



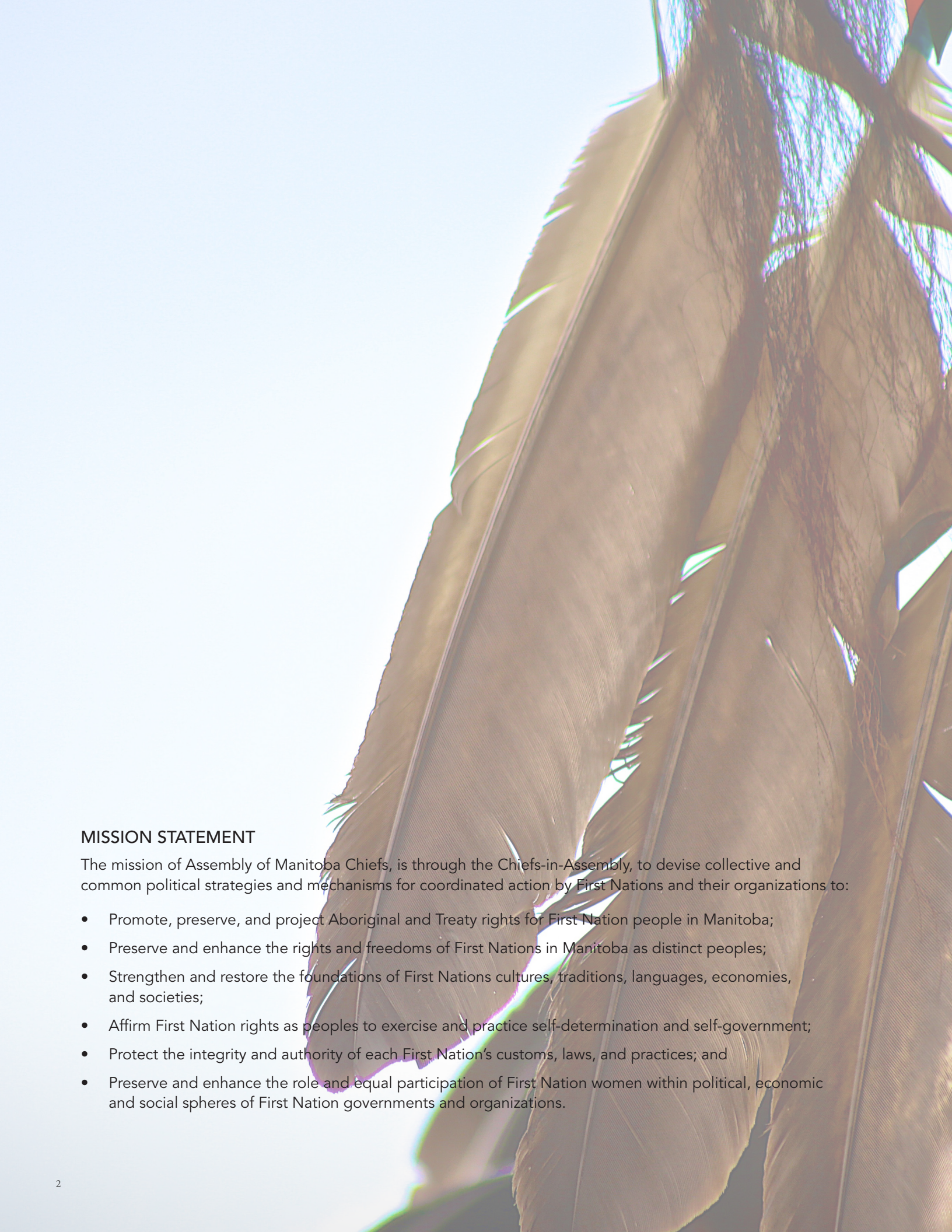
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2018

AMC 30

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
celebrates 30 years

LEGACY & LEADERSHIP





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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	4
Dedication and In Memoriam for Gwendolyn Doris Merrick (Seewaskosi Iskwew - Sweetgrass Woman)	5
Grand Chief’s Message.....	6
Report from the AMC Council of Elders.....	12
Message from the AMC Women’s Council	14
Executive Council of Chiefs.....	15
Management/Operations Report.....	17
Gaming	20
Women, Children, and Families	23
Treaty Relations	28
Education	33
Duty to Consult and Accommodate.....	35
Jordan’s Principle Service Coordination	38
EAGLE Urban Transition Centre and Eagles Nest Resource	41
The First Nations Family Advocate Office.....	50
Cannabis.....	56
Communications.....	58



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

Dedication and In Memoriam



Gwendolyn Doris Merrick (Seewaskosi Iskwew - Sweetgrass Woman)

Born: April 15, 1948 Passed: February 14, 2018

The late Gwen Merrick was born in Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba. She was a wife, mother, sister, aunt, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother. Gwen attended Brandon University, where she completed her Bachelor of Teaching and Bachelor of Education. She graduated with her Master of Education from the University of Manitoba.

Gwen was involved in First Nations education for over 40 years as a teacher, counselor, and manager. Her extensive service also included forays into the provincial and federal government systems. Gwen considered herself extremely privileged to have worked with many First Nation leaders over the years. So many of our First Nation students were extremely fortunate to have been taught by Gwen. She utilized that expertise and sharing of that knowledge to be one of the founders to create the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) where she served as the Director of Research and Development and became the Associate Executive Director.

A true visionary, Gwen was passionate about lifelong learning and holistic well-being of First Nations children and students. A strong believer in First Nations tradition and ceremonies, she ensured that Elders and knowledge keepers were involved in providing guidance for the ongoing development of the MFNERC, regionally and nationally.



MESSAGES

Grand Chief's Message

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHIEFS IN ASSEMBLY



Tansi Elders, leaders, and First Nation citizens,

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) on the traditional lands of the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation. We have seen many strong leaders enter the Assembly's circle over these past three decades. These leaders used their wisdom, experience, and leadership skills grounded in our traditional laws and practices to help AMC resist assimilatory government laws, policies, and practices and advocate strenuously to protect our rights. Their strong commitment to working in unity, based on direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly along with guidance and support from Elders and our First Nation technicians and citizens, helped bind us together as a family.

That is one of the reasons why we chose the theme of this

year's Assembly of "Legacy and Leadership." We need to recognize this unique political legacy and the strong, unified foundation left by our former leaders.

AMC was created and sustained through the time, effort, sacrifice, and commitment of the leaders. Our ability to live, assert, and defend our sovereign jurisdiction and our inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights and title is strengthened by the work they did.

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 opportunities 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.

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.

Since my election, we have held three Assemblies:

- AMC General Assembly - November 28 and 29, 2017 – Dakota Tipi First Nation
- AMC Chiefs Assembly on Education - March 21 and 22, 2018 – Long Plain First Nation
- AMC Chiefs Assembly on Health - June 6 and 7, 2018 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

We are now starting to organize our Chiefs Assemblies around specific themes and limit them to two days. This allows for more focused discussions to facilitate more informed and timely decision-making on urgent issues. It is our plan to host these Assemblies every two months depending on the availability of resources.

We also held special meetings on child welfare reform, housing, flooding, fire, and citizenship. 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:

- re-signing of the Political Unity Accord and Political Unity Accord on Health between AMC, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), and the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO);
- signing of the AMC – Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Child and Family Services (CFS) Reform;
- supporting and endorsing the document *Setting the Foundation for Change – A strategy towards First Nations' jurisdiction of child welfare in Manitoba* by the AMC Women's Council;
- reinvigoration of the Chiefs Task Force on Health, the Chiefs Committee on Education, Chiefs Governance Renewal Committee, and the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development;

- initiation of work on the First Nations Universal Health Accord;

- negotiated and signed a multi-year commitment for the First Nations Family Advocate Office;

- negotiated and signed a \$1.484 million multi-year commitment for the EAGLE Urban Transition Centre (EUTC); and

- hosted the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences to Winnipeg to hear directly from First Nation leaders and community groups on a wide range of issues related to violence against Indigenous women and girls.

In a continued effort to improve our use of communication tools, the AMC has launched a new website that has up-to-date information on the work we are doing. We also now produce a quarterly newsletter and we have begun to send regular updates on various government announcements regarding funding, legislative changes, and other initiatives.

Intergovernmental Relations with First Nations

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

I see a growing pride and optimism in our people. I see this at the graduations, the grand openings, award ceremonies, conferences, community meetings, and a host of other celebrations of our people, cultures, and traditions.

I will continue to attend as many of these events that my schedule will allow during my tenure as the Grand Chief.

Nation-to-Nation Relationship

Shortly after his election in October 2015, Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated:

No relationship is more important to our government and to Canada than the one with Indigenous peoples. Today, we reaffirm our government's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples, one based on the recognition of rights, respect, trust, co-operation, and partnership.



The Government of Canada has asked to hear from our First Nations as to how we want to move forward in this nation-to-nation relationship. AMC answered this call. I meet regularly with Ministers and federal bureaucrats to advise them of the positions of First Nations in Manitoba. I also help 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. We have had many lengthy discussions over many decades about the fact that one-size-fits-all federal policies do not work for First Nations in Manitoba.

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.

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 our request to work with the Government of Canada on the review of federal law and policy impacting First Nations in Manitoba using the ten federal principles created by Canada and the United Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We continue to let governments know that our office can bring together the First Nation leadership, Elders, experts, and technicians to operationalize a whole of government approach to rights recognition and to ensure that any review process does not undermine the rights of First Nations in the Manitoba Region. We will continue to monitor the work Canada is doing under its Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework.

Government-to-Government Relations with the Province of Manitoba

During my first year as Grand Chief, I have reached out to the Government of Manitoba and offered 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 the development of cannabis regulatory frameworks.

There is a definite need for this government to honour the original spirit and intent of the Treaties and work with First Nations to assume our original jurisdiction over our economies, institutions, and citizens.

My office met with the province a number of times over this last year to discuss provincial child welfare reform. We offered to work hand-in-hand to co-draft provincial child and family legislation that will finally recognize the full jurisdiction over our children and families. Unfortunately, the province did not take this offer and unilaterally drafted a number of changes to provincial legislation that does not allow First Nations in Manitoba to exercise our inherent rights to address the needs of our children and families.

My office and staff are continually pushing the province to accommodate the family law approaches and healing practices that are so deeply traditional and effective in our communities. First Nations need the freedom, support, and respect to develop and practice our own parenting values, culture, and ethics. This is the basis for returning self-determination to child welfare. Strength comes from reclaiming our First Nation identities and helps us take the lead in reforming child and family policies.

In terms of economic development initiatives, our office was approached by the province to discuss cannabis legislation. Once again the AMC offered to work cooperatively with the government through our Chiefs Committee on Economic Development and our Chiefs-in-Assembly.

AMC initiated a survey to determine which First Nations in Manitoba are interested in a retail location in their community as the province wanted to know who they would need to consult on this matter.

We have received 25 responses as follows:

- 16 First Nations want a retail location;
- 4 do not want a retail location; and
- 5 need more information to make a decision.

Another unilateral action that took place in December was the federal government's deal with the provinces to divide the excise duty collected on the sale of cannabis—a 75-25 split in favour of the provinces, owing to the costs they will incur with legal cannabis.

First Nations in Manitoba have stated that their governments will also face new challenges from legal cannabis, but they stand to gain nothing from Ottawa's

plan. AMC believes that First Nations should be able to collect taxes and provide some much-needed revenue to our underfunded communities.

In terms of exercising our Treaty and Aboriginal rights, the AMC again informed Manitoba that a blanket ban on First Nations people exercising our right to hunt at night is an unjustified infringement of the Aboriginal and Treaty rights protected by:

- section 35 of Canada's Constitution;
- the requirements under the UNDRIP;
- the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action; and
- Manitoba's own *The Path to Reconciliation Act*.

The province needs to negotiate any legislative changes or agreements with our First Nations or include us in comprehensive co-management of natural resources. There are options available to the government to address this issue, but they require cooperation.

AMC reiterated its position from meetings with First Nation Elders and Chiefs, that resulted in a resolution that among other things:

- identified the need to apply Anishinaabe Law to the discussion on night hunting
- the Elders expressing support for First Nations who have developed and codified their laws that set out the protocols on hunting, including night hunting
- called a roundtable discussion facilitated by the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) with the Anishinaabe Law as a basis of the discussion take place
- that the Treaty right to hunt not be altered, diminished, or abrogated in anyway
- that the recognition of food sovereignty and traditional diet of First Nation is taken as a priority
- the Chiefs-in-Assembly support community and regional engagement, with the financial support of the Province of Manitoba, to develop the critical discussion needed to ensure successful relationships are built in the context of Treaty and Aboriginal rights to hunting

We informed Canada that federal law and policy does not always work well in isolation of provincial cooperation.

Both federal and provincial governments have a role to play in the unacceptably slow additions to reserves under our Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreements and additions in general (including urban reserves).

First Nations Jurisdiction over CFS

From the 2016 decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, Canada was found to be discriminating against First Nations children. To correct this discrimination, among other things, the Tribunal ordered Canada to reform its First Nations Child and Family Services Program and to immediately implement Jordan's Principle.

In October 2017, the Government of Manitoba unilaterally without First Nations involvement announced that the child welfare system would be reformed to address rising costs and the increasing number of children in care. Manitoba's four-point plan proposed to work towards community-based prevention, family reunification / permanent guardianships, block funding, and provincial legislative reform.

My office met with the province several times on this matter to raise our concerns including:

- lack of meaningful consultation;
- the risk of losing children to permanent non-First Nation guardians;
- an approach to First Nation customary care that is defined and legislated by the province; and
- lack of recognition of First Nations jurisdiction and establishment of a nation-to-nation relationship

In December 2017 the AMC signed an MOU with Canada to establish a process to discuss child welfare reform. This process is designed to address recognition and respect of First Nation's jurisdiction in the area of children's well-being. To that end, the AMC Women's Council, who has taken the lead on CFS matters via an AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution, held a strategic planning session on child and family welfare on March 9 and 10, 2018. The Council developed a strategy called *Setting the Foundation for Change: A Strategy Towards First Nations' Jurisdiction of Child Welfare in Manitoba* and a draft MOU work plan that was endorsed and supported by the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly.

We as First Nations have a unique opportunity to lead the overhaul of the child welfare reform policies, legislation,



and funding models, including the co-drafting of federal legislation that will allow for the recognition and implementation of First Nation family law that supercedes provincial child welfare laws.

Universal Health Accord

The Chiefs-in-Assembly and the AMC Executive Council mandated my office to initiate discussions with the federal and provincial governments on developing a collaborative process that would lead to tripartite or double bi-lateral solutions for a framework on health based on First Nations' inherent jurisdiction in the area of health.

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 proposes a Two Track discussion approach that are both are complimentary and simultaneous.

Track 1 will focus 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.

These scenarios will offer options on how the lives of Manitoba First Nations could – not should, not will – unfold with greater autonomy of the health care system. This work will inform a needs-based health strategy and provide supporting evidence for the jurisdictional framework in collaboration with regional partners.

Through the re-signed *Political Unity Accord and Political Unity Accord on Health* between AMC, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), and the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), the AMC Secretariat has been meeting regularly with MKO and SCO representatives, along with representatives from the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat to plan and prepare for the discussions on the development and vision of a Good Life for the health of Manitoba First Nations.



SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FIRST NATIONS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IN MANITOBA, DECEMBER 2017



SIGNING OF THE POLITICAL UNITY ACCORD AND POLITICAL UNITY ACCORD ON FIRST NATIONS' HEALTH, OCTOBER 2017

Moving Forward

Working together we have made some significant inroads and we recognize that we have much more to do. Our achievements thus far in developing relationships, increasing communication, and dealing with issues collectively have created a strong base for our future. I am confident that our efforts will only accelerate progress.

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. 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



CELEBRATING A NEW GATHERING PLACE IN TOOTINAOWAZIIBEENG FIRST NATION, JUNE 2018



LAKE MANITOBA POW WOW, JUNE 2018



GRAND CHIEF CHATS WITH A GUEST AT THE EUTC OPEN HOUSE, DECEMBER 2017



Report from the AMC Council of Elders

The Council of Elders meets on a quarterly basis. They provide guidance and assistance to the AMC staff, leadership, and the TRCM. Meetings are coordinated in synergy with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM). The Council of Elders has nine members. The main purpose of the Council is to provide advice and guidance to the AMC leadership, the Treaty Commissioner, and staff.

