must be prevented. It is unfathomable that, still today, NAN communities do not have the same access to fire response and rescue services that cities and municipalities have. In 2019, the First Nations Ogimakanak wanted a Fire and Emergency Management Service (FEMS) to be created. Each community should have its own fire response and rescue personnel with the proper equipment, infrastructure, training, and support to be able to respond immediately when a fire or emergency arises in the community. Our families and children deserve to be safe and to be protected from house fires. Addressing the lack of capacity and resources, and inadequate infrastructure at the community level is a priority for NAN, and we will work hard to implement the mandate given and create the FEMS.

I want to end with a positive update. NAN is proud to have been involved in improving policing services for our people. Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) was successful in negotiating a new tripartite funding agreement with the governments of Canada and Ontario in March 2022 that included new funding for new and additional positions to existing departments, as well as five new detachments and a regional drug investigative teams with new office space. At the NAPS annual general assembly held in February 2022, the communities served by NAPS opted into the provincial legislation for NAPS to become a regular police service within the legislation, and we anticipate seeing how this unfolds for our communities.

In closing, I am excited to be part of a team that includes the current Executive Council and our hardworking Staff, the Elders, Women's and Youth Councils, and I look forward to continuing to work with First Nations Ogimakanak and Councils, community members, and affiliated organizations to achieve long-term, lasting results for our people. Together we are strong.

Miigwech, and may Creator watch over you and keep you safe.





DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

# Victor Linklater

**Greetings to all Chiefs and citizens of Nishnawbe Aski Nation!**

*It is a great honour to be completing my first term as a member of the NAN Executive Council, and I am pleased to present my update for 2021-2022. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Grand Chief Derek Fox, the NAN Chiefs, the NAN Administration, Elders, Women and Youth for the invaluable guidance and knowledge shared with me over the past term.*

**A**s I look back upon my transition to the role of Deputy Grand Chief, and the incredible learning experience it has been, I am humbled by your trust in me and the invaluable support I have been given. Your words inspire me each and every day and help me to keep in perspective what this work is all about.

As a lifelong advocate for First Nations system transformation, I had a keen interest in taking on responsibility for the Health Transformation portfolio. At the outset of my term, my team invested in extensive strategic planning work to ensure our approach to system transformation is truly community-driven and able to keep pace with the ever-evolving needs of NAN communities, Tribal Councils, and First Nations Health Authorities/Co-Ops. These strategic planning efforts have contributed to the development of an updated and enhanced strategic approach that we are excited to develop and implement in collaboration with NAN communities, Tribal Councils and Health Authorities/Co-Ops. This work would not have been possible without the advice and guidance of the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation, and I thank them for helping us to establish this strong foundation from which we will continue to build, with NAN First Nations and partners at the forefront.

The COVID-19 pandemic has held a magnifying glass to the many ongoing systemic problems affecting the health and wellbeing of NAN members. At the same time, we have also seen an evolution in governments' willingness to collaborate with us in innovative ways, and a genuine acknowledgement that NAN First Nations and First Nations health partners know best how to keep their people safe. We are committed to continuing to work towards a community-led vision and will not settle for status quo, pre-pandemic ways. I would also like to acknowledge all of the hard work

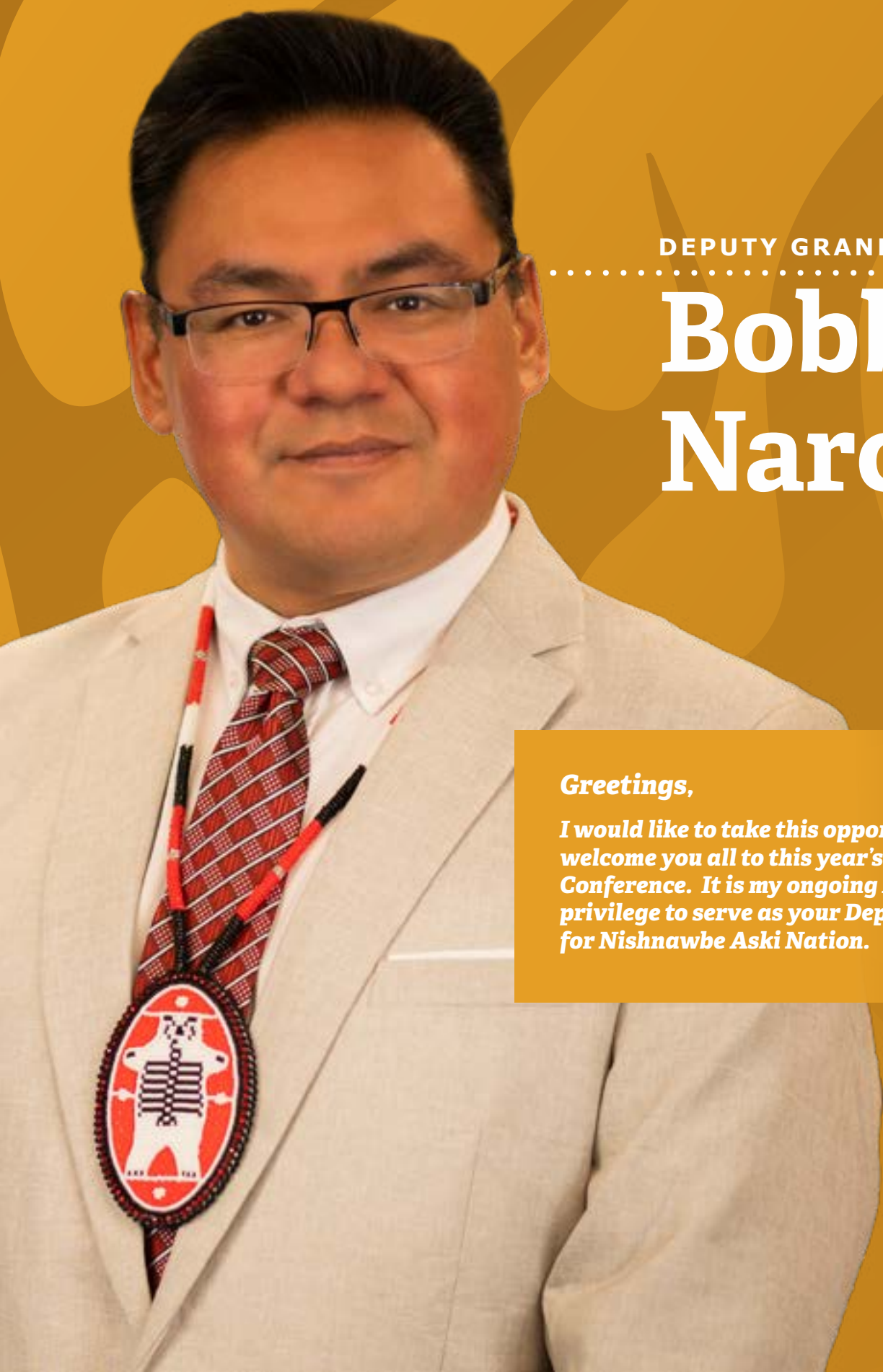
of frontline workers and the work of the NAN COVID-19 Task Team who have worked tirelessly to keep all of us safe.

I am confident that our reinvigorated strategic approach to Health Transformation will take the Health Transformation process to the next phase. As we continue on this journey together, I am grateful for the ongoing guidance of our Lead Negotiator, Alvin Fiddler, our Chiefs Council on Health Transformation, and the support of the Health Transformation team under the guidance of Director Georgina Lentz.

My team has also been working hard to conceptualize a new department at NAN, Sustainable Initiatives, that brings together previous work at NAN under Resource Development, Economic Development, Climate Change, and Food Security portfolios. Our approach is to create a department that supports and acknowledges the sovereignty and autonomy of NAN First Nations. I know that there are incredible leaders in our Nation that can assist in this work and we will be calling on you for your knowledge, expertise, and guidance. I am also committed to ensuring that our youth are front and center to this work as we acknowledge the impending climate crisis and the urgent work that we must do together.

I look forward to continuing to build relationships with all NAN First Nations, leadership, and our partners. I am committed to accountability, transparency, and progress in all of my portfolios as I continue to serve as Deputy Grand Chief. I want to send a special acknowledgment to my wife and family for their love and support, and my team at NAN who have kept me focused on our collective goals.





DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF

# Bobby Narcisse

## **Greetings,**

***I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to this year's Keewaywin Conference. It is my ongoing honour and privilege to serve as your Deputy Grand Chief for Nishnawbe Aski Nation.***

**M**y first year has been a life-changing experience, and I have learned so much. The work and progress with my portfolios have been challenging and ground-breaking. My ongoing vision within our priorities has always been to establish NAN-specific processes. I have established NAN-specific tables with child and family services reform and with the newly named Education Reset Table. The goal and vision of these established tables will mean focussed and structured discussions and negotiations on priorities specific to NAN communities.

Our communities within Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No.5 are unique. Whether they are fly-in or road access, they have unique challenges. These challenges require unique community-based solutions. I believe this work needs to be guided by our Chiefs and leadership across the Nation. That is why establishment of Chiefs committees on these specific priority areas is imperative.

During my first year we maintained intervener status at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which found the federal government guilty of against discrimination against our First Nation children in child welfare. As a result, we have successfully negotiated a specific process identifying the need for ongoing resources and investments to account for remoteness costs.

The perpetuation of discrimination against our children persists when our systems are continually underfunded. Our Table will address this underfunding by moving towards a process of identifying needs-based resourcing. This work will have a profound effect not only in child and family services, but other sectors as well. Also, through our negotiations

we were successful in maintaining Choose Life as an ongoing program specific to NAN communities. We are planning an Annual General Assembly of Choose Life in September. This Assembly will allow us to forage a pathway forward so that Choose Life can continue and evolve within our First Nations. Our Team is fixed and poised to work with all our First Nations to help develop prevention programming, First Nations jurisdiction, and laws governing child and family services.

I would also like to report that work on the Education Reset Table is moving ahead with a NAN-specific process. There are many areas of education that require a unique lens and focussed negotiations to address the unique priorities of NAN. Investments in preschool and early years, kindergarten to 12 and post-secondary education require NAN-specific pathways. We owe it to our children, youth, and families to ensure that they have access to the best quality education.

I am very pleased to have the youth portfolio. I believe it is important to have the youth voice in all sectors of the political advocacy that we undertake. I am working with the Youth Department and the Oshkaatisak Council to ensure that they have every opportunity to give direction on matters that they deem priority.

I look forward to working with Chiefs and communities on further identifying emerging priorities in the work that needs to come.

Meegwetch.

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse





CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# Michelle Sanderson

**On behalf of the Executive Council and the Senior Management team,**

*I am pleased to present the 2021-2022 Nishnawbe Aski Nation Audited Financial Statements at this year's Keewaywin Conference. We are ending the year in a positive financial position with surplus carrying into 2022-2023.*

**N**ishnawbe Aski Nation welcomed me as the Chief Administrative Officer in January 2022. Gitchi-miigwech for the warm welcome! I had relocated from Lac Seul First Nation where I had served as the community's Executive Director. I am also a band member of Lac Seul First Nation.

Sabrina Marion had served as the Acting Chief Administrative Officer in the interim and has returned to her Director of Human Resources position. I would like to take the time to thank her for the support she provided to NAN during the transition.

I would like to thank the Executive, the Finance Committee, the Senior Management Team and every single staff member who has contributed to a successful year despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and working remotely.

This past year has presented its challenges as Covid-19 continued to have an impact on operations. The COVID-19 Task Team was busy supporting the challenges at the community and organizational level. A big thank you and acknowledgment to the Task Team for their dedication and hard work.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation continues to grow as an employer and significant planning has taken place to ensure that the objectives of the Executive are met during their term. These planning

sessions were held during March of 2022. The goal of the planning sessions was to give the Directors their charge and directive to support the Executive's vision.

As we move forward, our motto UNITY-STRENGTH-SUCCESS serves as a reminder as we reunite and are able to have in-person gatherings, return to the office and continue on in our work in political advocacy and providing support to the communities in our Nation.

**Miigwech!**

# About Nishnawbe Aski Nation

The 'We are NAN' poster highlights our 49 member First Nations across NAN territory. This poster is designed to help students familiarize themselves with NAN territory and understand where they are from.

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

### Independant Bands

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

### Independant First Nations Alliance

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 7. Lac Seul    | 9. Pikangikum |
| 8. Muskrat Dam |               |

### Keewaytinook Okimakinak

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

### Matawa First Nations

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

### Mushkegowuk Council

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

### Shibogama First Nations Council

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

### Wabun Tribal Council

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

### Windigo First Nations Council

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





# 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.

## Oshkaatisak (All Young Peoples) Council

The Oshkaatisak (All Young Peoples) Council represents the youth of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (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.
- ▶ Identify ways to increase advocacy, coordination and strategic ways to increase resources and supports for NAN youth.

## NAN Women's Council

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (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 to the Deputy Grand Chief responsible for the Women's Initiatives portfolio.
- ▶ 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.



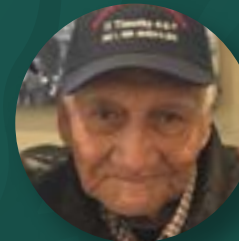
# In Remembrance



**Chris Cromarty**  
Kitchenuhmaykoosib  
Inninuwug



**Abraham Metatawabin**  
Fort Albany First Nation



**Freddie Kakekagumick**  
Keewaywin First Nation



**Goyce Kakegamic**  
Sandy Lake First Nation



**Gregory Koostachin**  
Attawapiskat First Nation



**John Fletcher**  
Missanabie Cree First Nation



**Debbie Sault**  
Thunder Bay





## 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](http://www.kunuwanimano.com)

Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Sioux Lookout  
[www.tikinagan.org](http://www.tikinagan.org)

Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services, Moosonee  
[www.payukotayno.ca](http://www.payukotayno.ca)

### EDUCATION

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute, Thunder Bay  
[www.oshki.ca](http://www.oshki.ca)

### MEDIA & CULTURE

Ojibway Cree and Cultural Center, Timmins  
[www.occ.ca](http://www.occ.ca)

Wawatay Native Communications Society, Timmins-Sioux Lookout  
[www.wawataynews.ca](http://www.wawataynews.ca)

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Thunder Bay  
[www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org)

### POLICING & JUSTICE

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Thunder Bay  
[www.naps.org](http://www.naps.org)

Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation, Thunder Bay  
[www.nanlegal.on.ca](http://www.nanlegal.on.ca)

### HEALTH

Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Special Solvent Abuse Treatment Center, Thunder Bay  
[www.kanachihih.ca](http://www.kanachihih.ca)

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Sioux Lookout  
[www.sfnha.com](http://www.sfnha.com)

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Moose Factory  
[www.waha.com](http://www.waha.com)

## Administration

### Finance

- ▶ Jeff Forneri, Director of Finance
- ▶ Matthew Winters, Manager of Finance
- ▶ Paulette Desmoulin, Senior Finance Officer
- ▶ Pam Fayrick, Payroll Analyst
- ▶ Ryan Desmoulin, Finance Officer
- ▶ Shawntae Sutherland, Finance Officer

### Administration

- ▶ Sabrina Marion, Director of Human Resources
- ▶ Ian Beardy, Human Resource Analyst
- ▶ Taraisa Schultz, Human Resource Analyst
- ▶ Jill Harju, Human Resource Assistant
- ▶ Nancy Neves, Receptionist
- ▶ Jennifer Kakekapetum, Receptionist
- ▶ Jennifer Thompson, Travel Coordinator
- ▶ Kevin McKay, Building Manager
- ▶ Jamie McLeod, Office Custodian

### Human Resources

**Our full-time equivalent staff is at 136.**

This number may fluctuate as projects and initiatives, that are generally of a time-limited nature progress. Our staff complement is approximately 71% Indigenous with 64% being registered members of NAN First Nations





## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# NAN-IAO Relationship Table

## OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the NAN Executive Council, through numerous resolutions (Resolution 09/58: Strengthening First Nation Ontario Bilateral Process, Resolution 16/16: Structural Process for Engaging the Provincial Government, Resolution 16/53: Far North Act NAN-Ontario MOU, Resolution 16/74: NAN Position on the Ontario Political Accord, Resolution 17/35: Ontario Treaty Relationship Agreement, Resolution 18/09: Bilateral Table with Province of Ontario), to sign a Treaty Relationship Agreement with the province, and to establish a bilateral Relationship Table process to collaborate on key issues. On April 17, 2018, the Treaty Relationship Agreement was signed and NAN and the province, in partnership with Indigenous Affairs Ontario (IAO), have developed a bilateral process known as “the Relationship Table”.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Using video conferencing technology, NAN and IAO have been able to maintain consistent communication and regular Relationship Table meetings throughout 2021-2022, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. NAN and IAO have established an effective virtual meeting process and format for the Relationship Table that promotes identifying and realizing tangible goals and deliverables, following up on goals to track progress and engaging in dialogue on emerging issues to develop timely solutions.

Three Relationship Table meetings were held during the fiscal year, as per the meeting schedule set out in the workplan. Participants have included senior officials and technical representatives from NAN and various provincial government ministries. Ministry representatives are invited to attend Relationship Table meetings as appropriate, based on the jointly developed meeting agendas, to ensure productive discussions and identify appropriate next steps to address issues. NAN Directors have utilized the Relationship Table process to raise pressing issues relevant to their departments and to promote greater awareness of specific issues experienced by NAN communities.

## OBJECTIVES

- ▶ The primary objective of the Relationship Table process is to establish consistent government-to-government relationships and effective channels for ongoing communication on matters of importance to NAN First Nations.
- ▶ Other important objectives include:
  - Establishing and maintaining a process for NAN and IAO to work collaboratively to develop solutions to issues and challenges impacting NAN communities.
  - Jointly working towards the realization of tangible goals and deliverables.
  - Providing flexible capacity support to NAN to support Advisory Council participation in Chiefs Meetings.
  - Engaging in dialogue on emerging issues, initiatives, opportunities, policies of interest.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Meeting #1 – Key Discussions**

The first Relationship Table meeting between NAN and the province was held virtually on October 20, 2021. Key agenda items and discussions related to the following topics:

- ▶ Anti-Racism Directorate.
- ▶ Aviation safety.
- ▶ Emergency After-Action planning.
- ▶ Operation Remote Immunity.

**Meeting #2 – Key Discussions**

The second Relationship Table meeting was held virtually on November 24, 2021. Agenda topics included:

- ▶ Indian Residential Schools.
- ▶ Review of the Fall Economic Statement.
- ▶ Mental health and addictions funding.
- ▶ Mishkeegogamang First Nation and Cat Lake First Nation proposals for treatment centres.
- ▶ NAN justice capacity.
- ▶ Remote Airport Needs Assessment.

**Meeting #3 – Key Discussions**

The third Relationship Table meeting was held virtually on February 14, 2022, covering the following issues:

- ▶ Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- ▶ Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Act.
- ▶ Remote Airport Needs Assessment.
- ▶ Mental Health funding.

NAN continues to collaborate with IAO and other key ministries to address these issues and will continue to prioritize this ongoing work into the next fiscal year.

**August 11, 2021**

*Derek Fox (Bearskin Lake), Anna Betty Achneepineskum (Marten Falls), Bobby Narcisse (Aroland) and Victor Linklater (Taykwa Tagamou) elected to the NAN Executive Council at the 39th Annual Keewaywin Conference.*



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Health Transformation

## OVERVIEW

## Background

In 2017, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Canada and Ontario signed the Charter of Relationship Principles: Governing Health System Transformation in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory (the Charter). This trilateral document established a revolutionary vision for system-wide change for NAN territory, including:

- ▶ Developing new approaches to improve health and health access, including access at the community level;
- ▶ Proposing policy reform and exploring legislative changes to design a new health system for NAN territory, including sustainable funding models and decision-making structures; and
- ▶ Removing barriers caused by jurisdiction, funding, policy, and structures so that First Nations can better deliver, plan, design and manage their own services.

## Leadership &amp; Strategic Planning Approaches

In 2021-2022, under the leadership of Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater and the Director of Health Transformation, the Health Transformation Team has worked diligently to update the strategic approach and move into a new phase of Health Transformation. The Team is proud of the work under the previous approach, which has been described as the “Five Pillars” of Health Transformation:

1. Community Participation
2. Reclamation of Indigenous Laws
3. Immediate Needs
4. Fiscal Review and Funding Models
5. Policy and Legislative Review.

As part of the path forward, the Pillars will serve as the foundation, in that each Pillar will be interwoven and strategically considered in all transformative work that we engage in with our partners.

Health Transformation was pleased to welcome Alvin Fiddler, into the role of Health Transformation Lead Negotiator, as Ovide Mercredi transitioned to the role of Special Advisor, supporting the Federal Distinctions-Based Indigenous Health Legislation file. Throughout this fiscal year, the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation (CCOHT) has continued to provide invaluable guidance and feedback on our strategic planning process, and we extend our sincere gratitude for their commitment of time and the knowledge shared. Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater and our Lead Negotiator worked closely with NAN First Nations, Health Authorities/Co-Op, Tribal Councils and other partners to identify and understand their priorities, cultivate relationships, and examine how Health Transformation can provide strategic support.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced the need for a fundamental shift in how we approach health system transformation. In the strategic planning work, Health Transformation has acknowledged and taken into consideration the profound impacts and changes brought about by the pandemic. In 2021-2022, the Health Transformation Team has continued to support NAN First Nations, Health Authorities and Tribal Councils as they mobilized to keep community members safe. We cannot afford to go back to pre-pandemic ways.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Health Transformation in Action: Pandemic Response

In many ways, the COVID-19 pandemic brought us closer to true Health Transformation by providing deeper understandings of our interconnected relationships and what our priorities must be to achieve better health for NAN First Nations. Addressing issues that arose during the pandemic with a community led approach, in tandem with First Nations Health Authorities/Co-Op, Tribal Councils and both levels of government, confirmed what we have always known: NAN communities know best how to keep their members safe.

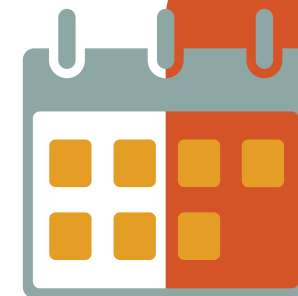
At the onset of the Omicron wave, NAN recognized the threat that this variant posed to NAN communities. Since the Health Transformation Team played such a prominent role in NAN's COVID-19 response during previous waves of the pandemic, the Team moved quickly to support scaling NAN's COVID-19 response back up. The top priority of the Team was to support NAN First Nations, Tribal Councils, and First Nations Health Authorities in navigating this wave of the pandemic as safely as possible.

Many of the Health Transformation staff were temporarily reassigned to focus on COVID-19 response-related duties. For example, the Health Transformation Team worked closely with the COVID-19 Task Team, in collaboration with First Nations Health Authorities/Co-Op, Tribal Councils, and other health partners, to support communities as they continued to face challenging pandemic conditions. Part of this support included sharing information about the latest COVID-19 updates through weekly Chiefs COVID-19 calls and working with the COVID-19 Task Team to support communities as they determined how best to ease restrictions. Health Transformation staff also supported the

development of information sheets about how to access personal protective equipment (PPE) and rapid antigen tests, worked with the Task Team Knowledge Keepers to develop a statement for community leadership and frontline workers, and joined support meetings for communities experiencing Omicron-related outbreaks.

The Health Transformation Team continued to participate in various COVID-19 planning meetings with health partners and governments, including a COVID-19 Technical Table intended to support coordinated communications and supports from the federal and provincial governments during the Omicron surge. Health Transformation also provided high level advocacy support to partners on issues such as access to antivirals and COVID-19 treatment options for NAN communities, as well as advocacy for enhanced surge capacity including Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA)'s Nomadic Medical Assistance Teams and NAN Hope's Public Health Measures project, which enabled NAN Hope to expand its in-person services and recruit several Indigenous masters-level social workers.

By focusing on First Nations-led responses and addressing community-identified needs, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that Health Transformation can and does work. Moving forward, work will center on the need to continue cultivating relationships strengthened by the pandemic, hold governments accountable to a new standard, ensure alignment with community priorities, and come together to envision a new health system that supports healing and good health for all.



## August 26, 2021

- ▶ NAN welcomes a landmark interim decision by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ordering Canada to pay capital costs for child welfare.
- ▶ NAN supports a plea for assistance by Wunnumin Lake First Nation following a series of tragedies in the remote community.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**Community Participation**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Transformation completed 26 community visits including four urban centers. Due to the declaration of global pandemic, community visits were halted until safe to travel again. To continue the conversation on Health Transformation during the pandemic, 18 virtual community sessions were completed.

Health Transformation used different tools to stay connected with the communities. Hosting webinars offered a communication tool where NAN members were able to join virtual presentations on Health Transformation and it also gave the opportunity to continue gathering input and collecting experiences from NAN communities. In total, three webinars were completed and a total of 19 participants attended. These webinars provided opportunities for the Health Transformation Lead and Health Transformation Team to provide updates, and for community members to ask questions and share their stories and experiences with the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Transformation Team hosted monthly contests for NAN First Nation communities. These contests helped to promote mental wellness and physical activity during the pandemic. Photos, videos and written stories were submitted by participants from the communities. These submissions will be showcased during the upcoming Health Summit. Health Transformation also recognized the importance of the mental and physical wellness of the NAN staff during the pandemic. The Health Transformation Team created a walking challenge to address this and over 40 NAN staff participated.

The Health Transformation Team was also tasked with helping the First Nations Engineering Services group to gather completed paramedic surveys from NAN First Nation communities. This was part of the NAN Needs Assessment Phase for the Paramedic Services Project. At that time, there were 29 communities that still needed to submit their survey results. The Community Participation Team created a plan to connect with these communities, and 19 of the 29 communities completed the surveys.

In November 2021, Immediate Needs-related work was transferred over to the Community Participation staff, and this work will continue to be overseen by the Team. Immediate Needs work includes assistance with advocacy, overcoming barriers in access to health care, and collaboration with others. Each case that comes through Health Transformation has revealed gaps and barriers in the current health care system. These issues have been included with the list of priorities in which Health Transformation carefully analyzes to determine the next steps and recommendations.

During the fiscal year, NAN Health Transformation received requests to follow up on the following barriers for NAN members with a total of 23 issues:

- ▶ 6 Navigation support
- ▶ 3 Advocacy
- ▶ 3 Denied Services
- ▶ 2 NIHB - Escorts
- ▶ 3 Accommodations
- ▶ 1 Funding
- ▶ 2 NIHB - transportation
- ▶ 3 Support for family

**Immediate Priorities Table Discussions**

The Charter Appendix A outlines a Trilateral Table between NAN, Canada and Ontario which includes a Joint Health System Transformation Table to develop strategic direction, set priorities and make recommendations for the allocation of resources. The responsibilities of the Joint Health Transformation Table include:

- ▶ Developing immediate, medium and long-term action items that will address transformative change to the existing health system as experienced by NAN members, regardless of residency.
- ▶ Making recommendations to the Parties regarding mechanisms and resources required for health system transformation and implementation including:
  - Identifying and addressing health care service gaps;
  - Funding models and delivery of funding;
  - Accountability mechanisms for oversight;
  - Equitable access to care;
  - Alignment of health systems while ensuring local control and authority over health care services;
  - Community driven processes, including defining needs, planning actions, controlling resources, developing models of care and evaluating results;
  - Identifying multi-sectoral solutions that will impact the social determinants of health including geographic location, poverty, and housing;
  - Human resource requirements, including access to qualified health care professionals; and
  - Capital and infrastructure requirements, including facilities, equipment, and operating systems.
- ▶ Developing work plans to carry out the mandate of the Table. Such work plans will have clear milestones and deliverables and will endeavour to ensure that communities see immediate improvements to their urgent issues.

The Table includes a Main Political Table, a Senior Officials Table and a Joint Action Technical Table.

Under the NAN Health Transformation process, the Joint Action Technical Table (JATT) is responsible for addressing immediate needs, as directed by the Main Political Table. The JATT is a trilateral table and comprised of Tribal Council representatives, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), SLFNHA, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) and invited agencies, Mushkegowuk Council and NAN.

Immediate Needs are identified under 5 categories:

1. Case specific issues.
2. Barriers to safe and effective care.
3. Advocacy and strategy development across sectors.
4. Community priorities.
5. Regional priorities,

Priority items were identified, and a series of conference calls were coordinated to include NAN and NAN Health Transformation partners, Canada and Ontario. Presentations were prepared and shared by each party, with the intent to create discussion and develop concrete plans to address the issues, gaps and barriers currently faced by NAN communities and members.

The JATT held 19 conference calls during 2021-2022 to present and discuss immediate needs presented by various First Nations, Tribal Councils, Health Authorities and NAN. The priority areas include:

- ▶ Home & community care.
- ▶ Long-term care
- ▶ Primary care (physician/nursing services, elderly care, interdisciplinary health care teams).
- ▶ Emergency (paramedicine) services.
- ▶ Diabetes/dialysis.
- ▶ Mental health and addictions.
- ▶ NAN Health Transformation Health Commission.

A report summarizing the updates and recommended approaches to move these priorities forward in Health Transformation is currently being finalized, to be shared with NAN partners. It is expected that focused tables will be created to develop concrete action plans for funding and implementation.



## Health Transformation – Transfer Payment Activities

### Health Transformation Third Party Agreements

As part of the NAN Health Transformation process, it has been made clear that the process must be grassroots driven, and that community protocols and initiatives must be followed and respected. Community engagement, or what the NAN Health Transformation process refers to as community participation, is of utmost importance. As such, funding was provided to Tribal Councils and Health Authorities to support NAN Health Transformation planning and projects. For example, funding was used to continue informing all NAN First Nations members about Health Transformation initiatives, inviting their input, collaborating with them to generate solutions, and partnering with the community from the beginning to tackle community issues related to their well-being.

### Diabetes

Diabetes continues to be raised as a priority health issue and immediate need by NAN members and communities. Since 2018, the MOH has enhanced core funding for community diabetes services and regional planning through the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy (OADS). Almost all the approximate \$2.6 million budget housed at NAN is flowed to communities and Tribal Councils to support diabetes needs. \$25,000 is provided to each community to support immediate diabetes needs and \$129,800 to Tribal Councils for regional planning and programs. Remaining funds are flowed directly to communities to support chiropody services they provide for foot care programs.

### Sexually Transmitted Blood Borne Illnesses, Human Immunodeficiency Viruses & Hepatitis C

Through a combination of federal initiatives and Budget 2017 funding from ISC, NAN was able to divide and transfer approximately \$393,000 in total funding to regional Health Authorities and organizations to support programming for sexually transmitted blood borne illnesses (STBBI), Human Immunodeficiency Viruses (HIV) and the Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

This funding is intended to support a more coordinated and client-centered care approach to meet the needs of people living with STBBI in communities experiencing high disease rates and supporting wrap-around care which includes addressing substance use and other mental wellness issues, as well as increased access to high quality prevention, care, and support services, establishing local and culturally appropriate access to care and treatment.

### Tuberculosis

As part of ISC's Budget 2017 funding, NAN was eligible for approximately \$92,000 in total Tuberculosis funding for 2021-2022 and was able to divide and transfer this amount to regional health authorities and organizations. A range of support activities (from screening to education) are eligible through this funding.

### Future Actions

NAN, in collaboration with partners, continues to advocate that significant gaps and challenges remain in supporting all the above program areas, that current funding supports are insufficient, and that plans for direct funding relationships may be required and more appropriate.



## Reclamation of Indigenous Laws

The Reclamation of Indigenous Laws (ROIL) work is led by Adam Fiddler, a lawyer from Sandy Lake First Nation. Adam Fiddler and the Health Transformation Team have been working with the Center of First Nation Governance's (CFNG) expert lead, Satsan (Herb George) to develop strategic framework models to support the establishment of a governance and law-making process that would be available to, and can be tailored by, each of the NAN communities to meet their unique needs.

With the support of the CFNG, NAN Health Transformation has delivered two workshops to support communities in the assertion of their laws and jurisdiction over health. Ongoing work will include a comprehensive approach to capture traditional laws and protocols as they relate to health and wellness to process, codify, protect, preserve, revitalize, and transfer to future generations.

The ROIL Working Group includes representation from the Mushkegowuk, Anishiniwak and Anishinaabe Nations, and membership is comprised of appropriate expertise, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, member(s) of the Chiefs Council on Health Transformation, member(s) of the Health Transformation Advisory Council, and member(s) of the NAN Health Transformation Team or other appropriate NAN departments. The ROIL Working Group provides guidance on how traditional knowledge can be protected, preserved, revitalized, and transferred to future generations. The Working Group also works to capture and share teachings, legends, and ceremonies related to health and wellness. Other considerations of the working group include:

- ▶ Gathering knowledge in a culturally appropriate manner, such as through ceremonies and traditional protocols.
- ▶ Developing a comprehensive approach to gather information on laws, protocols and guidelines (i.e., Creators Law, Law of the Land, Law of the Clans, Laws of the Family, etc.).
- ▶ Developing a process to document/codify inherent laws and protect traditional knowledge and its translation at the community and regional level.
- ▶ Adapting and building on traditional laws and contemporary Indigenous laws.
- ▶ Developing a template process for First Nations seeking to write their own laws.
- ▶ Consulting on the enforcement of laws.

## NAN Health Entity

The proposed NAN-wide health entity would not deliver health services, instead it would support the Health Authorities and Tribal Councils who are delivering health care directly to the First Nations in NAN territory. Governance structures are being explored including governance by the three Nations that make up NAN territory – Mushkegowuk, Anishiniwak, and Anishinaabe, guided by three Advisory Councils consisting of Women, Elders and Youth. Technical expertise would be provided by the Tribal Council Health Directors.

