

# ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010



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## NATIONAL CHIEF SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO



Welcome to your Annual General Assembly (AGA) hosted in the Anishinaabe territories – *Where Our Nations Meet*. It's been an exciting year and I look forward to engaging with all of you throughout our Assembly.

The Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) role is clearly and simply to be your national advocacy organization. In all of our efforts, the voices of our people are front and center. Whether it is the thousands of young people gathered in Saskatchewan at the 2010 Winter Games, the leadership carefully debating important issues at Assemblies throughout the country, or in the context of ceremony, I clearly see the imperative for action and the resilience of our peoples, our rights, languages and cultures.

This Annual Report contains detailed information on activities and actions to follow through on your direction. We have also implemented new regular reporting that includes online video updates on our website. We will continue to work to find ways to provide the most timely and useful information and response to all First Nation governments.

Accomplishments from this past year can be summarized as:

### 1. **Strengthening and stabilizing the AFN**

The strategic plan developed by the National Executive is centered on a vision of restoring the rightful place of Indigenous governments in Canada and internationally. It is a plan grounded in tradition, based on Treaty and Aboriginal rights, and aimed at the confident re-assertion of our jurisdiction towards the advancement of sustainable economic development in all of our communities.

A sustainability review was undertaken to assess effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of our activities and spending with regard to our national mandates. We have made great progress and I am confident that through this ongoing work, greater cost-savings and stability will be enabled for the future.

### 2. **Confirming AFN's role and focus as an advocacy organization**

I made it very clear from the beginning that my priority would be to travel to First Nation communities and to meet with First Nation leadership.

I also committed to work with each Regional Chief to arrange visits within their territories. I am pleased to say that this has meant I have travelled to every region of the country and had the opportunity to meet with many of you directly. Such opportunities enable the national office to



directly support local leadership and ensure a better understanding of local priorities and realities within all of our national efforts. This work will continue.

We have worked to confirm a clear statement of AFN's role that directly responds to the Charter and allows no room for misinterpretation or misrepresentation by governments. The AFN has a clear role and mandate as a national advocacy organization and we have further described all efforts as requiring the following: nationally facilitated dialogue with regional coordination and advancement, all supportive of the imperative of local decision-making.

### **3. Opening doors for First Nations and setting a proactive agenda with Governments**

The AFN's national efforts have included several new approaches to building relationships with all Parliamentarians across party lines. The first-ever National Advocacy Day – First Nations Day on the Hill – was held on June 10, 2010. This first effort was a great success and plans are already underway for a much larger effort in the fall to align with the resumption of Parliament.

Policy decisions that often hamper our efforts can and must be challenged. We have met with many of the most senior officials, including the Clerk of the Privy Council, Canada's Auditor General and all Federal Deputy Ministers, to set out our priorities reflecting your resolutions and the mandate you have set for us. These meetings make an important contribution over the long term to setting federal policy on a new course.

### **4. Relationship building and developing alliances for support**

Our efforts and interests transcend the borders of Canada. As Indigenous governments with Treaties and Aboriginal rights, it is important that we advocate our issues on the international stage as well. Whether at international climate change talks, through the Winter Olympics, the Organization of American States or the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the AFN has played a strong role in reflecting the interests of First Nation governments.

Fully understanding the power and importance of Canada's economic leaders, we have also engaged directly with corporate Canada. Members from Bay Street took the initiative to call on the federal government to prioritize education for First Nations. These Chief Executive Officers recognize the value and importance of ensuring that First Nation youth have access to a fulsome education.

### **5. Increasing dialogue and building consensus**

Finally, we have looked for opportunities to fundamentally improve and enhance opportunities for dialogue among First Nation governments. Through change in our Assemblies to enhance opportunities for caucusing and dialogue, by ensuring that information is available prior to meetings and enabling deliberation on resolutions, we are taking deliberate steps forward.





There is much more to do and I welcome your suggestions to steadfastly improve our preparations and the outcomes of our Assemblies, to strengthen our collective interests and needs and, ultimately, to strengthen and to enable support for one another.

Through these foundational actions, we have also achieved specific results in 2009-2010, including the reversal of Canada's opposition to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and growing support for the imperative of investment in First Nations education. These results will be vigorously pursued setting the agenda for 2010-2011.