Throughout the year, the Elders participated in meetings to assist the leadership, Treaty Commissioner, and staff from AMC and the TRCM. Although we were faced with limited funding, the Elders continued to have a presence at the following key meetings:

- AMC 29th Annual General Assembly – July 2017 at Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation with key functions in traditional protocols including overseeing the Rising Up Ceremony for the newly-elected Grand Chief Arlen Dumas
- AMC Executive Council of Chiefs Meetings with lead Elders Harry Bone and/or Elmer Courchene
- AMC General Assembly in November 2017 and March 2018 (CFS/Education)
- Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assemblies and executive meetings with Elder Courchene attending as the lead Elder
- AFN Elders' Forum on Environment, February 2018
- Manitoba First Nations Forum on Citizenship, February 2018
- TRCM–Manitoba Museum Ceremony honouring museum Treaty Exhibit artifacts and annual Rising Up Ceremony for sacred objects held at Roseau River First Nation
- AMC Chiefs Task Force meetings – the lead Elders are Harry Bone and Florence Paynter, Grandmothers Council
- AMC–Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC) meetings with headquarters – the lead Elders are Harry Bone and Florence Paynter
- AMC Chiefs Governance Committee – the lead Elder is Harry Bone
- TRCM general operations, Treaty Education Initiative, Speakers Bureau, and timeline
- Nanaandawegimig–Healing Place/the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat (FNHSSM) – the lead Elder is Harry Bone

- The Elders are invited to bring greetings and blessings to other events hosted by the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, universities, and churches
- The Council of Elders quarterly meetings were held from June 27 to 30, 2017, on November 7 and 8, 2017, on March 7 and 8, 2018, and from March 13 to 15, 2018
- A one-day meeting was held with Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Mary Culbertson, where she met the Elders Council, Treaty Commissioner Ross, Chiefs Task Force, and staff

On November 8, 2017, by consensus of the Elders Council, a recommendation was made to AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas to write a letter to National Chief Perry Bellegarde, AFN on the matter of the Eagle Staff presented to Mr. Marc Andre Blanchard, Canada's Ambassador to United Nations in honour of the 10th anniversary of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

The letter outlined that the Elders Council represent our traditions, customs, and ceremonies including the right to protect ceremonial objects. It declared that the Eagle Staff is a very sacred item that symbolizes our sovereignty and nationhood, and recommended the Eagle Staff is retrieved immediately from the UN Ambassador and that the appropriate ceremony is conducted to honour the spirit of the Eagle Staff. This is consistent with Article 13 of UNDRIP. A formal response to the letter is yet to be received.

On November 22, 2017, by consensus of the Elders Council, a recommendation was made to AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas to write a letter to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, to extend a formal invitation for her to attend a Gathering with Elders on customary laws, Treaty relationship, and spirit and intent of Treaty for August 3, 2018.

This was for the commemoration of the anniversary of the signing of Treaty No. 1 including giving the opportunity to share thoughts on the importance of Treaties identifying that the Governor General and Her Majesty the Queen and the Crown in Right of United Kingdom continues to have an important role in relations to the Crown's responsibilities flowing from the Treaties. An acknowledgement letter was received. AMC sent a follow-up letter on March 8, 2018. We are still awaiting official confirmation.



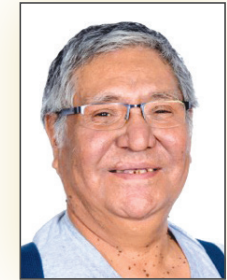
Nehetho Elder D'Arcy Linklater, Spirit Walker, White Wolf Clan



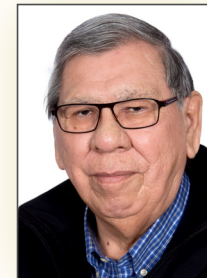
Dene Elder Joe Hyslop, Northlands Denesuline First Nation



Ininiew William Lathlin, Opaskwayak Cree Nation



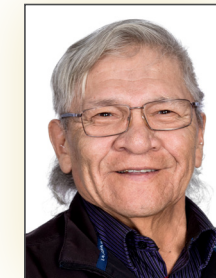
Anishinaabe Elder Wayne Scott, Swan Lake Nation



Anishinaabe Elder Harry Bone, Keesweekoowenin



Anishinaabe Elder Elmer Courchene, Sagkeeng First Nation



Anishinaabe Elder Jim Cote, Waywayseecappo First Nation



Dakota Elder Doris Pratt, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation



Anishinaabe Elder Florence Paynter, Norway House Cree Nation



GOVERNANCE

Message from the AMC Women's Council

Welcome Elders, youth, leadership, and First Nation citizens to the Chiefs Annual General Assembly. Thank you to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation for hosting the 30th AMC Annual General Assembly in your home community.

Congratulations to the AMC for 30 years of commitment to preserving and enhancing the rights and freedoms of First Nations including the role of equal participation of First Nations women within the political, economic, and social spheres of First Nation governments and organizations in Manitoba.

The obligation of the Women's Council is to continue the work on issues of child and family matters, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, domestic violence, and gender equality.

Members of the AMC Women's Council:

- 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 Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation
- Chief Cathy Merrick, Cross Lake Band of Indians

- Chief Vera Mitchell, Poplar River First Nation
- Chief Doreen Spence, Tataskweyak Cree Nation
- Councillor Shawna Henderson, Fox Lake Cree Nation

We congratulate and welcome the AMC Women's Council newly elected Chief Deborah Smith of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, and congratulate to Councillor Darlene Osborne on her re-election in Norway House Cree Nation.

We express our thanks for the support to all First Nation leaders as we keep going to advance and seek solutions on First Nation women's issues by demonstrating that these are issues of nationhood, self-governance, and self-determination.

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



Executive Council of Chiefs

Chairperson Grand Chief Arlen Dumas

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:

AMC 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 REPRESENTATIVES (ONE VOTE)

Chief David Crate, Fisher River Cree Nation

Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation

NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVES

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

Chief Ted Bland, York Factory First Nation, Keewatin Tribal Council

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

INDEPENDENT NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVES (2 VOTES)

Chief Marcel Moody, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Chief Larson Anderson, Norway House Cree Nation

Chief Chris Baker, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

Chief Cathy Merrick, 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)
- Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM)

Status of Activities

The ECC held 4 meetings during the 2017-2018 fiscal year: April 24, 2017, September 13, 2017, December 19, 2017, and February 7, 2018. The Council made decisions on the following items but not limited to:

- support the ongoing work of the Chiefs Gaming Committee including the recommendation to appoint Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation to the Sand Hills Casino Board of Directors
- support the ongoing work of the FDPI by appointing Chief Cornell McLean, Lake Manitoba First Nation, as the interim Southern Chief appointment to its Board of



Directors

- support the work of the FNHSSM by appointing Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation; Chief Cameron Catcheway, Skownan First Nation; and Chief Garnet Woodhouse, Pinaymootang First Nation to its Board of Directors
- endorse and support the Manitoba First Nations CFS Reform and Manitoba First Nations Jordan’s Principle Implementation reports
- approved and ratified a number of resolutions deferred from the November 2017 Chiefs Assembly on matters pertaining to Clear Sky Connections Inc., AMC Conflict of Interest Policy, Notice to the Province of Manitoba of First Nations’ Inherent Jurisdiction on Children and Families, Regional First Nation Education Funding Formula Options, Removal of all the deficits from First Nation financial statements
- support AMC intervening in the *McManus et al* case working with the Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) on a pro bono basis
- support the work of the AMC Women’s Council in addressing issues impacting women, children, and families
- support the work of the AMC Personnel and Finance Committee

The Council has adopted 26 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; Executive Council of Chiefs; Personnel and Finance Chiefs Committee; annual, special, and general assemblies; Chiefs Committees; AMC 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: Interdepartmental policy and coordination capacity including conducting the necessary research and community engagement in developing AMC policy position/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 A/Executive Director, senior staff implement 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
- Renewing fiscal relationships
- Education and skills development
- Health

- Lands and TLE
- Resource benefit sharing
- 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 2017-2018, AMC passed 34 Executive Council of Chiefs Motions and 42 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.

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.

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 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 senior staff also work 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.

Meetings are held with senior officials from DISC (from headquarters and the region), Health Canada, the City of Winnipeg, and the province on key initiatives and projects.

These senior staff also work with the various program managers on regular reporting on activities, human resource issues, and funding challenges.

One of AMC's core functions is to communicate with its members. 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 OVER THE PAST YEAR

- 29th Annual General Assembly from July 18 to 20, 2017
- AMC Grand Chief election held at the 29th Annual General Assembly in July 2017
- AMC EUTC Jordan's Principle-Child First Initiative Service Coordinators, Patient Advocates, and Service Providers Gathering from September 25 to 27, 2017
- AMC Regional Engagement Session on Fiscal Relations on November 14 and 15, 2017
- AMC Chiefs Assembly on November 28 and 29, 2017
- AMC EUTC Jordan's Principle Case Management Facilitator Forum from December 12 to 14, 2017
- Approved work plans and budgets for the 2018-2019 fiscal year
- AMC First Nations Citizenship Workshop on February 27, 2018
- AMC Manitoba Flood Preparedness Forum on February 28 and March 1, 2018
- AMC Income Assistance Administrators Forum from March 20 to 22, 2018
- AMC Chiefs Meeting on CFS on March 19 and 20, 2018
- AMC Chiefs Assembly on Education on March 21 and 22, 2018
- AMC Housing Managers Forum on March 28, 2018
- AMC Manitoba First Nations Fire Preparedness Forum on April 17 and 18, 2018
- AMC Chiefs Assembly on Health on June 6 and 7, 2018





Gaming

STAFF

Chloe McCorrister, Gaming Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Gaming Development consists of a Gaming Coordinator. The Coordinator works with a Gaming Consultant on a contract basis and legal advisors who work with:

- the AMC;
- the Chiefs Gaming Committee;
- the Sand Hills Casino Board of Directors; and
- Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.

The Department of Gaming Development continues to focus on First Nations gaming policy and other forms of gaming initiatives.

The AMC Chiefs Gaming 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 AMC also provides administrative support to the Sand Hills Board of Directors, which consists of:

- 1 AMC Chiefs Gaming Committee representative – Chief Betsy Kennedy (Chair), War Lake First Nation



- Host First Nation representative – Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation
- Aseneskak Casino representative – Chief Elwood Zastre, Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation
- South Beach Casino representative – Chief Larry Barker, Hollow Water First Nation
- Board appointed – Chief Dennis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation

Key Issues and Challenges

Manitoba First Nations must conform to provincial gaming legislation and regulations for our gaming establishments. This continues to restrict First Nations access to gaming markets in Manitoba. Further, the Government of Manitoba's limited interest in discussing First Nations gaming has presented an issue and challenge for First Nations in Manitoba.

The provincial government has repeatedly broken its promises to work with the AMC to close the standard of living gap and to prioritize First Nation gaming operations over other gaming operations. 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. Further, Manitoba continues to exclude First Nations from Winnipeg, the biggest gaming market in Manitoba. Among provinces across Canada with a First Nations gaming framework, Manitoba generates the smallest per capita benefits to First Nations.

Activities and Accomplishments

Gaming Development Activities

First Nations have an inherent Aboriginal right to develop and control gaming activities. First Nations have never relinquished that right; however, instead of exercising that right, the AMC has tried to work cooperatively with the Manitoba government to use gaming revenues to close the standard of living gap between First Nations and non-

First Nation Manitobans.

Since 1997, the government promised that 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 help close the standard of living gap between First Nations and non-First Nations Manitobans by providing gaming revenues to First Nations in Manitoba. Despite best efforts to work cooperatively, the provincial government has repeatedly broken its promises to work with the AMC to close the standard of living gap and to prioritize First Nations gaming operations over other gaming operations. In violation of its contractual obligations and promises, the government has actually undermined First Nations gaming in the province. The standard of living gap is growing.

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

As a part of ongoing efforts to develop an effective gaming agreement for First Nations in Manitoba, the AMC and Sand Hills Casino filed a lawsuit against the Province of Manitoba and its agent, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation (MLLC).

The Manitoba Chiefs supported the decision at their April 25 to 27, 2017, Chiefs-in-Assembly by way of Resolution APR-17.13, *Litigation Against Manitoba Regarding Sand Hills Casino*. It resolved that the Chiefs-in-Assembly retain Olthius Klear Townshend LLP to pursue litigation against Manitoba regarding Sand Hills Casino. It also resolved that a draft Statement of Claim be ready to file within 10 days for review by the Chiefs Gaming Committee. Due to extensive delays, the Statement of Claim was not filed until October 2017.

On October 16, 2017, Grand Chief Arlen Dumas sent a letter to Premier Brian Pallister advising that AMC's immediate goal is for Manitoba to join First Nations at a new negotiating table, where all viable options are open for exploration and the promises that were made can be addressed in good faith. He wrote that having the two teams come together will enable the relationship between AMC and Manitoba to be strengthened and will produce just and sustainable change for First Nations in Manitoba.

However, the AMC was compelled to file a legal action in court immediately. This was due to timing requirements related to limitation periods and other time requirements

related to the preservation of AMC's rights. The Premier was informed that this decision was made by the AMC simply to preserve its right to make the claim in court should it become necessary. The AMC received no response from Premier Pallister.

Litigation was not AMC's preferred course of action. However, since the government has refused to discuss a new gaming framework, the AMC has been forced to take this step on behalf of Manitoba First Nations.

Gaming Development Accomplishments

The original Statement of Claim was filed in the Court of Queen's Bench on October 17, 2018. 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.

The revised Statement of Claim is a continuation of the original lawsuit. It asserts that the Government of Manitoba must honour its promise to work with the AMC to close the standard of living gap between First Nations and non-First Nations individuals through the use of gaming revenues. The lawsuit alleges breaches of contract, breaches of fiduciary duty and the duty to consult with First Nations, and misrepresentation by Manitoba and the MLLC. It requests damages of an amount to be determined at trial. The AMC Secretariat is working with legal counsel to prepare for the hearing of the case.

In 2017-2018 the AMC Chiefs Gaming Committee and the Sand Hills Board of Directors both held six meetings to, among other things:

- Discuss a Manitoba First Nation Gaming Strategy
- Meet with AMC's Gaming Task Force to discuss AMC and Sand Hills' gaming concerns
- Meet with legal advisors to discuss legal options
- Meet with Sand Hills Casino management company
- Discuss and support legal action
- Support the filing of *Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs et al v Manitoba and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries*
- Discuss and support refinancing of Sand Hills Casino
- Discuss and advise on Sand Hills governance
- Meet with and support Peguis First Nation and Aseneskak Casino in their joint gaming initiative



Joint Steering Committee on Gaming

Since Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government has come into office in 2016, no Joint Steering meetings have been held.

Northern Region Casino

Since the time of the extended proposal deadline date of September 30, 2016, there have been no discussions on a northern region casino. The AMC did not receive any proposals. There are no new discussions on a northern region casino.

First Peoples Economic Growth Fund (FPEGF)

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



Women, Children, and Families

Staff – Karen Harper, Community Liaison

INTRODUCTION

The AMC Women's Council builds upon and maintains cultural respect and honour for First Nations women by addressing the issues and concerns at the political level. The Women's Council wants to move beyond passionate words and create momentum on what action is required to enhance and improve the lives of women, girls, families, and communities.

Key Issues and Challenges

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

Unfortunately, Manitoba has been described as "ground zero" for MMIWG in Canada. Throughout the years, the AMC has consistently advocated for MMIWG and their families.

In 2014, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs endorsed a "families first" initiative for MMIWG with the goal of creating a recommended process for action in addressing MMIWG. The AMC worked with MKO, SCO, PILC, and the Manitoba Coalition MMIWG. This resulted in the 2015 AMC report *Families First: A Manitoba Indigenous Approach to Addressing the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Families First)*. The Families First report contains recommendations from MMIWG families.

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

In September 2016, the Government of Canada launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The mandate is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors.

On April 25, 2017, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution APR-17.03 AMC to Seek Standing for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

MMIWG Inquiry Community Visits and Hearings

On July 26, 2017, the MMIWG Inquiry held a community visit in Sagkeeng First Nation. From July 26 to 28, 2017, a community visit was held in Winnipeg. The purpose of these visits was to help the Inquiry plan and prepare for the Community Hearings that were a part of the overall Truth Gathering Process (Hearing).