The Health Entity's priorities could include:

- ▶ Ensure competent healthcare professionals are clinically skilled to deliver quality care to First Nations in remote and rural areas.
- ▶ Monitor for Quality Assurance and Policy in remote and rural areas.
- ▶ Collect, secure, analyze health information and medical data under OCAP principles to be used for planning to benefit each Nation.
- ▶ Support each Nation's capacity building and training needs within their communities and Nation.
- ▶ Help advance each community's health priorities.
- ▶ Support the reclamation of natural laws and protocols within each First Nation and Nation.
- ▶ Develop a public health system using inherent strengths to close gaps within each First Nation and Nation.

### Community Health Working Group (CHWG)

- ▶ Meet monthly with group members consisting of Tribal Council and Community Health Directors, community front line workers and community members.
- ▶ Identify community needs and priorities, identified short-term and long-term training needs as well as educational opportunities to help build community capacity.
- ▶ Develop a PowerPoint presentation to model how a laddering approach can be used to fill community needs and priorities.
- ▶ Research information sharing for CHWG members on health-related fields & concerns.

Pamihitowin ('Helping Each Other') Working Group

- ▶ September 3, 2021, regularly meet with members from the NAN Elders Advisory Council and NAN Youth Council.
- ▶ December 13, 2021, the word Pamihitowin was first introduced as a word that clearly identified the concept of helping one another.
- ▶ Work is ongoing and will be presented to NAN Chiefs for the Health Transformation concept.

Nursing Services Working Group

- ▶ In accordance with NAN Chiefs Resolution 19/50: Nursing Stations, the Team is working with Tribal Councils and First Nations to explore immediate solutions on nursing service delivery to remedy issues (e.g. recruitment and retention, infrastructure, accommodations, etc.).
- ▶ Working in partnership with Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The WenJack Education Institute (Oshki-Wenjack) on capacity development in NAN territory:

## 1. Midwifery training:

- Explored Midwifery training models offered in Six Nations of the Grand River.
- Next steps: NAN to provide support to Oshki-Wenjack to continue development of midwifery course.

## 2. Cultural Safety and Competency training:

- Oshki-Wenjack began development of a Cultural Safety and Competency course. A draft course outline, framework model and descriptions are complete.
- Next steps: NAN to approve to proceed, budget development, course outline, duration, identify a curriculum writer, determine delivery mechanism etc.

## 3. Advanced Practice Nursing training:

- The Health Human Resources Working Group recommended to investigate enhancing clinical skills for nurses working in remote areas of NAN; and how Health Authorities can assume responsibility to hire and recruit nurses including the development of a proposal.
- NAN and Oshki-Wenjack conducted some research on existing or similar training Advanced Practice Nurses Training (APNT).
- Next steps: Nursing Services working group is to review training content document for next steps on curriculum development. Future work on quality care / quality assurance is planned.

Physician Services Working Group

- ▶ Several meetings were held to discuss various remuneration approaches to enhance physician recruitment and retention efforts. The working group reviewed several compensation models including a physician compensation survey.
- ▶ One virtual information session ('Grand Rounds') was held with several physicians working across NAN territory to provide information on Health Transformation. The Group recommended future sessions to be provide by NAN team directly, rather than through Grand Rounds.
- ▶ Next Steps: Continue discussion on recruitment and retention of physicians through two-way dialogue with community and physicians. Conduct Health Transformation information sessions and provide information booths at various physician attended health forums, conferences, etc.

Reclamation of Indigenous Laws / Health Commission Workshops

- ▶ NAN partnered with the Centre for First Nation Governance to deliver two workshops in June and July 2021 on First Nations Governance and Inherent Rights.
- ▶ A draft report was produced and circulated to the working group for review and comment, and final report will follow.

Public Health Infrastructure and Health Infrastructure Research

- ▶ A research summary on Public Health & Health Infrastructure was completed, and a briefing note was provided to the Director, Lead & Negotiator.
- ▶ Next steps: Determine individual community needs/assessments as it relates to public health, long term care and primary care. Explore the monetization of infrastructure using the '3 P's' (plant, people, profit). Explore solutions for accommodations for external service providers (e.g. primary care teams, mental health counsellors, specialists etc.), and other infrastructure needs (offices, meeting, counselling spaces, assessments for visiting teams).

Health Information and Communication Systems Research

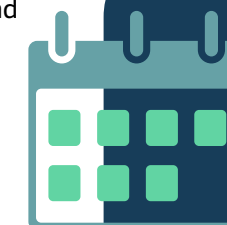
- ▶ A discussion paper on population health and data systems was completed, and a briefing note was provided to the Director, Lead & Negotiator.
- ▶ Next steps: Explore population health surveillance needs and system types and framework for Integrated EMR Network within NAN.

**Federal Distinctions Based Indigenous Health Legislation**

ISC officially launched the federal Distinctions-Based Indigenous Health Legislation Process (FDBIHL) on January 28, 2021. "Distinctions-based" means the federal government will be considering First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives when creating this legislation.

ISC's stated intention of the FBIHL process, and the planned legislation is to do the following:

- ▶ Establish overarching principles as the foundation of federal health services for Indigenous peoples.
- ▶ Support the transformation of health service delivery through collaboration with Indigenous organizations in the development, provision, and improvement of services to increase Indigenous-led health service delivery.
- ▶ Continue to advance the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation and a renewed Nation-to-Nation, Inuit-Crown and government-to-government relationship with Indigenous peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.



### September 7, 2021

NAN welcomes Superior Court injunction protecting Ginoogaming First Nation's Sacred Land from mineral exploration



For the majority of 2021 and early 2022, there was a lack of information about the potential outcomes of this process and the corresponding legislation, and how the entire process would eventually unfold.

ISC stated that nothing in the FDBIHL process was “pre-determined”, and the process was to be guided by engagements. ISC described how the FDBIHL process was meant to be flexible, and the pathway forward would be guided by each step of the process. In February 2021, ISC brought forward the following timeline for the FDBIHL process:

Timeline	Activity
Winter 2020	Engagement begins
Spring 2021 to Summer 2021	Co-development of legislative options
Fall 2021 to Winter 2022	Drafting of legislation
Winter 2022	Introduction of the Bill

NAN confirmed with ISC that the engagement process would continue beyond the timeline proposed in February. NAN began reaching out to Tribal Councils, Independent First Nations, and First Nations Health Organizations in NAN territory to make sure NAN voices were being heard in this process. A working group meeting was held on August 18, 2021, to discuss the FDBIHL process. It was decided during this meeting, to hold bilateral meetings with NAN partners. NAN reached out to all invitees to this meeting to set up bilateral meetings to gather information on how federal legislation could address important concerns specific to Partners, and across NAN territory.

It was apparent the timelines provided by ISC were insufficient for meaningful engagement, and NAN was aware that many communities and organizations were still dealing with COVID-19 and had more immediate priorities. As a result, NAN advocated throughout the FDBIHL process for the timelines to be extended. NAN received confirmation that the tabling of the legislation will be extended to Winter 2024.

### NAN Paramedic Services

In 2021-2022, NAN Health Transformation held meetings with both the NAN Northern First Nations Paramedic Task Force and Paramedic Education & Training Working Group. The NAN Northern First Nations Paramedic Task Force membership includes NAN Health Transformation, First Nation Tribal Councils, Health Authorities/Organizations, federal government/ISC, provincial government/MOH and Paramedic Associations/Ornge. The Education/ Training Working group membership includes NAN Health Transformation, IFNA, First Nation Education

Authorities, federal government/ISC-FNIHB, provincial government/MOH, Colleges & Universities, Northern & Durham College and Paramedic Associations/Ornge.

#### Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA)

IFNA was funded for Integrated Emergency Services (IES) model which includes paramedic services:

- ▶ Start-up Funding/ Yearly Equipment Funding required.
- ▶ Initial Staff Bridge Train the Trainer – Emergency Medical Responder.
- ▶ Emergency Services Uniform & Initial Equipment.

#### Development of Initiation Plan:

- ▶ Paramedic services blueprint.
- ▶ Integration plan other services.
- ▶ IES model operational plan.
- ▶ Legal review.
- ▶ Project approvals – IFNA + Chiefs.
- ▶ Evaluation and improvement strategy/plan.
- ▶ Sharing best practices with NAN Health Transformation Lead and Tables.

#### Completion of Phase 1 Initiation of Plan:

- ▶ First Responders trained and activated in each IFNA community.
- ▶ Paramedic training program & deployment of services - with a Paramedic Supervisor in each community and response vehicle.
- ▶ Integration with Emergency Management, Fire/Rescue training program & deployment of services.
- ▶ Emergency services facilities present in IFNA communities.
- ▶ Emergency Operations & Training Center.

Follow up meetings were held to monitor work progress.

#### Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute (Oshki-Wenjack)

NAN Health Transformation held meetings to outline and receive updates on the training needs NAN is requesting for the paramedic file, and updates on the midwifery training work they are also developing. Oshki-Wenjack began work on the curriculum development for Indigenous Cultural Safety, Competency and Language for Health Workers in Northern First Nations, and Advanced Practice Nursing – Enhanced Skills to practice in Northern Indigenous Communities.

#### First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA)

The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) professional designation is based on five courses in the Certified First Nations Health Manager Program, which include:

1. Health Issues and Systems.
2. Leadership and Strategy.
3. Health Management Services.
4. Health Management Services.
5. Professionalism, Ethics and Cultural Awareness.

The program is for participants working in First Nations health management or aspire to a career in this area. In Fall 2021, 17 staff and NAN members were sponsored. (Six completed, one withdrew and 10 did not complete). In Winter 2022, nine health directors/wellness workers/NAN staff were sponsored. (Seven completed, two withdrew).

### Partnerships

Health Transformation, including the planning, design, and implementation, across NAN territory requires a broad range of partnerships and expertise including service providers, colleges, education institutes, First Nation organizations, health institutes, government partners, and First Nation co-creators. Our partners each have a unique role to support and advance health transformation in NAN territory. As the NAN Health Transformation vision evolves, and the Five Pillars become a foundation for work moving forward, there is greater interest to expand our relationships with existing and new partners.

In January 2019, NAN signed several Relationship Accords in partnership with the following organizations, including First Nations Health Managers Association, Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association, and Partners in Health. In March 2021, NAN signed eight Relationship Accords with Northern School of Medicine, Ontario College of Family Physicians, Ornge, Paramedic Association of Canada, Red Cross, Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario, University Health Network, and Association of Ontario Midwives.

A Partnership Record has been created in preparation for a team-oriented strategic assessment of the partnership file with the objective to align intended outcomes, goals, and/or immediate needs of Health Transformation. The Partnership Record documents the status and activities of existing (and potential) partners including mandate, services, work plan deliverables and objectives, and a record of previous meetings. The recommended approach to revitalize existing partnerships is outlined in the partnership files work plan. Our aim is to 1) ensure mutually beneficial partnerships are established with organizations that align with NAN’s goals and desired outcomes; and 2) deliver consistent communication with NAN partners on health transformation’s activities and ensure goals and deliverables are being met.



## Health Advisory Group

Resolution 10-39: Establishment of a NAN Health Advisory Group mandated NAN to establish and operate the Health Advisory Group (HAG) to be the main planning and advisory entity for NAN on health-related matters. During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, in addition to the NAN HAG Regular Business meetings, the HAG COVID-19 update/check-in calls continued in response to the fast-paced and changing needs of NAN communities during the pandemic. As a result, the frequency of the HAG COVID-19 meetings fluctuated between bi-weekly and monthly, with a total of 13 meetings. These calls serve as a forum for NAN and Tribal Councils, Health Authorities, and NAN First Nations to share updates relating to COVID-19 in both urban and remote communities.

The NAN Health Transformation Team participated on these calls alongside the NAN Community Wellness Department and the NAN COVID-19 Task Team to provide updates on activities. Health Authorities provide updates on any current and evolving issues relevant to the table, and Tribal Councils and Independent First Nations provide updates specific to their region and voice any concerns requiring follow-up action by NAN staff. Discussions on emergent issues relating to COVID-19 have included rapid testing (e.g., capacity, barriers to training, policy), vaccines and vaccine rollout, public health interventions and communication, on-the-ground resources, and mental health.

The HAG regular business meetings serve as a forum for information sharing, consultation, collaboration, and communication on ongoing issues in NAN First Nations. While typically held on a quarterly basis, there were seven HAG Regular Business meetings held, with four meetings focusing Long-Term Care, two meetings on Cancer Care, and one on Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB).

## Mental Health

NAN Health Transformation researched and completed a Holiday Mental Wellness Resource document for 2021-2022 that was shared with Tribal Council health directors, Health Authority staff, other NAN departments, and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB). To foster better information sharing and collaboration between NAN departments, the Payakatisowin Pimiwicihitowin Mamow Ashitamakwonan (the Mamow group), NAN's Interdepartmental Mental Health Working Group, meets to exchange information and ideas for collaboration. The Mamow group is mandated by three NAN resolutions: Resolution 17/04: NAN Wide Life Promotion Strategy, Resolution 17/09: Strategy to Address Sexual Violence in NAN Territory and Resolution 17/16: Comprehensive Review of Mental Health Services for Children and Youth. Outcomes of these meetings include progress made on mapping different departmental initiatives related to these resolutions and identifying options for enhanced interdepartmental coordination on files such as Justice, and Reclamation and Healing.

Other relevant activities completed include assisting the Community Wellness Department in supporting Indian Residential School Survivors. This included working with other NAN departments and NAN Legal to look at distribution of one-time Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services funding of \$2,176,716, for Mental Health and Addictions and Trauma Supports, which had to be used prior to end of fiscal. Much of this funding flowed to support crisis response at the Tribal Council and NAN community-level.

The Health Transformation team also supported the advocacy efforts of the NAN Executive for initiatives such as NAN Hope to secure funding through FNIHB's Public Health Measures Project. With this support, NAN Hope received time-limited funding enhancement that enabled them to hire several Indigenous Master's-level counsellors and provide in-person counselling and community supports. Further advocacy support was also provided for Matawa First Nation's WiiChiiHehWayWin Street Outreach Program.

From January to March 2022, the Health Transformation Team supported the NAN COVID-19 Task Team's response to the Omicron surge of COVID-19, including providing extensive coordination, analysis, and document development. Health Transformation staff also attended public health emergency meetings for Constance Lake and Kasabonika Lake First Nations. A special focus of this COVID-19 work was the mental health and

wellness impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on NAN community members. The Mental Health and Substance Use Working Group met on a weekly basis to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on mental health and substance use needs in NAN Territory, and the Continuity of Care sub-working group met approximately once a month to ensure the continuity of psychiatric care for NAN members throughout the pandemic. They also coordinated several meetings between Windigo First Nations, Wequedong Lodge, and other parties to ensure that NAN community members had safe pathways to care while seeking medical care in Thunder Bay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other activities included:

- ▶ Meeting with the Ontario MOH's First Nations Mental Health and Addictions Systems Coordinator Subgroup.
- ▶ Participating as an observer in several Chiefs of Ontario (COO) initiatives related to mental health, including the COO Mental Health and Addictions Working Group; COO First Nations Mental Health and Addictions System Performance Advisory Committee; and the COO Mental Health and Addictions Scorecard group.
- ▶ Joining the Seven Youth Inquest's Political Table Meeting.
- ▶ Attending two Planning in Partnership regarding mental health and addictions in Sioux Lookout.
- ▶ Supporting the work of the Seven Youth Inquest by reviewing health promotion material about cannabis use.

## Long-Term Care (LTC)

The Health Transformation Team coordinated and hosted the NAN Health Transformation Virtual Long Term Care Engagement, held September 28-29, 2021. Through collaboration with Wabun and Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Councils, the HAG, as well as Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Nation, Muskrat Dam First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation, NAN was able to receive invaluable feedback on the state of LTC in NAN communities, as well as in northern urban hubs. Information was gathered during this event through surveys as well as breakout sessions, with resources and facilitation support from SLFNHA. The knowledge shared will inform the NAN Health Transformation Engagement on Wholistic Continuum of LTC Summary Report. Upon completion, this report will be shared back to NAN communities, and will also be submitted to ISC to inform the co-development of policy options

for a holistic and culturally safe distinctions-based First Nations and Inuit-led long-term care continuum.

NAN Resolution 18/20: Elder Care Planning identifies the need for a planning process that examines services and infrastructure needs at the community level. As such, NAN Health Transformation is collaborating with Toronto Metropolitan University's [formerly Ryerson University] Together Design Lab to examine and research LTC core concepts and infrastructure needs. A three-phased research proposal is currently underway looking at long-term care solutions in NAN territory. Updates on the work will be shared with internal parties.

Other Activities include:

- ▶ Attending the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH)-Lakehead University, Workshops, and seminars.
- ▶ Attending St. Joseph's Care Group- NorthWest LHIN Regional Palliative Care Program bi-monthly meetings.
- ▶ Participating with the Community Rehabilitation Facilitator (CRF) project advisory team meetings, as they occur.
- ▶ Working with Toronto Metropolitan University - Together Design Lab.
- ▶ Participating in the First Nation, Inuit, Metis and Urban Indigenous (FNI-Mul) Palliative Care Partners quarterly meetings.

## Palliative Care

Elder care, long-term care, and palliative care issues and resources are longstanding in NAN territory. Many NAN members who require long-term and continuing care services must leave their home community and travel significant distances to access care. There are increasing pressures on First Nations to support a rapidly growing and aging population, without the infrastructure and adequate resources to do so.

There is a growing need to expand palliative care services and programs in NAN communities, along with the need to enhance housing availability, and build capacity. The work from NAN Health Transformation's Engagement on a Holistic Continuum of LTC Services engagement and Toronto Metropolitan University - Together Design Lab will aid in the development of a palliative care service model and delivery.

## September 9, 2021

*NAN, as an intervenor in the appeal, welcomes Court ruling supporting customary care for First Nations children.*





### Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)

The Health Transformation Team continues to advocate for the removal of barriers and improved access to NIHB benefits for NAN members living in remote First Nation communities. Priorities include ongoing analysis of NIHB policy gaps and barriers and improving operations and delivery of services.

On January 10, 2022, the HAG convened for a regular business meeting focused on NIHB. During this session, COO NIHB Navigators explained their role in supporting NAN members through system navigation, as well as explaining applicable benefits. A question & answer session followed, during which HAG members had the opportunity to flag concerns and provide feedback on barriers. All other questions and feedback were brought to the attention of the NIHB Networking Group during a January meeting by a NAN representative. Follow-up from both the COO NIHB Navigators and the NIHB Networking Group were distributed to the HAG via email as part of ongoing information sharing. Overall, both HAG COVID-19 and regular business meeting processes serve the integral function of a bridging gaps in communication and services between organizations and communities, pandemic-related or otherwise.

NAN continues to monitor and participate in the NIHB policy review, led by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in collaboration with COO and ISC - FNIHB. The Health Transformation team continues to support Immediate Needs work on NIHB-related issues and continues to monitor monthly update that are provided by FNIHB. Health Transformation Team members will continue to attend NIHB networking group meetings and collaborate with NIHB navigators to support and advocate for all NAN members.

#### Dental Care

Health Transformation continues to engage with ISC-FNIHB to increase funding and services to NAN communities so individuals and families can receive adequate dental treatment, oral health programs and education in their community. Due to the global pandemic, many dental services were discontinued, resulting in a lengthy waitlist for dental treatment options. In addition, a lack of resources in NAN communities requires many NAN members to leave their communities and travel long distances to access dental and oral health services.

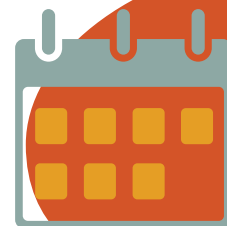
Common challenges and issues NAN members face include:

- ▶ long waitlists;
- ▶ limited treatment options;
- ▶ lack of pain medication;
- ▶ NIHB gaps and barriers; and
- ▶ travel-related stress and anxiety especially during a global pandemic.

The Health Transformation Team continues to support and advocate to improve dental services and health promotion and continue to monitor changes to the NIHB-dental plan and will communicate changes both internally at NAN, and externally with the HAG and communities as required

### Cancer Care

Cancer is an ongoing and relevant issue to both remote and urban NAN members. This has become especially important, as the pandemic greatly reduced accessibility to prevention tools, such as cancer screening. Through ongoing partnerships with Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), the Indigenous Cancer Care Unit (ICCU), and Ontario Health (OH), the opportunity for two information sessions arose. Regional cancer leads for the East and West were able to present on the Northwest Regional Indigenous Cancer Care Plan (NW RICP) and Northeast Regional Indigenous Cancer Care Plan (NE RICP). These presentations provided an opportunity and forum for the HAG to share insight, stories, and ask questions regarding cancer care for community members in their region. Next steps include reviewing and analyzing the impacts of COVID-19 on Cancer Care throughout the NAN region and its effects on community members.



**September 10, 2021**

*NAN hosts 1st Annual NAN Choose Life Suicide Awareness Walk in recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day.*

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

The NAN Health Transformation team participated in the following committees and meetings:

- ▶ Northern First Nations Paramedic Task Force Group
- ▶ Paramedic Education & Training Working Group
- ▶ Health Transformation Advisory Council (HTAC)
- ▶ Chief Council on Health Transformation (CCHT)
- ▶ Health Advisory Group (HAG)
- ▶ Community Health Working Group
- ▶ Health Human Resources Working Group
- ▶ HHRWG – Nursing Services Committee
- ▶ HHRWG – Physician Services Committee
- ▶ Reclamation of Indigenous Laws Sub-Committee
- ▶ Federal Distinctions-Based Indigenous Health Legislation Working Group
- ▶ Joint Health System Transformation Tables
- ▶ Reclamation of Indigenous Laws Working Group
- ▶ FNIM Palliative care community of Practice
- ▶ FNIMul palliative care partners
- ▶ Ontario Region NIHB networking group committee
- ▶ ISC-NAN COVID-19 Technical Table
- ▶ NAN COVID-19 Task Team
- ▶ Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), Indigenous Health Program – Planning Committee
- ▶ Ontario Rapid Test Deployment to First Nation/ Indigenous Communities
- ▶ Northwest Health Unit Update on Urban Indigenous COVID-19 Vaccination Program
- ▶ ISC Ontario Region Chiefs COVID-19 Update
- ▶ Porcupine Health Unit Vaccine Clinic Planning
- ▶ Porcupine Health Unit Urban Indigenous Vaccine

#### Planning Table

- ▶ Shibogama First Nations Council Daily Update Calls with Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- ▶ TBDHU Planning for Urban Indigenous Vaccine Rollout
- ▶ COO Trilateral COVID-19 Update Discussion
- ▶ COO Chiefs Committee on Health
- ▶ COO Health Coordination Unit
- ▶ PEOC Kashechewan First Nation All Partners Call
- ▶ SLFNHA ORI 2.0 meetings
- ▶ SLFNHA Chiefs COVID-19 meetings
- ▶ SLFNHA Omicron Planning meetings
- ▶ SLFNHA Surge in Sioux Lookout Area First Nations Touch Base
- ▶ ISC Supports for Residential School Discoveries meetings
- ▶ COO Mental Health and Addiction Scorecard System Performance Advisory Committee
- ▶ COO Mental Health and Addictions Working Group meeting (as observer)
- ▶ Technical Table – Item 6 Priorities: Mental Health and Addictions and Primary Care
- ▶ ON Ministry of Health First Nations Mental Health and Addictions Systems Coordinator Subgroup
- ▶ ON Ministry of Health First Nations Mental Health and Addictions Systems Coordinator First Nations Subgroup
- ▶ Mental Health and Addictions Planning in Partnership Sessions – Sioux Lookout
- ▶ COO Special Chiefs Assembly
- ▶ NAN-IAO Relationship Table meeting
- ▶ Constance Lake First Nation Crisis Conference calls
- ▶ Cat Lake First Nation: Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services
- ▶ Pamihitowin ('Helping Each Other') Working Group

**September 18, 2021**

*NAN launched community building campaign with a large-scale interactive Treaty display at the Wake the Giant Festival.*



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Communications, Media & Information Technology

## OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Communications, Media & Information Technology Department produces and distributes information to support the work of the Executive Council's advocacy on the issues and events affecting the people and communities of NAN. Department staff ensure that information and perspectives of NAN are effectively and consistently communicated and received throughout NAN territory, to NAN First Nations, members of the public and to news media on a local, regional, national and international level. The department also provides strategic planning for a variety of publication and communication materials, social media, media relations, special events, photography, and branding.

Communications focuses 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 Nations Councils, First Nations members and other departments in NAN.

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 while positively addressing detrimental issues at the community level.
- ▶ Advocacy through media to support First Nations following tragedies and declaration of States of Emergency.

## NAN E-Store

The revamped NAN e-Store was launched on January 28, 2022. The current line of products includes hoodies, toques, NAN flags, NAN's pride flag and Orange Shirt Day lawn signs/decals.

There is a high demand for NAN merchandise by community members and members of the public, but NAN cannot afford to purchase the items and give them away at no cost. To ensure that the NAN e-Store becomes a sustainable revenue stream, shipping is calculated at Canada Post rates, as opposed to a flat rate. Local pickup option eliminates shipping fees.

 [www.shopnan.ca](http://www.shopnan.ca)



## Department Restructure

As the incoming workload has expanded, the **Communications Department** restructured to ensure that increased demands were met. The Department has increased to a total of four staff members, with each position tailored to address the work that is needed to advocate for and support our communities.

Currently, the positions in the department include:

1. Director of Communications
  - Responsible for all Communications staff
  - Report to/seek direction from Grand Chief's office & Chief Administrative Officer
  - Lead items that are critical &/or high-level
  - Lead major projects & long-term initiatives that require a sustained effort
2. Digital Communications Manager
  - Brand management & marketing
  - Management of social media, scheduling & posting
  - Oversee in-house Multi-Media Designer/external vendors
  - Management & coordination of website content with departments
3. Strategic Information & Research Coordinator
  - Coordination of Annual Report, Chiefs Kits, submissions, reports, etc.
  - Coordination of special events and E-Commerce lead (NAN Web Store)
  - Edit submissions, projects, submissions to cabinet, government, proposals, reports
4. Multimedia Designer
  - Design posters, graphics, infographics, newsletters, brochures, ads, videos, campaigns & other communications materials
  - Prepare weekly production schedules for review & prioritizing with manager

## COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued into a second year, Communications continued a lead role working with the NAN Task Team by maintaining NAN's COVID-19 website ([www.nancovid19.ca](http://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 provides information on how members living in urban centres can access support during the pandemic.

In addition, Communications supported NAN's COVID-19 response in the following ways:

- ▶ Coordinated Wawatay broadcasts twice weekly with NAN Executive to provide public health messaging, regional updates on cases, as well as provincial announcements.
- ▶ Created messaging and social media posts on public health measures, vaccine hesitancy and vaccination clinics.
- ▶ Created videos with Elders, Executive, Task Team, Youth and Elder Council members to promote public health messaging and tackling vaccine hesitancy.
- ▶ Promoted NAN Hope.
- ▶ Supported NAN's work with public health units, Tribal Councils, communities and local Indigenous organizations for remote and urban vaccination efforts.





**Information Technology**

The Information Technology (IT) unit consists of the IT Manager and IT Technician who manage the NAN network including the Administration office in Thunder Bay and the NAN 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.

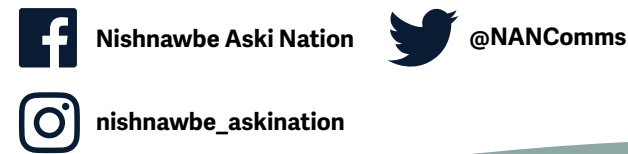
Additionally, the unit supports Communications with NAN members and partners through videoconference, webcasting, online and in-person meetings.

**Website and Social Media**

The NAN website provides 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, and information on upcoming events.

Since Communications revamped the website to reflect the enhanced NAN image, information has been easier to find for NAN Leadership and members of the public to learn about the people of Nishnawbe Aski. To enhance the user experience, all information has been updated to ensure it is current and presented in a manner that is informative to all our audiences.

Communications also maintains NAN's social media presence primarily through **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**



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".

Instagram allows Communications to share photos, videos from our events.

# Highlights

Attended Orange Shirt Day celebrations with the NAN Executive in Ottawa and Thunder Bay	Highlighted Orange Shirt Day recognition on social media pages	Attended Winnipeg Blue Bombers game for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation event	Launched community awareness Treaty display at Wake the Giant
Celebrated Treaty Recognition Week	Attended the 2021 Remembrance Day Ceremony	Attended 3rd Annual Tree of Light Ceremony for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Tree of Hope Project	Launched the NAN e-Store
Held 4 virtual assemblies through coordination with IT	Sold out of Pink Shirt Day apparel within 24 hours of launch	NAN Website: <b>194,578</b> Page Views	COVID Website: <b>21,445</b> Page Views

Social Media posts with **Highest Engagement**



• 25298 post reach and 1895 engagement

**Facebook Followers: 10K**  
1,613 increase from last fiscal

**Instagram Followers: 1,961**  
675 increase from last fiscal

**Twitter Followers: 13K**  
500 increase from last fiscal

**Facebook Page: 387,172**  
# of accounts who saw any content from or about our page

**Instagram Reach: 9,247**  
# of accounts who saw our feed

**Paid Impressions: 59,472**  
# of times our ads were on someone's screen

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Community Wellness

## OVERVIEW

The Community Wellness Department hosts a variety of programs that provides support to communities in times of need and maintains a consistent and supportive relationship. The Crisis Team Program, Crisis Team Training Program, the Indian Residential School and Men's Healing initiatives support communities to build capacity and sustain culturally appropriate services and supports for all community members in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory while continuing to promote a model of well-being and highlighting the spirit and resiliency of NAN membership. The aim of Community Wellness is to foster the creation of community-based programs in the areas of prevention, intervention, and aftercare, with a focus on self-efficacy and self-determination at the community level. Community Wellness looks to NAN communities, Tribal Councils and partnership organizations to collaborate on the issues that affect communities and work towards advocacy to elect change for funding and policy related barriers.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To have permanent and adequate mental health supports readily accessible within the First Nations communities for members on a continual basis.
- ▶ To respond to crisis in a timely and sufficient manner with the appropriate supports necessary.
- ▶ To promote community level programming to reduce suicide rates.
- ▶ Provide ongoing training and professional development to regional and Community Crisis Coordinators, and community frontline workers.
- ▶ Ensure prevention, intervention and aftercare/ follow-up 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.
- ▶ To take the guidance, direction, and pace most appropriate for each unique community. Communities know what is best for their members, and are the experts, their individual needs, customs, norms, and traditions must be respected.

## CRISIS TEAM PROGRAM

## Overview

The NAN Crisis Response Team (CRT) provides immediate support and assistance to its member communities who have suffered a traumatic event or are experiencing a social emergency. Crisis response includes responding to emergency requests by offering crisis coordination, navigating resources and services, and referrals and advocacy. The CRT networks and coordinates with the First Nation communities, Tribal Councils, Health Authorities, social service agencies in conjunction with provincial and federal government to ensure continuity of services, address gaps and barriers, map out resources and promote cost effectiveness.

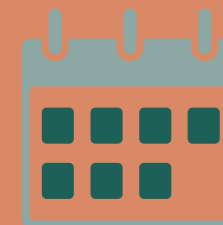
## Program Activities

The CRT takes on a variety of activities to serve NAN communities and members living in or visiting urban centres. With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the CRT continued to provide service in a remote fashion on account of the NAN-wide travel ban as well as adhering to community protocols. Some of these tasks and duties included, but were not limited to:

- ▶ Arranging bi-weekly Community Crisis Coordinators conference calls. Meetings with NAN Crisis Team, daily. Assisting in crisis coordination.
- ▶ Promoting the NAN Hope Helpline.
- ▶ Arranging and coordinating emergency conference calls.
- ▶ Assisting with funeral arrangements.
- ▶ Identifying mental health supports to families and individuals in need.
- ▶ Arranging travel and coordinating shipment of tangible supplies to communities.
- ▶ Purchasing and shipping personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential health and safety items for communities in need.
- ▶ Arranging accommodations, groceries, meals, travel, and supplies for family members.
- ▶ Providing respite for Community Crisis Coordinators experiencing burnout.
- ▶ Arranging debriefing sessions for NAN Crisis Response Team and Community Crisis Coordinators.
- ▶ Providing advocacy and mediation with funders, other agencies and support services.
- ▶ Keeping informed on continued COVID-19 health measures and protocols.
- ▶ Providing mental health resources for communities needing in-person clinical or traditional services.

## Next Steps

- ▶ NAN will continue to advocate for more funding to adequately fund and support the Community Crisis Team Program.
- ▶ Community Wellness will work cross-departmentally in partnership with community contacts, Tribal Councils, affiliated organizations, and Queens University to conduct a fulsome crisis resource review and to develop community specific protocols for in-community social, health, and infrastructure emergencies' response.
- ▶ NAN Crisis Response Team will continue to take guidance from and work with communities to support in difficult times of crises and emergency situations contingent on what the community requires.



## September 21, 2021

NAN calls on re-elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to prioritize IRS missing children, First Nation water issues, as he forms new federal government.



