

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

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Introduction

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

Mandate & Approach

The NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 16/17: *Implementation of the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations* to formally express appreciation for the Inquest jury's work and to direct the NAN Executive Council to take all reasonable steps to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations. To conclude this, Inquest tables were created and included: 1) the Political Table, and 2) the Education Table.

The Political Table is a forum to hold all Inquest Parties accountable for their role in implementing the recommendations. The Political Table was scheduled and was successfully held in January of 2023, with a representation of First Nation Partners, Ministries, Government, and affiliate organizations.

The Education Table and three task teams address education-specific recommendations related to 1) infrastructure 2) programs, services, and funding, and 3) student well-being. Representatives include some of the Inquest Parties, and community agencies or service providers that contribute significantly to implementation activities. The Education Table representative met on November 2nd, 2022, and the task team representatives met in September and October 2022. Plans are underway to hold meetings for the Education Table and task teams in September 2023.

Funding

One crucial and ongoing concern is funding. Despite receiving a high level of commitment from our government partners, NAN and its First Nation Inquest Partners have consistently advocated for dedicated Seven Youth Inquest funding to ensure the ongoing implementation of activities to fully address the recommendations. Government funding has made implementation possible but not to the level that is necessary to maintain the initiatives and services established on a long-term basis. Uncertainties continue to exist due to short-term funding commitments or changes to the funding of programs. NAN and the First Nation Inquest Partners have continued to maintain the stance that predictable stable funding will enable long-term planning and

implementation. Through the EPP funding, NAN First Nation organizations and schools can deliver successful initiatives for their students attending high school off-reserve. First Nation organizations and schools off-reserve have benefitted immensely, but there is a great concern about losing the successful programs and services they have built for their students. Currently, a prime example of unstable funding is the inability to establish job security, lack of resources, lack of funding for student housing and a need for stable predictable funding for long-term planning. As a result, the NAN First Nation youth are greatly affected by this major issue.

NAN has included similar funding issues and concerns in past Inquest annual reports. After Seven years of implementation activities, if the recommendations are to truly be considered as implemented, there should be no risk of losing what has been achieved through the Inquest for the First Nation Inquest Parties. Going forward, NAN and its First Nation Inquest Partners will explore other ways of informing the NAN First Nations about the recommendations at the community level, while also continuing to pursue the resources to be able to engage the communities through the Inquest process.

Participation in Other Inquest Recommendations

NAN continues to be involved in the recommendations directed to other Inquest Parties. One such recommendation is Recommendation 17 assigned to Ontario to assist Indigenous individuals and communities in accessing government programs, services, and funding. To address this recommendation, the NAN Seven Youth Inquest has worked with the NAN Women's Department and the NAN Student Safety Coordinator to develop the Student Street and Self-Safety Initiative, ensuring continuity and care for First Nation Youth living off-reserve. Also, Wake the Giant is an annual Music Festival, that welcomes First Nation Youth in the city. Education Panels are displayed throughout the event publishing significant information regarding the Inquest.

Conclusion

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

Recommendation #7

Description of Recommendation:

In moving forward with any initiatives that respond to the Inquest Recommendations, the parties should be guided by the following statements:

- i. All of the Treaty Partners, including Indigenous communities and governments, Canada and Ontario, must respect the treaty rights of others and work together towards fulfilling treaty obligations.
- ii. First Nations governments exercise inherent control over their education systems;
- iii. First Nation communities seek to have greater responsibility to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social, and economic affairs.
- iv. Without the improvement of conditions in First Nations reserve communities, a gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will remain;
- v. Canada should support individual First Nations communities as they develop local solutions to the effects of colonial policy; and
- vi. In order to ensure timely delivery of publicly funded services to First Nations children, where jurisdictional divisions or disputes within or between governments threaten to delay or impede the provision of services, Jordan's Principle should apply

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- • NAN continues to adhere by the guiding principles (i.-vi.) stated in Section II under Recommendation #7 in moving forward with Inquest Recommendations.

Recommendation #21

Description of Recommendation:

Canada should provide funding for NAN to develop a program for youth to receive leadership training so that they can run summer, evening and weekend activities for their peers.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN has implemented plans for the Youth Leadership Manual.
- Aspects of this Leadership Training Program were hosted online with webinars.
- The Annual NAN Youth Gathering was hosted March 9-13, 2023 in person and included themes in leadership and identity development, cultural teachings, and allowed for interactions with NAN youth across the territory.