Looking ahead, I look forward to receiving your mandate and direction at the AGA in July. We will continue efforts begun this first year to broaden our reach and deepen our message. Using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework that establishes a minimal standard, we will advance a work plan focused on action and results.

We will continue our efforts under the mandate of the National Year of Action with specific strategies and targets. We will look for specific outcomes on education, on advancing a Treaty strategy, on a commitment to review the comprehensive claims policy, to strengthen health governance, and to clearly assert our jurisdiction and interests in regard to the legislative agenda before Parliament.

Carrying forward the strategic plan, we will continue to seek opportunities to engage, broadly recognizing the important role of Elders, youth and women as well as looking to build an urban strategy and supporting interests of our Veterans. We will also continue to emphasize the need for healing among our people through the full implementation of the Apology to survivors of residential schools. We will raise the profile of infrastructure and housing problems facing our communities. We will also look to advance our economic and energy interests with a major national summit planned for next spring. Climate change and environmental concerns will become increasingly important and we will ensure our Nations are included in building solutions.

These issues will help frame our agenda based on your deliberations and your direction. It has been my honour and privilege to serve you this year and I look forward to our continued work together.

National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo



## REGIONAL CHIEF RICK SIMON

### NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND



Welcome Elders, Chiefs, youth and delegates to the beautiful city of Winnipeg and province of Manitoba for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly (AGA).

I look forward to the many events over the course of the next few days as the leadership of Manitoba has an opportunity to show us their hospitality and culture. As well, the AFN Executive and National Chief will have the opportunity to inform you about all of the work that has been done since we last sat down in Assembly in December.

All of the reports on specific program areas are in your kits to review at your pleasure, so my focus is to give an overview of some of the happenings in my region.

As co-chair of the Management Committee with Manitoba Regional Chief Bill Traverse, we have worked hard, alongside Regional Chiefs Roger Augustine, Eric Morris and Angus Toulouse, to get the national organization on a solid financial footing since our last report to you in December. We feel that, considering the political environment, we have come a long way as we will report to you in Assembly, but there still remains a long way to go. Getting our financial house in order has been a challenge to say the least, taking into consideration declining government revenues and increasing demands on the national organization, but you, the Chiefs of Canada, will be the judge of that as we present our reports to you over the next few days.

In the region, I continue to be involved in all the boards and agencies that represent our interests in a range of areas, including health, housing, economic development, and fisheries.

Under the Kwilmuk Maw-klusuaqn (KMK), which means “we are searching for consensus”, or better known as the Made in Nova Scotia process, we have been disappointed by the lack of mandate from federal negotiators to work with us towards a livelihood fishery based on the *Marshall* decision of September 1999, more than a decade ago. The Supreme Court of Canada talked about a “moderate livelihood” in its court decision in which the Mi’kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy proved their commercial right to fish outside of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ licencing regime.

How this “moderate livelihood” concept translated into economic opportunities for our people is a long way from what the Treaty beneficiaries envisioned over 10 years ago. Agreeing to fish under commercial fishery licences was an interim step toward a Treaty fishery until our capacity was strengthened, but that has all but been forgotten by the federal government.

It seems that the amount of fishing licences that went to the First Nations in the Atlantic as an interim step is viewed by the federal government as something close to final, as the over-subscribed fishery only





made so much room. The end result is that many of our people who want to make a living from their Treaty rights are being denied the opportunity.

Unless the federal government works to accommodate us, a livelihood fishery will ultimately challenge the federal regime once again, unless a Treaty fishery comes forward in the spirit and intent of the *Marshall* decision. The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, under the KMK, is working hard to convince the federal government of the urgency of the situation.

The leadership continues to work toward a Mi'kmaw government structure in Nova Scotia that would interface with federal and provincial governments through a Mi'kmaw House of Assembly. A series of meetings and conferences with the Chiefs and Councils continues to guide the planning and provide the mandates to keep the momentum and work ongoing.

The Mi'kmaw-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite forum continues to move forward and work to align this work with the KMK negotiation process. As the Executive Chair of this forum, I continue to keep a hands-on approach with the hope that we can make the best use of this vehicle to advance our socio and economic interests.