STATISTICS

2021 Call Stats			
Month	Calls Recieved	First Nations Served	On Call
January	8	7	4
February	18	11	7
March	17	12	4
April	15	9	4
May	14	7	0
June	14	9	3
July	12	9	4
August	14	11	5
September	7	5	4
October	16	10	5
November	18	15	13
December	25	11	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>57</b>

Month 2021	Homocide	Missing Person	Sudden Death	Suicides	MVA	Suicide Attempts	Other	DVs	COVID 19	Medical Calls	# of Calls
January			1	1			1	1	4		8
February			4	2	1		7		3	1	18
March				2			6		9		17
April			2	1			5		7		15
May	1	2	1	4	1		2		3		14
June			5	1		1	3		4		14
July			4				6			2	12
August			1	2			11				14
September			1	2	1		3				7
October		1		1	1	2	11				16
November			4	2	1	2	5			4	18
December			5	4	1		12	1	1	1	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>178</b>

# In Memoriam

## Debbie Sault

November 16, 1964 – August 29, 2021

August 29, 2021, dealt a devastating loss to the NAN Crisis Response Team when we lost our esteemed colleague and NAN Family Member, Debbie Sault, NAN Crisis Response Manager.

Debbie is fondly remembered by the Community Wellness Team as a strong and dedicated leader who fought tirelessly in every aspect of her life. She worked so hard to promote health and well-being, and to advocate for equal and equitable rights for NAN communities and their members. Debbie will always be remembered for her unrelenting passion and dedication to her work for NAN. She is missed so much within our NAN family, and we can only hope to continue in her footsteps, praying we have big enough feet to fill her shoes.



*“Debbie, we miss your personality, your heart, your spirit, and your smile, but mostly, we just miss you.”*

*Gitchi-Miigwetch for your strong, beautiful presence that will forever remain in our memories and our hearts.”*



## CRISIS TRAINING PROGRAM

### Overview

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

### Program Activities

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Training Program to adapt and move its program to a virtual space. All workshops and training events in 2021-2022 have been implemented virtually using Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms.

#### 2021 - Workshops and Training Events

Crisis Response Planning Training	Crisis Response Planning Training	Paint Night Self-Care
Communication Strategies	Domestic Violence Awareness	Hand Drum Teachings and Songs
Dreamcatcher Teachings	Trauma Informed Care	Hot Apple Cider Making and Recipe Swap
Mental Health First Aid	Effective Communication	Human Trafficking Awareness
Mental Health Awareness Mini-Conference	The Western Door – The Final Journey	Stigma Ends with Me – Substance Use Health, Stigma and Person First Language Training
Crisis Team Program SharePoint and Microsoft Teams Training	Women of the Shining Light	Naloxone and Drug Abuse Awareness
Verbal Intervention Skills Training	Walking with Grief	Recognizing Disordered Earing and Eating Disorders 101
Living Works START – Online Suicide Prevention Training	New Habits and Goals Skills Development	Sweat lodge and Prayer Teachings
NAN Quiz Night	Women’s Mental Health and Empowerment	Self-care with Center for Addiction and Mental Health: Shkaabe Makwa
Safer Spaces Training in Partnership with the Thunder Pride Association	Circle of Security	Cannabis use in Youth Awareness
Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care Strategies	Harm Reduction 101	Culture as Foundation Training
Conversations Heal Hearts Skills Development	Trauma Informed Care for Triggers and Flashbacks	Connecting with Youth 3-Day Conference
Mental Health and Addictions	Regulation Strategies for Youth in Crisis	Show Us Your Community Photo Voice Contest
All my Relations Training Circle	Domestic Violence Awareness: Kizhaay Anishnaabe Niin (I Am a Kind Man)	Celebrating Indigenous Artists Photo Contest
Parenting and Mental Health	Colours and Feasting Teachings	



Knowledge keeper teaching participants how to make feasting bowls and feasting protocols in February 2022

#### Workshops and Training Events

Number of virtual events in 2021-2022: 57

Number of total participants: 427

Number of communities and/or Tribal Councils to partake in training: 41

#### Communities/Tribal Councils that participated:

Aroland	Ginoogaming	Missanabie Cree	Wawakapewin
Attawapiskat	Kasabonika	Moose Cree	Webequie
Bearskin Lake	Kashechewan	Muskrat Dam	Wunnumin Lake
Beaverhouse	Keewaywin	Neskantaga	Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA)
Brunswick House	Kingfisher Lake	Nibinamik	Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO)
Cat Lake	Long Lake #58	North Caribou Lake	Matawa
Constance Lake	Marten Falls	North Spirit Lake	Mushkegowuk
Deer Lake	Matachewan	Poplar Hill	Wabun
Eabametoong	Mattagami	Sandy Lake	Windigo
Flying Post	Mishkeegogamang	Taykwa Tagamou	Nodin (SLFNHA)
Fort Severn		Wahgoshig	

### Next Steps

- ▶ The Crisis Team Training Program will continue to provide professional development opportunities to the Crisis Team Coordinators and Regional Crisis Coordinators to enhance skill development and promote lifelong learning.
- ▶ Continue to create a safe and welcoming virtual space for all training events during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- ▶ Offer in-person training opportunities following COVID-19 provincial guidelines.
- ▶ NAN Training Staff will become certified trainers in courses that will benefit front line crisis workers in the communities and tribal councils such as Crisis Response Planning, Critical Incident Group Debriefing, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

## INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL PROGRAM

### Overview

**Resolution 96-43:** *Implementation of the Residential School Conference Recommendations*

**Resolution 05-58:** *Continued Program and Services for Residential School Survivors and Intergenerational Impacts*

**Resolution 97-65:** *Residential Schools Awareness and Education Model*

**Resolution 21-10:** *Strategic Response to the Identification of Unmarked Graves and the Recovery of Missing Nishnawbe Aski Nation Children from Residential Schools*

The Indian Residential School (IRS) Program works to promote education and awareness of the legacy and lasting impacts of the IRS among First Nations communities in the NAN territory to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. This includes assisting in advocacy for sustainable funding for high quality programs and services that build capacity and advocate for healing and self-determination for NAN First Nations communities. The Community Wellness Department works with affiliated organizations and Tribal Council Wellness Teams to provide immediate crisis support and healing for those who are experiencing trauma/impacts due to the history of the Indian Residential Day School System.



## Program Activities

- ▶ The IRS Program Staff continued to work at home due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ The IRS Team submitted quarterly statistical reports to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), regarding activities and supports provided to direct and intergenerational IRS Survivors. The team currently works to virtually connect with Survivors to provide ongoing support. NAN continues to provide awareness of the IRS Program and to assist with emotional support, and referrals to required services and resources. There has been increased activity in mental health issues on account of COVID-19.
- ▶ On May 28, 2021, the remains of 215 children were discovered using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) by the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation at Kamloops Indian Residential School site in British Columbia. This discovery sparked outrage throughout the country. NAN held a sacred Fire in honour of the 215 children, their families and all others who were affected by the news, as a place to grieve and to honour the students who attended these institutions and for those who never made it home.
- ▶ The discovery of unmarked graves ignited a fire in the work NAN will undertake moving forward. A special Survivors and Family Empowerment (SAFE) committee comprised of IRS Survivors was developed as expert advisors to lead the work forward. A Special Chiefs Assembly was held October 28, 2021, where Resolution 21/10: Strategic Response to the Identification of Unmarked Graves and the Recovery of Missing Nishnawbe Aski Nation Children from Residential Schools was passed. The resolution gave birth to NAN's Healing and Reclamation Department which is dedicated to the continuity of ongoing support for Survivors and their families, but also to obtain accountability to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action by both levels of government. This new department consists of a Director, a Policy Analyst, and staff from the IRS Program will be transferred to this new department.
- ▶ A federal statutory holiday was created on June 3, 2021, to mark each September 30, as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. NAN has held an Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters in past years and will continue to do so to honour Survivors and families affected by the IRS system.
- ▶ NAN will continue to honour Survivors and their families by:
  - Providing in-person and virtual emotional support, and referrals to culturally appropriate services and resources for healing.
  - Providing awareness and education to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations as it pertains to the history of the IRS system.
  - Reaching out to communities to identify Survivors and promote the NAN IRS Program to support communities to heal.
  - Continuing to hold both Canada and Ontario accountable for reconciliation with Indigenous people for their role in the IRS system.



A sacred fire was held May 31, 2021, in honour of the 215 Children recovered from the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

215 pairs of children's shoes hung on the fence of the former site of the St. Joseph's Indian Residential School as representation of what we, as people, have lost.



## MEN'S HEALING INITIATIVE

### Overview

**Resolution 05-16:** Support for Ralph Rowe Victims

**Resolution 09-70:** Support for Victims of Ralph Rowe

The NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated and affirmed their support for the long-term, direct, and intergenerational healing support for the victims (and their families) of prolific pedophile Ralph Rowe. In 2018, the program was extended to the victims of Jack Wicksey, who was alleged to have been a predatory pedophile while he was a House Counselor at Pelican Falls Centre near Sioux Lookout.

The Men's Healing Initiative (MHI) keeps an open door for men who have been sexually abused no matter the perpetrator, as every man deserves to feel safe and supported in their healing journeys from childhood sexual trauma. This idea was brought forth from the victims of both Ralph Rowe and Jack Wicksey to open their brotherhood and support other victims of sexual abuse.

### Program Activities

- ▶ In-person gatherings continued to be on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ In 2021-2022, the MHI Coordinator was able to creatively interact with the Survivors online and virtually with tablets previously provided to them, to remotely support Survivors and their family members to receive counselling, stay in touch with family members, and to allow them to attend virtual meetings/gatherings. Upon request, each survivor also receives shipments of PPE to ensure they have the proper health and safety items they require.
- ▶ Due to a very large increase of mental health and addictions concerns throughout COVID-19, each Survivor has access to desktop resources, support services as well as 24-hour phone support via the NAN HOPE LINE. NAN continues to provide ongoing virtual and phone support to MHI Survivors and their families.
- ▶ NAN will continue to provide education and awareness on the effects of male sexual abuse to promote healing and to break down stigmas which prevent victims from disclosure. A sexual abuse awareness brochure for male victims/Survivors was developed and will be disseminated.

- ▶ NAN will continue to deliver topics of interest to the MHI Survivors in the areas of mental health awareness and coping, substance misuse and resources for abstinence, healthy relationships, general life skills, and suicide awareness and prevention either in-person or virtually.
- ▶ NAN and the MHI Survivors will continue to grow the group by encouraging other male victims of sexual abuse to commence their healing journeys in a safe and supportive environment.
- ▶ NAN will continue to encourage Elder and peer-to-peer support, provide traditional and non-traditional modalities of healing as requested by Survivors, and seek the guidance and consultation of Survivors as the experts of their own healing journeys to plan and implement future in-person/virtual gatherings. NAN will continue to provide navigation and referral to essential services, resources and supports as requested.

### Other Activities

- ▶ A Class Action Lawsuit initiated by Rowe Survivors, is ongoing in the court system. In summer 2021, the courts found the Boy Scouts of Canada and the Diocese of Keewatin accountable for all damage and harm inflicted on Rowe Survivors. Next steps involving this case will continue in the fall 2022.
- ▶ Bi-monthly meetings with the Boy Scouts of Canada's Chief Commissioner regarding a future apology and what that looks like to the Survivors will continue until an acceptable apology is formulated and agreed to by the Survivors of Ralph Rowe.
- ▶ A civil class action law suit against Northern Nishnawbe Education Council involving seven Wicksey Survivors is underway. The Survivors have retained legal support with senior lawyer Elizabeth Grace through Lerner's Legal Team in Toronto.
- ▶ Jack Wicksey's death in June 2020 left his victims with no answers, no justice, and no peace in knowing that Wicksey would never be held accountable for his crimes. As of March 2022, all the Survivors were able to provide their testimony during cross-examination in virtual court.
- ▶ NAN continues to work with the Wicksey Survivors and their families to provide the required supports and resources during the court proceedings.
- ▶ NAN will continue to seek additional funding to provide ongoing support to the Survivors to promote healing, education, and awareness in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Women's Council and Women's Initiatives Department

OVERVIEW

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (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 and family issues, concerns, priorities, and needs are identified and addressed within NAN.

The Women's Council honours its leadership role by:

- ▶ Participating in the decision-making process of NAN by being representatives and active participants within NAN Chiefs Assemblies.
- ▶ Providing guidance and advice to the Deputy Grand Chief responsible for the Women's Initiatives portfolio.
- ▶ Working to support the collective needs of women's issues, concerns, and priorities.
- ▶ Promoting and facilitating community-based and governmental action required to address women's issues by leading forums, advocating for resources, and embracing their leadership and advisory role.
- ▶ Ensuring that women have meaningful participation in the strategies and initiatives led by NAN.

The Women's Initiatives Department is responsible for mandates specific to Women's Issues including family violence prevention, ending violence against Indigenous Women, the implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, and the empowerment of NAN women. The Women's Initiatives department works closely with the NAN Women's Council.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge the work undertaken by the NAN Women's Council and Women's Initiatives in 2021-2022. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the NAN Women's Council hosted virtual events, rolled out a social media campaign, and continued to advocate for the priorities identified.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- ▶ The NAN Women's Council hosted a well-attended three part webinar series which helped keep them in touch with women they represent:
  1. Winter Wellness: Mental Health at Home – March 10, 2022
  2. Winter Wellness: Visionary Leadership – March 16, 2022
  3. Winter Wellness: Men's Role and Responsibility in Addressing and Preventing Violence – March 23, 2022
- ▶ Presented at the NAN Family Well-Being Annual Conference (Virtual) - March 1-4, 2022.
- ▶ The NAN Women's Council continued to support national awareness days such as:
  - National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – May 5, 2021
  - Orange Shirt Day – September 30, 2022
  - Pink Shirt Day – February 24, 2022
  - International Women's Day – March 8, 2022

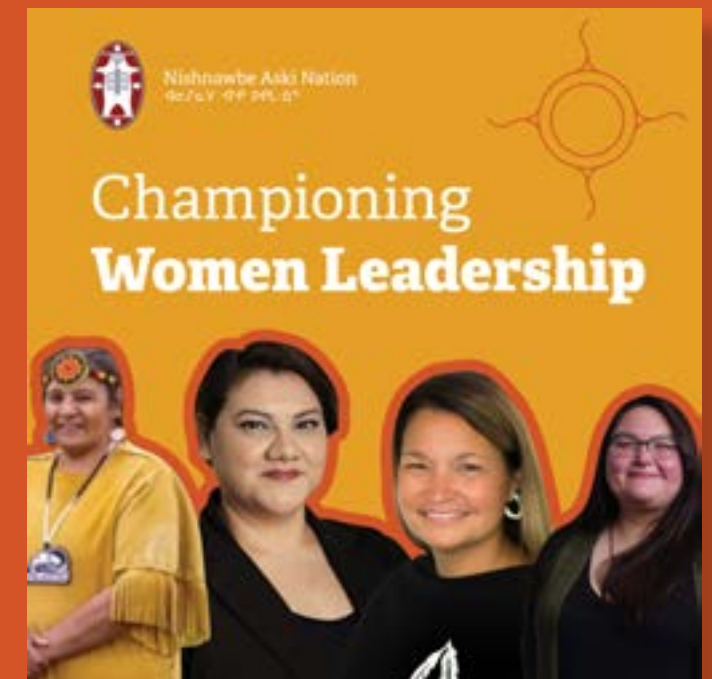
OTHER ACTIVITIES

NAN participated in both provincial and federal processes to support ongoing advocacy work specific to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people via collaborative membership on:

- ▶ Ontario's Indigenous Women's Advisory Council
- ▶ The Chiefs of Ontario First Nation's Women's Council
- ▶ The Assembly of First Nations Women's Council

At the end of 2021-2022 the Women's Initiatives Department held preliminary meetings with the Ontario Native Women's Association and Nishnawbe Aski Police Service to establish a collaborative partnership to provide awareness and education on family violence, domestic violence, gender-based violence and human trafficking to NAN members on and off-reserve. Regular meetings will begin in the next fiscal year to develop and implement an awareness & education plan.

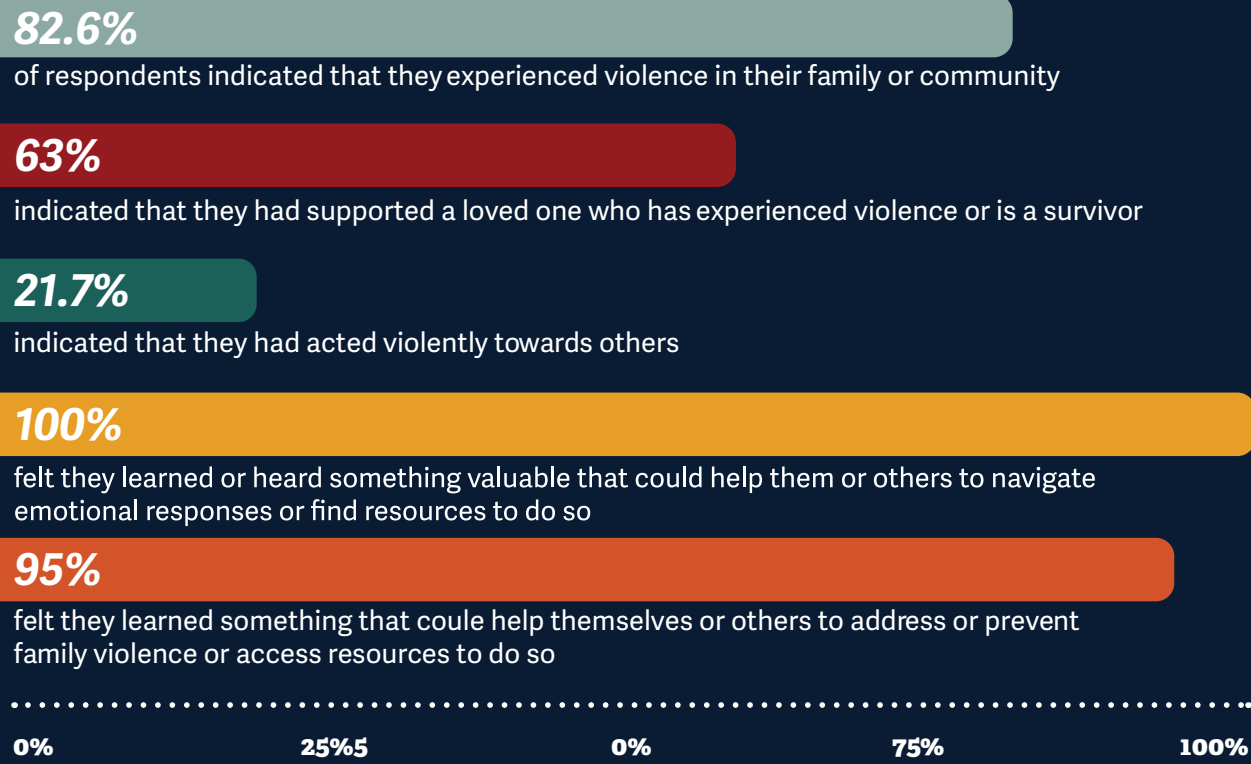
- ▶ The **Championing Women Leadership Campaign** social media project honoured women leaders from NAN communities with a focus on the prevention of family violence and violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Four profiles were shared across NAN social media platforms featuring:
  - Jocelyn Formsma – Executive Director of the National Association of Friendship Centres
  - Lynne Innes – President & CEO of Weeneebayko Health Authority (WAHA) & WAHA Foundation
  - Judy Desmoulin – Chief of Long Lake #58 First Nation
  - Amelia Fox – Indigiqueer 2SLGBTQQIA+ Youth Advocate



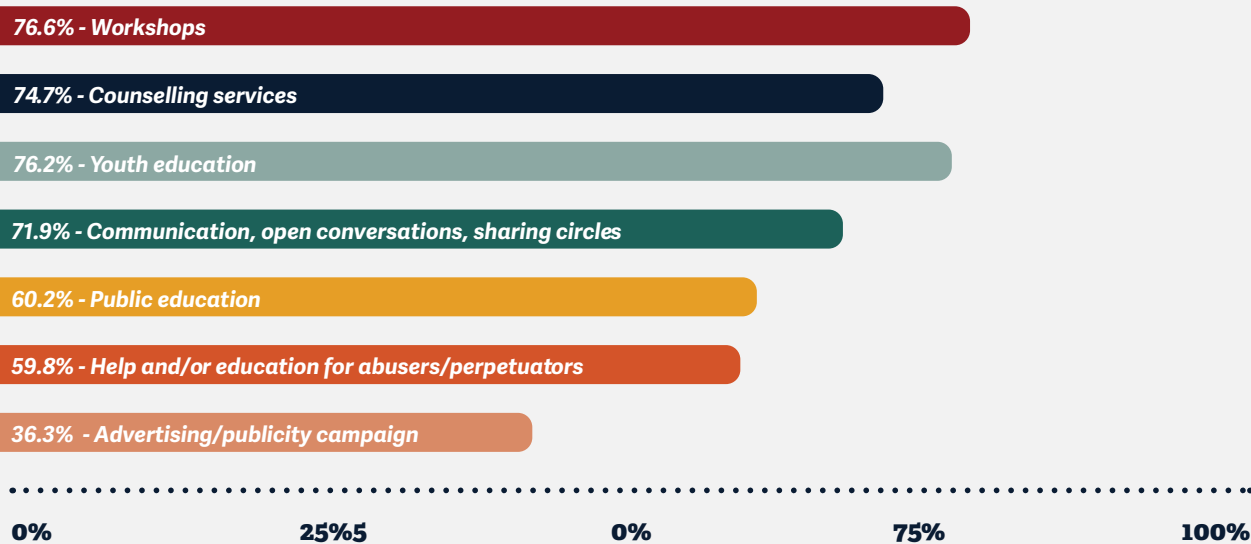


# Highlights

Pre and post surveys were conducted with the Winter Wellness Webinar participants and garnered the following aggregated data results:



Participants were also asked to rate ideas for activities/initiatives to help raise awareness and prevent family and/or gender-based violence. The average ratings:



## Quotes from participants who attended the webinars hosted by the NAN Women's Council:

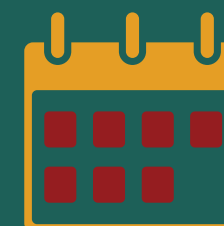
*"I am a new mother and I want to learn everything I can about being healthy mentally / spiritually so that I don't pass on traumas to my son."*

*"I am making positive changes for myself and my 13-year-old daughter that wants to be a boy."*

*"Celebrate woman and in doing this it hopefully becomes more difficult to abuse them. When we consider laws that are in place know and honour the number of woman that have died in order for those penalties to be made into laws today. We need to hold onto those penalties. Consider having men's shelters that are aimed at removing men from the home and providing new skills and knowledge about woman abuse..."*

*"More teachings on our culture and learning about the different roles we play."*

*"Teaching of culture to all on and off reserve and include 60s scoop individuals."*



### September 30, 2021

NAN commemorates Orange Shirt Day and honours Survivors on National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Justice Department

OVERVIEW

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) received mandates from the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly through the following resolutions:

- ▶ **Resolution 20/14:** Justice and Law Transformation in NAN Territory
- ▶ **Resolution 20/13:** Community Safety and Justice Recommendations
- ▶ **Resolution 20/17:** Support to Implement Call for Justice 1.4 from the National Inquiry into MMIWG

The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system has been well-documented for many years. The reality is that the current mainstream justice system is not geared for Indigenous people, even though most people in the system in Northern Ontario are First Nations. The NAN Chiefs have prioritized the immediate need for a transformative justice process for their people and communities.

Justice issues in the NAN territory are further exacerbated by the various challenges associated with the geographic remoteness of the communities, and the socioeconomic struggles rooted in colonization and persist through systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma.

The challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have also highlighted the issues that communities in NAN territory face. Limited access to reliable health care, internet access, mental health supports, and more have turned into acute problems in the wake of the pandemic, leading to reduced capacity in the communities.

NAN is mandated to provide the necessary tools, support, and guidance to ensure the communities can exert their jurisdiction through self-governance, including law making, and how justice is practiced and administered. The goals of the NAN Justice Department are to address the colonial barriers to NAN rights holders to exert their jurisdiction over their own justice, improve the administration of justice for First Nations people in NAN territory, and advocate for capacity

within NAN communities to administer justice in accordance with First Nations values. These goals align with the overarching goals of NAN to represent and advocate for the rights and wellbeing of NAN members.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In response to the mandates given to NAN by the Chiefs, the Justice Department has developed a plan to build capacity, assess the needs of the communities in NAN territory, and advocate for a transformed justice process for NAN community members. The challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and limited staffing, have meant a diminished capacity to engage with NAN communities. This includes efforts to form a Chiefs Committee on Justice. The formation of a Committee and other engagement activities will continue to inform the development of the NAN-wide Justice Strategic Plan.

A new Justice Director was hired and started in the position in January 2022, and a Justice Policy Analyst and Senior Administrative Coordinator will be added in early 2022-2023 to support the work moving forward. Currently, there is no core funding for the Justice Department, and it relies on proposal-based work to help build capacity, which is ongoing.

NAN will continue to build upon the work already started. The NAN Justice Department is reviewing proposals and workplans to inform policy considerations and priorities for overall coordination and future integration of department activities. Preliminary considerations have identified coordination and communication pathways for NAN, Tribal Councils, and partners such as Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC), and Nishnawbe Aski Police Services (NAPS). Other partners will be sought for alignment and a common goals approach. Engagements will be a large part of the workplan for the next two years with both levels of government.

**Wiicheetowin; Ke-ishi kanawabamawanowic-anishinini – “Wiicheetowin Project”**

Wiicheetowin is a research project funded by Justice Canada for 2021-2023 that will record and share traditional governance and models of justice. The information obtained through discussions will assist in community history recording and create a reference for future governance and law-making ability for First Nation people. Elders with knowledge of traditional governance and laws are being interviewed so that their knowledge can guide our steps towards self-determination in this area.

**Safer and Vital Communities Grant**

Funded by the Ministry of the Solicitor General under the Safer and Vital Communities Grant for 2021-2023, the Speakers Series project aims to address hate motivated crime targeted towards Indigenous youth. The NAN Justice Department will host this educational series in collaboration with NAPS and NALSC that will be turned into videos for NAN community members to benefit from. The Project will address youth intervention, elder abuse, human trafficking, cyber bullying, gender diversity, lateral violence, and suicide prevention.

**Envisioning a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Justice Strategy**

The NAN Justice Strategy is funded by Justice Canada for 2022-2024 to engage with NAN communities on what an Indigenous Justice Strategy (IJS) in Canada should include. It is a two-year project to commence visioning of a NAN Justice Strategy and identify recommendations towards the federal government’s IJS. Part of the work identified the creation of a NAN Chiefs Committee on Justice. The Department will start identifying activities to enable this committee to commence as soon as possible. Engagement on NAN’s strategy will begin in the coming year through various communication channels

**Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act**

In June 2021, the federal government enacted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (The Act) and is now seeking input from Indigenous people on the action plan that will implement The Act.

The NAN Justice Department will lead an engagement process to identify recommendations towards the action plan by engaging with NAN leadership and community members through forums or dialogue that would contribute to the clear identification of:

- ▶ Measures to ensure the consistency of federal laws with the UNDRIP (Section 5).
- ▶ Elements for possible inclusion in annual reports to Parliament on progress (Section 7).
- ▶ Items for possible inclusion in an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UNDRIP, as outlined in Section 6 of The Act.

This work is anticipated to be the start of ongoing work for the NAN Justice Department, and the information gathered will be coordinated and aligned with the Envisioning a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Justice Strategy.

**Re-Opening of Ontario Courts**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, remote and satellite courts were suspended for in-person community proceedings. The Ontario Court of Justice has started to reopen courts and is increasing access to in-person proceedings. While some satellite courts are accessible to road-access NAN communities, the Ministry of the Attorney General is still contemplating on the best and safest way to resume courts to remote fly-in communities throughout the NAN territory. NAN has supported engagement solutions identified by NALSC to conduct conversations to reopen courts safely and facilitate and support consultation required for self-determination and community-based solutions with NAN communities.

**Other Activities**

- ▶ The NAN Justice Department provides technical support at the Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs and Technicians Committee on Justice that the Deputy Grand Chief that holds the portfolio is a member.
- ▶ The NAN Justice Department participates at the Tripartite Collaborative Technical Table on Enforcement and Prosecution of First Nations Laws, a table consisting of representatives from First Nation organization and the federal and provincial governments.



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Governance &amp; Treaty

## OVERVIEW

The programs and activities of the Governance and Treaty Department include the Specific Claims Research Program, Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self Determination (RIRSD), Treaty Mechanisms and Discussion Tables (NAN – Canada Treaty Table), Fur Trapping & Licensing Program, Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement as well as monitoring 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 Treaty No. 5, and to ensure these rights are not infringed upon. It is also intended to move beyond programming and focusing on assisting Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations move beyond the Indian Act governance systems to self-governing Nations.



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## NAN and Canada Treaty Table Discussions

NAN and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) continued to engage on the co-development of a Treaty dialogue mechanism that could lead to the establishment of a NAN and Canada Treaty Table. The work 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.”

NAN and Canada have completed the draft Treaty Relationship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document that would establish a bilateral forum so that the parties can discuss Treaty related issues. The draft Treaty Relationship MOU is ready for review by NAN leadership.

Below are key points to consider:

- ▶ The MOU is non-binding and only sets up a process to discuss Treaty issues and how to best address them.
- ▶ The MOU is not about altering the treaty or renegotiating the historic treaties.
- ▶ NAN leadership will control the process and will decide on the topics. The Treaty Table will be guided by NAN Chiefs Committee on Treaty. NAN will recruit a lead for the Table, preferably from one of the Treaty communities.
- ▶ The CIRNAC Minister does not require cabinet approval (mandate) to sign the MOU. A cabinet mandate is only triggered when both parties agree to proceed to the final agreement stage on one or more substantive issues.
- ▶ The Treaty Table will discuss several topics guided by co-developed term sheets.
- ▶ Topics under discussion are not legally binding until it gets to the final stage.
- ▶ Community participation is the key feature of the MOU, the Treaty Rights Holders. Nothing substantive or final can be agreed to without the Free, Prior, and Informed consent of Treaty Rights Holders.
- ▶ There is a 90-day notice of withdrawal or termination of the MOU Agreement.

## October 1, 2021



NAN looks to Indigenous-led process to address Indigenous perspectives gap in education as the Government of Ontario announces plans to expand on curriculum revisions in response to the TRC Calls to Action.

## October 25, 2021

NAN calls on the Prime Minister to end legal battles and meet with St. Anne's IRS Survivors in the spirit of reconciliation.

**Specific Claims**

NAN continues to assist NAN First Nations in researching and submitting their specific claims. NAN receives funding from Canada (CIRNAC) to pay for the research and legal costs related to the development of a claim. Due to COVID-19, delays continue to be experienced when accessing First Nation records held at various government archives. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, two Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims were researched, one involving timber surrender, reserve claim and a land surrender. There are several NAN First Nations in the TLE negotiations which are experiencing delays.

**Resource Development Agreement**

The Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) continued to be funded by Canada and Ontario. CORDA supports First Nation communities, organizations and individuals by funding diverse local projects related to trapping, forestry, fishing, resource-based tourism, traditional harvesting, and stewardship activities. In addition, it provides a partnership forum between Provincial Treaty Organizations, the Independent First Nations, the Province of Ontario, and the Federal government to work collaboratively on a common goal of supporting economic development initiatives of First Nations.

The 2021-2022 fiscal year has been challenging for the project receipts to implement or complete their projects.

COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns created barriers for most project recipients. In recognition of the pandemic hindering the completion of CORDA projects, reporting and completion dates were extended to December 2022 and funds carried over.

In all, 10 NAN projects were funded. Most projects supported trapping related activities, and others include forestry resource management and product development.

**NAN Fur Management and Licensing**

The NAN Fur Management and Licensing Program is responsible for administering and issuing Fur Harvesters licenses to NAN Fur Harvesters. NAN has continued running the NAN Fur Depot, which is available to NAN and non-NAN trappers. The NAN Fur Depot provides our trappers with an opportunity to access international markets through the auction houses by assisting them with support and logistics for getting their fur to the market. The Program also provides technical support with access to private and crown lands, trapline allocation, and building trap and incidental cabins for member First Nations. We also continue to assist NAN members that had issues related to accessing their traplines due to resource use conflicts by third parties.

The Fur Management agreement with Ontario was renewed for another five years. This resulted in an increase of our operating budget. We will be undertaking more community visits and provide trapper training when pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Below is a comparative snapshot of the spring fur auction sale results from Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) Inc.

Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) Inc. – Sales Results *		
Species	March 2022 Sale	April 2021 Sale
Beaver	\$14.66	\$17.03
Marten	\$42.92	\$40.38
Otter	\$24.05	\$19.73
Fisher	\$34.51	\$19.85
Mink	\$9.93	\$6.88
Muskrat	Mainly unsold	\$6.14

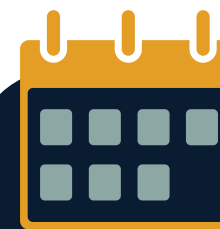
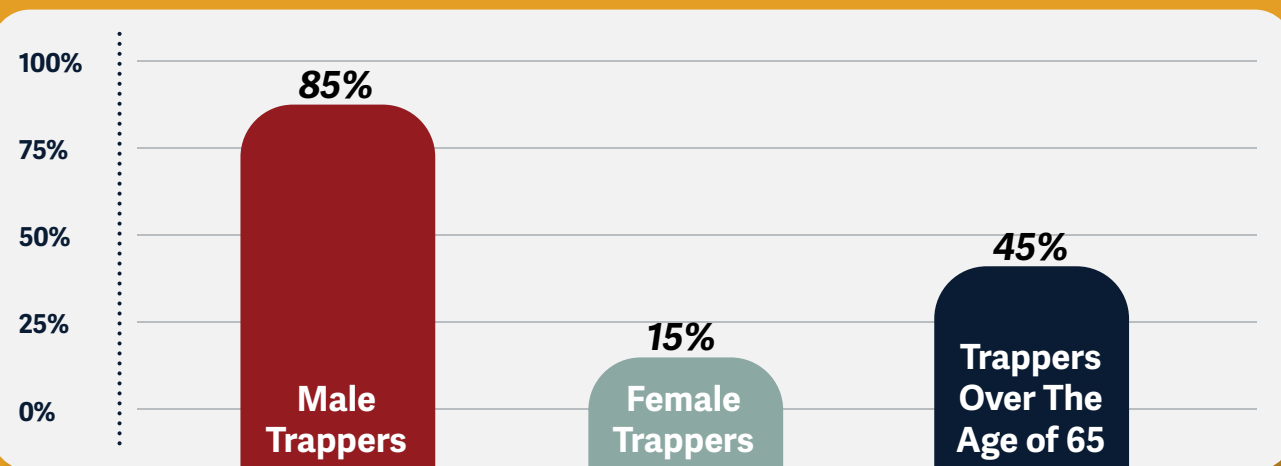
\*Average Fur Sales

Due to the pandemic and the flight restrictions, the Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) has been unable to conduct live auctions, and instead utilizing an online auction platform. There were many factors associated with the depressing sales results during the pandemic, and with the lifting of the pandemic restrictions, it is anticipated that the fur industry will slowly pick-up. The next sale is at the end of June.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Department continues to participate at the Assembly of First Nations National Policy Forums focusing on the Specific Claims, New Bands Policy, and the Addition to Reserves. In addition, the Department staff are members of the National Specific Claims Research Director's group, advocating for better access to research funding and policy reform.

NAN issued 78 fur harvester licenses for the 2021-22 season. The effects of the pandemic have impacted our fur harvesters. The average age of trappers was 60 years of age.



**October 30, 2021**

NAN demands Nation-to-Nation discussions with our federal Treaty partner following Federal Government's appeal of CHRT ruling on Indigenous child welfare.

**November 1, 2021**

NAN launches educational video and Treaty display at Lakehead University during Treaties Recognition Week.

**November 8-11, 2021**

NAN honours fallen warriors and the contributions of Indigenous veterans during ceremonies for Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Education Department Initiatives

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken towards the establishment of the Education Reset Table by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

## OVERVIEW

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) works with NAN Chiefs, First Nations, organizations, and the federal and provincial governments in carrying out the mandates and requests for advocacy given by NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly. 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 provides 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 Education Committee, NAN education organizations and NAN First Nations. This includes analysis and coordination of information from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), 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 ACTIVITIES

**Re-establishment of Chiefs Committee on Education**

At the NAN Spring Chiefs Assembly, a Resolution will be brought to Chiefs-in-Assembly to re-establish the Chiefs Committee on Education (Resolution 22-04-Re-Establishment of Chiefs Committee on Education and Approval of Terms of Reference). The new Chiefs Committee will be a part of the Education Reset Table, and as such will be able to support the decisions being made therein, with the overarching goal of achieving NAN-specific education funding, programs, and services. The Deputy Grand Chief's office continues to canvas NAN Chiefs for membership on the re-established committee.

**First Nations Life-Long Learning Table**

Bilateral Engagement, or First Nations Lifelong Learning Table (FNLLT), is a bilateral initiatives partnership between NAN and the Province of Ontario. The partnership responds to and looks at specific priority areas to address the achievement gap and the needs of First Nation students and communities by creating holistic educational initiatives, policies, enhancement of supports and accessibility of resources available to First Nation students and their families in provincially funded schools. As a partner in this initiative, NAN acts as a central entity to accomplish the objective of identifying priority areas through coordinated actions with communities, as well as advocating and creating processes that will promote student success and wellbeing while increasing First Nation students' access to meaningful education.

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the FNLLT Table entered into year one of its first three-year Transfer Payment Agreement with the EDU. This three-year agreement is a big step toward allowing First Nations bilateral partners to continue their work over the three-year period without having to wait to see if the funding will continue into the next year. It also allows the work to continue without pause as the three-year workplan keeps initiatives on track.

Bilateral Engagement project initiatives for 2021-2022 contemplates specific strategies that support and highlight an indigenized approach to learning. With a focus on wellness and support, the 2021-2022 bilateral initiatives focus on language and culture, while also working to support youth and educators through a mindful and holistic framework.

A two-day educational gathering being held in April 2022 will bring educators together to look at ways to bring language into the curriculum. Through a

virtual platform, educators will discuss the importance of language learning, and share new ways and ideas for bringing language learning into the classroom. A second two-day event will be held in May 2022, this time to share, learn and expand knowledges relating to cultural land-based learning approaches and to discuss how these fundamental components are crucial to the learning of all students. Through several highly stimulating presentations the will obtain new techniques for 'indigenizing curriculum' by developing specific culture curriculum criterion while discussing ways these areas will positively affect student mental health and wellbeing in a holistic way.

**Ontario Technical Table for the Interim Funding Approach**

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

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

In April 2019, ISC changed from the Band Operated Funding Formula to the new Interim Funding Formula to modernize First Nations elementary and secondary education funding. In anticipation of that upcoming change to First Nations education funding, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly called on the federal government in 2018, to commit to the principle of equity and to work with NAN to determine funding and support service levels. With ongoing work and collaboration, these commitments will allow NAN First Nations and education organizations to provide high quality education programs and services as determined by NAN First Nations.

The Interim Funding Formula was created on the principle of 'provincial comparability' and uses the Ontario Grants for Students' Needs (GSN) funding model as a base. It must be noted however, that as there is no equality between First Nations and provincial education, the GSN does not create 'provincial comparability'. In consequence, the Ontario Technical Table for the Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA) was created to allow First Nations and federal government partners to work together to find areas of the formula that remain outside of 'provincial comparability'. NAN works with the COO and other partners on the OTTIFA table to review the Interim Funding Formula and make recommendations for improvements so as to make the formula more reflective of the First Nations reality.

Any recommendations made by the OTTIFA table come from numerous working groups populated by community representatives from across Ontario. These working groups meet regularly throughout the year to make recommendations on possible funding solutions for specific areas of the interim formula.



**Language Strategy**

**Resolution 18-07: NAN Language Strategy**

Language Strategy is structured into four areas: Language Strategy which defines its intent and purpose, Community Perspectives bring in community voices to define specific expectations of the strategy, Support Mechanism puts the perspectives into action making these activities available and accessible to communities, and Lifelong Learning Continuum ensures ongoing support for communities in areas of language and culture program development, structure, policies, evaluations, and assessment to ensure success and sustainability of all programming.

Language Strategy is exclusively designed to be adapted and formatted to meet the unique needs of each community. It fosters a holistic approach while being mindful of the varying practices and observances in each community. At all times, it derives from a holistic perspective in areas of mental wellness and wellbeing, recreation, sports, fitness, traditional activities, leadership, and family focus.

In 2021-2022, the Language Strategy's focus turned toward language revitalization. Three six-week language sessions and one four-week language session were provided to all interested NAN members as well as those working in a First Nations organization within NAN territory. Sessions were provided in the Cree, OjiCree and Ojibwe languages with members able to register for whichever language(s) they wanted to attend. All sessions were very well attended – in fact registration numbers continue to rise. There have already been requests for further lessons; as a result, the language sessions will continue in the fall with the Dagwaagin Sessions.

**BAKWEZHIGANIKEDAA**  
Bread-making Vocabulary

Long Vowels: aa, i, oo, e  
Short Vowels: a, i, e

1. Diba'an	Measure it!	zhiwitaagan	bibine-bakwezhigan
2. Dagonan	Mix it!	nibi	embisijigan
3. Ziiginan	Pour it!		
4. Gibozan	Bake it!		

Ojibwe beginners Ziigwan language sessions – courtesy of Cassandra Spade

**November 23, 2021**

NAN supports Constance Lake First Nation as State of Emergency is declared due to an outbreak of Blastomycosis, a deadly lung infection.



#CelebratingFNCulture!

**Supporting Students' and Educators' Mental Health**

- ▶ In support of mental health, NAN Education partnered with other departments to hold a second annual Christmas Carol Competition (carols were to be sung in either Cree, OjiCree or Ojibwe), and this time we also added a Christmas Video Competition. 14 carols were received and eight videos (one of which included an incredible remake of the movie Elf!). Feedback from the teachers spoke to how much the students are enjoying making the submissions for these competitions. This contest will become a tradition continued in the future.
- ▶ Two Art Contests were held in 2021-2022, which resulted in a total of approximately 100 entries between the two contests. These contests allowed young NAN artists to showcase their skills and just have some fun. NAN is proud of the level of talent to be found among the our youth, and looks forward to seeing more of their work in the future!
- ▶ Although the 'Be Kind' hoodies and sweatshirts did not arrive on time for the February 23, Pink Shirt Day, NAN Education wanted to ensure that some of this apparel was made available to NAN students. Over 900 pink 'Be Kind' t-shirts and sweatshirts were purchased by NAN Education to be sent to various communities free of charge.
- ▶ For Education Awareness Week, NAN Education requested communities to submit pictures of them 'Passing the Torch' of their knowledge on to their students and young people. This request resulted in a number of wonderful submissions of NAN communities showcasing activities with their youth - fish derbies, net fishing and goose cleaning. #CelebratingFNCulture!



Land-based Learning Gathering - Art Contest Winner:  
Shae Gustafson, Thunder Bay



Picipipoon Language Symposium - Art Contest Winner:  
David Miles, Fort Albany Gr. 8





## Inquest Recommendations – Education

### Off-Reserve School Options Website

**Recommendation 44** – In order to allow students and parents to make an informed choice regarding the school options available to them off-reserve, in consultation with First Nations education providers and public school boards, develop a comprehensive information package, funded by Canada and Ontario, that will include the following information:

- i. Description of schools, including curriculum, student base, and staffing;
  - ii. Limitations regarding programs offered, including availability of academic stream courses;
  - iii. Accommodation arrangements while residing away from the home community;
  - iv. Travel allowances while residing away from the home community;
  - v. After-school activities and recreational resources;
  - vi. Community supports;
  - vii. Availability of supports for students with special needs;
  - viii. Other supports available, including guidance counsellors, nursing staff, social workers, mental health workers, alcohol/drug programs, addiction counsellors; and
  - ix. Contact information, including links to websites and videos, to provide easily accessible information to students, families and their communities.
- ▶ The development of a School Option North website went live in the late summer of 2021, and print copies were sent to all Education Authorities if the students did not have adequate internet connectivity.
  - ▶ The website and print information are being confirmed and updated annually, with new print editions to go out as required or requested.

## Community Visit Protocol Guide Training

**Recommendation 49** – In order to provide students from First Nations communities in NAN Territory and their families with firsthand information regarding the community support and opportunities that are available when they attend school in Thunder Bay, consult with other community partners to encourage and facilitate visits by those community partners to the NAN communities to speak and engage with students prior to their move to Thunder Bay.

- ▶ The Community Visit Protocol Guide was printed in 2020, with the first training sessions held in the spring of that year. The training provides non-Indigenous partners with information on how to approach and create respectful relationships with First Nations communities.
- ▶ An online training module is currently under construction. Aside from making the training more accessible to users, this online module will allow users to access and complete the training on their own schedule.
- ▶ NAN Education will be able to monitor the use and efficacy of this online module.
- ▶ The online module is expected to be released in early fall 2022.

## First Nation Education Coordination Unit

NAN Education has continued to regularly participate as a member of the First Nation Education Coordination Unit (FNECU) as organized through the Chiefs of Ontario. The First Nation Education Coordination Unit focusses on education issues impacting First Nations people and First Nations communities from pre-school to post-secondary school and beyond. Education is recognized as a lifelong learning process.

Ontario remains outside of the AFN table for Education matters, and consequently bilateral tables have been created so that through the FNECU table, Ontario First Nations can address issues directly with Indigenous Services Canada. Current Bilateral Tables include Post-Secondary Education and the Education Partnerships Program.

## Online Boarding Parent Training Modules

**Recommendation 81** – In order to ensure the safety of all First Nation students while going to school on-reserve or off-reserve, conduct annual training of all staff and boarding parents associated with First Nation schools with respect to:

- i. Recognition, management, and care of intoxicated students;
  - ii. Crisis intervention;
  - iii. Suicide prevention; and
  - iv. First aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- ▶ The first online Boarding Home Parent Module was completed in November 2021, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no requirement for boarding parent training at that time.
  - ▶ NAN Education will be onboarding representatives from each of the partner organizations running boarding home programs so that they are all ready to administer online boarding parent training before the fall.
  - ▶ A second boarding parent training module is currently under development and is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2022. This second module will focus on mental health

## Continuity of Care

**Recommendation 87** – In order to ensure continuity of care and increased prospect (where desired) of a return to Thunder Bay for those students who are sent back due to health and safety concerns, make all efforts to ensure that community supports, including a continuing education, health, and mental health plan, are in place prior to sending a student back to his or her home community. Canada and Ontario should ensure that there is sufficient funding and resources in place for these support programs.

- ▶ A Request for Proposal was sent out in the late fall, to locate a consultant to create a comprehensive framework for continuity of care. This framework would need to also consider and support any models already created by other organizations.
- ▶ When a consultant could not be obtained, the workplan was revised to create a document that pulled the information for all support services together into one book, according to location.
- ▶ Post-secondary students will be hired to collect and synthesize all required information into a printable format by the end of August 2022.
- ▶ This document is planned to be turned into a phone app that will be accessible with or without internet access, so that student support workers will always have access to support service information.

## Boarding Student Transitions Workbook

**Recommendation 125** – Through the Ministry of Education, work with NAN through the Education Partnerships Program to foster local relationships between school boards and First Nation communities in order to support student transitions between provincially-funded schools and First Nations schools.

- ▶ The first Student Transitions Workbook was printed and sent out to Education Authorities in the summer of 2021. This workbook focused on the various aspects of living in a boarding home, personal responsibilities, life in a city, time management and study skills among others. Feedback from educators using the workbook was very good, and the workbook continues to be used to help prepare Grade 8 students who are leaving their home communities to attend high school in a city hundreds of miles away.
- ▶ A second workbook is currently in production and is expected to go into print by the end of August 2022. The second book focuses on mental health and includes topics such as: what is mental health?, dealing with grief, anxiety and depression, substance use/abuse and more.



### December 2, 2021

NAN advocates for funding commitments as Parliamentary Budget Officer report confirms Canada's failure to provide supports for safe drinking water in First Nations.

### December 3, 2021

NAN honours the passing of Goyce Kakegamic, an artist, educator, and long-serving member of the NAN Executive Council.



### Community Building Campaign

**Recommendation 126** – Through the Ministry of Education, continue ongoing work regarding supports for students experiencing racism and continue to work with its partners to support the learning in the curriculum to address this issue.

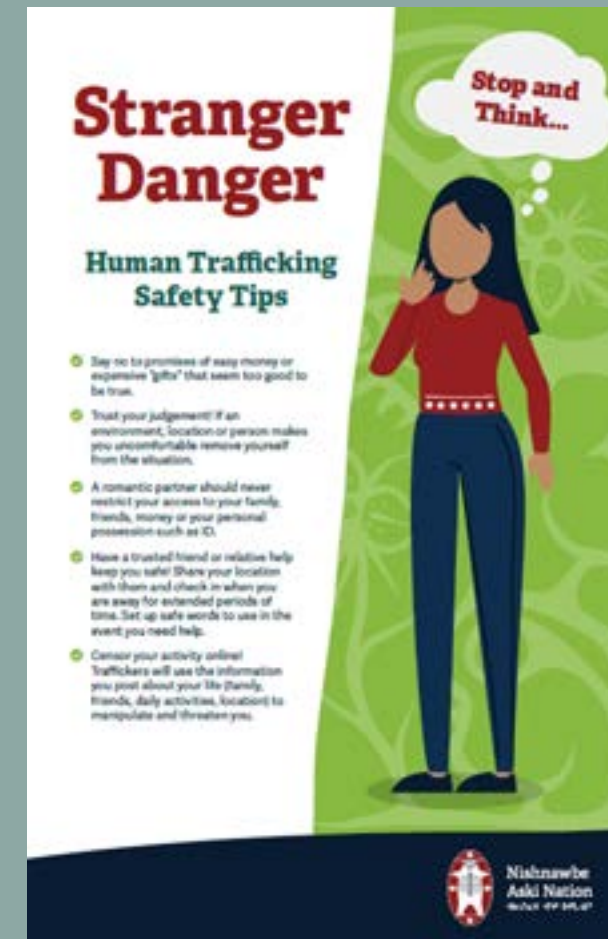
- ▶ NAN’s community building campaign kicked off last fall at NNEC’s Wake the Giant event. Consisting of 16 informational panels, four art panels, four rounded panels and four seating areas, this display covers an area of approximately 50’ x 30’ and is set up to mimic the shape of the NAN logo (arial view). The Community Building Panel display has received great reviews and was featured in a Treaty Video made for NAN by Makwa Creative and narrated by Tanya Talaga. By educating the public, this panel campaign works toward making Thunder Bay a safer and more accepting place for NAN students to live while they are in school, hundreds of miles from their home communities. The panel campaign continues to be relevant - it has been displayed at four schools over the spring and has actively been used by the Thunder Bay Police Service in their training. It has been booked for many events in 2022.



### Student Safety Initiatives

- ▶ Although the Student Help Line is being managed through Inquest, the line continues to be maintained through Education under Student Safety.
- ▶ Funding for Virtual Learning Environments continues to be provided to Matawa, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) and Keewaytinook Internet High School to expand their online learning environments.
- ▶ Student mental health funding continues to be provided to Independent First Nations Alliance, Matawa, NNEC, Windigo, Wabun, Shibogama, and Moose Cree Education Authority through student safety initiatives.
- ▶ A nominal amount of funding is allocated for any student safety emergencies that may rise throughout the year. In early fall 2021, Grand Chief Derek Fox was advised that a white van was seen driving around locations where children and youth gathered in Constance Lake. As a result, a series of six different ‘stranger danger’ posters were created that focused on online safety, stranger danger, and transit safety. To make the information relevant, each of the posters were aimed toward a specific age group, and packages of the posters were distributed to all communities.

### Stranger Danger Posters





## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Education Jurisdiction

## OVERVIEW

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

The NAN Education Jurisdiction Department is mandated to better First Nations education through the development of an education system for Participating First Nations that meets parity and exceeds standards seen in the provincial school system. Achievable through negotiations processes with Canada and other First Nations education partners, the Education Jurisdiction Department advocates for the Participating First Nations through consultation. Structural Readiness (SR), a program within Education Jurisdiction ensures capacity building and community inclusion for the Department.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Education Jurisdiction

Education Jurisdiction is the restoration of law-making authority over primary and secondary education for students ordinarily resident on-reserve or attending on-reserve community schools. First Nations that opt into the Education Agreement will opt out of the Indian Act sections relating to education and implement their own Local Education Laws. Jurisdiction over education will allow First Nations to create a Territory Wide Education System based on their beliefs, values and culture that will meet provincial standards. There are three areas that are working towards Education Jurisdiction covered in this report, beginning with the NAN-Canada Education Jurisdiction Agreement negotiations. Second, Interim Measures refers to building community understanding and awareness of Education Jurisdiction and the Education Agreement. Lastly, SR assists communities to prepare to implement the Education Agreement and participate in the Territory Wide Education System.

## NAN-Canada Education Jurisdiction Agreement Negotiations

The mandate for Education Sectoral Self-Governance negotiations is supported in part under the Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussions Tables Program.

## Mandate

**Resolution 98-75:** *Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Governance and Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreements* - Authority to sign the Framework Agreement and to negotiate an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) with Canada.

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

**Resolution 18-23:** *Support of Participating First Nations-Education Jurisdiction AIP* - Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 18-23 to support the negotiated AIP as the basis for moving into Education

Jurisdiction Agreement negotiations and authorized then NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler to sign the non-binding AIP on the behalf of 38 participating communities.

## Key Issues and Activities

Derek Chum was contracted as the lead negotiator in August of 2020 and the Negotiation Team was negotiating with Canada on a bi-weekly basis until July of last year. The negotiations were paused due to the federal election and the NAN leadership election. Negotiations will resume with Canada following a reset of the relationship with Canada with respect to education matters overall.

At this time, drafts have been developed for each chapter of the Education Agreement and are seeking direction from participating communities on certain areas of the Agreement.

Updates from the Negotiation Team and Education Jurisdiction Staff on progress and upcoming work are provided to the NAN Education Committee, education directors, First Nation leadership and local education authorities. Canada is in the process of amending its Fiscal Policy for education self-government agreements. The Committee made up of representatives from Canada and First Nation organizations is developing recommendations for a new funding framework that will apply to the Education Agreement.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

Communication and feedback on the Education Agreement work continues virtually and in person where possible. The Education Jurisdiction Team is open to invitations for presentations to community leadership, local education authorities, residents, and Tribal Councils. Developing community communication materials and activities has been an important focus over the last year.

Negotiations and preparation should also begin this year on the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan sets out the process and timing to develop the laws, bylaws, regulations and policies for the Territory Wide Education Body and Participating First Nations. NAN will also negotiate a separate fiscal transfer agreement to fund the Territory Wide Education System. The fiscal transfer agreement is a substantial undertaking and will require accurate community data to ensure the Territory Wide Education System is properly funded. Accessing community data for this purpose is required. The ratification package will include the Education Agreement and local education laws. Ratification by the Participating First Nations should begin in 2024.



## Structural Readiness (EPP)

In its ninth year, 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 in June 2018 at the Chiefs Special Assembly on Education, the Resolution gave support to the Education Jurisdiction Agreement-In-Principle. Parallel to Education Jurisdiction, SR is continuing communication activities to 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* 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* 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

In 2021-2022 SR focused on creating and revising communication materials to help advance the overall understanding of Education Jurisdiction. Materials included distributing brochures through Wawatay, sending posters to the communities, creating a First Nations education model review, and initiating the development of the Local Education Code Toolkit. This Toolkit will help Participating First Nations decide on local education governance. Training opportunities were also made available to build community capacity.

An Education Jurisdiction Virtual Summit was held, where we were able to provide updates, share best practices and hear from our education partners from the region.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

In 2022-2023, SR will offer training to the Participating First Nations:

- ▶ **OCAP® Training:** Four virtual sessions with 25 participants per session and up to two participants from each community. The training is geared towards education staff and leadership.
  - *The First Nations Principles of OCAP® Workshop is a four-hour virtual workshop that provides participants with an interactive opportunity to deeper explore the First Nations principles of OCAP®. Through the use of historical and contemporary examples, the workshop explores OCAP®, data sovereignty, and research and data management issues, and offers participants the opportunity to consider how OCAP® can be asserted or respected within their current work. This workshop can be facilitated over the course of 2 days to accommodate participant schedules and to decrease ‘screen’ fatigue.*
- ▶ **Banff Centre Training Fall/Spring 2022-2023:** A continuation of last year’s same objective to allow all the Participating First Nations to have two members of the community attend training opportunities. The programs range from project management to establishing Indigenous Institutions of Governance, program choices may change due to availability.
- ▶ **Relation Governance Workshop:** 2-day workshop for NAN Education Committee and the NAN Chiefs Committee on Education to happen during the Education Jurisdiction Summit.
  - Relational governance is ultimately meant to help people identify forms of authority, citizenship and law that work towards building Indigenous institutions. This workshop covers the difference between relational and exclusive sovereignty, the connection between sovereignty and governance with a mix of presentations and interactive activities. Intended to help answer the question “How do we locate responsibility within a relational web based on Indigenous law?”.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### This year SR will also coordinate:

- ▶ Continue the development of a Local Education Code Toolkit, to assist in the development of each Participating First Nations’ Local Education Code, a requirement of the Education Agreement. This year we will be refining the existing draft, reviewing with the materials with NAN’s Education Committee and the Chiefs Committee on Education.
- ▶ Education Jurisdiction Summit: A two-day event tentatively scheduled for January 2023 to bring together education staff from the Participating First Nations, Community Based Coordinators, NAN Education Committee and leadership to share and review the work done in 2022-2023 and

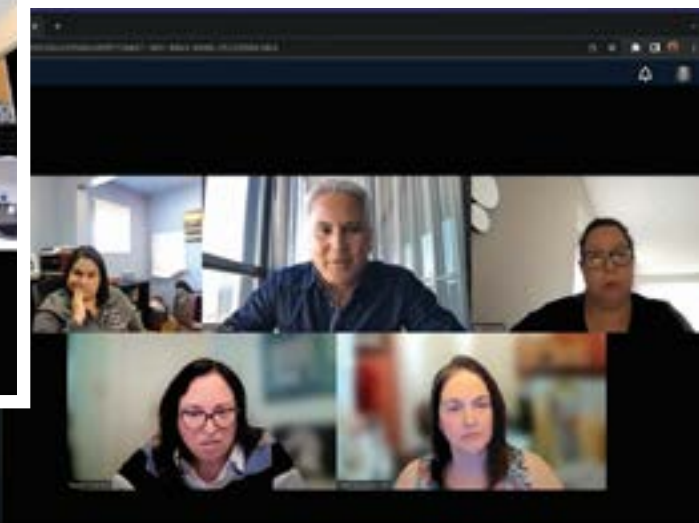
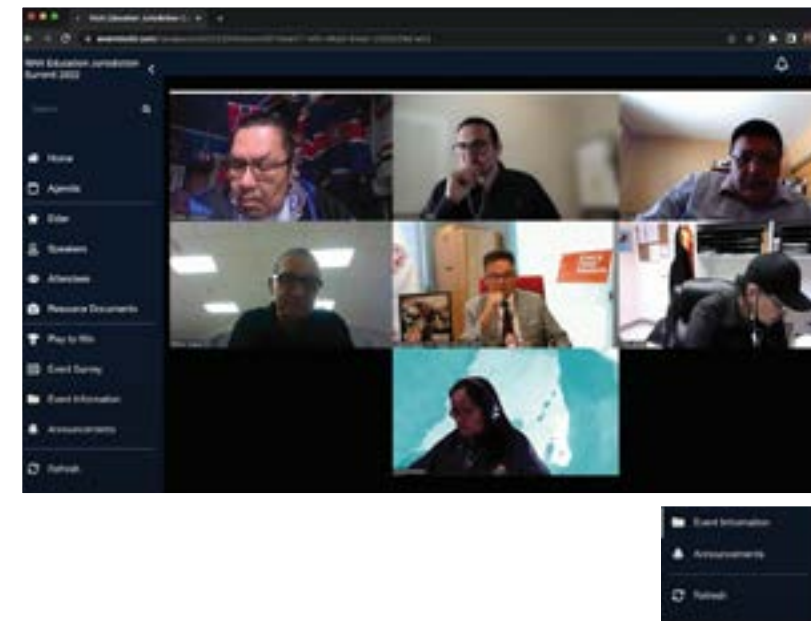
to look to the year ahead.

### Virtual Education Jurisdiction Summit - Opportunities & Challenges Panel

With Matthew Angees, Executive Director with Shibogama First Nations Council, Charles Brown, Education Director with Windigo First Nations Council, Mike McKay, Education Director Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Christina Meekis, Executive Director and Brent Wesley, Structural Readiness with Kwayaciwn Education Resource Centre. Facilitated by Jonathan Kakegamic.

### Virtual Education Jurisdiction Summit - Special Guest Panel

Blaire Gould, Executive Director of Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewe, Tracey O’Donnell, Negotiation support for Anishinabek Master Education Agreement, Helen Bobiwash, Lead Fiscal Negotiator for Anishinabek Education System, Lisa Michano, Board Member of Kinooamaadziwin Education Body. Facilitated by Derek Chum.





### Interim Measures (Education Jurisdiction Preparatory Work)

Interim Measures supports the preparatory work for supporting and developing community capacity and awareness of the process and allowing for a well-informed membership for the Education Agreement ratification vote.

#### 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

#### Community-Based Coordinators

The Education Jurisdiction Team continues to work with communities to hire a Community Based Coordinator (CBC) by providing: CBC job descriptions, possible hosting requirements and supports for the position. To date, there are 10 communities that have submitted funding agreements and are actively participating in community engagement sessions. Those communities are: North Spirit Lake First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation, Kasabonika First Nation, Bearskin Lake First Nation, and Eabemetoong First Nation. There have been varying levels of success in each community to recruit and retain a CBC. An alternative approach, where communities that were unable to hire a CBC, was adopted where the CBC's tasks, activities and responsibilities were added to an existing education staff member's position. A flexible approach continues with each Participating First Nation.

### Flow Through Funding Agreements

To date, 10 communities submit funding agreements for community engagement activities: Missanabie Cree First Nation, Bearskin Lake First Nation, Ginoogaming First Nation, Marten Falls First Nation, North Spirit Lake First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Mishkeegogaming First Nation and Muskrat Dam First Nation. There are several pending Participating First Nations that have yet to finalize their funding agreements. The Participating First Nations continue to be contacted on the Education Jurisdiction Nation Rebuilding Funding with the goal to add 10 or more communities in the next year.

#### Toolkits and Supporting Resources for Community Engagement Activities

The History of First Nation Education Module, the Understanding Education Jurisdiction, the Education Agreement, the Territory Wide Education System Module and the Community Engagement Guide are toolkits that have been completed this year. A toolkit module on Local Education Codes and Lawmaking is in development, which will assist communities in creating awareness on local and territory wide laws that will direct the Territory Wide Education System. The toolkits are to assist and support community education jurisdiction activities and be the catalyst for crucial input into the process.

### Training & Activities

CBC training began on utilizing the following toolkits for community activities: The History of First Nations Education and Understanding Education Jurisdiction, the Education Agreement, and the Developing Local Education Codes. Over the past year's training sessions, the CBC's response to the toolkits and related activities has been positive and these toolkits will be a great tool as community activities move forward. CBC equipment and materials have been shipped to the CBCs that are in place. As more communities begin to actively participate and assign members to CBC roles we will ship their equipment, materials and resources.

Bi-weekly CBC meetings are held to plan and prepare for community activities and provide updates. The CBCs have also been practicing and strengthening skills that will be helpful in their work such as: public speaking, understanding negotiations, utilizing software, community engagement activities and tips and community work plan development. Open and information sessions have been held both virtually and



when possible, in-person.

Constance Lake First Nation has taken a different approach on activities. Constance Lake First Nation's Board of Directors have decided to initiate the community engagement activities as a board and each member will interact with a certain sector of their community. For example, one member will engage with the elders, one member will engage with administration staff, another health staff, another member will engage parents etc. Although there continues to be setbacks in hiring CBCs and beginning community engagement activities, there continues to be successes with the hiring and participation of the communities that have been actively engaging with the Education Jurisdiction team. To date we have had 10 communities that have responded to funding opportunities for the activities. In addition, six communities and tribal council/regional bodies invited our team to present on Education Jurisdiction, the roles of Participating First Nations and community engagement.

In November, NAN hosted an Education Jurisdiction Open House in Thunder Bay. During this event – open to anyone interested in enriching their understanding of Education Jurisdiction – various presentations were made available to those in attendance. The presentations included the meaning of self-governance, education laws, community ratification, and engagement through community-based coordinators. Guests provided feedback on which aspects of jurisdiction they would like to hear more about.



Lead Negotiator Derek Chum presenting at the NAN Education Jurisdiction Open House on November 4th, 2021

### Next Steps – Moving Forward

The Department will continue to assist communities in hiring and training CBCs to begin their community activities. Our plan for this coming year will be to assist 10 or more additional communities to begin community engagement activities and hire CBCs.

Active engagement will continue with membership, and activities will be coordinated such as open house and information sessions to seek feedback on the Education Agreement, the Territory Wide Education Body and the development of Local Education Codes Module.

The Department will continue to seek education authorities and CBC's feedback during the development of the Local Education Codes Toolkit Module. This work includes completing and presenting the training materials to the CBCs, coordination between activities, support and oversight of the activities and establishing a relationship and rapport with key individuals in initiating the CBC's activities.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Education Department - Education Reset Table

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken towards the establishment of the Education Reset Table by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

## OVERVIEW

There has been significant progress toward establishing the Education Reset Table (the "Table") and cutting the red tape in education. The support of Minister of Indigenous Services, Patty Hajdu, has been secured for establishing the Table. A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Table, in consultation with NAN's Education Department, has been developed. The TOR has been sent to Canada for input.

An Education Jurisdiction Summit was organized, and important insights were gained in respect to how First Nations in other regions are asserting their inherent jurisdiction over education. At the Summit, a vision was shared for streamlining the funding and policy changes required to implement the recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest in NAN.

## ACTIVITIES TO DATE

On January 21, 2022, the Director of Education wrote to Minister Hajdu addressing the issue of education reform, and proposed the Education Reset Table. Also in the letter, concerns were expressed over the absence of any serious decision-makers from Canada in current NAN-specific education processes.

On March 3, 2022, the Education Director and department staff met with Minister Hajdu and her staff in follow-up to the letter. At this meeting, Minister Hajdu expressed her support for establishing the Table. After that meeting, the TOR were drafted to support the Table

NAN's current tables on education are:

- ▶ NAN-Canada Negotiations on the Education Jurisdiction Agreement;
- ▶ First Nations Collaborative Fiscal Policy Caucus;
- ▶ First Nations-Canada Fiscal Policy Negotiations; and
- ▶ Ontario Technical Table – Interim Funding Approach.

The Education Reset Table is intended to address the issue of decision makers being absent from these tables by serving an oversight function for all the various negotiation tables and initiatives currently underway in education. This will create important engagement and momentum in areas requiring more robust processes to achieve change for NAN learners.

