



Securing a Future for our Children:

Advancing our Nations

Chiefs of Ontario
Annual Report
2017-18



“The essence of this painting is that the destiny of our children should be built on the strengths of the grandfathers and grandmothers. The children’s genius, innovations, and determination will design how they imagine their “teaching scrolls” – and the children will not stand alone.”

Leland Bell is Anishinabe from the Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation on Manitoulin Island. He is Loon Clan and a second degree member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Society.

Leland was one of the young men mentored by members of the Indian Group of Seven at the Manitou Arts Foundation, a summer school that operated on Schreiber Island in 1972. He was deeply inspired by the work of the Woodland artists and with the help of elders has made the connection between the Anishnabe concept of vision quest and his own commitment to living life as a good being.

Leland Bell’s paintings are of stylized human figures sharing the affinity of family or friends, often depicting imagery of nurturing, sharing, learning, peace and serenity.

“My art comes from the Three Fires (or Midewiwin) tradition. That is what I believe in. I came to this belief through a dream I had about peace. It was a deeply spiritual experience. After consulting with Elders I began trying to build my sense of spirituality. Then I needed to have an Indian name. I consulted with some elders and asked them to help me find my name. I was given the name Bebaminojmat which, loosely translated, means, ‘when you go around you talk about good things’. Then I fasted to prepare my body and my mind to talk to the Creator. This is where my art comes from.

“The circle is central to our tradition. The Creator sits in the East. Yellow is the colour for that direction; the sacred herb is tobacco; the animal is the eagle. Red is the colour of the South which is the place of all young life, of the little animals; the sacred plant is cedar. The West is the place of life; its colour is black and the sacred medicine is sage. All the healing powers come from the North; its colour is white; sweetgrass comes from there; and that is where the sacred bear sits. “The Circle is what my paintings are based on. The rounded lines are deliberate ... what I create is something simple and serene and peaceful.”

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Ontario Regional Chief Report

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I extend warm greetings to our Youth, Elders, Leadership, and citizens participating in the 44th Annual All-Ontario Chiefs Conference, hosted this year by Nipissing First Nation and the Anishinabek Nation.

The location of this year's AOCC is fitting. Nipissing First Nation is striving towards what all our communities want – independence, sustainability, and a prosperous future for their children. Nipissing is a signatory of the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty which was intended to share the lands and resources with the newcomers. If properly implemented today, all treaties will enable the creation of the potential for prosperous co-development in the Ontario Region.

A proud Anishinabek community, today, Nipissing has taken bold steps to advance its Nationhood through its own Constitution, which was adopted in 2014, a necessary step in ending the Indian Act. Just as Nipissing continues to assert its Treaty Rights, Jurisdiction, and Nationhood, so must we all. We must also assert our rights through the lens of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

Since the April 17-19 Special Chiefs Assembly, we are finally getting unity on important issues from all regions. Restructuring, organizational change and good governance are critical if we want the

Chiefs of Ontario to continue to be relevant. It is my continued goal to return the Chiefs of Ontario to its rightful owners -- the leadership -- who are the ones that hold in trust the Chiefs of Ontario on behalf of the youth, the Elders, and the community members who seek our assistance.

We are all reminded of the urgency we have in regard to our relationship with both the federal and provincial governments. The federal Liberals have 14 months left in office. There must be a renewed effort to focus on Child Welfare, environmental protection, justice, wealth creation, housing, and eliminating boil water advisories in order to meet the March 2021 deadline of clean water for all. As you may know, the five year time-frame was agreed upon when I challenged Prime Minister Trudeau to deliver on finally meeting this basic human right.

Specifically on matters of Child Welfare, we must forge ahead with both the federal and provincial governments towards securing long-term child welfare funding under our own jurisdiction. Our communities and regions must have the resources to bring our children home. Until this happens, we will continue our difficult struggle to heal, and build happy, healthy communities. We have opened up those doors, our First Nations now have a tri-lateral and bi-lateral processes that are making this a reality.

We must find a way to work with this new majority PC government. I've already spoken to Premier Designate Doug Ford and reminded him that First Nations have treaty and inherent rights that must be respected and acted upon. I have expressed the importance of mutual interest on matters of

wealth and resources of this province because our ancestors agreed to share the lands in peace and friendship; and that treaties are relevant agreements that formed a potential for wealth that must be shared equally. It's time to ensure we receive our fair share of the province's wealth.

I've continued to voice to Ontario, before this election, during, and in this post-election, that all our communities must benefit from Resource Revenue Sharing. We must share equally in the province's revenues, which includes taxes from cannabis sales. I noted respectfully that progress has been made with the previous Liberal government. This included the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund as a result of the sale of 2.5 per cent of Hydro One shares. This would never have happened if I had not directly challenged former Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Ontario has 25 per cent of the First Nation national population, but only receives 8 to 11 per cent of the national federal funding. At this rate, the housing crisis will worsen. We will never be able to adequately address urgent needs. For example, Ontario requires \$2 billion to address the housing crisis on-reserve. The current national housing funding level of \$200 million per year, translates, at best, into \$50 million for the Ontario Region.

Without significant funding increases, such as aligning with regional population profiles, this crisis will continue, and will likely worsen. The Chiefs of Ontario are now working with the Ontario Region of Indigenous Services to correct this funding inequity as soon as possible. We hope to make significant progress in the months to come.

On February 14th, 2018, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the government's intention to table an Indigenous Rights Framework and Legislation, to be passed before the October 2019 federal election. The current engagement process consists of three hour long regional meetings with various interest groups, along with the opportunity to provide email submissions. I have heard several criticisms and I look forward to receiving clear direction from the Chiefs in Assembly.

At the May 1-2 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly on Legislation, Chiefs from across Canada passed resolutions to remind the federal government that we – the First Nation communities and citizens – must be fully engaged in developing legislation that impacts upon us. We must be fully engaged in face-to-face meetings with the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This has not happened.

By the end of this summer, the federal government will implement legislation to legalize the sale of Cannabis. Currently, there are no provisions in the legislation which address First Nation needs, from health and public safety, to youth education and economic development. Other pieces of federal legislation that will directly impact First Nation land rights include Environmental, Energy, and Navigable Waters. Again, this legislation requires deep consultation including complete co-development by First Nations.

At the May 3-4 Joint Gathering with the federal government's Indigenous Services – Ontario Region, our Chiefs re-iterated that the return of lands and resources is the most critical outstanding issue that must be addressed. There will be no social

justice for First Nations, no positive future for our children, if we do not have a sufficient land base to build happy, healthy sustainable communities. As the youth reminded us at the Joint Gathering -- we are the land. The land means everything to us.

Our Chiefs and Grand Chiefs stated that far too many of our Peoples are physically, spiritually, and mentally damaged by colonial dependency trickled down on postage stamp size pieces of land. Until we escape from the chains of dependency and the shackles of the Indian Act, we will never achieve social and economic equality.

Remember, there is strength in unity. We cannot – we must not – fall under a “divide and conquer” mentality – whether with governments, or amongst ourselves. We must never back down when colonial governments tell us to how to live our lives.

We must exercise our own jurisdiction within our own laws and protocols. We will continue to advance our Nations in order to secure a better future for our children.

Miigwetch!

Secretariat Greeting



**Aaaniin, Boozhoo,
Tansi, Shekon, Sago!**

On behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat, we would like to welcome leadership to the 44th All Ontario Chiefs Conference hosted by the Anishinabek Nation and Nipissing First Nation. The focus of this year's AOCC is "Securing a Future for our Children: Advancing our Nations".

Both the AOCC Agenda and Annual Report speak to the work that has been done this past year, as well as the work that is underway. At this AOCC, we look forward to receiving feedback from you as the Secretariat continues to provide strong advocacy, analysis, and coordination based on your unwavering direction.

For as long as those in the role of Chief Operating Officer have had the privilege to write you these greetings; they have stated that the previous year has been full of both setbacks and accomplishments. This year has been no exception. Change is difficult, and we continue to see a lot of change both politically and within the Secretariat. We have had an incredibly busy year full of Special

Chiefs Assemblies, meetings, and lobbying for impactful legislative change. We have lost staff, added exceptional new staff, and are modernizing our organization through a complete restructuring process.

Your role at this year's AOCC will be key to facilitate the change that our organization so desperately requires: To adapt a restructuring model that is reflective of your needs and ensures we are continuously progressing and serving you best.

As we enter a phase of political uncertainty at the provincial level, we must continue to ensure that the Chiefs in Ontario are setting the agenda, not simply reacting to it – and that you have an organization flexible and capable enough to assist you, and your community, in this agenda setting.

Our processes must be modernized in order to serve you best. We need to rethink our approaches to 'Advance our Nations' in order to 'Secure a Future for our Children'. As the Secretariat continues to develop strategic approaches to issues, we continue to look towards you in order to reaffirm and revitalize Nationhood through collective action and common responsibility, while remaining flexible enough to ensure First Nation leadership from across Ontario are able to participate in a structured political dialogue.

This approach has seen much success over the past year as demonstrated through our accomplishments with Ministries such as the Ministry of Energy – through 129 of our communities acquiring over 14,000 common shares of Hydro One Ltd., through the Sovereign Wealth Fund LP; the Ministry of Community Safety



and Correctional Services – by partnering with our regions to advocate for policing pay parity akin to the OPP and the recognition of First Nations policing as an “essential service” through an opt-in model, which received royal assent in the “Safer Ontario Act”; through the Ministries of Education, Health & Long-Term Care and Infrastructure seen through better access, processes, and increased budgetary commitments; and finally through a tri-partite commitment towards a renewed child welfare model.

However, there is still more work to be done on our approaches.

The Secretariat continues to assess the type of working relationship we need with changing governments in order to best respond to the needs of First Nations. We have continued advocacy into

the tri-partite, provincial and federal issues that remain stagnant while ensuring greater access for First Nations at government tables; such as Chief Hill’s participation as a member of the Ministers Table on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion – the first non-Minister to ever sit on one of these tables; and remaining committed to follow-up through a strong tracking system and advanced policy coordination and analysis.

The Secretariat continues to impress upon both the provincial and federal governments that our region is in the most advantageous position to make positive, transformative change. However, our region requires its fair share of funding to ensure communities are best served to their population sizes. This has been a key priority of both the Secretariat and Political Offices this year. Governments give their Ministers strong mandates

to work on improving outcomes for our Peoples. Now is the time to make those mandates a reality through long term, equitable and sustainable investments in our communities, and our children.

In conclusion, it is with great pride that the Directors, Advisors, Policy Analysts, Coordinators and the rest of our team thank you for your continued commitment, hard work and diligence in advancing First Nation issues. None of this work would be possible without your leadership.

As always, we are here to serve your needs at the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat.

Miigwetch, Ay-ay, Nya:weh,

The Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat

History



In the very heartland of Turtle Island (known today as North America) around the Great Lakes and James and Hudson Bays is the bounty of creation that provided a homeland for the original peoples—the 15 Nations in the province now known as Ontario. Living by sacred laws given to us by the Creator, we were – and continue to be – sovereign Nations.

We governed ourselves according to our own constitutions and exercised inherent jurisdiction through our systems of governance. Using the expansive ancient trails and the waterways of the western hemisphere, we established social, economic, cultural and political relationships on a scale grander than that of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Many of these networks were formalized into treaties, alliances and agreements of the highest order of international relations. The establishment of political organizations is rooted in the inherent freedom of association and the power of First Nations to create alliances.

In March of 1975, at the first annual All-Ontario Chiefs Conference, a joint Indian Associations Coordination Committee was formed, constituting a federation of four First Nation political territorial organizations in Ontario.

Chronology of Ontario Regional Chiefs

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Peter Tobasonakwut Kelly
June 1982 to Spring 1983 | 5. Tom Bressette
June 1997 to June 2000 |
| 2. Patrick Madahbee
Spring 1983 to June 1983 | 6. Charles Fox
June 2000 to June 2005 |
| 3. Wally McKay
June 1983 to June 1985 | 7. Angus Toulouse
June 2005 to June 2012 |
| 4. Gordon Peters
June 1985 to June 1997 | 8. Stan Beardy
June 2012 to June 2015 |
| | 9. Isadore Day
June 2015 - present |

The purpose of the Committee was to provide a single Ontario representative to the Assembly of First Nations (then, the National Indian Brotherhood). From this Committee emerged the Chiefs of Ontario, its basic purpose is to enable the political leadership to discuss and to decide on regional, provincial and national priorities affecting First Nation peoples in Ontario.

The Chiefs of Ontario has become a vehicle to facilitate relationships between the federal and provincial governments and First Nation peoples in Ontario. As such, the Chiefs of Ontario office acts as a Secretariat and coordinating body for the 133 First Nations and the four political territorial organizations.

The activities of the Chiefs of Ontario are mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and guided by the Political Confederacy (PC) which is comprised of the Grand Chiefs of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians; Grand Council Treaty #3; Nishnawbe-Aski Nation; the Union of Ontario Indians; representatives of the Independent First Nations; and, the Ontario Regional Chief.

Organizational Objectives:

The main objective of the Chiefs of Ontario office is to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional and national matters affecting the First Nations people of Ontario. The intention of basing the central office in Toronto is to maintain a presence for First Nations in Ontario that is non-government and non-political in order to communicate with government officials on an urgency basis.

In accordance with its role as a coordinating body, the Chiefs of Ontario office carries out its responsibility by ensuring that all information on matters affecting and/or impacting First Nations is disseminated to the communities, Tribal Councils and Political Territorial Organizations. (Analysis of these issues is conducted through the various committees and/or councils, and is then raised to the Political Confederacy for implementation).

This initiative is accomplished through the development of a portfolio system which designates specific areas of responsibilities to our Coordinators. Each Coordinator is then assigned to a PC member based on their respective area.

Priorities:

Chiefs of Ontario initiatives have been organized into a number of different priority areas:

- **Economic Development:** The goal of the Economic Development sector at the Chiefs of Ontario is to work with communities to help address economic challenges.
- **Education:** The Education Coordination sector is responsible to provide the Ontario Education Portfolio with issues, briefing papers and specific strategies for political action.
- **Environment:** The Environmental Coordination sector works in the following areas: water, climate change, species at risk, contaminants, traditional knowledge and intellectual property - protecting our “collective knowledge systems,” and environmental assessments.

- **Health:** The mandate of the Chiefs Committee on Health is to protect and maintain our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights to health and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the Ontario Regional Chief, Health Portfolio of the Political Confederacy, Political Confederacy and the Chiefs in Assembly on matters pertaining to First Nations health.
- **Justice:** The Justice Coordination sector was established in response to the growing need for representation and advocacy on issues relating to justice for First Nations in Ontario.
- **Social Services:** The Social Services Coordination sector was set up to support First Nation participation in policy and program development of social services for their regions.
- **Youth:** The Ontario First Nations Youth Peoples Council is a regional youth council that represents the youth of all First Nations in Ontario by being a voice for youth issues at all levels of government.


Political Confederacy

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The activities of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) is overseen by the Political Confederacy (PC), who provide guidance and direction to the Regional Chief. The PC meets to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to the implementation of mandates. They also bring their personal wisdom and experience forward on regional issues and opportunities for First Nations in Ontario.

Portfolio responsibilities have been taken on by members of the PC. These portfolios include wide mandates such as health, education, environment and social services. Working with busy political leadership, the COO secretariat makes constant efforts through the Directors to assist each PC portfolio holder. The portfolio system gives each Grand Chief and Chief an opportunity to lead and build capacity on a sector within the Province of Ontario. The Ontario Regional Chief has AFN national portfolios in “Cannabis” as well as “Health.”

The main objective of the COO Office is to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional, provincial, federal, and national matters. This allows for a unified voice on these issues. This unified voice is achieved through the coordination of the four PTO’s and Independent First Nations to discuss and decide on priorities affecting First Nations.



Members of the Chiefs of Ontario Political Confederacy and Representatives of the Ontario First Nations Youth Council attending the Bi-Annual Political Accord Meeting with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and MPP David Zimmer.

Left to right: Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Elder Gary Sault, Hon. David Zimmer, Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare, Chief Ava Hill, Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, OFNYPC Representatives Darian Doblej, Valerie Ooshag, Megan Logan, and Grand Chief Joel Abram.

Photo taken August 1, 2017



Members of the Political Confederacy



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Chiefs of Ontario would like to thank **Deputy Grand Chief Gord Peters** and **Former Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee** for their work as Political Confederacy members. Both have worked tirelessly for the betterment of first Nations across Ontario, we admire your efforts and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

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Background

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Strategic & Executive Core team provides proactive direction and approaches for addressing and/or informing on priority areas within COO departments; as mandated by the Chiefs in Assembly.

Overview

The Strategic & Executive Core team provides guidance and support on policy initiatives, federal and provincial government relations, program management, and oversees emerging initiatives. This is accomplished through oversight on internal and external briefings and reports and streamlining the policy process within the COO Secretariat. Through this work, COO continues to improve and strengthen internal and external communications as it relates to policy support work, advice, and implementation of the Political Accord; advancing and supporting the building of knowledge of COO processes and practices to support transparency and accountability.



Responsibility for the establishment and support for relationships and networks with all levels of government and governance structures is a critical component to the overall support provided. Working to support timely and effective information dissemination to all internal and external partners is a key component of the communications process within the Chiefs of Ontario, led by the Strategic and Executive Core.

Initiatives

The Strategic and Executive Core provides advice, quality assurance and guidance on all departmental initiatives. However, some initiatives are exclusively under this department's purview:

Political Accord

Since August 2015, the Political Confederacy (PC) has been working with Premier Wynne and her Cabinet on a new relationship based upon respecting First Nation Treaty Rights and advancing First Nation determined governments. The Political Accord is the most important collective milestone between Ontario and First Nations in modern times.

Clause 1: Leverages the Government of Ontario to go beyond the existing policy approach to self-government by giving legal effect to First Nations inherent right by way of agreement or legislation.

Clause 2: Strengthens bilateral relationships between First Nations and Ontario

Clause 3: Creates a process for the Political Confederacy and the Premier of Ontario to meet and discuss objectives

Clause 4: Establishes a process for resolving issues surrounding jurisdiction

Clause 5: Commits Ontario to clarify issues extending from relationship, and finding alternatives to courts to resolve disputes

The Political Accord has shown its value in a few important ways:

- The de facto stance of the Ontario government is that of recognizing treaties and First Nation self-governance.
- The Accord comes with opportunities for meaningful co-jurisdictional work to move forward.
- The Political Accord is a tool that First Nations have utilized at the Community, PTO, and Provincial (COO) level.



Achievements from Political Accord 2017/2018

- First Nation Delivery Credit (Energy)
- Sovereign Wealth Fund LP
- Aboriginal Institutes Policy
- OSAP Transformation
- Safer Ontario Act, 2017
- Investments in the Correctional System
- Child Welfare Reform Commitments and Investment
- PC Meeting with Premier Wynne
- Leaders in the Legislature 2017

The latest **PC meeting with Premier Wynne** was held on August 1, 2017. Topics included:

Climate Change and Cap and Trade, Consultation and Accommodation, Drinking Water, Indian

Welfare Agreement, Life Promotion, Ontario's Action Plan for Reconciliation (The Journey Together), Resource Revenue Sharing and the Strategy for a Safer Ontario.

Minister's Table on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion

This past year, the Strategic and Executive Core through confirmation by the Political Confederacy, lobbied the Provincial Government to have a permanent First Nations leader sit on one of their Cabinet Committee Tables. Chief Ava Hill was chosen by the Political Confederacy to sit as the Special Advisor on the Minister's Table on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion.

The ministers tables are part of the cabinet committee structure. Generally all policy initiatives, including government bills, are "vetted" or reviewed by one of the cabinet committee's or one of the



ministers' tables before being put on the cabinet agenda. Chief Hill had an integral role in ensuring there was a strong First Nations lens on all socially centered provincial bills being considered by the government.

Fiscal Relations

At AOCC 2016, the Chiefs in Assembly approved an initiative to research and seek options in order to establish a new fiscal relationship between First Nations in Ontario and Canada. Following AOCC 2016, COO staff began developing an Ontario specific project to examine the possibilities of a new fiscal relationship.