We held our annual general assembly in May with all seven working committee members from federal, provincial and Mi'kmaw levels, along with KMK staff and lead negotiator, Bruce Wildsmith, to share information and look at ways to work more closely together.

We will continue to work toward the required connections as we plan to hold a Mi'kmaw Tripartite representatives meeting in early September, at which time we hope to look at our accomplishments and how to fine-tune our next steps.

As the Chair of the Board of the Mi'kmaw Employment Training Secretariat (METS), we, like all of the other Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) holders across the country, are creating a business plan that will detail our new arrangement with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to implement the new Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). Timeframes are tight, but our first draft has been submitted to HRSDC and we are hoping that it is close to what the Government of Canada expects in the new go forward plan.

As the co-chair of the Regional Policy Management Advisory Committee (RPMAC), which is under the auspices of the Atlantic Policy Congress (APC), we continue to work the Government of Canada on all of the economic development programs that are available to us in the region. Lately there have been more projects put forward and less money to deal with – the Government of Canada must definitely invest more money in economic development.

Our Aboriginal capital corporation, the Ulnooweg Development Group (UDG), will be celebrating 25 years in business this year, and will be hosting our Annual Business Awards in early September at the St. Mary's First Nation in Fredericton, New Brunswick. They have also been busy in putting together



an Aboriginal financial institution that is “more than a bank”. Six First Nations, under the UDG, have pooled their money to start the process, with the intent to access the bond markets for more long-term loans in relation to capital projects in their communities. The door is open to the rest of the Atlantic First Nation communities, who may wish to join the group at a later date, with the hope that the majority will see the ultimate benefits over the long term and come on board.

Through the Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies (MACS), a celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the baptism of Grand Chief Membertou is scheduled for June 24, 2010, in Port Royal, Nova Scotia. A re-enactment of the Baptism will be part of the celebration, as well as a weekend of festivities in Halifax. This will include an international competition powwow from June 25-28, as well as a free concert featuring international icon Buffy St. Marie on Friday night and Shane Yellowbird on Saturday night, along with a host of local talent.

The festivities will conclude on Monday, June 28 with a visit from the Queen for a walkabout at a Mi'kmaw Cultural Village. She will be greeted by our Traditional Mi'kmaw government representatives, Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy and Grand Keptin Andrew Denny. Chiefs from the Atlantic, National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and members of the AFN Executive will also be in attendance.

An AFN Executive Meeting will also be held in Halifax. The Executive will be treated to a lobster dinner and have an opportunity to see the show DRUM! – a celebration of the Mi'kmaw, French, Scottish and Black cultures that helped shape our history and has been in production for close to 10 years. They have played to sold-out audiences throughout Canada and the United States, including the Vancouver Olympics.

The show promoter, Brookes Diamond Production, has approached the AFN for support in recreating the show to become national in nature. The opportunity for the National Chief and Executive to see the show in Halifax was part of the ongoing dialogue.

These are some of the activities that I have been involved in on regular basis and I look forward to seeing many of my old friends, and new ones, in Winnipeg. Feel free to ask any questions you may have while I am there.

We'lalin,

Regional Chief Rick Simon  
NS/NL region



## REGIONAL CHIEF ROGER AUGUSTINE NEW BRUNSWICK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Pjila'si. It is my honour to greet the Elders, Chiefs and delegates from across Canada to the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) 31st Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme of this year's AGA is "Where the Nations Meet – International Action to Advance our Rights". I applaud the AFN for providing First Nations leaders an opportunity to collaborate and strategize during the International Year of Action on the important issues of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, treaties, education, citizenship, climate change, and economic interests.

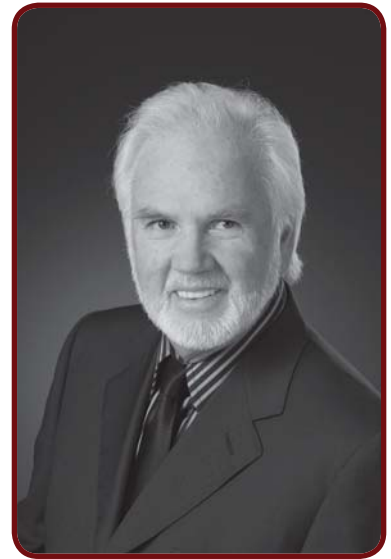
I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some activities and events which I participated in during the last six months and update you on issues impacting my region.