On March 30-31, 2022, a meeting was held with NAN's Education Department staff and leadership to gather input for the TOR. During this meeting, discussions were had around NAN's past education reform efforts, lessons learned, and the path forward for education in NAN territory. Input received from the Education Department focused on the need for self-administration of any new education systems for NAN communities, support for First Nation-created and culturally relevant curriculum, and the implementation of the recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest.

On April 12-13, 2022, NAN held the Education Jurisdiction Summit. The Summit was an excellent opportunity for NAN Education staff and leadership to gather with representatives of First Nations who have successfully asserted their inherent jurisdiction over education in their territories. These representatives presented on their education reform work in the Anishinabek Nation, Mi'kmaq territory, and throughout British Columbia.

The Summit also allowed staff from across NAN departments to learn about the history of education jurisdiction reform efforts in NAN, as well as the existing jurisdiction Agreement-in-Principle, and the roles of Indigenous law in education reform efforts. The Summit concluded with a group brainstorming activity on potential education laws, rules, and structures that could support NAN's new education system. As a result of that brainstorming activity and the rest of the Summit, we developed a shared understanding of the education priorities of NAN communities, which will be vital to Education Reset efforts moving forward.

A key take-away from both the Education Department consultation and the Education Jurisdiction Summit is the importance of community involvement and direction in education reform efforts. Many presenters, panelists, and attendees reinforced the importance of ensuring that NAN communities are directly involved in Education Reset through community education and consultation on key issues and decisions.

## Terms or References and Next Steps

Shortly after the Education Jurisdiction Summit, the draft TOR was sent to Canada for their review and input. A copy of the draft TOR will be hand delivered to Minister Hajdu and ISC Deputy Minister Christiane Fox at an in-person meeting with ISC representatives in Ottawa on April 20, 2022.

The draft TOR include the following in terms of the mandate of the NAN-Canada Education Reset Table:

- ▶ "The mandate of the Table is to oversee and guide reform of the education systems that serve NAN communities by reviewing and reforming the policy and funding frameworks that support those systems. Educational issues in First Nations have been extensively studied and have been subject to repeated inquests, reports, and recommendations over many years. Shannen's Dream, the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the recommendations of the Seven Youth Inquest represent only a small selection of the

unfulfilled needs and commitments before this Table. The Parties to this Table will focus primarily on implementation rather than further studies and are committed to timely delivery on those recommendations that are jointly accepted as effective and achievable."<sup>1</sup>

The draft TOR include the following in terms of the scope of the NAN-Canada Education Reset Table:

- ▶ "The Table shall explore and critically assess the overall pace of reform to date and opportunities to establish effective accountability mechanisms for the pace of reform moving forward."<sup>2</sup>

The next steps for NAN's Education Reset will include advancing community consultation efforts, finalizing the Education Reset Table TOR with Canada, planning, and preparing for negotiations with Canada at the Education Reset Table, and establishing the relationship between the Education Reset Table and the existing education tables. We will continue efforts to ensure that the Education Reset process moves forward in an effective and timely manner so we do not lose the significant momentum we have gained to date.

## Conclusion

The work to establish the Education Reset Table continues. Progress is being made, and the work will build towards a streamlined process for decision makers to ensure that the funding and policy changes required to better serve NAN learners are made to the education systems that serve NAN communities. Miigwetch to the Education Department, Chiefs, and NAN communities for their continued engagement and support in this process of creating such important change.

### December 14, 2022

*NAN provides optimistic update on negotiations with the Government of Canada on compensation and long-term reform of First Nations child and family services and Jordan's Principle.*



### December 30, 2022

*NAN works with Canada and Ontario to provide an urgent response to support First Nations overwhelmed by an increase of COVID-19 cases across NAN territory.*

<sup>1</sup> Draft Education Reset Table Terms of Reference, page 2-3.

<sup>2</sup> Draft Education Reset Table Terms of Reference, page 5.



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Education Department - Seven Youth Inquest

## OVERVIEW

The Seven Youth Inquest examined the circumstances into the deaths of seven First Nations youth who died tragically between 2000-2011 while attending high school in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The goal of the proceedings was to make recommendations to prevent similar deaths in the future. The Inquest concluded on June 28, 2016, with the Judge and Jury making 145 Recommendations.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Inquest Coordination oversees the implementation process for the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The 2021-2022 fiscal year was unprecedented because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, NAN staff worked remotely which presented challenges regarding how activities were conducted. Additionally, Inquest coordination and activities were affected and slowed down because of priorities of Inquest Parties to their organization's pandemic response.

Despite these challenges, the Seven Youth Inquest was able to move forward on several Recommendations through the various activities, meetings and forums that took place over the last fiscal year. The Recommendations delivered and implemented resulted in the development of resources dealing with the on-going concerns of First Nations student safety and awareness of urban living environments.

These resources will be made available for distribution on an on-going basis:

- ▶ Health Promotional Resources.
- ▶ Missing Person Search Tool Kit.
- ▶ NAN Student Safety Line.
- ▶ Student Safety Line Brochure and MOU.
- ▶ Re-launch of the "Am I Missing" Campaign.
- ▶ Student Assessment of Continuity of Care Brochure.
- ▶ Inquest Backgrounder.
- ▶ Handbook on Youth Consent and Capacity.

The involvement of all Parties named to the Inquest is crucial to the successful implementation of Inquest recommendations. To maintain the momentum of working together to address the recommendations, the following activities were held virtually in 2021-2022 to engage the partners in key discussions and provide updates:

- ▶ Seven Youth Inquest Coordinator calls.
- ▶ Task Team meetings.
- ▶ Political Table meetings.
- ▶ Education Table meetings.
- ▶ Inquest Partners meetings.
- ▶ Student Continuity of Care Forum.

The launch of Recommendation 112 media campaign was held in 2021-2022. This campaign highlights federal and provincial government funded student initiatives. NAN, KOBE, MECC, and NNEC felt it was also important to inform the public of some positive outcomes resulting from the Seven Youth Inquest, particularly in areas of student safety, student well-being, student success and student achievement. Development of this media campaign is ongoing.

The reinvestigation of nine deaths of Indigenous people in Thunder Bay, as recommended by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director in its review of the Thunder Bay Police Service, includes four of the seven youth: Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Kyle Morriveau and Jordan Wabasse. The families of the youth anxiously awaited the final report of the reinvestigations, which was to be completed by late summer 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic. The final report was completed in summer 2021.

## Other Activities

Seven Youth Inquest has participated in the Community Building Campaign which strives to create positive community relationships. An outdoor panel display was created to address barriers and issues brought forward from the Seven Youth Inquest. The panels cover important subjects including Treaty, Myths, the Indian Act, and Residential School, in an accessible easy-to-read format. Community partners continue to make requests to have these panels displayed at their events.

The Seven Youth Inquest has also been a participant in the Wake the Giant Project. The music festival is aimed at creating a more welcoming and inclusive city for Indigenous people, youth, and communities. NAN Education Department played a key role during the September 2021 festival.

## Highlights

## Status of Recommendation:

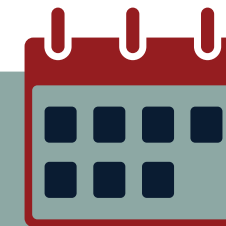
**Recommendation 21:** The project to create a youth leadership training manual is ongoing.

**Recommendation 36:** Choose Life has been the program to successfully provide programming and services to help youth who require mental health and well-being supports. Other initiatives will continue to be proposed and developed to address the needs of youth in other areas.

**Recommendation 40:** The project to create health promotional resources aimed at youth on-reserve is complete. The resources will be shared with community health clinics and schools, parents, guardians, and off-reserve First Nation high schools.

**Recommendation 47 and 87:** Meetings to discuss student continuity of care, comprehensive assessments and expanding the role of First Nation education counsellors to off-reserve high schools were held, in 2022. The Continuity of Care Forum was held in March 2022.

**Recommendation 91:** The "Am I Missing?" initiative was relaunched in August 2021 in Thunder Bay to keep raising awareness on the reporting of missing persons. A Missing Persons Search Toolkit was developed and completed in the 2021-2022 fiscal year



## December 31, 2021

*NAN congratulates Indigenous leaders, including Murray Sinclair and Ovide Mercredi, among new appointees to the Order of Canada.*

## January 3, 2022

*NAN supports Bearskin Lake First Nation and all NAN communities struggling with rising cases of COVID-19 by calling on Ontario and Canada for action.*

# Oshkaatisak Council

## OVERVIEW

The Oshkaatisak "All Young Peoples" Council advocates for support to address gaps faced by Indigenous youth across all sectors including, justice, education, as well as mental and physical wellbeing. The Oshkaatisak Council meets monthly to coordinate events, both online and in person. These events support the healthy development of Nishnawbe Aski youth, and strengthen NAN youths' connection to culture, through language, ceremony, and traditional teachings.

## COUNCIL ACTIIVITIES

- ▶ Act as the advocating body for Nishnawbe Aski youth at the local, regional and international levels.
- ▶ Advise the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Executive Council as well as government officials, on the conditions of faced by Indigenous youth in the remote north, the barriers to success, and potential pathways to health.
- ▶ Create opportunities for NAN youth to engage with their traditions, culture, language, and other NAN youth.
- ▶ Create educational and developmental opportunities for NAN youth to learn and develop leadership and healthy living skills.
- ▶ Identify ways to increase advocacy, along with coordination and strategy to increase resources and supports for NAN youth.



Ashley Bach



Erickson Owen



Janine Frogg



Jericho Anderson



Linden Waboose



Mallory Solomon



Tehya Quachegan

## YOUTH INITIATIVES

### Overview

The Youth Engagement Department oversees developmental programming for Nishnawbe Aski youth across NAN's 49 communities, focusing on a mix of educational, cultural, social, and land-based programming. The Youth Engagement Department seeks to provide a multitude of opportunities that help youth to develop a spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental balance. Specifically, the NAN Youth Engagement Team provides programming through the Youth Initiatives Program, the Youth Land Based Program and in partnership with the Oshkaatisak "All Young Peoples" Council.



### January 4, 2022

NAN celebrates landmark agreement with Canada on compensation and long-term reform of First Nations child and family services, including Choose Life and Jordan's Principle supports.



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**Youth Initiatives Program**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the NAN Youth Initiatives Program has developed online programming through the Youth Engagement Coordinator. This programming is designed to focus on educational and cultural knowledge support, while at the same time bridging the gaps to in person connectivity. In addition, the Youth Initiatives Program has piloted several projects that would see NAN youth connecting directly with one another in community. The Youth Initiatives Coordinator has also begun to identify and address gaps to service as it relates to youth mental and physical health, as well as educational readiness at the post-secondary level. The Youth Initiatives Program Coordinator, working in partnership with the Oshkaatisak Council, continues to deliver programming that supports the healthy and holistic development of NAN youth across the territory.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- ▶ NAN Youth Housing Workshop with Toronto Metropolitan University April 14, 2021.
- ▶ Oshkaatisak Council Healthy Living Stress Buster Challenge May and June 2021 (Weekly Submission).
- ▶ Moccasin Making Workshop Series (6 weeks, once a week) May 19, 2021 – June 23, 2021.
- ▶ Youth Engagement Program COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Support May 12, 2021.
- ▶ Creating a Home for our Youth Interview Training May 28, 2021.
- ▶ Youth Paint Night with Jordan Quequish June 22, 2021.
- ▶ Wilderness First Aid Training for Youth and Youth Council Members July 8-9, 2021.
- ▶ 39th Annual Keewaywin Conference August 10-12, 2021.
- ▶ NAN Youth PAL Training September 1-2, 2021.
- ▶ Annual NAN Youth Moose Hunt September 23-26, 2021.
- ▶ Pen Pal Wellness Kit Development and Delivery October 1 to December 15, 2021.
- ▶ Partridge Hunting and the importance of being on the land October 16, 2021.

**Youth Land Based Program**

The Youth Land Based Program has continued to provide workshops that seek to address the rise in the mental health crisis impacting Nishnawbe Aski youth across the territory. The Land based team tailors programming that offer alternative opportunities to engage with the land in a restorative and healthy way. By entrenching the importance of tradition, language, and ceremony directly into the programming offered, the Land Based Team has sought to help foster a strengthened sense of identity within each NAN youth. Further, by engaging with the youth directly during each one of NAN's hunting, fishing, and trapping camps, the Land Based Team has been able to create safe spaces for youth to positively engage with one another, breaking barriers and creating new, healthy, and long-lasting friendships.

The Youth Land Based Program has provides safe and healthy opportunities for all NAN youth. More specifically, the Land Based team creates programming with a focus on providing support to youth struggling with the everyday challenges of being a young person. This is in addition to taking action to address unique challenges associated with growing up in the remote north.

- ▶ NAN Chiefs Special Assembly October 28, 2021.
- ▶ Mitten Making Workshop Series (4 weeks, twice a week) November 8, 2021 – December 1, 2021.
- ▶ Talking Healthy and Safe Relationships November 19, 2021.
- ▶ Post-Secondary Education Toolkits Spring/ Summer 2022.
- ▶ Covid Community Emergency Care Kit Development January 28, 2022.
- ▶ Pink Shirt Day February 23, 2022.
- ▶ Stan Wesley's Pan-Tastical Gameshow February 28, 2022.
- ▶ Youth Community Garden Kits development and distribution March 1- June 5, 2022.
- ▶ Paint Night with Angela Benedict March 9, 2022.
- ▶ NAN Oshkaatisak Council Annual Youth Gathering March 11-13, 2022.
- ▶ Open Bay Lodge Youth Fishing Trip March 25-27, 2022.

# Highlights

During the survey offered to attendees of the 2022 Annual NAN Youth Gathering, youth were asked

**"Is there anything else we should know about your experience today?"**

and responses included:

**"The energy was great and all the speakers all had different things to say which I really liked. It was my first time attending this conference and I am glad I did because I learned a ton of valuable information and knowledge I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I could not be more thankful to have this virtual opportunity to be a part of this conference."**

**"Amazing teachings, stories, and music. I really enjoyed the day and afterwards felt very uplifted and connected."**

**"It's just so great to have these motivational speakers teaching us their knowledge to help us on our paths in life."**

**"Gerry Martin spoke to my SOUL!!! All of the elders in attendance seemed warm and approachable. But yeah Gerry had powerful words about the importance of youth, it was beautiful."**

**"[...] I really liked the hunting tips and my little brothers and i put it on the tv and we liked learning tips for moose hunting [...]."**

**"It's a shame that all these gatherings come to an end but I enjoyed it so much. I look forward to other events in the future."**

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Social Services

## OVERVIEW

The Social Services Department has been focused on several key initiatives throughout 2021/22, including Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT), Remoteness Quotient (RQ) Table, Global Resolution (Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on Long-Term Reform), National Assembly of Remote Communities (NARC), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) – Ontario Bilateral Process, C-92 and Social Assistance.

The Social Services Department is comprised of the following programs and initiatives:

- ▶ Jordan's Principle
- ▶ Family Well-Being Program
- ▶ Choose Life Program
- ▶ Youth Initiatives

The Chiefs Committee on Children, Youth and Families (CCCYF) is mandated by 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.

Currently, the CCCYF has been overseeing the following activities:

- ▶ Bill C-92 'An Act respecting First Nation, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families'
- ▶ First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare (federal and provincial processes).
- ▶ Implementation of the FWBp.
- ▶ Implementation of the Choose Life Program.
- ▶ Jordan's Principle.
- ▶ Youth initiatives.
- ▶ NAN as Intervener in the First Nations Caring Society Case with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.
- ▶ RQ work.
- ▶ NAN-Ontario Bilateral process.
- ▶ NARC.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

**Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT)**

In 2007, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the First Nation Child and Family Caring Society of Canada filed a CHRT complaint against Canada alleging discrimination against First Nation children, youth, and families in Canada's provision of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and its implementation of Jordan's Principle. In January 2016, the CHRT 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, and by failing to implement Jordan's Principle. In May 2016, NAN was granted Intervenor status to ensure that the remedies ordered would address the unique challenges of service delivery in remote communities.

**Key Issues and Activities**

Over the course of 2021-2022 fiscal year, the following significant developments took place with respect to the CHRT proceedings over child welfare:

- ▶ NAN and Canada signed a revised Terms of Reference for the NAN-Canada RQ Table, resumed regular RQ Table meetings, and embarked on Phase 3 of the RQ research;
- ▶ The parties to the CHRT complaint against Canada entered Global Resolution Discussions and signed an AIP on Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle (AIP on Long-Term Reform), which included a Reformed FNCFS Funding Approach, provisions specific to NAN and remote communities, and immediate measures to be implemented in early 2022;
- ▶ The CHRT released its decision regarding major capital funding (2021 CHRT 41);
- ▶ NAN and partners across Canada formed the NARC; and
- ▶ Canada committed to providing long-term funding for Choose Life.

**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 Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to implement and monitor this process.
- ▶ 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 Final Settlement Agreement (FSA).

**Resumed NAN-Canada Remoteness Quotient ("RQ") Table**

In May 2016, NAN argued before the CHRT for the need to develop a RQ to account for the increased costs of delivering services in remote communities. In September 2016, the CHRT ordered Canada to account for the costs of remoteness in its funding for FNCFS Program.

On February 28, 2017, NAN's Chiefs in Assembly passed Resolution 17/20: Approval of Terms of Reference for Remoteness Quotient Table approving the draft Terms of Reference for the NAN-Canada RQ Table. On March 10, 2017, NAN and Canada signed the Terms of Reference for the NAN-Canada RQ Table. On March 29, 2017, the CHRT adopted the signed Terms of Reference and ordered NAN and Canada to work together at the RQ Table to develop the RQ methodology in order to account for the costs of remoteness in the FNCFS program funding formula.

NAN and Canada engaged academic experts to develop the RQ methodology. In August 2017, the experts delivered their Phase 1 Report on the RQ research. The Phase 1 Report was jointly filed with the CHRT on September 8, 2017. The Phase 2 Interim Report, dated June 22, 2018, was jointly filed with the CHRT on August 22, 2018. NAN filed the Phase 2 Final Report, dated February 20, 2019, on March 29, 2019.

Following a breakdown in communication, NAN brought compliance motions before the CHRT in 2019 and 2020. NAN and Canada settled those motions on December 29, 2020.

**Key Issues and Activities**

NAN and Canada signed a revised Terms of Reference for the NAN-Canada RQ Table on August 6, 2021, and the RQ Table resumed regular meetings thereafter.

In October 2021, the RQ experts proposed Phase 3 of the RQ research in an effort to develop the Remoteness Quotient Adjustment Factor (RQAF), which would refine their previous work. The RQ/RQAF methodology represents the first ever First Nation-sighted evidence-based statistical model to account for the increased costs of delivering services in remote communities.



### Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services Department will continue to advocate for the acknowledgement and value of NAN's Remoteness Quotient work for remote communities.
- ▶ NAN will continue to meet with Canada at the RQ Table.
- ▶ NAN will continue to engage NAN's and Canada's academic experts to develop the RQ methodology.
- ▶ It is also the expectation that this approach can be considered in other sectors such as education, health and justice.

### Global Resolution Discussions and Agreement-In-Principle ("AIP") on Long-Term Reform

In late October 2021, Canada wrote to the other parties in an effort to begin settlement negotiations. On November 1, 2021, the parties entered Global Resolution Discussions to negotiate a settlement in respect of the CHRT complaint. As a result of the Global Resolution Discussions, the parties signed an AIP on Long-Term Reform on December 31, 2021.

It should be noted that an AIP is not a binding agreement. It is merely an 'agreement to agree' setting out the principles and initial terms that are intended to be formalized in a future binding agreement. Since January 2022, the parties have been negotiating a FSA on Long-Term Reform, which is expected to be concluded by December 31, 2022.

The AIP on Long-Term Reform commits Canada to provide \$19.807 billion over five years for reforming the FNCFS Program and for major capital relating to the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. NAN's leadership in these negotiations resulted in commitments from Canada to make structural change to address the needs of remote communities in respect of child and family services. Those commitments are detailed below.

### Key Issues and Activities

#### Compensation

The parties to two related class action lawsuits, which does not include NAN, also signed a separate AIP on Compensation on December 31, 2021, in which Canada committed to providing \$20 billion in compensation to eligible recipients. Those parties are currently negotiating a FSA on Compensation, which is expected to be concluded in summer 2022. Since November 2021, NAN has consistently raised concerns about the need to provide safeguards and supports in respect of compensation payouts and community vulnerabilities resulting from intergenerational trauma and predatory activities.

#### Reformed First Nation Child and Family Services Funding (FNCFS) Approach

The AIP on Long-Term Reform provides a reformed funding approach for the FNCFS Program, which includes the following components:

- ▶ Baseline funding provided to FNCFS agencies for operations and protection services;
- ▶ Funding provided to First Nations and FNCFS agencies for prevention activities;
- ▶ Funding provided to First Nations for First Nations Representative Services (formerly "Band Representative Services"); and
- ▶ Top-up funding for:
  - information technology (6% of Baseline Funding).
  - results (5% of Baseline Funding).
  - emergency fund (2% of Baseline Funding).
  - addressing poverty gaps (based on research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Democracy).
  - post-majority care for youth aging out of care and young adults formerly in care (up to and including age 25, based on actual expenditures).

### Provisions Specific to NAN and Remote Communities

The AIP on Long-Term Reform includes the following provisions specific to NAN and remote communities:

- ▶ Remoteness Funding: The AIP on Long-Term Reform recognizes the barriers that impact remote First Nation communities, including governance issues and increased costs associated with remoteness. Canada will index funding to account for the increased costs of delivering child and family services in remote communities. Remoteness indexing will apply to Baseline Funding and additional top-up funding for prevention, information technology, results, the emergency fund, and poverty.
- ▶ NARC: Canada will fund a NARC-Canada Remoteness Table to develop a First Nations-sighted, evidence-based statistical model to estimate the increased costs associated with delivering services in remote communities. This work will be informed by the work of the NAN-Canada RQ Table.
- ▶ Remoteness Secretariat: Canada will establish a dedicated secretariat with the primary responsibility of addressing remoteness issues. The Remoteness Secretariat will support First Nations with data collection and analysis in support of the NARC-Canada Remoteness Table.
- ▶ Choose Life: Canada will continue to fund Choose Life, which is an important suicide prevention program funded through Jordan's Principle for youth in NAN communities. NAN and Canada will establish a high-level Choose Life Table to determine long-term funding.

### Immediate Measures Pursuant to AIP on Long-Term Reform

From January through March 2022, the CHRT parties negotiated the implementation of immediate measures pursuant to the AIP on Long-Term Reform. Those immediate measures included funding for First Nations Representative Services (formerly known as Band Representative Services), prevention services, post-majority care services, and capital projects. Canada implemented those immediate measures and began flowing that funding to communities and agencies in or before April 2022.

### Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN's Social Services Department will continue to advocate for safeguards and supports to be provided in respect of the compensation payouts and community vulnerabilities resulting from intergenerational trauma and predatory activities.
- ▶ NAN will continue to advocate for an informed approach for the FNCFS Funding Reform.
- ▶ NAN will continue to attend the NARC-Canada Remoteness Table to develop a First Nations sighted, evidence-based statistical model that estimates the increased costs associated with delivering services in remote communities.
- ▶ NAN will work with Canada in establishing a high-level Choose Life Table to determine long-term funding.
- ▶ NAN will continue to work with communities and agencies providing information on best practices of utilizing immediate measures funding that is being flowed by Canada.



**January 24, 2022**

*NAN calls on Canada to act on Canadian Medical Association Journal report linking health issues to poor housing conditions in First Nations.*

## Capital Decision

On August 26, 2021, the CHRT issued a brief letter-decision on the issue of capital funding in First Nations child welfare. On September 27, 2021, Canada filed an appeal of the letter-decision. On November 16, 2021, the CHRT issued its detailed reasons and orders (2021 CHRT 41, also known as the Capital Decision) further to its August letter-decision.

In its Capital Decision, the CHRT ordered Canada to:

1. Fund the actual costs of First Nations and FNCFS Agencies for the assessment(s), purchase(s), and/or construction of capital assets provided they are underway or ready to proceed, and which are needed to support the delivery of the following: First Nation child and family services and prevention services; Jordan's Principle services on-reserve; and First Nation Representative Services.
2. By March 4, 2022, develop a guide to further elaborate on the scope of capital asset categories and considerations related to Canada's approvals process.
3. For service sites for FNCFS and Jordan's Principle services, Canada will provide the funding based on an initial five-year commitment of \$276.2M, backed by a three-year contingency fund of \$93.5M for capital related to Jordan's Principle group requests.

## Key Issues and Activities

In January 2022, the parties requested on consent that the CHRT amend the Capital Decision to reflect developments in the AIP on Long-Term Reform and extend timelines accordingly. The CHRT issued its amended Capital Decision on January 18, 2022. Canada withdrew its appeal on January 26, 2022.

As stated above, capital funding began rolling out to communities and agencies in the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as part of the immediate measures implemented pursuant to the AIP on Long-Term Reform.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services Department will continue to advocate for capital funding that is inclusive of remoteness costs.
- ▶ NAN will continue to work with communities and agencies providing information on best practices of utilizing capital funding that is being flowed by Canada.

## Choose Life – CHRT

In late 2016, soon after joining the CHRT proceedings as an Intervenor, NAN brought a motion seeking immediate relief in respect of both RQ and a "Choose Life" order that Jordan's Principle funding would be granted to any First Nation community that filed a proposal identifying children and youth at risk of suicide. On March 22, 2017, Canada committed to forming the Choose Life Working Group with NAN to develop a streamlined funding approval process. On March 29, 2017, the CHRT encouraged NAN and Canada to work together in this regard.

In April 2017, Choose Life was initiated as a two-year pilot project under Jordan's Principle to address the urgent and long-standing need to promote wellness among NAN youth. Upon completion of the pilot project, NAN received a three-year extension in March 2019 to allow for more efficient access to funds for youth at risk of suicide. From 2018 to early 2021, Lakehead University and Queen's University conducted evaluations of the Choose Life program, both of which showed that Choose Life was making a significant difference in addressing mental health needs and preventing suicide in NAN communities.

## Key Issues and Activities

On April 30, 2021, NAN virtually launched its Choose Life video, highlighting the importance and positive impacts of this essential program. At the same time, the evaluations of Choose Life also raised concerns about a lack of clarity about roles and process. On October 1, 2021, Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse met with Indigenous Services Canada Deputy Minister Christiane Fox and proposed the establishment of an independent appeals body and a Terms of Reference for the Choose Life Working Group as solutions to these concerns.

As part of the Global Resolution Discussions in November and December 2021, NAN advocated for a high-level Choose Life Table and a commitment to sustainable long-term funding for Choose Life. In the AIP on Long-Term Reform, Canada committed to establishing that high-level table and to providing sustainable long-term funding for Choose Life. In early 2022, NAN engaged with Canada to finalize the Terms of Reference for the Choose Life Table and to secure the long-term funding commitment in the FSA on Long-Term Reform.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services Department will work with NAN Choose Life team and Canada to establish the high-level Choose Life Table.
- ▶ NAN continues to work with Canada in finalizing the Choose Life Table Terms of Reference and secure long-term funding in the FSA.

## National Assembly of Remote Communities (NARC)

During the Global Resolution Discussions in November 2021, Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse and the RQ experts gave a presentation to the CHRT parties at an in-person meeting in Ottawa. After that presentation, representatives of remote communities from across the country began reaching out to Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse to express interest in the RQ work based on the challenges shared by their remote communities and those in NAN territory. This work resulted in NARC in November 2021.

The following five founding members signed the NARC Mission Statement in November 2021:

- ▶ NAN;
- ▶ Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak;
- ▶ Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN);
- ▶ Assembly of First Nations, Alberta; and
- ▶ Assembly of First Nations, Northwest Territories.

## Key Issues and Activities

The NARC was recognized in the AIP on Long-Term Reform signed on December 31, 2021. Canada committed to providing annual funding to the NARC for five years. Canada also committed to establishing the NARC-Canada Remoteness Table to build on the work of the NAN-Canada RQ Table to take NAN's efforts to account for remoteness costs to a national level.

Early in 2022, the NARC developed and approved a Constitution and By-laws. Deputy Grand Chief Narcisse was appointed by the founding members of the NARC as Co-Chair along with Vice-Chief David Pratt of the FSIN, which represents remote communities in northern Saskatchewan. The NARC is committed to advocating for the indexing of funding to account for the increased costs associated with delivering services in remote communities. The Assembly will advocate for remoteness costs to be addressed in sectors including but not limited to child and family services, education, health, justice, and community safety.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services Department, along with NARC, will continue to advocate for the indexing of funding to account for increased costs associated with delivering services in remote communities.
- ▶ NAN and NARC will advocate for funds to address remoteness across all sectors.

## NAN – Ontario Bilateral Process

### Mandate

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

A Relationship Agreement between NAN and Ontario (NAN-Ontario Relationship Agreement on Child, Youth and Family Well-Being) was negotiated and signed in April 2018. NAN and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) have been continuing to work and are meeting monthly to discuss NAN's priorities.

### 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 holistic approach to NAN Child, Youth and Family Well-Being". 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.
- ▶ Working with the MCCSS to advise on the Child Welfare re-design that focuses on building services that strengthen families, focusing on community-based prevention and early intervention services.



### 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 Assemblies

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.
- ▶ Developing a community engagement process to guide the strategic direction and coordination of services.
- ▶ Coordinating this 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”.

The pillars of the Coordinating Body are defined in the table below:

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

### 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.

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

An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families (i.e. Bill C-92 or “the Act”). came into force on January 1, 2020 with a stated purpose of “affirm[ing] the inherent right of self-government, which includes jurisdiction in relation to child and family services”. To date, no regulations have been made under the Act.

There are two main substantive elements to the Act:

1. The Act sets out **national minimum standards** governing the provision of child and family services to Indigenous children, youth and families; and
2. The Act provides a **pathway for the exercise of legislative authority** by Indigenous peoples in the area of child and family services.

Bill C-92 works in 2 Phases:

Phase 1: Federal Laws layer over Provincial/Territorial Laws

- ▶ Sections 10-17 of C-92 has substantive content about child and family services. This content touches upon:
  - 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.

Phase 2: Indigenous Laws

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ C-92 recognizes that the inherent rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis affirmed in s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 include, “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 take this path, 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 the Indigenous 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 CHRT in the Caring Society case.
- ▶ 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.

Canada has committed \$542 Million over five years. This call for proposals became available in 2020/21. Proposals for capacity-building funding will not be interpreted as a notice of intent to exercise jurisdiction as specified under sections 20 (1) or 20 (2) of the act.

The following groups are eligible to apply for this funding: Indigenous groups, communities or peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35, Indigenous governing bodies and National Indigenous organizations. This funding can be applied for by submitting a proposal and a detailed budget (via application provided or a custom template).

### Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ NAN Social Services will continue to host forums focusing on the implementation of The Act.
- ▶ 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.

### Prevention – Focused Customary Care Funding

The MCCSS has made an annualized funding commitment to enhance access to prevention-focused customary care for Indigenous Children and Youth. This allocation is intended to subsidize customary care where a child would benefit from an alternate caregiving arrangement where there are no protection concerns.

A customary caregiver can be identified to provide care and supervision to the child(ren) according to the custom of the community. This funding can be used to grant a subsidy to a caregiver for prevention-focused customary care when a certain criteria is met. This funding is annualized, and NAN communities will continue to receive it.

### Social Assistance

NAN Social Services continues to work towards fulfilling the priorities raised at the Income Assistance Summit in April 2019:

1. Develop regulations reflective of each community's needs.
2. Create compensation opportunities for traditional jobs such as language keepers, natural healers, hunters and trappers.
3. Create more job opportunities in communities.
4. Develop capacity building at all levels in communities.
5. Provide education and training for clients in economic and social development and benefits should reflect the actual cost of living.

NAN advocated for additional funding and program amendments for Ontario Works programs and clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Other Activities

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.

The Department participates in the Jordan's Principle Working Group and the National Jordan's Principle Operations Committee.

The Director of Social Services, also sits on the Confederation College Onajigawin Indigenous Services Program Advisory Committee.

### 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 (COO) 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.
- ▶ NAN Social Services Department continues to advocate for the identified priorities by leadership and community stakeholders.
- ▶ NAN Social Services Department will continue to advocate for social assistance programs to be responsive to the unique needs that arise during a pandemic.

### Jordan's Principle

The Jordan's Principle Team provides information to the public on the availability of Jordan's Principle and what it encompasses. The Team works with Community Coordinators supporting knowledge of Jordan's Principle and how to proceed with the application process. The goal of the work is to build capacity and empowerment in the community.

### Program Activities

NAN continues to work towards the long-term reform of Jordan's Principle to achieve substantive equality and access to equitable culturally appropriate services. With the recent passing of the CHRT 41 amendment, NAN's Jordan's Principle Team offers information and supports successful requests for capital funding to applicants.

NAN provides support to Jordan's Principle Coordinators via a community of practice. Monthly Jordan's Principle drop-in sessions are held where the team discusses relevant topics while building upon their community. Jordan's Principle Coordinators can share successes and support one another while networking as a team. The drop-in sessions provide direction on how community and Tribal Council based Jordan's Principle Coordinators can be best supported. The Jordan's Principle department at NAN provides information, support, and advocacy efforts to assist communities with accessing funding for the purchase of capital assets to support Jordan's Principle services.

NAN supports the Jordan's Principle Coordinators beginning with training and moving to on-going support to navigate requests and the data reporting process. Training sessions are held with ISC for data reporting, allowing coordinators time to ask questions and update their knowledge.

### Other Activities

In February 2022, the Jordan's Principle department held their first Virtual Summit. The Summit offered opportunity for discussions and presentations on relevant topics to Jordan's Principle Community Coordinators and Navigators. With over 100 attendees, the Summit was a success.

