



ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2019

AMC AGA

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

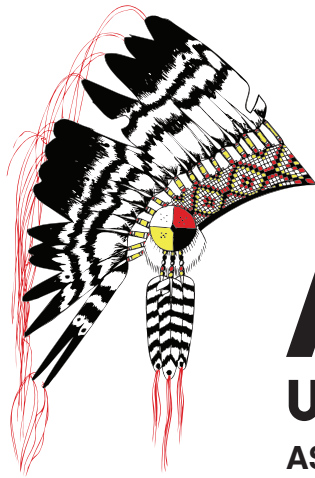
UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is, through the Chiefs-in-Assembly, to devise collective and common political strategies and mechanisms for coordinated action by First Nations and their organizations to:

- Promote, preserve, and project Aboriginal and Treaty rights for First Nation people in Manitoba;
- Preserve and enhance the rights and freedoms of First Nations in Manitoba as distinct peoples;
- Strengthen and restore the foundations of First Nations cultures, traditions, languages, economies, and societies;
- Affirm First Nation rights as peoples to exercise and practice self-determination and self-government;
- Protect the integrity and authority of each First Nation's customs, laws, and practices; and
- Preserve and enhance the role and equal participation of First Nation women within political, economic and social spheres of First Nation governments and organizations.



AMC

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	4
Dedication and In Memoriam for :	
Doris Pratt, Shirley Fontaine, Elmer Courchene	5
Grand Chief's Message.....	8
Message from the AMC Council of Elders	14
Message from the AMC Women's Council	16
Executive Council of Chiefs.....	18
Management/Operations Report.....	20
Women, Children and Families	23
Jordan's Principle.....	29
First Nations Family Advocate Office	36
Eagle Urban Transition Centre.....	41
Eagle's Nest Program	44
Wiichi Oskiiaga - Helping our Youth Program	45
Patient Advocate Unit.....	46
Housing Partnership Strategy.....	51
Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Advocate Office.....	53
Treaty Relations	55
Universal Health Accord	59
Education	62
Intervention Report	65
Conservation, Preservation & Restoration of Lake Winnipeg.....	67
Emergency Management Services	69
Gaming.....	71
Communications.....	73

Acronyms

You will find the following acronyms in this annual report:

AFN: Assembly of First Nations

BOCH: Bringing Our Children Home

CCOE: Chiefs Committee on Education

CFS: Child and Family Services

CIRNA: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

DISC: Department of Indigenous Services Canada

EUTC: Eagle Urban Transition Centre

FNFAO: First Nations Family Advocate Office

FNHSSM: First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba

GCO: Grand Chief's Office

MIB: Manitoba Indian Brotherhood

MKO: Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak

MLLC: Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Commission

MMIWG: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MPI: Manitoba Public Insurance

OAG: Office of the Auditor General

PILC: Public Interest Law Centre

SCO: Southern Chiefs' Organization

SNAU: Special Needs Advocate Unit

TEI: Treaty Education Initiative

TLE: Treaty Land Entitlement

TRCM: Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

UNDRIP: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

WRHA: Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

HPS: Housing Partnership Strategy

Dedication and In Memoriam



Doris Pratt
Duzahan Mani Win - Walks Fast Woman

Born: February 10, 1936 Passed: March 6, 2019

Doris was born on February 10, 1935 on the Oak River Reserve and began her journey home on March 6, 2019. She dedicated her life to education and more importantly to ensuring the Dakota language was preserved and promoted in the Dakota communities she worked in as a Teacher, Principal, Director of Education, and as a Professor at the University level. She developed language materials and resources that will be used for future generations. The development of a phonetic writing system for the Dakota Language was a major achievement that provided a system that made it easier to read and write the Dakota Language for children and adults.

We acknowledge her as a long standing Elder's Council member, a Grandmother, Mother and friend for her contributions to AMC and her lifetime commitment as an Educator and strong advocate for the rights of all First Nations.

Love you forever...Gabaya'ii gi ga zhawenimigo.

Dedication and In Memoriam



Shirley (Malcolm) Fontaine

Kah Beh Zhi Gway Dung Pinehsee Kwe - Thunderbird Who Speaks Once Women

Born: June 9, 1958 Passed: April 26, 2019

Shirley was from the Ebb and Flow First Nation and was born on June 9, 1958 and began her journey home on April 26, 2019. She was fluent in the Ojibwe and English languages and was connected and grounded in her Anishinaabe identity through her spirituality and ceremonies. In the 1970s-1980s she began her career in First Nations education by working with Manitoba Indian Education Association and Southeast Tribal Division for Schools. She was one of the youngest First Nations instructors at the University of Manitoba when she began teaching her Anishinaabe Language. She was always connected to initiatives that advanced First Nations education. As the Education Director of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, she was one of the leaders that conceived and established the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre to provide education services in various areas including language and culture, educational administration, technology, early learning, and special education clinical services to First Nations schools in Manitoba. She contributed to the development of the new First Nations Control of First Nations Education policy paper endorsed by First Nations Chiefs in Canada and AFN.

Love you forever...Gabaya'ii gi ga zhawenimigo.

Dedication and In Memoriam



Elmer Courchene **Mashkawigaabawid Inini - Standing Strong Man**

Born: August 16, 1936 Passed: December 5, 2018

Elmer was born August 16, 1936 and began his journey home on December 5, 2018 and he is from the Sagkeeng and Biitigone First Nations; he was fluent in the Ojibwe and English languages. He was very strong with the Anishinaabe traditional customs and practices and a pipe carrier, sundancer and helper at traditional ceremonies. He was instrumental during the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood in the mid 1960's and mid 1970's and was involved in the discussions of the 1969 White Paper, and supported the work of Wahbung: Our Tomorrows including the movement in 1972 for Indian Control of Indian Education. His home community was the pioneer to pilot the transfer of administrative control of education from the federal government to the First Nations government. He became involved as an advisor to his community Chief and Council over the next several years. In 1997, he served as the Elder Advisor and Spiritual Caretaker to then National Chief Phil Fontaine at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and continued as the Manitoba Elder representative to the AFN Senator Council and served as the Elder Advisor to the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs and Council of Elders until his passing.

Love you forever...Gabaya'ii gi ga zhawenimigo.

Grand Chief's Message

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY



Tansi Elders, leaders, and First Nation citizens,

This year we celebrate the 31st anniversary of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) on the traditional territory of the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation. This past year, we have been focusing our efforts on a renewed governance structure for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, continuous innovation, and a united stand in addressing challenges and finding solutions.

That is one of the reasons why we chose the theme of this year's Assembly of "Unity Through Innovation." When we work and move forward collectively we are able to move mountains to create a future for our children and youth while addressing the pressing needs of our citizens today.

Reflecting on the 2018/2019 year, major emphasis has been on Innovation and Transformation through our Treaties. Treaties are the foundation of our relationship with the Crown through which we can address the challenges our communities face as a whole. One of the ways that we are working to address these issues is through the pursuit of bilateral funding agreements and arrangements with Canada which will allow our AMC Chiefs to directly engage with Canada. Within these discussions, we are addressing the impacts and high cost of our remote communities, exploring and capitalizing on economic and resource development, and pursuing major infrastructure investments.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is committed to working to improve the lives of our communities and especially our children by working with our Chiefs and Councils. In memory of our Elders and leaders who have passed on within this past year; we are grateful for their guidance and contribution in working towards healthy and prosperous communities and Nation-building.

Our conversations over the next two days will build upon the work that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the AMC to do over the last year. This annual report demonstrates the progress we have made as well as the future prospects we have to provide greater opportunities for our First Nations to protect our rights and strengthen our communities. This last year was filled with many challenges and successes as the staff and I, together with your support and leadership, continue to coordinate with, advocate for, and assist First Nations working with federal, provincial, and municipal governments to implement our sovereign jurisdictions and build a future of prosperity and well-being for our people.

It's been a privilege to serve our 62 First Nation communities this past year. It is inspiring to see the resilience, strength and hope that is demonstrated by our Chiefs and Councils, and most of all the citizens of our First Nations. I look forward to engaging with our Chiefs and Councils to move our communities and Nations forward over this next year.



Supporting First Nation Leadership in Manitoba

Each year First Nation leadership in Manitoba gather to discuss important issues that impact our Nations. It is at these tables that Chiefs create unified positions for First Nations in Manitoba—sometimes this includes all First Nations in Manitoba but sometimes it includes positions specific to the needs of those First Nations in certain nation-based, territorial, or Treaty areas.

No matter how our individual communities govern locally, or on which projects different collectives of our First Nations work—we always come together in the end to support one another and show strength in unity. It is the Chiefs of First Nations in Manitoba that give me the mandate to carry forward positions to all levels of government and be that strong voice that ensures governments are working directly for the benefit of our communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of our First Nation leaders for your support, wisdom, advice, guidance, and direction given to the AMC.

In the 2018/2019 fiscal year, we have held four Assemblies:

- June 6 & 7, 2018 (Chiefs Assembly on Health)
- July 18 & 19, 2018 (AMC 30th AGA)
- October 23-25, 2018 (Chiefs Assembly on Education & Child and Family Matters)

- November 20 & 21, 2018 (Chiefs Assembly on Governance Renewal)

As per my commitment, we have been organizing our Chiefs Assemblies around specific themes and limiting them to two days unless we require more time for a fulsome discussion. This allows for focused discussions to facilitate more informed and timely decision-making on urgent issues. We will continue with this same process of hosting Assemblies every two months depending on the availability of resources.

We also held special meetings on child welfare reform, flood preparedness, fire preparedness, engagement on Bills C-68 and C-69, and Jordan's Principle. We developed a number of reports from these meetings that contain important recommendations on how we want to move forward on key issues in Manitoba. We have provided these reports to the Chiefs and have also tabled them with government.

Over the course of this last year, while advancing a collective agenda, the AMC has been able to initiate a number of key projects that will benefit our communities and citizens—initiatives that will enhance capacity at the community level. These include the:

- signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Red Cross;
- signing of the Public Safety Cooperation Protocol between the AMC, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Southern Chiefs Organization and the RCMP;



- continued engagement on the First Nations Universal Health Accord;
- continued engagement on First Nations Regional Education Agreement and Funding Model;
- continued engagement on transformation activities of the Department of Indigenous Services Canada;
- secured renewed funding for the next two fiscal years for the Eagle Urban Transition Centre from the United Way of Winnipeg;
- secured funding for First Nations to host their own community based engagement sessions on Emergency Management Services; and
- acted as a flow through for monies received for First Nations Early Learning and Child Care to go directly to each of the 63 First Nations in Manitoba.

In an effort to improve communication with our First Nation members, funders and partners, the AMC continues to revamp our website that has up-to-date information on the work we are doing. We continue to send regular updates on various government announcements regarding funding, legislative changes, and other initiatives to each of our First Nations. We are also working on new ways of reaching out through the creation of informational videos that are posted on our social media outlets.

Intergovernmental Relations with First Nations

There is no substitute for grassroots contact with our leaders, our people, and the issues we are striving to address. That is why I continue to take every opportunity to travel to our communities and work directly with our leadership. I am very grateful for the hospitality and the wisdom that you have shared with me.

When I visit the communities for their various celebrations, I see how each First Nation is expanding programs for their youth and elders, building partnerships with neighbouring governments and First Nations within their treaty territory. The context of all these actions is reviving our First Nation languages, keeping our cultures strong and creating a healthy environment for the education and wellbeing of our youth. Our leadership always keeps the needs of future generations in their hearts and minds. I will continue to attend as many of these events that my schedule will allow during my tenure as the Grand Chief.

I believe that listening to our leadership is a way to ensure effective government. We do this through hosting our bi-monthly Chiefs Assemblies and many of our initiatives and projects have technical advisory groups or Chiefs Committees so that we may hear from a wide range of community members, elected officials and staff.

Nation-to-Nation Relationship with Canada

As the Grand Chief, I meet regularly with federal Ministers and bureaucrats to advise them of the positions of First Nations in Manitoba. I take the direction and mandate given to me by the Chiefs in Manitoba through our Assemblies and our Executive Council meetings.

In this last year, my office also worked to facilitate meetings directly between federal officials and individual First Nations so your local governments can move forward on specific projects and initiatives unique to your communities.

The recognition of our sovereign jurisdictions requires that we have our own processes, negotiating tables, and agreements that respect the autonomy of our Nations and our historical relationships with the federal government. AMC offers support, facilitation, and advocacy for your communities in the spirit of helping to realize the implementation of those nation-to-nation partnerships. These discussions include but are not limited to Bringing Our Children Home Act and a First Nation Education Funding Model and Regional Education Agreement.

We continue to push for governments to honour the discussions we have had in terms of developing and funding innovative ways of recognizing and implementing our sovereign jurisdiction and our inherent, Aboriginal, Treaty, and title rights in the Manitoba region. This included a number of requests from Canada to review federal laws and policies impacting First Nations in Manitoba. These engagement sessions included obtaining feedback from

our community experts on Bill C-68: An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and Bill C-69: An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; Emergency Management Services, and Flood Preparedness.

My office has made a number of presentations to the Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples on such issues as Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families and Bill C-97: An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 19, 2019 and other measures.

Government-to-Government Relations with the Province of Manitoba

During this fiscal year, I have met several times with the Premier and his Cabinet members on various initiatives. My office continues to offer a more cooperative and supportive working relationship with the provincial government on a number of issues including child welfare reform, gaming, land and resource use, economic development, and address issues impacting our northern First Nations such as the lack of air transportation for some of our remote and isolated communities.

My office has met to discuss a number of economic development initiatives with this provincial government and how our First Nations in this province can benefit from true partnerships that create job and business opportunities for our citizens be that through the creation of a corporate structure such as a First Nations Construction Company owned by a First Nations consortium or whatever options leadership identify. My staff continues to research business opportunities and conduct the due diligence of said opportunities to bring forth for leadership consideration. These potential economic opportunities have included the construction of the Lake Winnipeg and Lake St Martin Channel Projects and a First Nations Airport Authority.

Working Towards Economic Self Sufficiency

The AMC has continued to find innovative ways to create economic opportunities for our First Nations in the region. We have been meeting with business leaders, employment and training organizations, various companies so that we identify solid business plans and cases that will enable our Nations and communities to create wealth and become economically self-sustaining in the future. I look forward to continue working with our leadership on these initiatives.



First Nations Jurisdiction over CFS

For time immemorial First Nations of Manitoba have asserted that they have an inherent right over Child Welfare; a right that is founded through the peoples relationship to the land and defined by law of the land. The provincially delegated authorities are guided by the Child and Family Services Act, a legislation to accommodate and meet the service requirements of provincially delegated authorities and not First Nations' authority.

That is why over this last year, the AMC's First Nations Family Advocate Office worked with our First Nation communities to develop and draft the Bringing our Children Home Act (BOCHA) which was unanimously endorsed by leadership in October 2018 at our Chiefs Assembly. Our AMC Women's Council has done extraordinary work leading this file and ensuring that no more children will be removed from our First Nation communities and customs. We as First Nations have never ceded the right to protect our children—that is why we are developed the made in Manitoba approach to child welfare reform and created the BOCHA and grounding our stance in a rights-based First Nation worldview. Since reclaiming advocacy for children in our community, the First Nations Family Advocate Office has worked with over

A more fulsome update on the work done on First Nation jurisdiction over child and family services can be found in the First Nations Family Advocate Office update in this report.

First Nation Education

As directed by our Chiefs in Assembly, an Education Directorate was re-established at the AMC and we hired staff to support individual First Nations who are pursuing control of their own education. The AMC Education Secretariat has provided regional policy analysis and advocacy with representation at the local, provincial and national tables. The main focus for the education file for 2018-2019 has been the Interim Funding Formula/Model and the Manitoba Regional First Nations Education Agreement. We have been working with leadership, First Nation education directors, the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre to create this funding model that will at minimum meet provincial funding comparability.

Manitoba Regional Education Agreement

The Agreement is a result of Canada's updated co-developed policy and funding approach implemented on April 1, 2019 and is based on provincial education funding formulas that include certain enhancements to address

First Nations' specific needs such as culture and language education. The approach used in the Agreement seeks to create a partnership between Canada and First Nations to develop Treaty-based, regional and local education agreements that address First Nations' educational goals and priorities. Developed in recognition of Manitoba First Nations' inherent and treaty rights to education, the Agreement sets out that Canada will provide funding to Manitoba First Nations over a 5-year period to bring the shift towards First Nations control of First Nations education on reserve.

Leading the Way in Health and Wellness - Universal Health Accord

Work has continued on discussions with First Nations, federal and provincial representatives on the development of a collaborative process that will lead to a tripartite or double bilateral solutions for a framework on health. This work is being done in partnership with the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, the Southern Chiefs Organization and the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba through multiple technical and political tables.

We will continue this important work in order to create options for what could be done to achieve Mino Pimatisiwin, ranging from community level health services to negotiations with the Government of Canada on fiscal arrangements on health.

Moving Forward

The list of highlights I have provided can leave no doubt that the AMC had a busy and successful year. These successes are in no small way owed to the contributions of our First Nation leadership and our staff in our Nations and here at the AMC. We take every opportunity to remind all levels of government and other funders of the contributions of our citizens that participate in our committees, at our Assemblies and at our various events throughout the year. Our women, men, young people and Elders are called on more often than those of any other First Nation group to support the work of advancing First Nation rights and interests.

This is a testament to the firm commitment we hold as citizens of the First Nations here in Manitoba, that we all are committed to advancing the First Nation agenda and helping our fellow citizens. On a personal note, I would like to thank and acknowledge our First Nation Chiefs and Councils, the AMC Executive Council, the AMC Women's Council and the AMC Elders Council. Nothing that took place in the last year could have been achieved without their

selfless dedication and vision. I would also be remiss if I did not give a big thank you to our dedicated, hardworking staff who so ably support the leadership in all areas of activity. I acknowledge the unwavering dedication of the AMC staff in their continued commitment, hard work, and professionalism in advancing First Nation issues and the AMC. I want to thank the staff in each of our communities for the services they are delivering to our people, including those that volunteer in various capacities. I want to acknowledge the staff of our affiliate organizations who also work with our office to make life better for our people.

We will continue to work towards achieving the mandates given to our office and that set by our leaders from the past. I look forward to a new path forward as we strengthen the relationship we have amongst ourselves and set a higher standard for our relationships with the Crown governments in terms of the recognition, implementation, and accommodation of our Treaties and self-governing agreements.

Thank you for your support over the last year.



Ekosani, Miigwetch, Wopida, Mahsi Cho,

Grand Chief Arlen Dumas

AMC Elder's Council



Greetings! Aniin! Boozhoo!

Congratulations to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs on yet another year of success, meeting the challenges and the many accomplishments under the leadership of Grand Chief Dumas. Since his tenure as Grand Chief, he has been committed to listening to the Elders and we thank him for taking the necessary time to do so. The Council of Elders remains hopeful that our people will continue to strive to remain strong to our true identity, languages and culture.

Members of Elder's Council:

Florence Paynter, Norway House Cree Nation
 Harry Bone, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation
 James Cote, Waywayseecappo First Nation
 William Lathlin, Opaskwayak Cree Nation
 D'Arcy Linklater, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
 Joseph Hyslop, Northlands Denesuline First Nation

During this past year the Council has had the opportunity to participate and provide input into the following dialogue sessions:

- AMC's 30th Annual General Assembly;
- General Assemblies on Health, Jordan's Principle, Education and Flooding;
- Committee meetings on Education, Governance, Executive Council of Chiefs and Bringing Our Children Home;
- AMC-CIRNA Governance Meetings on TRCM;
- CIRNA Membership and Citizenship Forum;
- AMC quarterly Elder's Meetings;
- TRCM Treaty Education Initiative, new grade 12 school initiated course and post-secondary course on Treaties and the annual Manitoba Museum honouring of sacred items hosted by Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation;
- Tebwetibajimowin Gathering with Knowledge Keepers & the Manitoba Law Society;
- Sacred Bundles Gathering with Knowledge Keepers & Transport Canada; and
- Special Ceremonies & Feasts.



“the Great Spirit is at work and is the author of our time here and he has given me more time to do good, to be of service and we must also pray for each other.”

- Elder Doris Pratt, Duzahan Mani Win (Walks Fast Woman),
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

The Elders Council extend congratulations for the special recognition to Elder Dr. Harry Bone, C.M as a recipient of the Order of Canada and the 2019 Inductee for the Grandfather's Award hosted by Ka Ni Kanichihk; Posthumous Elder Doris Pratt was also a 2019 Inductee for the Grandmother's Award. In closing, the Council would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the time spent with two Elders – the late Doris Pratt and the late Elmer Courchene who both gave of their time on behalf of their families and communities for the betterment of their people.