During the week of October 16 to 20, 2017, the Inquiry held its Community Hearing in Winnipeg. Families and survivors had the opportunity to share their truth either publicly or in private with the Commissioners and representatives from the Inquiry's legal counsel. Family members of missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls invited AMC staff to be their support when they shared their stories.

The Inquiry also held a Community Hearing for the northern family members and survivors who were unable to participate in the Winnipeg hearing. The hearing was held in Thompson on March 20 and 21, 2018.

The number of family members and survivors who shared their truth in Manitoba is not known. The Inquiry gathered numbers from a national perspective.

Though the process was flawed, an Elder expressed, "this might be the only opportunity for the families and survivors to share their stories."

Manitoba Coalition on MMIWG

In 2012, the AMC initiated the development of a coalition of Manitoba First Nation political organizations, individuals and community service organizations to:

- develop an action plan for working together and moving forward in the area of MMIWG;
- support, advocate, and care for the families of MMIWG and survivors;
- strengthen and build upon existing networks in the areas of advocacy, service delivery, and social justice practice; and



- provide collaborative policy review, strategic analysis, technical support, information, and recommendations.

Membership included the AMC, MKO, SCO, PILC, Winnipeg-based service providers, and advocacy organizations and First Nation and Métis individuals. Sandra Delaronde and Hilda Anderson-Pyrz co-chair the Manitoba Coalition on MMIWG.

In March 2018, the Coalition met to discuss among other things, its approach to the Inquiry. They also met with families of MMIWG and survivors. The AMC currently continues to support the Manitoba Coalition that also has standing in the Inquiry.

Families First Foundation for MMIWG

One of the immediate actions identified through *Families First* was the creation of a foundation to raise funds for families of MMIWG. AMC staff has been providing administrative support to the Foundation Board.

We will be seeking direction from the AMC Women's Council to send out a call for names for potential new members, including identifying a grandmother and grandfather for the Elders' Advisory Support.

Child and Family Matters

AMC-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Families and Children

The 2017 AMC-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on child welfare is a unique opportunity that supports our inherent, Treaty, constitutional, and Indigenous rights to take care of our own children.

Federal Legislation that Supports First Nations Family Law

The AMC Grand Chief's Office (GCO) has been in discussions with Canada. We have identified a proposed work plan and approach to give effect to the AMC – Canada MOU. Canada suggested that the AMC focus on developing federal CFS legislation. Through the AMC Secretariat and the First Nations Family Advocate Office, the AMC is beginning the work to develop:

- Draft federal legislation that supports, recognizes, and upholds the rights and jurisdictions of First Nations in Manitoba to enact our own laws and provide our services for families accordingly
- Template First Nations family laws according to the Five

Nations (Anishinaabeg, Anishiniwak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Nehethowuk/Inninwak)

Note: Please refer to the First Nations Family Advocate Office report on page 50 for more information.

First Nations Family Law

The AMC received a \$250,000 grant from the Family Law Access to Justice Fund at The Law Foundation of Ontario. This two-year project will revitalize and codify First Nations laws relating to families and children. It has the potential to lead to significant reform of the child welfare system in Manitoba. The AMC Secretariat developed a work plan to complete this work. Please refer to the enclosed First Nations Family Advocate Office report for more information.

Provincial Reform Plans for CFS

The province's reform plans are not consistent with the goal of finally exercising First Nations jurisdiction in the area of children and families. Its reform plans have the potential to adversely affect our child and families involved with the CFS system when considered individually and as a whole. Their reform plans will not provide the meaningful change, which is further reported in the First Nations Family Advocate Office report on page 50.

Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality Project

The AMC Women, Children and Families continues to work on the project Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality.

The objective of the project is to promote First Nations women in the trades or other non-university occupations. This will be achieved by working to empower women's voices using tools for changes and by creating partnership agreements for collaborative action.

The key activities are:

1. Engaging community to identify issues and solutions
2. Establishing partnerships with industry and governments for change
3. Developing and promoting a *Tools for Change Handbook*
4. Establishing a supportive leadership network
5. Having key leaders take part in the Pan-Canadian Network of five women's leadership meetings

The AMC Women's Council identified three key leaders and their communities as the local project sites:

- Chief Viola Eastman, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation;
- Councillor Shawna Henderson, Fox Lake Cree Nation; and
- Councillor Samantha Folster, Norway House Cree Nation.

We identified a Community Liaison to work with AMC's Project Coordinator and Project Consultant. Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Norway House Cree Nation identified their Project Community Liaison to assist with the organization/planning for the community engagement sessions. Fox Lake Cree Nation will advise us of their Community Liaison.

On September 16 to 20, 2017, at the first Key Leaders National meeting in Toronto, Chief Viola Eastman, Councillor Samantha Folster, and Councillor Shawna Henderson brought forward their perspective on the needs and barriers of First Nations women in Manitoba in the workplace:

- Women need to stand up to be strong to make a difference
- Need to ensure men are involved within the project
- The need to share First Nations women's experiences for assurance that Canada will understand and help First Nations women in all aspects of community living

On January 16 and 17, 2018, the Project Coordinator and Project Consultant met with Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Norway House Cree Nation Community Liaisons. Community Liaisons shared the following ideas from the roundtable discussion about their understanding of "gender equality" in the context of First Nations women and girls:

- First Nations women and girls should be treated in a fair and respectful way that recognizes their value and roles in contributing to community; and
- as First Nations women, we need to re-occupy our sacred place.

They also shared recommendations on planning the community engagement sessions. These sessions need to include community leadership, community women, and girls/students in grades 9 to 12.

Participants drafted the following questions to assist in discussions at the community engagement sessions:

- What keeps First Nations women from going into the trades?
- What are the solutions to these barriers?
- What is your understanding of "gender equality?"
- Why is "gender equality" important to your community?
- How can it help strengthen your community?

Community Liaisons, with direction from key leaders in the communities, will determine dates for community engagement sessions throughout the 2018-2019 year.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Provides administrative support to the AMC Women's Council
- Provides administrative support to the Board of Directors, Families First Foundation
- On March 6, 2018, provided information session on Status of Women Canada – Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality Project to Canupawakpa Dakota Nation Chief and Council
- Provides assistance to the First Nations Family Advocate Office in developing federal legislation that supports, recognizes, and upholds the rights and jurisdictions of First Nations in Manitoba to enact our own laws and provide our services for families accordingly; and develop template First Nations family laws according to the Five Nations (Anishinaabeg, Anishiniwak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, and Nehethowuk/Inninwak)
- Advocate and support for families and survivors of MMIWG at the Inquiry from July 26 to 28, 2017, community visit in Winnipeg; and for the October 16 to 20, 2017, Community Hearing in Winnipeg; as well as providing information on the issue, especially on the process or lack thereof on the Inquiry



A CHILD DANCES AT THE LAKE MANITOBA POW WOW

FIRST NATIONS WOMEN IN TRADES

Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality – Promoting Women in the Trades

Calling all women to lend your voice to promote the representation of women in trades and/or other non-university certificate occupations.

We need to hear your voice to empower women in development of tools for change for collaborative action.

For more information, contact: Karen Harper, direct line 204-987-4104 or toll-free 1-888-324-5483, email kharper@manitoba chiefs.com or call the band office at 204-486-2463 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 2

1-3 p.m. - Meeting with Band staff @ Band Office /Bird
6-7:45 p.m. - Meeting with community @ Band Office/Bird

MAY 3

10-11:45 a.m. - Meeting with community women @ Gillam EPH





Treaty Relations Report

STAFF – Gail Flett, Treaty Relations Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The AMC Coordination, Facilitation, and Communication work plan is submitted on an annual basis to headquarters at the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC) as a special project. The budget and work plan activities are directly linked to the TRCM activities meant to support its mandate to “strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship.”

AMC’s role in the TRCM is to provide political, technical, and advisory supports to the Grand Chief, Chiefs’ Task Force, and Manitoba leadership as it relates to the TRCM. The representatives who participate includes representatives of the AMC Chiefs Task Force on the TRCM, Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin First Nation; Chief Jim Bear, Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation; and Chief Ted Bland, York Factory First Nation.

The AMC representatives to the TRCM Committees structures include:

Joint Senior Officials Committee:

- One member from the Chiefs Task Force
- GCO
- Elder
- Treaty Relations Coordinator

TRCM Operational Management Committee:

- GCO
- Treaty Relations Coordinator

On the TRCM Technical Working Group, the AMC representative is the Treaty Relations Coordinator.

Key Issues and Challenges

The Memorandum of Agreement that created the TRCM is a partnership with DISC. AMC continues to maintain and uphold its relationship with DISC on the Treaty Commission office. The federal government maintained status quo for the Treaty Commissions. The office continued with the 1-year extension for 2017-2018.

The Chiefs-In-Assembly by Resolution JULY-17.04 *Support for renewal of the memorandum of agreement for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM)*, identified the following:

- Support the Chiefs Task Force on TRCM recommendation to support the renewal of the TRCM for a 10 year term from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2028; and
- Continue to support the Chiefs Task Force on TRCM and direct the AMC Grand Chief to engage with DISC on a new agreement for TRCM to be negotiated and approved.

The AMC Chiefs Task Force met with representatives from DISC headquarters in October 2017 to begin discussions on the Government of Canada process for ensuring the TRCM gets re-mandated for a longer term and to begin the dialogue of a 10-year timeframe. The TRCM term of office and budget was approved for 5 years under the existing mandate until March 31, 2023. Discussions will continue between AMC and DISC on how to broaden the mandate of the TRCM, including a longer term for the office.

Mrs. Loretta Ross was appointed as the Treaty Commissioner on May 29, 2017, for a 1-year term by federal order-in-council. The AMC subsequently re-appointed her for a 5-year term until May 2023. AMC Grand Chief Dumas by letter informed Minister Bennett in September 2017 and the federal order-in-council came in May 2018.

Links 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;
- ensuring the Chiefs Task Force is informed of TRCM activities; and
- sharing updates and reports through AMC annual report and the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs meetings.

In addition, the Treaty Commissioner provides updates to the AMC Executive on a bi-annual basis and annually to the Chiefs-in-Assembly with the tabling of the Commission’s annual report.

TRCM Governance Structure - Committees

In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement, AMC participated in the following meetings:

- Technical Working Group: merged into Operation Management Committee by consensus of the partners
- Operational Management Committee held on May 31, June 22, October 18, 2017, and February 16, 2018
- Joint Senior Officials were held on June 27 and December 7, 2017
- The sub-committee on Treaty Education Initiative meetings held quarterly in June, September, December 2017 and January 2018; the Atlas Project continues to be held in abeyance to work out copyright matters

Communication and Reporting to Manitoba Leadership

Immediate issues and direction are filtered through the GCO and AMC Executive Council of Chiefs. Annual reporting is conveyed at the Annual General Assembly.

The Chiefs Task Force on TRCM consisted of Chiefs Norman Bone (Treaty 2), Chief Jim Bear (Treaty 1), and Chief Ted Bland (Treaty 5). It oversees the AMC work plan on Treaty Commission process and TRCM governance. We thank former Chiefs Jim Bear and Ted Bland for their commitment and support while they served as members of the Chiefs Task Force. We expect new members to be appointed to the Chiefs Task Force in the fall of 2018.

Renewal Process of the Treaty Commission

The AMC Chiefs Task Force and Elders held internal meetings on the TRCM renewal to outline plans on moving forward with a broader mandate and Memorandum of Agreement. As part of the dialogue, AMC met with the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations to discuss their Treaty Table and Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

In follow-up to Resolution JULY-17.04 *Support for Renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba*, AMC Grand Chief Dumas sent a letter to Minister Bennett in September 2017. A formal response has not yet been received. A follow-up letter was

sent in March 2018. The federal government, through the Crown Indigenous Relations, lobbied Cabinet. The TRCM office received a 5-year term and budget until March 31, 2023.

Discussions with DISC will continue to explore ways to achieve a longer term of office beyond 2023. As Grand Chief Dumas has stated, “Treaties are forever and so should our Treaty Office.”

AFN Treaty Implementation Process

AMC continues to monitor AFN’s Treaty Implementation discussions. A National Chiefs Committee on Rights, Title and Treaty Implementation was recently established with Craig Gideon as the Director of Treaties and Implementation of Rights. Little information is made available to the regions on AFN’s Rights, Title and Treaty Implementation work plan and priorities.

National Treaties Nos. 1-11 Gathering

The 13th annual National Treaties 1-11 Gathering was co-hosted by Taykwa Tagamout Nation, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and Mushkegowuk Council in Treaty 9 territory. Key dignitaries included National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Minister Bennett, Minister Zimmer, and Grand Chiefs from their respective regions. The gathering mandated the current Treaty spokesperson Eric Tootoosis to remain for an additional year.

Canada’s Exploratory Tables Process now called Recognition of Indigenous Rights for Self-Government Discussion Tables

Mr. Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, Crown Indigenous Relations is leading the table process with a mandate to renew the relationship with Indigenous Nations as directed by Prime Minister Trudeau in his letters to Cabinet in November 2015.

These table discussions are meant to be open and transparent. The goals are to:

- enter into new relationships with government outside of *The Indian Act*, government policy, and legislations; and
- deconstruct colonialism.

There are 50+ tables with the various Treaty groups. In Manitoba, the following tables exist:

- Treaty 4 First Nations are linked to the table in



Saskatchewan;

- Treaty 2, adhesion to Treaty 5 Island Lake Region;
- Treaty 5 inclusive of Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan; and
- most recently Fisher River Cree Nation, Treaty 5, and Treaty 10 have expressed interest for a table.

The Chiefs-In-Assembly mandated Resolution JULY-17.03 Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussion Process as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No. 5 Adhesion Chiefs with the support of the Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby endorse the request for funding from DISC Minister Carolyn Bennett for an inaugural summit of Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No.5 Adhesion under the *Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussions Process*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No. 5 Adhesion Chiefs with the support of the Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby express an interest to engage with DISC in the *Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Discussions Process*; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, the mover and seconder of this resolution are directed to solicit and receive the engagement funding from DISC on behalf of Treaty No.5 and Treaty No. 5 Adhesions and that no other commitment or decision is made to engage in the federal process until after the inaugural summit.

AMC Grand Chief Dumas sent a letter of support to Minister Bennett in August 2017. Chief Kent and Chief Easter oversee the table discussions. A Treaty 5 summit was held from January 30 to February 1, 2018. The table work continues to progress and receives funding support from DISC.

The Treaty 4 table, led by Chief Lynn Acoose, hosted a meeting on January 25 and 26, 2018, in Brandon to network with Treaty 1, Treaty 2, and Treaty 4.

AMC GCO staff Dennis White Bird has been invited to observe at the Treaty 2 and Treaty 5 tables.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada split into two Ministries

In August 2017 the Prime Minister announced that there would be a division of the Department of Indigenous and

Northern Affairs Canada into two separate ministries:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA); and
- Indigenous Services.

It has taken some time to confirm where Treaty Commissions and AMC fit as a party to the Memorandum of Agreement. It was confirmed in October 2017 that both would remain under Minister Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of CIRNA.

Canada's Indigenous Rights Framework

CIRNA Minister Bennett is undergoing meetings across the regions on the Indigenous Rights Framework that began in January 2018. One meeting was held in Manitoba. AMC Elder Harry Bone was invited to attend and declined. Treaty Commissioner Ross was invited to observe.

Treaty Education Initiative (TEI K-12)

A) Treaty Education and Implementation Plan (Strategic Plan)

Since the AMC by Resolution MAR-10.04 mandated mandatory education curriculum on Treaties for students in all schools in Manitoba, a second Resolution NOV-17.06 *Treaty Education Initiative*, was passed, which resolved:

That the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC to work in partnership with the TRCM to develop a five-year implementation plan and budget for costs related to implementation of the Treaty Education Initiative.

That the follow-up meetings be held between AMC Grand Chief, the TRCM Treaty Commissioner and the Minister of Education and Training to discuss the implementation of the Treaty Education Initiative.

That Regular updates on the Implementation of the Treaty Education Initiative be provided to the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Since 2010-2011, the TRCM has solely delivered Treaty Education Initiative (TEI) training with DISC funding. Treaty Commissioner Ross understood the challenges when working with First Nations and took the position that the TRCM will prioritize First Nation schools moving forward. The long-term goal of TEI remains that there is full integration of comprehensive Treaty education from kindergarten to grade 12 in all schools across Manitoba, supported by a province-wide education policy so that all

students can have access to Treaty education.