NAN Jordan's Principle Team is an active member on the Jordan's Principle Operations Committee facilitated by ISC, supporting meaningful implementation of Jordan's Principle within NAN territory.

The Team also sits on the Jordan's Principle Working Group facilitated by COO.

### Statistics

Last fiscal, 75 Jordan's Principle group requests were funded for NAN communities, Tribal Councils and affiliated organizations

### Highlights

NAN supports Jordan's Principle by supporting Jordan's Principle Community Coordinators and Navigators in NAN communities by:

- ▶ Working with seven Tribal Councils.
- ▶ Providing over 20 Community Coordinators and Navigators with training on data and as well as support.
- ▶ Supporting the work on Jordan's Principle by 39 Community Coordinators and Navigators.



## Family Well-Being Program (FWBp)

### Overview

The 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, training, community programming, safe places, and land-based healing programs.

In 2016, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 16/49: Walking Together Strategy, which led to a three-year agreement with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to coordinate and deliver the FWBp. NAN entered into agreements with 47 First Nations to provide allocations to each community. In November of 2019, NAN received notification from the MCCSS confirming the FWBp will be evergreen funding, meaning ongoing with no end date. The FWBp 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.

Community FWBp continue to adhere to safety protocols set out by community leadership for the protection of families and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Communities have shown their resilience by thinking of new ways of offering activities and programs such as smaller group programs, radio shows, virtual events and, online activities.

The FWBp is in its 7th year of implementation. This is a grassroots program where communities can create and designed their own program based on their unique needs. A range of programs and services are being delivered at the community level focusing on, but not limited to healthy relationships, family violence prevention, reconnection to land, culture and land-based healing programs, parent supports, creating safe spaces, life skills, one on one supports, family needs, group supports and community events.

## Program Activities

**Family Well-Being Week:** NAN FWBp proclaimed July 4-10, 2021, Family Well-Being Week. The FWBp Team planned a virtual gathering July 5-9, to inspire and uplift coordinators with several well-known presenters, inspirational speakers, and performers. Communities showed their creativity, planning local events to promote family bonding, healthy connections and a sense of belonging, while continuing to follow safety protocols. Some examples of activities and events planned were:

- ▶ community cookouts.
- ▶ fishing derbies.
- ▶ baseball tournaments.
- ▶ volleyball tournaments.
- ▶ land-based camping for families and youth.
- ▶ picking & harvesting medicines.
- ▶ preparing & cooking traditional foods.
- ▶ gospel jamborees.
- ▶ karaoke contests.
- ▶ family scavenger hunts.
- ▶ social media games and contests.
- ▶ family radio shows.
- ▶ family photo contests.
- ▶ beach days.

Promotional items were mailed out to encourage connection and fellowship.

**Regional Meetings:** The NAN FWBp Team planned and implemented three virtual trainings for community coordinators in October and November 2021. The training focused on:

1. Father Engagement: inspirational success stories, program support for men and youth.
2. Personal Inspiration and Empowerment with Author Katherine Bridge: Overview of her book "What Are You Here to Heal", group work and discussion.
3. Program Development: reviewing program goals, objectives, prevention versus crisis and training on reporting.

**Annual FWBP Conference:** The NAN FWBp Team hosted their Annual Conference virtually on March 1-4, 2022. Celebrating Families was the theme this year, and highlighted Elders teachings, youth empowerment, mother encouragement and father engagement. Each day focused on roles and responsibilities, teachings, self-care, and inspirational success stories. Speakers included NAN leaders, community role models, youth and women's council members, and program supports. Community partners and allies such as Child Welfare Prevention Workers, Choose Life and Community Wellness front-line workers were invited to participate, with a total attendance of 250-300 over the five days.

**Customary Care Funding:** Prevention-focused funding in 2021-22 was made available to each FWB Community Program intended to subsidize customary care in cases where a child would benefit from an alternative caregiver arrangement but where there are no protection concerns.

**Program Supplies and Resources:** Over the past year the following program supplies and resources were shipped to each FWB community program: laptops/printers with supplies, variety of hide/fur with supplies, beads, assortment of boardgames, crafts, puzzles, activities, winter parkas, mitts, toques for Coordinators and giveaway items for families such as journals, toques, pens, mugs, a back scratcher, magnets, and wall calendars.

**Virtual Training and Ongoing Support:** Weekly virtual coordinator drop-ins continue every Thursday afternoon providing support and updates, sharing information, and networking. Monthly information sessions and supports started in March focusing on Grief and Loss with author Katherine Bridge.

**COVID-19 Support:** Personal protective equipment and supplies were shipped to each FWBp. Supplies included rapid tests, triple layer masks, alcohol free hand sanitizer, Lysol wipes and face shields. Cleaning hampers were also shipped to communities who require additional COVID-19 supports. Communities have the flexibility to use FWBp funding for COVID-19 related expenditures, emergency purposes and supports.

## Next Steps – Moving Forward

- ▶ 6th Annual Family Well-Being Week is planned from July 3-9, 2022. Events will include Wawatay ads promoting Family Well-Being Week, radio commercials, live radio show, and launching the FWB program Facebook Page.
- ▶ Launch of the Family Well-Being Program website.
- ▶ Plan regional meetings for the fall of 2022.
- ▶ Train the FWBp Team on Leadership Team Coaching Development with Drew Soleyn, based on the John Maxwell's Program and book "Everyone Communicates, and Few Connect".
- ▶ Train FWBp Coordinators on women's and men's roles and responsibilities. The event scheduled on May 9 will focus on mother encouragement. The event on June 23 will focus on father engagement.
- ▶ Continue to assist and support community coordinators in providing effective programming for families including training, completing reports, submitting agreements, and responding to community requests.
- ▶ Strategic planning and annual review of the FWBp

## Choose Life Program

The NAN Choose Life Program began in April 2017, and is currently operating in its fifth year. Choose Life is intended for youth, 18 and under, at risk of suicide by providing funding to access mental health professionals or services, as well as address well-being through land-based programming and cultural activities. The funding streams from Indigenous Services Canada (FNIHB) through the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative.

As of March 31, 2022, 33 Choose Life applications have been submitted to ISC for the 2022-2023 fiscal year: 32 of these applications have been approved providing funding to 17 NAN communities, 13 Tribal Councils and education organizations supporting NAN youth mental health. Two applications are currently "under review", with one counted as received. Choose Life has received funding that has benefited 22,183 youth across NAN territory.

NAN annually submits a Choose Life Application for funding with ISC to carry out the necessary tasks to support NAN communities and organizations with their Choose Life funding requests, to navigate the choose life specialized processes and to promote mental health training and networking opportunities for Choose Life Workers and youth.

The NAN Choose Life Team engages in regular discussions with ISC Choose Life Focal Point for regular updates and to review the simplicity and effectiveness of the Choose Life Application Process. The NAN Choose Life Team, under the supervision of the Choose Life Program Manager, and with the direction of the Director of Social Services, are all working to ensure this funding is committed going forward and to address barriers that have been identified with the process.

Two evaluations have been completed to review the program and its effects on NAN youth. Findings suggest that there is an ongoing support and need for Choose Life programming to continue. On March 11, 2021, the Choose Life Mid-Term Report, prepared by Queen's University's Faculty of Health Sciences Professional Development and Educational Scholarship, was submitted to ISC Minister Marc Miller to advocate for Choose Life to become a permanently funded program.

## Program Activities

**Choose Life Video:** This video was launched on April 30, 2021 and showcases Choose Life programming in action. The video includes testimony from the youth it serves and coordinators from the communities.

**Virtual Networking:** This virtual platform hosted by the NAN Choose Life Team to provide Community Coordinators and frontline workers the opportunity to share updates and brainstorm ideas. These monthly meetings also allow for connection and fun, with a focus on finding appropriate mental health resources to support NAN youth. There has been a variety of coordinators that attend.

**Virtual Events:** NAN Choose Life hosted two virtual events for the youth to attend, participate and engage with facilitators that were presenting. Games were played and breakout sessions for program development were implemented. The various knowledge keepers and artists utilized included:

- ▶ Harry Mack.
- ▶ Shibastik.
- ▶ Youth empowerment speakers.
- ▶ Entrepreneurs from the territory.
- ▶ Engaged – A local media business assisted with the resources to navigate the Zoom platform.
  - September 2021 – Animkii Abinoojiihn Thunder Child – A Choose Life Virtual Event
  - February 2022- Future Generations Virtual Gathering

**Speaker Series:** Virtual events to host inspirational Indigenous speakers from across the nation and locally. Speakers hosted from January – March 2022 (there are plans to continue this series throughout the year) have been:

- ▶ Zongwe Binesikwe, Sounding Thunderbird Woman, a 2-Spirit Anishinaabe storyteller, Nurse Practitioner and spiritual artist.
- ▶ Ashley Moreau presented on navigating 2SLGBTQI+ Life & Creating Positive Spaces presentation, previous member of Thunder Pride.
- ▶ Earl Lambert, a Cree/Métis Warrior who continues to live out his passion as a motivational speaker and inspirational storyteller.
- ▶ Conway Kootenay, a Comedian, MC, Actor, Stunt Man and Champion Chicken Dancer.
- ▶ Kendal Netmaker, an award-winning entrepreneur, author, and gifted keynote speaker who is on a mission to empower and motivate people worldwide by sharing his story that regardless of where you come from and what challenges you face, you have the power to enact change.

**Orientation Training Program:** NAN Choose Life is developing an Orientation Training Program for new Community Coordinators. This training will be hosted monthly and will also be available upon request. The information presented are resources compiled from ISC documents and our resources from the Reports from Lakehead University- Centre for Rural and Northern Research and Queens University.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM):** The AGM was originally planned for February 2022 but was postponed and is now anticipated to take place in the fall of 2022. The intention of the Inaugural Choose Life All-Partner AGM is to come together in a meaningful way to acknowledge the origin of the NAN Choose Life Program. Those attending the AGM will:

- ▶ Celebrate the accomplishments and successes to date.
- ▶ Strengthen the partnerships between ISC.
- ▶ Develop a collaborative path forward, between NAN and community stakeholders, for the successful future of the Choose Life Program.
- ▶ Provide the opportunity for leadership and Community Coordinators to raise questions to ISC and NAN through a panel session.

## Other Activities

**Bell Let's Talk:** Wednesday January 26, 2022

The NAN Choose Life team and NAN Communications is preparing for the social media Bell Let's Talk awareness campaign that addresses stigma surrounding mental illness.

**World Suicide Prevention Day:** September 10, 2021

World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10 each year to promote worldwide action to prevent suicides. Various events and activities are held during this occasion to raise awareness that suicide is a major preventable cause of premature death.

World Suicide Prevention Day gives organizations, government agencies and individuals a chance to promote awareness about suicide, mental illnesses associated with suicide, as well as suicide prevention. NAN Choose Life hosted and highlighted this day with short presentations by Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse, an Elder and a member from the Oshkaatisak youth council, an awareness walk and ended with a bagged lunch.

NAN Choose Life also provide ongoing support to community staff on a regular basis, with various information and resources throughout the fiscal year.



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 towards the completion of the SpaceX Starlink Connectivity Project, providing one-year of internet service to students in NAN communities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## SpaceX Starlink Connectivity Project

Mandate

Resolution 20/11: Support for Broadband Upgrades COVID-19 Global Pandemic - "Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly support broadband upgrades to increase community capacity to support the delivery of online services required due to the COVID-19 pandemic".

Key Issues

- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased health risks in delivering in-person services.
- ▶ Many services that would typically be delivered in person on reserve or in urban cities were moved to online platforms such as: education, health, justice, etc.
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the inequity faced by Indigenous children living on reserve in accessing broadband for online education. Online learning became mandatory during the pandemic and without a proper broadband connection, students on reserve can not participate.
- ▶ Broadband connections are also necessary to remotely monitor community infrastructure systems, such as Water Treatment Plants.
- ▶ The current fiber network serving NAN territory has exceeded its capacity and requires significant upgrades to improve connection speeds for NAN communities and achieve the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commissions (CRTC) Universal Service Objective of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload speeds

Key Activities

- ▶ NAN Executive Council are updated upon request.
- ▶ Frequent meetings and calls are scheduled with all NAN communities and leadership and external partners. External partners include FSET, K-Net, Western James Bay Telecom Network (WJBTN), Ministry of Education and others.
- ▶ Each community requires a slightly different process to get participation started. A collaborative system has been created to track and document community participation online.
- ▶ Each NAN community determines how they would like to engage with the Project based on community need.
- ▶ 38 out of 49 NAN communities are currently engaged in some element of the project.
- ▶ To date, NAN has received and shipped approximately 800 Starlink units to 19 NAN communities. Each Starlink unit was shipped to community with a pipe adaptor, cable kit and J-mount to mount the dishes securely and safely to each home.
- ▶ NAN will continue to procure and deliver Starlink units until the end of the Project timeline.
- ▶ As NAN communities continue to sign up for the Starlink Service, units, accessories, and mounting hardware are delivered to the community. Deliveries are made through Northstar Air, Wasaya, Canada Post and Purolator.
- ▶ NAN is currently working with Project partners to begin the initial steps of upgrading IT architecture required to improve remote learning access for NAN schools.
- ▶ NAN staff continue to liaison with K-Net and WJBTN to maintain good working relationships and ensure that impacts to community revenue streams are minimized wherever possible.

Next Steps

- ▶ Continue to deploy Starlink units to NAN communities.
- ▶ Work with communities to ensure that Starlink units are installed in a secure, safe and sustainable manner.
- ▶ Work with community Education Directors and Education Authorities to prioritize and plan IT architecture upgrades for NAN schools.
- ▶ Develop advocacy plan for maintaining funded service for Starlink units past the initial on-year service agreement provided by the Starlink Angel Accounts.

Other Activities

- ▶ Begin planning process for a promotional community trip to highlight the benefits of Starlink deployment and IT architecture upgrades in NAN.

Highlights

Community	Number of homes connected
Brunswick House	22
Cat Lake	28
Eabametoong	31
Ginoogaming	32
Lac Seul	60
Marten Falls	49
Matachewan	15
Mattagami	22
Neskantaga	60
Nibinamik	60
Webequie	53
Deer Lake	50
Keewaywin	57
Poplar Hill	60
Sachigo	49
Weenusk	30
Bearskin	51
Aroland	36
Wawakapewin	4

## 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**

- ▶ Transport Canada provided funding for small air carriers and airports to support COVID-19 measures and ensure continuity of essential shipments during the pandemic.
- ▶ NAN, through the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (IAO) Relationship Table, has requested the cooperation of the MTO in conducting a Capital Needs and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Assessment of all 29 remote northern airports to identify deficiencies and future upgrades required to meet the needs of the communities they serve.
- ▶ NAN has become a member of the MTO's Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force (NOTTF) to inform the ongoing implementation of and updates to the Northern Ontario Transportation Plan; the forum will allow NAN to raise issues unique to NAN territory (road, rail, air) and provide input that will improve the safety of transportation in northern Ontario.

**Next Steps**

- ▶ NAN will continue to advocate for Transport Canada funding for small carriers and airports to be extended into 2022 with the pandemic not resolved and passenger volumes remaining substantially lower than normal.
- ▶ NAN will raise transportation issues unique to the territory through the MTO's NOTTF and advocate for improvements to transportation safety in northern Ontario.
- ▶ Advocacy will continue at both levels of government for the funds needed to support remote airport infrastructure improvements, additional staffing, and improved navigational technology.
- ▶ 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 performed 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**

- ▶ NAN has brought this issue forward to the IAO Relationship Table and requested the MTO discuss potential solutions with the CRA.
- ▶ NAN has connected the appropriate parties at the CRA and the MTO to discuss a permanent solution to the airport employee taxation and are awaiting a decision from the CRA.
- ▶ Currently, all affected employees or previous employees in the past ten years, including retired staff, must file an Objection and Adjustment request with the CRA annually to receive reimbursement of payroll tax.
- ▶ The affected employees that have filed with the CRA have been receiving their payroll tax reimbursements.

**Next Steps**

- ▶ NAN will continue to assist all affected employees in pursuing this ruling with the CRA.
- ▶ NAN will continue to advocate for a permanent ruling to eliminate remote airport employee taxation until it has been resolved.

**February 5, 2022**

*NAN joins community in mourning as three young victims of tragic house fire laid to rest in Sandy Lake First Nation.*



## 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 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 consistently receiving semi-annual safety inspections.

**Key Activities**

- ▶ Transport Canada has mandated commercial drivers be required to have electronic logging devices on their vehicles as of June 12, 2021. The system will now allow the MTO to track driver hours accurately and ensure regulations are being followed.
- ▶ The MTO has increased inspection frequency of buses, school purpose vehicles and accessible vehicles to semi-annually, rather than annually.
- ▶ 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.
  - Winter road safety, driver training and enforcement.
- ▶ NAN has become a member of the MTO's Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force (NOTTF) to inform the ongoing implementation of and updates to the Northern Ontario Transportation Plan; NAN has provided input to the MTO's NOTTF regarding improvements to commercial vehicle safety and highway maintenance as it relates to our mandates.

**Next Steps**

- ▶ NAN will continue to raise concerns through the MTO's NOTTF regarding commercial vehicle safety in northern Ontario and issues unique to NAN territory.
- ▶ NAN will continue advocacy to ISC and NDMNRF regarding improvements to commercial driver training to include a winter driving component and safety improvements to winter road travel.
- ▶ Work will continue collaboratively with the MTO Commercial Vehicle Safety Division to identify changes required to current legislation to improve commercial vehicle safety.



**February 15, 2022**

*NAN advocates for First Nation pandemic protocols to be respected as provincial COVID-19 restrictions ease.*

## 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 mandated 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 has still not completed the work necessary to lift all Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories in NAN territory.
- ▶ The Federal Government has still not committed to the repeal of the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act.
- ▶ O&M funding for water and wastewater treatment facilities continues to be insufficient for operating and maintaining this infrastructure to provincial standards.

**Key Activities**

- ▶ Completed a NAN Water Needs Assessment Report in partnership with Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
- ▶ The Infrastructure & Housing Department is working with NAN communities and Tribal Councils to increase members’ knowledge and skills to more accurately evaluate drinking water systems, determine the gaps in funding for O&M of water systems, and determine a path forward for better source water protection.
- ▶ NAN staff continues to host regular Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment calls with Tribal Council Technical Leads, Independent First Nation Representatives, ISC, MECP, OFNTSC and Assembly of First Nations (AFN).
- ▶ Continue to provide input to AFN and Chiefs of Ontario (COO) on O&M reform and Bill S-8 Repeal and Replacement efforts.

**Next Steps**

- ▶ Pursue other avenues for funding. Currently no funded water or wastewater projects within the NAN Infrastructure, Housing and Emergency Management Department.
- ▶ Continue to organize meetings 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.
- ▶ Continue to support NAN First Nations when they request project assistance or community infrastructure support.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Infrastructure and Housing - Fire Safety and Emergency Management

## OVERVIEW

Fire safety is one of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)'s top priorities and the Infrastructure and Housing Department has been working diligently aligning our work with the resolutions, concerns from Chiefs and the devastating fire-related losses the people of NAN experience. NAN has been working closely with both levels of government, the Assembly of First Nations, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, while seeking guidance from the communities and Tribal Councils in determining the best way to increase fire safety in NAN. We are building off the interest the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign created and are looking to increase the effectiveness of the campaign. The Woodstove Exchange Program happening in six NAN communities is well underway and will offer homes a more energy efficient and safer source of heat. NAN is in the process of developing a Trilateral Table with both levels of government, with a goal of creating a NAN-wide Fire and Emergency Management Service that will reduce many of the current service gaps as well as education, prevention, and suppression capabilities.



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

## Mandate:

## Resolution 16/35: Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

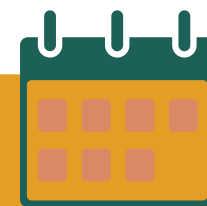
- ▶ On May 19, 2016, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly launched Amber's Fire Safety Campaign (AFSC) to increase fire safety and help prevent tragic house fires that have devastated our communities and claimed far too many lives. AFSC continues to promote the campaign in NAN First Nations through four pillars: education,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

## Key Issues

- ▶ Within NAN territory, tragic house fires continue to devastate families due to lack of fire protection infrastructure as well as inadequate housing.
- ▶ On March 29, 2016, a house fire in Pikangikum First Nation resulted in the tragic loss of nine lives. A house fire in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug claimed the lives of a family of five in 2019. In June 2020, another house fire in Muskrat Dam First Nation resulted in severe burn injuries to two adults. Most recently a house fire claimed the lives of three children ages 4, 6 and 9 in Sandy Lake First Nation on January 13, 2022.
- ▶ These tragic accidents have not stopped happening and more fire prevention education and fire protection resources are needed in NNA First Nations.
- ▶ Through Amber's Fire Safety Campaign, NAN hopes to increase fire safety awareness within the territory.

## Key Activities

- ▶ 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, "Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada 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 2020-2021 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 in communities at NAN First Nation schools.
- ▶ NAN continues to coordinate the Amber's Fire Safety Campaign Working Group that consists of ISC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Tribal Councils, 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 provide guidance and discuss and review campaign updates and initiatives.
- ▶ Since 2016, 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. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign has not been able to provide any additional fire prevention education in-person in 2021.
- ▶ The campaign develops and prints multiple fire safety education resources available online at: <https://www.nan.ca/resources/fire-safety/>
- ▶ In 2021, NAN also released a 5-year update report that highlighted the campaigns recent activities since it was established in 2016.



## February 5, 2022

NAN joins community in mourning as three young victims of tragic house fire laid to rest in Sandy Lake First Nation.

## March 18, 2022

NAN welcomes Court ruling that a video depicting the racist and degrading treatment of an Indigenous man by the Thunder Bay Police Service will be considered at Mamakwa-McKay inquest.



### Next Steps

- ▶ NAN submitted a proposal to continue AFSC in 2020-21 to Indigenous Services Canada that did not receive funding.
- ▶ In 2022-23, NAN plans to submit another proposal to Indigenous Services Canada to continue the mandate of increasing fire safety and helping to prevent tragic house fires in NAN territory.

### Other Activities Supporting Amber's Fire Safety Campaign

- ▶ 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 transitioned 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.
- ▶ NAN met with NIFSC in 2021 to review fire safety programs current offered by NIFSC and has provided some input into programming relevant to NAN First Nations.
- ▶ For more information: <https://indigenousfiresafety.ca/>



## NAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

### Mandate

- ▶ **Resolution 19/30:** *NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service*
- ▶ In 2020, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the NAN Executive Council to seek resources and funding in partnership with governments to advance emergency management training and capacity at the First Nations level equivalent to that offered elsewhere in the province, complete and assess historic emergencies and emergency management resources within NAN territory, develop a culturally appropriate and accessible training program and platform that meets provincial standards.
- ▶ Furthermore, they are directed to review emergency management policy inclusive of the NAN 1997 Protocol Agreement to develop partnerships and practices that are culturally appropriate and meet the needs of NAN First Nations focusing on the development of more resilient communities. Also, NAN shall work with existing emergency management coordinators and initiatives at the First Nations and Tribal Council levels. Finally, the implementation of this Resolution is to be used to inform and develop the basis for a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service.

### Key Issues

- ▶ Emergencies such as the Bearskin Lake First Nation flooding in November 2019, have highlighted the gaps in emergency management within NAN territory. According to a report by the Assembly of First Nations (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.
- ▶ These emergencies are only increasing in frequency, severity and duration with the compounding effects of climate change.

### Update on NAN Resolution 19/30

- ▶ To potentially establish a NAN-wide Fire and Emergency Management Service, NAN is in discussions with both the federal and provincial governments to create a First Nations Emergency Management Trilateral Table. This table would allow for open dialogue and accountability between NAN and both levels of government regarding First Nations fire safety and emergency management. The creation of a First Nations-led emergency management service is a crucial part of saving lives and property in NAN First Nations. NAN will ensure that proper engagements and consultation will occur with NAN First Nations and partners to identify their priority areas within NAN territory once the First Nations Emergency Management Trilateral Table has been established.

### Next Steps

- ▶ Continue discussions with the federal and provincial governments to establish the First Nations Emergency Management Trilateral Table.
- ▶ Once the First Nations Emergency Management Trilateral Table is established, begin engagements with communities and partners to identify priority areas for fire safety and emergency management on-reserve.



**March 30, 2022**

*NAN joins Indigenous leaders calling on Ontario to eliminate systemic racism and take action on Thunder Bay Police Service to protect all citizens.*

## NAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Mandate

**Resolution 20/10:** *First Nations Emergency Management*

### Key Activities

- ▶ The NAN Infrastructure and Housing Department worked with ISC to negotiate a three-year agreement for two capacity positions, Emergency Management Advisor and Emergency Management Officer, to provide additional emergency management advocacy, supports, training and education to communities. These positions will report to the Housing and Infrastructure Director and work will be based upon the four pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. These additional positions will complement existing supports that NAN has in place for communities in crisis.
- ▶ Work will take place to complete an assessment on the emergency response infrastructure and capacity, the level of operations and maintenance funding, complete a data history of emergencies and hazard occurrences in NAN communities, complete a review of the current emergency management system in Ontario, and establish standards of the same or higher quality as elsewhere in Canada that are culturally appropriate to the unique needs of NAN communities. This baseline data will be used to develop a NAN Fire and Emergency Management Service for NAN First Nations that will build on current Amber's Fire Safety Campaign partnerships to ensure continued support through the development stages. A Trilateral Terms of Reference inclusive of a high-level steering committee and technical level working group will be established to guide all work under this mandate.
- ▶ 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 Agreement presents the opportunity to revise the agreement based on the pillars of preparation, mitigation, response and recovery 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 ongoing First Nation concerns from the original 1997 "Emergency Response and Evacuations Protocol Agreement" document.

- ▶ Key achievements since the establishment of these positions include internal updating various documents including NAN Corporate Continuity and Pandemic Plan. Through membership on the NAN COVID-19 Task Team the Department assisted in the development of the Continuous Care Pathway, NAN Critical Preparedness Readiness and Response Actions and the Framework for Easing Restrictions, Community resource development inclusive of Community COVID-19 Pandemic Plan Template, Community Evacuation Guidelines, First Nations Host Site Guidance Document During COVID-19, Community Lockdown Drill Guidelines, Community Information for Evacuations, as well as access to free online Incident Management System 100 training course.
- ▶ 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 a First Nations Organization's representative and Indigenous Affairs Ontario and focuses on region specific emergency management issues and concerns.
- ▶ NAN established a Flood and Fire Planning Table February 2021 for all the NAN Tribal Council Emergency Management Coordinators that meet bi-weekly. This table engages with Emergency Management Ontario and hosts communities on seasonal operations planning for emergencies and evacuations.
- ▶ NAN attends all NAN community emergency related teleconferences and participates on emergency planning tables such as the NAN Specific Trilateral Table, Evacuation Site Facility Table, Hudson and James Bay Spring Flood Situational Awareness, JEMS 2021 Review, Hosting Criteria Development Working Group.

- ▶ In February 2021, NAN virtually hosted the first annual First Nations Emergency Management Conference that received over 150 participants. The conference was a two-day orientation to First Nations Emergency Management in Ontario and all the parties who are involved in the work with emphasis on preparation, mitigation and youth initiatives.
- ▶ NAN established the NAN Emergency Response email account in March 2020 for community enquiries and information on emergency management related matters. The account is monitored by the Emergency Management Officer who will either respond personally or direct the email to the appropriate NAN department to access the most in-depth and accurate information for provision of response.

### Next Steps

- ▶ NAN is developing, under the title of "Nishnawbe Aski Emergency Awareness Initiative", an emergency management website that will provide a platform for resource sharing, networking, updates as well as a NAN developed Emergency Management training course that will be free to access. Also in development, with Tribal Council support, are promotional materials inclusive of evacuation checklist fridge magnets and flood, forest fire and evacuation awareness posters for distribution to NAN communities in spring of 2021. NAN will also begin posting emergency awareness messages on social media platforms.
- ▶ NAN is working on youth initiatives in partnership with Northern College and Preparing Our Home to expose and recruit First Nations youth to careers within emergency management and services.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

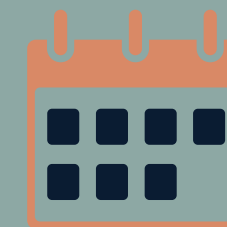
### Federal Government's Proposed Emergency Management Response Model

The federal government, through ISC, has developed a new response model for First Nations Emergency Management in Ontario. This model may allow for multiple options on emergency response during First Nation emergencies. Several First Nations, as well as the provincial and federal government, are available to lead an emergency at the request of the community, as resources permit.

NAN is seeking input on this proposed response model provided by ISC. NAN was not involved in the creation of this response model, and has not provided any input on this response model since it had been introduced to NAN. As well, NAN is unaware if ISC has consulted with any of the groups included in this response model.

### Work Moving Forward

- ▶ Discuss the response model created by ISC.
- ▶ Prepare feedback, responses, or any other information provided by NAN Chiefs, communities, and partners to communicate to ISC regarding their proposed response model.



**April 1, 2022**

*NAN acknowledges apology by Pope Francis for abuses suffered at Indian Residential Schools, calls for continuation of healing initiatives and activities for Survivors and descendants.*



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

# Infrastructure and Housing - Housing Update

## 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 2014, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly declared a Collective Housing Emergency, describing existing conditions as “deplorable” as a result of limited housing lifespans, overcrowding and extreme mold growth amongst other factors. In 2018, Chiefs-in-Assembly reaffirmed the ongoing housing emergency and mandated 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”.

Development of the NAN Housing Strategy began in September 2018 with the release of a NAN Housing Position Paper written in response to First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy. In early 2019, NAN successfully applied to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)’s National Housing Strategy – Solutions Lab funding to develop NAN Housing Strategy over a three-year project that proposed a path forward for creating community self-determination in housing. NAN partnered with Toronto Metropolitan University’s (formally Ryerson University) Together Design Lab in developing the strategy. This project began to define the scope of housing needs across NAN First Nations identified through workshops and seminars in

communities to develop housing metrics and overall support 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.

Upon completion of this project in 2021, a roadmap to implement the NAN Housing Strategy was developed with seven themes for action. The implementation of the NAN Housing Strategy will be presented to NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2022 and a mandate will be sought to continue work on addressing the housing emergency in NAN First Nations.

Objectives in developing the NAN Housing Strategy 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 needs, 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

- ▶ NAN’s project entitled “Developing Appropriate First Nation Housing Metrics: Nishnawbe Aski Nation” funded by CMHC National Housing Strategy - Solution Labs was completed in 2021, resulting in the development of the NAN Housing Strategy and a roadmap for implementation.
- ▶ NAN applied to CMHC’s National Housing Strategy - Housing Supply Challenge Round Two in 2021 for a project entitled “Community-Led Designs for Specialized Housing in the North.” This project was successfully shortlisted in the Stage 1 application process and will be submitting a Stage 2 application due June 15, 2022.
- If the Stage 2 application is successful, NAN will work in partnership with First Nations, Tribal Councils, and licensed architectural firms to develop “shovel ready” housing plans for community members identified as in greatest need of specialized housing: single adults, those in need of supports (Elders, people living with disabilities) and those in need of emergency housing.
- ▶ NAN continued work in its subprojects supporting the development of the NAN Housing Strategy.

## Next Steps

- ▶ Present roadmap to implement the NAN Housing Strategy at a Chiefs Assembly in 2022.

## Activities Supporting NAN Housing Strategy

During the development of the NAN Housing Strategy, the Project Team began subprojects that supported the housing and infrastructure needs identified by NAN First Nations. The following subprojects supporting the NAN Housing Strategy are listed below with updates:

## Community-Led Designs for Specialized Housing in the North

- ▶ CMHC’s Housing Supply Challenge is a national Challenge that aims to remove or reduce barriers that hinder housing supply across Canada. The Challenge will take place over five years and \$300 million in funding will be awarded to projects
- ▶ NAN applied to CMHC’s National Housing Strategy - Housing Supply Challenge Round Two’s Getting Started Round: Pre-development Process and was successful in being shortlisted in Stage 1 application process and will be submitting a Stage 2 application due June 15, 2022.
- ▶ Round Two of the Housing Supply Challenge Pre-development activities include everything that brings a housing project from idea to the start of construction.
- ▶ Successful applicants cannot spend any grant funding on capital projects (ex. building housing units, home modifications or infrastructure), proposed projects can only use funding for research and development of solutions to overcome barriers faced before construction begins.
- ▶ The project application was built from input from NAN Housing Strategy engagements over past three years, who identified that certain populations in communities were left out of the housing continuum and living in overcrowded situations, under-housed or experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ NAN’s project aims to the develop of “shovel ready” housing toolkits tailored to specific NAN populations identified as experiencing the greatest housing need:
  - Single adults.
  - Housing with supports.
  - Emergency housing.
- ▶ For each specific population, co-creation teams will be created and comprised of NAN members with lived experience and professional frontline workers that are specifically tailored to the needs of the target populations. These teams will co-create these “shovel ready” housing toolkits for NAN First Nations to use

in constructing specialized housing in the north.

- ▶ A technical team will then provide support in ensuring that the designs are easy to implement yet flexible to NAN's climates, cultures and geographies.
- ▶ If NAN is successful in the Stage 2 application process, NAN will be advised in August-September 2022 and work will begin immediately.