Elder Pratt had health challenges towards the end and she told us *“the Great Spirit is at work and is the author of our time here and he has given me more time to do good, to be of service and we must also pray for each other.”*

Courchene battled cancer and said *“that it is a life-death situation and each of us still has a journey to fulfill and that is with the Creator, he guides me to fulfill the purpose of why I am here.”*

We will forever miss them and comforted to know they are with other family and the Ancestors!

Respectfully,

Florence Paynter, Harry Bone, James Cote, William Lathlin,
D'Arcy Linklater and Joesph Hyslop

“that it is a life-death situation and each of us still has a journey to fulfill and that is with the Creator, he guides me to fulfill the purpose of why I am here.”

- Elder Elmer Courchene, Mashkawigaabawid Inini
Standing Strong Man,
Sagkneeg First Nation

AMC Women's Council



Greetings! Aniin! Boozhoo!

Members of the AMC Women's Council:

I wish to say congratulations and welcome to the following women to our AMC Women's Council: Chief Lorna Bighetty, Mathias Colomb First Nation; Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation; Vice Chief Jennifer Flett, Opaskwayak Cree Nation; and Councilor Sarah Monias, St. Theresa Point First Nation. We look forward to your wisdom and guidance at our table.

Other members of the AMC Women's Council include:

Chief Karen Batson, Pine Creek First Nation
 Chief Priscilla Colomb, Marcel Colomb First Nation
 Chief Viola Eastman, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
 Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation
 Chief Vera Mitchell, Poplar River First Nation
 Chief Deborah Smith, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
 Chief Doreen Spence, Tataskweyak Cree Nation
 Councilor Shawna Henderson Fox Lake Cree
 Councilor Darlene Osborne, Norway House Cree Nation





I wish to extend a warm welcome to the Elders, leadership, and First Nations citizens to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs 31st Annual General Assembly that is being held on the beautiful lands of the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation.

Historically, First Nations women have occupied a sacred place in our families, communities and Nations. We will honour our sacred place as we lead and address issues that directly affect First Nations women, families and children, such as violence against women, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, gender equality and child welfare.

We stand-up and fight for our children and families to ensure decisions made are based on cultural and traditional beliefs that creates a renewed understanding of our unique rights as First Nations people.

We thank and call upon the continued support of our First Nations leadership in Manitoba in our efforts in not only Bringing Our Children Home but improving the lives of all First Nations people in Manitoba.

Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation, AMC Women's Council Chairperson

“As family members and as Chiefs, we have all seen our children leave our First Nations and go into care to non-First Nations homes for too long. We have also talked about jurisdiction long enough. If we are to truly take the future in our hands, we must all work together away from a provincially delegated CFS system, towards a First Nations’ system based on our own laws that prevents our children from being placed in care, and rather advances our children and families and nations.”

- Letter from AMC Women's Council Supporting First Nations approach to Children & Families

Executive Council of Chiefs

Chairperson Grand Chief Arlen Dumas



Executive Council of Chiefs

The Executive Council of Chiefs (ECC) receives its mandate from the AMC Constitution and via Chiefs-in-Assembly certified resolutions. The Council functions as a source of authority between Assemblies and is composed of the Grand Chief, five Chiefs selected by northern First Nations, and five Chiefs selected by southern First Nations. The membership of the ECC is as follows:

First Nation Women's Council

Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation

Southern Representatives

Chief Cornell McLean, Lake Manitoba First Nation, Interlake Reserve Tribal Council

Chief Ken Chalmers, Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation, Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council

Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin First Nation, West Region Tribal Council

Chief Roland Hamilton, Bloodvein First Nation, SouthEast Resource Development Corporation

Independent Southern Representative (One Vote)

Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation

Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation

Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation

Northern Representatives

Chief David McDougall, St. Theresa Point First Nation, Island Lake Tribal Council

Chief John Clarke, Barren Lands First Nation, Keewatin Tribal Council

Chief Harold Turner, Misipawistik Cree Nation, Swampy Cree Tribal Council

Independent Northern Representatives (Two Votes)

Chief Marcel Moody, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Chief Larson Anderson, Norway House Cree Nation

Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

Chief David Monias, Cross Lake Band of Indians

The ECC:

- deliberates and provides a record of decisions on a range of issues as mandated by the various resolutions passed at our Chiefs Assemblies;
- acts as the body to vote on resolutions that get carried over from the various Assemblies that, due to time constraints, are not passed at those meetings; and
- maintains linkages to AMC-mandated organizations by issuing a call for names process to fill vacant Board of Director positions.

These mandated organizations include:

- the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC)
- the First Peoples Economic Growth Fund (FPEGF)
- the First Peoples Development Inc. (FPDI)
- the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat (FNHSSM)

Status of Activities

The ECC held meetings during the 2018-2019 fiscal year on the following dates: May 9, 2018; August 16, 2018; October 10, 2018; January 24, 2019; February 20, 2019; March 4, 2019; and March 25, 2019. These all achieved quorum and various decisions and motions were passed on the following items but not limited to:

- Support for the Grand Chief to sign the Collaborative Agreement with the Canada Red Cross;
- Support for the creation of a Steering Committee on First Nation Laws on Children and Families;
- Support for the Grand Chief to pursue all legal and political options to oppose subsidized guardianship, Bill S-2 The Child and Family Services Amendment Act;
- Call for a Special Chiefs Assembly on Child and Family Service matters;
- Endorse the draft "Bringing our Children Home Act" and bring forward to the next Chiefs Assembly;
- Direct the AMC Secretariat to explore the further development of a Centre of Excellence;
- Approve the appointment of two Chiefs representatives to sit on the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Board of Directors;
- Direct the AMC Secretariat to participate in the Public Utilities Board hearing to defend the rate freeze for First Nations subject on finding new funds to support the appeal;
- Approve the re-appointment of three applicants to the Manitoba First Nations Casino Trust;
- Direct the AMC Grand Chief and the AMC Women's Council to lobby in Ottawa to advance the Bringing Our Children Home Act and to develop a lobbying and communication strategy;

- Approve the flow of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) funds through the AMC Secretariat for the 2018/2019 year with AMC not to charge an administration fee;

- Agree to the development of an ELCC strategy that will include a review and analysis of the existing regional funding allocations for First Nations in Manitoba; and

- Confirms the authorization of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc. to commence and continue the existing proceedings against Manitoba in Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, et al. v The Government of Manitoba et al.

The Council has adopted 60 motions to advance the work of the First Nations leadership in Manitoba.

We wish to thank the AMC Elders Council for its continued support and guidance in advancing the work that we do. Our knowledge keepers are essential for ensuring we never forget the spirit and intent the Treaties and agreements our past leaders negotiated that would last for generations.

Management/Operations Report

INTRODUCTION

The AMC Secretariat's core functions are:

Political infrastructure: Grand Chief; Annual, Special, and General Assemblies; Executive Council of Chiefs; Personnel and Finance Chiefs Committee; various Chiefs Committees; First Nation Women's Council, and Council of Elders.

Administration: Executive Director, finance, human resources, information management, information technology, media relations, and communications.

Strategic policy coordination and analysis: Inter-departmental policy and coordination capacity including conducting the necessary research and First Nation engagement in developing AMC policy positions/ documentation; providing briefings to leadership; and meetings on policy engagement with federal, and where required, provincial departments. Under the direction of the Grand Chief and the Acting Executive Director, senior staff implements decisions made by the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions and Executive Council of Chiefs motions.

AMC senior staff meet on operational matters, along with and under the direction of the Chiefs Committee on Personnel and Finance. This includes:

- approving and implementing AMC work plans and budgets;
- financial management in accordance with AMC policies and procedures;
- human resources in accordance with AMC policies and procedures; and
- overall performance measurement and evaluation.

The work plan of the AMC Secretariat includes, but is not limited to:

- First Nations governance
- Enhancing fiscal and governance capacity
- Renewing fiscal relationships
- Education

- Health
- Climate change and the environment
- Economic development
- Social development
- Children, women, and families
- Jordan's Principle
- Housing and infrastructure; on/off-reserve housing
- Research partnerships
- Legislative and policy reviews and development
- Intergovernmental relationship building and partnerships
- Urban First Nations strategies

The Management Team works with the following to both negotiate annual work plans and budgets in support of First Nations common issues for the areas listed above:

- Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC);
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) at Health Canada, Manitoba Region;
- Indigenous and Municipal Affairs at the Province of Manitoba; and
- The City of Winnipeg.

Working together, we ensure the Secretariat is dedicated exclusively to the social, cultural, educational, and economic development of First Nations people.

The organization's annual work plan activities are based on strategic planning by directives to meet First Nations common priorities, such as:

- Facilitate support to the First Nations inherent right to self-determination through informed participation and decision-making and ratification of outcomes
- Reflect priorities that deal with First Nation issues at community level in addressing changes to legislation, regulations, policies, procedures, and improvements to programs and services
- Promote opportunities for collaborative partnership with

Canada and the province on basic organizational capacity and support for research activities on common community initiatives and institutional development

- Provide appropriate timeframes for achieving and measuring strategic outcomes, organizational performance, effectiveness, and financial accountabilities

Key Issues and Challenges

The AMC Secretariat performs a significant advocacy function to support the directives provided through Chiefs' resolutions. In 2018-2019, AMC passed 34 Executive Council of Chiefs Motions and 29 Chief-in-Assembly resolutions addressing common issues.

These directives and activities are developed to identify key issues and formulate alternatives to influence changes to existing and proposed federal and/or provincial policies and programs. Meeting deadlines requires regular identification of critical and emerging issues with preparation of the relevant documentation for leadership review and decision-making.

Although the AMC continues to be under-resourced, we continue to push to meet organizational and program objectives through proposal submissions.

Links to First Nation Communities

The AMC Secretariat provides relevant, ongoing, and consistent updates on the activities of the organization through:

- our website (www.manitobachiefs.com);
- social media (Twitter, Facebook, and live streaming of assemblies, workshops, forums, and events via YouTube);
- distribution of publications; and
- radio and television appearances.

The Grand Chief, management, and staff attend workshops and meetings and participate at various forums with communities, senior officials, working groups, and committees to ensure information is gathered, analyzed, and reported to the leadership, particularly on issues that may impact First Nations programs and services.

A central goal of the Secretariat is to support and advocate for First Nation community-based needs and action plans focused on strategic outcomes. We regularly prepare briefing materials on a range of issues with various

strategies and reports provided to the Chiefs-in-Assembly, Executive Council, and Chief Committees. We have been working with Canada this year to ensure monies go directly to the First Nations so that they may lead their own engagement processes on files.

To ensure projects and initiatives are community-driven there are also technical working groups which consist of community and/or regional representatives. These groups develop feedback and reports for leadership and First Nations members.

AMC monitors regional information and coordination on national First Nation and federal government initiatives, including but not limited to the following areas:

- policy and legislation
- issues impacting First Nations women, children, and families
- urban strategy
- social development
- federal government restructuring
- federal budget

Status of Activities

Senior staff meet every two months to discuss overall issues relating to management, financial monitoring and reporting, the AMC Constitution, Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions, Executive Council motions, and funding agreements. These directives are then filtered down to the staff to move forward and ensure regular reporting on activities, human resource issues, and funding challenges.

These senior staff also works with the Personnel and Finance Chiefs Committee to review administrative and financial operations. This committee reports to the Executive Council of Chiefs and at the Annual General Assembly on the operations of the Secretariat, including the audited financial statements.

Senior staff also hold meetings with senior officials from DISC (from headquarters and the region), the City of Winnipeg, and the Province of Manitoba on key initiatives and projects.

One of AMC's core functions is to communicate with its members – the First Nations leadership in Manitoba.



UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION

The AMC provides ongoing monitoring and maintenance of AMC's existing network system. We also collaborate on projects to ensure efficiency in communications to First Nations/general public. Due to the lack of resources AMC continues to have challenges with updating the network infrastructure. The Information Technology Technician continues to work towards upgrades, creating and revising policies and procedures related to the network infrastructure.

Accomplishments

- Manitoba First Nation Fire Preparedness Forum, April 17, 2018, Thompson, MB
- Staff attended the AFN Assembly on Federal Legislation, April 30-May 2, 2018 in Gatineau, Quebec
- Chiefs Assembly on Health, June 6 & 7, 2018
- Feast and Ceremony for AMC Headdress and Pipe, June 29, 2018
- AMC 30th Annual General Assembly, July 18 & 19, 2018
- AFN Regional Chief Election, July 19, 2018
- Jordan's Principal Stakeholders Gathering – August 13-15, 2018
- First Nations Jurisdiction of Children and Families Forum – August 16, 2018
- Eagles Nest Graduation – August 21, 2018
- Moosehide Campaign Launch – September 17, 2018
- AMC/Canada Red Cross MOU signing – September 27, 2018
- Chiefs Committee on Governance Renewal Planning Meeting – October 11 & 12, 2018, Brandon, MB
- Chiefs Assembly on Education & Child and Family Matters, October 23-25, 2018
- Chiefs Assembly on Governance Renewal, November 20 & 21, 2018
- AMC Jingle Mingle Event, December 13, 2018
- AMC Christmas Open House, December 19, 2018
- Ending First Nation Homelessness Youth Forum, January 25, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- Ending First Nation Homelessness First Nations Women's Forum, February 1, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- Universal Health Accord Visioning Workshops, February 7 & 8th, 2019, Gimli, MB
- Two Spirit Focus Group – First Nation Homelessness Forum, February 8, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- Ending First Nation Homelessness Men's Lived Experience Forum, February 15, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- AMC Flood Preparedness Forum, February 28-March 1, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- Ending First Nations Homelessness Report Forum, March 22, 2019, Winnipeg, MB
- First Nations Homelessness Forum, April 11, 2019, Thompson, MB

INITIATIVES

Women, Children and Families



Staff

Karen Harper - Community Liaison

Introduction

The AMC Women's Council advocates and advances issues to improve the involvement of women in leadership decision-making, particularly in areas related to children and families. The goal for the Women's Council is to obtain First Nation control and jurisdiction on the issues that impact women, children and families. They continue to move forward with commitment and determination to keep the momentum going on action that is required to support Manitoba First Nations women to build better lives for their children, families and communities and the generations yet to come.

Key Issues and Challenges

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

AMC continues to advocate for the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls initiative focused on both tangible immediate actions and systemic long-term

changes.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NI-MMIWG)

The Government of Canada in September 2016 established the office of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The NI-MMIWG's mandate is to look into and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls. It also is to examine the underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence.

In 2017 in keeping with the NI-MMIWG Truth Gathering process, Part I focused on Community hearings and visits. 15 public community hearings/visits were held across Canada.

NI-MMIWG Knowledge Keeper, Expert and Institutional Hearings

Part II (Institutional Hearings) and Part III (Knowledge Keeper and Expert Hearings). The NI-MMIWG Commissioners heard testimonies from knowledge keepers and experts on:



UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION

- Institutional Hearings – Government Services (May, 2018);
- Expert Hearings – Family and Child Welfare (October 2018); and
- Sexual Exploitation (October 2018).

AMC worked with mandated entities, Eagle Urban Transition Centre (EUTC), First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO), First Nations Health & Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM), Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC); and Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) to prepare for these hearings.

Public Interest Law Centre (PILC), lead lawyer Joelle Pastora Sala and a pro-bono team of lawyers, Stacey Soldier (Solider Law); and Anita Southall (Fillmore & Riley) represented AMC at the hearings on Human Rights Framework, Sexual Exploitation, Racism, Colonial Violence, Criminal Justice System, Family and Child Welfare; and Sexual Exploitation/ Human Trafficking and Resources Extractions. The hearings were held from May to October 2018 across Canada.

The NI-MMIWG announced that Parties with Standing would have the opportunity to present their Oral Closing Submission. AMC, FNFAO and PILC worked together on the submission to present to the NI-MMIWG Commissioners and the written submission was also sent on December 14, 2018.

Grand Chief Dumas and Joelle Pastora Sala (PILC) presented AMC's Oral Closing Submission to the NI-MMIWG Commissioners. The submission was based on the Seven Stages of Life (birth and infancy, infancy to youth, older teenage years, young adulthood, adulthood, middle age; and Elder life). In each stage of life the presentation demonstrated how disruptions caused by colonization and foreign western-based ways impacted the lives of First Nations women and girls including families, survivors, communities and Nations. Also included in both oral and written submissions were recommendations that we must move away from colonial laws and policies and return to First Nations laws and institutions for governing all aspects of our daily lives.

Special Rapporteur, Dubravka Simonovic on violence against women, its causes and consequences Visit to Canada April 13 – 23, 2018

From April 13 to April 21, 2018 the United Nations Special Rapporteur Ms. Simonovic visited Canada and met with key

stakeholders across Canada on the situation of violence against women and human rights agencies representatives. The purpose of her visit was to examine the gaps and challenges in fulfilling the obligations of Canada to eliminate violence against women its causes and consequences, and recommendations for preventing and combating violence against women in Canada.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls office are to release their final report on June 3, 2019 and officially close its doors in June 2019.

On April 21, 2018, Chief Francine Meeches and Chief Cathy Merrick met in Winnipeg and presented the wide number of challenges and risk factors including living in First Nations that lack basic human rights requirements. Recommendations were also presented that Ms. Simonovic would be including in the United Nations report to the Human Rights Council in the Spring of 2019.

Manitoba Coalition on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Manitoba Coalition on MMIWG continues to meet and support families and survivors. The co-chairs represented the Coalition at the various hearings and presented their closing oral submission to the NI-MMIWG Commissioners in December 2018 in Ottawa.

At a March 2018 meeting of the Manitoba Coalition, the question was asked what AMC's potential approach would be for inclusion of the Metis and Inuit at the National Inquiry. Coalition members were informed AMC's mandate is First Nations focused only. On May 16 & 17, 2018, AMC Women's Council met and discussion on the Manitoba Coalition on MMIWG. The matter of AMC's potential approach to include the Metis and Inuit at the National Inquiry was shared with women's council members. Leadership informed AMC staff to separate from the Coalition and form our own First Nations organization.

Families First Foundation for MMIWG

AMC continues to provide administrative support to the Foundation Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are family members, Kim McPherson, Peguis First Nation; Delores Daniels, Peguis First Nation, Isabel Daniels, Sagkeeng First Nation; and Sue Caribou, Mathias Colomb First Nation.

The Board has held a number of meetings to identify how to move forward in planning events, fundraising and as directed



by the AMC Women’s Council to seek new members.

Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality Project

The objective of this project is to promote and increase the number of First Nations women in the trades or other non-university occupations. The AMC Women’s Council identified three key leaders and their communities to partner with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Chief Viola Eastman, Fox Lake Cree Nation, Councilor Shawna Henderson; and Norway House Cree Nation, Councilor Darlene Osborne.

Five key activities:

- 1)Community engagement to identify issues and solutions;
- 2)Establishing partnerships with industry and governments;
- 3)Developing and promoting Tools for Change Handbook;
- 4)Establishing a supportive leadership network; and
- 5)Key Leaders participation in a network of Women’s Leadership meetings.

Activity 1 is completed. A total of 6 community engagement sessions were held. Participants were youth-students, band staff, community women, men and leadership.

Community	# of Women	# of Men	Total
Canupawakpa	29	12	41
Fox Lake	26	2	28
Norway House	164	98	193
Total:			262

Participants shared barriers as well as solutions. Barriers included: lack of self-confidence, self-esteem; lack of education, racism and sexism are evident from recruitment to hiring and beyond. Solutions, women to believe in themselves, they can do this type of work; learn and understand “gender equality” from a First Nations perspective.

At each engagement session, participants and the leaders identified potential governments, industries including educational institutions to begin work on activities 2 and 3, establishing partnerships with industry and governments for change while concurrently working on the development and promotion of tools for change handbook that can be used by any First Nation in pursuing similar partnerships.

Activities 4 and 5 are the opportunity for the AMC Women’s Council to support the three key leaders and their communities in the development of the project. There is to be five meetings of the Network of Women’s Leadership. Four meetings have already been held.

Child and Family Matters

The AMC Women’s Council continues to work with staff of the First Nations Family Advocate Office to bring back First Nations natural laws on how to care for our children and families. Throughout the 2018-2019 fiscal year, members of the Women’s Council held nine (9) meetings to undertake



planning to ensure Manitoba First Nations families and children are reunited. The ground work was set last fiscal year (2017-2018) through various initiatives, such as:

AMC-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Families and Children

The 2017 AMC-Canada Memorandum of Understanding remains the tool in moving forward on the development of a Manitoba specific federal legislation maintaining our inherent rights including inherent right of First Nations jurisdiction over Child Welfare. Through direction from the AMC Women's Council, movement continues on how to care for our own children and families through Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA).

Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA)

The staff of FNFAO and staff in the Women, Children & Families programs have assisted the AMC Women's Council in holding a number of meetings (June 27-28/18; August 23-24/18; September 13/18; October 9/18; November /18; January 17-18/19; March 18-19/19; and March 28/19). Members of the women's council provided direction on the development of Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA). They want to ensure the Manitoba federal legislation is moving towards full jurisdiction for Manitoba First Nations children and families.