Through partnerships, the TRCM continues to oversee the development of a five-year implementation plan and budget costs related to implementing the TEI for printing, speaker fees, training facilities, Elders' honoraria, and coordination costs.

The Government of Manitoba recently met with Treaty Commissioner Ross. They are now prepared to commit \$250K to support TEI training. The provincial Manitoba Education team has prepared a Treasury Board submission for the \$250K annually for 2018-2019 to 2022-2023.

B) Grade 12 Treaties and Treaty Relationship Course

Discussions began in September 2016 as mandated by Resolution SEPT-16.05 *Mandatory Requirement of a Manitoba High School course on Treaties and the Treaty Relationship*; and a second Resolution JUL-17.02 *Grade 11 High School Course – History of Canada to include Treaties and the Treaty Relationship*.

In partnership with the TRCM, the MFNERC, and Manitoba Education, discussions are ongoing. They are coordinated under Treaty Commissioner Ross. It has been challenging to have the province formalize a plan or make Treaty education mandatory in Manitoba.

The Speech from the Throne delivered on November 21, 2017, announced, "We will work with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Treaty Relations Commissioner of Manitoba to implement the Treaty Education Initiative."

While ongoing discussions and meetings have taken place, Manitoba Education continues to 'indigenize' their grade 11 Canadian History curriculum. A media release from February 9, 2018, from Manitoba Education and Training makes no mention of the TEI, mandatory Treaty education, or a grade 12 mandatory Treaty education course credit to graduate in Manitoba.

TRCM has approached a northern First Nation Band-operated school to be the first to pilot the course and have it registered through Manitoba Education Certification Branch as a school-initiated course. This was done to move the project forward. We are considering plans to approach a northern provincial school.

C) Post-Secondary Course on Treaties

In September 2016 a concept paper on the post-secondary course was commissioned under the TRCM. We held preliminary meetings with the University of Winnipeg's

Vice-President of Indigenous Education. The paper and all revisions have been vetted through the AMC Council of Elders throughout its development. The course is intended to be embedded in the Bachelor of Education Program.

Some discussion has taken place with Office of the Treaty Commissioner in terms of the University of Saskatchewan Bachelor of Education Program. We have held ongoing dialogue with the University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre to advance these initiatives/ accreditations.

Accomplishments

- The TRCM and its partners finalized the *Grade 12 Treaties and Treaties Relationship Clusters* (a 63-page guide)
- The TRCM and its partners finalized the fifth draft of the five-year *Implementation Plan for Treaty Education in all Manitoba Schools*
- Appointment of the Manitoba Treaty Commissioner for a five-year term and five-year flexible agreement/budget (2018 to 2023)
- Introduction of Treaty Commissioner Ross to the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of Saskatchewan and Office of Treaty Commissioner and agreement to have biannual meetings on Treaty Commissions
- Special ceremony and feast to honour the AMC Council of Elders
- AMC 5-year flexible agreement/budget for 2018-2023

Moving Forward

Securing the Treaty Commission terms for Treaty Commissioner, term of the TRCM, and budget for 10 years continues to remain the focus. The TRCM is also focused on networking with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan and the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations.



EDUCATION

Manitoba has the second largest youth population in the country. According to the 2011 National Household Survey by Statistics Canada, 51 percent of Aboriginal people in Manitoba were under the age of 25. This necessarily requires the Manitoba region to seek to access education funding that in equitable to properly respond to the needs of Manitoba First Nations.

For 2017-2018, Canada funded the MFNERC for the purposes of Manitoba First Nations technical discussions to address the ongoing challenges associated with the DISC's current funding approach for First Nation education and its direction to move toward a funding approach for First Nation education that is transparent, sufficient, predictable, and sustainable.

The MFNERC hosted Manitoba Regionally-Based Technical Discussions in order to:

- Participate in the joint collaboration between the AFN's Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and DISC to develop new funding mechanisms for First Nations education that support First Nations development of a holistic, culturally-responsive, high-quality education for First Nation students
- Engage the Manitoba grassroots consultation process into the development of a Manitoba funding model that allows all First Nations to access funding
- Engage First Nations to discuss provincially-comparable cost drivers such as instructional services, formula-based allocations that can be adapted and enhanced to address the unique needs and specific costs faced by Manitoba First Nations
- Provide recommendations to Task Force Teams in reforming the way DISC funds First Nation education to replace current ISC funding methodologies with more transparent and comprehensive formula-based funding approaches for First Nation elementary and secondary education
- Provide input from First Nations Education Directors on the national task team discussions including reviewing information and providing recommendations for the Manitoba representatives on the national task teams
- Move away from proposal-driven funding for First Nations

- Provide input in the improved fiscal framework for First Nation education in Manitoba
- Support the objectives and scope of work of the national task teams

At the November 2017 AMC General Chiefs Assembly, Resolution NOV-17.05 was passed that revived the AMC CCOE. The AMC CCOE was directed to work on all regional First Nations education activities, including the regional education funding forum and a Manitoba Regional First Nations education agreement. The current members of the AMC CCOE are:

- 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 First Nation
- Chief Wayne Desjarlais, Ebb & Flow First Nation
- Chief David McDougall, St. Theresa Point First Nation
- Chief Clarence Easter, Chemawawin First Nation

The AMC CCOE has been meeting on a regular basis, and has committed to, among other things, continue to meet to discuss a regional First Nations funding formula.

At the March 2018 AMC Special Chiefs Assembly on Education, the Chiefs passed Resolution MAR-18.05 A *Renewed Approach to Reassert First Nations Jurisdiction in Education*. The resolution:

- restored the various responsibilities of the AMC CCOE, including directing and overseeing regional activities and research on First Nations education that will include ensuring First Nations control their own education and inform Canada and the AFN of the position of Chiefs on Education;
- re-established a Technical Task Force comprised of advisors from existing First Nations education authorities and AMC Secretariat;
- re-established an Education Directorate at the AMC Secretariat, and directed the Grand Chief to seek funding for this Directorate from Canada. The responsibilities of the Directorate will include:





- o a) supporting individual First Nations pursuing control their own education;
 - o b) providing regional policy analysis and advocacy; representation: at local, provincial and national tables;
 - o c) coordinating meetings of the Manitoba First Nations Education Directors; and
 - o d) facilitate meetings to develop a template First Nation Law on Education that respects the legal traditions of the five Nations and language groups of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibway), Neheto (Cree), Anishiniwak (Oji-Cree), Denesuline and Dakota; and
- directed the AMC Grand Chief to meet with the Grand Chiefs of the MKO and the SCO to develop a Political Unity Accord on Education.

At the May 9, 2018, AMC Executive Council of Chiefs, the Chiefs passed the following motions:

1. That the ECC create a Regional Education Funding Model Task Force and that it have six members – three from the North and three from the South. The members of the Regional Education Funding Model Task Force will include:
 - Davin Dumas, B.Ed., Fisher River Cree Nation, South Cree
 - Greg Halcrow, B.Ed., Cross Lake Band of Indians, North Cree
 - Garry Swampy, B.Ed., Sagkeeng First Nation, South Ojibwe
 - Freddie Wood, M.Ed., St. Therese Pt. First Nation, North Ojibwe-Cree
 - South (tbc – pending confirmation of approval from their Chief)
 - North (tbc – pending confirmation of approval from their Chief)

2. That Davin Dumas serve as the Education Director Representative on the AFN K-12 Funding Expert Task Team with fiscal expertise to be provided by Steve Power, Consultant; and education/finance technical support by Shirley Fontaine/George Merasty.

3. That a First Nations Education Director (to be confirmed) serve on the Joint AFN-ISC Education Infrastructure Task Team with technical support to be provided by Charles

Cochrane, MFNERC.

4. That a special Chiefs Assembly on Education to be held from September 12 and 13, 2018.

The AMC Secretariat, working closely with the MFNERC, are following up on the various AMC resolutions. This includes staffing the AMC Education Directorate and facilitating meetings with the MFNERC and non-MFNERC affiliated First Nation Education Directors.



LONG PLAIN YOUTH GATHERING, MARCH 14, 2018

DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE

The AMC has a long-standing position on the duty to consult and accommodate in contemplation of the development of consultation policies by federal and provincial governments. In November 2005 the AMC developed "Indigenous Peoples Right to Free and Informed Consent", and among other things, the position put forward by AMC reflects First Nations' assertion of sovereignty, Treaty, and international law including Free Prior and Informed Consent. This was formally provided to Canada and Manitoba.

Provincial Consultation Policy

In 2008 the Province of Manitoba unilaterally developed a *Provincial Policy for Crown Consultations with Aboriginal Peoples*. The Province of Manitoba described its policy as being reasonably consistent with Supreme Court of Canada decisions. However, First Nations have viewed the policy as not reflecting the Treaty relationship but rather Manitoba's narrow view that the Treaties are their receipt for the lands. A more fundamental problem with the policy is that First Nations do not want to buy into Canada's view that Canada is the sovereign with title to all land with lawmaking power over all lands, people, and matters.

In Fall 2018, the Province of Manitoba approached the AMC to engage Manitoba First Nations on its unilateral draft of:

- *Provincial Framework for Consultation with First Nations, Metis Communities and local Aboriginal Communities*
- *Proponent's Guide to Engagement with Indigenous Communities (First Nations, Métis and Local Aboriginal Communities)*

The AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to develop a framework for consultation that requires Free, Prior, and Informed Consent with First Nations, pursuant to Resolution NOV-17.04 *Framework on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate*, certified at the November 28 and 29, 2017, AMC General Assembly.

Pursuant to the resolution, the AMC re-invigorated the Chiefs Committee on Duty to Consult and Accommodate, with the following membership:

- Chief Larry Barker, Hollow Water First Nation
- Chief Alex McDougall, Wasagamack First Nation
- Chief Nelson Genaille, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation

- Chief John Clarke, Barren Lands First Nation
- Chief Viola Eastman, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation
- Chief Ron Evans, Norway House Cree Nation

The AMC also conducted engagement sessions with four Tribal Councils:

- Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
- Keewatin Tribal Council
- West Region Tribal Council
- Southeast Resource Development Council

From previous work and engagement with First Nations, the AMC recognizes the importance and need for:

- the duty to consult must include furthering the Treaty relationship and the long-standing positions of Manitoba First Nations stemming from *Wahbung* and *The Great Binding Law*;
- must also include "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" identified in UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations;
- First Nations in Manitoba to have input on how the Crown (provincial and federal governments) approach the duty to consult and accommodate;
- First Nations in Manitoba require input on the Crown's duty to consult frameworks and policies which must be informed by First Nations principles that include:

- o Honour of the Crown
- o Reconciliation
- o Renewing the relationship
- o Good faith
- o Best interest of the First Nation
- o Mutual respect
- o Mutually advantageous relationships
- o Enhancing First Nation capacity to participate
- o Inclusion of traditional laws and ways of knowing
- o Sufficient and adequate time for First Nations
- o The Crown to always consult
- o Shared decision-making
- o Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- o Full participation in environmental assessments
- o Accommodation as reconciliation

- the need to develop policies necessary to achieve a just and honourable and mutually satisfactory relationship between the people of Canada and First Nations in



Manitoba;

- the Crown should respect and promote First Nations' right to self-determination; and
- the need for a full and continuous participation in the establishment of structures and processes which will provide full and comprehensive redress.

As well, among other things, developing a provincial policy on the duty to consult and accommodate requires direct consultation with Manitoba First Nations. There is a need to:

1. protect First Nations land base;
2. ensure trapping, fishing, hunting, and gathering rights; and
3. ensure the recognition of Aboriginal rights, as well as recognizing and honouring the true spirit and intent of the Treaties.

The Chiefs have noted that the *Provincial Framework for Consultation with First Nations, Metis Communities and local Aboriginal Communities* pertains to non-First Nations. This puts AMC in a situation that results in a framework that is not specific to Manitoba First Nations. Developing a framework on the duty to consult and accommodate *specific to and developed by* Manitoba First Nations is critical in advancing reconciliation.

Accordingly, AMC Grand Chief Dumas informed Manitoba that based on the distinct First Nation mandate of the AMC that the Chiefs cannot endorse a document that pertains to non-First Nations, Metis, and local Aboriginal peoples. As well, the development of a framework on the Duty to Consult and Accommodate is an enormous undertaking that requires adequate resources, dedicated professionals, and sufficient time to achieve. The work remains an ongoing process.

Night Hunting

The AMC opposes any provincial legislation that affect First Nations Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including the right to hunt at night. This position is reflected in the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly Resolution APR-17.11 *Treaty Right to Hunt and Food Sovereignty* that also endorsed and adopted Directive #1 of the Sovereign Nations of Treaty Nos. 1-11 *Re Treaty between First Nations on Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering relating to Food Sovereignty*.

In 2017, the AMC began facilitating engagement with First Nations on night hunting. In Summer 2017, the AMC wrote to Premier Pallister clarifying the AMC's role in facilitation, informing the Premier of AMC Resolution APR-17.11, and stressing that any discussions with the AMC could not discharge the Crown's duty to consult.

On August 2, 2017, Grand Chief Arlen Dumas informed Manitoba of his intention to review all current AMC initiatives. This included putting the discussions on night hunting on hold.

In October 2017 Grand Chief Norman Bone of Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan-Treaty No. 2 informed the Manitoba Department of Sustainable Development of their intention to deal with any Treaty No. 2 matters internally. This includes the priorities and mandates on managing land and resources, particularly conservation and management of wildlife.

In a letter dated November 17, 2017, Manitoba Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires informed Grand Chief Dumas that the Government of Manitoba made a decision to collaborate and proceed immediately on Crown-Indigenous consultations on night hunting with Treaty No. 2 and other First Nation communities. Consultations with Treaty No. 2 communities were expected to occur in mid-December 2017 and January 2018.

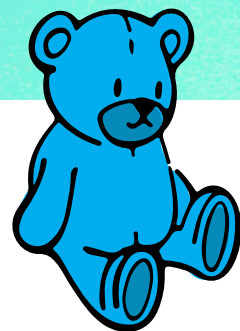
The Province of Manitoba introduced night hunting restrictions through Bill 29 – *The Wildlife Amendment Act* (Safe Hunting and Shared Management). First reading of the Bill took place on May 29, 2018. *The Wildlife Act* amendments include:

- Southern First Nations will not be able to hunt at night unless they have a permit and hunt in an area only determined by the Province of Manitoba.
- Northern First Nations may only hunt at night if they comply with prohibitions and restrictions established by regulation (which are not included in the Bill).
- A maximum of a \$100,000 fine and imprisonment for up to 1 year for persons convicted of dangerous hunting offences.
- The Minister may appoint shared management committees to provide recommendations on conserving and managing wildlife in a specific area.
- A shared management committee must have

representation from hunters, outfitters, and local land owners. At least half of the committee members must be Aboriginal persons.

- The minister may work with a variety of organizations to encourage private landowners to give consent to enable persons to hunt or trap on their land.

The Province of Manitoba has stated it "engaged more than 20 First Nations communities in co-ordination with the following organizations: Southeast Resource Development Council Corp., Swampy Cree Tribal Council, Anishinaabe Agoowidiwinan (Treaty 2)."



Jordan's
Principle

Service Coordination

STAFF Heidi Stranger, Administrative Assistant & Jaron Hart, Policy Analyst

INTRODUCTION

The 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*. Engagement sessions were a First Nations-led initiative to develop Jordan's Principle reform options through engagement and consultation with our regional five distinct nations and languages, representative of northern and southern communities.

Feedback and recommendations from the Keewaywin Engagement Manitoba First Nations Jordan's Principle Engagement were compiled into the *Keewaywin Engagement Manitoba First Nations Jordan's Principle Implementation Final Report*.

This was shared with leadership at the AMC 29th Annual General Assembly hosted in Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in July 2017. On September 13, 2017, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs reviewed and approved the final report.

Jordan's Principle is based on the premise to ensure that children are not denied or delayed in receiving government services nor access to resources/equipment that they require due to a dispute between the federal and provincial governments.

The AMC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit works in conjunction with the Special Needs Advocate Unit (SNAU) at the EUTC, AMC Secretariat to further enhance service delivery in a First Nations perspective.