The current system of federal funding for First Nations is not only outdated, but does not meet the needs of communities. Therefore, the Strategic and Executive Core will work to advocate for an Ontario specific fiscal relationship with the federal

government. Such a relationship would eliminate the current funding system, while also dissuading the federal government from pursuing a pan-aboriginal approach.

The Core Team is currently in the process of coordinating First Nation Fiscal Roundtables to gather community and leadership input.

One Million Trees

By request of the Ontario Regional Chief, the Strategic and Executive Core worked with Forests Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to provide one million trees to First Nations communities – accomplished through partnering in the 50 Million Tree Program.

The objective of the 50 Million Tree Program is to plant 50 million trees across Ontario by 2025. Forests Ontario is the lead delivery agent of the program, working with partners across the

province to make this goal a reality. Forests Ontario connects communities with experienced forestry professionals who help manage the planting process.

To determine eligibility for your community or more information on how it works, please visit www.forestsontario.ca or call 1-877-646-1193

Events

All Ontario Chiefs Conference 2017

The All Ontario Chiefs Conference “Determining our Path: Stability for Future Generations” (AOCC 2017) was held June 13-15, 2017 in Lac Seul First Nation; regionally hosted by Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

For more information on the All Ontario Chiefs Conference 2017, see page 74

Leaders in the Legislature 2017

During the week of November 20-23, 2017, the Chiefs of Ontario hosted the fifth annual Leaders in the Legislature; an opportunity for First Nation leadership to meet with the Premier and Ontario Cabinet Ministers to bring attention to areas of key concern for their communities. In 2017, Premier Wynne, the Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, 26 additional Ontario Cabinet Ministers, MPP Patrick Brown, (former) Leader of the Official Opposition Progressive Conservative Party, MPP Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and select federal Members of Parliament attended to engage with Chiefs and hear their concerns and priorities.

The Leaders in the Legislature direct engagement between First Nation leaders with Premier Wynne and Cabinet reflects the commitments of the Political Accord and provides a critical path towards both improving the relationship and achieving measurable results.

For more information on Leaders in the Legislature 2017, see page 17

Special Chiefs Assembly 2018

A Special Chiefs Assembly was held in Toronto from April 17-19, 2018 to deal with urgent matters — restructuring the Chiefs of Ontario organization; developing a strategy to address the lack of federal funding equity in Ontario; and addressing the provincial election and impending federal legislation that directly impacts First Nation rights.

Ontario has 25 per cent of the First Nation national population, but only receives 8 to 11 per cent of the national federal funding. The current national funding level of \$200 million per year, translates, at best, into \$50 million for the Ontario Region. Without significant funding increases as aligning with regional population profiles, this crisis will continue and likely worsen.

Special Chiefs Assembly Outcomes

Through the resolutions passed, the Chiefs of Ontario are now working with the Ontario Region of Indigenous Services to correct this funding inequity as soon as possible and continues to work with leadership on restructuring of the Chiefs of Ontario organization.



Leaders in the Legislature

The work to rebuild trust and community is ongoing and sometimes difficult, but the progress we are making is real. We still have so much to do in order to bring about real and lasting change for this generation, our children and our grandchildren. Today, we recommit to taking the necessary steps to strengthen our government-to-government relationship and, most importantly, create more fairness and opportunities for First Nations communities across Ontario.

*Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day and Premier Kathleen Wynne Joint Statement
November 23, 2017*



Overview

During the week of November 20-23, 2017, the Chiefs of Ontario hosted the fifth annual Leaders in the Legislature; an opportunity for First Nation leadership to meet with the Premier and Ontario Cabinet Ministers to bring attention to areas of key concern for their communities. In 2017, Premier Wynne, the Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, 26 additional Ontario Cabinet Ministers, MPP Patrick Brown, (former) Leader of the Official Opposition (Progressive Conservative Party), MPP Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and select federal Members of Parliament attended to engage with Chiefs and hear their concerns and priorities.

The event included thematic and relevant presentations from Chiefs of Ontario Senior Staff and Directors in the mornings, with representatives of the Ontario government attending these thematic panel sessions in the afternoons, according to their Ministry. This allowed Chiefs to speak candidly with each other to determine collective priorities. Monday through Wednesday was divided into the themes of: *Safe Communities and Cannabis* (Day One), *Community Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning* (Day Two), and *Environment, Energy, and Infrastructure* (Day Three). The final day was a dedicated Special Chiefs Assembly, devoted to collective decision making via resolutions and an in-depth discussion of the Duty to Consult.



Under the topic of **Safe Communities** on Day One, the focus was on changes to First Nations policing in Ontario. Ontario was undergoing the largest policing transformation in a generation, including creating a provincial legislative basis for First Nation police services, while enabling First Nations to opt into the creation of First Nation Police Services Boards, whilst creating a mechanism to force Ontario to increase funding to First Nation Police Services in order to meet provincial standards.

On the heels of the federal legislation to legalize cannabis by July 1, 2018, Ontario's framework for **Cannabis** also was a focal point for Leaders in the Legislature. On the one hand, the positive economic opportunities cannabis represents for First Nations were explored, as were the challenges to participating in the industry. More attention was placed on the potential health, social, and justice implications, with First Nations and Ontario agreeing that all parties have to engage and consult with First Nations before cannabis is legalized.



Community Wellbeing was one of the themes for Day Two, with a particular focus on child wellbeing. Chiefs of Ontario had recently initiated an Ontario Special Study on the child welfare system as mandated by *Resolution 21/17*, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal and supported by both the provincial and federal governments. Leadership also expressed concerns on the new *Child, Family and Youth Services Act, 2017*; particularly in the way that First Nation concerns are integrated into the Act. Further, recommendations were made on how



to implement the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), and the requirement for capital and human resources needed for long-term care on reserves.

During the discussions on education and **Lifelong Learning**, the Chiefs worked to ensure that their communities enjoyed functional partnerships with Ontario and that funding from Ottawa would reach the communities. First Nation leadership also advocated that the Ministry of Education continue

to support and participate in the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table, and that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development join this Table. Chiefs of Ontario's Director of Education also briefed the assembly on the Memorandum to Cabinet which was being created with the goal of unlocking INAC funding, which is currently reserved for transformation funding (the Memorandum has now been presented to Cabinet). Day Three of Leaders in the Legislature was devoted

to **Energy, Infrastructure, and the Environment**. First Nation leadership pressed Ontario Cabinet Ministers on the infrastructure and capital needs facing First Nation communities. Chiefs talked about the energy delivery credit as a major win for First Nations, but a hard fought one. In regards to environmental discussions, there was much attention paid to the lack of action on key files including in drinking water and First Nation engagement in the *Climate Change Action Plan*.



A highlight of the event was the **Four Corner Table**, an opportunity for all levels of government (First Nation, municipal, provincial, and federal) to come to the same table to discuss priority issues. This particular table included Chief Bull of Lac Seul First Nation, Mayor Doug Lawrence of Sioux Lookout, Attorney General Hon. Yasir Naqvi (ON), Hon. Marie France Lalonde (Community Safety and Correctional Services - ON), MP Mark Holland (Parliamentary Secretary for Public Safety - CAN) and MP Don Rusnak (Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Services - CAN) to tackle issues

of community safety and eliminating the racism and violence that First Nations experience when travelling to neighbouring non-First Nation communities.

Finally, the **Ontario First Nation Young People's Council** hosted meetings with many Cabinet Ministers and the Ontario Indigenous Youth and Community Wellness Secretariat, and advocated for improved relationships and engagement with First Nation youth across Ontario.

For an in-dept analysis of all commitments made by the provincial government and opposition parties, please contact the COO Secretariat for a copy of that "Leaders in the legislature 2017: Outcomes Document".

Sector:

Economic & Sustainable Community Development



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Energy:
Ontario Regional Chief Day

Housing & Infrastructure:
Chief Shining Turtle

Wealth Creation:
Chief Benedict & Chief Hill

Chiefs Committee on Energy:

Mandate: To advocate for opportunities for affordable and reliable energy in First Nations communities.

Chief Ava Hill (Six Nations)

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox
(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)

Chief Don Maracle
(Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)

Chief Dan Miskokomon
(Bkejwanong Territory)

Chief Elaine Johnston
(Serpent River First Nation)

Chief Janice Henderson
(Mitaanjugamiing First Nation)

Chief Scott McLeod
(Nipissing First Nation)

Chiefs Committee on Energy (Hydro One Shares):

Mandate: to oversee the coordination and development of the Ontario First Nations Housing Strategy

Deputy Grand Chief Gordon Peters
– Co-chair (AIAI)

Sara Mainville – Co-chair

Chief Abram Benedict
(Akwasasne)

Chief Ava Hill (Six Nations)

Chief Judy-Whitecloud Manula
(Lac Des Milles Lac)

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox
(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)

Jason Batise (Wabun Tribal Council)

Gary Allen (Grand Council Treaty 3)

Brendan Huston
(Anishinabek Nation)

Jason Laronde (Anishinabek Nation)

Phil Monture (Six Nations)

Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure:

Mandate: To oversee the coordinate and development of Ontario First Nation Housing Strategy.

Chief Darryl Lazore
(Akwasasne)

Councilor Jeff Loucks
(Hiawatha First Nation)

Councilor Dave Hill
(Six Nations)

Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon
(Independent First Nations)

Grace Martineau (OFNTSC)

Michael McKay
(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)

Brian Staats (OFNTSC)

Chiefs Committee on Wealth Creation:

Mandate: To advocate for policies and programs that will allow for Wealth Creation in First Nations Communities

Chief Abram Benedict
(Akwasasne)

Chief Ava Hill (Six Nations)

Chief Duke Peltier
(Wikwemikong)

Chief Peter Collins (Fort William First Nation)

Councilor Ted Williams
(Rama First Nation)

Chiefs of Ontario ESCD Staff

Amy Lickers (Director)

Barret Dokis (Senior Policy Advisor)

Amelia Williams (Policy Analyst)

Overview

The Economic & Sustainable Community Development Sector is a new unit to the Chiefs of Ontario, formally established in the fall of 2017. The unit provides information sharing, guidance and recommendations to the Political Confederacy (PC) and COO on wealth creation, energy, housing & infrastructure and other community development issues. The goal of the unit is to provide support for the development of healthy and sustainable First Nation homes and communities.



Chiefs Committee on Energy/Hydro One Shares

On December 29, 2017, the Ontario First Nations Sovereign Wealth LP closed one of the largest First Nations commercial limited partnerships. One hundred twenty-nine of the Ontario First Nations partnered in the acquisition of 14,391,012 common shares of Hydro One Limited, and received a seed capital contribution of \$29,023,890.00. This is a significant opportunity for long-term wealth generation in First Nations.

Chiefs Committee on Energy (First Nations Energy Rate)

The Chiefs Committee on Energy (First Nations Energy Rate) was the committee worked with the Ministry of Energy on the implementation of First Nations Delivery Credit in July 2017. To date, all on-reserve First Nations residential energy customers are eligible for full credit of delivery charges.

The committee is continuing to work with Ministry of Energy staff to have the credit extended to band buildings, all on-reserve buildings and off-reserve First Nation residential accounts.

Chiefs Committee on Energy (Grievance table)

The Chiefs Committee on Energy (Grievance table) was established to act as a conduit for Chiefs to begin working with the appropriate energy organization to resolve energy related grievances. The grievance table has been able to use their established relationships to identify which energy entity the grievance lies with and direct the Chief to the appropriate decision maker. Over the last year, five First Nations were able to find resolution to long-standing energy grievances.

Political Roundtable

The Political Roundtable was established to bring together decision makers from the Chiefs of Ontario, Political Confederacy, Chiefs Committee on Energy, Ministry of Energy, Hydro One, Ontario Power Generator, Independent Electricity System Operator, and Ontario Energy Board to discuss issues and opportunities for collaboration. Many of the successes that have been seen for First Nations in the energy sector have been concepts and challenges that were raised through open dialogue at the roundtable. We hope to continue this into the next election cycle to bring about more collaboration and successes.

First Nation Economic Advancement Conference

The Chiefs Committee on Wealth Creation partnered with the Ontario First Nations Economic Developers Association for a three day conference (October 10-13, 2017) that provided the opportunity to learn about new legislation that could impact First Nations economies and training sessions to develop skills.

Cannabis Legislation

COO has been very vocal in their advocacy for the inclusion of First Nations in the Cannabis legislation. There were submissions included in both Federal and Provincial standing committees.



The Ontario Cannabis legislation includes the ability for First Nations to regulate the industry within their community and calls for the development of culturally appropriate education and programming. COO secretariat staff attended several PTO and community meeting to support First Nations dialogue in understanding the impacts of the legislation on First Nations, and the options available to them. The Ministry of the Attorney General has committed funds to assist First Nations in developing regulations that suit the their community and cultural values.

In the Year Ahead:

- Ontario First Nations Sovereign Wealth investment strategy
- Ontario First Nations Housing Strategy
- Ontario First Nations Economic Framework
- Continued advocacy for First Nations Delivery Credit expansion
- Continued advocacy for inclusion for First Nations considerations in Cannabis industry, including revenue sharing, self-regulation and capacity building.

Sector:

Education



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, Chair, Political Confederacy Education Portfolio Holder

Open, Alternate Chair

Chiefs Committee on Lifelong Learning (CCOLL):

GCT#3 – Chief **Howard Kabestra Naotkamegwanning**

IFN – **Open**

UOI – Chief **Myeengun Henry, Chippewas of the Thames**

AIAI – **Open**

NAN – **Open**

Six Nations – **Councilor Audrey Powless-Bomberry**

First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU):

GCT#3 – **Yolanda Fobister**

IFN – **Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon**
UOI – **Murray Waboose**

AIAI – **Gina McGahey**

NAN – **Dobi-Dawn Frenette**

Six Nations – **Councilor Audrey Powless-Bomberry**

AIC – **Rosie Mosquito**

AMO – **Nelson Toulouse**

OFNYPC – **Edward George**

Chiefs of Ontario Education Staff

Julia Candlish, Director of Education

Holly Golabek, Education Coordinator

Caycee Masters, Jr., Policy Analyst and Coordinator

Evelisa Genova, Research and Policy Analyst

Paula Naponse, Research and Policy Analyst

Angel Maracle, Research and Policy Analyst

Murray Maracle, Research and Policy Analyst

Nicole Nicolas-Bayer, Lifelong Learning Project and Research Coordinator

Lisa Wabegijig, Special Education Support Technician

Patrik Lowen, Special Education Support Technician

Brent Bissaillon, Special Education Support Technician

Vincent Ostberg, Special Education Support Technician

Background

The Chiefs Committee on Lifelong Learning (CCOLL) was established by COO Chiefs-in-Assembly Resolution 14/14 to provide political direction, advice and recommendations to the Political Confederacy, the Chiefs-in-Assembly and the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) on lifelong learning priorities for First Nations in Ontario. The COO Education Portfolio holder chairs the CCOLL with technical support provided by the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU).

The FNECU is a technical and advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario which was created in 2000 as a means to secure the necessary resources to enable leadership to collectively strategize a province-wide position with respect to education. The FNECU receives support through the coordinating capacity of the Chiefs of Ontario office.

Overview

The past year has been a productive year in carrying out mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly. New mandates this year include position papers on Special Education and Post-Secondary education and activities related to the revitalization and protection of First Nation languages. Significant progress was made in all priority areas related to lifelong learning including improvements in growing partnership relationships with relevant federal and provincial counterparts.

The Education Sector within the COO Secretariat remains focused on the overarching priorities of the Charting Our Own Path Forward initiative; increasing First Nations control of First Nations education and securing funding based on the diverse and unique needs of First Nation learners. The following narrative outlines the accomplishments and next steps in several priority areas (in no particular order of importance).



Education Priorities and Accomplishments:

First Nations Lifelong Learning Table

The FNECU and the Indigenous Education Office at the Ministry of Education continue to focus through the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table to address the five priority areas set out in the co-developed a 3-Year Strategic Plan (Relationships, Languages and Culture, Curriculum, Information, Access and Accountability and Policy Development). Joint work over the past year focused on engagement at the grassroots level bringing input gathered to two province-wide forums. The following chart provides a broad outline of engagement activities facilitated by the Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTOs), the Independent First Nations (IFN) and COO in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Oct – Nov 2017	Grassroots Engagement
Jan 2018	Province-wide Forum - Toronto
Feb – Mar 2018	Grassroots Engagement
May 1-3, 2018	Province-wide Forum – Thunder Bay
Late May 2018	Final Roll-up

Information gathered during this initial year of engagement will inform activities over 2018/19 to develop strategies and tools to overcome issues, challenges and barriers identified.

Special Education

In Ontario, we have four Special Education Support Technicians that have been diligently working over the past year to support First Nation

communities and organizations to build capacity in many areas related to the delivery of special education programming to better support the needs of their learners. A Policy Analyst within the Education Sector at the COO Secretariat supports the Technicians and ensures the mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly guide all activity. 2017-18 activity included:

- Development and distribution of a quarterly newsletter titled Our Gifted Children that provides relevant information to First Nation communities and organizations and reports key community successes.
- Updates to the High Cost Special Education Toolkit.
- Community assistance, as requested with various elements of special education, including but not limited to, applications for the 2017-18 Needs-Based Process for additional funding

requirements, education services agreements and reports to Indigenous Services Canada.

Three Information Sharing Sessions as follows:

- Mental Health and Drug Related Issues on October 24-25, 2017 in Toronto
- Polices and Administration on December 5-6, 2017 in Timmins
- Behaviour and Exceptionalities on January 23-24, 2018 in Thunder Bay

As mandated by the Chiefs in Assembly the Ontario First Nations Special Education Working Group (OFNSEWG) facilitated a needs-based process that resulted in \$6.7 million distributed to communities and organizations by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Ontario Region.

Activities in the coming year will continue to focus on capacity building with a particular on the implications for supporting special education under the federal transformation of First Nations education.

OSAP Transformation Project

As a result, of the Provincial Budget 2016 announcement that “Ontario’s student aid transformation will make average tuition free for students with financial need from families with incomes of \$50,000 or lower” a Joint Steering Committee was established to explore options for increasing First Nation access to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and the associated “free tuition.” The Joint Steering Committee was able to accomplish the following for 2017-18:

- Exemption of the requirement to provide the \$3,000 student contribution.

- No longer required to report Federal funding provided to First Nation learners as income on OSAP applications.
- Specific OSAP form added to OSAP applications for verification of income.
- Five Information Sharing Sessions for First Nation representatives involved in supporting post-secondary education to obtain clarity on OSAP and its announced changes and provide guidance to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD).

The OSAP Transformation Joint Steering Committee is continuing to meet and explore ways to streamline the OSAP process to ensure it meets the unique needs of First Nation learners. The Steering committee is focussing efforts on the following areas:

1. Ensuring provision of adequate travel support to First Nation students.
2. Options for more effective disbursement schedules for OSAP.
3. Streamlining the income verification process in the OSAP application.
4. Clear and understandable communication on (can be found on COO Education portal at <http://education.chiefs-of-ontario.org/article/osap-7583.asp>):
5. OSAP and Academic Progress
6. OSAP and Continuation of Interest-Free Status
7. OSAP and Grant to Loan Conversion
8. OSAP and Income Reporting for Indigenous Students

9. Repayment Assistance Plan.
10. Addressing capacity needs of First Nations to support students seeking OSAP.
11. Determining appropriate supporting documentation for self-identification.
12. Clarification and possible amendment to the process for designating OSAP institutions as OSAP eligible.
13. Support for First Nations requiring policy change to maximize use of OSAP.

Charting Our Own Path Forward Initiative (National Joint Collaboration)

The COO Education Sector continues to follow mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly and remains focused on the overarching priorities of increasing First Nations control over education and obtaining the resources required to build capacity and education systems that meet the needs of First Nation learners.

First Nation representatives from Ontario have been participating in various ways at the national level to lead the process on Education transformation. The purpose of the National Joint Collaboration is 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 learners.

First Nation representatives (designated by the FNECU) have been actively participating in the following national Task Teams, which met frequently over the past year. Operational Terms and updates on the activity can be accessed on the COO Education

Portal at <http://education.chiefs-of-ontario.org/article/charting-our-own-path-forward-140.asp>.