The Government of Canada, Indigenous Services Canada announced in November 2018 the plan to develop federal

legislation for Indigenous children and families. In February 2019, Bill C-92 an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families was created.

A comparative analysis was prepared on February 28, 2019. A brief summary of the analysis is Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families purpose and intent is to affirm the rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples and will set out unilateral national principles as provisions of child and family services based on; 1) best interests of the child; 2) cultural continuity and 3) substantive equality. Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA) will restore jurisdiction directly to First Nations in Manitoba with respect to Child and Family matters in a manner that reflects the First Nations own laws, practices, standards and customs.



Regional Advisory Committee.”

Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative (CWJI)

The First Nations Family Advocate Office on page provided an update on CWJI. This is an addition to their report to inform leadership what the AMC Women’s Council (AMC-WC) have determined regarding Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) allocation of funding towards CWJI. ISC has proposed the method to determine how the funding will flow and presented 2 options:

- Option One: Regional Table comprised of representatives from AMC, MKO, SCO, Manitoba, ISC, Northern Authority and Southern Authority or
- Option Two: Regional office of ISC in consultation with regional First Nations organizations comprised of representatives from AMC, MKO, and SCO in Manitoba.

AMC-WC proposed a 3rd Option and passed a motion on September 13, 2019 that recommended:

“In Manitoba, the senior level committee, [Senior Official Table-emphasis clarified] is comprised of representatives from ISC and 7 Chiefs from the 5 Nation/language groups (2 Cree, 2 Anishinaabe, 1 Oji-Cree, 1 Dene and 1 Dakota that will determine the funding allocation and inform the

The Senior Official Table is to direct the First Nations Child Family Services (FNCFS) Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) which is comprised of staff of AMC, MKO, SCO, Northern Authority, Southern Authority, Manitoba and ISC. Additionally, the Senior Official Table will also help determine the funding allocation, specifically with respect to the CWJI.

AMC-WC has been advocating that funding allocation for prevention dollars including CWJI go directly to First Nations in Manitoba.

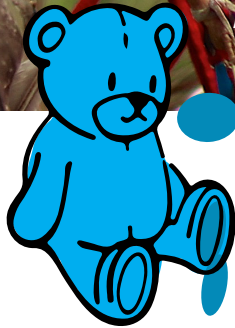


UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION



INITIATIVES

Jordan's Principle Service Coordination



Staff

Marcel Balfour - Program Manager
Heidi Stranger - Administrative Support
Shelley Wilson - Policy Analyst
Jaron Hart - Policy Analyst
Sheri Cochrane - Administrative Support

Introduction

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit work plan was created through feedback and recommendations gathered from the Keewaywin: Our Way Home, Manitoba First Nations Engagement on Jordan's Principle Implementation.

Three pillars of the Jordan's Principle Service Coordination work plan are: non-discrimination; self-determination; and a holistic approach. These three pillars guide the AMC's approach to the regional implementation of Jordan's Principle which seeks to: put the needs of children first; increase access to services on-reserve; work toward stable, long-term funding for First Nations; and further enhance the capacity of First Nations to provide services to their citizens on and off reserve.

The AMC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit works in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Program (formerly known as the Special Needs Advocate Unit) of the Eagle Urban Transition Centre providing policy research and recommendations for the plurality of unique cases which the staff advocate for on a daily basis.

The AMC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit also work with Manitoba First Nations, Manitoba Region Tribal Councils, the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, the Southern Chiefs Organization and the Assembly of First Nations Manitoba Regional Chiefs Office through the Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group of the Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable.

Key Issues and Challenges

Communication was a key issue and challenge identified by First Nations – communication from Canada, regionally how it is implementing Jordan's Principle and makes decisions; nationally what the Jordan's Principle Action Table is doing; and regionally organizations and service providers are doing.

During the late summer and early fall of 2018, the AMC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit partnered with the First Nations Family Advocate Office on Keewaywin: Closer to Home Community Visits which sought to seek feedback on First Nation Family Laws from each of our region's five distinct Language Nation and Groups. During these visits, the Coordination Unit met with local Jordan's Principle Programs to facilitate a SWOT Analysis to learn and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of each program to determine what is needed in each Manitoba First Nations as we continue to work toward the regional implementation of Jordan's Principle. Manitoba First Nations which were visited included:

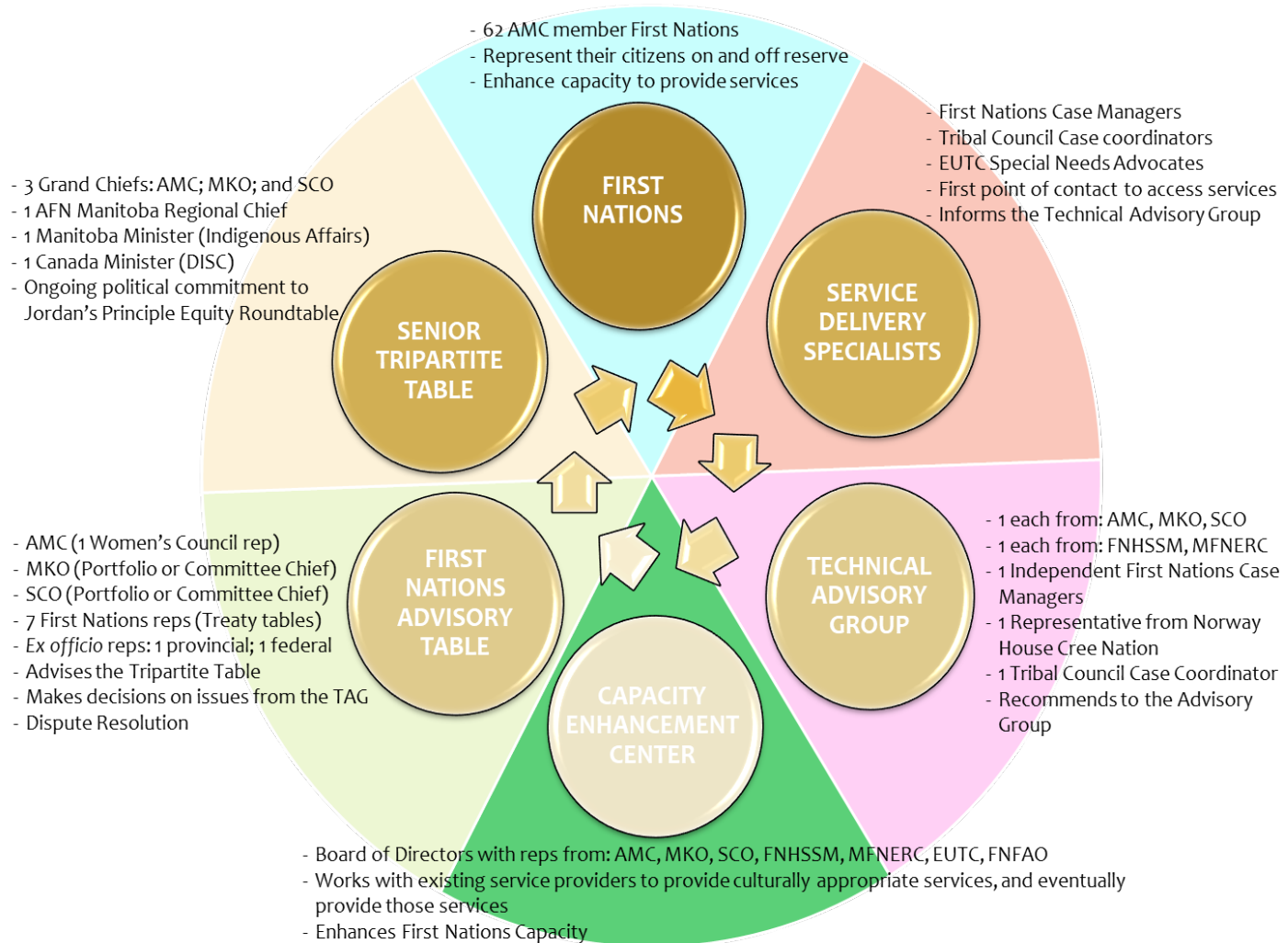
- Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation
- Canupawakpa First Nation
- Ebb and Flow First Nation
- Marcel Colomb First Nation
- Manto Sipi First Nation
- Mathias Colomb First Nation
- Peguis First Nation
- Roseau River First Nation
- St. Theresa Point
- Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation
- York Factory First Nation

Some of the key issues and challenges involving communication that were shared also included:

Families refrain from accessing supports and services available through the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative based on the fear and misinformation that Jordan's Principle is part of the First Nations Child and Family Service program.

Families hear what supports and services were accessed through the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative only from other families, and demand the same supports and services without being aware that each case plan is unique based on the child's and family's needs.

Jordan's Principle Equity Round Table



Not accessing services through the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative because of a mistaken notion that they would not qualify because the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative is only for children with complex medical needs.

Activities

Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable, and the Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group

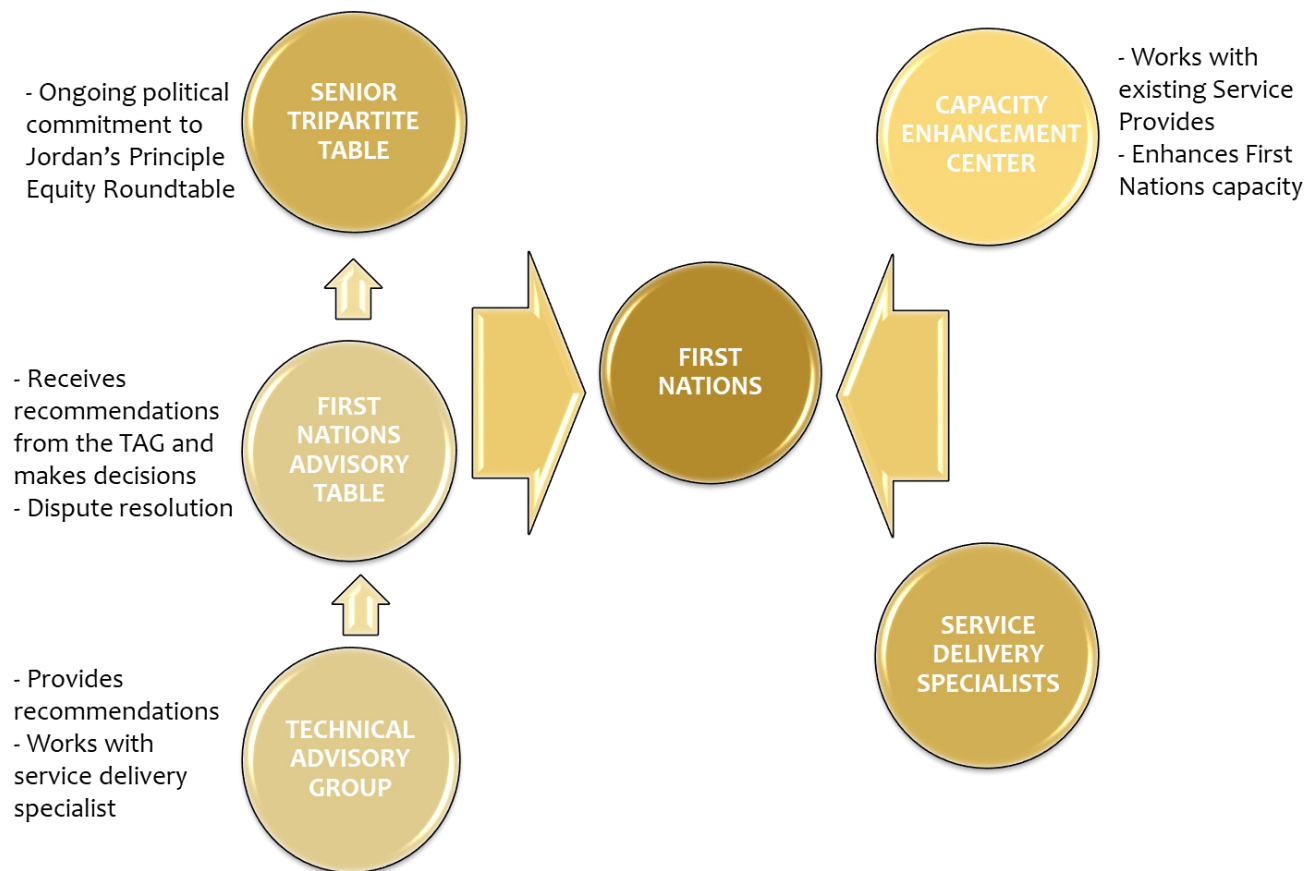
On January 16, 2019 the AMC Secretariat Inc. met with the Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak and the Southern Chiefs Organization members of the Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to strengthen First Nation representation and participation in the Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable. The discussions included options on

going forward and potential amendments to Resolution JUL-18.05 Replacing the Jordan's Principle Terms of Reference Officials Working Group (TOROWG).

Proposed amendments were to:

1. Expand the number of representatives on the Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group as follows: a representative from the Norway House Cree Nation; one northern and southern Independent First Nation Jordan's Principle Case Manager; and one rotating Manitoba Region Tribal Council Jordan's Principle Case Coordinator.
2. Add a "First Nations Advisory Table" to the structure of the Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable that would

Proposed Approach to the Manitoba First Nations Jordan's Principle Equity Roundtable Accountability Structure



accept recommendations from the Jordan's Principle TAG and make decisions on Jordan's Principle, including being a dispute resolution mechanism that would consist of: 1 representative each from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak, and the Southern Chiefs Organization; 7 First Nations from the various Treaty table discussions; and ex officio representatives – 1 from Manitoba and 1 from Canada.

Manitoba Regional Chief's Office, and ministers from Manitoba and Canada.

These recommendations were presented to the AMC Women's Council at their January 2019 meeting. After discussing them, the AMC Women's Council agreed to recommend to the Executive Council of Chiefs. At its February 20, 2019 meeting, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs agreed to the recommendations.

3. Replace the "First Nations and Governmental Senior Officials" with a new "Senior Tripartite Table." This new Table would include representation from: the Grand Chiefs Offices of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak and the Southern Chiefs Organization; the Assembly of First Nations



AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly on Jordan's Principle & Health

The Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit supported the first ever AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly that focused on Jordan's Principle. The AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly on Jordan's Principle & Health was held on May 7 & 8, 2019, and hosted in Long Plain First Nation at the Keeshkeemaquah Conference Centre.

Jordan's Principle Funding for Infrastructure and Capital Costs

One of the consistent weaknesses the Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit had heard from First Nations was their inability to utilize Jordan's Principle funding for infrastructure and capital costs. This was a tremendous detriment to Manitoba First Nations as most of their programming activities took place during the summer, to utilize the outdoor space from the warm summer months. As more and more clients are utilizing their local Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative, space became less available.

To respond to this pressing issue, Resolution ECC MAY.2019-06 Support for First Nations in Manitoba to use Jordan's Principle for Infrastructure and Capital Costs was brought forward to the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs for consideration. It resolved that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support the use of funding for infrastructure and capital costs to support such services and programs, and the transformation of funding from DISC for the implementation of Jordan's Principle for First Nations in Manitoba.

2018-2019 Jordan's Principle Forums Jordan's Principle Stakeholder's Gathering and Professional Development Training August 14, 15 and 16, 2019

The Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group (TAG) coordinated this three day Gathering for the Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative Stakeholders' from the Manitoba region. The Jordan's Principle TAG members consist of representatives from the AMC, the SCO, and the MKO. This includes representatives from AMC EUTC and the AMCFNFAO, and AMC-mandated entities the FNHSSM and the MFNERC. It was held following recommendations from the Keewaywin: Our Way Home engagements and other Jordan's Principle Forums which recommended more opportunities for First Nations service providers to have an opportunity to meet, share information, and receive professional training.

Delegates of the Stakeholders' Gathering included Jordan's Principle Service Coordinators, Case Managers and Service Providers in addition to First Nations representatives that included Child and Family Services, Health and Education Directors and First Nations leadership. The purpose of this Gathering was to provide a venue to facilitate information sharing and best practices among Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative Stakeholders' from the Manitoba region. Delegates were provided the opportunity to participate in professional development training to build on their

strengths and further enhance relationship building and networking among stakeholders.

Designed by the Jordan's Principle TAG, the formation of this Gathering was meant to engage Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative Stakeholders' from the Manitoba Region to offer opportunities to further enhance working relationships and provide a venue for information sharing and professional development. Professional development trainings were selected through consultation with Jordan's Principle Case Managers and Service Coordinators. This included identification of the various types of training which would enhance their capacity in providing service delivery for the betterment of services.

189 First Nation participants were invited and registered, which included three representatives from each Manitoba First Nation, but this number grew to over 210 participants.

Jordan's Principle Sharing Our Stories: Past, Present & Future

February 27, 28 and March 1, 2019

The Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit hosted the Jordan's Principle Sharing Our Stories: Past, Present and Future Forum on February 27, 28 and March 1, 2019 which brought together 315 delegates from 63 First Nations regionally. Delegates included but were not limited to regional Tribal Council Service Coordinators, the Eagle Urban Transition Centre Special Needs Advocate Unit, Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative Specialized Service Providers, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Southern Chiefs Organization, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, First Nations Health and Social Secretariat and Indigenous Services Canada.

The intent was to bring together Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative stakeholders' regionally in Manitoba to share stories of participants Jordan's Principle journey regionally in Manitoba. This was in addition to having delegates participate in a number of breakout sessions which included but were not limited to the following:

- Nature and Nurture of Autism
- Understanding Psychosis
- Enhancing Communication: the Role of Speech
- Language Pathology in Schools
- Family strategies for Supporting Youth Awaiting Mental

- Health Treatment
- Coping Strategies for Care Providers
- Challenging Eating
- Learning the Dance: Reframing our Perceptions of how
- Individuals with FASD Sense the World
- The Seven Sacred Teachings and Holistic Supports for People with Disabilities
- Rural and Northern Telehealth Service
- Supporting Children with Complex Health Needs
- Non-Suicidal Self-Injury
- Introduction to Autism
- Communication Strategies for Enhancing Relationships with Young Children
- Integrating Indigenous Healing Practice into Mental Health
- Sensory Motor Room Programming in MFNERC Schools
- Depression and Anxiety – Two Sides of the Same Coin Cultural Sensitivity and Safety Training
- Introduction to Mindfulness
- Managing Challenging Behavior
- URIS: Unified Referral Intake System

In the early planning stages the conference was being planned for approximately 350 delegates to attend, however once registration opened the number of registrants quickly grew with a total of 512 registrants attending the forum on February 27, 28 and March 1, 2019.

Increasing Accessibility in Manitoba First Nations: Phase 1 School Environments

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has been working with the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities and with Producer Erica Daniels from Kejic Productions on this initiative.

When Jordan's Principle reaches its full realization and service gaps no longer exist in First Nation, First Nation children, youth and their families who have previously had



to leave their communities to access basic services will be able to relocate back to their First Nation to live among familiar faces, family and friends. The AMC wants to ensure First Nations citizens living with disabilities are able to live fully accessible and barrier free lives while remaining an integral part of their First Nation through participation and engagement.

This can be achieved through advocacy for increased funding from the federal government with respect to operations and management to retrofit many of the aging existing infrastructures which at the time of their construction, were not built with accessible built environments in mind. This would be in addition to advocacy for increased infrastructure budgets to accommodate the growing requirements of First Nations to accommodate fully accessible built environments, possibly a budget line for accessibility in all future infrastructure projects in First Nations.

Proposed environmental accessibility scans involve shooting video footage in the pilot of Sagkeeng First Nation to show what is involved in an environmental accessibility scan and include instruction on how to facilitate environmental accessibility scans in each of the three phases described below. Kejic Productions with consultation provided by the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities will edit the footage. Additional resources pertaining to First Nations Persons living with Disabilities will also be included in the final DVD product which will be distributed as a resource to all First Nations in Manitoba.

This project is a multi-year and will be broken down into three phases:

- The first phase will involve environmental accessibility scans of First Nations Schools. The rationale for deciding schools in the first phase was ideal as children and youth spend the majority of their times outside of their homes in education spaces during the school year.
- The second phase will involve environmental accessibility scans of First Nations primary public use buildings. These include but are not limited to administration offices, community halls, health centers and public parks and beaches.
- The third phase will involve environmental accessibility scans of First Nations private enterprises. These include First Nations local stores, financial institutions, restaurants and entertainment centers.

Phase one has been completed with a final draft expected from Kejic Productions by the end of June 2019. A Final DVD product and resource guide will be sent to Manitoba First Nations by a target date of September 2019, once approved by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Women's Council.