#### True Cost of Housing in the North

- ▶ Following recommendations from community workshops and Chiefs and Councils, the NAN Housing Strategy is seeking to identify the true cost of building and completing housing projects across NAN territory.
- ▶ Numerous housing professionals have identified that there is a growing gap between government funding and the total cost to build an adequate home. This sub-project is working with Tribal Councils and individual communities to identify housing costs from the last few years to advocate for increased funding that recognizes the growing materials, freight and labour costs experienced by First Nations.
- ▶ In March 2022, a short survey was sent to all communities to identify: current housing wait lists, types of future housing planned, number of existing or serviceable lots, and future growth plans.

#### Creating a Home for our Youth

- ▶ Creating a Home for Our Youth is a response to the overwhelming feedback of NAN Housing Strategy participants that youth are facing the least equitable housing outcomes.
- ▶ This project will focus on the experiences of NAN youth (age 15-29), their interactions with institutions and their journey to access safe housing. Youth, both on and off-reserve, are struggling to secure adequate and appropriate housing and it is having significant impact on their well-being. This project looks to understand from the perspective of youth what solutions are most needed and desired.
- ▶ In particular, we will co-examine the housing being provided through a number of institutions (education, healthcare, child and family services, policing) which force youth out of their communities and look to understand how it can be evaluated and improved.
- ▶ The interviews began in May 2021 and have been completed virtually. To date 17 virtual interviews have been completed with youth, aged 14-29, and five virtual interviews completed with service providers. The goal is to complete at least 25 youth interviews.

- ▶ In April 2021, a Youth Workshop was hosted to introduce the research project to NAN youth and request that individuals who are interested in participating reach out to the project team.

#### A Home of My Own

- ▶ A Home of My Own looks to pilot a design and build process for youth-specific housing in NAN First Nations. Based on a co-design process undertaken with youth from NAN territory, this house will respond to their specific needs while being appropriate for local climate and geography.
- ▶ In response to NAN communities identifying youth as in great need of housing, NAN and its partner Together Design Lab developed a prototype design in 2020-2021 with youth input from housing design workshops held at the annual NAN Youth Gatherings and with youth in community. Over 100 youth housing designs were collected at these events and analysed.
- ▶ The current design continues to be a prototype and will be refined so it can be made available to all interested communities.
- ▶ This work was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will resume once it is safe to enter communities.
- ▶ The project intends to continue to the next stage in 2022-2023, where youth will be engaged throughout a building process with the pilot acting as a learning-lab to develop skills and understanding in construction systems, energy efficiency and building science.
- ▶ Multiple partners will be engaged in the construction of this small home to ensure maximum benefit for the community while developing the framework for other small home builds in NAN territory.
- ▶ While the pilot has been co-designed with youth for youth, it is hoped that adaptations of the pilot can be adapted to meet other community-identified needs. When possible, work will continue with identified populations to adapt this design for greater impact.

#### Recording Our Truth

- ▶ Recording Our Truth began in Fall 2021 and looks to trace how understandings of home have changed in NAN territory and document how the concept of home can be an important tool in building community wellness moving forward. Through a series of interviews with NAN Elders, Knowledge Holders and other members with special lived experience we will record changes to the concept of home and changes that have taken place over their lifetime as it relates to the histories of the current housing emergency. Creating maps and other visual tools across a variety of scales, the learnings from this project will:
  - Record and map individual and community experiences of landscape change resulting from increased government intervention in housing and land use systems.
  - Identify the values, objectives, and processes that led to the changes between built forms, home and physical environments historically and currently.
  - Demonstrate how the built environment and landscape can become part of a long-term plan towards community well-being and self-determination.
- ▶ Participant interviews will contribute to demonstrating the need for locally based understandings of home to guide the housing system. Six personal history interviews have been completed with Elders so far with more planned in 2022.

#### Immediate Housing & Infrastructure Needs Technical Report 1.0

- ▶ In 2019, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly requested that NAN develop an immediate housing needs proposal as the development of the NAN Housing Strategy was a longer, three-year project. An initial model of current housing need in NAN territory was developed in partnership with Together Design Lab and presented to NAN Chiefs at the Spring Chiefs Assembly in May 7-8, 2019, for review. Feedback was given at the time to further develop the immediate needs model to include housing-related infrastructure.
- ▶ In 2020, a review and analysis of existing data was undertaken to generate an aggregated estimate of current housing and infrastructure need in NAN territory. Findings of the current model

include: current and target average housing densities, replacement need of existing housing units, family characteristics, linear infrastructure estimates, water, wastewater and waste management upgrades and emergency housing units. Together, these variables are used to provide a base estimate of housing and infrastructure need across NAN territory.

- ▶ This 2020 review was refined in 2021 and will be presented to NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2022 as a living document to be updated on an annual basis.
- ▶ Findings from the calculations present a range of estimated need for housing and infrastructure in NAN territory. Housing estimates include number of replacement units needed plus additional new units. Using ISC data housing need ranges from 4,481 to 7,588 housing units whereas Statistics Canada data yields 2,434 to 4,613 housing units as needed across NAN Territory. While each data source provides a range of numbers, the analysis demonstrates a significant and immediate need.
- ▶ Additionally, current infrastructure for water and wastewater was evaluated using scores from ISC Annual Performance Inspection Results Report and age of infrastructure. Waste management infrastructure was tested based on General Condition Rating and age using the NAN Waste Management Infrastructure Asset and Practices Assessment Final Report. Through these tests, 16 water, 22 wastewater and 11 waste management systems were identified as needing replacement. The tests assume that if a system is currently in need of replacement, it will not be able to accommodate future growth, suggesting a minimum level of investment required.
- ▶ Further study through an infrastructure needs assessment is required to understand the full infrastructure gap.



**April 10, 2022**

*NAN honours life of long-serving leader and Elder Gregory Koostachin, of Attawapiskat First Nation.*



OTHER ACTIVITIES

**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. The creation of this position paper launched NAN Housing Strategy development.
- ▶ 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 analysis resulted in a 2020 report entitled “Ontario First Nations On-Reserve Housing and Related Infrastructure Needs Technical Report” which identified key findings about Ontario First Nations on-reserve housing and infrastructure-related needs.
- ▶ In 2021, NAN requested aggregate data from AFN and First Nations Information Governance Centre of the NAN First Nations that participated and completed the survey to help support the development of the NAN Housing Strategy and support modelling for immediate housing and infrastructure needs on-reserve.
- ▶ In early 2022, NAN acquired aggregate data from the AFN housing survey completed in 2019-2020 as 34 NAN First Nations responded. The aggregate supplement the work of the Immediate Housing & Infrastructure Needs Technical Report 1.0.
- ▶ A key finding from the survey identified only 106 serviced lots available in 26 communities that responded. With only 106 lots available and housing need of up to 7,588 units identified in Immediate Housing & Infrastructure Needs Technical Report 1.0, there is a severe shortage of available lots and related infrastructure

**Chiefs of Ontario, Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure**

- ▶ The Director of Housing & Infrastructure sits on the committee as an observer on behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The COO Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure meets every month to review First Nations housing and infrastructure needs in Ontario.

**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.
- ▶ In 2021, NAN completed a study in partnership with Pediatric Respiriologist Dr. Tom Kovesi, Research Investigator at the Children Hospital of Eastern Ontario’s (CHEO) Research Institute as well as Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Health Canada funded by Indigenous Services Canada to evaluate indoor environmental quality relating to respiratory health and related use of health care services in houses of 50-100 children living in four isolated communities within NAN territory.
- ▶ There were four participating communities: Kasabonika First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Nation, Lac Seul First Nation and Sandy Lake First Nation.
- ▶ NAN Infrastructure & Housing Director Michael McKay was part of the research team.
- ▶ The study was published in January 2022 in the Canadian Medical Association Journal entitled Respiratory Morbidity in Indigenous Children in Relation to Housing Conditions in Remote Communities in Northwestern Ontario, linked here: <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/194/3/E80>

# Highlights



**Immediate Housing & Infrastructure Needs Technical Report 1.0**

**Tables pulled from this report:**

**Table 1: New unit breakdown by target density estimate**

Stats Can	New Units	Replacement Unites	Total Houses Needed
TD 3.53	611		2,434
TD 3.07	1,524	1,823	3,347
TD 2.6	2,790		4,613
ISC	New Units	Replacement Units	Total Houses Needed
TD 3.53	2,384		4,481
TD 3.07	3,686	2,097	5,786
TD 2.6	5,492		7,5888

**Table 2: Amount of linear infrastructure needed**

	ISC Data			StatsCan Data		
<b>Target Density</b>	3.53	3.07	2.6	3.53	3.07	2.6
<b>Kilometres</b>	43.3	61.6	89.0	13.1	25.2	45.1

**Table 3: Amount of each infrastructure in need of replacement**

	Water Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment	Waste Management
<b>Number of systems</b>	16	22	11

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

- ▶ The study completed by NAN in partnership with CHEO, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority and other partners found a link between poor indoor air quality in on-reserve housing and poorer health outcomes for children under the age of 4:
  - 25% of the children were medically evacuated for respiratory illness.
  - 21% the children in the study were admitted to hospital during the first two years of life.
  - 85% of houses lacked controlled ventilation, over half had damaged windows, 44% showed water penetration in exterior walls, 6% had immediate safety issues.

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Reclamation and Healing

## OVERVIEW

On May 28, 2021, the remains of 215 children were discovered using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) at the Kamloops Indian Residential School (IRS) site in British Columbia. In response to this and other findings that followed, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 21/10: Strategic Response to the Identification of Unmarked Graves and the Recovery of Missing Nishnawbe Aski Nation Children from Indian Residential Schools which mandated the creation of the NAN Reclamation and Healing Department and the Survivors and Families Empowerment (SAFE) Council.

Over the history of IRS, there were over 139 schools across Canada with 18 schools in Ontario. In NAN territory, there were seven schools and include:

1. Bishop Horden Hall (Moose Fort, Moose Factory), Moose Factory Island
2. Chapleau (St. John's), Chapleau
3. Cristal Lake, Northwestern Ontario
4. Pelican Lake (Pelican Falls), Sioux Lookout
5. Poplar Hill, Poplar Hill
6. St. Anne's (Fort Albany), Fort Albany
7. Stirland Lake (Wahbon Bay Academy), Stirland Lake



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Funding was secured in late 2021-2022 to build initial capacity for the NAN Reclamation and Healing Department and partially fund engagement activities. In February and March 2022, a Director of Reclamation and Healing and a Policy Analyst were recruited and started their positions. With the support of the Community Wellness Department, a survivor-led advisory council (the SAFE Council) was formed in September 2021. This Council's guiding principles include empowerment, accountability, respect and restitution, justice, recovery, healing and reconciliation, education and history, spirituality and wholistic approach, and jurisdiction. Council members are all IRS Survivors who attended schools located within NAN territory and/or other IRS in Ontario. They have contributed valuable information and feedback and for that NAN is grateful for their advice and guidance.

Through meetings with NAN and the SAFE Council, information was gathered to begin to inform NAN's IRS Response Strategy and to identify the areas that NAN would focus its future activities. The Department has outlined several pillars for the strategy intended to support survivors, families, and communities on the road to healing and recovery, and provide education on the history of IRS. A draft strategy will be presented to the NAN Spring Chiefs Assembly in May 2022 and expect to finalize the strategy in summer 2022 for presentation at the Keewaywin Conference.

The Department was also created to provide technical support for the NAN communities that plan to lead searches for graves and conduct other activities, thus the Department will be focusing on building meaningful partnerships and connections with communities and initiatives to network and support one another. The Department will take also over the planning of commemorative events and gatherings such as Orange Shirt Day and the Annual IRS Gathering and identify new events as the work progresses.

Some challenges were raised for supports provided to IRS Survivors, mainly around their access to counselling supports. NAN has worked collaboratively with IRS counsellors and will advocate for mental health reform to ensure survivors are able to access trauma informed mental health supports and that mental health providers are compensated and supported to provide necessary services to Survivors.

The NAN Reclamation and Healing Department looks forward to working with IRS Survivors and their families, NAN communities, and the completion of the strategy as well as the transfer of the staff under the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRSRHSP). The IRSRHSP staff provide emotional and practical support to survivors and share information and make referrals to mental health providers and are crucial to provision of healing supports for survivors.

**May 24, 2022**

*NAN celebrates Beaverhouse First Nation's historic Treaty Reserve Claim with federal Treaty partner formally recognizing the community as a distinct First Nation.*

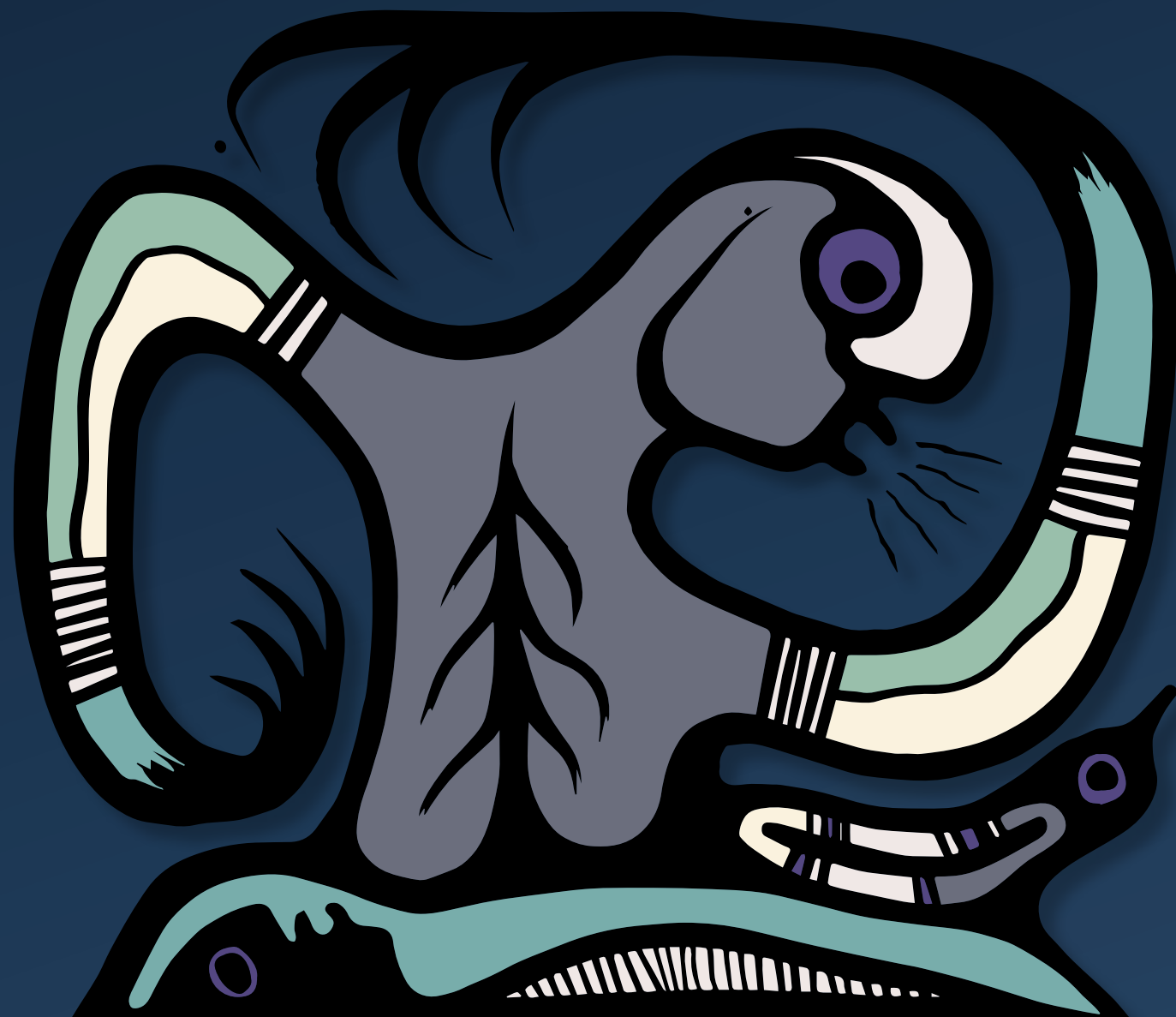


## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Early Years

## OVERVIEW

The Early Years Department supports community led initiatives that enhance capacity, skill building and mentorship, to meet the needs of families and children in their own communities. The department advocates at the federal and provincial level to develop and implement long term sustainable community solutions to close gaps in services for children and provide needs-based funding. The department has successfully engaged diverse people across Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), the region, province and nationally, to work collaboratively on implementation of key action priorities, particularly NAN parents, caregivers and Elders. Most of the work was carried out virtually due to COVID restrictions but despite the challenges, many initiatives are close to completion.



## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## Integrated Rehabilitation

**Resolution 16/20:** Support for the Development of NAN Children and Youth Services Model

Due to the pandemic restrictions, members of Mamou Sakinichinitoonanoowan Awashishaak Onci-“Together Holding Hands for the Children” Regional Network did not hold an annual meeting in 2021-2022 but engaged in several virtual meetings and focus groups with community members, parents, Elders, physicians, service providers, and clinicians, to lead the completion of several initiatives that were key priorities in the 2020-2021 strategic work plan under each of the six action teams (listed below). A Strategic Planning Gathering will be held in fall 2022 to continue to build on the work and address emerging priorities.

### 1. Mamou Wiidanogimidiwin “Everybody Working Together” (Community Case Management Action Team)

- ▶ Completed drafts of three curriculum modules and workshop/training outlines.
  - Inclusion of 4th module to include specific content from Elders, Parents/Caregivers, Physicians and Clinicians.
- ▶ Four focus groups held virtually to gather views, perspectives and best approaches that need to be considered when developing supports for children and families. The groups were each asked a specific question: “What would be most helpful to them in either the work they do as physicians and clinicians or as parent or Elder to ensure children receive the supports, they need in their own communities.”
- ▶ To better reflect the community Health Directors’ direction to develop modules that reflected the culture, values and practices in communities, the term “case management”, which is a western medical model, has been changed to Person Centered Approaches which reflects holistic, strength-based approaches that wrap around a child and their family.
- ▶ The four modules and workshop outlines will be finalized in 2022-2023 into a toolkit for final review by the Mamou Wiidanogimidiwin Action Team.

*“The idea that the ‘south does it well’ is incorrect. Why not co-design case management systems with the north to best use the knowledge of the land and communities.”*

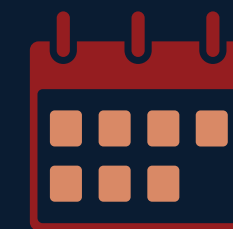
- **Physician providing services in NAN territory**

*“Getting help for your child or finding services is a full-time job.”*

- **Mother of Special Needs child**

*“I have a class of eighteen students. One student has Down Syndrome, four have behavioral problems, three have mental health issues and are delayed on speech and language. Twelve out of eighteen children have special needs...it is challenging to teach the children who do not have special needs.”*

- **Teacher at NAN community**



**May 30, 2022**

NAN unites with leaders of northern Indigenous communities to celebrate the creation of a collective voice – the National Assembly of Remote Communities.

## 2. Clinical Mentorship

- ▶ The Clinical Mentorship Action Team works collaboratively to develop, support, implement and guide the development of a culturally authentic framework to build capacity of integrated rehabilitation services in NAN communities. A priority action identified in 2019-2020 was to close the gap for families and children who are experiencing a lack of appropriate follow up after clinical assessments in the areas of speech and language, physio, and occupational therapy.
- ▶ The Pediatric Indigenous Rehabilitative Assistant (PIRA) accredited one-year, and two-year curriculum is finalized.
- ▶ PIRA is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for accreditation through Northern College and Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The WenJack Education Institute. Once approved the first cohort of trainees will begin in 2022-2023.

## 3. Infant Mental Health

### Resolution 19/13: Support for the Development of NAN Specific Infant Mental Health Promotion Strategy

- ▶ NAN in partnership with Infant Mental Health Promotion at the Hospital for Sick Children, and Payukotayno Child and Family Services and their partners, are finalizing a community-led and community-designed training and curriculum titled "Natural Helpers."
- ▶ The culturally relevant Infant Mental Health Curriculum integrates community and Elder knowledge and western science that supports the social, emotional, physical and mental development of children 0-5 years of age.
- ▶ Communities plan to extend training to all community members, and not just service providers or community-based workers, in the belief that all community members have a role to play in raising healthy, happy children.
- ▶ A film is planned for early spring with Elders, knowledge keepers, community-based workers and leadership that will enhance the curriculum and portray strong messaging on the importance of the early years.

- ▶ The Curriculum contains the following 10 modules:
  1. What is Infant Mental Health?
  2. Making Connections
  3. Our Path as Indigenous People
  4. Resiliency in Indigenous Communities
  5. Gifts From the Creator Part One
  6. Gifts from The Creator Part Two
  7. What All Children Need from Parents and Caregivers to Thrive
  8. Local Services That Support Young Children and Families
  9. How Communities Can Support Infant and Mental Health
  10. The Role of Supporting Infant Mental Health

## 4. Autism Spectrum Disorder

### Resolution 19/04: Support for the Development of NAN Specific Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy

- ▶ In July 2021, then Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau met with Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Minister Merrilee Fullerton, to discuss the challenges and barriers families are experiencing accessing the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). The Minister suggested a meeting between NAN staff and Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer Morris, Children's Special Needs Division, to further discuss a NAN process that could be considered by the Ministry and integrated into the OAP.
- ▶ A meeting with ADM Jennifer Morris, and Sarah Hardy, Director of OAP, was held in October 2021 and NAN provided an overview of the work under Mamow Sakinichinitoonanoowan Awashishaak Onci and the Ministry presented an overview of OAP; as well, the ADM's staff presented a draft of the Ministry's Special Needs Strategy. NAN agreed to work with partners on the Autism Action Team to begin development of a northern pathway under OAP.
- ▶ Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum was invited as a witness to Bill S-203, An Act Respecting a Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder by the Canadian Senate Social Affairs Committee on March 23, 2022. NAN provided a summary of the realities facing families

in the North and need for a federal framework designed to support Indigenous autistic Canadians, their families, and their caregivers.

- ▶ On May 12, 2022, Bill S-203 was passed and included NAN's request to include engagement of Indigenous communities and organizations in the development of the framework.
- ▶ Action Team members focused on developing NAN specific materials to better inform communities, service providers, organizations as identified as a priority during the strategic planning in 2019-2020.
- ▶ The autism mini booklet, "What is Autism", has been printed and distributed to communities. Three additional booklets are being printed and translated into Ojibwe, Cree and Oji-Cree.
  - What is Autism
    - ◊ Autism: Signs and Symptoms Booklet.
    - ◊ Autism: What Can I Do to Help My Child Thrive?
    - ◊ Autism: Keeping my Child Safe.
- ▶ In March 2022, a focus group was held with the parents and caregivers of children with autism. Participants indicated a desire to continue to meet as a group to support and learn from each other. Parents indicated how isolated they felt, and the everyday struggles and realities they faced with little to no support. The first Parent Support Network is planned for early April 2022.
- ▶ Work is underway for the second autism video. The first video was highly successful.

## 5. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- ▶ "Changing the Conversation from Shame and Blame to Support and Care", a virtual FASD conference for individuals with FASD, individuals supporting someone with FASD, and service providers, was held March 2022.
- ▶ 107 delegates attended the virtual conference and participated in a FASD simulation exercise to see FASD through a different lens and to help change perspectives. Keynote speaker Myles Himmelreich shared his personal experience with FASD and challenged participants to focus on supporting and caring for the individual, the family, and the mother without blame.
- ▶ Open discussion on strategies and solutions focused on supporting the individual and their family.
- ▶ Let's Talk: An opportunity to share experiences in a safe and intimate space with Toni Jarvis, an Addictions Counselor who has FASD.
- ▶ 89% of respondents found the conference increased their understanding of FASD and 94% found it helpful

"It has made me understand so much, especially listening to the guest speakers on how their life has been with FASD."

"I believe this event encouraged me to think less "clinically" and more pragmatically about people with FASD."

"This was an incredible and very well thought out virtual event. A lot of thought and organization was put into it, and it shows! Job well done!"



### June 3, 2022

NAN calls on re-elected Ford government to prioritize Ontario's Treaty relationship and close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations and the rest of the province.

### June 10, 2022

NAN honours the life of NAN Elder Chris Cromarty, of Wunnumin Lake First Nation, one of the founding members of Grand Council Treaty No. 9.



### 6. Family Directed Respite Services

NAN Children who received service in 2021-2022:

Tribal Council	Individuals Served	Number of Living on Reserve	Number living on Reserve (not their own)
Mushkegowuk Council	145	72	12
Matawa Council	70	37	0
Chibogama First Nations Council	24	20	1
Wabun Tribal Council	10	1	0
Windigo First Nations Council	25	16	0
Keewaytinook Okimakanak	18	15	0
Independent First Nations Alliance	32	8	0
Independent bands	24	13	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>14</b>
		<b>Total Living on Reserve:</b>	<b>196</b>

#### Summary of Wesway staff Hours: 2021-2022

Program	Hours
NAN	339,943.50
NAN - Crisis	21,803.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>361,747.00</b>

*“I reached out about three times for crisis help. 1st time was illness, and I was away for 6 weeks. My father had surgery, and I needed to be with him. Wesway had provided me with crisis support, and I was able to get my family support when we really needed it. The 2nd time was when my granddaughter was ill, and I need to go to Sick Kids Hospital. Again, Wesway was always there.”*

*“When I was in the hospital in pre-term labour, my Wesway Coordinator reached out and told me that crisis support was available for my family. Prior to that, I did not know anything about the crisis fund. It was extremely helpful knowing that I could focus on my own health without worrying about my children who were at my parent’s home.”*

### Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (IHBHC)

- ▶ GEYAABI MINOGIWAG GII-ISHKWAA-GICHI-IZHIWEBAD Flourishing After the Storm was held virtually on November 3-4, 2021, for IHBHC, Early Years and Jordan’s Principle community-based workers with a focus on infant and early mental health. 42 workers attended.
- ▶ Virtual monthly IHBHC coordinator meetings are held to provide opportunities to share, assist in program planning, and identify key training priorities and topics to be discussed.

#### Barriers to Government Issued ID: Birth Registration, Birth Certificate

**Resolution 07/42:** Birth Registration-Documentation Blitz

- ▶ Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum met with Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (IAO) Deputy Minister Shawn Batise and Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) Deputy Minister Renu Kulendran, on November 21, 2021, to provide an update and progress of the draft joint recommendation paper developed by NAN, IAO and MGCS. Also at this meeting, a commitment was sought from Deputy Minister Batise to continue this work after the provincial election in June 2022.
- ▶ Deputy Minister Batise suggested NAN work with the First Nation Health Authorities to provide ID clinics as part of the children’s vaccination roll-out and committed funds to support the clinics and to cover all fees associated with applications. Unfortunately, due to the coordination of the vaccine clinics and available space on the planes to accommodate NAN staff to travel into communities, it did not happen.
- ▶ IAO has continued to provide the funding and NAN, IAO, and Registrar General of MGCS and staff planned to provide virtual training to two communities with follow up ID clinics. Due to rise in COVID-19 cases in the communities the training and ID clinics were postponed until early spring 2022.

### Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

**Resolution 14/09:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation Early Learning Framework

- ▶ The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 83/2017: Support for the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework adopted the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Policy Framework developed by the National Expert Working Group (NEWG). The Framework articulates a First Nations vision towards a system of high-quality, culturally based, and holistic ELCC for all First Nations children, including the right to control the design, delivery, and administration of ELCC.
- ▶ The National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on First Nation ELCC was mandated by AFN Resolution 39/2016: First Nations National Working Group on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) to oversee the national engagement process to inform the Indigenous ELCC Framework and to lead the work on First Nations ELCC at the national level.
- ▶ In September 2018, the National Indigenous ELCC Framework was released, with Canada committing \$1.02 billion over 10 years for First Nations ELCC service delivery, program enhancement and expansion and partnerships and governance, to be divided nationally according to First Nations direction.
- ▶ AFN Resolution 59/2018: First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Regional Funding Allocation Approach directed the allocation of these funds on an interim basis based on the following formula:
  - Per capita funding based on the Modified Berger Formula using the Indian Registration System population counts of on and off reserve children 0-6, weighted for remoteness and community size.
- ▶ The current funding allocation model was provided as an interim measure to ensure First Nation ELCC funding was distributed in a timely manner and fails to account for needs-based factors.
- ▶ Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) has indicated that the First Nation portion of Budget 2021 ELCC funds for governance and partnership capacity and programs and services are subject to the direction of AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly, including its allocation across regions.

- ▶ Ontario Region Budget 2017 allocation was \$12.8 million for 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The \$12.8 million allocation included both governance and partnership funding and programs and services funding.
- ▶ NAN directed ESDC and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to flow Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) funding allocation for 2018 to 2021 directly to NAN First Nations through existing ISC contribution agreements and to work directly with communities who did not have existing contribution agreements to ensure funds could flow to the First Nation. NAN indicated to ESDC that the decision to release funding to NAN First Nations was an interim measure as NAN does not support OFNLP funding formula and NAN expects a need-based funding formula to be in place before 2020-2021.
- ▶ NAN has hosted two information and Q&A sessions for First Nation communities, Tribal Councils and ESDC in February 2022 to help inform communities about IELCC. A report of the two sessions was distributed to delegates and NAN First Nations.
- ▶ In December 2021, NAN reached out to 12 Child Care Centres in NAN territory to provide information and assist with accessing the Accessibility Grant funding stream under the IELCC framework. One community applied for the funding to replace old and rotting outdoor ramps and should receive a decision by August 2022.
- ▶ Childcare centers indicated a need for training, support and networking opportunities; in response, a Professional Network for NAN Early Learning and Child Care Centre Coordinators has been formed. Coordinators will meet monthly starting in May 2022.
- ▶ NAN purchased resources in February and March 2021 to support the childcare centers that have minimum funds for resources.
- ▶ Planning began in March 2022 for the NAN Early Learning and Child Care Centre Gathering scheduled for June 15-16, 2022, in Thunder Bay in collaboration with NAN Infrastructure and Housing and Together Design Labs from Metropolitan Toronto University.
- ▶ The collaboration with NAN Infrastructure and Housing will provide the expertise required to assist and prepare existing childcare centers and communities who wish to develop a centre, with the skills and tools needed to apply for capital funding starting in 2023.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Director and Manager participated on the National Infant and Early Mental Health Leadership Committee

### Highlights

Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care

Community	Child Care Centre
Attawapiskat First Nation	Paytabun
Bearskin Lake First Nation	Awashshgumik Child Care Centre
Constance Lake First Nation	Little Lambs Daycare Centre
Deer Lake First Nation	Ga Wiiainiiganiitamagoyak (Future Leaders) Children's Centre
Fort Albany First Nation	Fort Albany Day Care Centre
Ginoogaming First Nation	Ginoogaming Aboriginal Head Start
Kasabonika Lake First Nation	Kasabonika Ombigiaa Aawasoon Child Care Centre
Long Lake #58 First Nation	Long Lake #58 Day Care Centre
Moose Cree First Nation	Small Steps Child Care Centre
Muskrat Dam First Nation	May-May Bi Zin Children's Centre
Pikangikum First Nation	Pikangikum Kikinwaamaawaganaasuk Centre
Wunnumin Lake First Nation	Wapaatawanga Day Care

Land-Based Education Resources	Child Development Resources	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 25 pairs of snowshoes</li> <li>▶ 30 Muddy Buddy Rain Suits in an assortment of sizes. These suits easily pull up over clothing making it a little easier for Educators to get everyone outside.</li> <li>▶ 20 pairs of rain pants for older children.</li> <li>▶ Outdoor exploration sets, such as an insect collection kit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sensory kits and other tools and resources selected to support each child's self regulation and emotional well being.</li> <li>▶ Assortment of toys and resources hand selected to support each aspect of a child's development.</li> </ul> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Magnet tiles</li> <li>▶ Train and car play sets</li> <li>▶ Puppets</li> <li>▶ Lego and other building tools</li> <li>▶ Sensory toys such as sand and water kits</li> <li>▶ Collaborative board games</li> <li>▶ Gross motor toys (scooters, plasma car)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Staff appreciation boxes for every staff person at the centres.</li> <li>▶ Subscription to Raven Reads: each season a collection of Indigenous children's story books will arrive at the centres.</li> <li>▶ Air purifiers, diapers and wipes for the centres who requested them.</li> <li>▶ Children's cots, sheets and pillows for centres who requested them.</li> </ul>



# NAN Offices & Staff Directory

## HEAD OFFICE

100 Back Street Unit 200  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7J 1L2

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

200 South Syndicate Avenue  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 1C9

## EASTERN OFFICE

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## Office of The Grand Chief

**Derek Fox**  
Grand Chief

**Melinda Meekis**  
Director of Operations

**Priscilla Jones**  
Executive Assistant

**Grace Winter**  
Special Initiatives Manager

**Kelsie Demontigny**  
Task Team Administrative Coordinator

**Kahla Moses**  
Strategic Advisor to the Grand Chief

**Jason Evans**  
Senior Policy Analyst

**Jeff Werner**  
Senior Policy Advisor

## Office of The Deputy Grand Chief

**Anna Betty Achneepineskum**  
Deputy Grand Chief

**Martha Loon**  
Senior Portfolio Advisor

**Diane Beaver**  
Executive Assistant

**Loretta Sheshequin**  
Women's Initiatives Manager

**Jamilee Wanakamik**  
Women's Initiatives Coordinator

## Office of the Deputy Grand Chief

**Victor Linklater**  
Deputy Grand Chief

**Wendy Caruk**  
Senior Portfolio Advisor

**Narene Barkman**  
Executive Assistant

## Office of the Deputy Grand Chief

**Bobby Narcisse**  
Deputy Grand Chief

**Theresa Ruth**  
Senior Portfolio Advisor

**Lydia Meekis**  
Executive Assistant

## Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

**Michelle Sanderson**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Charlene Yerxa**  
Executive Coordinator to the CAO