Recommendation #33

Description of Recommendation:

In order to **optimize opportunities to increase awareness on the development of a NAN-wide education system**: i. hold a conference within 6 months of receipt of this verdict for First Nations communities in NAN territory; and ii. discuss innovations in First Nation education at the regular Chiefs Assemblies.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN and Canada signed a Framework Agreement in 1999, in which the parties committed to the negotiation of an Agreement-in Principle (AIP) concerning Education Jurisdiction in elementary and secondary education. In December 2018, an Education Jurisdiction AIP was signed by NAN and Canada.
- NAN continues to negotiate with Canada to further the education jurisdiction process by drafting the majority of chapters for a Final Agreement.
- The Final Agreement will lead to self-determination in education for NAN Participating First Nations. They will exercise their jurisdiction by delivering education through a system that is designed and run by the First Nations themselves. This will bring these First Nations out from the Indian Act provisions on education, putting First Nations in control of their education systems with the ability to pass their laws about education and develop their education standards and related educational resources.
- To build community understanding about Education Jurisdiction, the Final Agreement, and progress made on negotiations, ongoing presentations are provided to the Chief and Councils, Local Education Authorities and Tribal Councils. Community-based coordinators have been hired by Participating First Nations for about 25% of the 39 Participating First Nations, with the primary goal of sharing and gathering information on Education Jurisdiction and the Final Agreement with their respective communities.

Recommendation #36**Description of Recommendation:**

In consultation with youth and Elders commencing in 2016, develop a suicide prevention strategy to address the continuing inter-generational suicide trauma experienced by children and youth in the remote NAN First Nation communities. The federal and provincial governments should fund the strategy development and implementation.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Choose Life: NAN continues to work with NAN First Nations on the Choose Life program. Children and youth benefited from the funding provided to NAN First Nations and First Nation organizations. Many youths and students continue to access mental health supports and student well-being activities through Choose Life, for example, mental health professionals and services, and cultural and land-based programming.

Recommendation #40

Description of Recommendation:

In order to **raise awareness among youth regarding issues relating to alcohol/substance misuse**, through Health Canada, the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, the Ministry of Finance, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, and others, develop and deliver health promotion materials aimed at educating Indigenous youth on-reserve regarding the consequences of alcohol/substance misuse.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/In-Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN in collaboration with various working groups has created and is currently in the process of developing several resources to promote the issues relating to alcohol/substance misuse. Development is ongoing for health promotion materials intended for youth and parents in the NAN First Nations and students of the First Nation off-reserve schools.

Recommendation #44

Description of Recommendation:

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, who will include the following information:

- i. description of schools, including curriculum, student base, and staffing;
- ii. limitations regarding programs offered, including the 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 support 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

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/In-Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN has developed the school options website and workbook. Along with that a transition series workbook to help assist with supporting First Nation Youth from off-reserve successfully transition to an urban setting for their education.

- The School Options North website & book is available for any parent or youth who wants to research all secondary schools in Ontario to make informed decisions for their own needs. Increased capacity in First Nation-operated schools to support students transitioning between First Nation/federally operated and provincially funded school systems;
- Improved First Nation student well-being through increased access to culturally relevant services, leading to increased academic achievement and increased graduation rates;
- Reengagement of students who have been disengaged from school systems;
- Improved student safety for First Nation students who must transition from remote communities to attend high school off-reserve; and,
- Improved parental choice and greater access to education for First Nation students.
- The goal of the student transitions workbook series is to convert the information found in the more technical Education Partnerships Program boarding home documents into more engaging and accessible workbooks for valuable student use. The purpose of these workbooks is to guide students through reflective inquiry-based activities.
- These activities will help students prepare for school off-reserve and living in a boarding home

Book #1 of the Student Transitions Workbook Series: **BOARDING HOMES**

- This workbook focuses on boarding home student transitions with information on communicating with boarding parents, roles & responsibilities and other tips for academic success. This workbook will also assist boarding parents with providing a supportive home environment.