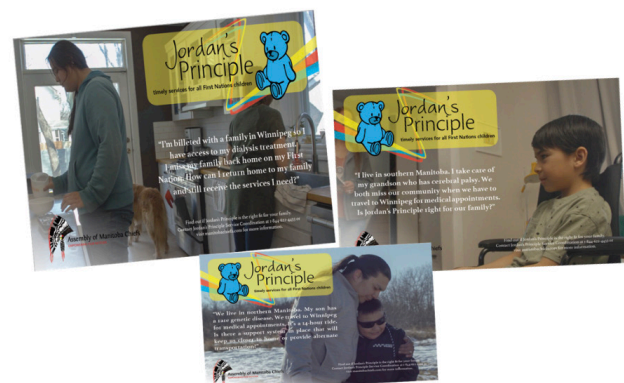
Phase 2 storyboard planning will begin in July 2019 with continued collaboration with the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities and Kejic Productions. A phase 2 production has a target date for shooting for October 2019, with a First Nations community yet to be identified. A final DVD product and resource guide deliverable has a target date for spring 2020.

Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Communications Strategy

The Jordan's Principle Awareness Campaign was created to provide a better understanding of what Jordan's Principle is, how it works, why it was created, who it is for, and how to access the services under Jordan's Principle within Manitoba.

This included:

- Creation of a toll free number for one-stop information for grassroots First Nations people.
- Creation of information posters intended to raise awareness and have a direct call to action
- Creation of commercials to be shared through social media to continue raising awareness
- Sound bites were also provided to First Nations to play on local radio stations to raise awareness.





Jordan's Principle

**SAVE
the Date**

Sharing Our Stories

Past, Present and Future

FEB 26-28, 2019

RBC CONVENTION CENTRE, WINNIPEG

February 25, 2019 – Evening Pre-Registration Networking Mixer

Hosted by:



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

Jordan's Principle is a child first and needs-based principle used to ensure that First Nations children living on and off reserve have equitable access to all government-funded services. In order to ensure substantive equity, this can also include services that are not ordinarily available.

Help keep Jordan's legacy alive and help make lives better for our First Nations' children.

Jordan's Principle is an initiative that addresses the needs of First Nation children and puts the CHILD FIRST.

Attend This Important Forum...

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs asks you to **SAVE THE DATE** and take part in sharing our stories – past, present and future:

Evening Pre-Registration Networking Mixer Monday, February 25, 2019

- Metropolitan Centre, 281 Donald Street
- Door Prize for Pre-Registrants
- 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Conference Day 1 – Tuesday, February 26

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Conference Day 2 – Wednesday, February 27

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Conference Day 3 – Thursday, February 28

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

First Nation Advocate Family Office



Staff

Cora Morgan, First Nations Family Advocate
 Sherry Audet, Assistant Advocate
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 Pamela Cameron, Administrative Support
 Flora Francis, Administrative Assistant
 Meghan Johnson, Administrative Assistant
 Melanie Outchikat, Client Intake
 Stephanie Sinclair, Client Intake

Kendra Inglis, Family Reunification
 Stephanie Edwards, Family Engagement
 Sarah Flattery, Family Engagement
 Tina McKay, Family Engagement
 Lana McKay, Prenatal Support
 Karen Swain, Prenatal Support
 Mary Burton, Grandmother
 Lori Mainville, Grandmother
 Travis Bighetty, Restorative Justice
 Chickadee Richards, Restorative Justice
 Michelle Foster, Family Support
 Isabel Winning, Family Support Coordinator
 Delores Beardy, Oji-Cree FN Family Law Coordinator
 John Miswagon, Cree FN Family Law Coordinator
 Rodney Moose Cree FN Family Law Coordinator
 Lois Stoll, Anishinaabe FN Family Law Coordinator
 Jennifer Tom, Dene FN Family Law Coordinator
 Ilona Francis, Assistant Five Family Law

Introduction

The First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) grew drastically within this last year and staff have been working very hard to support and help families reunify by providing services and resources to First Nations families. With over thirty five staff employed at the office, we have been challenging the current provincial child welfare system in how they respond to First Nations children and families. Helping families navigate through the Child and Family Services (CFS) system, we provide supports and program that are reflective of our First Nations knowledge, laws, traditions and beliefs to create a positive change for our children and families.

As of March 2018, it is reported that there are 11,237 children in care according to the various 2017/18 Child and Family Authorities Annual Reports. Out of the 11,237 children in care, 79% (8,882) of the children are First Nations. This number does not include First Nations children under extension of care.

With the overrepresentation of First Nations children in care, there is a need for First Nations to develop their own response to these tragedies that affect their everyday life. Through the FNFAO at the AMC, we have been working diligently to develop our own solutions to how the child welfare system can respond to the needs and realities of our First Nations. This has been done through the development of our own programs that incorporates our First Nations values, practices, and traditions.

While at the same time providing services to our First Nations families, FNFAO has been working with our First Nations leadership to revitalize our natural laws on how we are to care for our children and families.

Through the development of Manitoba specific federal legislation, Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA), and the development of template laws on children and families respecting the five (5) Nations/language groups in Manitoba, the FNFAO is working towards reasserting First Nations inherent and full jurisdiction.

First Nations understand that the current CFS system is not in the best interest of our children and reform is too late. The two-facet components (providing service to First Nations and enhancing capacity for our Nations) that the AMC offers through the FNFAO allows for us to transition into a new system that is First Nations-led, First Nations-designed and supported by our First Nations leadership in Manitoba.

Key Issues & Challenges

Over the last few years, both levels of government have initiated reform plans regarding child welfare through legislative changes. This year the government of Manitoba formed a Child Welfare Committee to review current CFS legislations and to support the government's proposed reforms, and in November 2018, the federal government announced its plan to develop a pan-Indigenous approach to child welfare. As this may be a step forward, it continues and perpetuates the paternalist approach of the government thinking that they know what is best for First Nations.

The government needs to realize that we as First Nations are capable; capable of addressing issues that have been and continue to be enforced on our First Nations without their voices being heard. The AMC had identified numerous innovative solutions to addressing the child welfare crisis, while also ensuring the inherent rights of First Nations are respected and affirmed. But instead of the Nation-to-Nation relationship that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly committed to, we continue to see the paternalistic approach of previous government administrations.

Activities and Accomplishments

Restoration of First Nations' Jurisdiction of Children and Families Forum, August 2018

As part of the broader work towards First Nations jurisdiction, our office hosted a one-day forum to gather information to revitalize and codify First Nations laws regarding families and children. The information gathered contributed to the development of underlying principles that will form the basis for adaptable template laws on children and families for our five Nations/language groups. Participants from the forum were grouped into our five respective Nation/language groups: Anishinaabeg, Anishiniwak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, Nehethwuk/Ininwak. All five Nations shared their knowledge, drawing from their Nations' histories and stories to unearth traditional family practices.

Keewaywin: Closer to Home Community Visits

Keewaywin: Closer to Home is a secondary phase to the 2016/17 Keewaywin: Our Way Home First Nations engagements. From August 27- October 5, 2018, FNFAO visited fifteen First Nations to discuss traditional family law, what customary practices still exist in our five Nations and support for the reassertion of First Nations jurisdiction over our child and family matters.

Bringing Our Children Home Act (BOCHA)

Through the Keewaywin: Closer to Home community visits, discussions took place with First Nations citizens on traditional family law, how it was structured and the support for First Nations jurisdiction over children and families. A report was developed from these community visits and informed BOCHA, including the 30 years of work done by the AMC in child welfare and AMC's most recent engagement reports.

After the completion of the first draft of the BOCHA, a pipe and water ceremony was conducted followed by a sweat and feast. The following day, the document was internally reviewed by the AMC then by the AMC Women's Council, the ECC, and twice reviewed by AMC Council of Elders and Steering Committee.

The BOCHA is a Manitoba First Nations created legislative instrument to reconcile and reclaim First Nations jurisdiction and responsibility of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininwak, Nehethowuk/Inniwak, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline children and their families, with standards for the raising and nurturing and maintaining well-being according to customary practices.

Template Laws on Children and Families

As part of AMC/Canada's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) work plan to reassert First Nations' jurisdiction in the area of children and families, First Nations template laws respecting the five language groups and legal traditions in Manitoba (Anishinaabe, Nehethowuk/Inniwak, Anishiniwak, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline) continue to be developed. The Manitoba-specific federal legislation BOCHA will empower First Nations laws and protect First Nations by superseding provincial Child and Family Services legislation. To date, the family law coordinators visited 17 First Nations including all the Denesuline and Anishiniwak Nations.

Emergency Chiefs Meeting on Bringing Our Children Home Act: Manitoba-Specific Federal Legislation

In October 2018, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution Oct-18.10 Support for the Bringing Our Children Home Act: a Manitoba Specific Federal Legislation for Children and Families. Immediately after providing a copy of the BOCHA and resolution to the department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Minister's office informed the AMC that they were surprised to hear that the Manitoba Chiefs developed this federal legislation. It was their understanding that First Nations in Manitoba were to fall under the process of the National Advisory Council Federal legislation on CFS and that AMC misunderstood the commitment made from the Minister.

An Emergency Chiefs Meeting was held on November 16, 2018 with the Manitoba Leadership, AMC Council of Elders and former Minister Jane Philpott of Indigenous Services Canada. The AMC Council of Elders read out their message on the importance of our sovereignty and how we need to correct the harm that was caused from government decisions and that we as First Nations, need to stand up for our children and for future generations.

Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth and Families

In November 2018, the Minister of ISC announced their plan to co-develop federal legislation for Indigenous children and families. In February 2019, Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families was introduced in the House of Commons by ISC Minister Seamus O'Regan.

Since then, FNFAO worked closely with the AMC Women's Council to develop a strategy to ensure that the AMC can advance the BOCHA. The AMC Women's Council introduced a resolution at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2018 for the support of the BOCHA.

A letter campaign and social media campaign was developed to distinguish the difference between Bill C-92 and BOCHA.

Regional Advisory Committee on First Nations Child and Family Services in Manitoba

The purpose of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is to discuss, collaborate and serve as an advisory committee on policy and funding matters related to the child and family services system with a specific focus on issues arising

in the area of FNCFS. RAC includes representatives from Manitoba Families, ISC, two First Nations CFS Authorities, FNCFS Agencies, AMC, MKO, and SCO.

The FNFAO sits at the table as an AMC representative and since then has been meeting bi-monthly to discuss matters such as, the implementations of both provincial and federal CFS reforms, funding formulas for FNCFS, and updates from AMC, MKO, and SCO.

Community Well-Being and Jurisdiction Initiative

In September 2018, Canada announced a \$50 million investment in child and family services through the Community Well-Being & Jurisdiction Initiative. For the CWJI, the Manitoba region received \$15 million to be distributed to First Nations in Manitoba. The funds are to be focused on prevention activities to help families at risk to stay together in their communities whenever possible, and to allow communities to exercise their jurisdiction for child and family services.

Originally, ISC wanted the CWJI funding allocation to be determined by the Regional Advisory Committee, consistent of AMC, MKO, SCO, ISC, Province of Manitoba, and the Northern and Southern Authorities. AMC disagreed with this approach as First Nations should be the ones determining how funding should be distributed and not provincial government or systems.

However, in January 2019, ISC allocated the funding for CWJI to First Nations in Manitoba for the 2018/19 fiscal year based on their internal formula. Since then, ISC has approached AMC, MKO, and SCO to determine a funding allocation formula for the next fiscal years.

AMC, MKO, and SCO met with ISC representatives for a 3-day working group to provide recommendations for the process of allocating the CWJI funding to First Nations on January 28, 29 & 30, 2019.

As part of the working group meeting, it was suggested that the AMC Women's Council make recommendation on the process for allocating the CWJI funding. MKO and SCO will also be having the same discussion with their respective Child Welfare Committees. The AMC Women's Council position has always been to directly provide the funding to First Nations and no other entity or organization.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Hearings

During the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) hearings held in Winnipeg, MB, our office presented evidence on the connection between the CFS system and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Additionally, in November 2018, the FNFAO also provided a presentation at the Symposium on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: Recommendations and Next Steps.

Birth Alerts and Newborn Apprehension

Birth Alerts is an ongoing practice that has been carried out by the CFS agencies and hospitals. To track and/or locate a 'high-risk' pregnant mother, the CFS agency issues a birth alert. In Manitoba, there are two types of birth alerts: 1) the pregnant mother is under the age of 18 and is unmarried; or 2) the pregnant mother had or has a file with a CFS agency. In the majority of the cases, mothers are not aware if a birth alert has been placed upon her and her unborn infant until the agency makes contact with the expecting mother. There is no obligation of the agency to inform her of the alert being placed upon her and her unborn infant.

Recently, in January 2019, a video went viral of a newborn being apprehended by a CFS agency in a Manitoba hospital. During this time, our office worked with the family to ensure the infant was placed with family and provided supports for the mother and family.

To provide more awareness, the FNFAO is in the process of developing a Birth Alert Crisis Intervention Booklet and resource booklet. This is to ensure that people are aware of their rights, how they can respond to birth alerts and what resources are available.

Programs and Services

In addition to our Assistant Advocates providing advocacy and assistance to First Nations families to navigate through the provincial child welfare system, the First Nations Family Advocate Office provides programs and services to First Nations families, mothers, fathers, grandparents, youth, and children who aged out of care. These include:

- Red Road to Healing
- Empowering Our Youth
- Traditional Parenting
- Niingwayakochigemin: Setting things Right
- Wewaynii Nindinawemaanak: Family Support Group
- Men's Sharing Circle
- Grandparent's Sharing Circle

This year our office introduced the Grandparents Leadership, Peacemaking and Healing Group. This program is developed for Grandparents who experienced the Child Welfare system in their families. It is an eight part series that promotes leadership, peace making and healing through our cultural ways of being. Through this program, Grandparents share their gifts and strengths, and explore their roles, responsibilities, and commitment to their families and Nation. Our Grandparents are those who are knowledge keepers and this program honours their experience, skill and knowledge. Some of the program topic areas include:

- Peacemaking skills development
- Exploring the impacts of colonization on leadership within our lives.
- Traditional roles of women and men.
- Ways that we promote peacemaking using our ways.
- Explore clanship, colors, names and ways we identify our self determination as First Nations
- Legacy building: Creating and sharing our family governing systems.

As part of the outcome of this program, Grandparents will participate in a joint community project to highlight and celebrate their time in the program.

Recently, the FNFAO developed the Red Road to Healing

program specifically for men who wish to heal from the effects of family violence and build awareness of how domestic violence impacts families and communities.

The FNFAO continues to offer programs that are reflective of our clients needs, they are strength based that focuses on their own gifts and how we can build on them.

Additionally, the FNFAO is in the process of creating a database specific to the work that we do to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. This automation will decrease the vast, tedious amount of labour, and free up our staff to create a more efficient environment, as our office grows.

INITIATIVES

EAGLE Urban Transition Centre



Staff

Jarred Baker, Program Manager

Darlene Littlejohn, Office Manager

Ann Sanderson, Client Intake and Resource Coordinator

Randy Keesic, Client Intake and Resource Coordinator/
Security

Barry McPherson, Employment Transition Counselor

Marcy Raven, Adult Housing Counselor

Paywapan Colomb, Youth Housing Counselor

Monique Curci, Mental Health/Addictions Counsellor

Peter Atkinson, Traditional Elder

Chris Prince, Respite Lead

Brian Campbell, HPS Team Lead Service Coordinator

Corinne Edwards, Follow Up Support Worker

Monica Kithithee, Follow Up Support Worker

Jody Lake, Follow Up Support Worker

Elissa Gabriel, Eagles Nest Project Coordinator

Fred Beardy, Eagles Nest Project Coordinator

Sydney Bee, Community Transition Counselor

Alvin Henderson, Community Transition Counselor

Nicole Starr, Community Transition Counselor

Raven Hart, Community Transition Counselor

Ryan McKay, Special Needs Advocate Lead

Patrick Berthelette, Special Needs Advocate

Darlene Curci, Special Needs Advocate

Sharon Wilson, Special Needs Advocate

Carmen Letexier, Administrative Assistant

Kevin Fontaine, Patient Advocate Manager

Valerie Olson, Patient Navigator

Ann Thomas, Patient Navigator

Dawn Slater, Program Assistant

Bobby Muswagon, Project Manitouwabi Housing Support
Worker



Introduction

The EAGLE Urban Transition Centre (EUTC) was established in Winnipeg in March 2005 by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to provide services to urban First Nation and Aboriginal People. EUTC was established to address the concerns of lack of affordable housing, addictions, crime, unemployment, education, discrimination and lack of supports for community members living and relocating to Winnipeg. The Eagle Urban Transition Centre serves as a hub of information for Aboriginal clients seeking transitional support while living in and/or relocating to the City of Winnipeg. The EUTC offers an accessible client-friendly environment where community members may utilize onsite self-help resources or one-on-one assistance from trained counselors on employment, housing, disabilities, family, health and social. The EUTC also responds to several

inquiries and requests for information from rural community members, Aboriginal organizations and service providers on a regular basis. Our office maintains an up-to-date inventory (print and electronically) of resources, programs and services available to assist Aboriginal people with day-to-day issues including housing, social assistance, addictions, health, youth programming and supports in the areas of training, employment and education. On an as-needed basis, the EUTC counselors provide referrals corresponding to specific clients' needs and circumstances. The EUTC also provides clients with access to on-site resources including; computer, internet access, printing, faxing, local phones calls, refreshments, access to the Elder Advisory services through the EUTC Healing Room. The EUTC Healing Room is used for weekly Sharing Circles, cleansing/smudging, individual client and staff counseling and meeting with partner organizations. As a culturally appropriate resource, EUTC employs 100% Aboriginal staff who are trained, qualified and have lived experience. Essential to our work, is relationship-building gained through respect and empathy, which are all needed to effectively work with individuals who are vulnerable. EUTC has grown substantially since its inception. EUTC now employs 30 staff and has more than 6 programs operating annually. EUTC is currently exploring some other funding opportunities which will hopefully be implemented in the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year.

Activities and Accomplishments

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year EUTC provided services to more than 11,000 walk-in clients and Eagles Nest continues to have a waiting list for the 75 spots we have available. EUTC provides services to the Aboriginal population who are seeking transition support while living in or relocating to the City of Winnipeg. If EUTC cannot provide the resource needed the staff advocate or direct the clients to the appropriate organizations. EUTC has provided transitional in person counseling sessions to approximately 2500 clients and have established over 300 partnerships to meet the needs of our clients. EUTC has done approximately 40 presentations on the following topics:

- Fire Safety
- Food Handlers
- CPR
- Rental workshops to educate clients on their right and responsibilities

EUTC completed the following activities in 2018 – 2019 fiscal year:

- Supported 250 community members with our clothing drive
- Provided meals for over 500 community members
- Assisted 25 youth obtain employment
- Assisted 51 Adults obtain employment
- Advocated for over 2000 medical needs.
- Youth program and Adults participated in medicine picking

The EUTC staff and organization have provided client transitional support and services which include:

- Intake and Assessment
- Advocacy (Health, housing EIA, justice, education, employment etc.)
- Referrals to housing resources
- Access to Elders for Spiritual Guidance and Healing
- Assistance to obtain identification
- Guidance and referrals for medical concerns
- Access and referrals to employment and training service organizations (resume writing, interview skills, job search techniques)
- Access to on-site resources: computers; printer, telephone, internet, resource library
- Suicide prevention training and counseling.
- Counseling and referrals to treat addictions

The staff continues to participate in workshops and training sessions to advance their skills/knowledge and provide quality services for our clients. EUTC continues to meet the needs of the clients through the dedication of the Indigenous staff who are committed to empowering our clients to live the good life they deserve.

Key Issues and Challenges

Some of the key issues and challenges would be supporting clients with addictions. Our clients continue to struggle with their addictions and are ready to look at treatment so start with a harm reduction approach. The emerging trend of Meth is increasing and creates safety issues for the staff and community members.

EUTC supports community members to obtain affordable housing but some of the barriers are the lack of affordable housing, lack of identification and lack of a rental history. We have explored a partnership with West Minister Housing and we are in the midst of implementing our collaboration. EUTC provides assistance to obtain identification and provide certificate rental workshop so the community members have a resource for a rental history.

Eagle's Nest Program for Indigenous Youth

Staff

Fred Beardy, Program Coordinator

Elissa Gabriel, Lead Program Coordinator

Introduction

The Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Youth Resource and Recreation program provides personal and professional development to Indigenous youth living in or new to the City of Winnipeg. The Eagle's Nest program is located in the north end at 601 Aikins Street, and has been operating since 2005.

Staff at the Eagles Nest program continues to experience a substantial growth in the overwhelming need to provide supports and advocacy to Indigenous youth. From January-December 2018, the Eagle's Nest program received 241 applications, in which 85 applicants were accepted and 44 youth completed the program with 14 applicants near completion. Those who did not complete the program were welcome to re-join the next phase. Referrals were made to partnering agencies for youth that were on a waiting list.