**Administration and Human Resources**

**Sabrina Marion**  
Director of Human Resources

**Ian Beardy**  
Human Resource Analyst

**Taraisa Schultz**  
Human Resource Analyst

**Jill Harju**  
Human Resource Assistant

**Nancy Neves**  
Receptionist

**Jennifer Kakekapetum**  
Receptionist

**Jennifer Thompson**  
Travel Coordinator

**Kevin McKay**  
Building Manager

**Jamie McLeod**  
Office Custodian

**Communications, Media and Information Technology**

**Michael Heintzman**  
Director of Communications

**Tamara DeLuca**  
Digital Communications Manager

**Gina Fata**  
Communications Analyst

**Kevin Lewis**  
Multimedia Designer

**Angela Crozier**  
IT Manager

**Stirling McIntosh**  
Network Administrator

**Kayla Barkman**  
Document Imaging Assistant

**Finance**

**Jeff Forneri**  
Director of Finance

**Matthew Winters**  
Manager of Finance

**Paulette Desmoulin**  
Senior Finance Officer

**Pam Fayrick**  
Payroll Analyst

**Ryan Desmoulin**  
Finance Officer

**Shawntae Sutherland**  
Finance Officer

**Child Development**

**Wendy Arseneault**  
Director of Child Development

**Kristy Hankila**  
Early Years Senior Policy Analyst

**Beedahbin Desmoulin**  
Child Development Manager

**Jennifer Wrigley**  
Early Years Coordinator

**Tiffany Sullivan**  
Office Coordinator

**Tobie Karst**  
Child Development Coordinator

**Michaela Bottle**  
Early Years Officer

**Community Wellness**

**Alarice Petawanikweb**  
Director of Community Wellness

**Tanya Forneri**  
Community Wellness Policy Analyst

**Colin Shawinimash**  
Health Emergency Management Coordinator

**Lillian Suganaqueb**  
Community Crisis Manager

**Delores Walker**  
Crisis Coordinator

**Destany Johns**  
Crisis Response Coordinator

**Susan Beardy**  
Crisis Coordinator

**Tina Scocchia**  
Administrative Support Officer

**Stewart Kamenewatamin**  
Crisis Coordinator

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**Summer Reilly**  
Training Coordinator

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Mental Health Training Coordinator

**Ashley Jellema**  
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**Education**

**Andrew Solomon**  
Director of Education

**Sherry Britton**  
Education Manager

**Jessica Corston**  
Student Safety Coordinator

**Emma-Lea Krakower**  
Policy Analyst

**Lori Vanbuskirk**  
Education Administrative Assistant

**Jocelyn Cheechoo**  
Education Jurisdiction Manager

**Claudia Stein**  
Structural Readiness Coordinator

**Natalia Salt**  
Territorial Coordination Administrative Assistant

**Bazil Batise**  
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**Serenity Perry**  
Research Coordinator

**Kathy Beardy**  
Education Initiatives Manager

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Education Initiatives Coordinator

**Amanda Mannella**  
Inquest Coordinator

**Mindy Maracle**  
Education Partnerships Program Officer

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**Luke Hunter**  
Director of Treaty & Research

**Joe Wheesk**  
License Coordinator/Research Assistant

**Justine Waite**  
Policy & Research Coordinator



**Health Transformation**

**Georgina Lentz**  
Director of Health Transformation

**Kaitlin Heikkinen**  
Legal Policy Advisor-Legislation

**Pamela Angees**  
Health Transformation Policy Analyst

**Kim Hillman**  
Health Commission Coordinator

**Kari Lavoie**  
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**Yionna Wesley**  
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**Jacqueline Johnup**  
Health Commission Coordinator

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Community Participation Manager

**Karissa Michano**  
Community Participation Coordinator

**Shaylan Knapaysweet**  
Community Participation Coordinator

**Marlee Poulin**  
Policy Analyst

**Martha Hunter**  
Mental Health Policy Analyst

**Rebecca Allison**  
Health Coordinator

**Paula Vangel**  
Senior Policy Analyst (On Maternity Leave)

**Lauren King**  
Policy Analyst (On Maternity Leave)

**Infrastructure and Housing**

**Michael McKay**  
Infrastructure and Housing Director

**Jennifer Guerrieri**  
Public Health Infrastructure Policy Analyst

**Jamie Saunders**  
Infrastructure Advisor

**Erin Mellor**  
Project Coordinator

**Ryan Scott**  
Infrastructure Policy Analyst

**Ashley Atatise**  
Infrastructure and Housing Manager

**Tiffany Gusola**  
Project Assistant

**Elliott Schimmens**  
Emergency Management Manager

**Justice Transformation**

**Natalie Binguis**  
Director of Justice Transformation

**Stephen Lee**  
Justice Policy Analyst

**Fay Pettypiece**  
Senior Administrative Coordinator

**Reclamation and Healing**

**Rachel Kakegamic**  
Director of Reclamation and Healing

**Ocean Moberly**  
Reclamation and Healing Policy Analyst

**Meadow Quachegan**  
Administrative Health Support Officer

**Felicia Sagutch**  
Health Support Officer

**Sarah Jane Cromarty**  
Family Support Coordinator

**Social Services**

**Robin Quachegan**  
Director of Social Services (Maternity Leave Coverage)

**Nichole Kinzel**  
Director of Social Services

**Aurora Smith**  
Social Policy Analyst

**Christa Piscopo**  
Office Coordinator

**Sheila Marcinyshyn**  
Family Well-Being Program Manager

**Margaret Wesley**  
Family Well-Being Training Coordinator

**Douglas Magiskan**  
Family Well-Being Project Officer

**Nicole Baxter**  
Family Well-Being Project Officer

**Cindy McKay**  
Family Well-Being Data Officer

**Terry MacGillivray**  
Jordans Principal Coordinator

**Chelsea Mosher-Rae**  
Jordans Principal Liaison

**Marla Murray**  
Jordan's Principle Manager

**Jessica Gacsi**  
Choose Life Policy Analyst

**Allan Turtle**  
Choose Life Community Advisor

**Miranda Echum**  
Choose Life Training Coordinator

**Bibianne Charles**  
Choose Life Coordinator

**Kiaya Drake**  
Choose Life Officer

**Joseph Carew**  
Youth Engagement Manager

**Cheyenne McKay**  
Youth Initiatives Coordinator

**Samantha Crowe**  
Anishnawbe Watisiwin Development Coordinator

**Audrea Sturgeon**  
Anishnawbe Watisiwin Program Officer

**Silvia Bour**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Keelan Meekis**  
Youth Camps Cultural Coordinator

**Joanne MacMillan**  
Final Settlement Agreement Manager

**Shannon Furioso**  
Final Settlement Administrative Assistant

**Sustainable Initiatives**

**Jennifer Constant**  
Policy Advisor-Sustainable Initiatives

**Kristina John -George**  
Project Coordinator

**Melinda Sault Coates**  
Food Strategy Coordinator

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Financial Statements**  
*March 31, 2022*



**NAN Corporate Services  
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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.

August 3, 2022

  
Chief Administrative Officer

  
Finance Director

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, 2022, 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, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. 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.

**Other Matter**

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 testing 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

August 3, 2022

Chartered Professional Accountants

Licensed Public Accountants



**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
*As at March 31, 2022*

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash resources	41,848,368	32,525,472
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	14,478,849	4,007,998
Prepaid expenses and deposits	470,897	28,770
	<b>56,498,101</b>	<b>36,562,238</b>
<b>Capital assets (Note 5)</b>	<b>8,628,860</b>	<b>8,904,121</b>
	<b>65,126,961</b>	<b>45,466,359</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 8) (Note 14)	28,156,161	20,461,518
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	22,027,968	11,563,801
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8)	671,368	82,382
Current portion of capital lease obligations (Note 9)	352,458	351,303
	<b>51,117,952</b>	<b>32,469,105</b>
<b>Long-term debt (Note 8)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>711,465</b>
<b>Capital lease obligations (Note 9)</b>	<b>868,168</b>	<b>1,220,626</b>
	<b>51,986,120</b>	<b>34,401,196</b>
<b>Contingencies (Note 10)</b>		
<b>Commitments (Note 15)</b>		
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	8,090,812	3,700,971
Investment in capital assets	7,058,828	7,332,182
	<b>15,149,640</b>	<b>11,033,153</b>
	<b>65,126,861</b>	<b>45,466,359</b>

Approved on behalf of the Council

*DFox*  
 Grand Chief  
*[Signature]*  
 Deputy Grand Chief

*[Signature]*  
 Deputy Grand Chief  
*[Signature]*  
 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, 2022*

	2022 Budget	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>			
Government of Canada			
Indigenous Services Canada (Note 11)	7,006,462	25,201,460	10,598,007
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB (Note 12)	19,994,513	2,975,500	11,465,613
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	-	103,462	88,866
Department of Natural Resources	-	-	1,422,107
Province of Ontario			
Ministry of the Attorney General	300,000	300,000	384,976
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Service	12,835,823	12,835,823	15,945,558
Community Service (IHWS)	11,847,214	11,787,213	8,925,613
Ministry of Education	2,628,035	12,248,071	2,002,236
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	-	-	75,000
Ministry of Health	5,723,841	5,700,616	5,851,693
Indigenous Affairs	749,016	704,616	270,006
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	222,297	225,102	247,583
Ontario Trillium Foundation	-	27,800	248,300
Interest	-	240,389	206,649
Amounts repayable to funders	810,280	(760,422)	(2,338,939)
Other	10,891,904	1,509,114	1,446,084
Net change in deferred contributions (Note 7)	10,108,601	(10,434,067)	(1,261,061)
	<b>83,117,986</b>	<b>62,664,677</b>	<b>55,578,291</b>
Funds transferred for First Nations operations (Note 14)	(32,774,770)	(32,512,664)	(27,505,609)
<b>Total net revenue</b>	<b>50,343,216</b>	<b>30,152,013</b>	<b>28,072,682</b>
<b>Portfolio expenses</b>			
Bank charges and interest	-	130,651	133,724
Capital expenditures	-	460,062	4,818,738
Conferences, workshops and reports	20,096,231	6,278,074	4,767,705
Consulting and professional fees	10,411,839	3,988,216	4,155,288
Other	1,648,731	-	-
Inter-program allocations	6,117,086	-	-
Public relations	-	112,418	85,343
Rent and utilities	-	365,695	996,315
Salaries and benefits	10,440,600	10,220,606	10,371,671
COVID-19 Response	-	445,193	877,100
Supplies and resources	-	4,254,013	729,968
Travel	1,799,729	1,504,144	1,088,276
	<b>50,514,216</b>	<b>27,759,072</b>	<b>28,024,128</b>
Less: capital asset acquisitions included in expenses	-	(460,062)	(4,818,738)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>50,514,216</b>	<b>27,299,010</b>	<b>23,205,390</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>(171,000)</b>	<b>2,853,003</b>	<b>4,867,292</b>

*Continued on next page*

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, 2022*

	2022 Budget	2022	2021
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before other items</b> <i>(Continued from previous page)</i>	(171,000)	2,853,003	4,867,292
<b>Other items</b>			
Amortization	-	(735,625)	(786,650)
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	(171,000)	2,117,378	4,080,642

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements*

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

	Unrestricted	Investment in Capital Assets	2022	2021
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	3,700,971	7,332,192	11,033,163	6,952,521
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	2,853,003	(735,625)	2,117,378	4,080,642
	6,553,974	6,596,567	13,150,541	11,033,163
<b>Investment in capital assets</b>	(460,062)	460,062	-	-
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	6,093,912	7,056,629	13,150,541	11,033,163

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements*



**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses	2,117,378	4,080,642
Amortization	735,625	786,650
	<b>2,853,003</b>	4,867,292
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(10,470,853)	4,278,182
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(444,127)	41,268
Accounts payable and accruals	7,694,640	6,232,929
Deferred contributions	10,434,067	1,261,061
	<b>10,066,730</b>	16,680,732
<b>Financing</b>		
Repayments of capital lease obligations	(351,303)	(261,132)
Repayment of long-term debt	(232,482)	(224,867)
	<b>(583,785)</b>	(485,999)
<b>Investing</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(460,062)	(2,985,677)
<b>Increase in cash resources</b>	<b>9,022,883</b>	13,209,056
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	<b>32,525,472</b>	19,316,416
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	<b>41,548,355</b>	32,525,472

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, 2022

**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.

**Impact on operation of COVID-19**

In early March 2020 the impact of the global outbreak of COVID-19 began to have 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.

The Organization's operations were impacted by COVID-19 due to reduced/eliminated programming and the additional planning and consideration of funding implications as a result, and the cancellation of all travel and gatherings.

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 continue to have similar impacts going forward.

**2. Change in accounting policies**

**Financial instruments**

**Financial instruments in a related party transaction, risk disclosures and other amendments**

Effective April 1, 2021 (hereafter referred to as the "initial date of application"), the Organization adopted the Accounting Standards Board's revised recommendations for the measurement and disclosure of financial instruments in a related party transaction, as well as revisions to risk disclosures, in Section 3856 *Financial Instruments*. The revised standard provides additional guidance and requirements for the measurement of financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments").

Revised Section 3856 clarifies that an entity must provide relevant entity-specific information to enable users to evaluate the nature and extent of each type of risk arising from financial instruments. The amendments remove the requirement to separately disclose the risks arising from derivatives from the risks arising from other financial instruments.

Revised Section 3856 requires the following related party financial instruments to be initially measured at fair value:

- Investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments when the inputs significant to the determination of its fair value are observable (directly or indirectly).
- Derivative contracts.

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received.

At initial recognition, the Organization may elect to subsequently measure related party debt instruments that are quoted in active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value. If the election is not made, these instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost. Subsequently investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and derivatives 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, are measured at fair value. All other financial instruments arising in a related party transaction are subsequently measured using the cost method.

**2. Change in accounting policies** (Continued from previous page)

Previously, the Organization initially measured related party financial instruments at either the carrying amount or exchange amount in accordance with Section 3840 *Related Party Transactions*. Subsequent to initial recognition, related party financial instruments were measured in accordance with extant Section 3856.

*Transition*

The Organization applied the changes in accounting policies resulting from the adoption of revised Section 3856 retrospectively and prior periods have been restated. Financial instruments exchanged in a related party transaction that do not exist at the date of initial application and were impaired or modified in the immediately preceding fiscal year have not been restated in accordance with Section 3856. In addition, the following transitional provisions were applied to related party financial instruments that exist at the date of initial application:

- The cost of a financial instrument that has repayment terms is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest and dividend payments, of the instrument less any impairment, as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in these financial statements.
- The cost of a financial instrument that does not have repayment terms is deemed to be the carrying amount of the instrument in the financial statements of the entity less any impairment, at the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in these financial statements.
- Fair value of a financial instrument that is an investment in debt or equity instruments that are quoted in active market; a debt instrument where inputs significant to the determination of fair value of the instrument are observable; or, a derivative contract, is determined at the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented in these financial statements.

The retrospective application of this change in accounting policy did not have a material impact on the results of operations and financial condition of the Organization.

**3. 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.

**3. Significant accounting policies** (Continued from previous page)

**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

	<b>Method</b>	<b>Rate</b>
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.

**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.



3. **Significant accounting policies** *(Continued from previous page)*

**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.

**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 financial instruments when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

**Arm's length financial instruments**

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Organization may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Organization has not made such an election during the year. Fair value is determined by reference to recent arm's length transactions.

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 excess of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

3. **Significant accounting policies** *(Continued from previous page)*

**Related party financial instruments**

The Organization initially measures the following financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments") at fair value:

- Investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments when the inputs significant to the determination of its fair value are observable (directly or indirectly).
- Derivative contracts.

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, dividend, variable and contingent payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received.

At initial recognition, the Organization may elect to subsequently measure related party debt instruments that are quoted in active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value.

The Organization has not made such an election during the year, thus all such related party debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

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. Financial instruments that were initially measured at cost and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by, delivery of unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured using the cost method less any reduction for impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**4. Accounts receivable**

	2022	2021
<b>Government of Canada</b>		
Harmonized Sales Tax rebates	894,576	1,025,870
Indigenous Services Canada	821,675	101,859
Employment and Social Development Canada	-	15,171
First Nation and Inuit Health Branch	8,445	348,989
FedNor	42,732	-
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	175,845	264,658
Department of Natural Resources	147,809	147,809
<b>Province of Ontario</b>		
Ministry of Transportation	-	9,000
Ministry of Health	-	405,666
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	12,305	38,000
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	69,723	50,800
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	-	53,407
Ministry of Education	11,429,614	1,084,035
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	61,000	75,000
<b>Other</b>		
IESO	423,463	310,097
Other	391,662	77,635
	<b>14,478,849</b>	<b>4,007,996</b>

**5. Capital assets**

	2022	2021
	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Net book value</i>
	<i>Accumulated amortization</i>	<i>Net book value</i>
Land	396,681	396,681
Building	7,030,048	6,524,503
Computer equipment and software	879,691	242,934
Furniture and fixtures	2,575,172	1,443,988
Artwork	20,454	20,454
	<b>10,902,046</b>	<b>8,628,560</b>
	<b>2,273,486</b>	<b>8,904,121</b>

During the year, capital assets were acquired at an aggregate cost of \$460,062 (2021 - \$4,818,738) of which \$Nil (2021 - \$1,833,061) were acquired by means of capital leases and \$460,062 (2021 - \$2,985,677) were acquired in cash.

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**6. Accounts payable and accruals**

	2022	2021
Trade accounts payable	18,701,830	15,110,561
Wages and benefits payable	413,416	353,465
Repayable to funders	8,968,460	4,867,272
Government remittances payable	72,455	130,221
	<b>28,156,161</b>	<b>20,461,519</b>

**7. Deferred contributions**

Deferred contributions relate to restricted funding received prior to March 31, 2022 that will be expended in a subsequent period. The balance is comprised as follows:

	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	11,593,901	10,332,840
Received during the year	56,324,332	53,918,246
Recognized during the year	(45,890,265)	(52,657,185)
Balance, end of year	<b>22,027,968</b>	<b>11,593,901</b>

**8. Long-term debt**

	2022	2021
RBC Royal Bank term loan bearing interest at Royal Bank prime plus 2% (4.70%; 2021 - 3.45%) payable in monthly instalments of \$9,406 plus interest, due August 2022, with land and building at 200 Syndicate Avenue South, having a net book value of \$4,472,490 (2021 - \$6,903,325), pledged as collateral.	571,365	803,847
Less: current portion	571,365	92,382
	<b>-</b>	<b>711,465</b>

Although due on demand, the bank has accepted payments of \$9,406 including interest, per month over the remaining 95-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:

	<i>Principal</i>
2023	116,602
2024	118,977
2025	118,977
2026	118,977
2027	97,832

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$26,915 (2021 - \$20,490).

The Organization has pledged the building at 200 Syndicate Avenue South as collateral, with a carrying amount of \$4,472,490 (2021 - \$6,903,325).



**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**9. Capital lease obligations**

	2022	2021
Scotiabank lease obligation payable in monthly instalments of \$32,958 including interest at 7%, due July 2025, with furniture and equipment having a net book value of \$1,348,873 pledged as collateral.	1,220,626	1,571,929
Less: current portion	362,458	351,303
	<b>858,168</b>	<b>1,220,626</b>

Future minimum lease payments related to the obligation under capital lease are as follows:

2023	395,493
2024	395,493
2025	395,493
2026	98,874
	1,285,353
Less: imputed interest	(64,727)
Less: current portion	(362,458)
	<b>858,168</b>

**10. 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, 2022, no contingent liabilities have been recorded in the financial statements.

**11. Indigenous Services Canada funding reconciliation**

	2022	2021
Indigenous Services Canada funding per statement of revenue and expenses	25,201,460	10,598,007
Indigenous Services Canada funding per confirmation	25,201,460	10,598,007

**12. Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding reconciliation**

	2022	2021
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding per statement of revenue and expenses	2,975,500	11,465,613
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB funding per confirmation	2,975,500	11,465,613

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**13. Related party transactions**

The remuneration for the year of elected officials and senior management totalled \$743,440 (2021 - \$640,902). Amounts paid to elected officials and senior management for reimbursed corporate expenses amounted to \$18,400 (2021 - \$Nil). 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	2022	2021
Grand Chief Derek Fox (elected in August 2021)	91,808	4,338	96,146	-
Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum (elected in August 2021)	89,337	4,344	93,681	-
Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse (elected in August 2021)	89,417	5,930	95,347	-
Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater (elected in August 2021)	89,497	250	89,747	-
Alvin Fiddler (former Grand Chief)	67,545	-	67,545	143,019
Derek Fox (former Deputy Grand Chief)	65,428	2,361	67,789	136,294
Walter Naveau (former Deputy Grand Chief)	64,381	-	64,381	89,218
Jason Smallboy (former Deputy Grand Chief)	60,151	-	60,151	136,554
Chief Administrative Officer	125,876	1,177	127,053	135,817

**14. 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, \$32,512,664 (2021 - \$27,505,609) was transferred to member First Nations and specific organizations. Included in accounts payable and accruals is \$11,972,514 (2021 - \$7,205,728) owed to member First Nations at March 31, 2022.

	2022	2021
<b>Indigenous Services Canada</b>		
First Nation Student Success Program	307,443	368,820
Education Partnerships Program	2,342,929	2,835,260
Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement	121,235	120,603
	<b>2,771,607</b>	<b>3,324,683</b>
<b>Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services</b>		
COVID-19 Response	-	1,714,051
Family Well-Being	7,053,008	5,538,418
Customary Care	1,158,967	1,236,253
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	733,757	733,757
Crisis	4,967,515	2,608,677
Healthy Babies Healthy Children	1,477,288	1,477,340
Pikangikum	-	248,615
Ginoogaming/Bearskin	600,000	-
	<b>15,990,535</b>	<b>13,557,111</b>
<b>First Nations and Inuit Health Branch</b>		
Health Transformation - Tribal Councils	2,000,804	1,064,000
Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service	-	198,761
Wesway Respite Services	5,416,741	4,656,798
STTBI/TB	475,467	-
IFNA	450,000	-
	<b>8,343,012</b>	<b>5,919,559</b>

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**14. First Nations flow-through** (Continued from previous page)

<b>Ministry of Education</b>		
Emergency Education Action Plan	406,664	406,664
Mental Health & Addictions	884,590	544,056
Tribal Council Flow-Through	138,000	138,000
Virtual Learning Environment	250,000	250,000
Windigo	71,250	-
	<b>1,750,504</b>	<b>1,338,720</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Ministry of Tourism</b>		
Youth Culture Camps	-	18,328
<hr/>		
<b>Ministry of Health</b>		
Diabetes	2,178,596	2,738,853
Matawa First Nations Management	100,000	74,003
Health Transformation	1,025,000	-
	<b>3,303,596</b>	<b>2,812,856</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry</b>		
Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement	121,235	120,603
<hr/>		
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
FedNor	182,421	-
First Nation Requests	49,754	164,740
Local Poverty Reduction	-	73,692
Department of Natural Resources	-	175,317
	<b>232,175</b>	<b>413,749</b>
	<b>32,512,664</b>	<b>27,505,609</b>

**15. Commitments**

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

2023	81,742
2024	83,377
2025	85,045
2026	86,745
2027	7,241

**16. 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, 2022, one funder (2021 - three) accounted for 84.1% (2021 - 62.8%) 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.

**NAN Corporate Services**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

**16. Financial instruments** (Continued from previous page)

**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.

**17. Comparative figures**

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



NAN Corporate Services  
Schedule 1 - Grand Chief Derek Fox  
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022					2021	
	Environment (unaudited)	Housing and Infrastructure (unaudited)	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights (unaudited)	Special Initiatives (unaudited)	Administration (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
<b>Revenue</b>							
Government of Canada							
Indigenous Services Canada							
- Fixed contribution	-	268,950	639,586	40,881	864,482	1,813,899	1,811,286
- Flexible contribution	10,350	380,000	-	-	-	390,350	509,950
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB							
- Flexible contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	248,761
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation							
Department of Natural Resources	-	103,462	-	-	-	103,462	88,866
Province of Ontario							
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	255,992
Community Service (IHWS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Ministry of Education	-	9,808,602	-	-	-	9,808,602	-
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,000
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	-	-	-	180,000	180,000	180,000
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	-	-	225,102	-	-	225,102	247,583
Interest	-	-	-	-	240,389	240,389	206,649
Amounts repayable to funders	-	9,225	-	-	(383,436)	(374,211)	(964,403)
Other	-	-	36,469	-	347,375	383,844	627,859
Change in deferred revenue	235,261	(6,028,051)	73,535	-	-	(5,719,255)	668,854
	245,611	4,542,188	974,692	40,881	1,248,810	7,052,182	5,678,504
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	-	(242,471)	-	(49,753)	(292,224)	(780,024)
	245,611	4,542,188	732,221	40,881	1,199,057	6,759,958	4,898,480
<b>Expenses</b>							
Bank charges and interest	-	-	-	-	130,651	130,651	133,724
Conferences, workshops and reports	38,381	185,202	10,001	-	250,605	484,189	665,126
Consulting and professional fees	13,223	307,007	301,255	-	323,794	945,279	885,992
COVID-19 Response	-	-	-	-	-	-	877,100
Inter-program allocations	29,641	21,218	40,962	1,098	(4,324,216)	(4,231,297)	(7,084,500)
Public relations	-	981	-	-	50,415	51,396	64,122
Rent and utilities	9,750	66,450	27,300	-	(511,481)	(407,981)	350,256
Salaries and benefits	131,547	486,469	237,400	39,783	1,826,885	2,722,084	3,751,369
Supplies and resources	4,500	3,442,431	10,101	-	502,093	3,959,125	477,998
Travel	14,620	25,248	101,911	-	244,153	385,932	254,408
	241,662	4,535,006	728,930	40,881	(1,507,101)	4,038,378	375,595
Excess of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	3,949	7,182	3,291	-	2,706,158	2,720,580	4,522,885
Capital allocations	3,949	7,182	3,291	-	303,341	317,763	4,473,808
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	-	-	2,402,817	2,402,817	49,077

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NAN Corporate Services  
Schedule 2 - Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater  
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022					2021	
	Administration (unaudited)	Energy (unaudited)	Health Policy and Advocacy (unaudited)	Special Initiatives (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	
<b>Revenue</b>							
Government of Canada							
Indigenous Services Canada							
- Set contribution	-	-	33,000	-	33,000	-	
- Fixed contribution	-	-	611,920	-	611,920	-	
- Flexible contribution	-	-	8,500,000	-	8,500,000	-	
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB							
- Fixed contribution	-	-	531,297	-	531,297	432,157	
- Flexible contribution	-	-	304,615	-	304,615	4,204,615	
Province of Ontario							
Ministry of the Attorney General	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	
Community Service (IHWS)	-	-	100,067	-	100,067	100,067	
Ministry of Health	-	-	4,076,123	-	4,076,123	4,227,200	
Amounts repayable to funders	-	-	(375,150)	-	(375,150)	(419,779)	
Other	-	165,000	263,906	-	428,906	33,972	
Change in deferred revenue	-	(99,471)	(2,939,560)	-	(3,039,031)	318,036	
	-	65,529	11,106,218	-	11,171,747	8,921,268	
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	-	(6,412,288)	-	(6,412,288)	(3,876,856)	
	-	65,529	4,693,930	-	4,759,459	5,044,412	
<b>Expenses</b>							
Conferences, workshops and reports	-	3,029	379,952	-	382,981	587,780	
Consulting and professional fees	38,939	-	1,151,599	-	1,190,538	1,942,334	
Inter-program allocations	(511,073)	-	1,093,452	(4,824)	577,555	462,279	
Public relations	15,471	-	4,056	-	19,527	9,564	
Rent and utilities	23,400	-	161,850	2,600	187,850	163,830	
Salaries and benefits	306,688	62,500	1,717,590	2,124	2,088,902	1,664,516	
Supplies and resources	19,725	-	60,673	100	80,498	66,921	
Travel	97,108	-	117,908	-	215,016	143,941	
	(9,742)	65,529	4,687,080	-	4,742,867	5,041,165	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	9,742	-	6,850	-	16,592	3,247	
Capital allocations	9,742	-	16,726	-	26,468	3,247	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	-	(9,876)	-	(9,876)	-	

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NAN Corporate Services  
Schedule 3 - Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse  
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022							2021	
	Administration (unaudited)	Infant and Child Health (unaudited)	Health Promotion (unaudited)	Education and Education Jurisdiction (unaudited)	Urban and Youth Camps (unaudited)	Social Services (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	
<b>Revenue</b>									
Government of Canada									
Indigenous Services Canada									
- Fixed contribution	-	-	2,029,886	4,669,619	-	929,671	7,629,176	8,146,232	
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB									
- Flexible contribution	-	481,152	-	-	-	-	481,152	582,485	
Province of Ontario									
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	-	-	-	-	-	10,377,252	10,377,252	13,230,995	
Community Service (IHWS)	-	-	-	-	294,000	-	294,000	150,000	
Ministry of Education	-	-	-	2,439,469	-	-	2,439,469	2,002,236	
Ministry of Health	-	-	-	-	1,255,888	-	1,255,888	1,255,188	
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	60,000	-	
Amounts repayable to funders	-	-	-	131,022	(59,975)	42,087	113,134	(489,642)	
Other	-	-	-	-	409,405	42,444	451,849	423,634	
Change in deferred revenue	-	(257,519)	(891,647)	95,779	15,417	388,702	(749,268)	(1,294,002)	
	-	223,633	1,038,239	7,396,889	1,914,735	11,780,156	22,362,652	24,007,128	
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	-	-	(4,400,876)	-	(8,211,975)	(12,612,851)	(13,049,850)	
	-	223,633	1,038,239	2,995,013	1,914,735	3,568,181	9,739,801	10,957,278	
<b>Expenses</b>									
Conferences, workshops and reports	-	31,630	299,593	906,659	923,327	992,903	3,154,112	1,964,016	
Consulting and professional fees	157,006	5,000	62,068	503,736	24,299	679,993	1,432,102	1,014,384	
COVID-19 Response	-	-	-	28,132	-	-	28,132	-	
Inter-program allocations	(507,807)	54,000	92,000	43,428	331,469	1,197,052	1,210,142	3,626,950	
Public relations	746	-	10,300	2,914	636	11,394	25,990	11,658	
Rent and utilities	11,700	16,900	56,076	137,800	55,250	52,000	329,726	281,066	
Salaries and benefits	239,810	105,058	446,287	1,223,750	438,080	514,173	2,967,158	2,943,055	
Supplies and resources	14,223	4,100	8,000	43,204	20,248	18,259	108,034	98,762	
Travel	71,490	3,354	60,819	83,053	99,881	85,802	404,399	377,149	
	(12,832)	220,042	1,035,143	2,972,676	1,893,190	3,551,576	9,659,795	10,317,040	
Excess of revenue over expenses before capital allocations and transfers (to) from reserves	12,832	3,591	3,096	22,337	21,545	16,605	80,006	640,236	
Capital allocations	12,832	3,591	3,096	22,337	21,545	16,605	80,006	283,626	
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	356,610	

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NAN Corporate Services  
Schedule 4 - Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum  
Schedule of Revenue and Expenses  
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022					2021	
	Justice (unaudited)	Community Wellness (unaudited)	Administration (unaudited)	Women's Initiatives (unaudited)	Special Initiatives (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)	Total (unaudited)
<b>Revenue</b>							
Government of Canada							
Indigenous Services Canada							
- Set contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,000
- Fixed contribution	-	-	-	212,310	-	212,310	97,540
- Flexible contribution	-	-	-	50,000	5,960,805	6,010,805	-
Indigenous Services Canada - FNIHB							
- Set contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	535,000
- Fixed contribution	-	1,320,000	-	-	338,436	1,658,436	340,117
- Flexible contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,122,478
Province of Ontario							
Ministry of the Attorney General	-	250,000	-	50,000	-	300,000	359,976
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	-	-	-	-	2,458,571	2,458,571	2,458,571
Community Service (IHWS)	-	8,826,975	-	-	2,566,171	11,393,146	8,375,546
Ministry of Health	-	368,605	-	-	-	368,605	369,305
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs	-	419,016	-	45,600	-	464,616	90,006
Ontario Trillium Foundation	-	-	-	-	27,800	27,800	248,300
Amounts repayable to funders	-	(30,495)	-	-	(94,199)	(124,694)	(465,115)
Other	245,015	-	-	-	-	245,015	360,620
Change in deferred revenue	(52,900)	(943,592)	-	(102,322)	172,302	(926,512)	(953,948)
	192,115	10,210,509	-	255,588	11,429,886	22,088,098	16,971,396
Funds transferred for First Nations operations	-	(5,567,515)	-	-	(7,627,786)	(13,195,301)	(9,798,880)
	192,115	4,642,994	-	255,588	3,802,100	8,892,797	7,172,516
<b>Expenses</b>							
Conferences, workshops and reports	14,465	1,399,629	-	32,794	809,902	2,256,790	1,550,783
Consulting and professional fees	5,231	96,541	20,744	30,781	267,001	420,298	312,577
COVID-19 Response	-	-	-	-	417,061	417,061	-
Inter-program allocations	(116,880)	1,065,309	(271,178)	46,908	1,719,441	2,443,600	2,995,271
Public relations	-	1,071	-	10,953	1,687	15,505	-
Rent and utilities	26,650	166,400	10,400	9,750	42,900	256,100	201,164
Salaries and benefits	239,501	1,455,802	174,302	109,940	462,919	2,442,464	2,012,732
Supplies and resources	8,399</						