Book #2 of Student Transitions Workbook Series: **MENTAL HEALTH AND SELF-ADVOCACY**

- This workbook focuses on boarding home student transitions with information on self-reflection on their mental health, tips and tools to support themselves and how to self-advocate when they need support.

An additional Workbook #3 is currently under development and will focus on Study Habits and Skills.

Recommendation #47

Description of Recommendation:

In order **to ensure that consistent information is being provided to remote communities regarding education off-reserve and the issues raised at this inquest**, organize a meeting to be attended by NAN community education representatives to discuss the following:

- i. expansion of the role of education counsellors to include secondary school;
- ii. importance of education counsellors attending schools off-reserve to observe the progress of students from remote First Nations communities;
- iii. purpose and importance of comprehensive assessments of students before leaving home communities; and
- iv. purpose and importance of information requested on student application forms.

Parties Named in Recommendation: NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Due to the challenges created by the pandemic, many communities were locked down and this recommendation was not able to be addressed during this time.

Recommendation #49

Description of Recommendation:

In order to provide students from First Nations communities in NAN Territory and their families with firsthand information regarding the community supports 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.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- With travel restrictions being lifted over this past year, NAN has undertaken travel through our EPP program to our First Nations communities to provide information regarding community supports and opportunities that are available to students while they are in Thunder Bay.
- The NAN Student Safety Coordinator has worked on the development of the community-building campaign in collaboration with the Inquest partners. These informative panels are featured at the annual Wake the Giant Music Festival and student orientation events. The fourth annual festival will take place in September 2022 and will provide Grade 7 to 12 students with a better understanding of life in the city in addition to programs and services offered.

Recommendation #50

Description of Recommendation:

In order to **provide First Nations youth with a voice in regard to on-reserve policies and programs that will have an impact on their future**, bring the Youth Voices Survey Summary (exhibit 150) to the attention of the NAN First Nations Chiefs, as well as a recommendation to create a youth council or youth leadership position in their communities to develop a strategic plan for addressing the challenges they face on a local level.

Parties Named in Recommendation: NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Completed

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- The “Youth Voices Survey” and the creation of a youth council or a youth leadership position in the community was brought to the attention of the NAN Chiefs at the Emergency Special Chiefs Assembly in July 2017.

Recommendation #61

Description of Recommendation:

In order to gain efficiencies and avoid unnecessary duplication of resources and facilities, facilitate a working group of member education authorities to determine the means by which certain activities could be coordinated and resources could be shared. In particular, a working group should be struck to coordinate the work of the NNEC and KO Secondary Student Support Programs (“SSSP”) at DFCHS to ensure that their resources are used effectively and that similar practices and rules are followed with respect to all of the students attending DFCHS.

Parties Named in Recommendation: NAN

Status of Recommendation: Rejected/Remains Rejected due to flaws

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 4A (Recommendation has been rejected)

Actions Towards Implementation:

NAN respects the autonomy of partner organizations to coordinate activities and resources for their students.

Recommendation #76

Description of Recommendation:

In order to increase the number of quality boarding homes for First Nations students in Thunder Bay, in consultation with representatives from NNEC, KO, MLC, student support workers and long-term boarding parents, establish a working group that will:

- i. determine the appropriate level of funding for boarding parents; and
- ii. establish minimum expectations with respect to boarding parent’s responsibility to ensure students’ safety and well-being, attendance at school and academic success.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Completed:

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- The goal of the report is to provide a basic standard for student boarding homes that must be met. The draft report is under revision and will be available upon approval.
- This report addresses boarding home standards, property codes, guardianship, student safety, student wellness, communication and best practices, and management and administration. The report will inform future work in establishing standards for Ontario boarding parents and boarding homes.
- In February 2020, an Ontario-Wide Boarding Home Review gathering was held in Thunder Bay to discuss matters related to best practices for boarding homes.