Many youth face many challenges in achieving academic and employment goals. Staff at the Eagle's Nest program network with partnering organizations to advocate on behalf of the youth. For example, staff coordinate tours to various adult education centres, universities, colleges, and also facilitate life skills workshops. These workshops are focused on developing Indigenous identity, positive relationships, problem solving as well as constructing resumes and cover letter workshops. Staff at the Eagles Nest also provide support letters for youth to provide to their EIA worker in order to receive extra help for a monthly bus pass. Support letters are also provided to prove that they've been accepted to the program to CFS agencies for youth who are in care or either have children in care. In 2018, there was a total of 18 youth who gained full-time employment, 5 youth who gained part-time employment, and 2 youth remained job searching. There was a total of 19 youth who registered for upgrading, and 5 youth registered for post-secondary school.

There was a total of 19 volunteer hours with partnering agencies within the north end. Youth leave the program with the following certificates:

- ASSIT
- Food handlers Level1
- First Aid & CPR Level C
- WHMIS
- Mental Health First Aid
- New Journey Housing Rental
- Managing Money
- Essentials of Asset Building
- Suicide Prevention
- Critical Incident Management
- Business Ethics.

Accomplishments for 2018

- Participated in over 20 workshops related to Traditional Cultural activities such as Medicine Wheel Teaching, Medicine Bag workshop, Solstice Ceremonies, Pipe & Sweat Ceremonies, Skirt Making, Deer & Geese Harvest and Medicine picking to name a few.
- Ojibway Language Teaching with 15 youth participants.
- Volunteer Hours with North End Renewable Corporation.
- Inspire (Keeping the Fires Burning Conference) four youth attended the conference along with staff.
- 2nd Annual Indigenous Youth Gathering with the Winnipeg Police & RCMP- four youth attended the gathering with one Eagles Nest staff.

Wiichi Oskiiaga Helping our Youth Program



Introduction

Wiichi Oskiiaga is a new program that EUTC offers; it is a Youth Mentorship program consisting of aging out of care Mentors and Mentees.

The goal of Wiichi Oskiiaga is to support youth who are aging out of the care of provincial Child and Family Services. Youth are supported in all areas of their personal development including housing, education, training, and employment, as well as life skills lessons and access to spiritual ceremonies.

The program is delivered in a culturally holistic manner modeled after the Circle of Courage principals.

Key Issues & Challenges

Recruitment for the program consisted of presentations at various CFS agencies throughout Winnipeg and posters being taken to youth drop-ins and shelters around the city. The plan for the program was to have thirty participants, however, enrollment was low and finding a smudge-friendly space could not be secured.

After discussion and approval from staff at St. John's Leisure Centre, the decision was made to combine the Wiichi Oskiiaga program youth with the Eagle's Nest youth program at 601 Aikens Ave. The plan to have thirty participants was adjusted due to the number of youth in both programs.

Activities and Accomplishments

Our program officially started May 15, 2019 and currently there are 5 mentors and 10 mentees. The program is offered in three phases; running from Jan to Apr, May to Aug and Sept to Dec. Youth attend full-time, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. The five mentors selected to work with mentees have been selected from Graduates of The Eagles Nest program. To date, Wiichi Oskiiaga has had one youth obtain housing and another two youth have successfully secured further training opportunities. Staff have observed youth looking forward to coming to program, the youth are feeling comfortable and engaging in discussions with the group. Recruitment has already begun for the next phase.

Patient Advocate Unit

Staff

Kevin Fontaine - Conflict Resolution Patient Navigator

Val Olson - Patient Navigator

Ann Thomas - Patient Navigator

Dawn Slater - Program Assistant

Introduction

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Indigenous Health Services (IH) entered into a new agreement and arrangement with continued delivery of health care services to all First Nation members regardless of residency.

The AMC Patient Advocate Unit (PAU) and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Indigenous Health WRHA-IH continue to work collaboratively along with other key stakeholders, to maintain, strengthen and ensure continuity and effective health services for First Nations. An essential component is to provide the patients an opportunity to speak on their issue(s) with recommendation(s) with the support of a PAU Patient Navigator. With this in mind, the AMC and WRHA-IH have entered into a new agreement with new reporting structures. This includes a continued enhancement of AMC Patient Advocate Unit relationships with the various WRHA departments to ensure quality services and that the medical needs of First Nations are met.

The Patient Advocate Unit has continued positive relations with various provincial and federal government agencies and departments to best address issues and policies that directly affect First Nations quality of care. The prevalent client issues include Medical Relocations, Housing Issues (on/off reserve), Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), Consultation (family, medical, and legal), Transportation, Medical Matters, and Access to medical records.

The PAU receives referrals from WRHA-IH Central Intake, walk-ins, call-ins, emails as well as from the Grand Chief's Office (GCO), Chiefs & Councils, Health Directors, and outside agencies such as Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) Manitoba Housing, and Employment & Income Assistance and others.

The Patient Advocate Unit has continuously maintained and established new networking relations with various, diverse organizations and government agencies. In many of these discussions, dialogues and meetings, our main focus has been how the AMC PAU can raise awareness of their program within various groups & committees, agencies and organizations. The PAU continues to meet with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch/Non-Insured Health Benefits Transportation Referral Unit about the various issues First Nations patients and families encounter on a daily basis and how we can come to a collaborative resolution on issues brought forth. This unique relationship is most beneficial to all PAU clientele and provides for additional and extended benefits under the Non Insured Health Benefits program.

Key Issues and Challenges

The following are some examples of key issues and challenges that the Patient Advocate Unit staff encounters throughout the year. We continue to try and change government policy that impedes access to health care programs and services that our Treaty First Nation citizens have a right to. This has been a very difficult task, however, some changes to certain policies are adjusted to ensure First Nations are receiving benefits. That is critical to an individual's health and wellness when transitioning into a new environment for their respective health care needs.

Manitoba Housing continues to be a major barrier to First Nation citizens accessing and securing housing units, as many different factors within this process hinder a proper and fast application. It is also important to note that we also have difficulties with our own clientele. There are many issues that slow the housing application process with various impediments of their own and they are basically attempting for most clients, a new life within an urban setting.

There are many other attributes to housing issues and the following is a brief example of these issues:

- Long waiting lists with low-income housing authorities.
- Clients having difficulties with their Option "C" forms (Revenue Canada/Income Tax) as required by most housing authorities.
- Racism and discriminatory attitudes towards First Nation applicants, including private and public housing authorities.

- No damage and rent deposits, and no rental history.
- New Manitoba Housing policy change, whereas in the past, applicants were provided three housing options of units and it is now changed to one option. If you don't accept that one option offered, your name is deleted from the database and then then the application process must be started from step one. If this occurs, it sets back our clients 3-6 months minimum.

The office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba (PGT) continues to be an area of concern for all First Nation citizenship. Our First Nations citizens who fall under Form 21 and 22 (Certificate of Incapacity, Order of Committee ship) under the Mental Health Act and the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act encounter issues with PGT staff that affect their health and wellbeing. Individuals under PTG continue to lodge complaints regarding issues such as financial and mental abuse. These are the two main areas they experience when dealing with assigned PGT staff. Some of the examples our members encounter throughout the year, are:

- Lack of financial support on a weekly, bi-weekly basis. Some clients are only given paltry sums of money and can't afford essentials in life such as food, hygiene supplies, clothing, etc.
- When requesting financial support, members are ridiculed and belittled and are often subjected to these abuses on a regular basis.

Home Care (on and off reserve): Many First Nation member's seeking home care services in Winnipeg don't realize or understand the basic functions and differences between off-reserve and on-reserve home care. Home care services in Winnipeg is based on the medical needs for each individual which is done through assessments conducted by a medical team and more importantly, an Occupational Therapist (OT). There are 5 different levels of care that is available, the OT determines which level of care each individual needs while completing their home care assessments. For On-Reserve Home Care, the level of care is determined by either a Home Care Coordinator and/or one of the Health Care Nurses or Community Health Representatives.

The care received in-city is based on medical needs and the care received on-reserve is a combination of their medical needs and in-home personal responsibilities, such as house cleaning, personal errands, etc. This is the big difference between the two systems and a great majority of our

clientele have a difficult time to comprehend between the two systems and this often frustrates individuals, as they are used to the on-reserve system.

In the past year, we have encountered many challenges and barriers to equitable health care for First Nation patients. Medical relocation case files were again the most prevalent and pressing issues that we received through the WRHA referral system and part of the relocation process is initiating housing authority applications. Short-term accommodations need to be approved and extended until an application is approved and appropriate identification is obtained.

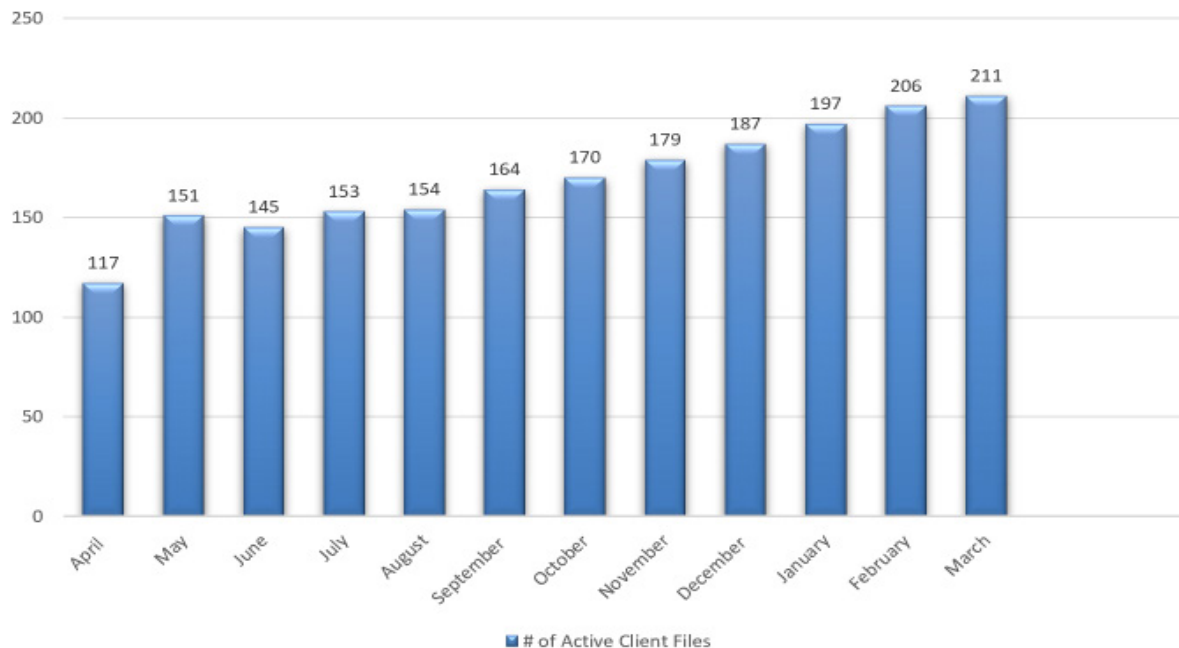
In the past, photo identification has always been a barrier for a good majority of PAU clients, which limits and causes delays in services that are required when dealing with their respective medical and social economic issues.

Other common barriers:

- Assisting our clients with applying for Employment and Income Assistance in Winnipeg;
- Transportation for our Elders who live in city have no means of financial coverage to and from medical appointments;
- Transit Plus (formally called Handi Transit); Taxi Companies (Duffy's, Unicity, etc.);
- Home Care (on and off reserve): Many First Nation member's seeking home care services in Winnipeg don't realize or understand the basic functions and differences between Off Reserve and On reserve Home Care;
- Dialysis Units are overcrowded & others are being closed such as in Berens River;
- Third Party Referrals; and
- Racism and discrimination within all aspects of our mandate; In-Hospital, EMS/FPS, Police, Housing, EIA, etc.



Active Client Files 2018-2019



****Client files are carried over to the next month if they are still opened. Files are opened and/or closed every month****

First Nation patients within WRHA facilities face the following challenges and key issues:

- Individual complaints;
- Issues within the system;
- Policies of FNIH/NIHB; and,
- Policies of other entities directly related to health care.

An essential component is to provide the patients an opportunity to speak on their issue(s) with recommendation(s) and support of the Patient Advocate.

Linkages to First Nation Communities

The PAU Program is linked to all First Nation communities with regular networking with First Nation Chiefs & Councils, Health Directors and their respective First Nation staff. PAU staff is committed to bringing awareness of their program.

In addition to receiving referrals from Indigenous Health's Central Intake, we receive many referrals directly from First Nation communities. The AMC PAU will strive to support our people by advocating, developing partnerships and bridging services through effective service coordination to ensure quality services for all First Nation people. Some key

components to providing awareness of the PAU Program Services to various agencies, First Nations and Government includes building relationships with agencies in an effort to provide the most efficient and patient-centered service delivery. This is an ongoing process that is done each and every year.

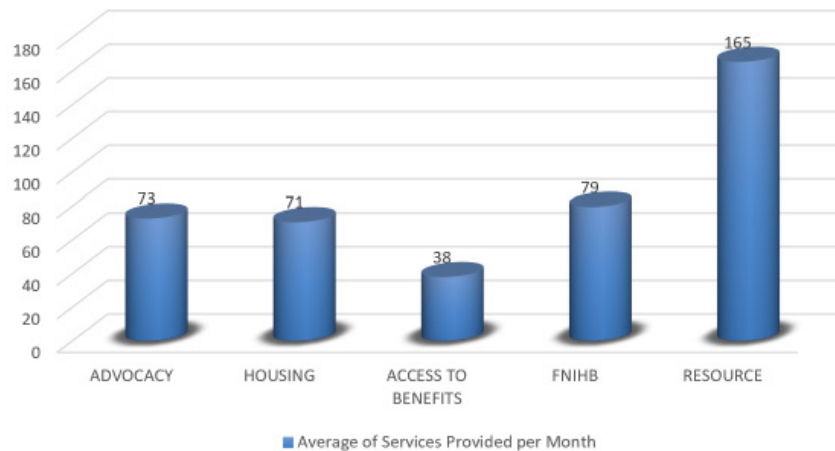
Status of Activities

The Patient Advocate Unit and Indigenous Health developed a new reporting and statistics tracking system that is in use and active. The Patient Advocate Unit is responsible for preparing schedule reports of activities along with statistical data collection from referrals. The compiled data is stored in a secure database system that was developed in collaboration with the WRHA-IH. We will eventually move and store this in a new state-of-art database, which will enable us to collect relevant program information for each specific program area and themes.

We attend:

- Regular monthly Collaborative Action staff file reviews at the Health Science Centre with Indigenous Health programs;
- Monthly Advocacy Support Committee meetings,

Average of Services provided per month



****These are not actuals but average of the services we provide a month to our clients. Please note based on our reporting system, some of these numbers are carried over from the previous month****

during which program issues are discussed;

- Indigenous Renal Health Collaborative Care Workgroup, the goal are to increase client participation in recommended courses of their treatment

The working group meets bi-monthly since May 2016. The working group has engaged in many discussions on First Nations issues that affect the quality of care of individuals as well as dialogue on different enhancement concepts. This working group will continue meeting, evaluating its progress and determining next steps.

Accomplishments

Throughout the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Patient Advocate Unit continued to have many individual success cases on the various referrals received through the WRHA's Central Intake and AMC direct intakes. It is also imperative to state that not all cases worked on have been successful due to various issues within the systems we currently deal with throughout the year.

The following are some examples of the successes of the Patient Advocate Unit staff, as follows:

- Housing clients into both private and public housing throughout the city.

- Securing financial income such as EIA Benefits, Disability Benefits, Workers Compensation, etc.
- Securing Manitoba Public Insurance claims, both long term and short term benefits, and life-long benefits for catastrophic claims, etc.
- Continued collaboration and networking with First Nations communities and organizations, and all three levels of government and their respective agencies that we collaborate on throughout the year.

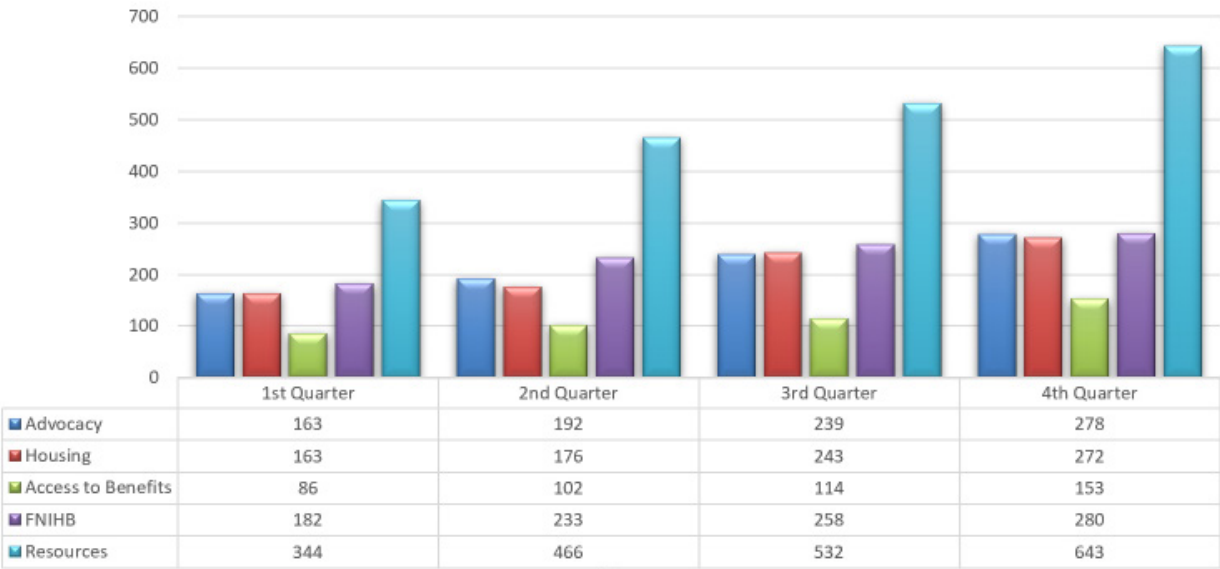
This includes completing many medical relocation cases, which are long drawn out processes to successfully completion. Many of the triumphs that the staff experience don't receive the attention they deserve due to the nature and privacy rights of individual patients.

The Patient Advocate Unit continues to collaborate with the following throughout the year:

- Winnipeg Regional Health Authorities various Departments such as the Renal Dialysis Units, Renal Social Work, In-Hospital Medical Clinics, etc.
- Employment and Income Assistance and Manitoba Housing: staff sit on the Access to Supports Committee and discuss pertinent issues with their application processes and other issues within their system.



Number of Services and Supports Provided



These are stats based on our reporting system by the WRHA, please note these numbers include our carried over files of services and supports provided from the previous month and new services and supports provided during the Quarters

- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch’s Transportation Referral Unit, of which this department is also a member of the Advocacy Supports Committee and participates in the PAU bi-weekly Case File Reviews held at Health Sciences Center.
- Cancer Care Manitoba; there is no official working agreement in place, however, we collaborate on numerous case files and refer clients. This relationship is very important and we continue to build both our relationship with the organization and our First Nation citizenship.
- Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation: continue to work with clients and families in the aftermath of vehicle accidents.

Our Unit embraces the challenges and always strives to work alongside with and for the patient. It gives staff personal satisfaction that they are able to assist those in need. It’s also important that they continue working with all provincial systems to best address the needs of all First Nations, either enhancing or reviewing policies and structures within these systems to ensure First Nations are well recognized and represented.

Contact: Patient Advocate Unit, 2nd Floor 275 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B3, (204)-987-4120 or fax (204)-944-0582

In Memory



In closing the Patient Advocate Unit lost our Co-worker the Late Rosalie Ouskan who passed away on October 23, 2018. She was a dedicated Patient Navigator who worked 10 years with our Unit. She was a strong believer in developing partnerships and bridging services to ensure quality services for all First Nations regardless of residency. With her dedication of speaking & writing of Oji-Cree language, she was strong advocate in dealing with health issues that First Nations people encountered within the Health Care System. With her gracious smile and her sense of humor we were glad to know you as Co-worker and a friend, we will always remember her generosity and caring ways. We will never forget you!

Housing Partnership Strategy

Staff

Eagle Urban Training Centre (EUTC) has three programs that are funded by End Homelessness Winnipeg (Reaching Home) – Fresh Start (Housing First Program), New Beginnings (Non Housing First Program) & Project Manitouwabi (Non Housing First Program) these programs are there to help homeless initiative.