1. Funding Mechanisms
2. Education Statutory Funding
3. Early Childhood Education
4. Postsecondary Education
5. Northern and Remote
6. Infrastructure

Specific activity under the Charting Our Own Path Forward (COOPF) initiative over the past year included:

Oct – Nov 2017	Grassroots Engagement
Jan 2018	Province-wide Forum - Toronto
Feb – Mar 2018	Grassroots Engagement
May 1-3, 2018	Province-wide Forum – Thunder Bay
Late May 2018	Final Roll-up

A significant outcome of the COOPF initiative and the National Joint Collaboration is the co-developed Policy Proposal (which served as an appendix to the federal Memorandum to Cabinet on First Nation Education Transformation). The co-developed Policy Proposal consists of two main elements:

1. First Nation Education Agreements (beginning 2018/19)

2. Interim Funding Approach (beginning 2019/20 for First Nations not under a First Nation Education Agreement with the federal government)

To access more information on the co-developed Policy Proposal see the COO Education Portal at <http://education.chiefs-of-ontario.org/article/charting-our-own-path-forward-140.asp>.

The current focus for the COOPF initiative is to finalize the Interim Funding Approach for First Nations in Ontario, continue participation in national joint task teams and other elements of the National Joint Collaboration and continue to monitor the impacts of the recently confirmed federal Memorandum to Cabinet on education transformation.

First Nation Languages

COO has been involved in several First Nation languages initiatives over the past year. Activity is underway at COO, at the provincial level and at the federal level includes:

- COO facilitation under an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to develop a proposal for a project to ensure sustainability and expansion of existing and new First Nation immersion programming in Ontario.
- COO facilitation of engagement on the future role and structure of the Anishinaabek, Mushkegowuk, Onkwehonwe Language and Culture Commission of Ontario (AMO) as mandated by the Chiefs in assembly.
- Work under the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table (First Nation – Ministry of

Education partnership) to develop a Languages Strategy and a Languages Instructors Strategy that result in increased access to quality Indigenous languages programming for First Nation learners along the lifelong learning continuum in both the provincial and First Nation education systems.

- National/federal work with the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Assembly of First Nations to develop an Indigenous Languages Act. To support this work COO has provided both political and technical support to the AFN Chiefs Committee on Languages.
- The COO Education Sector is currently working on the establishment of a Leadership Committee on Languages and is planning engagement related to all of the activities listed above.

In the Year Ahead:

- Charting Our Own Path Forward Community Sessions (fall 2018)
- Languages engagement TBA (summer/fall/winter 2018-19).
- Charting Our Own Path Forward Education Forum (FNLLT and COOPF) – TBA (early spring 2019).
- Special Education Information Sharing Forums
 - Mental Health, Trauma, Drug-Related Issues October 2-3, 2018, Thunder Bay
 - On the Frontlines: In Classroom Strategies, late January 2019, Sault St Marie

Sector:

Environment



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Akwesasne, Chair

Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon, Alternate Chair, Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

Chiefs Committee on Environment:

Anishinabek Nation/Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)

Chief Gerry Duquette Jr., Dokis

Chief Linda Debassige, M'Chigeeng

Chief Reginald Niganobe, Mississaugi #8

Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians (AIAI)

Chief Dean Sayers, Ojibways of Batchewana

Chief Randall Phillips, Oneida of the Thames

Chief Denise Stonefish, Delaware Nation

Chief R. Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

Chief Patricia Faries, Moose Cree

Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT#3)

Independent First Nations (IFNs)

Chief April Adams-Phillips, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Chief Troy Thompson, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Chief Daniel Miskokomon, Walpole Island

Chief Gregory Nadjiwon, Chippewas of Nawash

Chief Lester Anoquot, Chippewas of Saugeen

Unaffiliated First Nations

Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River

Chief Stacey LaForme, Mississaugas of New Credit (MNC)

Chief Wilfred King, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek, (Gull Bay)

Environment Technicians:

UOI: **Rhonda Gagnon**

AIAI: **Geoff Stonefish**

NAN: **Lydia Big George, Vern Cheechoo**

GCT#3: **Jeffrey Ross/Lucas King**

IFNs: **Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon**

Six Nations: **Phil Monture, Clynt King, Paul General**

Mississauga's of New Credit: **Margaret Sault, Evan Sault**

Gull Bay: **Beth Boon**

Chiefs of Ontario Environment Staff

Kathleen Padulo, Environment Director

Sally Gaikhezheyongai, Environment Coordinator

Rod Whitlow, Senior Environment Advisor

Alison Anderson, Climate Change Policy Analyst

Rachel Arsenault, Environment Policy Analyst

Cheryl Re collet, Senior Environment Communications Analyst

Background

The Chiefs Committee on the Environment is a technical and advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). The Chiefs Committee on Environment was created in 2013-14 as a means to secure resources for leadership to collectively strategize on province-wide policy positions with respect to the environment. The committee is comprised of Chiefs representing the four Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTO) and representation from the Independent First Nations.

Overview

The Environment Sector provides advice, guidance and recommendations to the Political Confederacy (PC) and COO on water, natural resources, energy, species-at-risk, traditional knowledge, environmental assessments, mining, climate change, and other environmental issues. It is the goal of the Environment Sector to promote active dialogue and facilitate coordinated efforts to support the inherent and Treaty Rights of First Nations in Ontario in ways respectful of each sovereign Nation and accountable to inherent and Treaty rights holders. In order to ensure accountability, the Environment Sector's work is guided by resolutions passed by the Chief-in-Assembly, with advice and oversight by the PC and the Chiefs Committee on the Environment.

The Chiefs' Committee on the Environment is composed of Chiefs (self-selected). Each Chief will provide oversight and guidance to specific matters falling within his or her portfolio. The portfolios within the Chiefs' Committee on the Environment are:

Water: topics pertaining to drinking water, fisheries, the lakes and rivers in Ontario, aquatic resources, and First Nations rights, jurisdiction, authorities and responsibilities to water

Land: topics pertaining to terrestrial resources, genetic resources, land use planning, extractive industries, and environmental health

Energy: topics pertaining to long term energy planning and transitioning to safe and responsible energy sources

Climate Change: topics pertaining to the short, medium, and long term impacts of climate change to First Nations rights and responsibilities, as well as climate change mitigation, adaptation, short-term emergency response, & carbon (forest) offsets

Legislative, Policy Advocacy & Program

Access: topics pertaining to emerging legislative and policy areas, strategic legislative and policy outreach (& resource revenue sharing, e.g. forest carbon offsets)

Accomplishments

Community Energy Education/Information-Sharing

COO collaborated with Relay Education (formerly Toronto Regional Energy Cooperative (TREC Education) in follow-up specific to three energy education First Nations workshops. The First Nations Energy Education Exchange (FN-EEE) acted as a knowledge sharing initiative for the attending delegates of respective First Nations to receive



and facilitate information relating to previous and future energy development projects. The FN-EEE also provided a platform for outside organizations to present information on external resources, such as funding, education and training, which could be utilized by First Nations that are interested in energy development projects.

TREC Education is in the final stages of completing a First Nations – Energy Education Exchange Tool Kit which will be comprised of, but not limited to:

1. Community Engagement – Energy (best practices/tools)
2. Net Metering/Virtual Net Metering Primer
3. Micro-grids Primer
4. Community Capacity – Energy (i.e. checklist for Regional Energy projects)

5. Funding / Investment for First Nations RE projects
6. Video highlighting 3 First Nations-owned RE projects in Ontario (being produced by Mattawa First Nations Management)

TREC has prepared a report, “Growing Indigenous Power”, which can be downloaded on-line: <http://www.trec.on.ca/reports/>

Chiefs Committee on Environment (CCE)

The Chiefs Committee on Environment (CCE) met in October 2017 in Ottawa. Several topics were discussed including the drinking water crisis & the First Nations-led approach, OFNTSC Trilateral Working Group, housing & infrastructure, climate change, energy planning, Great Lakes water quality & ecosystem health, Great Lakes water diversions,

water security, traditional knowledge, consultation, environmental assessments and the federal environmental regulatory review.

RESOLUTION 02/17: Rejection of Ontario's Legislative & Policy Actions to Take Control & Ownership of Water

Consistent with the Water Declaration of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Mushkegowuk, Resolution 02/17 was passed unanimously by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. The Resolution is specific to water security and the need for elevated political attention to assert First Nations' jurisdiction, authority, responsibilities and human rights specific to all waters, including groundwater and aquifers. Waters, be they ground or surface, were never ceded through any treaties with the British Crown. Water is the very essence of all life. It cannot be commodified for profit or for private conglomerate economic gain. Water security is the top priority for many Indigenous peoples around the world, many whom have faced water shortages for generations due to corporate exploitation, and now evermore through droughts and climate change. Elders, community leaders, women and youth ambassadors remain steadfast in their convictions that water security and food security must remain a top priority. Provincial policies and environmental regulations cannot be allowed to run roughshod over the inherent rights of First Nations to water. COO will continue to advocate for the rightful authorities of First Nations in all government-based decisions that could have impact on the waters.



Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health: 2014 Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) Meetings

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) with support from the Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MOECC) and in cooperation with Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) coordinated 2 Annex-specific meetings: Annex 1: Nutrients, October 2017, Fort Erie; and Annex 6: Aquatic Invasive Species, March 2018, Chippewas of Aamjiwnaang.

Annex 1: Nutrients:

The purpose of Annex 1-Nutrients is to “address the issue of excess nutrients and reduce harmful and nuisance algal blooms”. More specifically, the objectives of Annex 1-Nutrients are to:

1. Improve understanding of nutrient requirements and environmental conditions needed to maintain algal populations consistent with a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem.
2. Establish science-based phosphorus concentrations and loading targets and develop action plans to manage the transport of excess nutrients from urban, agricultural, and rural landscapes in a manner consistent with a healthy Great Lakes Ecosystem and Economy.
3. Reduce excess nutrient loading to the Great Lakes resulting from storm water and wastewater from urban and rural communities.

4. Reduce excess nutrients through improved efficiency of nutrient use in agricultural production to support a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem, consistent with a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector. (COA 2014, 17-19).

While the general topic was on nutrient sources and loadings, the focus was mostly on phosphorous and Lake Erie. There was little in terms of First Nations engagement in the Lake Erie Action Plan aside from engagement with First Nations within the Thames River watershed and there was also no consideration of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). Municipal communication (& consultation) gaps were identified, e.g. sewage ('treated' & untreated) effluent from major municipalities that impact sources of drinking water/cultural & treaty activities of First Nations. [The MOECC

decision to allow municipal waste water into Lake Simcoe was not addressed.] Green and sustainable infrastructure initiatives at the provincial level are the primary means of addressing nutrients in Lake Erie (and other Lakes). However, these initiatives do not apply to First Nations (federal 'jurisdiction'). Federal jurisdiction is not as robust, relying on the Fisheries Act and wastewater regulations (which focus on ammonia and not phosphorus). Additional efforts for inter-government coordination is required to address gaps, and this includes efforts to work with First Nations governments as decision-makers, rather than obtaining "input", after the fact.

Annex 6: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

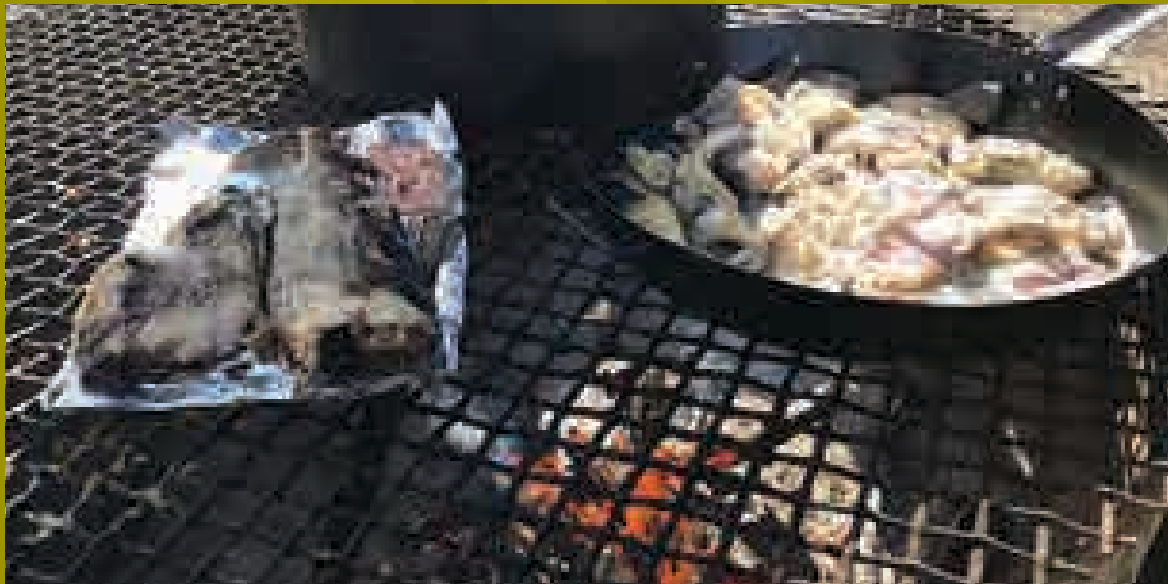
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is part of COA's Priority Protecting Habitat and Species, along

with Annex 7 (Habitat and species). This priority is focused on "restoring, protecting and conserving the natural habitats and biodiversity of the Great Lakes" (COA 2014, 48). More specifically, the purpose of the AIS annex is to "ensure cooperative and coordinated efforts to reduce the threat of aquatic invasive species to Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health" (p.49). The goals of Annex 6 are:

1. Implement controls on ballast water to protect Great Lakes Ecosystems from AIS.
2. Implement programs to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of AIS and to control existing AIS where possible.
3. Develop coordinated plans for early detection and rapid response initiatives.
4. Improve Understanding and Tools to Respond to AIS.
5. Engage the Great Lakes Community Regarding Ways to Prevent, Detect, Respond and Manage AIS.

The AIS meeting provided First Nations with the opportunity to:

1. Learn more about the priorities and actions taken by Annex leads (and partners) to address AIS in the Great Lakes. Annex specific meeting facilitates more opportunity for in-depth presentations and opportunities for question and answer.
2. Learn more about opportunities for engagement and collaboration in AIS





Ontario Climate Change Action Plan Meetings and Events

Inaugural Climate Change Political Table

On June 20, 2017 members of the PC and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change assembled for the first meeting of the climate change political table. The group worked together to identify and provide direction on actions to address climate change and the effects of the Ontario Climate Change Action Plan on First Nations in Ontario. The meeting outlined shared priorities and discussed how Ontario can work with First Nations to improve communications.

Youth and Elder Climate Change Gathering

Taking Care of Each Other: Taking Care of Mother Earth Summary and Highlights Report

“One of the main recommendations to flow from the Following in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors Gathering was to provide further opportunities to bring Elders and youth together to learn about responsibilities to care for the Earth and Waters.

actions and to determine if First Nation interests are being considered in current and future activities.

3. Learn about research and scientific activities that inform decision making for AIS.
4. Share their concerns, challenges interest, priorities, observations about AIS.

The meeting also provided government officials (Annex leads, managers and scientists) with the opportunity to learn about First Nation concerns and to hear directly from First Nations about how to work with First Nations to address priority concerns in the Great Lakes. Government officials also learned about specific challenges First Nations face in engaging in Great Lake initiatives (e.g. funding, sustained engagement). Annex specific meetings facilitate more opportunity for in-depth presentations and opportunities for questions and answers.

First Nation participants noted that there was a conspicuous absence of the consideration of TEK in the AIS science/research. There was no mention of TEK or community knowledge in the future research or any ongoing monitoring. Community and cultural impacts need to be considered in AIS research. First Nation communities are impacted in distinct and unique ways by AIS and this has to be considered. Cumulative impacts need to be considered in AIS research/science and resulting action plans as well. First Nations raised concerns around the impact of climate change and AIS. First Nations wish to be involved in setting the research/scientific agenda and posing questions that are relevant to them. First Nations also wish to be supported to engage and involve youth in their research and TEK.



The Reconnecting with Mother Earth Gathering provided youth leadership, political leadership, knowledge holders, and Elders an opportunity to come together to share traditional knowledge and teachings so that youth can be the agents of change in Ontario.”

Over 80 youth, Elders and practitioners gathered in Thunder Bay over three days (November 3-5, 2017) to discuss the impacts of climate change on First Nations in Ontario. The Gathering focused not only on the physical effects of climate change being experienced by youth and elders in First Nations, but also on ceremony and establishing spiritual connections to the environment and to their ancestors.

Youth were provided the opportunity to engage with Elders in discussion regarding Traditional

Knowledge, concerns regarding climate change and the current state of Mother Earth. Through the sharing circle, ceremony and workshops, youth and Elders came together to discuss climate change and how climate change can be addressed at the community level to work toward a better future.

Gathering Highlights

- Youth presented on the role of women as environmental leaders
- Leadership discussed the role of community and the need for unity in fighting climate change
- Workshops on food sovereignty, leadership and natural and spiritual law were well attended by youth and Elders
- Youth and Elders participated in breakout sessions according to PTO and discussed region-specific concerns and shared traditional teachings.

Climate Change Technicians’ Meeting

The Chiefs of Ontario Environment Department convened a meeting with First Nations’ technicians and MOECC and representatives to share information, discuss climate change projects and issues arising due to climate change and related risks. Several topics were discussed including:

- Ontario’s new Climate Change Adaptation Organization
- First Nations in Ontario’s shared climate change priorities
- Provincial renewable fuel standards

Climate Change Funding Workshop

On March 8 & 9 First Nations delegates met in Toronto to learn about climate change funding opportunities at the federal and provincial levels. The goal was to provide as much information to First Nations as possible to ensure that funding is building capacity at the community level. Over two days delegates were presented with information and participated in a series of funding workshops wherein delegates were invited to ask questions and build knowledge on the processes of several sources of funding.

Sector:

Health



Ontario Chiefs Committee On Health (OCCOH)

**Grand Council Chief
Patrick Madahbee**

Chair, Political Confederacy Portfolio

Grand Chief

Jonathan Solomon
Political Confederacy Portfolio

Chief R. Donald Maracle

Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians

Chief Karen Loran

Independent First Nations

Deputy Grand Chief

Derek Fox
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Chief Peter Collins

Union of Ontario Indians

Chief Kathy Kishiqueb

Grand Council Treaty #3

Sherry-Lyn Hill-Pierce

Six Nations of the Grand River

Health Coordination Unit (HCU)

James Cutfeet

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation

Suzanne Nicholas

Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians

Lyndia Jones

Independent First Nations

Jamie Restoule

Union of Ontario Indians

Noella Mandamin

Grand Council Treaty #3

Lori Davis Hill

Six Nations of the Grand River

Chiefs of Ontario Health Staff

Tracy Antone

Director of Health

Alice Longboat

Sr. Health Coordinator

Bernadette deGonzague

Sr. Policy Analyst

Lily Menominee-Batise

Sr. Policy Analyst

Linda Ogilvie

Sr. Policy Analyst

Carmen Jones

Research Manager

Emily King

Northern NIHB Navigator

Tobi Mitchell

Southern NIHB Navigator

Donna Loft

Policy Analyst

Matthew Resmini

Policy Analyst

Roseanne Sutherland

Integrated Projects Advisor

Cindy Owl

Health Coordinator

Sally Gaikezhongai

Health Coordinator

Miryam Castro

Health Coordinator

Chiefs in Assembly, an outgoing message from Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee

It is with great pleasure that I bring you the Chiefs of Ontario 2018 annual report on Health. The mandate of the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH) is to protect and maintain our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights to health and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the Ontario Regional Chief, Political Confederacy and Chiefs in Assembly on matters pertaining to First Nations Health.

This year the health secretariat, with the guidance of my fellow colleagues on the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health, continued to advance our mandates in Health.



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee with Elders at Health Forum 2018

Some highlights of the report include:

- Annual Health forum which celebrated Community Voices.
- Health Transformation that will continue over the next year
- Home and Community Care resources
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Data Governance
- Non-Insured Health Benefits
- Trilateral process

I want to acknowledge the Director of Health, Tracy Antone, and her Health Team, for all the support that they have given me.

Finally, as I retire from my leadership role, I am confident that the work will continue in advancing the Health work and in advocating for change and better outcomes for our people.