Recommendation #77

Description of Recommendation:

In order to enhance and standardize the procedure for the screening and approval of boarding homes for First Nations students attending school off-reserve, within 6 months of the date of this verdict, establish a working group including representatives from NNEC, KO, MLC, and other appropriate stakeholders to determine existing best practices and to consider:

- i. minimum standards for all boarding homes;
- ii. standardized screening and vetting of boarding home applicants, including:
 - a. monthly visits and scheduled inspections;
 - b. criminal record checks for all residents aged 18 years and over and updates of criminal record checks on an annual basis;
 - c. mandatory completion of training, including first aid training and management and care of intoxicated students;
 - d. demonstration of financial stability;
 - e. standardized contract

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Completed

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Recommendation is accepted and remains completed. See response to Recommendation 76. 1 81 Annual Harm Reduction Training Strategy

Recommendation #81

Description of Recommendation:

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

Parties Named in Recommendation: NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

NAN continues to engage in different opportunities to ensure staff and boarding home parents are trained to support students who may be dealing with a variety of challenges. This training includes Mental Health First Aid, training on Sexual Abuse Trauma, First Aid & CPR, and NAN On-Call student support worker Training.

- The NAN Education Partnerships Program also offers training sessions for Boarding Home Parents to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

Recommendation #87

Description of Recommendation:

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 before 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.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN is developing a *Continuity of Care app*. The app will include all holistic care services available for First Nation students in any urban centre they are living in. The app will also be available to all individuals who support students.
- The NAN Women's Initiative Department, in collaboration with Inquest, the Student Safety Coordinator and the EPP department has developed a Student Street Self Safety Initiative, promoting street and self safety throughout all high schools and feeder schools within Thunder Bay and Timmins. This initiative promotes awareness, preventative measures, and safety tips for First Nation youth new to an urban setting.
- NAN continues to work with all First Nations education partners to ensure the safety of students when they arrive and when they return to their communities. Through the Education Partnership Program, NAN facilitates discussions with partners on best practices for student continuity of care. This is achieved through the Continuity of Care Forum which has been held annually since 2021. This Forum continues to focus on safety for all NAN First Nation Youth.

Recommendation #90

Description of Recommendation:

In order for First Nations youth to have a voice regarding decisions relating to their education off-reserve, and to ensure that there is accountability in decisions made regarding their education and well-being, NNEC, KO, and MLC, with the support of Canada and NAN, should consider creating a special seat on their Boards of Directors for a youth representative who is a student or former student of DFCHS or MLC under the age of 25. Canada should provide the funding for any costs associated with this position.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN and Canada support the partner First Nation organizations named to this recommendation, for the establishment of a special youth representative seat on their Board of Directors.
- Returning to in-person learning has been extremely beneficial for First Nation Youth. A youth representative not only allows for the development of leadership skills but also provides a

student voice and an increased opportunity to make decisions on their education and well-being. This initiative has been successful, although stable predictable funding is needed to continue maintaining these youth positions in each partner organization.

Recommendation #91

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure timely reporting of missing students and consistent practice among institutions when students are reported missing or during sudden death investigations, the City of Thunder Bay; TBPS; NAN; NAPS; NNEC; DFCHS; KO; and MLC should establish a working group to discuss best practices applicable to their respective roles pertaining to students from remote First Nations communities attending secondary school in Thunder Bay ("Students"). The working group should consider:

i. The need to ensure timely reporting to police of all missing person matters that involve a Student:

The working group should review and revise current education authority policies and procedures in order to generate a consistent set of policies. In particular, the document entitled Missing Student Protocol Guide [Exhibit Number 133 at Tab 31] should be reviewed and revised with the benefit of information learned at the joint inquest to help generate a consistent set of policies and procedures. The revised set of policies and procedures once agreed upon, should be disseminated to - and adopted by - NNEC, KO and MLC. The revised procedures should include language that directs education authority employees to file a missing person report with the police as soon as any member of the education authority determines that a search needs to be undertaken for a student whose whereabouts are unknown;

ii. Public awareness: The working group should discuss the implementation of a public information campaign emphasizing the importance of reporting missing person matters to police without delay;

iii. Information Sheets: The working group should discuss the preparation of information forms for all Students to be stored with education authorities. The working group should also review the steps necessary to obtain appropriate consent to disseminate these individual forms to the police in the event that a missing person report is filed;

iv. Social Media Search: The working group should consider how to utilize social media to assist in missing person searches and should designate roles and responsibilities for all parties accordingly;

v. Press Releases: The working group should discuss approaches to press releases pertaining to any missing person matter that involves a Student. The working group should also discuss approaches to press releases in the event that a Student is found deceased. The working group should discuss the various circumstances that may influence when media releases should or should not go out. The working group should also discuss circumstances that may influence how a media release may need to be worded;

vi. Best Practices for Interviews: The working group should discuss best practices to facilitate interviews of young people in exigent, non-criminal, circumstances. The working group should also discuss best practices to facilitate interviews in exigent, non-criminal, matters with individuals of any age who may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable dealing with individuals in positions of authority;

vii. Internal Search Plans: The working group should ensure that appropriate participant institutions have an internal search plan that can be implemented if a Student goes missing. Without limiting the generality of what the internal plans may include:

- a. Internal search plans should identify pre-determined internal points of contact to act as information coordinators and liaisons to third parties in the event of a missing person search involving a visiting student;
- b. Internal search plans should set out a clear supervisory structure so that each institution is able to identify an individual(s) who will ensure that the internal search plan is properly executed;
- c. Internal search plans should set out how information will be provided to family members and will contain provisions that permit family members to identify third parties to act as their

- agents/advocates as they prefer. The plan should ensure that more than one individual can be designated by family members to receive information where necessary;
- d. Internal search plans should also set out how employees will share information externally with any other relevant institutions, political bodies or family members;
 - e. All internal search plans should contemplate the possible arrival of community searchers and how to manage such volunteers. Internal search plans should explain best search practices for non-police searchers with particular emphasis on, among other things, evidence preservation;
- viii. Global Search Plans: The working group should also ensure that each internal search plan dovetails into a larger global search plan that should be implemented by all participant institutions in the event that a Student goes missing:
- a. Global search plans should adopt pre-determined points of contact within each institution that are consistent with the internal search plans discussed above;
 - b. Global search plans should include at least one Appendix that will contain a handout listing the best practices for community searchers discussed above. This document can be disseminated to community searchers as needed;
- ix. Missing person risk factors: The working group should share expertise on risk factors that may need to be considered when assessing the risk level in a missing person matter that involves a Student. The working group should create a list of risk factors that should be considered by all parties. The revised risk factors should be shared among participants and, once agreed upon by all, imported into the forthcoming TBPS 2016 missing person procedure as well as all internal search plans;
- x. The working group should also review the revised TBPS missing person questionnaire that arises under the 2016 missing person policy and should consider what revisions, if any, should be made based on: (i) the expertise obtained by education authorities arising out of their own search efforts and (ii) information contained in search forms prepared by other police services that may be available by way of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, including but not limited to, the Ontario Provincial Police;
- xi. Training: The working group should fix deadlines for completion of staff training on all issues as follows:
- a. Parties other than the TBPS should ensure that all staff are fully trained on revised procedures within 1-year from the completion of the working group deliverables; and
 - b. TBPS will ensure that all of its members are trained on the forthcoming revised 2016 missing person policy by December 31, 2016;
- xii. The working group should prepare an anonymized training case scenario based on evidence canvassed at, and lessons learned from, the joint inquest. The case scenario should be used to assist in training TBPS officers, education authority staff and NAPS officers to participate in investigations relating to Students which may involve:
- a. Civilian search teams;
 - b. Alcohol or substance use;
 - c. Reports made to police after the whereabouts of the subject individual have been unknown for a lengthy period of time;
 - d. Interviews involving young people who may be reluctant to speak to police officers fearing that they may get in trouble or may be betraying the confidence of their friends; or
 - e. Cultural and systemic barriers that may limit the fulsome disclosure of information to persons in positions of authority; and
- xiii. The working group should identify an appropriate external consultant to be hired to assist the TBPS (and any other interested organizations) to revise current training modules to ensure that curriculum covers cultural issues that are relevant to members of the Indigenous community in and around Thunder Bay and:

Parties Named in Recommendation: NAN, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

In collaboration with a working group comprised of Inquest Partners and partnering organizations, a Missing Person Search Toolkit was completed. The “toolkit” outlines important information and actions that must be undertaken when a person presents themselves missing.

NAN continues to work with the working group to review and discuss practices for locating missing students. The status of this subsection is complete.

A Media Launch for the “Am I Missing Campaign” was created by the working group in the spring of 2018. The postcard strives to increase awareness of the importance of reporting a missing person to the police without delay. This resource was translated into Ojibwe, Cree, and Oji-Cree and distributed throughout the NAN communities.