Program Activities

Fresh Start consists of one team lead for all three programs, three follow-up support workers who split the caseload of 40 clients who are suffering from Chronic and Episodic homelessness. Providing supports and advocacy are the main priorities for our community members which includes finding the right safe and affordable unit of their choice; initiating the relationship building between the landlord, tenant and Fresh Start staff for the weekly home visits. The Fresh Start program also provides a damage deposit once Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) has been issued for the client. The program also provides a top-up amount of \$200.00 per month and is used for private market rent and also the start-up fee of necessary household items and bedding. Once housed, the Fresh Start staff will assist the community members with life skills, budgeting, meeting with mental health workers, advocacy with EIA, treatment centres, education, and employment.

New Beginnings is the non-housing-first program and has the following staff which includes an Adult Housing Counselor, Youth Housing Counselor, Mental Health & Addictions/Housing Counselor and a Manufacturing Transition Counsellor. The program has helped over 175 clients find housing both private and subsidized housing this past fiscal year. New Beginnings has life skills development workshops throughout the year which includes Eviction Prevention, CPR & First Aid, Food Handlers, Resume Building Workshops and presentations to other Indigenous organizations, EIA, and government agencies. The program will help clients in obtaining their identification birth certificates, Manitoba health card, and MPI identification card. The mental health & addictions have made referrals to residential treatment centres and assist them with filling out the applications. The manufacturing transition counselor assisted community members find part-time work and full-time work, computer training workshops and forklift training and education.

Project Manitouwabi is another non-housing-first program is for male community members coming out of the provincial and federal penal institutions. The referrals and applications come from the three main institutions; Stony Mountain, Headingley and Milner Ridge; and are faxed over to the Project Manager or they can be made by individuals (self-referrals), corrections, probation, parole, community supports or family. Project Manitouwabi is a partnership between EUTC, Native Women's Transition Centre, West Central Women's and John Howard Society and is funded by End Homelessness Winnipeg. The housing support worker for this program has a caseload of 10 clients and who go through an intake process and the program then provides one-on-one support leading up to and upon their release from custody. The program has a working relationship with EIA to develop a plan to establish and maintain income supports and to ensure their respective landlords with stable income. The housing support staff works together with probation and parole to ensure the client is following the custody plan. Again housing is the main priority for the program and finding affordable and safe housing for the client is a difficult task alone. Once housed the home visit are weekly and start offering the client activities such as life skills, resources, training opportunities and education opportunities as well.

A big part of EUTC programming is helping community members reconnect with cultural activities and we do this by providing clients access to Elder/Elder's helper, sweats, teachings, ceremonies, and cultural retreats. The program has cultural outings for medicine picking such as sage and sweet grass, drum making workshops, beading, arts and crafts, and sewing their own ceremony skirts for women and ribbon shirts for men.

Key Issues and Challenges

The biggest challenge is finding affordable housing regardless if the program provides the rental top-up or not. The clients do have a choice in where they live but the choice is very limited. The private market and rental agencies do not understand the objectives of the program or the supports offered by the EUTC. Subsidized housing like Manitoba Housing, SAM Management, Winnipeg Housing, Kinew Housing and more is needed for single people. The wait time is unbelievably long and at times can be challenging for the clients as there are a number



UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION

of requirements needed such as rental history of tenant, credit report, option C documents, and finally an interview with property management. Once the process is completed clients are still waiting for the unit to come up and be ready for move-in.

The next toughest challenge is the “meth crisis” that is happening with all people including our clients. The wait time for treatment centres, lack of immediately supports available, and drug-induced paranoia to those affected is very hard to address at any time. This is a safety concern for our staff because the clients suffer from not only addiction but also increased aggression and violence when that addiction not being fed. This crisis is causing great difficulty in working with our clients.

Finally mental health is the other issue the program has to deal with as our community haven’t been properly diagnosed at all and understanding the issues is the struggle both as the client and EUTC staff is difficult to work with and develop a case management plan so people can live a healthy life.

Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Advocate Office

Staff

Carmen Letexier- Support Services Assistant

Chris Prince- Support Services Manager

Andrea Asham- Admin. Assistant

Chris Sutherland- Advocate

Rachel Apetagon- Advocate

Allison Saunders- Advocate

Sharon Wilson- Advocate

Ryan Mckay- Advocate Lead

Introduction

Jordan's Principle is based on the premise that children are not denied or delayed in receiving government services or access to resources/equipment that they need due to a dispute between the federal and provincial governments.

The AMC, in conjunction with the EUTC and the Department of Indigenous Services - First Nation Inuit Health Branch, has entered into its third year of a partnership to continue a project to implement service delivery implementation of Jordan's Principle for individuals living off-reserve in urban settings.

The primary focus of the Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Advocate (JPORA) office is to deliver the Enhanced Service Coordination Circle of Care model that puts First Nation children and families at the centre of service delivery to help and maximize their access to health and social services and supports without unnecessary delays. This initiative is meant to:

*leverage, and not duplicate, existing federal and provincial structures and mechanisms;

*maximize local capacities where they are available, and address substantive equality; and

*substantive equality is the recognition that not all people start off from the same position, and that these unequal

opportunities make it more difficult for some to be successful. Treating everyone the same is only fair if they are starting from the same position. Substantive equality seeks to address the inequalities that stem from an individual's particular circumstances, to help put them at the same position as others.

Process

Service Coordination for the Jordan's Principle Off Reserve Advocate office has three main areas of activity:

1. Outreach and Collaboration
2. Intake, Assessment, and Coordination
3. Case Management

Referral/Collaboration

The Jordan's Principle Off reserve Advocate office follows a procedure that was created in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Tribal Council Service Coordinators Collaborative. The coordinators are located at every tribal council office in Manitoba. The Case Management process is as follows;

Referral - Jordan's Principle team, self, family member, organization.

Intake Assessment- Advocate conducts intake assessment with client/caregiver within 48 hours of referral receipt.

Consent - Once an intake is complete, written consent is needed to begin case planning.

Collaborative Case Planning - a team of multi-sector professionals is mobilized to develop a collaborative case plan to support the family.

Case Monitoring - Advocate leads this collaborative team in ensuring service access, barrier reduction, and support mobilization.

Case Closure - continue to provide coordinated support until support is no longer required.

Family Feedback- Feedback on the care and support the family received from the team and collaborative partners.

Foundational elements of the Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Advocate office include data collection, analysis, and reporting activities to support the long term policy and program reforms for Indigenous people living off reserve in Manitoba. The Off-Reserve Advocate Office also worked in collaboration with the Tribal Council Coordinators to recommend and fund Off-Reserve Case manager positions to be housed at every Tribal Council throughout Manitoba. This was implemented in April of 2019, and the Jordan's Principle AMC Off-Reserve Advocate Office here in Winnipeg has met with almost each Tribal Council Off-Reserve case manager to discuss referral and collaboration processes between EUTC and each Manitoba Tribal Council. These processes are still being developed specifically to each Tribal Council, and continued meetings and collaborations are ongoing.

Activities and Accomplishments

The JPORA office continues to work in conjunction with the First Nation Family Advocate Office whenever necessary in order to prevent apprehension and/or family separation. The Advocate Office has also completed presentations to almost all child and family service agencies located here in Winnipeg and continues to receive referrals from these agencies. Working in conjunction with the First Nation Family Advocate Office ensures that the needs of First Nation families living off reserve in Winnipeg are being met and adhered to.

The JPORA office has also given presentations to several school divisions located within Winnipeg and receives referrals for children needing additional assistance within these schools. The continued collaboration with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority has also produced many different positive outcomes for families that relocate to Winnipeg for both long term and short term stays at the various hospitals located within city limits. This collaboration continues to evolve and ongoing meetings and case planning procedures within these hospitals continue to build capacity within the Jordan's Principle Advocate Office.

The Jordan's Principle Service Coordination project at the AMC Secretariat continues to work in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Advocate office to further enhance service delivery using an Indigenous perspective for both on and off reserve First Nation members. The Advocate office also attends bi-weekly meetings with the Technical Advisory Group that was formed by the Jordan's Principle Service Coordination project, where the office has an advisory role

for issues regarding off reserve services for Jordan's Principle and to address the continued service gaps and build further capacity in each respective area.

The JPORA office has assisted off reserve First Nation members from every First Nation in Manitoba. The Advocate Office has also assisted 10 First Nation members from Ontario, six First Nation citizens from Saskatchewan, and three First Nation citizens from Alberta. Since the same time last year, the Advocate Office has assisted double the amount, and has now opened files for over 794 families to date. The advocates continue to build capacity through ongoing training in different specialized areas and continue to collaborate with various social service agencies, businesses, and other mandated organizations in order to better assist the families they work with.

Respite & Support Services

The Jordan's Principle Off-Reserve Respite Office opened its office doors in August of 2017. The office is getting multiple requests daily and have been able to provide to our community members, occupational therapy, speech therapy as well as physical therapy just to name a few. We have also been able to assist with communication devices for several families who have a child that is nonverbal autistic. Our office has seen firsthand how this assistance provided has allowed a young person to be able to communicate in school and with their families and peers. We have also held training sessions for our families and their respite providers throughout the past year and most recently we have done training on autism, mental health and ADHD. Our office has created numerous partnerships within the city of Winnipeg with several different organizations, service providers and businesses.

The following is a list of examples of the different partnerships we have created; Diamond Athletics (medical equipment) Superstore, Paradise Art School and Scholars Choice (educational equipment), Canad Inns hotels, YMCA, MediGas (medical equipment), Red River Moving company, Marlborough Hotel and Furniture Villa. The collaborations between our office and these organizations are ongoing and continue to be fruitful when assisting families. Our office has assisted more than 400 families in a variety of different ways and we also host family dinners during the holiday season, BBQ's during the summer solstice, and other special occasions.

INITIATIVES

Treaty Relations

Staff

Gail Flett - Treaty Relations Coordinator

Introduction

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Coordination, Facilitation and Communication work plan is funded by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA). The budget and work plan is funded as a five-year multi-flexible agreement and is in its second year. The activities are directly linked to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) that is intended to support their mandate to “strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship.”

AMC’s role in the TRCM is to provide political, Elder, technical and advisory supports to the Grand Chief, Chiefs’ Task Force and Manitoba Leadership as it relates to the TRCM. The representatives who participate include: Grand Chief/designate with Dennis White Bird assigned; the AMC Chiefs Task Force on TRCM includes Chief Norman Bone, Chief Murray Clearsky and Chief Larson Anderson.

The AMC representatives to the TRCM Governance Committees include – a Joint Senior Officials Committee with one or all members of the Chiefs Task Force; the GCO/Designate; an Elder; and the Treaty Relations Coordinator. For the Operational Management Committee the representation is Grand Chief/Designate and Treaty Relations Coordinator. The Technical Working Group and Research includes the Treaty Relations Coordinator. First Nation Experts can be identified as required.

Key Issues and Challenges

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that created the TRCM is a partnership with CIRNA. AMC continues to maintain and uphold its relationship with CIRNA on the Treaty Commission office.

The AMC Chiefs Task Force will need to resume discussions that began in 2017 with CIRNA on how its government can fulfill the AMC July 2017 resolution for a new agreement to broaden the TRCM mandate including a longer term of office that is beyond 2023 with increased statutory funding. It is anticipated these higher level discussions also need to occur between the Grand Chief and Minister with input to Privy Council Office.

Linkages to First Nation Communities

A key responsibility associated with AMC’s coordination, facilitation and communication includes Elders guidance through the Council of Elders and ensuring their participation at TRCM key activities, gatherings or meetings and ensuring the Chiefs Task Force is informed of TRCM activities. For a better part of the year, we did not have a complete Chiefs Task Force with two positions vacant and these appointments were fulfilled on May 29, 2019. Treaty Commissioner Ross provides reports and updates to the AMC Executive, Chiefs Committee on Education, Chiefs In Assembly, the First Nation Directors of Education and the various Treaty Tables in Manitoba.



Status of Activities

AMC Council of Elders

The Elders meets on a quarterly basis; they provide guidance and assistance to the AMC special projects staff, leadership and TRCM. Meetings are coordinated in synergy with TRCM. The Elders Council currently consists of five Elders with three vacancies at this time from Treaty 3, 6 and the Dakota Nations. A new representative from Adhesion to Treaty 5 Island Lake Region will be joining the Council this coming fall. Throughout the year, the Elders participated in meetings to assist the Leadership, Treaty Commissioner and the staff from AMC and TRCM.

The Elders participated in the following key meetings:

- AMC 30th Annual General Assembly – July 2018 at Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation with a key functions in traditional protocols including overseeing the Rising Up ceremony for the newly elected AFN Regional Chief Kevin Hart;
- AMC Executive Council of Chiefs Meetings with lead Elder Harry Bone;
- AMC General Assembly in 2018: August (Jordon's Principle), October (Education/CFS), November (Governance), 2019: January (Education/Finance), (First Nations Family Law), February (Jordon's Principle), April 24-25 (Children/Economic), and May 7-9 (Jordon's Principle, Health);
- FSIN-OTC Treaty Table with CIRNA; and the FSIN Elders Meeting;
 - Chiefs Committee on: Education, Governance with Elder leads Harry Bone and Florence Paynter;
 - AMC Homelessness Project;
 - TRCM-Manitoba Museum Ceremony honoring museum Treaty Exhibit artifacts and annual Rising Up Ceremony for sacred objects hosted by Roseau River First Nation;
 - AMC Chiefs Task Force Meetings – the lead Elders' are Harry Bone and Florence Paynter;
 - Sacred Bundles Gathering with Knowledge Keepers and Transport Canada;
 - AMC-CIRNA Meetings with HQ with lead Elders' Harry Bone and Florence Paynter;
 - Indigenous Services Canada Citizenship, Membership Forum;
 - Nibi Gathering 2019;
 - TRCM general operations/staff updates, Treaty Education Initiative;
 - The Elders are invited to bring greetings and blessings to other events hosted by the Province of Manitoba and Education Institutions; and
 - The Council of Elders quarterly meetings were held in 2018: June 12-14, October 2-4, 2018 and in 2019: February 6-7 and April 9-10.

TRCM Governance Structure - Committees

In accordance with the MOA, AMC participated in the following meetings:

- Operational Management Committee: August 2, 2018 and February 8, 2019;
- Joint Senior Officials: were held on June 2018 and April 2019;
- The sub-committee on Treaty Education Initiative meetings held quarterly;
- The Manitoba Treaties Oral History Project research is currently being examined for further publications.

AMC Communications with CIRNA

CIRNA HQ officials assigned to work with AMC and TRCM includes Debra Alivisatos and Shahwar Pataudi; meetings were held on June 18, December 6, 2018 and April 9, 2019 with discussions focusing on an Evaluation of the TRCM, options for the Parties to begin discussions on the MOA and federal processes for increased statutory funding.

Communication and Reporting to Manitoba Leadership

Immediate issues and direction are brought to the attention of the Grand Chief's Office and AMC Executive Council of Chiefs. Annual Reporting is conveyed at the Annual General Assembly.

Renewal Process of the Treaty Commission (TRCM)

AMC Chiefs Task Force and Elders need to have further dialogue on TRCM Renewal to outline plans on moving forward with a broader mandate and Memorandum of Agreement. AMC met with the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations to observe their Treaty Table that is facilitated by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. Ongoing dialogue is expected to occur as we have broadened discussions on the future of Treaty Commissions.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Strategy on Treaties

The AFN national strategy on Treaties is guided by AFN resolution 07/2010 "Sacred Treaties – Sacred Trust: Working Together for Treaty Implementation and Advancing our Sovereignty as Nations." This resolution calls on AFN to support Treaty First Nations by coordinating the necessary dialogue and facilitating advocacy efforts led by each

Treaty region. The sector is now called Lands, Territories and Resources and includes: Specific Claims, Treaties, Comprehensive Claims, and Additions To Reserves; the Director of Lands & Resources is William David with Aaron Asselstine as Associate Director.

Recognition of Indigenous Rights for Self-Government Discussion Tables

Mr. Joe Wild, Federal Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, Crown Indigenous Relations is leading the Table process with a mandate to renew the relationship with First Nations. They are facilitated by a Federal Negotiator; Suzanne Dorma is assigned to the Manitoba Region. Currently there are 70 tables with the various Treaty groups across Canada.

Treaty Commissioner Ross has reached out to the Tables in Manitoba and has had invites from Treaty 2 to discuss Education, she presented to Treaty 5 Sovereign Nations, travelled to the Island Lake Region to visit the four First Nations and attended a session with Fisher River Cree Nation.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada split into two Ministries: Crown Indigenous Relations and Crown Indigenous Services

In August 2017 the Prime Minister announced the creation of two separate Ministries, one – Crown Indigenous Relations and two, Indigenous Services. Clarification was requested on where Treaty Commissions fit and AMC as a party to the MOA; CIRNA confirmed that Treaty Commissions would remain with Minister Bennett. To this date, the bureaucracy is still unravelling.

TRCM Treaty Education Initiative (TEI)

(TEI K-12)

For the past eight years, TRCM solely delivered TEI training with its funding. The long term goal of TEI remains that full integration of comprehensive Treaty Education from K-12 in all schools across Manitoba as supported by a province-wide education policy. Finally in this fiscal year, the Province of Manitoba Education committed to fund \$250k annually for five years to assist with TEI printing, speaker fees, training facilities, Elders' honoraria and coordination costs starting in 2019-2020.

Grade 12 Treaties and Treaty Relationship Course

As mandated by AMC resolution the TRCM, MFNERC, Manitoba Educations and AMC continue discussions on mandatory Treaty Education in Manitoba. Progress is slow.

TRCM with the Oscar Lathlin Collegiate, Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Frontier Collegiate and Cranberry Portage (FSD) piloted the course as a school initiated course in February 2019 and the students will graduate grade 12 with the credit. Frontier School Division verbally committed to offering the new grade 12 course in all their schools for the 2019-20 school year. The TRCM TEI team is currently reviewing the data and will modify the curriculum based on the feedback from students and teachers.

Post-Secondary Course on Treaties

The post-secondary level course will be offered as a pilot by TRCM and the Council of Elders as a 5-day course from July 22-26, 2019 with 40 participants. This course is part of a series of 4 one-week sessions that will be offered in incremental levels over the next two and half years. The first pilot course will be offered this summer at several different land-based locations: Niizhoziibeau (The Forks), Lower Fort Garry, Upper Fort Garry and TRCM Learning Centre. An evaluator will assist with reading materials, observing delivery during that week and prepare a report on observations, findings, and recommendations. The TRCM TEI Internal Team writers will proceed with development of the three other advanced courses including identifying parameters of potential articulation agreements with mainstream post-second institutions.

Activities and Accomplishments

- On-going dialogue with Crown Indigenous Relations HQ on the TRCM partnership, importance of Treaties, Treaties relationship and role of Elders;
- Biannual meetings on Treaty Commissions with the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of Saskatchewan and Office of Treaty Commissioner;
- Biannual meetings on Treaty Commissions with the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of Saskatchewan and Office of Treaty Commissioner;
- Appointments to the AMC Chiefs Task Force on TRCM;
- Two Elder Inductees in the 2019 Grandmother & Grandfather awards hosted by Ka Ni Kanichihk;



UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION

- Elder guidance on traditional protocols and sacred bundles with Transport Canada;
- Treaty Commissioner presentations and/or observer status to the Manitoba Treaty Tables;
- Provincial of Manitoba five-year funding commitment to TRCM for TEI;
- TRCM grade 12 school initiate course on Treaties and Treaty Relationship pilot project in two northern schools – one on a First Nation and second, a provincial school;
- TRCM Post-Secondary Course on Treaties – A Pilot Course;

Moving Forward

As guided under the Chiefs Task Force, AMC will work to actively pursue a Discussion Table with CIRNA on the mandate of the TRCM and a new MOA. We will have ongoing discussions with the Treaty Tables on the role of the Treaty Commissioner and TRCM. We will continue to network with the FSIN and office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan on a Treaty agenda, mandate of Treaty Commissions and the role to CIRNA. We will support for the ongoing discussions and guidance to the Alberta Treaty 6, 7 & 8 leadership and technicians on the development an Alberta Treaty Commission.

Universal Health Accord



Staff

Melanie MacKinnon - Senior Health Advisor

Darlene Spence - Administrative Assistant

Introduction

Through several resolutions, the Chiefs in Assembly mandated the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) to initiate discussions with the Federal and Provincial Governments on the development of a collaborative process that would lead to tripartite or double bi-lateral solutions for a framework on health. The AMC is also mandated with scoping the jurisdictional authorities that will result in dismantled federal departmental structures and the development of First Nation entities that are legally empowered to exercise these expanded authorities; consistent with the inherent right of self-government.

In order to form effective relationships that will provide First Nations input and involvement in the regional redesign of the FNIHB Manitoba Region, including the development of the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and also the Department of Indigenous Services; the AMC proposed a two-track discussion approach, albeit both are complimentary and simultaneous.

Track 1 focusses on the formal discussions and negotiations between First Nations and Government for a renewed health delivery system and jurisdictional framework taking a population health approach.