First, I was fortunate to lead a delegation of Mi'kmaq and Maliseet performers who performed at the Aboriginal Pavilion during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. The performance, entitled *Wabanaki Showcase – Celebration of Cultures*, was held on February 26, 2010, and featured traditional songs and dances of the Wabanaki people set to powerful drum beats. The performance also featured a lesson in the game *Waltos*, a dice-like game we have played for hundreds of years.

Second, I had an opportunity to represent the AFN at the Ninth Meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing as part of the Canadian delegation in Cali, Colombia, from March 22-28, 2010. Approximately 500 participants from governments, Indigenous and local communities, civil society, research institutions and business, tackled difficult issues relating to the use of genetic resources for commercial and non-commercial purposes. Participants agreed to a draft protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use as basis for further negotiation, setting the stage for its adoption at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit to be held in October 2010, in Japan.

The AFN maintains that Canada cannot develop sound policy and programs related to biodiversity unless it works with First Nation communities. The AFN continues to monitor work completed on the Convention on Biological Diversity and pursue meaningful engagement for all First Nations.

Third, National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and I attended the official opening ceremonies for Minigoo Fisheries at the Lennox Island First Nation on April 21, 2010. Minigoo is the first lobster processing facility to be wholly owned and operated by a First Nation in Atlantic Canada. National Chief Atleo applauded the opportunity the plant provides for overcoming differences, stating: "The answer here is about real partnerships and it's about pursuing economic self-sufficiency and economic independence, and that is the sort of the message this sends to the rest of the country and it is the sort of approach that First Nations are more and more taking, and we, as a national organization, are very supportive of that."



## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL UPDATE

The Atlantic Chiefs met in January and May 2010 to discuss several issues, including the Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy, fisheries, health, housing, and water and wastewater issues.

### THE ATLANTIC ABORIGINAL ECONOMY BUILDING STRATEGY

The Chiefs hope to host a second annual Aboriginal Business Dynamics event in September 2010. The theme of this year's event will be on Joint Ventures and Procurement. Other work is proceeding on lands and resources, strengthening Aboriginal businesses, developing an educated and skilled workforce and creating economic baseline data.

The Ulnooweg Development Group Inc. will be hosting the 5th Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur Awards on September 9, 2010, where top Atlantic Aboriginal businesses and business leaders will be awarded for their accomplishments.

### FISHERIES

In the past few months, the Atlantic region has been very busy working with First Nations impacted by the snow crab crisis and engaging the federal government to prioritize the issue and focus on the immediate and serious needs of the affected communities. This has involved several meetings with officials, the media, and the ministers of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs has been advocating the specific needs of the First Nations impacted and advocating for longer-term approaches to allow the full participation of First Nations in all the aspects of resource management, the science related to the snow crab, and to use this work as a foundation to greater direct First Nations inclusion in all aspects of the Atlantic fishery.

### WATER AND WASTEWATER

Another critical area being worked on by the Chiefs in our region is water and wastewater in our communities. Our Chiefs' Housing and Infrastructure Network continues to do a considerable amount of work to ensure this item remains a national priority and that all of our First Nation communities have safe drinking water.



## CLOSING

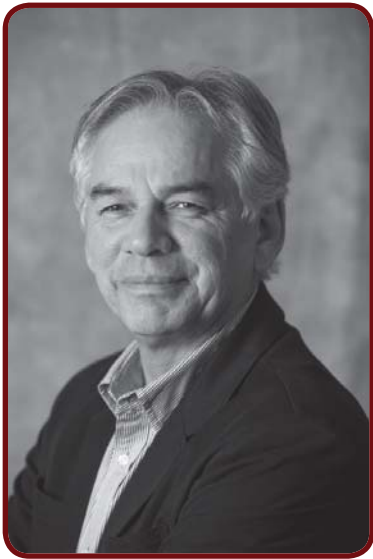
I am enthusiastic to be representing the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities at the national level. I will continue to advocate for First Nations on the Environmental Stewardship, Fisheries and Economic Partnerships portfolios with my colleagues on the AFN Executive Committee. Finally, I am honoured to be representing all First Nations at the international level.