All My Relations,



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee
Chair, Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health

Background

Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH)

Under the Chiefs in Assembly authority AOCC Resolution 01/24, a political represented health structure was established. The OCCOH is accountable to the Chiefs in Assembly and the Political Confederacy. The Committee reports decisions within the mandate and progress at the Ontario Chiefs Assemblies or when necessary to the Political Confederacy. The overall mandate of the OCCOH is to protect and maintain our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights to health and to provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the Ontario Regional Chief, Political Confederacy and the Chiefs in Assembly on matters pertaining to First Nations Health.

Health Coordination Unit (HCU)

The Health Coordination Unit (HCU) is the technical and advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario. It is comprised of the Health Directors of the four associations and one representative from the Independent First Nations and a representative from Six Nations of the Grand River. The Unit receives support through the coordinating capacity of the Chiefs of Ontario office. The Health Coordination Unit is responsible to the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health, the Political Confederacy (PC) and the Chiefs in Assembly.

Accomplishments:

Co-ordination of the Annual Health Forum - February 27, 28 and March 1, 2018

Theme: “Community Voices”

Participants: 250 delegates/observers

Information Booths: 12 organizations

Opportunities: Speakers Corner to share the great activities, progress in First Nation communities.

Workshops: Naloxone training, Midwifery, OCAP, Mental Health initiatives

Pre-workshops: (2) Reawakening the Spirit, E-health Technologies





National: Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Joint Review

Joint Review Steering Committee (JRSC):
GCC Patrick Madahbee Co-Chair, technical support, COO Health Director, and Northern NIHB Navigator

The Joint Review was expected to be completed in 2017, according to the Critical Path Timeline established by the JRSC, however, challenges in securing meeting dates and achieving quorum have resulted in a delay in meeting the timeline objectives. Extended timeline is March 2019.

Despite this, since the Joint Review began, the JRSC has successfully approved the review of the Mental

Health Counselling Benefit and has worked hard to identify areas within NIHB that could be addressed immediately. As a result of this progress, NIHB has made a number of improvements to increase client access to benefits.

There are five benefit areas remaining for final JRSC review and approval which includes; dental, vision, pharmacy, medical supplies and equipment, and medical transportation. In addition, a report focusing on administrative and operational irritants will be produced, summarizing recommendations that are applicable across benefit areas and to the functioning of the NIHB as a whole.

Nationally Resolutions 126-2016, *Ongoing Commitment for the Non-Insured Health Benefits Joint Review Process* and 49-2017, *Non-insured Health Benefits - Equitable Access to Health Services*, called on the JRSC to continue working past the original vision of the Joint Review to examine case studies of community led medical transportation models, legislative options, conduct a review of governance models, and develop a cost analysis of the current benefits program (FNIHB). The Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC) was formed through an order in Council on December 4, 2017, and with this announcement, FNIHB, which formerly worked within Health Canada, now operates as part of DISC. FNIHB has emphasized that, in the short-term, there will be no changes or interruption to service delivery and daily operations, including the delivery of NIHB and the ongoing Joint Review process. The Minister of Indigenous Services, Jane Philpott, has committed to engaging with First Nations across Canada on transforming DISC so that the department is better able to support First Nations priorities. This offers an opportunity for First Nations to share their perspectives on the more fundamental questions around NIHB stated in Resolution 126-2016, including legislative options and movement towards First Nations control of the NIHB program. The AFN does not have a mandate to pursue any of these options, rather the mandate is just to examine options for transformation of NIHB, and as a result there will be a discussion with the AFN executive and an updated resolution for including NIHB in the transformation process. Updates will be provided at the AFN assembly.

National First Nations Health Technicians

Technical support to the National Health secretariat (AFN) and to the Chiefs Committee on Health: Issues: NIHB, Health Accord Position Paper, Federal budget estimates in the Health area.

The NFNHTN discuss and identify appropriate responses to AFN – Health Secretariat’s call for regional First Nation input on specific initiatives directed by the CCOH and the AFN Chiefs in Assembly. Participation in the National Technicians Network is to facilitate National responses that reflect regional input and opportunities to participate in National initiatives that impact on the health of First Nation people.

First Nation Information Governance Committee

The FNIGC was federally incorporated in April 2010 and officially opened its doors August 2010. First Nations have a dedicated Centre that will serve as the home of the First Nations Regional Health Survey and build upon that successful process to provide an abundance of information, research, training, data collection, and analysis and dissemination services to First Nations at the local, regional and national levels.

The Centre is located in Ottawa, and will also support the development of regional centers that will serve the strategic information and research directions as determined by each region. The Board will oversee the development, implementation and analysis of the National First Nations Surveys as directed by the Board/leadership. In March of this year the FNIGC held a conference “20 years of First Nations Data: The Path to RHS phase 3” which

focused on the release of the first results from the third phase of the First Nations.

Health survey: The Board will be updating the strategic plan that reflects the current research and data management environments. This will be done with updates to the membership in July.

PROGRAM AREA:

Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee (TFNHSOC)

(TFNHSOC) Sr Level Membership:

Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee (Co-Chair), Anishinabek Nation; Patrick Dicerni, (Co-Chair) ADM MOHLTC; Sony Perron, (Co-Chair) Sr ADM, FNIHB. Committee include representatives from OCCOH, Federal and Provincial government, and COO support Sr. Staff.

Established in 2011, TFNHSOC provides subject matter expertise, guidance, and recommendations to the provincial and federal governments in development and implementation of strategies and initiatives addressing specific aspects of First Nations health for TFNHSOC members. There have been a number of collaborative initiatives with all three levels of government on specific priorities, such as the implementation of Community Development Wellness Teams, the deployment and access to Ontario Telemedicine Network’s equipment and services, and supporting public health model development, many of which have far-reaching impacts across Ontario First Nations.

At the recent Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee (TFNHSOC) meeting on April 6, it was agreed that a review is required to clarify TFNHSOC’s mandate and Terms of Reference, given the evolving environment of health transformation,



investments and other trilateral processes in place across Ontario (JAT and Keewatin Tables).

A Year Ahead

TFNHSOC have reached out to all original partners to TFNHSOC to establish a meeting to discuss each this proposed approach and to participate in the discussions on what a review would look like. Having been a part of TFNHSOC at some point in its tenure, it is important that each of you be provided the opportunity to participate.

TFNHSOC Public Health Working Group

Technicians: Public Health Working Group:

Co-chairs: COO and MOHLTC; Technical First Nations membership from Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, IFN, Anishinabek Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River; SLFNHA and WAHA; MOHLTC, MIRR, ISC, INAC, Medical Officers of Health from 8 Local PHUs, PHAC and MCYS.

The PH-WG meets regularly by conference call and in person

Health Accomplishments

Public Health Working Group Charter continues to provide the foundation for working relationships of all three government partners.

- Oral Health Pilots successfully completed and transitioned into programs. Some of these are being supplemented through the expansion in COHI (Children's Oral Health Initiative) funding over three years.

- Cultural Competency Training Modules have been developed for use with Public Health Unit Staff and FN communities
- Continued support for/information sharing on SLFNHA's Approaches to Community Wellbeing and WAHA's public health model development
- Relationship Events between First Nation communities and PHUs
- Follow-up on key recommendations of Visioning exercise: Reflections and Moving Forward
- Completed Policy Brief on Determinants of Indigenous Health to support PH activities moving forward. This policy brief will provide assessment and guidance for the PHWG in ensuring a broad approach to PH work that takes into consideration the various factors that impact First Nations, peoples from the individual to community level in order to achieve the best health outcomes.
- First Nations engagement on the modernization of the Ontario Public Health Standards and Relationship with Indigenous Communities Guideline completed. Standards document to be shared to all FN communities.
- First Nation caucus meeting held February 15th, 2018 re-strengthening the voice of FN at all trilateral working groups.

A Year Ahead

- Exploring options to strengthen PHWG's role for children and youth
- Fully implement the Cultural Competency Training Modules both E-learning and two day facilitated training
- Further follow up on the recommendations from the FN Caucus meeting held February 15th, 2018
- Working with the Federal Government on budget 17 follow up as well as PHWG in budget 2018 initiatives such as oral health, Tuberculosis/Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (This will include the collection and listing of all TB learning materials, review recent guidelines, identify best practices and elements of a communication strategy for FN in Ontario).
- Provide input into as it relates to public health in the work of health transformation
- Connecting with Provincial Ministries, on areas pertaining to children's health, environment, PH capacity, for cross working group/ministry collaboration.



TFNHSOC Mental Health and Addictions Working Group (MHAWG)

Technicians: Mental Health and Addictions Working Group:

Co-chairs: COO and MOHLTC; Technical First Nations membership from Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, IFN, Anishinabek Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River; observer from NAN; MOHLTC, MIRR, FNIHB, INAC, and MCYS. The MHAWG meets regularly by conference call and in person.

Health Accomplishments

2017/18 Achievements

- Launched Photovoice project to support youth Life Promotion in partnership with COO OFNYPC, UWO and Ontario Brain Institute. Project will provide training in SafeTalk, and facilitation of photovoice for Life Promotion, to be offered to one youth in every community; project end date March 31, 2020.
- Coordinator was engaged in February, 2018; Work plan in development; Steering Committee members from OFNYPC identified and welcome package developed; potential partnerships identified; facilitators curriculum for workshops developed; potential venues and locations scouted; cameras and some SafeTalk materials ordered.
- Completed Literature Review on impacts of maternal opioid use on infants and families; MHAWG will discuss how this can inform and define issues and needs for training

and programming for children and families impacted.

Knowledge-sharing on:

- ICES 2017 Score Card on the Mental Health of Children and Youth in Ontario; have begun discussions on First Nations specific analysis of the data.
- CAMH Provincial Support Program
- Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-being Measure (Wikwemikong)
- Three training sessions on implementation of the Mental Wellness Continuum Framework Training were undertaken with trainers from the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation.
- The need for train-the-trainer facilitation training has been expressed and will be explored with TPF in the coming fiscal year as well as additional Trauma-Informed Care.
- Maintaining the work with the Community Wellness Development Teams, facilitating networking and sharing between teams through quarterly conference calls and supporting an annual face-to-face and training meeting.
- Facilitated discussions with Health Canada and MCYS on the development of the Mental Wellness Team initiative with collaborative funding approach between the province and FNIHB.
- The MHAWG also serves to provide expertise on submissions for provincial and Federal initiatives Mental Health resource capacity

training needs, public health issues related to addictions such as Opioid overdose and Naloxone needs for distribution and education. other relevant issues as needed.

- Mental Health and Addictions were highlighted at the COO Health Forum, including a training session on Naloxone administration, several workshops on land-based programming for Addictions, and a panel on the proposed legalization of Cannabis.
- First Nations caucus from TFNHSOC Working groups was held in order to discuss opportunities to increase FN voice in leading the agendas of all three groups to make more effective use of the work at the community level, with the intent to present recommendations to the TFNHSOC senior committee. Recommendations forwarded for discussion at the TFNHSOC.

A Year Ahead

- Increasing capacity of First Nations partners at TFNHSOC to participate and drive initiatives moving forward; consideration to having technical expertise participate (observer capacity);
- Support the development of "Train the Trainer" programming to provide more flexible training over the course of the year (e.g., Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, Trauma-Informed Care);
- Identify needs and advocate for training resources to help develop a comprehensive

and responsive First Nations workforce to address mental health and addictions in communities through traditional and western approaches;

- Knowledge sharing activities will focus specifically on mental health and addictions for First Nations communities (opioid surveillance, harm reduction strategies, impacts of legalization of cannabis);
- Providing advice and guidance on implementation of Mental Wellness Teams, and supporting collaboration and communication with CWDTs.
- Evaluate progress on key initiatives, including:
 - Community Wellness Development Teams and Mental Wellness Teams
 - Telemedicine usage for mental wellness and addictions

TFNHSOC Diabetes/Health Promotion Working Group

The first meeting of this fourth and final TFNHSOC Working Group was held in November, 2017. Co-Chairs: COO and Ontario Region FNIHB; Technical representation was sought from First Nations with expertise in these areas from all PTO and IFN geographical regions. Provincial representation included MOHLTC, MCYS, and MIRR, and federal representation from FNIHB ON Region. Through this and a subsequent conference call, a number of short and mid-term action items were recommended, and an initial Terms of Reference have been drafted. There is intent to build upon work previously accomplished through the Ontario

Frist Nations Integrated Health Promotion Strategy, which sunsetted in 2015. Planning is underway for a Spring meeting for this working group.

PROGRAM AREA:

Healthy Smiles Ontario Trilateral Technical Group

Alternating Co-chairs: COO, MCSS; Representation included technicians from NAN, AIAI, GCT#3, UOI, IFN, Mississaugas of the New Credit, Six Nations, ONWAA, Kenora Chiefs Advisory, Stepping Stones, North Shore; COO NIHB Navigators, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Region (HC/SC), Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI), FNIHB.

Background

Following Ontario's announcement in 2013 of the integration of 6 low income dental programs into "Healthy Smiles Ontario", concerns raised by First Nations around implementation of HSO led to discussions with First Nations leadership in the Health and Social sectors. As a result, PC directed COO Health and Social Services sectors to pursue a Trilateral Technical Working Group to address and resolve issues raised by First Nations, and to collaboratively develop an implementation process for the Healthy Smiles Ontario 2, and to procure funding from MCSS to carry out this work. The trilateral technical group was established in January 2016 and worked through to September 2016, identifying several principles or requirements that would need to be in place, from a First Nations perspective, for First Nations to consider HSO implementation; the critical barrier in moving

forward is coordination of benefits and payer of last resort. First Nations look to the federal fiduciary obligation and see NIHB as payer of first resort (see final report shared at the November 2016 All-Ontario Chief Conference). Resolution 50/16 was passed to mandate continued work by the group to find resolution to the identified issues. A meeting was planned for May 2017. However, scheduling for this meeting was challenging and a suitable date with adequate representation was not finalized. A letter was sent to the ADMs from the relevant provincial and federal Ministries involved to request a meeting to discuss Payer of Last Resort (POLR) and other high level policy issues. Due to changes in leadership and a lack of movement on POLR by at the NIHB review level, there will be no further action on this item.

PROGRAM AREA:

Midwifery

Resolution 19/16: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS MIDWIFERY IN ONTARIO calls for support of the development of a First Nation's Midwifery Strategy in partnership with the Association of Ontario Midwives. Toward this end, in collaboration with the AOM, a workshop was organized at the COO Health Forum to present 2 different models of midwifery with Indigenous midwives practicing in Southern and Northern Ontario. A video of the workshop has been produced and copies of this video will be provided to the AOM; future discussions will address additional opportunities to promote various models of midwifery in communities.

National Committee appointments

Assembly of First Nations Mental Wellness Committee, and Mental Wellness Continuum; Framework Implementation Team; Prescription Drug Abuse Coordinating Committee.

A Year Ahead

- Opportunities to advocate for midwifery training and services in community. Coordinating approaches to opioid surveillance and treatment between the TFNHSOC working groups, including training on the Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, Trauma-informed care, and other areas as identified.
- Developing relationship with researchers and service providers for First Nations people within the Corrections system.

PROGRAM AREA:

Task Group on Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation

Task Group Members

1. Dr. Brenda Restoule (First Peoples Wellness Circle)
2. Carol Hopkins (Thunderbird Partnership Foundation)
3. Chief Kathy Kishiqueb (Onigaming First Nation)

4. Deputy Grand Chief Rebecca Friday (Mushkegowuk Tribal Council)
5. NAPS Board Chair Mike Metatawabin (NAPS Board Chair)
6. Estelle Simard (Institute for Culturally Restorative Practices)
7. Darien Baskatawang (Youth representative)
8. Jim Dumont (Elder)

COO Secretariat Support

Director Social Services, Director of Health, Youth Coordinator.

A Year Ahead

The Task Group will develop:

- A discussion paper to provide an update to leadership and inform on the development of the Framework
- Develop a transformative Framework to deal with the issue of sexual assault, sexual trauma, sexual exploitation, and sexual violence among First Nation peoples
- Provide resolutions to Chiefs in Assembly as an outcome of the Framework development
- Table the works of the Task Group with AFN, as per AFN national resolution 11/17

PROGRAM AREA:

Achieving First Nation Transformative Change in Ontario

Political Confederacy, Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health, Health Coordination Unit (HCU), Chiefs of Ontario Health Staff.

Lead: Lily Menominee-Batise, Sr. Policy Analyst
Pamela Hunter, Special Advisor (External)

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Health Secretariat is coordinating discussions among First Nations focused on achieving transformative change in the provincial health system to ensure it is more responsive and effective for First Nations in Ontario.

This coordination role is consistent with the main objective of the COO office, which is to facilitate discussion, planning, implementation and evaluation of all local, regional and national matters affecting the First Nations people of Ontario.

In December 2015, Eric Hoskins, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care wrote to Ontario Regional Chief Isadore expressing the commitment of Ontario to “meaningfully engage Indigenous partners through parallel bilateral processes and that, through collaboration, we will identify the changes needed. As Ontario’s health care system evolves, we have an opportunity to configure transformative change for First Nations’ Health in Ontario in partnership with First Nations.”

The Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH) and the Health Coordination Unit (HCU) support moving forward with the First Nation-specific engagement process and agree that First Nations in Ontario must have an opportunity to put forward

recommendations aimed at improving the health system in Ontario for First Nations members, providers and communities.

The engagement process primarily involves a much broader conversation to identify the structural and governance changes required to make the health system more effective for First Nations.

Accomplishments:

Health Governance Models Summit

On May 24/25, 2017, COO Health hosted a day and a half **Health Governance Models Summit** which focused on presentations from various First Nation governments, communities and organizations that are in the process of implementing more effective health system and governance models for their respective members. Key informants were from across the Province, country and included Alaska. Specifically: BC First Nations Health Authority, Cree Health and Social Services Board (QC), NUKA, Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority, and Mamaweswen. Feedback from this session was incorporated into the First Nation Health System Transformation Engagement Guide.

Development of the **Engagement Guide** approved by the COO HCU in August 2017 intended to help guide discussions; facilitate meaningful input from First Nation health providers, professionals and citizens; and to facilitate a cohesive end-product that unifies First Nations voices and recommendations across the Province. The guide allows for unique, distinct differences, and requirements at the local level. It was subsequently distributed to the various PTO's, Independent and Unaffiliated First Nations

throughout the Province. The Guide is comprised of a variety of templates that First Nations can modify, brand with their own logo, or use as is.

Regional Engagement Processes

The Engagement Sessions began in October 2017 with a series of information meetings with various PTO's/First Nations. Since this is not a mandatory process, some Leadership and health providers wanted more information before committing to the sessions. In particular, IFN (October); AIAI (November); and Six Nations (December).

The first session to occur was in December in Toronto with the Independent First Nations. COO Health provided support and coordination for this, and all subsequent sessions: Hiawatha (January 2018); Grand Council Treaty #3 (February); Oneida (February). Both the Anishinabek Nation and Nishnawbe Aski Nation have chosen to manage their Health Transformation discussions independently. However, agreements have been made with both to share both resourcing and community input which will be rolled into the broader, Province-wide preliminary findings paper.

A Year Ahead

A preliminary summary report will be developed to share with Leadership at the June 2018 AOCC. COO Health will be seeking a mandate to work with the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health to establish a process for Leadership Negotiation Team to begin the detailed workplan development and oversee future processes. In addition, this will be a Technical Team would also be established to in order to support leadership to coordinate the recommendations of the First Nations health providers and members at the community level.

Finally, COO Health under the health transformation file has commenced work with an independent economist to assess the costs on associated health delivery expenditures, gaps, comparisons to non-First Nation citizens in Ontario, as well as examining Federal shortfalls. Information is currently being collected but analysis will not begin until July 2018. This study is also intended to include an examination of the projected "cost of doing nothing".

PROGRAM AREA:

Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigators

Chiefs of Ontario: Tobi Mitchell, Southern NIHB Navigator; Emily King, Northern NIHB Navigator

In October 2010, the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH) and the Health Coordination Unit (HCU) were successful in advocating for two NIHB Navigators hosted by COO. The NIHB Navigators' mandate is to: (1) provide support and advocacy

Territorial Organizations (PTOs), Independent First Nations (IFNs), Tribal Councils (TCs), and other organizations, when requested; (2) create awareness of NIHB benefits and how to access them; and, (3) strengthen relationships with health care providers, and provincial and federal partners.