Data collection, analysis, and reporting activities are foundational elements of the SNAU to support Jordan's Principle implementation and longer-term policy and program reforms for First Nations people living off reserve in Manitoba.

The SNAU follows a procedure designed in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Tribal Council Service Coordinators Collaborative. These are located at every

tribal council office in Manitoba.

The SNAU has assisted 44 Indigenous families and has also assisted with Métis, Inuit, and Non-Status Indigenous people by referring them to resources in the community that can meet their needs. Please see the internal SNAU report for more information.

Activities 2017-18

Jordan's Principle Forums

Staff from the Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit and SNAU, in conjunction with Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, have held a number of forums for Jordan's Principle Child First Initiative Service Coordinators, Case Managers, Service Providers, and stakeholders as follows:

1. The Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative Service Coordinator's Gathering was held in Winnipeg from September 25 to 27, 2017. The main objectives for the gathering were realized through the interaction between service providers and service coordinators from both on and off reserve. It was evident in the evaluations of the conference that much of the information being presented was well received and will be used by the participants in the future for their community members.

2. The Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative Case Management Facilitators Forum was held in Winnipeg from December 12 to 14, 2017. The main objectives for the gathering focused on the professional development of Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative Case Managers. Presentations and breakout sessions included "Setting the Stage and Vision for Jordan's Principle," "What is Effective Case Management," "Best Practices, Sharing Stories and Experiences," "Off-Reserve Respite Information Session," "Supporting Autism Spectrum Disorder in your Community," "Personal Health and Information Session," "Inter-Agency Collaboration Information Session," "Case Management Information Session," and panel discussions with Indigenous Services Canada, Social Development

Canada, and Non-Insured Health Benefits.

3. The AMC, SCO, and MKO are working together and planning an upcoming Jordan's Principle Stakeholders' Professional Development Training Forum. This will take place in Winnipeg from August 13 to 15, 2018. The forum will bring together over 200 Jordan's Principle stakeholders, which includes three representatives from each AMC member First Nation community in Manitoba. The intent is to bring the staff together to build on successes, share, collaborate, and further strengthen efforts and enhance our skills to support communities and collectively enhance client care.

Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Awareness Campaign

The Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit, in conjunction with the AMC Secretariat Communications Team, have been planning and coordinating our Jordan's Principle Awareness Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to provide a better understanding of:

- what Jordan's Principle is
- how it works
- why it was created
- who it is for
- how to access the services under the Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative within Manitoba

The campaign rollout begins on July 24, 2018, with an ongoing rollout of various information materials, including but not limited to print, social media, and radio.

Jordan's Principle Environmental Accessibility Scan Toolkit

The AMC Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit, in collaboration with the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) and the MFNERC, have been developing a series of videos and print packages. These can be used as a digital resource toolkit to help assess the accessibility of First Nations public spaces for First Nations persons living with disabilities.

This project will be rolled out in the following three phases. Phase one starts in First Nations educational institutions with the rationale to begin where children and youth spend the majority of their days outside of their homes:

- Phase 1: Early childhood education spaces, primary,

middle years, and secondary schools

- Phase 2: Primary public use buildings such as health centres, parks, playgrounds, etc.
- Phase 3: Secondary public use building such as laundromats, conveniences stores, etc.

Data collected from facilitating an accessibility environmental scan specific to each of AMC member First Nations will be analyzed and compiled into a publicly accessible document outlining recommendations for accessibility improvements in the areas of infrastructure, housing, and transportation.

Jordan's Principle Para-Professional Accredited Program

The Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Unit has been working in partnership with the MFNERC through discussions with post-secondary institutions within the Province of Manitoba to educate and train education assistants and Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative employees working within First Nations schools para-professionally through an accredited program through a recognized post-secondary institution. These discussions are ongoing. We will provide updates electronically on an ongoing basis.

AMC-MKO-SCO Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group

Through the AMC-MKO-SCO Political Unity Accord, regular and ongoing discussion has taken place on the implementation of Jordan's Principle, which have also included representatives from the FNHSSM and MFNERC.

Replacement of the Jordan's Principle Terms of Reference Working Group

At the September 2016 AMC Annual General Assembly, the Chiefs in Assembly passed resolution Sept-16.07 *First Nations Directives for Jordan's Principle* that included a directive to "restructure the existing intergovernmental table (TOROWG) to support a new approach for the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba that serves the function necessary to make health, social, and educational services accessible to all First Nations children regardless of residency." The restructuring of the TOROWG was identified as necessary because of its lack of action on Jordan's Principle over the years.

Discussions with AMC, MKO, SCO, FNHSSM, and MFNERC have identified that a First Nations Committee on the Implementation of Jordan's Principle will:



- oversee the federal government's response to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision as it relates to the implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba; and
- involve senior officials meeting twice a year that would come from a nation-to-nation basis.

Discussions continue and a request to meet with Canada has been made with a meeting to take place in the near future.

• **Jordan's Principle Legislation**

Discussion has been taking place through the joint Jordan's Principle Technical Advisory Group about proposed Jordan's Principle legislation. Discussion involved whether there is a need for such legislation based on the premise that if we were properly funded, there would be no need for Jordan's Principle. However, until proper funding comes into fruition, funding should be secure by way of legislation and not policy-based where it can change easily.

• **Evaluating Canada's Implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba**

Discussions have begun for a proposed evaluation of Canada's implementation of Jordan's Principle in Manitoba. The proposed evaluation will involve AMC, SCO, and MKO in which the evaluation will examine the recipients of Jordan's Principle funding.

What is **Jordan's Principle**

- A child-first, needs-based principle that applies equally to all First Nations children and youth whether they reside on or off-reserve.
- Ensures there is no denial or delay for children or youth in receiving essential public services that are available to all other children and youth by having the government department of first contact pay for the service.
- Ensures no gaps in government services to First Nations children and youth.
- When a service does not exist but is needed, the government is to ensure culturally appropriate services and/or to safeguard the best interests of the child or youth.

Eagle Urban Transition Centre and Eagles Nest



STAFF

Jarred Baker, Program Manager
 Darlene Littlejohn, Office Manager
 Ashley Fobister, Client Intake and Resource Coordinator
 Peter Atkinson, Traditional Elder
 Sydney Bee, General Administrative Support
 Rachel Bighetty, Administrative Assistant
 Randy Keesic, Client Intake and Resource Coordinator/ Security

INTRODUCTION

The EAGLE Urban Transition Centre (EUTC) was established in Winnipeg in March 2005 by the AMC to provide services to urban First Nation and Indigenous People. The EUTC was created 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. Its core client-oriented mandate includes providing counselling, advocacy, education and training, and employment referral services. It is a unique resource. The resources the Centre offers is intended to provide additional support to Indigenous people living in or who are new to the City of Winnipeg. EUTC has grown substantially since its inception. The EUTC now employs 29 staff and has more than 6 programs operating annually.

Status of Activities

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the EUTC provided services to more than 11,000 walk-in clients. The Eagles Nest continues to have a waiting list for the 75 spots we have available. The EUTC provides services to the Indigenous population who are seeking transition support while living in or relocating to the City of Winnipeg.

If the EUTC cannot provide the resource needed, the staff advocate or direct the clients to the appropriate organizations. The EUTC has provided transitional in-person counselling sessions to about 2,000 clients. The Centre has established over 300 partnerships to meet the needs of our clients. The EUTC has done about 30 presentations on the following topics:

- Fire safety
- Safe food handling
- CPR
- Landlord forum to develop partnerships for housing
- Rental workshops to educate clients on their right and responsibilities

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

- intake and assessment;
- advocacy (health, housing, Employment and Income Assistance, justice, education, employment, etc.);
- referrals to housing resources;
- access to Elders for spiritual guidance and healing;
- help 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 counselling; and
- counselling 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. The EUTC continues to meet the needs of clients through the dedication of the Indigenous staff who are committed to empowering our clients to live the good life they deserve.

The EUTC has two programs that are funded by the Homelessness Partnership Strategy:

- New Beginnings (non-Housing First Program); and
- Fresh Start (Housing First Program).



New Beginnings

STAFF

Bonnie Harper, Service Coordinator
 Marcel Boulanger, Adult Housing Counsellor
 Paywapan Colomb, Youth Housing Counsellor
 Alvin Henderson, Mental Health and Addictions/Housing Counsellor
 Barry McPherson, Manufacturing Transition Counsellor

Program Activities

The program helped 54 community members find housing in 2017-2018. It runs the following for clients:

- life skill development workshops;
- eviction prevention;
- CPR & First Aid;
- Food Handlers certificate training; and
- Resume-building workshops.

The program helps clients get their identification by providing financial assistance for birth certificates and by helping them to apply for their Indian Status Cards.

We make referrals to residential treatment centre. We help clients complete the application. We fax them on behalf of our clients to help them address addiction issues they are encountering. Counsellors have helped 55 clients with applying for and receiving Employment and Income Assistance this fiscal year. The Manufacturing Transition Counsellor helped 28 clients to find part-time work and 29 clients to find full-time work.

Fresh Start Program

STAFF

Jody Lake, Follow-Up Support Worker
 Karen Neil, Follow-Up Support Worker

Fresh Start's 2 follow-up support workers have a caseload of 20 each. Their goal is to house 40 people and provide follow-up support services so their tenancy is a successful one. They do home visits to support the clients with the transition process.

The Housing First Program has a rental top-up of up to \$200 to help the chronically homeless get housed. The clients have a budget to assist with obtaining essential

items for their residence such as a bed, linen, cleaning supplies, cookware, etc. The two workers advocate for their clients with Employment and Income Assistance and rental agencies. They also address concerns with caretakers and property managers.

The EUTC provided an opportunity for up to 15 community members to participate in cultural retreats at Windy Hill Retreat Centre. They were able to participate in a Sweatlodge ceremony and a teaching circle led by a spiritual advisor. The program did medicine picking (sage), drum-making workshops, native arts and crafts, and sewing their own ceremony skirts for women and ribbon shirts for men.

Key Issues and Challenges

It remains a challenge to find affordable housing regardless of whether the program provides rental top-ups. The clients have a choice in where they live but the choice is very limited.

Another issue is dealing with mental health issues. These are becoming more frequent. Staff need advanced training to deal with some of the situations they encounter. Another challenge that comes with mental health issues is that Employment and Income Assistance requires clients to actively look for work when they are not able to. Employment and Income Assistance is often their only source of income and they cannot afford to be cut off from this benefit for not fulfilling an obligation they cannot meet.

Another challenge is to keep the clients housed. Clients receive many rules; these are difficult to follow for a person who has been homeless for a long period of time. The clients like to invite their extended family (friends from the street) to visit their residence because they feel guilty for having a place to stay when their family doesn't. They are restricted to the number of guests and the time they are allowed to be in the residence—this is difficult to adhere to.

Patient Advocate Unit

STAFF

Kevin Fontaine, Patient Advocate Manager
 Valerie Olson, Patient Navigator
 Dawn Slater, Program Assistant
 Ann Thomas, Patient Navigator

INTRODUCTION

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the AMC and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's (WRHA) Indigenous Health Services entered into a new agreement and arrangement with continued delivery of health care services to all First Nation members regardless of residency.

It is imperative that the collective partnership between the AMC and WRHA, along with other key stakeholders, is maintained and strengthened to 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 Patient Advocate. Therefore, the AMC and the WRHA have entered into a new agreement with new reporting structures. We are now operating under a Service Purchase Agreement as of 2018.

The AMC Patient Advocate Unit and the WRHA continue to work collaboratively in providing the most efficient and patient-centered service delivery to address the diverse range of health care issues faced by First Nation patients. The communication process continues between both the Indigenous Health Programs and AMC with extended support to all First Nation patients in the areas of advocacy and navigation services. This includes a continued enhancement of AMC Patient Advocate Unit relationships with the various WRHA departments to ensure quality service and the medical needs of First Nations are met.

The Patient Advocate Unit has fostered many positive relationships 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;
- jurisdiction;

- consultation (family, medical, and legal);
- transportation;
- medical matters; and
- access to medical records.

Our Unit receives referrals in the following ways:

- Central intake at the WRHA's Indigenous Health Program;
- Walk-ins, calls, and emails;
- From the GCO, Chiefs, and Councils;
- Health directors;
- From outside agencies such as Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), Manitoba Housing;
- Employment and Income Assistance, and others.

Our Unit has continuously maintained and established new networking relations with various, diverse organizations and government agencies. In many of these discussions and meetings, our main focus was First Nations interests and how we can raise awareness within various groups and committees, agencies, and organizations.

MPI is one of the major government corporations that we have engaged with in various discussions. We even discussed a new pilot project that would provide service for a First Nations Engagement Officer located either at MPI or AMC to help with MPI case files. This is premature in terms of negotiating an actual contract.

Our Unit continues to meet with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch/Non-Insured Health Benefits and the Transportation Referral Unit about the various issues First Nations patients and families encounter on a daily basis. We come to a collaborative resolution on issues brought forth.

Key Issues and Challenges

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba is an area of concern for all First Nation members, more specifically for our Elders who are admitted to the various hospitals throughout the province and the WRHA hospitals and medical facilities. If First Nation Elders are admitted into one of the hospitals and they don't have family representation, medical staff impose and implement a form 21 and 22 (*Certificate of Incapacity, Order of*



Committeeship, etc.) under the *Mental Health Act* and *Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act*. Elders become wards of the province and no longer have control over their financial matters and medical decisions.

We have received a high number of case files pertaining to this practice in which the medical staff collaborates with the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of Manitoba. Once a person is deemed incapacitated, there are few alternatives to rescinding the orders of the Public Guardian and Trustee's Office as it is a legislated deed and becomes law. The only alternative involves seeking legal representation to attempt to overrule the order. This process is very costly. Most Elders cannot afford to retain a lawyer to overrule these decisions.

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. Part of the process incorporates initiating an application via housing authorities. Short-term accommodations need to be approved and extended and appropriate identification is required.

Most First Nations clients do not possess basic or photo identification. This is an added barrier and delays housing applications as a first step in starting the medical relocation process. Other common barriers are:

- assisting with applying for Employment and Income Assistance in Winnipeg; and
- transportation to and from medical appointments—this includes the cost of travel and knowledge of the Winnipeg transit system, which at times is more challenging when assisting patients with limited mobility to access public transportation.

The Patient Advocate Unit and the WRHA's Indigenous Health Program have developed a working group to address medical relocation and Transportation Referral Unit issues. The working group is comprised of representatives from:

- AMC;
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at Health Canada;
- The Province of Manitoba (Employment and Income Assistance and Housing); and
- WRHA departments.

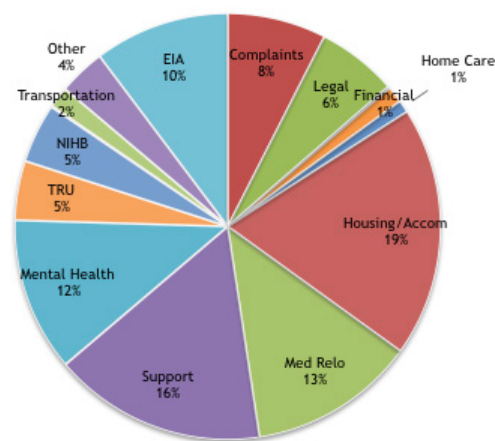
This working group meets bi-monthly since May 2016. The working group has engaged in many discussions on First Nation issues that affect the quality of care of individuals as well as dialogue on different enhancement concepts. This working group will continue meeting, evaluating its progress, and determining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

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

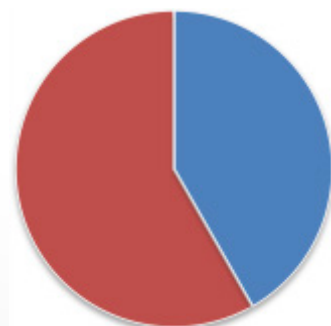
- individual complaints;
- issues within the system;
- policies of First Nations and Inuit Health/Non-Insured Health Benefits; and
- policies of other entities directly related to health care.

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

CLIENT ISSUES APRIL 2017 – MARCH 31, 2018



GENDER 2017- 2018 (522 Male (blue) / 374 Female (red) clients)



Links to First Nations

Regular networking with First Nation Chief and Councils and health directors and their respective First Nation staff is a regular and ongoing task in which we are committed to in terms of bringing awareness and promoting the cause. We bring issues to the forefront within the medical field. We also engage and network with the various government agencies we collaborate with on a regular basis.