Yours in the spirit of collaboration and partnership – We'lalin and Woliwon!

Regional Chief Roger J. Augustine



## REGIONAL CHIEF GHISLAIN PICARD QUEBEC AND LABRADOR



I would first like to thank the new National Chief for his support and his presence among the Chiefs of our territories over the past year. Territorial issues and those related to resources are crucial at this time on First Nation territories in Quebec and Labrador, and they require our Chiefs' complete attention and commitment. The provincial governments regularly abuse our most fundamental rights and the federal government avoids its responsibilities. Our First Nations must develop and no longer accept to be set aside. In such circumstances, the support and inspiration of the National Chief is very important for all the leaders of our Nations.

Our Chiefs increasingly want to share with the Chiefs of all other territories, and discuss strategies and experiences. The upcoming Annual General Assembly, as well as recent national meetings of our Chiefs, increasingly promote such discussions among Chiefs, and the discussions are undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the existence of our assemblies.

Over the last year, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) has devoted considerable effort towards implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have worked hard to explain the Declaration, so it is better understood by the general public, as well as by groups with whom we have closer ties. The Assembly of our Chiefs recently adopted a resolution demanding that the other governments fully comply with the Declaration, reminding them that they can neither diminish its scope nor skirt its implementation. We have been particularly vigilant with members of Quebec's National Assembly regarding respect for our respective institutions.

The AFNQL has been keeping a very close eye on the Government of Quebec. A lack of respect for our people and our rights is this government's idea of a policy on Aboriginal people. It knows only how to divide and conquer.

The weakness of our political interlocutors, both in Quebec City and Ottawa, their incompetence and their refusal to commit themselves, is a constant challenge for the AFNQL and, without doubt, for all the Chiefs in all our territories. We are experiencing intolerable situations and the future of our young people is compromised. We have solutions to propose, practical projects to bring forward. Facing us: nothing. Nothing in particular from those whose mandate and responsibility it is to be our partners. I am convinced that, acting together, the Chiefs of all our territories, supported by the National Chief and the AFN Executive, can shake the wishy-washy governments that surround us, compel them to take up their responsibilities, put an end to the "do-nothing policy" that, I am very sorry to say, best describes the times in which we live.





## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) continues to pursue its activities, increasingly directing them to achieving the objectives of the *2007-2017 Blueprint, Closing the Gap and Accelerating Change*.

The FNQLHSSC has begun drafting its second strategic plan for 2011-2014. The objectives pursued will provide a link with activities already begun under the first strategic plan in the fields of health, social services, early childhood, social development and research.

Additional efforts will be made to strengthen the multisectoral approach in order to maximize activities and thus improve the various communication networks among partners and organizations.

In a more practical vein, the targeted priorities include access to services for adjoining communities, traditional adoption, medical transportation, the establishment of internships in Aboriginal communities for medical students, the development of new frameworks in mental health, the drafting of a health surveillance plan for Quebec First Nations, as well as the implementation of active measures to fight poverty and social inclusion.

Furthermore, the FNQLHSSC co-ordinates many activities including pilot projects (i.e., remote diabetic retinopathy, mother and infant health), training sessions and regional forums.

Close links continue to be maintained with the two levels of government to ensure progress in specific cases, mainly the implementation of first-line prevention in communities (help services for children and families), implementation of the *Youth Protection Act*, the delegation of some powers as to child care services presently governed by the province, as well as various government bills with an impact on First Nations.

All these activities are directed towards the needs of communities and organizations, and are aimed at providing stakeholders and leaders with better tools in order to reach their objectives.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) – an organization working in employment, training and adult education with 29 Quebec communities – has pursued its work along with the *Federal Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (FASETS)* for First Nations on- and off-reserve, and became involved once more with the AFN's Technical Committee on the Development of Human Resources. It developed (in particular with the help of Chief Gordon Oke from Kanesatake) a series of actions aimed at influencing the new program's design and reporting.