Ontario NIHB Networking Group

Representatives: PTO/IFN/ Six Nations Policy staff

Accomplishments:

FNIHB AFN NIHB Joint Review

- Northern Navigator on the Joint Review Steering Committee as a National Navigator Network representative. Ontario Navigators participate on national and regional level and network with the Ontario NIHB Networking Group to facilitate feedback into the National Joint Review Process. AFN provides updates when needed.

National Navigators Network Meeting

Northern and Southern Navigators participate on the National Navigators Network which is coordinated through AFN and meet annually. The National Navigator Network met in June 2017 to review benefit recommendations and received a Joint Review update.

Ontario NIHB Networking Group Meetings occur 3- 4 times per year, to discuss NIHB challenges in Ontario, and to share solutions and share what areas continue to be problematic. Also the work of the National NIHB Joint Review is shared for comments to the National level. Streamlined recommendations for the benefit areas and a Joint Review update was provided.

Facilitated meeting with NIHB Ontario Region, NIHB Drug Exception Center (DEC) and NIHB Dental Predetermination Center (NDPC) to address barriers, challenges and issues faced by Ontario First Nations; including a tour of DEC and NDPC facilities.

Navigator Information Sessions and Information Booths in Ontario

Nine Information sessions/booths were completed in Northern and Southern Ontario from April 2017 to March 2018, including with Health Agencies and organizations, First Nation communities, and Student Orientation Fairs.

Opioid Surveillance Steering Committee

Southern Navigator coordinates meetings that include representatives from each PTO, IFN, Unaffiliated First Nations, Elder and a Youth to provide information on Opioid Surveillance Data. The Steering Committee serves as a guide to the COO-ICES collaboration to describe prescription opiate use (POU) among First Nations people. Baseline report was reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee. Next steps include development of a framework, including updating the information in the future to examine progress.

Providing information about NIHB and listening to the challenges with NIHB by Meetings with First Nation and Health Organizations in Ontario.

In the Year Ahead

- NIHB Navigators will continue to provide support and advocacy to First Nations citizens to reduce barriers and increase access to the NIHB benefits and other health services by assisting in appeals, assisting with denied benefits before going through the appeal process.
- Continue to network and collaborate with Health and Service Providers in Ontario.
- Continue to work with NIHB regionally and nationally on seamless process for First Nations to obtain NIHB benefits and increase access to services.
- Work with Province, FNIHB, and Public Health on developing a Naloxone Communication and Training Strategy for First Nations in Ontario.
- Continue to provide communications and education to First Nations citizens and communities on the policy changes arising from the National Joint Review Process. Address regional specific issues with Ontario Region.
- Continue to be engaged in the Joint Review Process, and collaborate with provider associations.

Jordan's Principle Liaison

In 2017, The NIHB Navigators were invited to participate in the Jordan Principle Working Group which was established by the FNIHB Jordan Principle Focal Points and First Nation Organization Jordan Principle Navigators. Navigators assisted with NIHB related issues. Due to emerging issues with Jordan's Principle, a support and coordination role was identified as a need.

As a result, a short term Jordan Principle Liaison role was created at COO and was assigned to the Southern NIHB Navigator. Since then, a Jordan's Principle Navigator Network has been set up, as well as monthly conference calls by FNIHB to do updates and address concerns.

Additionally the Jordan's Principle Navigators meet to discuss challenges, solutions, meet with the legal council on the tribunal work and with the federal government leads. These technical meetings began in July 2017. Subsequent meetings in the fall and a Jordan's principle panel at the annual COO Health Forum. These meetings help articulate challenges, provide advice to FNIHB as well discuss progress with the legal council.

In the Year Ahead:

- Continue to be informed of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) rulings as it relates to Jordan's Principle.
- Develop a discussion paper on Jordan's Principle long term options for COO Chiefs-in-Assembly for consideration.
- Work with Jordan's Principle and provide assistance to JP Navigator Network.
- Work with Ontario Region's Jordan's Principle Technical Working Group.

Health Research Sector

Carmen R. Jones, Research Manager

The health research is within the broad mandate of the Chiefs of Ontario Health Sector. Health research oversees work in survey implementation, and regional research/surveillance projects. The research sector implements the First Nation Data Governance Agreement with the Institute with clinical Evaluative Sciences. Health Research Sector also analysis data and works closely with the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences in the area of data management and security.

Accomplishments:

Reducing the Burden of Diabetes on First Nation Communities:

Approved by the Health Coordination Unit (HCU) this project is in its final year. It is a partnership between Queens University, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and Laurentian University. The project has been approved by the HCU and the First Nations Data Governance Committee for the use of the Indian Registry System to link to ICES administrative data bases. As well, five communities have agreed to participate in the qualitative portion of the project through interviews. The Patient Advisory Group is a key element of the project as they provide input and feedback on the overall project.



Accomplishments:

First Nations Aging Study: Unlocking Health Information for Older First Nations Populations

This Study is being conducted by the Chiefs of Ontario in partnership with Laurentian University and the Institute of Clinical and Evaluative Sciences. This project will be the first to study health services use among older First Nations people in Ontario in a culturally-driven, comprehensive, and inclusive way. This is of critical importance in guiding policy decisions and priority-setting in response to the aging of First Nations populations in Ontario. This project will look at the balance in

physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing in older people residing in Ontario First Nations communities. Sequential focus groups were held in seven (7) First Nation communities on Manitoulin Island. Analysis of the qualitative data is still ongoing.

Regional Health Survey Phase III (RHS)

The RHS Phase III is complete. In March 2018 the First Nations Information Governance Centre released Volume I of the National RHS Report. Volume I includes; socio-economic conditions, chronic health conditions, mental health and substance use, oral health, and Indian residential

schools. Volume 2 of the RHS will be released in the summer. Chiefs of Ontario is currently drafting the Ontario RHS Peoples Report 2017-2018 which is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2018.

First Nation Data Governance Committee (DGC)

In July 2016, the First Nations Data Governance Committee held their first meeting and a second meeting was held in July 2018. The Committee will be meeting again in 2018 to review the final draft of the Data Governance Committee application and the assessment tool that will accompany the application for review. The DGC is not a funded committee but funds are being sought so that committee can accept applications from researchers to use First Nations data. The applications will be based on OCAP® and the Committee will be looking at applications that addresses the Ontario First Nations Research Agenda, which has been developed. This is a fairly new committee and much work is still needed to make sure proper protocols are followed. It is anticipated that the Committee will be accepting applications in the fall.

First Nations Data Governance Models

The Chiefs of Ontario through Resolution 14/09 (First Nations Data Governance Models), and 15/16 (First Nation Access to Data) has been working towards developing ways move forward on data governance models. The Chiefs of Ontario has submitted a proposal to the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) under the mandate to develop Regional Information Governance Centre across the country. There has not been a commitment as of yet from FNIGC. The

Chiefs of Ontario has also submitted a Proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care through the Research, Analysis and Evaluation Branch. COO has had several discussions with the Research and Analysis and Evaluation Branch on the development of a Interim Model. Discussions to be initiated once the government of Ontario is formed.

First Nations Cancer Surveillance - Phase-1
(Cancer in First Nations People Incidence, Mortality, Survival And Prevalence)

The First Nations Cancer Surveillance is now complete. Over the past year the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health recommended that the report be released by chapter so that communities could have the information as it was completed. All chapters are now completed and have been sent to communities. Plans are underway to release the full report in July 2018 through a news release. The report will have recommendations, suggestions on preventative measures and stories from First Nations individuals that have had or living with cancer, as well as, stories from families. The Chiefs of Ontario will also be discussing with Cancer Care Ontario and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences on updating the report and developing a Phase II report with updated Indian Registry Data.

Chronic Conditions: Prevalence, incidence and mortality for 18 chronic conditions in First Nations populations in Ontario

(Ontario Population Trends in Improved Mortality: Informing Sustainability & Equity of the health care system (OPTIMISE) study)

The Chiefs of Ontario is a member of the OPTIMISE study. This project was approved by the HCU in

January 2016. The study is nearing completion and the First Nations data is currently being analyzed. A meeting is being planned for May 2018 to review the preliminary results. The next step will be to present the information to the Health Coordination Unit and to the Chiefs committee on Health.

The Research team at COO has also completed an Environment scan on chronic diseases. This scan includes research information for the past 10 years on First Nations chronic diseases. This document will assist in prioritizing which chronic diseases need to be studied. COO health research is hoping to triangulate this information with the RHS. This scan will be presented to the HCU outlining the findings and recommendations.

International Project – Creating Partnerships for use of Indigenous Data

Is a paper that is led by Dr. Ray Lovett for the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Research School of Population for the Australian Nation University, Canberra, Australia and the Chiefs of Ontario. This paper explores the Emergence of Indigenous data sovereignty among First Nations. The paper outlines relevance of Indigenous data to decision making based on the UNDRIP.

For Indigenous peoples, data sovereignty is a form of aboriginal sovereignty. Internationally, Indigenous peoples are developing and applying models of Indigenous governance to their administrative data including data linkage processes. Australia has some way to go to achieve similar Indigenous data governance, in comparison to places like Ontario. Agreements and processes

from case studies like the Ontario example provide a framework to assist Indigenous-governed organizations and their partners in developing agreements to support Indigenous data sovereignty.

PROGRAM AREA:

Home and Community Care

Donna E. Loft, Home Care Advisor

A formal engagement process was established with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to develop recommendations to improve home & community care services including palliative care.

A Joint Home care Advisory committee was established consisting of representatives from Chiefs of Ontario (COO) the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care (MOHLTC) and 2 representatives from each PTO/Independent and Six Nations, and a member from FNIHB. These meetings are co-chaired by MOHLTC and COO.

The Advisory committee completed the report on First Nation needs to improve homecare with a list of recommendations. The leadership agreed that for fiscal year 2017 -2018 that the resources would be divided equally to all 133 First Nation communities, this became the base funding of \$55,300.00, on going. These resources would flow directly to each First Nation community and not through LHIN.

For fiscal year 2018 2019 a sub-committee, consisting of members of the COO, members of the Advisory group members and MOHLTC to develop options for review by the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCoH).

There recommended approach was to apply the OFNLO formula on an interim basis. This was agreed to by the political confederacy. Therefore this formula was applied to the \$7.4m for fiscal year 2018 -19. The resources will come directly to the communities via a transfer payment from the provincial government

Training: Palliative care training is being delivered by CERAH (Lakehead University) for First Nations and will continue until May, 2018.

In the Year Ahead:

A sub-committee consisting of COO, MOHLTC and members of the Advisory Committee be constructed to review and evaluate the palliative care training that has been delivered to the First Nations.

A broader lens to be developed to support training to the First Nations communities to look at Case Management, Discharge planning, Hospice training, etc.

To connect and arrange meetings with Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN) and the Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO)

Communication with FNIHB as to training development on HCC:

The MOHLTC Director and COO Health Director will be presenting the Advisory Committee's report's recommendation for improving services in First Nations communities in June, 2018 at the 'Achieving Excellence Together Conference in Toronto, Ontario.

Long Term Care:

A meeting in June, 2017, between COO, the Ontario government and the Federal government to discuss the need for long-term care in First Nations communities . A resolution was passed at the AOCC Assembly in June/2017 approving the establishing of a tri-partite working group consisting of COO, one representative from the Union of Ontario Indians, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, Grand Council Treaty #3, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, and Six Nations of the Grand River.

The tri-partite working group addressed housing and health services that are delivered to First Nations communities and individuals by a variety of departments, across jurisdictions. In order to ensure that the discussion and technical work encompassed all relevant provincial and federal programs and policy and program jurisdictions, additional departments subsequently joined or attended meetings of the Tri-partite working group (TPWG), including Ontario's Ministry of Housing (MOH), Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI), Infrastructure Canada, and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The following priority themes emerged from the meetings held by the TPWG, which informed the recommendations. These recommendations are intended to inform future investments and are made with the expectation that they will spur ongoing dialogue between both levels of government and First Nations on how to make progress. The TPWG recommends that Canada and Ontario work together with First Nations communities to meet the joint goals of enabling seniors to stay in their communities as long as

possible and be provided culturally appropriate/ safe services, by adhering to the following: New LTC Licenses for First Nations, Capital Planning Grant Program, One-Window Federal-Provincial Capital Financing, Data Improvement, Health Human resources.

The report is finalized and will be used for further discussion once the Province forms a new government. The government did release resources to First Nations communities to further proposals that were submitted for Long Term care facilities, and also released grants to some first nations to develop proposals for the next call.

In the Year Ahead:

To continue this process as developed with the Provincial and Federal systems. It is desired that this committee continue to meet to ensure follow-up and progress to date.

Palliative Knowledge Exchange: (PKE): Planning committee developed consisting of COO, Six Nations, and Federal Government.

Several meetings/teleconferences took place. The focus of the PKE was to share models of palliative care that work on different First Nations communities and to have First Nations key-note speakers with palliative care knowledge. A PKE took place in Toronto in March, 2018. A USB outlining sessions, etc. is being completed and will be forwarded to all participants.

We recognize Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) who took care of all travel expenses for the participants to attend this Palliative Knowledge Exchange summit.

In the Year Ahead:

An ongoing summit of sharing of Palliative Knowledge Exchange from the First Nations communities. To work in partnership with other palliative knowledge organizations to fulfill this valuable sharing opportunity for palliative /end-of-life care.

To continue the networking of the Palliative Knowledge Exchange and to update the First Nations on the knowledge that was learned from the past PKE summit from each contributor.

Law Commission of Ontario (LCO): Attended the LCO, Last Stages of Life Project in March with First Nations participants. The context of the meeting is to develop an Indigenous exchange process in relation to a law reform project lead by the LCO; called the last stages of life. LCO is reviewing Ontario laws which impact on palliative care, end of life care and medical assistance in dying. This is indicative of the first step, an introductory conversation, towards establishing a process and to identify a process of identifying specific issues of importance to Indigenous communities. The intent is to have participants from the First Nations, Inuit and Metis. A tentative date for the follow up is in July, 2018.

In the Year Ahead:

To continue to meet with the Law Commission of Ontario. To develop a ToR for the continuation of 'Last Stages of Life Project'.

PROGRAM AREA:

E-Health

Staff: Matthew Resmini, Health Policy Analyst

Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KMAG)

KMAG operates under resolutions related to public health, surveillance and eHealth that were passed by the all Ontario Chiefs in Assembly. Its members include First Nation representatives who work in partnership with the Chiefs of Ontario and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch-Ontario Region

(FNIHB-OR) and report to the Health coordination unit and the OCCOH.

The advisory group is made up of First Nation representatives (initial subscribers) are from Garden River, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Nipissing, Couchiching and Constance Lake First Nations, and Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council who represent Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, North Spirit Lake, and Poplar Hill.

The Project First Nations Health Information Management in Ontario (FNHIMiO) is a First Nation-led initiative that is guided by the Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KMAG).

The FNHIMiO Project is assisting First Nations to implement access to information management

FNHIMiO Project Focus	Description
Provincial Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR)	Established by the province to provide a single place where all administered immunizations are recorded and tracked. Includes new tools that support authorized health care providers to view and/or contribute immunization data.
Connecting Ontario Regional Viewer	Established by the province to provide authorized health care providers with access to hospital and community care data as well as lab reports, diagnostic imaging reports, and immunization information (planned).
Electronic Medical Record Systems	Clinical documentation and decision support tool that is used within a health centre to maintain an electronic version of a client's health file.
Privacy and Security Toolkit	Designed for First Nations to help identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• how to get started;• essential privacy and security requirements (or "must haves");• the steps needed to make progress on identified privacy and security gaps, and;• future privacy and security processes that are recommended (or "nice to haves").

tools available in Ontario that improve health information management, provide better support for community health service delivery and reporting, and support improved information sharing with partners.

Accomplishments:

Digital Health Implementation

The FNHIMiO project has been working for the past three years towards developing best practices, tools and templates to implement electronic medical records (EMRs) and community electronic medical records (cEMRs) in First Nation communities as well as to align with provincial eHealth programs and projects. To date, five KMAG members have successfully implemented a cEMR. The project team is currently exploring the best way to expand the project beyond the initial subscribers to include all First Nations in Ontario.

Regional Strategy

The project team is currently developing a regional implementation strategy, the objective of which is to support all First Nation Health Service Organizations (FNHSOs) in Ontario with identified needs to adopt and benefit from the FNHIMiO solutions that have been tested and validated by the Initial Subscribers and their provincial and regional partners.

PROGRAM AREA:

Emergency Management

Technicians: Emergency Management

Committee: Tracy Antone, Linda Ogilvie, other Directors at Chiefs of Ontario, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corp (OFNTSC), Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, JEMS (Joint Emergency Management Services.)

Accomplishments:

- Proposal submitted and approved by INAC to support a 2 day meeting to bring together First Nation leadership including members of the Political Confederacy, Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH), Health Coordination Unit (HCU) (PTO's, IFN and Six Nations Health Director), Assembly of First Nations, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corp, Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, AMBER (NAN), JEMS (Joint Emergency Management Services).
- This meeting included representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments to update and detail their mandate for Emergency Management (All Hazards) in Ontario Region.

Future Directions:

- Development of an Emergency Management Agreement for First Nation in Ontario
- Work-plan activities for this meeting will focus on a three staged approach. Phase One and Two to be completed by March 31st, 2019. Phase Three will require ongoing funding to meet deliverables. Phase one will identify partners and the development of a comprehensive plan, environmental scan and the development of roles and responsibilities. Phase two may include the development of an Emergency Prevention, Planning and Management Framework (the concept of this framework was ratified at AOCC, October 2017 and may include different models based upon individual community, PTO, Regional needs)
- Begin the discussion on what type of Emergency Management Agreement meets Ontario First Nation Needs.
- Establishment of Chiefs Advisory Committee.
- Establishment of Technical Steering Committee.
- Completed work-plan based on the project objectives and informed by Chiefs Advisory Committee and Technical Steering committee.
- Review of work-plan by OCCOH/HCU to confirm priorities.

Sector:

Social



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder / Alternates

Grand Chief Joel Abram,
Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Chief Elaine Johnston,
Serpent River First Nation – Anishinabek Nation

Chiefs Committee on Social Services

Councillor Melba Thomas,
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Chief Arnold Paul, Temagami First Nation – Independent First Nations

Chief Duke Peltier,
Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve

Chief Randall Phillips,
Oneida Nation of the Thames

Chief Dan Miskokomon,
Bkejwanong Territory – Independent First Nations

Chief Tim Thompson,
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Independent First Nations

Chief Reginald Niganobe,
Mississauga #8 – Union of Ontario Indians

Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation – Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Deputy Grand Chief Achneepineskum,
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Social Sector Coordination Unit

Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon,
Independent First Nations

Arliss Skye, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Debbie Lipscombe, Grand Council Treaty #3

Bobby Narcisse,
Nishnawbi Aski Nation

Adrienne Peltier,
Anishinabek Nation

Chiefs of Ontario Social Staff

Linda Sandy, Director of Social

Fallon Andy
Women's Caucus Sr. Coordinator

Melanie Baldwin, Social Coordinator

Megan Logan, Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Coordinator



Background

The Chiefs of Ontario Social Sector provides coordination support, technical information, and recommendations to Political Confederacy and Chiefs of Ontario. The Social Sector of Chiefs of Ontario is mandated by the following resolutions:

- Resolution #04/14 Support for the Social Sector Coordination Unit,
- Resolution #06/83 Chiefs Committee on Social Services,
- Political Confederacy Motion 11-22 (September 13th, 2011) Establishment of the First Nations Women's Caucus,
- Resolution #13/41 Support for First Nations Women's Caucus Initiatives, and
- Resolution #04/09 Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council.

Social Sector serves a broad mandate to protect and maintain our right and jurisdiction over the social well-being of our communities. It has a mandate to protect and maintain our right and jurisdiction over the social well-being of our communities, and to secure resources for leadership to collectively strategize on province wide policy positions with respect to the broader social field. The Social Sector is governed and directed by the Chiefs Committee on Social Services (CCSS) and the Social Sector Coordination Unit (SSCU).