Parties named to the Recommendation have shared the cost of this campaign.

In 2020 a second set of postcards was developed along with a media campaign that focused on the importance of reporting a missing person.

In 2021, to further increase awareness of the “Am I Missing?” campaign, the Dryden and Sioux Lookout areas partnered with Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police and other partners. The status of this subsection is complete.

A guide was also developed on “Missing Persons & Social Media: Limiting Misinformation & Protecting the Privacy of Missing Persons by the Thunder Bay Police Services. This guide is located on the Thunder Bay Police Services website and continues to be utilized by the First Nation Partners.

Risk factors have been identified by the working group during the development of the Missing Persons Questionnaire. As these risk factors originate from the Thunder Bay Police Services Missing Person Policy, this information was shared with the working group as a reference.

The Thunder Bay Police Services Missing Person Questionnaire has been finalized by the working group.

Recommendation #94

Description of Recommendation:

Create a joint protocol translated in Cree, Ojibway, and Oji-Cree for distribution to community search teams explaining best search practices for non-police searchers with particular emphasis on:

- i. safety considerations for community searchers;
- ii. evidence preservation;
- iii. importance of communication/debriefing with assigned liaison officer; and
- iv. issues relating to private property.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Thunder Bay Police Services and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

The “Best Practices for Non-Police Community Volunteer Searchers” jointly developed by NAN and the Thunder Bay Police Service was compiled into a document distributed to NAN communities.

Recommendation #114

Description of Recommendation:

Consultations should occur between the City of Thunder Bay through the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, the TBPSB, Health Canada, the Ministries of Health and Long-term Care and Child and Youth Services, the Northwest Local Health Integration Network ("NWLHIN"), EMS, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre ("TBRHSC"), NAN, NNEC, KO, Shibogama, Independent First Nations Alliance ("IFNA") and MLC in order to develop of an alternative facility for intoxicated Youth, including remote First Nation students who cannot return home until their intoxication level has subsided. Such an alternative facility could include a shelter or detox unit, open to Youth who are 25 years or younger, with appropriately trained staff.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation: The First Nation Inquest Partners have reported that the NNEC and Matawa Safe Sober Sites are successful initiatives and extremely beneficial in supporting students.

Proper staffing of these facilities remains a critical need, including having nurses on-site to maintain proper delivery of services. Matawa has stated on several occasions that they do not have a nurse located on-site, resulting in not being able to offer the proper support.

Recommendation #116

Description of Recommendation:

In order to increase public awareness in the City of Thunder Bay regarding the issues raised during this Inquest, including the obstacles and challenges faced by First Nations students from remote communities who are residing in Thunder Bay, the City should work with First Nations expertise to develop a local and social media campaign as well as a public forum which highlights and addresses:

- i. The obstacles and challenges faced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- ii. The health and social issues often experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- iii. The subject of this Inquest through a discussion of the various roles and responsibilities of community partners and members of the community in assisting First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- iv. The current misconceptions relating to First Nations students from remote communities who are residing in Thunder Bay;
- v. Racism experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay; and
- vi. Facilitates discussion regarding how to address and report racism towards First Nations students in Thunder Bay

Parties Named in Recommendation: The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

NAN collaborates with First Nation Inquest Partners and the various working groups to establish processes for moving forward with challenges arising, misconceptions, health, and social issues including racism towards First Nation students.

The “Dear Thunder Bay” initiative came to fruition during this time. This initiative targets the anonymous voice of our students encouraging them to give voice to their personal ideas, thoughts, fears, and goals while attending school in Thunder Bay.

During the 2021-2022 school year, NAN worked with the First Nation Partners to launch Recommendation #116, “Dear Thunder Bay Campaign”. Progress was slow during this time due to the global pandemic, but this initiative was finally launched on April 4th, 2022.

The Campaign was very successful at the community level as it demonstrated students’ dreams, hopes and aspirations. Challenges and barriers were brought to the forefront within this campaign with the hope that community partners would take action to ensure a better future for students within the City.