In April and May 2009, because of the unwillingness on the part of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) to respond to questions about the future strategy, the AFNQL began to lobby Opposition Aboriginal Affairs critics. The Liberal Party, the Bloc Québécois and the New



Democratic Party were contacted. Also, in May, during the audiences of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, a brief developed jointly with the AFNQL Commission on Health and Social Services helped to bring to the fore the challenges faced by First Nations in Quebec in regard to poverty and social exclusion, as well as training and work integration. Finally, in December 2009, with no specifics on the new strategy, all holders of agreements in Quebec took joint action to claim a one-year extension of those agreements. Despite that, the government maintained its position to prolong present agreements for only six months, thus hindering the delivery of services to our people. It is in that context that I called upon the National Chief to intervene with Minister Diane Finley.

Also, the Commission tabled its five-year financial plan to Service Canada. Forecasts in the plan helped to take into consideration demographic growth and inflation, while giving priority to the development of essential skills, professional training, adult education and information on the labour market. The Commission was advised that the budget would be the same as under the former strategy. Thus, although we mentioned it in our 2008-2009 report, we estimate that in 2013-2014, because of the cumulative impact of inflation and demographic growth, the FNHRDCQ will intervene at only 56% of its 1996-1997 capacity. This situation will continue since the government has announced that the new program will not receive additional funding, despite demographic growth and the *McIvor* decision.

Besides work on adult education, professional training and other human resources developmental initiatives, the FNHRDCQ brought forth eight Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) projects aimed at the establishment of insertion companies, the development of the Labour Market Initiative (LMI), the preparation for employment of clients facing many employment obstacles, and various training packages.

The Commission also developed its Employment and Training Management Plan by and for the First Nations of Quebec by defining its objectives and its action plan for the next 10 years. Finally, it strengthened its position as to labour market development in particular by participating in the creation of a model advisory committee for First Nations and Inuit with Quebec's Commission of Partners on the Job Market. Additional efforts will be made to strengthen the multisectoral approach in order to maximize action and thus improve the various communication networks between the partners and the organizations.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2009-2010, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) spent considerable energy on the implementation of the new Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development and related programs.

By meeting Deputy Minister Sarah Filbee, and by participating in the national work tables, the FNQLEDC imposed a review of the initial vision of the Federal Framework, thus ensuring that Quebec communities are served fairly and that their particular structures are respected. There is no longer a



single Framework for all communities, a “one-size-fits-all” approach, but rather a Framework that can be adapted to the specifics of various regions across Canada.

Together with the regional office of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), the FNQLEDC reached an agreement that allowed it to be heard at the national level; the agreement became an innovative model for some regions. As the only interlocutor from the Quebec region on the various national committees, the FNQLEDC has always sought an approach that is fair to urban, semi-urban and remote communities. DIAND has postponed for a year the establishment of the new Federal Framework and has made adjustments that will be submitted to all regions during the engagement sessions scheduled for 2010-2011.

## EDUCATION

The mission of the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) consists in having its member communities achieve complete legal jurisdiction in education and its mandate is to defend their interests to ensure lifelong quality education. By taking into account the present situation, the FNEC has set as one of its major priorities to end the underfunding of First Nations’ education at all levels.

Thus, to end the chronic underfunding of First Nations’ education, the FNEC has, among other things:

- Completed the development of a funding formula for First Nations schools. The current objective is to have it adopted. That is why the FNEC has insisted that DIAND set up a group of experts (from the Department and First Nations) to review the formula. To date, the FNEC has received no confirmation on the matter.
- On April 1, 2009, the FNEC tabled a petition containing more than 22,000 names in the House of Commons in Ottawa, to pressure the federal government to maintain the Post-Secondary Student Support Program as a program managed by the communities and end the underfunding of post-secondary education.
- Tabled two briefs:
  - The first, entitled *Pour une approche différenciée de l’inclusion des Premières Nations par l’éducation* [For a differentiated approach to the inclusion of First Nations through education], tabled as part of the consultation organized by the Conseil supérieur de l’éducation on access to education and access to academic success with a view to inclusion through education.
  - The second, entitled *Vers l’accessibilité financière à l’apprentissage tout au long de la vie : une perspective des Premières Nations* [Towards financial accessibility to lifelong learning: a First Nations perspective], tabled before the Comité consultatif sur l’accessibilité financière aux études, part of the Conseil supérieur de l’éducation.