The decision making process of Social Sector is as follows:

Social Sector Coordination Unit

The Social Services Coordination Unit (SSCU) is a technical and advisory body comprised of the Social Services Directors of the four PTOs, one representative of the Independent First Nations, and the Social Services Director from Six Nations of the Grand River. The SSCU receives support from the Chiefs of Ontario coordinating office.

Chiefs Committee on Social Services

The Chiefs in Assembly mandated the creation of a Chiefs Committee on Social Services (CCSS) to:

1. To provide advice, guidance and recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly on matters pertaining to First Nations social services;
2. To address and advance First Nations authority and jurisdiction to ensure rebuilding of healthy First Nations social systems;
3. To ensure that the work shall be without prejudice to social services initiatives at the First Nations level.

The Chiefs Committee on Social works for the Chiefs-in-Assembly's vision to First Nations self-determination – including the authority to control and deliver all social services in First Nation communities.

Political Confederacy

CCSS makes recommendations to the Political Confederacy, who are able to make resolutions on behalf of Ontario First Nations.

Chiefs in Assembly

The ultimate decision rests with the Chiefs in Assembly, whose resolutions provide the mandate for Chiefs of Ontario's Social Sector, and who direct COO on key matters pertinent to the Sector's mandate.

Social Accomplishments

Child Welfare

Ontario Indigenous Child and Youth Strategy (OICYS)

The Ontario Indigenous Child and Youth Strategy (OICYS) is a jointly developed strategy that was created by Ontario and First Nations with the goal of improving outcomes and opportunities for First Nations and other Indigenous youth by transforming the way services are designed and delivered.

The OICYS' vision is to ensure First Nations children and youth are healthy, happy, resilient, grounded in their cultures and languages, and thriving as individuals and as members of their families, Nations, and communities. The OICYS is guided by five pillars:

1. First Nation Jurisdiction and Control,
2. Prevention, Culture and Opportunities,
3. Coordinated and Responsive Circle of Care,

4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Shared Accountability,
5. Transformed Relationships and Collaborative, Holistic Action.

The OICYS is guided by a First Nations Technical Table that is comprised of representatives from each PTO, the Independent First Nations, and Six Nations. The following initiatives have been discussed at the Technical Table:

- Family Wellbeing Program – This is part of Ontario's strategy to end violence against Indigenous women, titled Walking Together. This strategy is cosponsored by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the Ministry of Status of Women.
- Input into the following legislative processes have been given: Children Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA), Regulations for the CYFSA, and policy directives are upcoming for the CYFSA.
- Strategies launched by the Ministry of Children and Youth include: the FASD Strategy, Jordan's Principle, Autism Strategy, TRIO – Data Collection and Performance Indicators, The Middle Years Strategy, Indigenous Housing Strategy (Ministry of Housing), and Not in Education or Employment (NEET) Youth Research Project.
- A review of the current Child Welfare Funding Model has been completed by KPMG as of September 2017 under the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This review

examines the fulsome funding model MCYS undertakes beginning with the funding envelope.

Child Protection Information Network (CPIN)

CPIN allows Children's Aids Societies (CASs) to securely share confidential child protection information, manage case files, and finances. According to MCYS, CPIN will help CASs track the protection services children have received and their outcomes, which would then help the government to support timely and efficient service for kids in need of protection and to help oversee the child protection system by providing consistent data on demand for services, costs and outcomes. As of March 2018 20 of 48 agencies use CPIN.

Data management is essential for child and family services, but the Chiefs-in-Assembly has expressed significant concerns on the impacts of CPIN for First Nations. The Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed three resolutions related to their concerns regarding CPIN and Child Welfare (Resolution 12/15 Child Protection Information Network, Resolution 11/17 Inquest in to Deaths of Indigenous Youth in Care, and Resolution 20/17 Child Protection Information Network and First Nation Consultation).

Special Chiefs Assembly, Resolution 12-15 states that the government has failed to inform, consult and accommodate First Nations interests related to CPIN. It further requests an update from the Ontario Regional Chief within three months. While CPIN is being implemented across the province it falls short in honoring Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) Principles, providing the technical and financial resources



for Indigenous Wellbeing Societies, and ensuring remote connectivity. A meeting was held with Ministry of Children and Youth Services indicating these concerns. We are waiting for a meeting to be scheduled to discuss these further.

Technical Table of the Child and Family Wellbeing

The Technical Table on Child and Family Well-Being (The Technical Table) provides advice and recommendations to leadership on child and family services policy and funding reform with a common interest in the continuous improvement of First Nations child and family well-being in Ontario. In 2017-018, this has centred on guiding the Ontario Special Study.

The Technical Table on the Child and Family Well-Being is comprised of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, and the Department of Indigenous Services. The Technical Table has met with MCYS several times over the last year.

- May 15th, 2017
- August 16th, 2017
- October 17th, 2017
- December 19th, 2017
- April 18th, 2018

A significant achievement for this year was the signing of a Joint Commitment document, which was agreed upon between the Minister of Children and Youth Services – Ontario, the Minister of Indigenous Services - Canada, and First Nations

leadership. This agreement was developed at the Child and Family Wellbeing Technical Table and approved by Chiefs Committee on Social, and was signed on April 5, 2018. The commitment was for all parties to continue to work together for the next 12 months under the following mandate: *“Our shared goal is to develop new policy and funding approaches for First Nations child and family services in Ontario... that provide the capacity to First Nations communities to deliver child-centred, community-directed, more comprehensive, and prevention-focused child and family services.”*

Since April, the Technical Table has met to develop a work plan to operationalize that commitment. The work plan is still in development, and will guide the Table’s efforts in the coming year.

Ontario Special Study

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ordered Canada to fund a study to better understand the policy and funding realities for Child and Family Wellbeing in Ontario because Ontario is unique in Canada in that First Nation child welfare services are funded through a bilateral agreement between Ontario and Canada (The 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement) and therefore was not covered in a previous study. The Special Study is mandated by Resolution #21/17 moved by Chiefs in Assembly on October 25th, 2017. The resolution supports and accepts a Request for Proposals and Work Plan for the Ontario Special Study which was designed provide options on a new First Nation child well-being approach that is child-centered, community-directed, and supports greater prevention.

The contract was awarded to MNP consultant group and is scheduled to be presented for approval at the 2018 All Ontario Chiefs Conference. The Ontario Special Study is being completed by MNP in collaboration with the Technical Table on the Child and Family Well-Being. The Ontario Special Study is to provide options on a new First Nation’s child well-being approach that is child centered, community-directed and supports better outcomes by focusing on prevention services. The project has been designed to align with Canada and Ontario’s commitment to achieving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and continue to support and enhance First Nation culture, control, laws, jurisdiction and autonomy.

The consultants have been working on completing:

- An Environmental Scan
- Engagement sessions with First Nation communities, regional sessions, and targeted interviews,
- Developed a Survey, shared it, and collected results,
- Developed a draft final report for the review of the Technical Table.

The Ontario Special Study has been taking place alongside the Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s Remoteness Quotient Study. These processes are taking place simultaneously and will complement each other, and both will need to direct funding and policy reform for Child and Family Wellbeing services. MNP and Chiefs of Ontario have been respectful of Nishnawbe Aski Nation community processes regarding their Remoteness Quotient Study.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT)

Chiefs of Ontario is engaged at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal through mandates in Resolution 11/07, Resolution 09/16, and Resolution #10/16. In January 2016 the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that federal funding for First Nations children, youth, and family services are insufficient and discriminatory. As a result, in Budget 2016, Canada set out its plan for an increased prevention funding as part of immediate relief pending full program and funding reform.

2016-17 \$5.8M	2018-19 an additional \$12.4M
2017-18 an additional \$9.1M	2019-20 an additional \$15.9M

In addition, the National Advisory Committee has recommended that Canada “Ramp Up” the 2018-19 and 2019-20 funding to provide for more prevention money earlier on. Therefore, the above numbers for 2018-19 are going to increase.

Budget 2018 also identified additional new funding for prevention, community well-being initiatives, and jurisdiction initiatives, and the allocation of those funds across Canada is before the Consultation Committee on immediate relief, where COO is a member. The distribution of that money nationally is under discussion by the Consultation Committee.

Year 1 and Year 2 “immediate relief” funding have been distributed using the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnerships Gaming Formula. Chiefs of Ontario passed a resolution to support using the OFNLP formula as an interim measure until a more appropriate funding mechanism is defined. Chiefs of Ontario brought a motion in 2017 to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to ask for the following further immediate relief:

- Funding Band Representatives
- Funding the Ontario Special Study
- Fund Mental Health Services

The Ontario Special Study was agreed to by Canada before the Tribunal decided on that matter. In February 2018, the Tribunal decided in favour of Chiefs of Ontario and ordered Canada:

- To fund mental health services for children and youth, retroactive to January 2016
- To fund Band Representative services for First Nations, retroactive to January 2016

While funding of the Band Representatives and the Mental Health Services have been ordered by the Tribunal, individual First Nations, First Nations organizations, and families must apply for reimbursement. So far, The process for future funding and program delivery is still under negotiation.

In addition, as a result of the First Nation Child and Family Caring Society’s motions to the Tribunal, agencies are entitled to access prevention money at actual costs, meaning all money they spend on prevention activities is reimbursable by Canada. We understand there are agreements between

First Nations and agencies to allow First Nations to deliver additional prevention programming in their communities in partnership with agencies.

Social Assistance Reform

Joint Social Services Table

The First Nation Income Security Working Group underwent a name change this year to the Joint Social Services Table (JSST) to reflect that the JSST does much more than income security

reform. The most significant work completed this year is the collaboration and co-design process endorsed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) throughout the Income Security Transformation Process. Mandated by Resolution #26/17 Social Assistance and Income Security Reform, the First Nations Caucus of the Joint Social Services Table continues to push for income security reform and wellbeing for First Nations in Ontario.



The Joint Social Services Table worked to complete the Income Security: A Roadmap for Change for November 2017. Unfortunately, the JSST was unable to collaboratively work on a Basic Income Pilot Project with MCSS due to a limited budget that would lead to skewed data for First Nations collection. However, during an era of reform, the JSST is committed to working towards their goal of First Nations jurisdiction of social wellbeing and exemption from social assistance legislation.

The First Nations Caucus' of the JSST currently has four subcommittees working throughout the upcoming year:

- Subcommittee for working on Social Assistance Transformation Directives
- Subcommittee for working on First Nations Delivery Service Plans
- Subcommittee for working on ODSP Pilot Project
- Subcommittee for Information and Technology

Income Security Reform Roadmap

The release of the Income Security Reform Roadmap (ISR) has had many profound impacts for First Nations including many exemptions, maintenance, changes to eligibility requirements, technical amendments, rate increases, and eliminations of punitive policies. The JSST subcommittee in charge of social assistance directives continues to make strides in relation to the social well being of First Nations.

First Nations ODSP Pilot

The JSST Subcommittee in charge of the ODSP Pilot Project is currently at the beginning stages of the First Nation ODSP Pilot Project. As of May 2018 the JSST are discussing approaches for supporting the self-assessment of community readiness through a survey, an expression of interest from First Nations, and the site selection process for a First Nation Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) delivery pilot.

First Nation Ontario Works Service Planning

The JSST Subcommittee working on First Nations Delivery Service Plans are co-designing service plans to demonstrate a connection between community priorities, services to be provided, and the desired benefits for individuals, families and the community as a whole. This work will enable First Nations to create a community-based plan that guides the use of Ontario Works Program Delivery Funding to support effective program delivery.

Relationship Building

Ongoing efforts and dialogue continue with the aforementioned ministries in addition to the following:

1. Ontario Welfare Administrators Association
2. Association of Native Child and Family Service Agencies of Ontario
3. Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario

Resolutions

- In the 2017-2018 year Social Sector was mandated to complete the aforementioned work due to the moving of the below resolutions.
- Resolution 25/17 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 13-14-15, 2017 Lac Seul First Nation
- Resolution 26/17 Social Assistance and Income Security Reform, All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 13-14-15, 2017 Lac Seul First Nation
- Resolution 27/17 Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Project, All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 13-14-15, 2017 Lac Seul First Nation
- Resolution 28/17 Coordination Long-Term Reform of First Nations Child, Youth and Family Services in Ontario, All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 13-14-15, 2017 Lac Seul First Nation
- Resolution 29/17 Immediate Relief Prevention Funding, All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 13-14-15, 2017 Lac Seul First Nation
- Resolution 20/17 Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) and First Nation Consultation, Special Chiefs Assembly October 25th, 2017 Ottawa
- Resolution 21/17 Ontario Special Study, Special Chiefs Assembly October 25th, 2017 Ottawa
- Resolution 22/17 Immediate Relief Prevention Funding, Special Chiefs Assembly October 25th, 2017 Ottawa

- Resolution 23/17 Funding for Band Representative Services, Special Chiefs Assembly October 25th, 2017 Ottawa

In The Year Ahead

In the year ahead Social Sector plans to continue supporting and advancing all issues and resolutions related to Child Welfare, Social Assistance Reform, Youth, and Women and Family Wellbeing.

Ontario Special Study

- Report being released at AOCC
- Chiefs to approve at their discretion
- Recommendations on policy change/reform
- Funding mechanisms to be determined

Immediate Relief Funding

- Development of the new formula with the findings of the Remoteness Quotient Study and the Ontario Special Study acknowledging that many First Nations, such as larger First Nations and First Nations that are close to urban centres, experience higher costs and unique barriers due to factors other than remoteness.

CHRT

- Hold Canada accountable to ensure that there is substantive equality for First Nation children
- Hold Canada accountable that the process for future funding and program delivery for



the Band Representatives and the Mental Health Services as ordered by the Tribunal to individual First Nations, First Nations organizations, and families be carried out.

CPIN

- Support for First Nations agencies must co-develop a separate approach in a First Nations development/adaptation and deployment in CPIN.
- Support for First Nations must provide changes that may need to be made to address functional ability of CPIN to capture prevention information, privacy and information sharing, ownership of data, cultural aspects, as well as address policy issues such as customary care.
- Support for regional consultation sessions to build an understanding of CPIN and discuss issues presented. Sessions may include First

Nations political leadership, associations, including Indigenous child well-being societies (ICWSs), mainstream societies, as well as individuals at First Nations doing the work.

- Support for a provincial session will follow the regional sessions for all Provincial and Territorial Organizations to support conversations across regions and sharing of support/work required.

Review of the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement

- Canada has been ordered to do this by Tribunal and there has been little progress to date. Request timelines from Canada and Ontario when this will be carried out

Joint Commitment Document

- Work with Canada and Ontario to complete the Joint Commitment Implementation Work Plan for 2018-19 Work Plan develop a new policy and funding approaches for First Nations child and family services in Ontario.

Sector:

Social: First Nation Women's Caucus



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Grand Chief Joel Abram
(AlAI)

Chief Elaine Johnston,
Serpent River First Nation
(AN)

First Nations Women's Caucus

*Chiefs Committee on First
Nations Women's Caucus*

Chief Denise Stonefish,
Association of Iroquois and
Allied Indians

**Deputy Grand Chief
Achneepineskum**,
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Donna Debassige,
Anishinabek Nation

Isobel White, Grand Council
Treaty #3

Chief Karen Loran, Mohawk
Council of Awkesasne,
Independent First Nations

Sandra Montour, Six Nations
of the Grand River Territory

Social Technicians

Adrienne Pelletier,
Anishinabek Nation

Rebecca Tims, Anishinabek
Nation

Catherine Cheechoo,
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Deanna Jones-Keeshig,
Independent First Nations

Lyndia Jones, Independent
First Nations

Debbie Lipscombe, Grand
Council Treaty #3

Natasha George, Association
of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Chiefs of Ontario Social Staff

Linda Sandy,
Director of Social

Fallon Andy,
Women's Caucus Sr.
Coordinator

Melanie Baldwin,
Social Coordinator

Background

The First Nation Women's Caucus (FNWC) is a technical and advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) mandated by Political Confederacy Motion 11-22 (September 13th, 2011) Establishment of the First Nations Women's Caucus.

The First Nations Women's Caucus serves a broad mandate to protect and maintain our right and jurisdiction over the well-being of our communities, and to secure resources for leadership to collectively strategize on province wide policy positions with respect to the broader ending violence against women field. The First Nations Women's Caucus is governed and directed by the Chiefs Committee on First Nation's Women's Caucus.

The First Nation Women's Caucus provides advice, guidance and recommendations to the Political Confederacy (PC) and COO on ending violence against women, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls including the National Inquiry, the WHO IS SHE campaign, human trafficking and the Strategy for Safer Ontario.

The decision making process of First Nations Women's Caucus is as follows:

First Nations Women's Caucus

FNWC technicians are a technical and advisory body comprised of policy analysts and technicians of the Social Sectors from the four PTOs, one representative of the Independent First Nations, and one representative from Six Nations of the Grand River. The FNWC technicians receive support from the Chiefs of Ontario First Nations Women's Caucus Policy Analyst.

Chiefs Committee on First Nations Women's Caucus

The Political Confederacy mandated the creation of the First Nations Women's Caucus Chiefs Committee to:

1. Develop a short- and long-term strategic approach for the consideration of First Nation political leadership;
2. Provide First Nations Women's Caucus recommendations for the Chiefs of Ontario into the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women's strategic framework for ending violence against aboriginal women;
3. Act as an autonomous First Nations Women's Caucus apart from the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women;
4. Identify support for First Nation approaches to ending violence against aboriginal women and girls;

5. Identify First Nations' priorities within the strategic framework for ending violence against women and girls;
6. Act as an advisory body for the Chiefs of Ontario advocacy efforts for ending violence against aboriginal women and girls;
7. Strengthen First Nations community relationships with one another, regional organizations, and with provincial and federal governments in Canada;

Political Confederacy

FNWC makes recommendations to the Political Confederacy, who are able to make resolutions on behalf of Ontario First Nations.

Chiefs in Assembly

The ultimate decision rests with the Chiefs in Assembly, whose resolutions provide the mandate for Chiefs of Ontario's First Nations Women's Caucus, and who direct FNWC on key matters pertinent to the FNWC mandate.

First Nations Women's Caucus Accomplishments:

First Nations Women's Caucus Meetings

First Nations Women's Caucus has met five times throughout the 2017-2018 fiscal year with many completed objectives.

The August 17th, 2017 FNWC and Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario meeting completed the following:

- Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the First Nation Women's Caucus.
- Review of the Second Family Gathering Report.
- Chiefs of Ontario Justice Department has recommended that the discussions including working with on the development of a work-plan on researching the possibility of a Class Action Law Suit for families of MMIWG (Resolution # 24/17 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) be put on hold until after the National MMIW Inquiry is complete.
- Working to develop a living draft document of a strategic plan (partially funded by MIRR).

On January 23rd, 2018 the FNWC held a Birthing Ceremony to continue their work in a good way.

This ceremony included the following:

- Birthing Ceremony completed with Elder Gordon Waindubence.
- FNWC's bundle now contains a copper cup, talking stick, and medicines.
- FNWC members proposed an annual meeting be held with Ministers who work on Women's Issues.



On March 27-28-29th, FNWC met and attended the First Nations Women's Political Leadership Summit. The FNWC completed the following:

- Engagement with Women Chiefs and Councillors regarding leadership strategies.
- Three days of planning coordinated approaches to supporting women in leadership.
- Report and presentation to be given at June 2018 All Ontario Chiefs Conference.

Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy

The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy is supported by the Ontario Native Women's Association and is a provincial coordinating and policy input opportunity for First Nations to consider with the recent Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation that was passed this year. FNWC is working in partnership regarding the Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness project with Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario and most recently, with the IFN Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women (EVAIW) Coordinators; and Ontario Native Women's Association.

The FNWC completed the following in regards to this strategy:

- August 23-25th, 2017 Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Training with the Ontario Native Women's Association. Over half the FNWC representatives were trained including two Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council representatives. At the training FNWC made an action plan for the implementation of an Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy.
- December 18-19th, 2017 FNWC collaborated with the Native Women's Resource Centre of

Toronto to deliver Anti-Human Trafficking Training in Toronto for Youth & LGBTQ2S. We had one FNWC representative and two Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council Representatives trained at this session.