Links to First Nation communities continues to be a challenge in that our program information only extends to a minimal audience. This includes Chief and Councils, health directors, and transportation coordinators. The Patient Advocate Unit and Indigenous Health Services completed a new rollout to all WRHA facilities. It is imperative that WRHA departments and staff are fully aware of the AMC-WRHA collaboration. We also did a rollout to additional WRHA facilities and their respective departments, such as Transplant Manitoba, Manitoba Renal Program, etc. We anticipate increased awareness on First Nation issues and perspectives within the health care system.

In addition to receiving referrals from Indigenous Health's Central Intake, we receive many referrals directly from First Nations. We 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 our 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 and continues to be our focus 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 is responsible for preparing scheduled reports of activities along with statistical data collection from referrals. The compiled data is stored in an Excel spreadsheet. We will eventually move and store this in a new state-of-the-art database, which will enable us to collect relevant program information for each specific program.

We attend:

- regular bi-weekly staff file reviews at the Health Sciences

Centre with Indigenous Health Programs; and

- monthly Advocacy Support Committee meetings, during which program issues are discussed.

This allows the two organizations to address critical areas of the collective agreement and maintain a healthy relationship that better serves First Nations people in the health care system.

Accomplishments

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Patient Advocate Unit has had numerous individual success cases. This includes completing many medical relocation cases, which are a long, drawn-out process to successfully complete. Many of the triumphs that we experience don't receive the attention that they deserve due to the nature and privacy rights of individual patients.

Some Public Trustee Office cases were successful in terms of getting Elders more adequate funding for their daily living expenses. In the past this was next to impossible.

We had many successful case files throughout the year. One that stands out is the successful approval via Non-Insured Health Benefits at the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. We helped obtain state-of-the-art prosthetics for a client. Negotiations and advocacy occurred for a few months on this client's behalf. Approval was eventually approved and granted, resulting in secured funding to purchase two state-of-the-art leg prosthetics. This cost \$44,000 per leg for a total of \$88,000. The material used on these prosthetics is state-of-the-art and is the same material used on the USA Space Shuttle.

This member first came to the Patient Advocate Unit about 10 years ago for similar prosthetics request. He was then also approved for \$24,000 for prosthetics, which at the time were also state-of-the-art. This particular client is a true ambassador for First Nations prosthetics/diabetic clientele as he is determined and would inspire many.

Once a dialysis/diabetic patient is put into a wheelchair or motorized chair after amputation(s), these individual's life-spans drastically decline. They only live 5 to 15 years longer. This client has surpassed that span by a few years and is still going strong; his lifestyle remains normal despite his medical condition. He is an active part of his community and also plays many rounds golf and does other daily activities.

The Patient Advocate Unit has also worked diligently



alongside Cancer Care Manitoba on delivering service for First Nation patients. We managed to secure in-city transportation for all First Nation cancer patients living in or medically relocated to Winnipeg. This is a successful milestone and a positive outcome for First Nation patients.

Collaboration with MPI continues with First Nations clientele. Most recently MPI agreed to pay for a funeral and gravestone for a First Nation family. This is an expense that is usually not funded or approved.

Our Unit embraces the challenges and always strives to work alongside and for the patient. It gives us personal satisfaction that we are able to assist those in need.

Special Needs Advocate Unit

Jordan's Principle/Child First Initiative off-reserve services

STAFF

Patrick Berthelette, Special Needs Advocate
Darlene Curci, Special Needs Advocate
Carmen Letexier, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Mckay, Special Needs Advocate Lead
Chris Prince, Respite Services Manager
Sharon Wilson, Special Needs Advocate

INTRODUCTION

The AMC, in conjunction with the EUTC and First Nation Inuit Health Branch at Health Canada, has entered into a partnership to develop a project to implement Jordan's Principle for individuals living off reserve in urban settings.

Jordan's Principle is based on the premise to ensure 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.

In March 2016, the AMC and EUTC management hired two Special Needs Advocates to ensure meaningful participation and engagement of First Nations in implementing Jordan's Principle. We hired two more advocates in April and May 2017; an administrative assistant in June 2018; and a Respite Services Manager in August 2017.

The primary focus of the Special Needs Advocate Unit staff is to deliver the Enhanced Service Coordination Model of Care that puts First Nation children and families

at the centre of service delivery to help maximize their access to health and social services and supports without unnecessary delays. It is meant to:

- leverage, not duplicate, existing federal and provincial structures and mechanisms; and
- maximize local capacities where they are available.

Process

Service coordination for the Special Needs Advocates has three main areas of activity:

i. Outreach to:

- a. build relationships with community resources and collaborate with community-based services;
- b. enhance awareness in First Nations of existing programs and support; and
- c. work with communities to proactively identify children with unmet needs to facilitate early intervention and timely access to services and supports.

ii. Intake, assessment, and coordination, to:

- a. help families navigate the health and social systems;
- b. facilitate access to appropriate health or social professionals for needs assessments, or provide professional assessment services where there are gaps;
- c. work with regional Jordan's Principle focal points to help facilitate access for all First Nations children to federal and provincial services on and off reserve and to coordinate the collection of information on service requests;
- d. coordinate access to services in a timely manner; and
- e. build case management capacity through developing policies, procedures, and protocols related to screening and assessment; service planning; monitoring and evaluation of service plans; and training for staff.

iii. Case management to:

- a. provide a collaborative, client-driven system to guide children and their families through a comprehensive array of services to ensure they receive quality services and supports that are culturally appropriate at all stages and levels of care; and
- b. support a child- and family-centered approach to coordinating and connecting needs to services, where

service coordination provides access to a multi-disciplinary hub for families where they are connected to service providers across all sectors.

Collaboration/Referral

Data collection, analysis, and reporting activities are foundational elements of the Special Needs Advocate Unit to support Jordan's Principle implementation and longer-term policy and program reforms for Indigenous people living off reserve in Manitoba.

Further to the case management process of the service coordination, the Special Needs Advocate unit follows a procedure designed in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Tribal Council Service Coordinators Collaborative. These 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 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 child/adult

Case monitoring – Advocate/Jordan's Principle Case Manager 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

Activities

The Special Needs Advocate Unit also works in conjunction with the Jordan's Principle Service Coordination Project at the AMC Secretariat to further enhance service delivery using an Indigenous perspective. The project has a number of deliverables for its workplan action items. There have also been a number of environmental scans on education, health, culture and language, and CFS to help identify service gaps and build further capacity in each respective area.

The Special Needs Advocate Unit will continue to work with the AMC Jordan's Principle Coordination Project and with the First Nation Family Advocate Office to ensure that the needs of First Nation families in Manitoba are being met and adhered to. The Unit has also completed an awareness campaign and information sessions in the following urban communities:

- Brandon
- Dauphin
- Portage la Prairie
- Selkirk
- The Pas
- Thompson

These community information sessions provided a significant opportunity to create collaborations with service providers and organizations that assist Indigenous peoples throughout the Province of Manitoba. The Unit now has networks with a variety of service providers and a number of different organizations that assist in our advocacy efforts. Our office also works with any Manitoba First Nation that needs our help when sending one of their members to Winnipeg or other urban setting.

The Special Needs Advocate Unit has been assisting families from 44 Manitoba First Nations and Indigenous people from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

The Special Needs Advocate Unit has assisted and created a file for 315 families. The advocates have established a specialization in a number of specific areas and each carry various caseloads. Now that the Unit has become more recognized, we receive an average of 30 referrals a month.

Eagle's Nest Indigenous Youth Resource and Recreation Program

STAFF

Elissa Gabriel, Eagles Nest Project Coordinator
Fred Beardy, Eagles Nest Project Coordinator

This report provides new information from the Eagle's Nest Indigenous Youth Resource and Recreation Program located at 601 Aikins Street in Winnipeg. It introduces the Eagles Nest key aspects and challenges, supports, and accomplishments.



The Eagle's Nest Program offers professional and personal skill development opportunities for Indigenous youth living in Winnipeg or to youth that are new to the city. The program is for Indigenous youth, ages 15 to 30 years, who are not enrolled in school or unemployed. Youth receive extra support to either go back to school or find employment. The 12-week program is from Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm. It delivers the four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel (spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical). Mentors guide youth to become empowered and resilient.

Staff at the Eagle's Nest understand the circumstances youth face. It is our responsibility to help youth connect to the most suitable resources within the community.

The Eagle's Nest receives ongoing applications throughout the year, ranging from 55 to 75 applicants within a 3-month period. We accept youth based on program criteria (interview and selection process). Youth that are not accepted receive additional support and referrals. Youth who succeed and complete the program are honoured with a grad celebration. Youth who were enrolled but haven't completed the program are always welcome to participate.

Our staff bring a holistic manner to help empower youth to reach their potential. We expect staff to reflect a positive spirit at all times to provide a safe and healthy environment. It's our obligation to gain trust from the youth, to provide a non-judgmental atmosphere, and to understand their circumstances.

A summary of professional skill development opportunities we provide to the youth include the following certificates:

- First Aid CPR Level C
- Level 1 Food Handlers
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Mental Health First Aid
- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

A summary of personal skill developments we provide to the youth are the following:

- Tours at post-secondary institutions
- Training and employment counselling

- Volunteer activities
- Recreation activities
- Nutrition program
- Workshops/presentations
- First Nations culture, language, and traditional skill building
- Social skill and strategy development
- Daily skill development activities

Challenges

Some of the challenges youth face today include transportation and occasionally commitment to the program. Youth face barriers such as addiction, family/children issues, mental health issues, and housing issues. Staff at Eagle's Nest refer youth to the most appropriate resources and advocate on their behalf while building a trusting relationship with youth.

A summary of supports provided by staff related to the challenges:

- Support letters to Employment and Income Assistance/CFS agencies for bus passes
- Encourage family supports
- Advice and referrals to treatments related to addictions
- Provide personal counselling
- Referrals to the EUTC's Housing Counsellor

Accomplishments

Youth at the Eagle's Nest have benefited from the program personally and professionally. We have three Elders with many gifts who share with the youth. We have youth that succeeded academically and through employment opportunities. Networking with other organizations has helped youth get their foot in the doors to gain employment and experience.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018:

- Every second Monday morning, our Elder Peter Aikinson shares with the youth traditional stories on strength, humility, love, wisdom, courage, truth, and respect
- On Tuesday afternoons, Agatha Kumatsiutiksak teaches youth on how to use sewing machine to sew traditional skirts and shirts for traditional ceremonies
- Every second Friday morning, Elder Lydia Malcolm teaches Ojibway language to the youth; most of the youth have an Ojibway heritage background
- Access post-secondary institutions and colleges within the City of Winnipeg
- Attended the Indigenous Youth Gathering with the Winnipeg Police
- Attended Soaring: Indigenous Youth Empowerment Gathering
- Attended the Keep The Fire Burning event
- Help host the Spring and Summer solstice with the EUTC
- Participated in the Art Expo with the EUTC
- Harvest deer/geese workshop



The First Nations Family Advocate Office

STAFF

Cora Morgan, First Nations Family Advocate
 Cheryle Dreaver, Assistant Advocate
 Jennifer Roulette, Assistant Advocate
 Lindey Courchene, Executive Assistant
 Pam Cameron, Administrative Assistant
 Mary Anne Clarke, Policy Analyst
 Janine Highway, Research/Writer
 Stephanie Sinclair, Client Intake
 Melanie Outchikat, Client Intake
 Catherine Richard, Restorative Justice Worker
 Tara Remillard, Client Intake
 Kendra Inglis, Family Reunification Worker
 Michelle Klippenstein, Family Reunification Worker
 Lana McKay, Prenatal Support Worker
 Stephanie Edwards, Prenatal Support Worker
 Candace Campbell, Family Support Coordinator
 Mary Burton, Grandmother
 Charlotte Daniels, Grandmother
 Anna Smith, Family Reunification Worker

INTRODUCTION

The AMC opened the First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) on June 1, 2015. The office was gifted the name “Abinoojijak Bigiiewewag,” which translates to “our children are coming home.”

In Manitoba, there are about 12,000 children in CFS care and 90 per cent of them are Indigenous. These staggering numbers today are the result of Indian Residential Schools and the 60's Scoop, both of which destroyed individuals, families, and communities.

With the number of Indigenous children in CFS care reaching crisis levels, First Nations families involved with the CFS system want solutions. During community engagement events held in Winnipeg and Thompson in May 2014, several hundred community members shared their stories about the challenges they faced while navigating the CFS system and the failures of the CFS system to operate fairly and justly.

From information gathered during the community engagement sessions, the AMC published the *Bringing Our Children Home (BOCH)* report. It offers 10 recommendations to address many of the issues and concerns identified during community engagement

sessions.

The BOCH report recommended creating the FNFAO as a mechanism to implement further report recommendations.

The FNFAO is unique because our mandate is from Manitoba Chiefs. Our advocacy work supports the whole family. We work outside of the current Manitoba child welfare system, understanding that our work cannot empower a provincial system that has clearly failed First Nation children, families, and communities. We work to empower First Nation families and communities under the broader mandate of the AMC to realize full jurisdiction and authority over our own children.

Completing intake for over 900 families since opening and seeing over 300 families reunited, we help families navigate the CFS system, advocate for increased parental access to children in the CFS system, and provide supports and services to assist in restoring parental guardianship. More families, extended family members, and First Nations seek the services of the FNFAO each day. Demand for services continually grows.

Key Issues and Challenges

Since opening in June 2015, the FNFAO has gathered numerous first-hand accounts from First Nations families detailing their struggles navigating the CFS system, including having little access to effective advocacy and resources to assist in family reunification. With only two full-time staff, we were limited in the help we could offer, focusing our time and resources on the most urgent cases, usually involving birth alerts and permanent guardianship orders.

During this time, we identified the advocacy, supports, and services First Nations families involved with CFS needed. This informed the activities in our three-year proposal called *Working Outside of the Child Welfare System for Manitoba First Nations Children Caught in the System*. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (now DISC) provided financial support for the second half of fiscal year 2017 in our proposal, enabling us to hire 15 new staff to bring total staff to 17 by March 2018. We were able to offer several new supports and services while building on the strength of existing advocacy work.

To accommodate our new staff, the FNFAO moved to

new office space in the building in October 2017. We began offering various family support programs. As with any organizational growth, growing pains are expected. The FNFAO quickly found our new space was not large enough, forcing creativity to make sure our programs ran as scheduled. We also found we required flexibility to meet our families' needs. We hired two Family Support Coordinators in lieu of other positions. This allowed us to create a program for families successfully reunited with their children who may require further support. At the end of fiscal year 2017-2018, we had a good idea about which programs needed strengthening. We began the process of making those changes to better meet the needs of families.

With First Nations child welfare in crisis, it was encouraging to see both federal and provincial governments take the issue seriously enough to release their intentions for child welfare reform this past fiscal year. The federal government's reform plans align nicely with numerous historic and present resolutions where Manitoba Chiefs-in-Assembly mandated the AMC Secretariat to undertake the work to see First Nations' jurisdiction over our own child and family matters realized. Unfortunately, as details of the provincial government's child welfare reform plans emerged, the FNFAO contributed to numerous measures and counter-responses from AMC to ensure grassroots citizenship and First Nations leadership were informed about the implications of the provincial government's reform plans on First Nations' lives.

Activities and Accomplishments

Chiefs Assembly on CFS, April 2017

The AMC started the new fiscal year with a Chiefs Assembly of CFS where Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed numerous resolutions related to child and family matters. The AMC Women's Council received an expanded mandate to oversee child and family matters through Resolution APR-17.01. *Expansion of the First Nations Women's Council Mandate to include Child and Family Services*. Resolution APR-17.02 supported the recommendation to amend the AMC Constitution to include the Grandmothers Council.

Support From and For the Grandmothers Council

At the July 2017 Annual General Assembly, Resolution JUL-17.05 was introduced to include both a reference to the Grandmothers Council and a new article in the *AMC Constitution* identifying the composition, role, and function

of the Grandmothers Council. Cora Morgan, the First Nations Family Advocate said, “We've been fortunate to work closely with the Women's Council and Grandmothers Council on the file this past year. It's been an honour supporting them and an honour to receive their support.”

Keewaywin Engagement and Bringing Our Children Home event

On June 30, 2017, we hosted Manitoba First Nation children, youth, citizens, Elders, and leadership at the Thunderbird House to celebrate the completion of our *Keewaywin Engagement: Manitoba First Nations Child and Family Services Reform* that began in December 2016.