- After the Chiefs' assembly in November 2009, developed a document entitled *Plan stratégique de communication et de relations publiques – Actions pour la période de novembre 2009 à mars 2010* [Strategic communication and public relations plan – Actions for the period from November 2009 to March 2010]. As part of that strategic plan, it has so far undertaken the following actions:
  - o On November 19, 2009, a press conference was held with the AFNQL in Listuguj. National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, and the Chief of Listuguj, Allison Metallic, all spoke. They asked that greater attention be paid to inequalities in education; they also took the opportunity to ask the government for a new approach to First Nations' education.
  - o A delegation, made up of Quebec Chiefs, allied Chiefs from Ontario and British Columbia, educators, parents and members of First Nations gathered in front of the residence of the Governor General of Canada to give her a message and pass on a document explaining the inaction of the federal government on the issue of education.

To sum up, whether at the regional, national or international level, the FNEC remains very active in its efforts to make known the real situation of First Nations' educational funding and promote partnerships.

Furthermore, with a mandate to support communities in order to improve the quality of education, the FNEC offers services and continued support to its communities. The following are a few examples:

- The FNEC manages the First Nations Student Success Program (FNSSP) that promotes training opportunities, the development of plans for success, the standardization of assessments, as well as the establishment of a management system for all schools for its member communities. During the year, schools and the FNEC have thus considered developing plans for scholarly success and establishing targets and performance indicators for success in school.
- The FNEC drafted a business plan to finalize the installation of fibre optics in its 13 member communities that were without the resource. In 2010, the FNEC had completed the installation of fibre optics in eight communities, and guaranteed over half the funding to install fibre optics in the five remaining communities.
- The FNEC offered its member communities post-secondary training in specialized fields. Thus, it is particularly proud of its Programme court de formation en production audiovisuelle des Premières Nations [Short Audiovisual Training Program for First Nations], developed in partnership with the UQAC. At the end of the Short Program in December 2009, 11 First Nations students graduated and obtained a diploma.

*Iame!*

Regional Chief Ghislain Picard



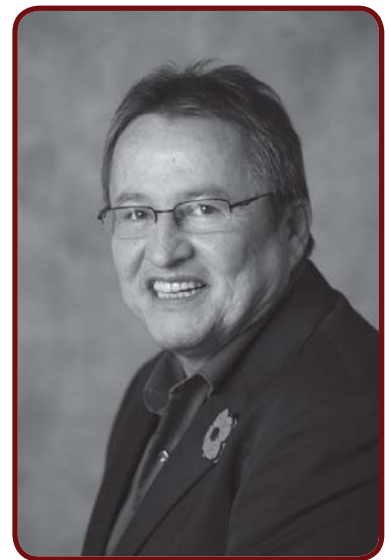
## REGIONAL CHIEF ANGUS TOULOUSE ONTARIO

### INTRODUCTION

Ahnee and welcome to the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Annual General Assembly. I am a proud member of the Sagamok Anishinabek and I have had the privilege to serve as Ontario Regional Chief since July 2005.

As Regional Chief, there are many key priorities that I am working toward including ensuring that First Nations have access to quality education, and adequate infrastructure that meets community needs and supports economic opportunities.

I believe that the Treaties that we entered into with governments must be recognized and respected. The First Nations in Ontario believe, as First Nations do across the country, that the Treaties are sacred and living documents that outline the relationship and expectations between the First Nations and governments.



### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The most pressing issue that the First Nations in Ontario have been focused on is the attempted imposition of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on our citizens, which would also result in the loss of the First Nation point of sale exemption effective July 1, 2010. Both the federal and provincial governments failed to consult with the First Nations prior to the decision to harmonize the provincial retail sales tax with the federal goods and services tax despite the significant and negative impact this move would have on the First Nations population in Ontario. At the time of this writing, First Nations in Ontario were continuing to fight the imposition of this tax and to preserve their point of sale exemption from the 8% provincial retail sales tax.