First Nations Women's Leadership

Indigenous Women's Leadership Forum: Women as Change Makers in Ottawa, February 22-23rd, 2018

FNWC assisted in the co-development in the Women's leadership forum. Three Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council representatives attended the forum. Unfortunately, FNWC representatives were unavailable to join.

First Nations Women's Political Leadership Summit, Ottawa, March 27-28-29th, 2018

Mandated by resolution O6/16, First Nation Women and Chiefs Leadership Summit, the FNWC and the Indigenous Women in Leadership formed a coordinating committee to plan the development and implementation of the Women's Political Leadership Summit. This was a collaborative endeavour between Social and Justice. The planning conference calls took place as follows:

- Planning Conference Call Oct 17th, 2017.
- Planning Conference Call November 23, 2017.
- Planning Conference Call January 30th every week there-after.
- A Women in Leadership statement has been released by women Chiefs and Councillors.
- A report and presentation will be delivered at the June 2018 All Ontario Chiefs Conference.

Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women

Walking Together Strategy

The Walking Together Strategy is currently heading into its third year. The Walking Together Strategy is comprised of an Executive Committee with membership from seven Provincial Organizations, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and the Ministry of Status Women Canada. The additional Ministries are invited to co-design on an as needed basis. Further to the Executive Committee, the Walking Together Strategy utilizes six Provincial Committees to address strategic direction and priorities. The membership and committees are listed below:

Indigenous Organizations

- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.
- Ontario Native Women's Association.
- Metis Nation of Ontario.
- Independent First Nations.
- Chiefs of Ontario.
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation.
- Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

Government Ministry

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.
- Ministry of the Status of Women.
- Ministry of Correctional Services and Community Safety.
- Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Provincial Committees

- Supporting Children, Youth And Families
- Community Safety And Healing
- Policing And Justice (FNWC Co-Chair)
- Human Trafficking
- Prevention And Awareness
- Improved Data And Research

The FNWC was represented at the following Executive Committee and Provincial Committee meetings:

- August 14th, 2017 Co-Chaired Provincial Committee on Policing and Justice
- September 19th, 2017 Executive Committee meeting
- November 7th, 2017 Provincial Committee on Community Safety and Healing
- November 8th, 2017 Provincial Committee on Children, Youth and Families
- November 9th, 2017 Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking
- November 15th, 2017 Co-Chaired Provincial Committee on Policing and Justice
- January 16-17th, 2018 Executive Committee meeting
- February 7th, 2018 Provincial Committee on Human Trafficking
- February 13th, 2018 Co-Chaired Provincial Committee on Policing and Justice
- May 4th, 2018 Co-Chaired Provincial Committee on Policing and Justice

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The FNWC support the implementation of a Class Action Law Suit for families of MMIWG, Resolution # 24/17 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The COO Director of Justice recommends waiting until the National Inquiry is completed with its final report.

Recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly

The First Nations Women's Caucus has completed a number of projects in the Ending Violence Against Women field and has been presented to the Chiefs in Assembly at the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly.

In the Year Ahead:

- Continue work on the strategic plan
- Re-launch the WHO IS SHE campaign
- Work with the Ontario families on the Family Advisory Circle, potential class-action, and further examination
- Raise awareness and keep information flowing regarding the National Inquiry
- Continue work on the Executive Committee on Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls
- Meet with Kim Murray, ADAG, to receive an update with MAG programming and the database on MMIWG
- Propose a FNWC protocol with Female Ministers for an annual meeting (requires resolution)



Sector:

Youth



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

**Deputy Grand Chief
Glen Hare**
– Portfolio Holder

Grand Chief Joel Abram
– Alternate

Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council

Quinn Meawasige
– Anishinaabek Nation

Lance Copegog
– Anishinaabek Nation
(Alternate)

Juliana Lesage
– Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Valerie Oshag
– Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Miranda Chookomolin
– Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Edward George
– Independent First Nations

Richelle Ritchie
– Independent First Nations

Alarice Keesick
– Grand Council Treaty #3

Sheldon Adams
– Grand Council Treaty #3

Mark Hill
– Six Nations
of the Grand River

Mercedes Bomberly
– Six Nations of the
Grand River

Chiefs of Ontario Staff

Megan Logan – Senior
Coordinator: OFNYPC

Linda Sandy – Director of
Social Services

Background

Under the auspices of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the Ontario First Nations Young People's Council (OFNYPC) is mandated to discuss and address regional and national priorities affecting First Nations youth in the communities and to provide a unified voice on these issues. The OFNYPC is mandated to lead in creating a voice for local youth through the formation of a youth-led governing and decision-making process. The OFNYPC consists of two representatives from each of the Political Territorial Organizations in Ontario, the Independent First Nations and Six Nations of the Grand River. This structure ensures that there is accurate and fair representation of the diverse regions and communities at the provincial level.

Overview

OFNYPC members play an active role within each sector of the COO political structure. The portfolio holders and alternates attend events, conferences, and meetings to provide input and offer guidance on issues affecting First Nations youth in Ontario. OFNYPC has worked diligently this year with all COO sectors to address priorities including but not limited to: Mental Health and Wellness, OSAP Transformation, Child, Youth and Family Services Act Regulations, Climate Change and Environment, Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy, Education, Health, and Justice and Government Relations. Members of the OFNYPC actively engage with the youth in their respective regions and communities to bring forth their voices and concerns to lobby for the wellbeing of First Nations Youth in Ontario. Strategic Planning is crucial in



gaining support to push youth issues and priorities forward and developing tangible, reachable solutions.

OFNYPC Accomplishments:

In-Person Meetings

The Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council met several times throughout the year to discuss priorities, strategic direction, and issues affecting First Nations youth.

- July 15/16th, 2017 – Focus on strategic planning document, climate change gathering planning and elections for Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council representatives. OFNYPC elected Mark Hill – Six Nations of the Grand River and Valerie

Oshag – Nishnawbe Aski Nation as the Ontario representatives for the National Youth Council.

- September 23/24, 2017 – Day 1 was facilitated by MCYS and focused on contributions toward the Child, Youth and Family Services Act Discussion Guide and Regulations. The following day consisted of a meeting with only OFNYPC representatives where the main focus was to work on final agenda and planning details for Youth and Elders Climate Change Gathering.
- March 10/11, 2018 – Strategic Planning to develop years priorities, prepare for youth coordinator position interviews, and to work on photo-voice project training manual.

Premiers Meetings:

The OFNYPC met with Kathleen Wynne and Minister Zimmer for the bi-annual meetings.

- August 1, 2017 – OFNYPC attended the bi-annual meeting alongside the Political Confederacy and the Premier and applicable Ministers. OFNYPC chose to focus on the following areas: Child and Family wellbeing, life promotions, youth leadership and capacity development, and environment.
- February 5, 2018 – OFNYPC Representatives attended a stand-alone meeting with the Premier, Minister Zimmer and ADM Deborah Richardson. The one-hour meeting focused on areas including Environment and Climate Change and Mental Health and Wellness.

Assembly of First Nations:

Annual General Assembly – July 2017, Regina, SK

- Megan Logan, Mark Hill, Valerie Oshag and Darian Baskatawang represented OFNYPC at the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council Meetings and the General Assembly. Representatives attended a series of meetings with National Chief Bellegarde, Minister Carolyn Bennett, Ministry of Education officials and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Mark Hill was elected as co-chair of the AFNNYC to represent on the AFN Executive.

Special Chiefs Assembly – December 2-6, 2017, Ottawa, ON

- Mark Hill and Megan Logan attended on behalf of OFNYPC. They attended meetings with the AFNNYC, followed by the Chiefs Assembly. Megan had facilitated a dialogue and strategy session on life promotions and Mark addressed the assembly with a bold statement calling on AFN to resume their mandates as a lobbyist and coordinating body.

Special Chiefs Assembly – April 30-May 3, 2018

- Mark Hill and Richelle Ritchie attended on behalf of OFNYPC. They attended meetings with AFNNYC followed by their participation in the Chiefs Assembly.

Anti-Human Trafficking Engagement Sessions – August and December 2017

3 members of OFNYPC attended Anti-Human Trafficking Engagement sessions to contribute their voices toward the development of a provincial Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Service Delivery Model.





Special Chiefs Assembly on Child Welfare - October 24/25, 2017 Ottawa, ON

Members of OFNYPC observed presentations and commentary by leadership to provide input and recommendations to the assembly on the protection and wellbeing of our children

“Reconnecting with Mother Earth”: Youth and Elders Gathering on Climate Change - November 3-5, 2017 Thunder Bay, ON

OFNYPC Collaborated with the Environment Sector to deliver a Youth and Elders Gathering focusing on climate change for over 60 participants. Youth and Elders engaged in necessary dialogue to identify changes in climate and environment in their home regions where they would later present to the larger group. The 3 days consisted of presentations, break-out sessions, sharing circles, social media

challenges, and after hours social events. A final report was compiled by Deborah McGregor.

Leaders in the Legislature – November 20-23, 2017 Toronto, ON

Aside from their participation in the larger assembly, OFNYPC attended a series of meetings with 8 Ministers from different Ministries to discuss issues and provide solutions, as well as an inaugural meeting with the Indigenous Youth and Community Wellness Secretariat. Mark Hill and Megan Logan served as youth-co-chairs to the Assembly. OFNYPC presented a report on the Youth and Elders Climate Change Gathering to the chiefs in assembly.

“Women as Change Makers” Indigenous Women’s Leadership Forum – February 22/23, 2018 Ottawa, ON

Three female youth representatives on OFNYPC attended the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Women’s Leadership Forum where they listened to inspiring women keynotes, and attended a series of breakout session led by prominent Indigenous Women Leaders and Change Makers. A collective statement was drafted following the unjust verdict of finding Tina Fontaine’s killer not guilty.

Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum – February 27-May 1, 2018 Toronto, ON

Aside from attending the presentations and break-out sessions, OFNYPC worked to facilitate and deliver a panel on youth perspectives into topics including Sexual Violence in Communities, Cannabis and Mental Health and Wellness.

Charting our Own Path Forward Education Forum:

The first Charting our Own Path Forward Education forum took place from January 16-18, 2018 in Toronto. OFNYPC members attended presentations and break-out sessions, as well as provided a brief presentation on their reflections of the forum and input as post-secondary students. The second took place from April 30-May 3, 2018 in Thunder Bay. OFNYPC members attended the second Education Forum as a follow-up from the January Forum and provided some input as part of a panel discussion



We Matter Campaign

The OFNYPC support the efforts of the We Matter campaign and encourage youth determined solutions to the Indigenous youth suicide epidemic.

In the Year Ahead

Priority Area: Life Promotions

In July 2017, Chiefs of Ontario submitted a proposal to undertake the photo voice project. Photo voice is a multi-media, digital storytelling project that practices Life Promotion in which participants snaps pictures of things that foster a beautiful life and make life worth living and enjoying. A training manual is being finalized before a series of six training sessions will take place across the province. This training will be offered to First Nations youth

and work to build their capacity to facilitate photo voice sessions in their home communities, as well as receive certification in suicide intervention training program safeTALK (delivered by certified First Nations Youth facilitators).

Priority Area: Addressing Sexual Violence and Abuse in First Nations Communities

In March 2017 OFNYPC worked to provide recommendations from a youth perspective on how to begin to create a strategy on education to end sexual violence. OFNYPC will work with the Task Force on Ending Sexual Violence in a collaborative relationship to move mutual priorities forward. This includes obtaining leadership support to carry-out

work which will eventually see the creation of a framework and initiatives to be utilized at the community level.

All Ontario Chiefs Conference 2018

OFNYPC will assume regular participation at the AOCC 2018. Co-chairs will be identified to help moderate discussions, members will assist in the traditional selection process for the Ontario Regional Chief as official lanyard counters and helpers to the Elder. A 2-day OFNYPC meeting will be held preceding the AOCC to work toward strategic planning, their Annual Report to the Assembly, and to elect 2 new representatives to the AFNNYC.

Portfolio Shuffle

With many new OFNYPC members representing the various regions, OFNYPC is working to assign portfolios based on personal interest and experience. It is anticipated that OFNYPC will continue to participate at the various forums, assemblies and tables to further advance the voices and recommendations of First Nations Youth in Ontario. Further, OFNYPC will continue to participate in their regional and community processes in order to bring their perspectives to the broader table that makes up OFNYPC. Another busy and productive year ahead is anticipated, and OFNYPC is eager and motivated to make the best of the opportunities and experiences presented.

Sector:

Communications



Scott Cavan,
Director Communications

Genna Benson,
Jr. Communications Officer

OVERVIEW

The Communications sector works to ensure that the messages, activities, and priorities of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) are brought to the forefront of public attention. To this effect, Communications coordinates public relations and the exposure of our First Nations' priorities through an array of mediums such as press releases, speaking engagements by First Nations leadership, conferences, videos, radio, interviews with media outlets, and social media.

KEY ISSUES

Communications, Outreach and Public Awareness

Priority: The sector developed a Comprehensive Communications/Media Strategy to address communication priorities. Over the past year, the strategy has continued to be implemented and advance COO's internal and external communications and public awareness initiatives, ensuring the greatest possible impact in supporting First Nation citizens and leadership.

Communications is an essential tool for COO in reaching out to First Nation citizens and communities, and leadership. First Nations' priority areas, such as education, child welfare, elder security, health promotion and the protection of our lands and resources are granted greater exposure when multiple media converge to produce clear, concise and consistent messages about these pertinent topics. Now that COO has expanded its communications into an online media space, it can

better craft its messaging to ensure that First Nation citizens are able to enter into a dialogue on living as Nations, implementing the Treaties and asserting their inherent rights and jurisdictions.

It is in this spirit that this plan seeks to motivate, empower, inform and educate the communities and citizens of our Nations as they proclaim their sacred birthright. We must also listen to the passionate voices of our Youth and see that their perspectives are represented, and that the teachings and wisdom of our Elders is shared. We must remind ourselves of the importance of building maintaining alliances with other Peoples and Nations. Also, we must make sure that our internal communications is strengthened so that our leadership and their technicians can use effective tools and resources to benefit First Nations.



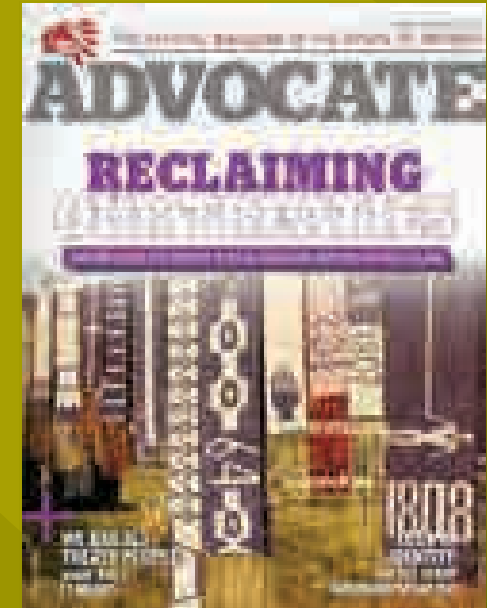
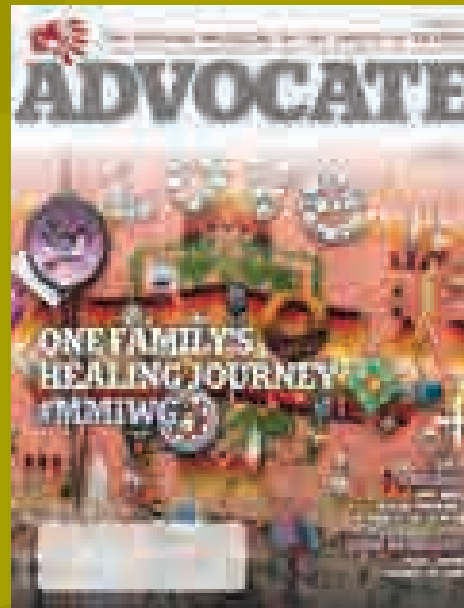
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Progress on expanding and implementing existing communications strategy
- Developing positive messaging and strategy to achieve implementation
- Using current technology and social media to help achieve our goal
- Transitioned to a new website with a more comprehensive calendar and rolled out a bi-weekly legislative blog with First Nation specific information
- Redevelopment and implementation of new media clipping process, service and technology to help with distribution of Daily Media Clips and enhanced monitoring of news outlets for First Nation specific stories
- Launched two editions of the COO Advocate Magazine
- Addition of new Communications Officer
- Promotion of more diverse events Ontario-wide to increase community knowledge and COO's participation at the ground level

Media Relations

- Responding to mainstream media and negative reporting about First Nations through letters to the editor, columns, news releases, press conference, social media posts, etc.
- Identifying key media contacts and continually building upon and reorganizing database of media contacts, regionally and nationally.
- Identifying relevant media requests. Communicating with journalists to determine subject, deadline and line of questioning. Preparing Ontario Regional Chief for media interviews, by gathering any relevant updates, briefing notes and or speaking notes prior to media interviews.
- Expanding media interviews to include new national and international media platforms such as SiriusXM Internet Radio, blogs and independent media and world news sources.
- Media monitoring: Daily Media Clips are currently distributed to all PTOs, Chiefs and





issues, priorities and headlines in the news regionally and nationally.

Media outlets are routinely monitored throughout the day by communications with relevant articles forwarded as necessary.

Outreach

- A Weekly Memo is distributed early every week to inform PTOs and the Chiefs the weekly schedule of Ontario Regional Chief and senior COO staff. This also acts as a Bulletin Board of events and conferences.
- COO Communications department is routinely asked by First Nation communities to coordinate or partner in Press Conferences in Ottawa or Toronto to help raise issues within media.

- Video Productions: Ontario Regional Chief Messages, Ontario First Nations Economic Forum (OFNEF) Testimonials and overview videos, Canada/Ontario Great Lakes Water Quality Forum at Niagara on the Lake, Elders and Youth Climate Change Gathering.
- Still Photography: All COO events, annual sector conferences, special meetings, etc.
- Rebranding with new design for the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat. New branding was produced for use in all outgoing and public COO materials: memos, letterheads, press releases, Powerpoint presentations and business cards.

- Launched Paypal on the website allowing visitors, delegates, observers to register for events and conferences and pay directly via online payment. This will now be a standard for all upcoming conferences and events.

Publications

The Advocate, a bi-annual glossy magazine, advocates for First Nation issues through compelling articles and story telling. This publication is distributed to all 133 First Nation communities and beyond.

“We are very proud of this initiative that will not only provide even more outreach to our citizens but will be a communication tool that we can use to educate and enlighten all Canadians on First Nation issues and priorities,” said Regional Chief

Day. “Our core mandate is to coordinate information and policy discussion of interest to 133 First Nations in Ontario. This publication helps all of our communities reach the global stage and share with the rest of the world news and opportunities of their communities and their citizens.”

Over 3000 copies were printed with an estimated readership of over 8,100, distributed to all 633 First Nations across Canada with a large focus on Ontario, friendship centers, all PTO's and various government agencies and advertisers.

As part of the Chiefs of Ontario Communications strategy which calls for ‘grassroots’ and social media outreach this publication will be sent via direct mail and made available through social media outlets. The publication will attract new potential sponsors for COO events and forums and provide a forum for community chiefs to promote initiatives and projects.

Issue #5 will be distributed the fall of 2018.

Ontario Regional Chief Support

- Supporting the Ontario Regional Chief through updates, media requests and speaking points.
- Some speaking engagements require support documents, Powerpoints and/or presentations that Communications will produce for the particular event.

CONTINUING

- Standardize internal communication processes so leadership and First Nation organizations get the most impact from the work done by COO.

- Build more relationships with newspaper editorial boards and news networks to reconfigure the representation of the First Nations in Ontario in the media.
- Encourage the creation of positive editorials and “good news” stories about First Nations.
- Information about Treaties and Treaty concepts. These Treaties will include the Two-Row Wampum and the Great Chain Covenant which were made before Confederation and an explanation of their concepts and the spirit and intent of the Treaties.
- Specific First Nation concepts and ideas about their traditional lands and resources
- Basic statistical facts around disparities and challenges faced by First Nations in Ontario.
- Highlights of a specific issue and COO's work on that issue with an invitation to know more.
- Promotion of Youth perspectives and ideas through our website and social media platforms. Ensure the Youth section of the website gives the fullest possible rendition of their goals and accomplishments.
- Using traditional teachings and knowledge from our Elders as a basis of understanding and a foundation for external communication.