Keewaywin recommends First Nation-led reform options for First Nations CFS. The AMC Executive Council of Chiefs reviewed and approved the report in September 2017 and it was shared with all Manitoba First Nations. The report's recommendations continue to inform and guide our work today. Twenty-three communities provided their feedback and built their dreams of what child welfare reform looks like in their communities. That day, we celebrated our children, their gifts, and the upcoming changes to child welfare policy that will see First Nation people bringing our children home.

So They Can Go Home Initiative

At our June 30, 2017, Keewaywin Engagement and Bringing Our Children Home event, we had the opportunity to host as presenters our long-time supporters from Ontario's *So They Can Go Home Initiative*. They hold baby moccasin making workshops to bring awareness to the high numbers of Indigenous children in CFS care.

The *So They Can Go Home Initiative* reached out to the First Nations Family Advocate, donating numerous baby moccasins and lending their voice to Manitoba's plight. We give these baby moccasins to mothers in the hospital going through child apprehension. They are a reminder of the child's Indigenous identity and our collective commitment to bring that child home.

2017 National Gathering of Elders, Edmonton

The AMC Grandmothers Council and AMC support staff attended the inaugural 2017 National Gathering of Elders, “Coming Home, Voices of Elders,” in Edmonton, Alberta, in September 2017. Unfortunately, gathering organizers removed the CFS component; however, the Grandmothers Council still managed to share their Statement of Action on Child Welfare and spoke about their leading role in



informing customary practice as Manitoba First Nations undertake child welfare reform.

Following their statement, many attendees approached the AMC Grandmothers Council, showing interest in creating Grandmothers Councils in their own regions and sharing very similar challenges with high numbers of CFS child apprehension.

Provincial Throne Speech response

The provincial government's Throne Speech in October 2017 and its plans for child welfare required an immediate response from AMC, especially considering its plans for custody care, CFS agency block funding, social impact bonds, subsidized guardianship, and its lack of First Nations consultation before announcing its reform plan.

Through our Keewaywin Engagement on CFS reform, the FNFAO heard from grassroots citizens, Chiefs and Councillors, Elders, youth, CFS authorities, agencies, and provincial and federal government representatives. It was a thorough engagement that allowed us to gather community-driven solutions. When considered alongside the provincial government's reform plan, it highlights areas in their plan not in the best interest of First Nations, especially subsidized guardianship with its potential to result in 60's Scoop losses of our children.

The FNFAO continues to support the AMC to ensure grassroots citizenship and First Nations leadership are informed about the implications of the provincial government's reform plans in First Nations lives. We continue to counter those most harmful plans. More importantly, we continue working together to advance First Nations' goals, including reasserting First Nations' jurisdiction over our own child and family matters.

AMC-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Child Welfare

In November 2017, AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly endorsed an MOU on child welfare between the AMC and Canada. The MOU mandates the AMC Secretariat to:

- develop a collaborative agenda, work plan, and budget to transform the child welfare system;
- continue pursuing long-standing AMC mandates to return First Nation child welfare jurisdiction to Manitoba First Nations; and
- reform Canada's First Nations CFS Program.

The AMC and Canada signed the MOU on December 7, 2017, in Ottawa, Ontario. In drafting the MOU and other related documents, the FNFAO has been supporting and informing the work towards First Nations' jurisdiction that must take precedence over provincial government reform plans.

Federal government's child welfare emergency meeting and reform plan

In January 2018, the federal government held a two-day child welfare emergency meeting in Ottawa. Our Grandmother and Family Advocate participated on panels to inform the federal government's child welfare reform plans announced at the emergency meeting. The federal government's reform plans support the AMC-Canada MOU on child welfare, specifically in the area of drawing down jurisdiction in the area of CFS and exploring the potential to co-develop federal child welfare legislation. The opportunity exists to develop a First Nations system reflective of First Nations traditional laws for child and family welfare; it is something Manitoba Chiefs have worked towards for years. The FNFAO continues to support and inform the AMC's work in this area.

Southeast CFS Audit

In December 2017, the FNFAO began a unique relationship with Southeast CFS, enabling us to move forward with Resolution APR-17.04 *A File-by-File Audit of Child and Family Services Agencies*. We partnered with Southeast CFS to examine case files where there is no real concern for protection and the children can immediately be sent home to their families or home communities or where immediate supports will assist in family reunification. It has been a pleasure working with very accommodating Southeast staff. We have seen many successful family reunifications in a very short time. Our audit work continues in 2018 with Southeast and other potential agencies interested in partnering with the FNFAO.

Office of the Auditor General meeting

In January 2018, the FNFAO met with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) of Canada in Ottawa as part of the federal government's commitment to First Nations citizens informing CFS system reform. The Family Advocate carried the voices of the families we serve to the OAG, understanding that any reform must include those who have already been affected by system flaws so they can inform those crucial changes. We received a commitment from the OAG that they heard your voices.

Office of the Auditor General Sharing Circle

In February 2018, at the invitation of the First Nations Family Advocate, the OAG met with several families in a traditional sharing circle. The families that had successfully reunited had a chance to speak with the OAG of Canada, where they bravely and honestly shared about their struggles with an often unfair and unjust CFS system.

Honouring Our Families Feast

In March 2018, the FNFAO held a celebratory event at the Thunderbird House to honour the families we work with and to recognize their hard work towards family reunification. Minister of Indigenous Services Jane Philipott and her staff joined the celebration as we feasted 50 families and their children, showing our appreciation for their strength and bravery in fighting for their families. The families visited with Minister Philipott and her staff, lending their stories to inform her work in addressing the child welfare crisis. The families we serve truly inspire us; their contributions have been invaluable in informing the many areas requiring advocacy.

Chiefs' Emergency Meeting on Child Welfare, Strategic Plan, MOU Work Plan, and Declaration of Principles

In March 2018, Manitoba Chiefs held a 2-day emergency meeting on CFS in response to the province's unilateral reform initiatives. The Women's Council presented a draft strategic plan titled *Setting the Foundation for Change: A Strategy Towards First Nations' Jurisdiction of Child Welfare in Manitoba* and a draft MOU work plan. Manitoba Chiefs-in-Assembly accepted the report and work plan at the March 2018 Special Chiefs Assembly on Education in Long Plain First Nation. Additionally, a *Manitoba First Nations Declaration of Principles on Inherent Sovereignty and Responsibility Over Our Own Children* was developed to lay out a collective position that advances First Nations' jurisdiction in the area of children and families. Through resolution, the Chiefs mandated the AMC Secretariat to move forward with the necessary work to realize full jurisdiction and authority over our own children.

Intervenor Status

We received several family referrals to the FNFAO where we applied for and received intervenor status in their pending family court cases. We often speak with families whose interactions with the CFS system are so inadequate they require our support in court. Going forward, we expect to participate as recognized intervenors in additional matters because of the provincial government's

subsidized guardianship initiative.

MMIWG

The FNFAO supports the AMC Women's Council and the AMC's Community Liaison for Women, Children and Families Issues in their lead work with MMIWG. Children previously in CFS care are at risk of exploitation and the two issues are intricately linked. We work collaboratively whenever the Women's Council and Liaison require any CFS-related information to support their work.

Speaking Engagements and Interviews

The First Nations Family Advocate has spent a year advocating for the families we serve at various speaking engagements locally, regionally, and nationally, bringing more attention to the CFS crisis in Manitoba and pushing for First Nation-led solutions. Numerous media interviews and news articles highlight the work we do. We are often approached to offer the grassroots First Nations perspective on child welfare issues.

Programs and services

It has been a busy year, hiring staff and implementing various programs and services. The need for the following programs and services offered at the FNFAO came from the families we serve:

- **Orientation sessions:** All families requesting advocacy must attend one orientation session before a client intake appointment. The orientation session covers helpful information about navigating the CFS system, including supports available through our office.
- **One-on-one appointment with Assistant Advocate:** An opportunity to meet with an assistant advocate to determine what type of advocacy is required.
- **Wewaynii Nindinawemaanak is an Ojibway translation for "A Good Journey with Our Relatives":** An opportunity for families successfully reunified with their children to learn Indigenous teachings, build support systems, and partner with SEED Winnipeg's Saving Circle Program.
- **Niingwayakochigemin is an Ojibway translation for "Setting Things Right":** Support for First Nations families involved with the CFS and/or justice systems. Healing relationships through Indigenous justice circles, one-on-one assistance, and mediation. Topics include teachings on Who We Are Not, Circle Teachings, Spirit Name, Teachings, Clan Teachings, etc.



• **Traditional Parenting Workshops:** Topics include the Seven Sacred Teachings, Star Blanket Teaching, life skills, bonding with baby, food nutrition, breastfeeding, safe sleep practices, building a birth bundle, birth planning, placenta and umbilical cord care, nurturing your infants' Medicine Wheel, and soft spot and moss bag teachings.

• **Red Road to Healing Workshops:** Awareness about the impacts of domestic violence on our families and communities.

• **Grandparents' Sharing Circle:** Supports and services for grandparents who have guardianship of or provide kinship care for their grandchildren involved with CFS.

• **Empowering Our Youth Workshop:** Topics include self-esteem, time management/budgeting, anger, values, problem-solving and feelings, etc. Opportunities to retrieve personal identification, open bank accounts, and write resumes.

Acknowledgements

This past year has been incredibly rewarding. As we move forward with our plans for 2018, we offer acknowledgements and give special thanks to our supporters: the families we serve who inform the changes that need to take place and who inspire us daily to continue working towards bringing our children home; Manitoba Chiefs-in-Assembly who gave us the mandate to work closely with the Women's Council to advocate for families and whose support and guidance is invaluable; Grand Chief Arlen Dumas whose encouraging words we always welcome; the Grandmothers Council who always supports our endeavours and who deserve our heartfelt gratitude for their presence; First Nations CFS agencies, authorities, workers, and First Nation leadership serving on agency boards who support our work, collaborating with us to find solutions; and Minister Bennett, Minister Philpott, Prime Minister Trudeau, and all those involved from DISC who support our commitment to bringing our children home.



CHILDREN MUST HAVE SAFE AND QUALITY CARE THAT INCLUDES ACCESS TO:

- Family
- Community
- Cultural/Ceremonial Ways
- Connection and Purpose in Life
- Ancestral Land
- Ancestral Waters
- Way of Life
- Education
- Protection Within and Outside of their Nation

Developing the way forward requires meaningful involvement of parents, families and communities. This includes focusing on rebuilding strong family structures rooted in First Nations' natural laws, principles and natural support systems.



For more information contact:
Phone: 1204.987.4592
Toll Free: 1.855.596.9989
Fax: 1204.956.2300
Email: pcameron@manitobachiefs.com

16th Floor, 275 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B5

www.manitobachief.com

www.firstnationfamilyadvocate.com

#firstnationfamilyadvocate



OUR SERVICES

Workshops are for families currently receiving advocacy from the FNFAO. To register for workshops, you must have attended an orientation session within the past 6 months. To register for workshops or the orientation session, please call 204.987.4592.

Orientation Session

Held bi-weekly

All families requesting advocacy must attend one orientation session prior to client intake. The orientation session will cover helpful information about navigating the CFS system and how our office can best support you during your involvement with CFS.

Red Road to Healing Workshops

A ten-week program requiring 4 hours of commitment each week

Awareness about how domestic violence impacts our families and communities. Certificates will be provided upon successful completion of the ten-week program. The next Red Road to Healing will be offered in January 2018.

Prenatal & Postnatal Support Workshops

Held monthly

Topics covered include caring for our sacred bundles and baby burton, soft spot and moss bag teachings, Traditional sharing circles are a part of all workshops. Workshop attendees are encouraged to participate in the sharing circles.

Sacred Babies Workshop

Held monthly

Learn about safe parenting practices.

Dii Baa Ji Mowin (Telling Stories) Indigenous Family Series

Held monthly

Open to all families currently involved with CFS. Hear personal stories from families that have successfully navigated the CFS system to regain custody of their children.

Traditional Parenting Workshops

Held bi-weekly

Topics include the Seven Sacred Teachings, Star Blanket Teaching, life skills, bonding with baby, food nutrition, breastfeeding, baby safe sleep, building a birth bundle, birth planning and ways of play. Certificates will be provided.

Justice Circle Workshops

Held bi-weekly

Families currently involved with or at risk of involvement with the justice system and/or CFS system.

Niingwayakochigemin SETTING THINGS RIGHT

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) is pleased to offer a unique program that supports First Nations families involved with Child and Family Services (CFS) and the justice system by focusing on healing relationships through Justice Circles, mediation and one-on-one assistance to support our shared goal of "Bringing Our Children Home."

Niingwayakochigemin is an Ojibway translation for "Setting Things Right." Held bi-weekly Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the FNFAO, 15th Floor 275 Portage Avenue.

Using a culturally based holistic approach, we work to restore relationships between CFS and families and encourage transparent, healthy communication between all parties.

We help build personal strength using the Seven Sacred Teachings to assist in healing families affected by the CFS and justice systems.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Family Justice Circles

An opportunity for the family and CFS agency to come together to foster accountability, responsibility and healthy relationships with the goal of bringing our children home.

Justice Circles

Is your justice system involvement creating barriers to family reunification? We help you move past these barriers, encourage healthy communication and help create a personal plan to support family reunification.

Traditional Teachings

Helping families heal through traditional teachings and lessons on living the good life.



One-on-one Assistance

We provide ongoing support and direct you to resources that will assist with building family strength for reunification.

Grandmother and Grandfather Support Circles

Support from grandmothers and grandfathers when engaging with CFS and the justice system.



Grandparents' Sharing Circle

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO) offers a Grandparents' Sharing Circle to support grandparents currently involved with Manitoba Child and Family Services (CFS).

We offer services to strengthen the family unit and create a support network for First Nations grandparents who are taking care of or supporting family members currently involved with the child welfare system.

Held Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bus tickets and a light snack provided.



System Literacy

Navigating various systems successfully, such as CFS, Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), Employment Insurance, Legal Aid Manitoba, social housing, Residential Tenancies Branch and medical services.

Understanding the CFS Act.

Complaining effectively to make sure your needs are met.

Documentation/ Recordkeeping

The importance of documentation and record keeping—keeping a paper trail.

How to properly document and keep records when dealing with various systems.

Accessing Resources

Help accessing the different resources available to you and your family.

Finding hidden resources when dealing with CFS.

Using the internet or library to help you find resources.

Healthy Boundaries

Exploring what healthy boundaries are, we discuss how and when to set them and why they are important.

What is tough love and why do we practice it? What is enabling and why do we do it?

Self-Care and Ways of Healing

By taking care of ourselves, we can take better care of our loved ones.

Effectively managing the difficulties that come with being a full-time caregiver to your grandchildren.

Healing from trauma.



Cannabis

Federal and Provincial Cannabis Strategy

The AMC Resolution NOV-17.07 *Manitoba First Nations Approach to Legalized Cannabis* directed the AMC GCO to inform Manitoba that a unilateral approach to its policy on legalized cannabis does not apply to First Nations; that Manitoba First Nations must be involved in federal and provincial policies relating to the design of licensing, production, distribution, and sale of legalized cannabis; and that the AMC revive the Chiefs Committee on Economic Development that will work on a Manitoba First Nations approach to the federal and provincial policy on legalized cannabis. The AMC continues to request updates from both levels of government.

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government was not on board at first with Ottawa's plan to legalize cannabis, but they now are working to design a retail strategy.

The province has conditionally accepted proposals from:

- A consortium of **Delta 9 Cannabis Inc.** and **Canopy Growth Corporation** — Delta 9 operates an 80,000-square-foot production facility in Winnipeg and expects to hire about 100 people for production and retail in the first year and an additional 100 the following year. Canopy Growth is headquartered in Smiths Falls, Ont., and operates numerous production facilities across Canada and around the world with over 700,000 square feet of production licensed under Canada's medical cannabis framework.
- **National Access Cannabis** — Operates medical cannabis care centres across Canada. The organization has partnered with several Manitoba First Nations: Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Long Plain First Nation, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, and Peguis First Nation.
- **Tokyo Smoke** — A wholly-owned subsidiary of Hiku Brands Company, in partnership with BOBHQ, a Manitoba-based head shop that operates several retail locations.
- **10552763 Canada Corporation** — The corporation is a new entity featuring Avana Canada Inc. of Ontario, Fisher River Cree Nation of Manitoba, Chippewas of the Thames of Ontario, MediPharm Labs of Ontario, and US-based retailer Native Roots Dispensary.