Track 2 will focus on creating a shared vision, through creating possible scenarios, to discover a path towards a "good life" for First Nations in Manitoba. This track is called "Wahbung-Our Tomorrows Imagined". This work will inform a needs-based health strategy and provide supporting evidence for the jurisdictional framework in collaboration with regional partners.

Overview

In 1971, the Chiefs of First Nations in Manitoba signed Wahbung: Our Tomorrows, a position paper that represented a fundamental step towards self-determination of First Nations people in Manitoba. The document outlined an agenda for action, including First Nations' inherent right to design and have full authority over their health, education, and child and family services systems, informed by First Nations worldviews, laws, and approaches.

In 2019, nearly fifty years after this seminal document was created, the Wahbung: Our Tomorrows Imagined project continues this important work and re-energizes the movement towards this desired reality. With First Nations' leadership, guidance from spiritual teachings, and coaching by Reos Partners, an all-First Nations scenario team worked together to create four scenarios about how the next fifty years could unfold for First Nations in Manitoba. The team included Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, and First Nations leaders in health, education, community development, and child welfare representing both rural and urban experiences.

The scenarios are supporting conversations to identify options for what could be done to achieve Mino Pimatisiwin (the good life), ranging from community level health services to negotiations with the Government of Canada.

Key Issues and Challenges

There are 63 First Nations in Manitoba and 5 distinct First Nation linguistic groups. This diversity made it challenging not only to articulate a shared vision for the future Manitoba First Nations want to create, but also to agree on the path for how to get there. Together, the scenario team discussed their views on the following questions:

- Perspectives: How do we see, from our different perspectives, the complex current reality of our lives?
- Scenarios: How could – not will, not should – our lives unfold over the decades ahead?
- Options: How could we deal with this unpredictable but influenceable situation?
- Vision: What must we do to build a good life?

Activities and Accomplishments

Together, the First Nations technical leadership of Wahbung (AMC, MKO, SCO and FNHSSM) and Reos Partners co-created a methodology that leveraged the strengths of both First Nations knowledge and cultural systems with Reos' scenario methodology. Through this "braided" approach, the scenario team created four scenarios for how the future could unfold for Manitoba First Nations.

The four scenarios describe how the wellbeing of the First Nations of Manitoba could unfold over the next 50 years across seven social determinants of health: Self-determination; Language, Culture and Spirituality; Land and Environment; Social Services; Health Systems; Employment, Economic Development and Income, and Education.

(1)Dominion

Today's status quo conditions and trends in First Nations' wellbeing continue into the future. Canada increasingly shifts from a "mosaic" to a "melting pot" that is dominated by Western culture, which erases First Nations distinctiveness and autonomy. Big oil maintains its strong influence globally and in Canada. As the dominant settler society bulldozes and absorbs minorities, the few First Nations whose choices fit well with the dominant system thrive, but most are increasingly marginalized.

(2)Dreamcatchers

Global forces – including climate change, technology, and globalization – lead to massive changes in how all cultures are practiced, how all services are delivered, and how all societal systems function. Economies and living environments are heavily disrupted by environmental crises and rapid growth of automation, artificial intelligence, and internet connectivity. First Nations people are affected by the same changes, leading to a redrawn picture of First Nations wellbeing. Cultural mixing in a highly connected environment leads to First Nations culture being expressed in completely different ways, while some of the old ways are lost. The change is rapid. There is tension between those wanting to reinvent cultural practices and those wanting to preserve the old ways.

(3)All My Relations

First Nations and the Canadian Government build a more fruitful relationship through negotiations in good faith. They follow the worldview of interconnectedness expressed through the words, "all my relations", or Mitákuye Oyás'í meaning "we are all related". First Nations co-exist with settlers in a negotiated relationship of mutual respect for jurisdiction of First Nations and Canadian laws, leading to greater autonomy over services and better wellness for First Nations people, but still operating within a framework defined by the Canadian Government. Treaties are ultimately respected and implemented, and the Canadian Government retains overall control of the funding and institutions that underpin First Nations services and status. Capitalism is maintained as the driving economic system, but with some more progressive social and tax policies resulting in decreasing income inequality across Canada.

(4)Sun, Grass, and Waters

First Nations gain the space and opportunities to assert their sovereignties and to reclaim their relationships with the land, water, air, and animals. The words "Sun, Grass, and Waters" become widely accepted as the basis for this new reality, meaning the freedom to truly follow the First Nations way of life, with the Sun representing Creation, the Grass representing Mother Earth and Turtle Island, and Water representing all life. The Canadian economy shifts away from oil, creating economic opportunities for First Nations in clean energy. The coming 50 years bring a stream of shifts in whose priorities are represented in the services First Nations receive, then later fully realized and restored First Nations' constitutions based on Natural Law. The transition

period is difficult and benefits are not equally distributed between Nations. Tensions arise as Nations have different opportunities and make different choices, but First Nations use the traditions and ceremonies to maintain relationships and share resources.

Next steps

With consensus built upon what future to be realized along with the vision and roadmap to get there, the Universal Health Accord Project will now concentrate all planning and negotiation efforts as outlined in Track 1, to include:

- (1) Re-establishment of the Chiefs Task Force on Health;
- (2) Fiscal Analysis of current Federal/Provincial health expenditures and the exploration of future need-based funding instrument for enhanced community control;
- (3) Development of policy and fiscal frameworks to be negotiated in self-government agreement(s) in health; and
- (4) Design First Nation Health Transformation Transition Plan (devolution of FNIHB regional office to First Nations) for approval by the Chiefs in Assembly, to include:
 - a. First Nation leadership
 - b. Health Directors, clinical and professional experts
 - c. Federal and provincial government representatives
 - d. Health agency and academic partners

Community engagement testimonials

"Having the opportunity to tell future-oriented stories, instead of our usual backward-looking story, was an incredible experience."

"Having the Elders and ceremony was important and much appreciated to help do this work in a good way. I had the opportunity to have really important and impactful conversations with a wide range of experts that was personally beneficial and will help guide the important work that will follow."

"We are united in trying to move forward. Differences seem to melt away when we look to the future. The fulsome discussion allowed for me to see things in a different light and a fresh perspective, allowing me to be better equipped to be part of the solution."

"We forget the good that binds us. This good is effortless. The dark part that is our challenges takes all our efforts. It's exhausting. This process enlightened me into remembering the good of our ancestors."

"This Wabwung process gives you a very different perspective on what you want your future to be, what you want to achieve every day. When I come to Wabwung, it shows me these different opportunities and what would happen if I didn't break down the barriers. It shows me what it will look like if I didn't fight and what it could look like if I keep fighting."



Education

Staff

Lyn Blackburde, Director of Education
Trent Gervais, Junior Policy Advisor
Linda Ackegan, Administrative Assistant

Introduction

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Executive Council of Chiefs, and Chiefs Committee on Education are driven by Resolution Nov-17.05 which called to the revival of the AMC CCOE. The AMC CCOE was directed to work on all regional First Nations education activities, including the regional education funding formula/model and a Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Agreement.

Overview

An Education Directorate was re-established at the AMC and on November 15, 2019 Lyn Blackburde was hired as the Education Director followed was the hiring of Trent Gervais, Education Policy Analyst and Linda Ackegan, Administrative Assistant who work to support individual First Nations who are pursuing control of their own education. The AMC Education Secretariat has provided regional policy analysis and advocacy with representation at the local, provincial and national tables. The main focus in education for 2018-2019 has been the Interim Funding Formula/Model and the Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Agreement.

Key Issues and Challenges

Manitoba Regional Education Agreement

The Agreement is a result of Canada's updated co-developed policy and funding approach implemented on April 1, 2019 and is based on provincial education funding formulas that include certain enhancements to address First Nations' specific needs such as culture and language education. The approach used in the Agreement seeks to create a partnership between Canada and First Nations to develop Treaty-based, regional and local education agreements that address First Nations' educational goals and priorities. Developed in recognition of Manitoba First Nations' inherent and treaty rights to education, the Agreement sets out that Canada will provide funding to Manitoba First Nations over a 5-year period to bring the shift towards First Nations control of First Nations education on reserve.

Interim Funding Formula/Model

Canada will provide "sufficient, sustained and predictable funding" to First Nation students who are enrolled in First Nation schools and enrolled in other schools covered by a funding agreement. Canada will annually provide transfer payments through a funding agreement with each First Nation in Manitoba. This transfer payment will be determined in accordance with the methodology of an Interim Funding Formula/Model based on provincial approaches with specific adaptations and enhancements to meet the unique needs of First Nation schools and students. The AMC Education Secretariat has facilitated the work of the AMC CCOE, which includes liaising with the Technical Task Force on the development of a new Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Funding Formula/Model to increase the funding amount beyond provincial comparability.

Activities

Manitoba First Nation Education Directors Meetings

Since November 2018 AMC Education Directorate have arranged and facilitated meetings for the Education Directors and the First Nations Finance departments to gain insight and provide input into the Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Agreement including workshops regarding the Regional Interim Funding Formula/Model with presentations from MFNERC related to Manitoba First Nations Education Strategic Planning including a Post-Secondary strategy, Languages Revitalization strategy, Nursery to Grade 12 strategy, High cost Special Education Jordan's Principle strategy, Early Learning Child Care strategy along with insight into budgeting and potential employee salary scales, benefits, professional development and use of Language and culture activities in the school. The Education Directors also requested and were provided with presentations on teacher recruitment and retention from Teach for Canada, The Treaty commission gave information on their toolkit for use in the schools, The Manitoba Indian Education Association provided a presentation as well as Specialized Services for Children and Youth. The Education Directors provided feedback on the presentations including future recommendations.

Chiefs Committee on Education

Resolution Mar-18.05, A Renewed Approach to Reassert First Nations Jurisdiction in Education which calls for restoration of various responsibilities of the AMC CCOE to direct and oversee regional activities and research on First Nations education that will include ensuring First Nations control of their own education and to inform Canada and the AFN of the position of the Manitoba Chiefs on Education; Re-establishment of a Technical Task Force comprised of advisors from existing First Nations education authorities and AMC Secretariat. The Chiefs Committee on Education includes:

- Chief Lance Roulette, Sandy Bay First Nation
- Chief Vera Mitchell, Poplar River First Nation
- Chief Karen Batson, Pine Creek First Nation
- Chief Craig Alexander, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation
- Chief Wayne Desjarlais, Ebb and Flow First Nation
- Chief David McDougall, St. Theresa Point First Nation
- Chief Clarence Easter, Chemawawin Cree Nation
- Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation
- Chief Glenn Hudson, Peguis First Nation
- Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation
- Onekanew Christian Sinclair, Opaskwayak Cree Nation

The CCOE met on June 27, 2019 to review the REA and the legal reviews. The recommendation was for a representative from Fox Fraser LLP to attend a future Chiefs-In-Assembly to provide a presentation on the findings of the Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Agreement to the Chiefs including availability for questions.

The CCOE were also informed that the Regional Interim Funding Formula/Model was found in some instances to have miscalculations and omission errors upon further examination by the First Nations. There was a request from the Technical Task Force to ensure quality assurance for all the Manitoba First Nations with completion of an audit on Indigenous Services Canada. The Technical Task Force, AMC and Indigenous Services Canada have agreed to such an audit/review for accurate calculations and funding amounts for our Manitoba First Nations.

Technical Task Force

The AMC Secretariat has coordinated numerous Technical Task Force meetings to discuss the Manitoba Regional Education Agreement and the Interim Funding Formula/Model. It was decided on June 12, 2019 that the Technical Task Force had completed their work on the Manitoba First Nations Regional Education Agreement and requested the CCOE to review with next steps to begin Negotiations with Canada. The Technical Task Force includes:

- Davin Dumas, Fisher River Cree Nation (South Cree)
- Greg Halcrow, Cross Lake Band of Indians (North Cree)
- Crissy Courchene, Sagkeeng First Nation (South Ojibwe)
- Freddie Wood, St. Theresa Point First Nation (North Ojibwe-Cree)
- Carrie Sutherland, Peguis First Nation (South Ojibwe)
- Bev Fontaine, Opaskwayak Cree Nation (North Cree)

The Technical Task Force also recommended a legal review of the REA which was completed by Kappo Hildebrand LLP and a second review was also completed by Fox Fraser LLP. Some considerations for the First Nations Regional Education Agreement are as follows:

- Clarity of the definitions used in the agreement
- The prescriptive nature of the agreement and reference to the Manitoba Schools Act (school boards) being used when First Nations administer their own schools (Chief & council)
- The language in the agreement may affect MFNERC as a whole given its specific commitment to provide second and third level services to First Nations education in the province
- The use of the word "Agents"
- Concern regarding parties as signatories to the agreement; who is the agreement binding?
- Reporting requirements
- Canada has unilateral authority over individual First Nations as opposed to a nation-to-nation approach that includes reciprocal obligations when Canada is in default

Regional Funding Formula/Model and Agreement Negotiations Team

Once the Manitoba Regional Education Agreement is finalized the Negotiations Team will begin their work. Resolution Oct-18.01, Regional Funding Formula and Agreement Negotiations Team which calls for the Chiefs-In-Assembly to continue to support the Negotiation Team with moving forward on a Manitoba First Nations Regional Funding Formula/Model to seek a funding model that goes beyond just simply “provincial comparability” and Canada’s “interim funding model,” with regular reporting to all Manitoba First Nations. The Negotiations Team includes:

- Negotiator and Table Lead – Dennis White Bird,
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Negotiation Team:
 - Representatives from the AMC CCOE
 - Chief David McDougall (CCOE North)
 - Chief Lance Roulette (CCOE South)
 - Alternatives: Chief Karen Batson or Chief Vera Mitchell
 - Representative from Independent First Nations:
Chief Glenn Hudson
 - 2 Representatives from the Technical Task Force:
David Dumas and Greg Halcrow
- Technical Support:
 - Representatives from AMC as needed Marcel Balfour
or Natalie Ballentyne
 - Representatives from MFNERC as needed: Virginia
Arthurson or George Maerasty
- Elder:
 - Representative from the AMC Council of Elders:
Florence Paynter

The AMC Education Secretariat is committed to provide support and direction to all First Nations of Manitoba with future educational endeavours that strive for a true nation-to-nation relationship.

Education Director Meeting Testimonials

“I really enjoyed the whole presentation from all the presenters. Good information that I will take back home to my community”

“Enjoyed the topics that were presented especially Teach for Canada and the activity they did. I was able to obtain new ideas for recruitment and retention”

“I was very impressed with SSCY. Although I would love to see a place for older/young adults because their disabilities don’t stop at 18 years of age”

“The presenters had a wealth of information to present. The presentations were clear and direct and having participants involved and sharing with each other is always a good idea. I gained some ideas as to where to put efforts into teacher recruitment and retention”

“I had a great time listening to the presenters; I heard a lot of good information from the presenters and my fellow participants”

INITIATIVES

AMC Intervention Project

Staff

Melanie Everette - Special Projects Coordinator,
Intervention Team Lead

Clayton Burka - BBA, Business and Economic Development
Officer

Jimmy Thunder - MBA, Business Economic Development
Officer

Introduction

There is a need for change in the way the Federal Government works with First Nations on their Default Prevention and Management Policy (DPMP). In 2017, the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs identified in their report that of 618 First Nations across Canada, 137 of those were under a form of intervention, 43 of the 137 First Nations under intervention were from Manitoba, this identified that 68% of First Nations in Manitoba were under intervention.

Despite the fact that the DPMP was intended to create capacity in First Nations, Manitoba had the highest level of intervention. Some First Nations in Manitoba have been in a form of intervention for over a decade. Grand Chief Dumas had several meetings and exchanged correspondence with the Federal Government to discuss how First Nations would move away from default management and seek ways to prevent future defaults, including addressing historical debts that continue to burden our First Nations.

In November 2017, the AMC was approved for a pilot project as the first phase of the development of a Manitoba First Nations approach to replace the current application of the INAC Default Prevention and Management Policy (DPMP) which will lead to the development of a centre of excellence that will promote First Nations collaboration for capacity enhancement. This will:

- Enhance First Nations capacity so leadership can quickly and effectively resume administration and control over their funding and to prevent future defaults;
- Address underlying causes of default, including capacity, management, community engagement and governance; and
- Pilot the ongoing development of an alternative to the current practice of hiring for profit companies that have

no incentive to develop First Nations capacity, to the development of a "one stop shop" centre of excellence that will be accountable to the AMC leadership that emphasizes enhancing First Nations capacity in financial management.

In the first phase, the default prevention team has worked with five First Nations to assist the communities in enhancing their capacity. Administrative and technical supports are provided by the team. The intervention project is designed to provide support in a manner that respects the ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP) of the information that is shared during their participation of the program. As such the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs strives to respect the privacy of the program participants. Confidentiality of the First Nations records, files and finances are respected.

This is a new way of working together that will benefit the communities. The end goal of the program would see every First Nation in Manitoba successfully transitioned out of the Default Prevention and Management Policy and independently operating as self-determining Nations.

Key Issues and Challenges

First Nations in Manitoba continue to be chronically underfunded and under resourced, this forces First Nation leadership to make difficult decisions with limited resources. The current situation does not allow for a successful articulation of social and economic development of First Nation communities into the global economy. This has also resulted in First Nations having to work under the ISC Default Prevention and Management Policy. First Nations often have to work with for profit companies to meet the needs of their communities, this requires the use of financial resources that could be used for provide proper resources and enhance capacity.

Navigating the relationship between Funders, Recipient-Appointed Advisors/Financial Advisors, and external businesses and for-profit companies. In working with the First Nations in the first phase of the project, it was discovered that there was a communication breakdown with those working with First Nations. During the DPMP process some communities were not involved in any planning or decision making, which has resulted in a difficult de-escalation process. In some cases, where there were issues in the community such as citizenship or providing membership with status cards, ISC has not provided any

support to explain their process or provide regular updates for leadership to provide to their membership. There is not always clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all parties involved when a First Nation is under a form of intervention.

Historical debt faced by communities continues to delay the progress and growth of our First Nations. Historical debt is linked to historic underfunding and unrecognized or undocumented population growth, lack of information for proper planning and transitioning out of intervention. First Nations de-escalating from Third Party Management to a Recipient Appointed Advisor (Co-Management) were automatically at risk because once they left third party management, any claw backs in funding and debts owing would activate for collection. Therefore, placing First Nations back in deficit running the risk of being placed back in the highest form of intervention. The DPMP does not provide for communities to plan for these situations during the intervention process.

Limited access to technology prevents communities from using current technology, and acquiring access to information and resources. Funding allocations to First Nations do not allow for regular updating of equipment that will allow the First Nation to operate effectively and efficiently. Lack of connectivity prevents communication from flowing regularly, which can result in leadership having to leave often to for meetings and advocacy on behalf of their communities.

Limited resources to the First Nations prevent capacity enhancement, and hiring the staff they require to operate effectively. Without sufficient human resources, it becomes difficult for First Nations to provide effective and regular programs and services, regular reporting to membership and funders.

Linkages to First Nations

The AMC Grand Chiefs office and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc. are always readily available to assist the First Nations with advocacy, engaging communities, and provide support and resources.

Connecting First Nation leadership who provide support to each other through community visits to review best practices, provide mentorship, seek advice, and create partnerships. A result of this support system results in staff and citizens connecting and working together.

Activities and Accomplishments

The AMC Intervention project team is very honoured to be working with our First Nations in Manitoba and has had the pleasure of both being a part of and witnessing the successes of the First Nations who are part of this program. Through the hard work and dedication of the leadership of these First Nations, noteworthy accomplishments have been achieved.

- Returning planning and decision making to the Chief and Council
- First Nation leadership, staff and citizens are engaged
- Assessing and addressing gaps in operations and resources
- Creating communication strategies that will allow for informed decision making
- Strategic planning sessions to find solutions to address issues, develop work plans and goal setting.
- Assist with hosting community meetings to share information and provide progress reports
- Assisting with de-escalation strategies
- Assist with the development of Management Action Plans
- At the request of the Chief and Council, working with Recipient-Appointed Advisors (RAA)/financial advisors to ensure there are procedures, work plans, training and resources in place part of the de-escalation process
- At the request of the Chief and Council, assist and attend meetings with government representatives, funders and others
- Relieved partnerships that were not benefiting the community
- Enhancing capacity through training, coaching and staff development so key financial and operational functions can run effectively. Training includes:
 - working with contribution agreements & budgets
 - developing proposals and writing reports
 - developing and implementing financial policies and procedures
 - training community members to assist with hosting effective community meetings and event planning
- Monitoring work-plans and achieving goals
- Maintaining regular communication with Chief and Council
- Travel to communities, conference calls and emails
- Regular follow-up to ensure the communities have the support they need to implement their work-plans and goals

For further information regarding the project, please contact the team at 204.987.4113 or meverette@manitobachiefs.com.