The Community Building campaign panel initiative seeks to end the stigma and racism towards First Nation children, youth, and people. This campaign incorporates art and offers a message that sheds light on the many challenges and misconceptions related to First Nation people. The Campaign, thus far, has been incredibly successful, with multiple locations reaching out to NAN to request the panels be set up at their event. There have been many requests for the panels to be set up at schools from the three catchment areas of Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Timmins.

The Seven Youth Inquest Recommendation 126 is focused on support for students experiencing racism. The Community Building Campaign panels deliver information and seek to educate the public on the challenges and barriers faced by First Nation people. This campaign also supports the Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School Wake the Giant Festival and the Indigenous Culture and Inclusivity Training that was launched during this time.

Additional information panels will be added to include community education from the Inclusivity training that was developed.

Recommendation #137***Description of Recommendation:***

In order to improve the health outcomes of First Nations youth, we support and endorse Recommendations 18 through 20 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action that:

- i. call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties (CTA#18);
- ii. call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services (CTA#19); and

iii. in order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples (CTA#20).

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario and NAN

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

The Health Human Resource Working Group was the most active as the pandemic exposed major gaps in public health capacity, clinical preparation, and recruitment. In addition, governance models were explored and adapted to the unique features and infrastructure of the NAN territory.

A review of global Indigenous public health models was also undertaken and integrated into the development of the NAN Health Entity (working title HC). The governance model has youth prominently featured in an advisory role.

Recommendation #143

Description of Recommendation:

All organizations that receive recommendations should prepare an annual report following up on the recommendations that:

- i. Indicates whether each recommendation is (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected;
- ii. Provides an explanation for any recommendations that are not accepted in whole or in part and indicates an alternative approach to achieve the same aim;
- iii. Indicates, for all recommendations that are accepted, whether implementation is (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete;
- iv. Provides a detailed update regarding the steps that have been taken and are planned with respect to the implementation of the accepted recommendations;
- v. Is sent by email to any person who requests to receive a copy; and
- vi. Is prepared each year for delivery at 10 a.m. on the anniversary date of the release of the inquest recommendations (until the party has provided an annual report indicating that all of the recommendations it received have either been rejected or implemented)

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

The Parties named to the Inquest continue to submit Annual Reports each year. Copies of these reports are posted on the NAN website and will continue to be posted until each respective Inquest Party has provided an annual report indicating that all of the recommendations it received have either been rejected or implemented.

Recommendation #144

Description of Recommendation:

The organizations receiving recommendations should endeavour to agree on a process whereby the annual reports will be posted in a central location on the internet (e.g. on a website of one of the organizations). Acknowledging that the First Nations parties who receive recommendations have limited resources, those parties should prioritize actual actions responding to recommendations over reporting on those actions and should only be expected to provide annual reports if they have the resources to do so.

Parties Named in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Status of Recommendation: Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code: 1 (Recommendation has been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

The Inquest partners have agreed to submit their completed annual reports each year to NAN, on the anniversary date as set out in the Inquest Recommendations document. NAN continues to ensure that all partner reports are posted and available on the NAN website.

Recommendation #145**Description of Recommendation:**

Organizations that accept recommendations should revise their current policies to reflect new tasks and procedures.

Parties Names in Recommendation: Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Actions Towards Implementation:

NAN accepts the recommendation that organizations should revise their current policies to reflect new tasks and procedures. To adhere to this recommendation, NAN along with the First Nation Partners, meet regularly to discuss progress in the implementation of the recommendations, identify barriers and challenges and set out strategic approaches for undertaking the necessary work to complete these new tasks and procedures.

| Response Code | Response Legend |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 | The recommendation has been implemented |
| 1A | Recommendations will be implemented |
| 1B | An alternate recommendation has been implemented |
| 2 | Under consideration |
| 3 | Unresolved issues |
| 4 | Rejected |
| 4A | Rejected due to flaws |
| 4B | Rejected due to lack of resources |
| 5 | Not applicable to agency-assigned |
| 6 | No response |
| 7 | Unable to evaluate |
| 8 | Content or intent of recommendation is already in place |

OCC Response Codes

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

Canada (Indigenous Services Canada)

City of Thunder Bay

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFCHS)

Health Canada

Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO)

Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)

Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS)

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC)

**Office of the Chief Coroner Ontario (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation)**

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

Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)