The number of stores and locations where each group will be allowed to operate must still be worked out.

In December 2017 the federal Liberal government reached a deal with the provinces to divide the excise duty collected on the sale of cannabis—this is a 75-25 split in favour of the provinces, owing to the costs they will incur with legal cannabis. First Nations say their governments will also face new challenges from legal cannabis, but they stand to gain nothing from Ottawa's plan. AMC believes that First Nations should be able to collect taxes and provide some much-needed revenue to their underfunded communities.

The federal government has committed to a new First Nation fiscal relationship based on First Nation fiscal powers to implement First Nation jurisdictions, such as cannabis regulation. However, the lack of First Nation inclusion in the cannabis tax framework is a missed opportunity for the federal government to demonstrate its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship.

First Nations could use funds to:

- develop cannabis-related laws and regulations on reserve;
- fund campaigns to educate young people about the dangers of the drug; and
- bolster First Nations police forces.

There are also jurisdictional and tax considerations. Marijuana production on Indian reserves would fall under federal jurisdiction and conceivably operate tax-free. Therefore there is a need to amend Bill C-45, the government's cannabis bill, to hand taxing authority to First Nations governments so they can impose their own levy on cannabis manufactured and sold on reserves. Another major component will be marijuana production, which will be regulated by Ottawa. First Nations will be allowed to apply for licenses from the federal government through Health Canada.

First Nation leadership has raised many concerns on the government's approach to cannabis legalization. Some of these are:

1. Lack of consultation from First Nations and lack of

representation at the provincial table and discussions

2. Severe lack of resources that create an uneven playing field

3. Need to address mental health and addiction funding and education programs

4. Recommendation that cannabis legislation should follow suit the legislation around tobacco use and its revenue allocation

5. Lack of clarity about who will be regulating cannabis within communities

6. There is a need to address distribution of licenses and how the retail market will function and serve First Nation communities. For example, for some communities, there are vendors outside of communities that need to use provincial roads. How will licenses be distributed?

Each community has different needs and ways of doing things, so the provincial government needs to be cognizant when they reach out to initiate a cannabis retail strategy. AMC has met with the provincial government to let them know that AMC is willing to act as a facilitator in the development of a cannabis strategy as it is up to the sovereign First Nations to determine which direction they wish to go.

Moving Forward

The current federal cannabis resolution as it stands makes no mention of First Nation inclusion despite the fact that First Nations have inherent jurisdiction over economic development initiatives, both federally and provincially, and possess the authority to manage production, licensing and distribution of legalized cannabis. The federal government has committed to a new First Nation fiscal relationship based on First Nation fiscal powers to implement First Nation jurisdictions, such as cannabis regulation. However, the lack of First Nation inclusion in the cannabis tax framework is a missed opportunity for the federal government to show its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship.

At the AFN's Special Chiefs Assembly in Gatineau, Chief Glenn Hudson of Peguis First Nation put forth a resolution (which was passed) on this matter with the following directives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the National Chief of the AFN to inform Canada that First Nations must be consulted by the federal and provincial governments to ensure their full involvement in the design of licensing, production, distribution, and sale of legalized cannabis.

2. Call on Canada to amend Bill C-45 to recognize that First Nations' jurisdiction supersedes provincial legislation and regulation as it pertains to cannabis licensing, production, distribution, and sale of legalized cannabis.

To date, Manitoba has yet to engage or consult with any First Nations in the region on their cannabis retail strategy. AMC was told that Manitoba is waiting to hear from Canada on a number of matters including revenue sharing, taxation, justice, policing, and education. They recently informed the AMC that they are willing to work with the AMC and Manitoba First Nations to ensure they are fully informed on all aspects of the legalization, retail deployment, and fiscal framework related to cannabis.

AMC reminded them once again that it is important that they engage directly with the communities as we fully respect the First Nations' autonomy on this matter and that we will continue to offer our Chiefs-in-Assembly and our AMC Chiefs Committee on Economic Development to assist in the joint development of regulations/policies that may impact on-reserve cannabis businesses and economic development initiatives.

AMC continues to monitor both federal and provincial processes.



Communications

The AMC Secretariat began to implement a communications strategy in October 2017. It was set out from the start that we would begin to ensure regular communications takes place to inform First Nations leadership of the activities of the Grand Chief's Office and the AMC Secretariat on its activities and status of implementation of Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions. This includes briefing notes to the leadership, communications to First Nations, and information provided at Chiefs-in-Assembly, ECC meetings, Chiefs Committee meetings, and various forums and meetings.

A key communication tool has included rebuilding the AMC website and building up AMC's social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter while undertaking news conferences, writing news releases, media statements, speaking notes for the Grand Chief, and assisting our First Nations in promoting their events, etc.

We initiated the following work for our website:

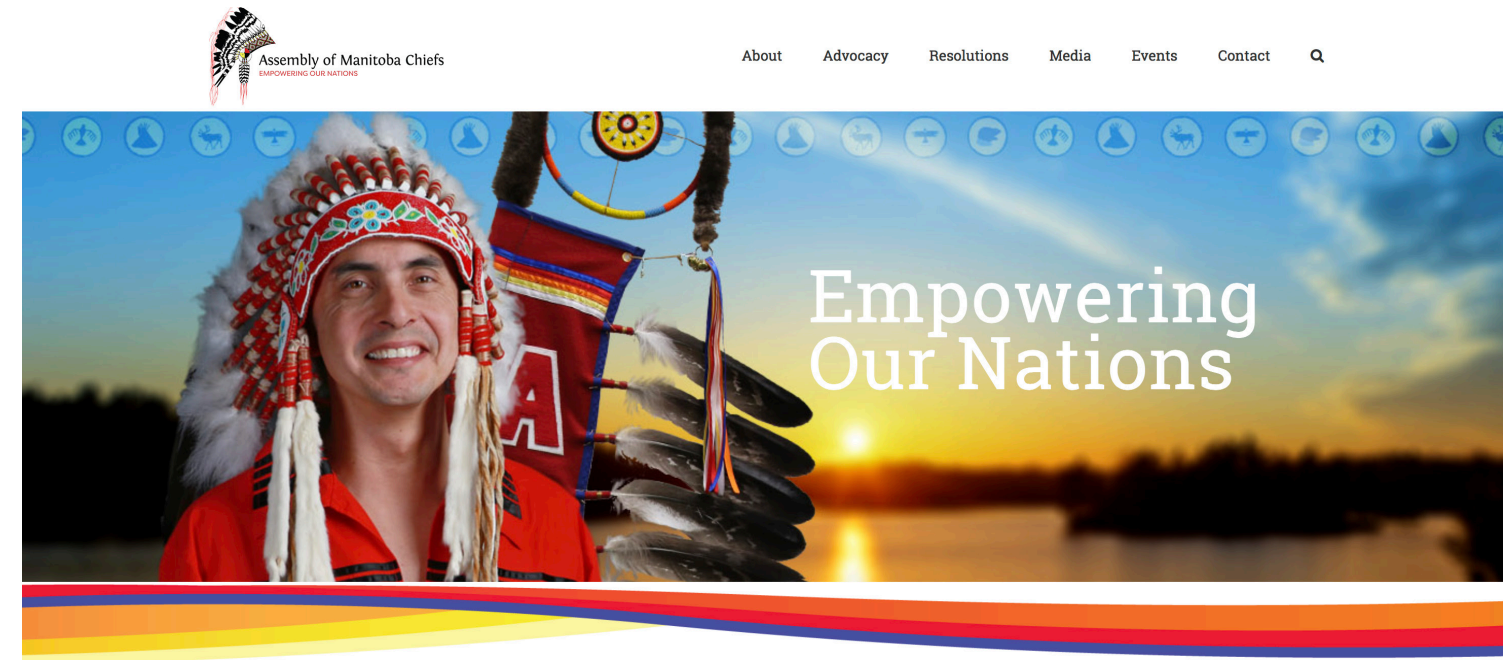
- Posting current events including information on meetings, press releases, media advisories, and activities
- An events calendar listing AMC Assemblies, forums, workshops, First Nations events, pow wows, etc. Anyone is able to submit their event for consideration in this calendar
- List of the AMC Secretariat staff, departments, and contact information
- An in-depth Jordan's Principle page with information on the history of Jordan's Principle, who qualifies, how to find out if you do, reports, and resolutions
- Every resolution AMC has passed from 1987-present

Communications highlights for this fiscal year include:

- The Communications Team began Facebook Live broadcasts when hosting news conferences. This is so everyone can get the whole picture instead of what the media decides to pull for its stories.
- Grand Chief Dumas appeared on APTN's *Face to Face* with Dennis Ward. This 23-minute interview highlighted his first 100 days in office. He also appeared on CBC News.
- Network's flagship show *Power & Politics* at the end of the AFN's Special Chiefs Assembly in December. This six-minute feature interview highlighted that morning's signing

of the Memorandum of Understanding between the AMC and Canada on CFS.

- Created a three-minute video about Sheldon Stueart and his battle with Battens Disease for the Jordan's Principle Case Management Facilitator Forum.
- Wrote and distributed joint news release with MKO and the AFN Regional Chief on the verdict finding Raymond Cormier not guilty.
- Created a quarterly AMC newsletter and a Families First newsletter.
- Re-launched *Ogimaakaan* in partnership with the MFNERC
- Developed and executed a communications plan for Jordan's Principal.
- Created several graphic items for conferences, social media, and mail-outs
- We have increased the number of likes on the Facebook page. We average 377 new likes per month. Twitter's growth is slower, gaining about one new follower per day. We also create our own memes for various holidays, office closures, and for congratulations to communities, groups, or people.
- Wrote several letters to editors of various news organizations. The one that had the most impact was to the *Globe and Mail* on January 31, 2018. Their story on Tina Fontaine's toxicology report painted stereotypes with their headline. The AMC's letter to the editor had a Facebook reach of 567,121 people, elicited 21,059 reactions, and 79,801 post clicks to view the full letter. On Twitter there were 235,937 impressions, and 13,528 engagements.



MANITOBACHIEFS.COM SCREENSHOT



NEW AMC BANNER



WILDFIRE INFORMATION POSTER



Learn then Earn.
 Campus locations in Thompson
 and The Pas.

**12 Regional Centres
 throughout
 Northern Manitoba**

**W: ucn.ca
 E: info@ucn.ca**



**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
 OF THE NORTH**



First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba



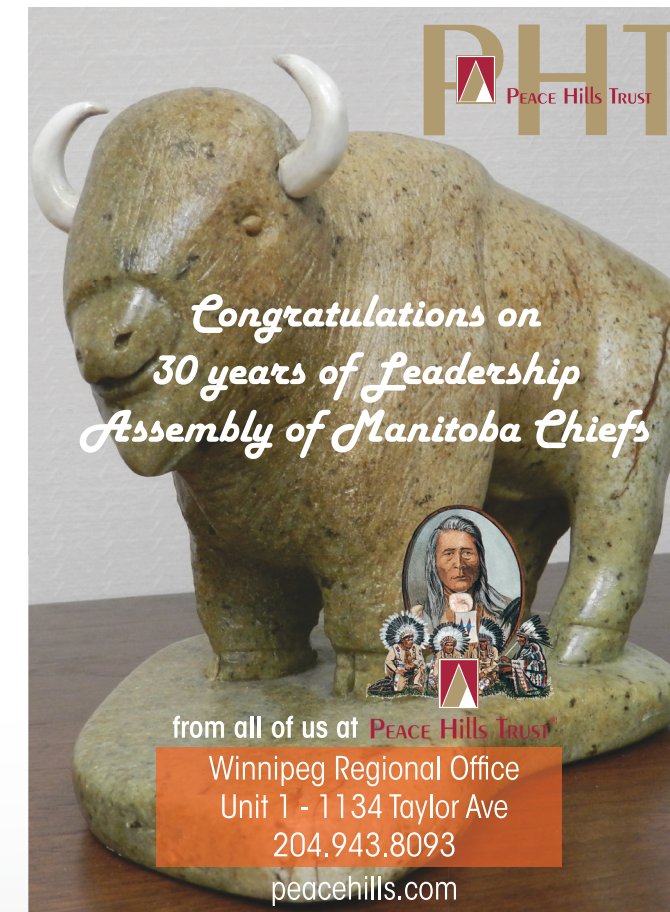
The First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) Board of Directors and Staff congratulates the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs on their 30th Anniversary of political advocacy for First Nations in Manitoba. FNHSSM wishes AMC every success in continuing to unify the voice of the First Nations. FNHSSM is proud to work in partnership with AMC to achieve the vision of the Universal Health Accord that will establish health systems model and sustain wellness for First Nations into the future.



Do the Downs!

- Live racing May - September
 See our complete schedule at ASDowns.com
- 140 VLTs open daily 9 a.m. - 2 a.m. Free VLT tournaments
- Televised racing & wagering in Vegas-style racebook
- Fabulous dining featuring the best view in the house
- Facility rentals for meetings, conferences, socials, weddings and fundraisers
- \$10 buy-in poker every Friday and Saturday
- Open 365 days a year with FREE parking & admission

ASDowns.com • 3975 Portage Ave • 204-885-3330

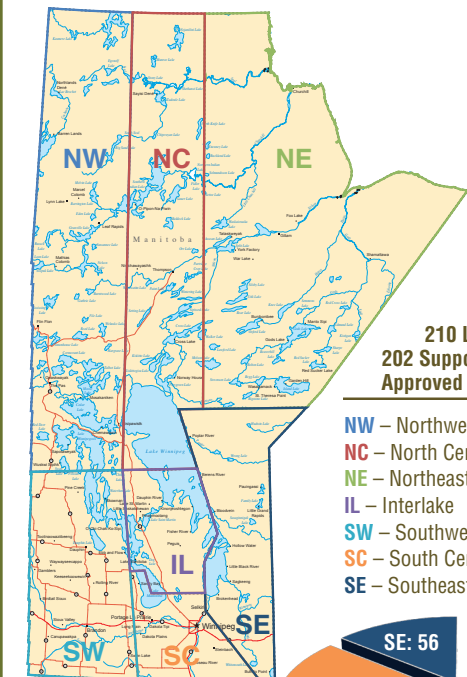


*Congratulations on
 30 years of Leadership
 Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs*

from all of us at **PEACE HILLS TRUST**
 Winnipeg Regional Office
 Unit 1 - 1134 Taylor Ave
 204.943.8093
peacehills.com

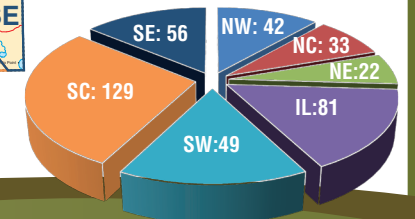
**FIRST PEOPLES
 economic growth fund**

Serving the Manitoba First Nations
 Business Community since 2008



210 Loans and
 202 Support Applications
 Approved = \$38,896,842

NW - Northwest	\$4,475,084
NC - North Central	\$3,190,824
NE - Northeast	\$2,432,798
IL - Interlake	\$6,338,998
SW - Southwest	\$5,979,341
SC - South Central	\$11,048,965
SE - Southeast	\$5,430,832



www.firstpeoplesfund.ca

Training. Support.

We provide training and support for all Manitoba First Nation VLT sites and gaming commissions.

Find out more about our services:

- training@LGAmanitoba.ca
- 1-800-782-0363
- www.LGAmanitoba.ca



Liquor and Gaming
Authority of Manitoba

Promoting leadership in gaming financial accountability.

30 MINUTES NORTH OF WINNIPEG ON HIGHWAY 59. ALWAYS FREE VALET!



Discover

South Beach Casino & Resort!

- Hotel Packages
- Real Cash Back!
- 600 Slot Machines
- Live Entertainment

.....
WEEKLY BUS TRIPS STARTING AT ONLY \$20 PER PERSON!



southbeachcasino.ca | 1-877-775-8259





Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS



@AssemblyMBChiefs



@AMCMBChiefs

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

Suite 200-275 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2B3, Canada

Phone: (204) 956-0610
Toll Free Number: 1 (888) 324-5483
Fax: (204) 956-2109

Email: info@manitobachiefs.com
www.manitobachiefs.com