Chiefs of Ontario website

Our newly designed website is a foundational tool that COO has to connect with First Nation communities. It is the primary hub for information related to all of COO activities and also connects



with our social media platforms. First Nations are more connected than ever before in their communities and most First Nation citizens are using social media in order to obtain information about their communities or political actions taken by First Nations organizations. Since traditional sources of media can often cast a negative light on First Nations, their communities and their struggles, relying on other First Nation organizations, First Nation news sources or even just their friends on social networking sites has become an important method of sharing news and information. First Nations leadership in Ontario are using social media to communicate how they are representing the interests of their citizens.

Social media platforms offer a “direct-to-audience” style of communication in which all info can be obtained by our citizens directly from COO. Through effective use of social media, we can become a trusted resource for information for First Nations in Ontario and can make this an effective tool for political action. Some tools available to us are:

Facebook

Chiefs of Ontario Facebook page includes news clips, photos, videos, community events and links to news items that are relevant to the communities in Ontario. This provides a platform for feedback as well for community members. This year, we’ve also been focusing on bringing more events that take place across Ontario to the attention of community members. This includes events as far up as Attawapiskat to as south as Aamjinaang.

Twitter

COO Twitter and Ontario Regional Chief Twitter accounts are active daily and are followed by Chiefs, community members, government leaders and ministries and the general public. The audience continues to grow.

Chiefs of Ontario had 14,600 Followers on Twitter last year. Our current audience size as of May 2018 is 18,900 followers.

We average approximately 70 tweets per month.

News Releases

68 News Releases and Statements distributed to media and First Nations from June 2017 to May 2018

Flickr

The Chiefs of Ontario Flickr account has over 2,035 photos of events and conferences.

Sector:

Justice



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Ontario Regional Chief
Isadore Day

Deputy Grand Chief
Joel Abram

Chiefs Committee on Justice

Kelly LaRocca (Anishinabek)

Duncan Michano
(Anishinabek)

Reg Niganomb (Anishinabek)

Celia Echum (NAN)

Stan Beardy (NAN)

Patricia Fairies (NAN)

Dean Sayers (AIAI)

Cam Goodman (IFN)

Wilfred King (Independent)

Brian Perrault (GCT3)

Justice Technicians

Arthur Humniuk (GCT3)

Martha Loon (NAN)

Chris Hoyos (AIAI)

Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon
(IFN)

Leanna Farr (Anishinabek)

Barb General (Six Nations)

Joyce King (Akwasasne)

Chiefs of Ontario Justice Staff

Sydney Oakes,
Sr. Policy Advisor

Nicole Hill, Policy Analyst

Andrew Butko, Research
Coordinator

Background

The Chiefs Committee on Justice is a technical and advisory body operating under the umbrella of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). The Chiefs Committee on Justice was created through Resolution 12/09 with the mandate to “address and advance First Nation authority and jurisdiction, and First Nation distinctive judicial customs, traditions, procedures and practices.” The Justice Sector is committed to working on behalf of First Nations at an individual and community level.

The COO Justice staff worked in the past year to reinvigorate the work in the Justice sector, reestablishing the Chiefs Committee on Justice and moving forward in a number of key files. Priorities for the Justice Sector include policing, correctional reform initiatives, the justice as healing work plan, ongoing work in the field of heritage and burials, cannabis legalization (with the Health and Economic Development departments), and entrenching Traditional Legal Practices

Overview

The COO Justice Sector will be setting strategic priorities under the direction of the Justice Committee, under two primary objectives: 1) inherent rights, traditional legal principles and governance, and 2) relationships with Canada and Ontario, and review of laws and policies that impact First Nations people. These two objectives are interrelated, and the interplay between them is critical in First Nations movement towards greater self-determination as well as reconciliation with Canada and Ontario.

With respect to inherent rights, traditional legal principles and governance, the Chiefs of Ontario play an important role in advocating for First Nation authority and jurisdiction, as well as directing that rights-holders are appropriately consulted and engaged with respect to First Nation distinctive judicial customs, traditions, procedures and policies.

With respect to relationships with Canada and Ontario, and review of laws and policies that impact First Nations people, COO’s coordination and communication strategy focusses on increasing federal and provincial understanding of and respect for First Nations perspectives respecting heritage and burials, policing, community safety, and criminal justice.

The work of the COO Justice Sector is without prejudice to the policing, justice, inherent rights and nation-building initiatives being done at the First Nation community and nation level.

Justice Accomplishments

Justice as Healing Work Plan

Resolution 13/47 directs the Justice Sector to develop a strategy to advocate for greater access to justice for First Nations people in the provincial and federal justice and correctional systems. Over-representation remains a key challenge that First Nations must address. Data must be collected and analyzed that meaningfully addresses the treatment of and outcomes for First Nations people in corrections systems. Resolution 34/17 directed COO to develop a work plan that promotes “Justice as healing,” with an emphasis on restorative practices and increasing access to First Nations

traditional practices. First Nations may decide to take positions on issues such as mandatory minimum sentencing, solitary confinement and the implementation of Gladue principles.

A Justice Forum took place on March 22-23, 2018, to begin provincial discussions on overrepresentation and the development of Healing Lodges in Ontario. At this event, COO gathered justice practitioners from First Nations communities and organizations, as well as key PTO staff working in Justice. The staff also brought in academics and staff at a Section 81 Healing Lodge to provide the attendees with one model which Chiefs might consider for next steps. The Justice Sector prepared a report for the Chiefs Committee

on Justice to determine further processes, including engagement towards developing alternatives to correctional facilities.

Federal Review of Laws and Policies respecting Indigenous People

Canada is undertaking a wholesale review of their laws and policies that impact First Nations in order to account for Section. 35, UNDRIP, and the nation-to-nation relationship. The Chiefs of Ontario Political Confederacy has had a meeting with Canada's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Jody Wilson-Raybould, as well as the Federal Working Group on Laws and Policies Respecting Indigenous Peoples, and has made preliminary representations about the need for a total reset

of the relationship between First Nations and the Canadian government.

The Political Confederacy also had a retreat to brainstorm and determine strategic priorities for the federal review. First Nations must be strategic about what they envision their relationship with Canada and Ontario without the Indian Act framework, and how they wish to express self-government and their inherent rights. First Nations must be ready to identify opportunities for our nations and communities to exercise jurisdiction, develop laws, and govern themselves. This tremendous undertaking will be a key focus of the justice sector moving forward. COO will coordinate discussions amongst communities, tribal councils and nations, as well as knowledge keepers, constitutional experts and legal scholars to evaluate what our new relationships with Canada and Ontario will look like.

First Nations Legal Traditions

In partnership with the Women's Forum Group, the Justice Sector held a Women's Political and Legal Summit on March 27-29, 2018 which brought together First Nations leadership as well as municipal, provincial and federal political leaders to empower women in leadership roles. A key topic for consideration was First Nations legal traditions, as well as female perspectives regarding governance. The Summit maximized conversations amongst participants to develop networking and learning opportunities.

Heritage and Burials

The Heritage and Burials Working Group was active in 2017-18 with a number of significant milestones. Two Naming Ceremonies were held,



one on May 24-25, 2017 and October 16-17, both at Kettle and Stoney Point. The name for the Heritage and Burial Working Group is now Kee:Way Working Group. MTCS posted a future publication of a revised Draft Cultural Guide, which was finalized in November 2017.

In December 2017, the Working Group met in Sault Ste. Marie to expand its mandate into assisting with Residential School burials, veterans and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. At a meeting with MIRR and MTCS in January 2018, COO directed Ontario to more effectively engage with First Nations. Finally, at a meeting in April 2018 the Kee:Way working group met again with presentations from the Royal Ontario Museum, the Ministry of the Attorney General Indigenous Justice Division, and from Ry Moran from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission

The Chiefs of Ontario, by Resolution 41-17, directed the Justice Sector to establish a working collaborative relationship with the Ontario Human Rights Commission to address discrimination against First Nation people in Ontario. This relationship will focus on joint planning, joint coordination and joint advocacy. A knowledge forum was held on February 20-22, 2018 to explore First Nations' conceptions of human rights. This strategic partnership will have a long-term objective of supporting First Nations in developing their own human rights and responsibility codes.

Cannabis Legalization and Cannabis Working Group

See Economic and Sustainable Community Development on page 21 for more information.

Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement Negotiations

The Chiefs of Ontario has been working with the OFNPA Chiefs and Delegates since 2006, based on Resolutions O6-22 and 79-18. The Ontario First Nation Policing Agreement (OFNPA) Chiefs and Delegates have signed their most recent tri-lateral funding agreement, which has been updated based on a year of negotiations and new legislative provisions provided by the recent passing of the Safer Ontario Act, 2017.

The OFNPA Chiefs and Delegates have been successful in obtaining the following commitments from their contractual government partners:

From Canada:

A meeting with Minister Goodale and a commitment to review and respond to applications for capacity funding from First Nations policed under the OFNPA and make decisions as quickly as possible and at least within eight weeks of the receipt of a completed application.

From Ontario:

Ongoing pay parity; Enforcement of by-laws, including facilitating discussions regarding prosecutions; Continuing the additional First Nations constable positions for at least 5 more years under the First Nation Constable Fund and not capping salaries; Exploring capacity funding requests on a case by case basis; Naming the First Nations as co-insureds regarding police operations and exploring options to cover damages associated with wrongful dismissals; Establishing a process for funding police boards and liaison committees; and a meeting with Minister Lalonde (MCSCS).



Strategy for a Safer Ontario/Safer Ontario Act, 2017

First Nations in Ontario have repeatedly raised concerns around the inequity in the funding of First Nations police services, lack of salaries/wage parity for police officers and personnel, and the urgent need to review community safety policies and the Police Services Act (PSA). While both levels of government, through various meetings, have committed to building equity and sustainability in First Nations Policing, many details and developments had, and continue to remain outstanding.

Under this premise, as identified through the 43 Resolutions mandated to Chiefs of Ontario by the Chiefs in Assembly regarding First Nations Policing; Chiefs of Ontario informed the MCSCS that with regards to the SSO and the amendments to the PSA, First Nations' leadership needed time and access to review the draft amendments and obtain technical advice before the proposed legislation would be tabled.

Ontario then began work with Chiefs of Ontario through designated leadership who provided knowledgeable representatives in policing within First Nations communities to structure meaningful engagements on the reform of the PSA and the other strategic pillars under the SSO. This work is in line with Resolution 08-15 "Comprehensive Policing Services Strategy" mandated by Chiefs in Assembly.

This was further in line with the work already completed by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) regarding the PSA and the Adequacy Standards



Table (AST): The AST was a negotiating table comprised of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS), the Anishinabek Police Service (APS), and the Ontario government represented by the MCSCS. They negotiated the over 100 proposed amendments to the PSA and engaged with First Nation communities to inform the communities of their work: The AST conducted these engagement sessions between February and April 2017: February 23 in Thunder Bay meeting the leadership of Rainy River First Nation, March 7 in Kenora meeting with the Treaty 3 Police Service,

March 21 in Winnipeg with the Grand Council Treaty #3 Chiefs, and April 13, 2017 in Thunder Bay with the SSO Political Technical Table.

The AST's proposed amendments were in accordance with the principles for pay equity and support for all First Nations Police Services in Ontario, as mandated by Resolution 14-24 "Support for Anishinabek Police Services and Nishnawbe Aski Police Services" which states that these police services cannot comply with the provincial standards of the Ontario Provincial Police due to chronic underfunding. This would also not occur

under current legislation unless Police Services in communities moved from 'Program Based' to 'Essential Services', which is in line with the principles outlined in Resolution 1039: "Treaty Three Police Service to be Designated as an Essential Service (SCA)".

Due to the short timelines for tabling legislation, COO began work under the recommendation from the February 10, 2017 meeting of the Political Confederacy (PC) to have the PC choose appropriate representatives for the political/technical table (PTT) to attend the first meetings of the SSO with Ministry officials from February 13-14, 2017 in Thunder Bay, as well as all proceeding supplementary meetings. The COO Strategic and Executive Core coordinated information sharing sessions of the PTT with membership varying per location to address Ontario's proposed umbrella legislation Strategy for a Safer Ontario. Four sessions took place: (1) February 13-14 in Thunder Bay, (2) March 29 in Six Nations, (3) April 12-13 in Thunder Bay and (4) April 19 in North Bay.

The First Nations PTT comprised of political representatives and technical experts from the PC, Independent First Nations (IFNs), First Nations, First Nations Police Services, the COO Executive Core Unit, Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement (OFNPA) representatives and Chief Randy Phillips of Oneida Nation as Chair to discuss specific components of a provincial framework for First Nations Policing and the additional SSO's pillars.

A 48 page Policy Position Paper was tabled with MCSCS and the Premier of Ontario in 2017 with feedback being received consistently throughout the year from leadership. Chief Paul Syrette of Garden River First Nation presented at the Standing Committee on Justice Policy in 2018 with Chief Operating Officer Nathan Wright, to advocate for outstanding issues not included in the legislation through the committee process. Many of the recommendations from the Policy Position Paper were added into the legislation, and all recommendations from the Standing Committee were included in the legislation, which was finalized as the Safer Ontario Act, 2018. Communities have the option of opting in to this legislative policing framework.

In the Year Ahead

In March 2018 Ontario passed new correctional and policing legislation, and part of that process will include writing the regulations for the new legislation. COO's Justice Sector will continue to engage with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to ensure that these regulations respect First Nation citizens and protect individuals' rights to their culture and spirituality while behind bars.

The Justice Forum was envisioned as phase one of a long term engagement process towards developing alternative correctional facilities. The Justice Sector will take direction from the Chiefs Committee on Justice to move forward with this strategy towards developing alternatives to prisons.

In Heritage and Burials, the Justice Sector will continue to promote First Nation interests. This will include legal and policy analysis of laws as they relate to Aboriginal and heritage sites and First Nations decision-making, building upon the environmental legislative scan conducted. COO will also research and provide proposals to the upcoming MTCS review of the Archaeological Standards and Guidelines with input from First Nations community technicians and key informants to ensure that First Nations' perspectives and rights are reflected in the new Standards and Guidelines. Further, COO will continue to develop and work with partners including: the Ontario Archaeological Society, Save the Evidence Campaign with the Mohawk Institute, Last Post Canada (locating First Nation veterans), and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.

Chiefs of Ontario Hosts 43rd Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference in Lac Seul First Nation

During the week of June 13, 2017 Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day extended his greetings to the Youth, Elders, Leadership and Citizens participating in the 43rd Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) held in Lac Seul First Nation and co-hosted by Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3

The theme of the 43rd AOCC was “Determining Our Path: Stability for Future Generations.” During the three-day conference, various provincial Ministers and government agencies were on hand to meet with the Chiefs. Some of the highlights included sector updates from Environment, Social Services, Justice, Education and Health departments and included information sessions on energy and infrastructure, policing and climate change.

A number of positive outcomes and resolutions came as a result of true unity within the conference, including a Declaration by First Nations Political Leadership on Ending Racism and Violence to Save First Nation Lives. This declaration calling for protection of the rights of children in Ontario was shared with the Ontario Young Peoples Council and the Chiefs in Assembly. This was a move to not only protect and ensure a healthy future for First Nations children now, but for the next seven generations, as well as set the tone for the coming year.

“In this new era of Reconciliation, and the nation to nation relationship with both the federal and provincial governments, there will be much rewarding work to be done at this year’s AOCC,” said Regional Chief Isadore Day. “I especially look forward to the increased leadership role our youth have taken. They are the future leaders and professionals who will continue to elevate our Peoples and secure our rightful place in both Ontario and Canada.”





First Nations Women Political Summit



In collaboration with the First Nations Women's Caucus, the Indigenous Women In Leadership-Ontario (IWIL Ontario) hosted a First Nations Women's Summit in Ottawa this past March 2018.

Indigenous Women in Leadership - Background:

Former Chief Sheri Doxtator (Oneida Nation of the Thames), former Chief Leslee White-Eye (Chippewas of the Thames) and current Chief Ava Hill (Six Nations of the Grand River) hosted regular network meetings beginning in Fall of 2015. As of 2018, five informal gatherings have been held three of which have been in First Nation communities in the southwest region and two at regional Chiefs conferences.

First Nation women in governance gathered to share stories, experiences and lessons learned as women in leadership from First Nation communities and with our neighbouring women political leaders in municipal, provincial and federal governments. In addition, networking sessions resulted in discussions about how to encourage young women and girls to run for Chief and council. Women offer a wealth of knowledge, skills and specific points of view that are different from men at decision-making tables. Women voices are needed at the council table for many reasons and they need support. Therefore, the Chiefs felt it was

important to gather women Chiefs, councillors and clan mothers to begin a dialogue on these matters.

For more information, please contact IWIL Ontario at iwilontario@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/iwilontario/>

Summit Statement

50 + women political leaders and grandmothers attended the First Nations Women Political Summit held from March 27-29, 2018 at Wabano Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. Over the three days, break-out circles, self-care activities and large plenary deliberations took place. The summit's intent was to empower future women leaders, work through kindness to support current women leaders and honour the trail of women leaders that came before us.

The following Statement came as a result of our deliberations over the three days:

The women leaders acknowledge the Algonquin people of this land where the rivers join from all four directions. We give thanks for our time gathered to hear from and learn about the Anishinaabek of this territory.

The women leaders reaffirm the land is sacred, the water is sacred and women are sacred. We are one in the same. And only through ceremony and the use of our sacred medicines and languages does this reveal itself in its fullest expression. Ceremony feeds our hearts and minds as women, creators of life, for the heavy decision-making we carry for our people so it is our commitment to take care of ourselves and one another.

Women leaders when we retrace our leadership histories find a long line of women before us that led

the way. Grandmothers, aunties, mothers, sisters, past women Chiefs and women councillors were the head of family and community life as clan mothers, medicine carriers, knowledge keepers - as it is today. This rich history as women is our birthright and so it must be a commitment of all leadership to tell our stories.

Creating the space for women leaders to gather with one another provides healing and empowers us to voice our concerns. We, as women leaders, require and demand emotionally, culturally, spiritually, mentally and physically safe places to deliberate and make-decisions as nation political leaders, free from sexism, male chauvinism, verbal, spiritual, sexual and physical abuse and lateral violence and other violence so it must be a commitment of all leadership to call it out for what it is so that it may no longer show its face in our homes as we plan together for future generations.

Our sacred teachings and bundles remind us of our sacred responsibilities to our families, our children, our communities, future generations and creation. Our return to the inclusion of our teachings in our deliberations will also re-establish the balance between our brother leaders and ourselves through our greater understanding of the role of women and role of men in governance.

We, as women leaders, provide strong voices in different ways than men do. These ways must be honoured, valued and sought at decision-making tables. Our ways of governing have been absent or ignored for far too long and so it must be a commitment of all leadership to re-establish traditional forms, structures and processes where women and their leadership ways are fuelled and embraced.

We, as women leaders, lead from a diversity of knowledges, ways of knowing and being. Our skills are universal and our experiences are unique and therefore our presence at all tables, in every sector, should be a given. It must be a commitment of all leadership to ensure our voices are present in negotiations, strategic planning, law-making and policy implementation in all sectors particularly in lands and resources, economic development, technology, engineering, science, trade and commerce to bring about decolonization.

So therefore, we are hereby committed to the following action plan to reignite the flame that is ours to behold as leaders of our people:

Collective Voice

1. Convene quarterly gatherings, requesting that COO seek the resources to fund future gatherings (i.e., submit a proposal to the Dept. of Status of Women).
2. Establish a woman's council in all levels of leadership in the long-term.

Self-Care & Staying Connected

1. Convene local women gatherings as needed and invite local municipal women to support and learn from each other.

2. Seek opportunities for wholistic health, laughter, joy in our daily lives and share key therapy techniques, including land-based self-care or cultural activities and knowing our personal boundaries and ability to say no.
3. Create an on-line communication tool to address on-going needs that are timely and responsive i.e., closed Facebook page.

Sharing Solutions

1. Host another event in the North and ensure more northern community leaders and topics are identified in advance by all leaders.
2. Identify one central resource/portal/hub that we can all access to share resources.

For more information on the Summit, please contact us at info.womenspoliticalsummit@gmail.com



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