INITIATIVES

Conservation, Preservation & Restoration of Lake Winnipeg



Staff

Cheyenne Thomas - Project Coordinator

Introduction

Starting late in 2018, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has taken part in an initiative to Conserve, Preserve, and Restore one of the largest lakes in Manitoba, Lake Winnipeg. For hundreds of years our fresh water lake has sustained and culturally been a core part of our First Nation communities well-being.

Overview

The AMC CPR Project is honoured to begin working with First Nation communities along the shores of Lake Winnipeg including: youth, elders, technicians and mostly importantly our women who are the water keepers.

With an innovative approach to reclaim and care for our lake we aim to accomplish a series of projects. We acknowledge there are many communities and organizations already facilitating work at different levels such as policy, on the ground, and

This initiative includes defining core engagement principles, identifying preliminary collaborations and funding opportunities, and producing directional strategies to implement specific goals based on an overarching vision for Lake Winnipeg.

Deliverables of this initiative include:

- Provide greater awareness and development of coordinated strategies to promote stewardship and a collective strategy for the Conservation, Protection and Restoration of Lake Winnipeg and her watershed.
- Incorporation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge into the broader protection strategy (Mainstream Cooperative strategy/table/Engagement/Discussions (Identifying Partners/Participants) that includes: Indigenous communities, Municipalities, NGO, ENGOs and Industry.
- Indigenous engagement and involvement which will lead to incorporation of ITK into policies, regulations and legislation around the restoration of Lake Winnipeg.
- Spawn the development of Community Based Monitoring programs, which will monitor the efforts of other groups involved with Nutrient reduction and its impact on traditional pursuits, and commercial activities (ie Fishing).



Activities and Accomplishments

AMC has been attending many meetings to collaborate with other Indigenous Organizations with the goal of Conservation, Protection and Restoration of Lake Winnipeg and her watershed. These are a few activities and initiatives we have been a part of:

- Session on Navigable Waters Act with Transport Canada, Southern Chiefs' Organization, Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective, Surrounding Indigenous Communities;
- Water ceremony at Eyaa-Keen Centre Inc;
- Met with local First Nation film makers for the story telling portion of the project;
- Presented project to AMC Elder's Council;
- National Indigenous Guardian Network Launch Planning Session;
- Network with technicians and guardians from Nations from across Canada
- Assembly of First Nations Water Symposium
- Full Moon Ceremony at the University of Manitoba
- First Nations' National Guardians Gathering 2019
- Presented at Lake Winnipeg Basin Symposium
- Planning session with First Nation communities surrounding Lake Winnipeg for canoe trip across the lake
- Nibi Gathering 2019

Key Issues and Challenges

- Construction of the Lake St. Martin & Lake Manitoba Outlet Channels
- Invasive Species
- Agricultural Run-off into First Nation communities traditional fishing areas
- Adequate resourcing/funding to assist Manitoba First Nations build infrastructure within their communities along with provide long term training in operating their own facilities
- Agricultural Run-off into First Nation communities traditional fishing areas

Moving Forward

Next steps include Engagement/Discussions (Identifying Partners/Participants) to develop a coordinated strategy that will promote stewardship for the Conservation, Protection and Restoration of Lake Winnipeg and her watershed that will include the participation of Indigenous communities, Municipalities, NGO, ENGOs and Industry.

INITIATIVES

Emergency Management Services

Staff

Myrle Ballard - Engagement Coordinator

Introduction

The Emergency Management Services (EMS) Engagement Coordination commenced at the beginning of the new fiscal year in April 2019. Stemming on the past emergencies resulting from forest fires and flooding, the AMC Secretariat provided funding to First Nation communities to engage in community meetings with their community members regarding Emergency Management Services and to determine the best way forward. Each First Nation community will have the opportunity to document their experiences, and provide recommendations in dealing with emergency management services. Over the past decades, First Nation communities have experienced varying degrees of emergencies resulting from natural and anthropogenic events such as extreme weather, severe flooding leading to permanent displacements, and intense forest fires as never experienced before. Due to the cumulative and ripple effects from climate change, extreme weather conditions are expected to be the norm. However, due to various factors, including jurisdictional gaps, lack of capacity, infrastructure, governance, social, economic, and financial resources; emergency management can be problematic for First Nations communities.

The results of the EMS community engagement will identify the following:

1. Identify and address strategic operational and jurisdictional gaps, issues and opportunities for improvement;
2. Identify ways to enhance the role and capacity of First Nations at the community level in Emergency Management including a review of infrastructure, operational requirements and other capacity needs for effective EMS in First Nation communities;
3. Identify the necessary policies and protocols to allow seamless and effective EMS across all levels of government;
4. Identify ways to streamline and simplify processes for reimbursement of response and recovery costs; and
5. Identify strengths and expertise within First Nations in

Manitoba to improve Emergency Management Services and that will support the creation of a new model of excellence in Emergency Management and Wildfire Management that could include a training facility and evacuation centre.

Key Issues and Challenges

Some of the challenges of the EMS Community Engagement is the short duration of the project. The timing is ultimately contingent upon seasons, weather and the school year.

One of the challenges as result of the short duration of the project is the remote communities who request assistance with their engagements where it may take 2-3 days of travel to reach the community and return.

Another challenge is ensuring that correspondence is reaching the target audience. Understandably, leadership are very busy, and may not read all the correspondence, therefore, other means of communication are being taken to reach the communities to access the funding and to host their EMS community engagements. It is challenging to get all the First Nation communities to request their EMS community engagement funding.

Another challenge is the summer season where community activities are limited. Other community activities also take precedent over the EMS community engagements such as treaty day celebrations.

Another challenge is when the communities get their EMS community engagement funding, but do not set up dates for their community engagements.

Linkages to First Nations Communities

Regular communication with the First Nation communities has been ongoing since the project started. The following modes of communication were utilized:

- A letter of Introduction was sent to all the First Nation communities on March 28, 2019, introducing the EMS Engagement Coordinator and informing First Nation Chiefs and Councils of the funding available for the First Nations to host their Community Engagements;
- A follow-up letter was sent to the First Nation communities on April 8, 2019 advising them of the available funding to host EMS community engagements;

- A third letter was sent on May 14, 2019;
- AMC Assemblies and Special Gatherings have been a forum where Chiefs have been approached and advised of the EMS funding that is available.
- Phone calls and emails are used to encourage the First Nation communities who have not yet requested the funding, to submit their request for the EMS engagement funding.
- Regular follow-up with First Nation communities who have received their funding is done.

Status of Activities

There are currently 39 or 61% of the First Nations who have requested the EMS funding.

Short-term contracts were also sent to the First Nation communities. To date, six of the short-term contracts have been signed and returned.

Communities are also requesting assistance with their EMS engagements; as well as planning and booking dates for their EMS engagement dates.

A questionnaire was prepared and sent to the First Nation communities to be used as a tool for their engagement.

EMS community reports are due in February 2020 in order to analyze, synthesize and compile the data into a Final Report for the end of March 2020.

Communication with the communities is critical and all modes of communication are utilized such as emails, phone calls to band offices and cell phones, texting, and in-person meetings.

Accomplishments

- One community has completed their two community engagements and has submitted its Final Report.
- Presentations have been made to communities to inform them of the EMS community engagement project.
- There have been seven community engagements to date and all have requested assistance.
- Additional community engagements have been booked in the coming months.

INITIATIVES

Gaming

Staff

Andrew Thunder - Policy Analyst

Introduction

First Nations have an inherent right to develop and control gaming activities. Instead of being able to exercise that right, Canada diverted First Nations' jurisdiction to the provinces. First Nations in Manitoba never relinquished that right. As a result, over the years the AMC has tried to work cooperatively with the Manitoba government to use gaming revenues to improve socio-economic conditions for First Nations.

The AMC Gaming Committee provides overall oversight, guidance and direction on all regional Gaming issues. The Committee consists of:

- 1 Northern Chief representative – Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation (Chair)
- 1 Southern Chief representative – Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation
- Aseneskak Casino representative – Chief Clarence Easter, Chemawawin Cree Nation
- South Beach Casino representative – Chief Sheldon Kent, Black River First Nation
- Sand Hills Casino representative – Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation
- VLT holder representative – Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation
- Non-VLT holder representative – Vacant

The Department of Gaming Development focuses on gaming policy and other forms of gaming initiatives to improve gaming revenue opportunities that will help close the standard of living gap between First Nations and non-First Nations in Manitoba. In addition to providing support to the AMC Gaming Committee, and carrying out its directions and decisions, the gaming staff work closely with the AMC Grand Chief's Office; with gaming consultants and legal advisors; and provides administrative support to the Sand Hills Board of Directors.

Key Issues and Challenges

Since 1997, the provincial government promised five First Nations casinos would be opened before any non-First Nation casinos were approved. It agreed to prioritize First Nation gaming operations over other gaming operations.

In 2005, the AMC entered into a Letter of Understanding with the Province to work together to close the standard of living gap between First Nations and non-First Nation Manitobans by providing adequate gaming revenues to First Nations in Manitoba. Despite AMC's best efforts to work cooperatively, the provincial government has repeatedly broken its promises. In violation of its contractual obligations and promises, the government has undermined First Nations gaming in the province while the standard of living gap continues to grow.

The government of Manitoba generates over \$500 million per year in gaming-related gross revenues. However, the casino revenues received by most First Nations across the province are negligible – only \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Furthermore, Manitoba continues to exclude First Nations from Winnipeg, the largest and most lucrative gaming market in Manitoba. Among provinces across Canada with a First Nations gaming framework, Manitoba generates the smallest per capita benefits to First Nations.

The AMC has been making efforts to improve social and economic opportunities for First Nations in this province. This includes having First Nations gain access to gaming markets that will improve their gaming revenues. In order to have any success, the AMC has to work with the Province of Manitoba, as it sets all legislation and regulations for First Nations gaming. Unfortunately, the Government of Manitoba has limited interest in discussing First Nations gaming. This has been the biggest challenge for advancing First Nations gaming initiatives. Furthermore, the government continues to restrict First Nations access to gaming markets.

At the time of this report, AMC is still in litigation against the Province to reaffirm their right to gaming and to uphold the original agreements made.

Activities and Accomplishments

Efforts to Work with Manitoba Government

The AMC has consistently made efforts to work cooperatively with the provincial government to advance First Nations gaming. Unfortunately, the Province has not been willing to work collaboratively with AMC on First Nations gaming.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs et al v Manitoba and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries

At the April 25 to 27, 2017, Chiefs-in-Assembly the Manitoba Chiefs passed a resolution to file a lawsuit against the Province of Manitoba and its agent, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation (MLLC). The Resolution APR-17.13, Litigation Against Manitoba regarding Sand Hills Casino, resolve that the Chiefs-in-Assembly retain Olthius Kleeer Townshend LLP to pursue litigation against Manitoba regarding Sand Hills Casino.

Litigation was not AMC's preferred course of action. However, since the government has refused to discuss a new gaming framework, the AMC saw no other option than to take this step on behalf of First Nations in Manitoba.

The original statement of claim was filed in the Court of the Queen's Bench on October 17, 2017. As a result of a change in legal counsel, a revised Statement of Claim was filed on February 27, 2018, to refine and strengthen the claim.

In response, the Government of Manitoba, and MLLC filed their Statement of Defense on June 29, 2018.

AMC then filed a Reply on September 24, 2018.

As part of the discovery process, representatives from Torsys LLP and JFK have been working on data collection from Manitoba. This has been a slow and cumbersome process, and AMC legal counsel has made the province commit to a timetable for producing documents. Once the discovery process is complete, pretrial will begin. Trial is expected to take place in the Fall of 2020 at the earliest.

Gaming Strategy

On June 8, 2016 the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution JUN-16.09, Manitoba First Nation Gaming Strategy. The Chiefs-in-Assembly agreed to develop a Manitoba First Nation Gaming Strategy to re-assert First Nations jurisdiction in the area of gaming. It was agreed that the strategy will include:

1. The development of an Indigenous Gaming Law;
2. Continued pursuit of amending the Criminal Code to removed provincial jurisdiction over First Nation gaming;
3. Supporting the development of a National First Nation Gaming Association; and
4. Developing a proposed approach to First Nation gaming with the new Progressive Conservative

government of the Province of Manitoba to work on a gaming process, including: VLTs; Casino / Gaming Centre development; revenue sharing of existing provincially-run casinos; on-line gaming; and other areas of gaming.

Since then AMC held a Gaming Forum at the South Beach Casino Resort on Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. This was to provide background information to facilitate informed discussions on a Manitoba First Nations Gaming Strategy. A draft of the proposed Manitoba First Nations Gaming Strategy was produced on June 12, 2017.

At the April 24 and 25, 2019 Chiefs-in-Assembly, the Manitoba Chiefs discussed the background of the Manitoba First Nations Gaming Strategy and made plans for the next steps.

In July of 2019, the AMC retained a consulting group, Chadwick Consulting Ltd to assist AMC in providing an analysis of the current state of gaming and provide options for the development of the Manitoba First Nations Gaming Strategy for the Chiefs Gaming Committee to review.

Other Accomplishments

In 2018-2019 the AMC Chiefs Gaming Committee and the Sand Hills Board of Directors held meetings throughout the year to, among other things:

- Discuss a Manitoba First Nation Gaming Strategy;
- Discuss and support legal action;
- Discuss previous Northern and remote Allocations from South Beach;
- Discuss the relocation of Aseneskak Casino;
- Plan a Chiefs Assembly on Gaming;
- Discuss AMC gaming budget;
- Provide direction on Hemisphere's independent Gaming Market Analysis;
- Discuss resolution on establishing Manitoba First Nations Gaming Authority;
- Discuss AMC's role in engaging First Nations in upcoming elections; and
- Discuss First Nations gaming with Manitoba NDP Party Leader Wab Kinew

First Peoples Economic Growth (FPEGF)

The FPEGF continues to support First Nation business development in Manitoba. Please see their annual report for further details.

INITIATIVES

Communications

Staff

Andrew Thunder - Director of Communications

Kim Wheeler - Communications, Media Relations Officer

Introduction

The purpose of the AMC Communications Department is to ensure regular communication takes place to inform First Nations leadership, the media and the general public of the activities of the Grand Chief's Office and the AMC Secretariat. This is done by utilizing a wide variety of communication mediums and methods to ensure all stakeholders are reached in the most effective way possible.

Some of the communication tools that have been used throughout the year include the AMC website, social media, news conferences, press releases, media statements, speaking notes for Grand Chief and assisting our First Nation leadership in highlighting their successes and challenging as well as promoting their events.

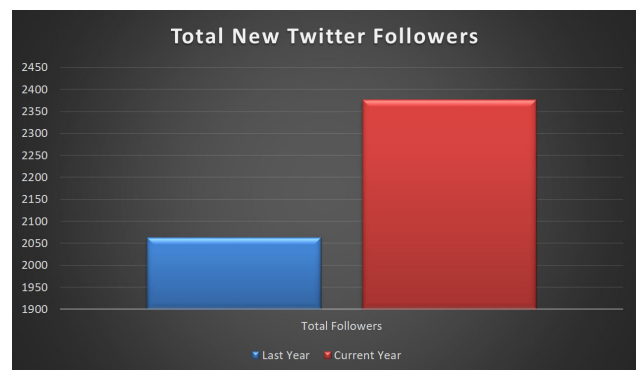
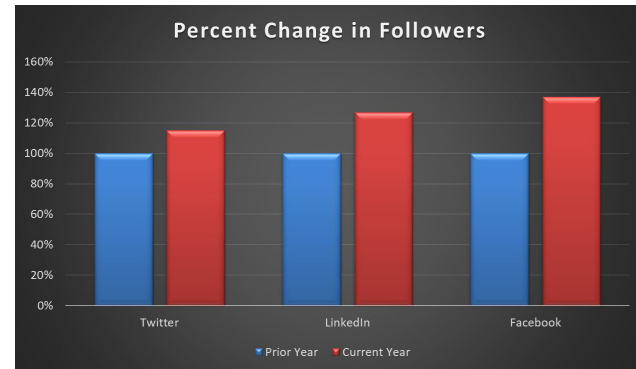
This year, a primary focus has been on growing and expanding our social media content and engagement and producing more videos to ensure our messages reach our audience.

Activities and Accomplishments

Social Media

In collaboration with departments throughout AMC, the Communications Team has taken strides to build a strong presence on our social media platforms. Since this is a key area where our stakeholders take in information, a great deal of work has been placed into utilizing the social media tools at our disposal while producing informative content that is engaging. The primary social media platforms AMC utilizes are Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

There has been positive movement across all of the social media platforms this year, particularly with Facebook and Twitter. Facebook saw an increase in page likes from 8,322 to 11,388, an increase of 37% from last year. The total number of Facebook engagements increased from 262,337 to 335,403, an increase of 27.85%. For Twitter, the number of total followers is 2,377, which increased by 313 from last year. LinkedIn saw a 77% increase in followers and an increase in daily visitors from 10 to 120 per month.



Throughout the year the Communications Department has been engaging with external and internal mandated entities such as Eagle Urban Transition Center and the First Nations Family Advocate Office to ensure we are posting and sharing important activities on our platforms.

Video Production

In an effort to produce content that is engaging and useful, the Communications Team has been producing more content in the form of videos. To do this effectively, the AMC has consulted with video production consultants, acquired new equipment and designated more time and resources into production.

As part of the effort to produce engaging video, the AMC is now producing a bi-weekly online video series. In these videos, a host will be interviewing people within AMC to highlight some of the recent programs and activities.

UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION

Communications Highlights

- Relunched the AMC bi-monthly newsletter, which highlights key activities of AMC and updates on the status of resolutions.
- Relunched the bi-monthly legislative update, which provides the First Nations leadership with updates on the progress of bills and changes in federal and provincial legislation.
- Continued production of quarterly radio shows, which showcase various programs and activities that are run through AMC. These 30-minute radio shows are aired on NCI radio and are made available online as a podcasts.
- Communications team used Facebook Live and live YouTube broadcasts for our Chiefs Assemblies and news conferences to enable viewers to see conferences and updates in their entirety.
- Grand Chief Arlen Dumas appeared on CBC News Network's show Power & Politics. The episode covered the AMC's perspective on Bill C-92.
- Created an invitation video, featuring Grand Chief Arlen Dumas calling on people to participate in the National Day of Action.
- Created an invitation video for the Grandmothers Walk, which was hosted by FNFAO in protest against Bill C-92.
- Filmed a video of Grand Chief Arlen Dumas offering remarks for National Indigenous Day.
- Created graphics for conferences and social media.
- Created social media groups and event pages for upcoming events.
- Created promo material for "I'm First Nations and I Vote" town hall event, which included posters, buttons and banners.





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Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba would like to introduce the
SPIRIT HEALTHCARE GROUP OF COMPANIES
“A National Healthcare Movement”

Who is the Spirit Healthcare Group?

- We are a group of companies owned by the Tribal Councils of Manitoba whose **business model** and overall vision is to advance and equalize healthcare for Indigenous people. We embody the concept of “Indigenomics” - the practice of bringing an Indigenous perspective to economic and social development.

**WHY DID THE SPIRIT HEALTHCARE GROUP
PURCHASE GRAND MEDICINE?**

- The purchase is part of a bigger picture (a strategic build) to enhance our footprint in the ownership of our healthcare.
- We did not start up another Pharmacy or enter into another partnership, we purchased a Pharmacy with 20 years’ experience delivering to First Nations communities. The communities that contributed to that 20 years of experience have now retained that expertise.
- The purchase was not simply part of an economic development plan but part of a larger goal to support Indigenous Healthcare development.

What has Changed?

- Our Community Investment Policy moving forward – As a group of companies we will be providing support services to communities as well as maintaining Grand Medicine’s community investment program.
- Through a partnership between Grand Medicine and TCIG that started in September 2016 – we have returned over 1 million dollars to communities.
- We will make an announcement on our name change – from Grand Medicine Health Services to one that reflects our Manitoba First Nations ownership and new business model.

-JUST ANNOUNCED-

The Spirit Healthcare Group of Companies has been named by the Indigenomics Institute to its Top 10 Companies to Watch!

First Nations-Owned Healthcare Solutions

UNITY THROUGH INNOVATION



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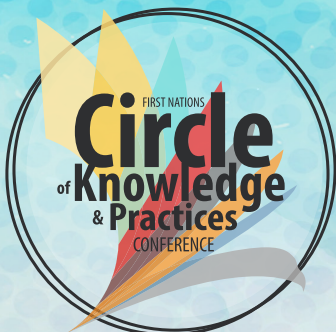
Our Organization Is Evolving

We are a dynamic organization that's responsive to change based on the educational needs of First Nations. We are refining our services to meet your goals and priorities through a community based approach. Our mission remains clear: to help First Nations improve education for all children to achieve *mino-pimatisiwin*.

We are transforming our services to support Lifelong Learning based on a foundation of languages and cultures.

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