The First Nations in Ontario assert that they have never ceded the authority to government to tax their citizens through Treaty or otherwise. The First Nations leadership in Ontario has implemented a multi-faceted strategy to oppose the HST and to ensure that their citizens retain the right to this tax exemption. This strategy has included lobbying activities, negotiations, direct action such as short-term road blockades, and letter writing campaigns. We are now engaged in a tripartite process with the provincial and federal governments to reach an agreement to maintain the First Nation tax exemption under the HST framework. The First Nations are committed to ensuring that we are successful and maintain this right for our citizens.

The First Nations Economic Forum was a key event that the First Nations in Ontario hosted in January 2010. This Forum drew many participants from First Nations, industry and government and was a start of an important dialogue on the First Nations economy. The overall purpose of the Forum was to clarify key issues, promote dialogue on options and opportunities, and to confirm specific plans and priorities.



There was agreement that this discussion would continue and that a report card would be brought forward six months following the Economic Forum to report on progress and next steps.

There are many priority issues that the First Nations in Ontario are concerned with in regards to health, social services, justice, and the environment. The First Nations in Ontario are also very focused on the issue of resource revenue sharing. For too long, First Nations have not benefited from the resources that have been extracted from their traditional territories. First Nations have been clear that they will no longer tolerate this situation and expect to be consulted and accommodated by government, and share in the revenues resulting from development with industry and government.

The First Nations in Ontario are very much looking forward to the Youth Symposium organized by the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council which will take place in August 2010. The Youth Symposium theme this year will include a special focus on Treaties. I believe that our youth have the enthusiasm and the commitment to energize our collective efforts in protecting our Aboriginal and Treaty rights. I have witnessed this over the past year in our collective efforts to resist the imposition of the HST. Our youth have been leading the way and inspiring First Nations leadership to work that much harder.

Later this year, we hope to announce a First Nations in Ontario Treaty Gathering to be held in Niagara Falls where the Treaty of Niagara was signed so many years ago. This is a place of great historical significance to us and it is my hope that returning to the place where solemn commitments were made between Nations will revitalize our people and our Nations.

In closing, I look forward to hearing what our First Nations brothers and sisters are pursuing in other provinces and the opportunity to explore ways to support each other in achieving our collective and specific individual goals. I look forward to productive discussion and time to share with one another over the next few days.

Miigwetch.

Regional Chief Angus Toulouse





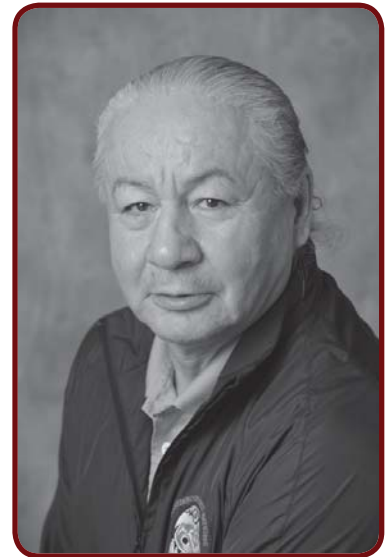
## REGIONAL CHIEF BILL TRAVERSE

### MANITOBA

In January 2009, the Manitoba Chiefs mandated me to become their representative on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Committee. I currently co-chair the AFN Management Committee Portfolio with the Regional Chief of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Rick Simon.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of working closely with my colleagues on the AFN Executive and the Manitoba Chiefs on many issues that our people encounter on a daily basis. At times it can be a challenge, but working together on issues – strategizing and unifying – is always the best method of solving the difficulties that we face as First Nations.

I look forward to the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue this week with the Chiefs-in-Assembly as we discuss and identify solutions that will benefit all.



### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

#### TREATIES AND INHERENT RIGHTS

- Participated on the National Roundtable on Treaties.
- Attended numerous Treaty celebrations across Manitoba.
- Fished on Dauphin Lake to assert our Treaty Right to fish.
- Established a positive relationship with the Dakotah Nations in Manitoba on their legal battles with the Government of Canada on their inherent rights.
- Attended the AFN National Policy and Planning Forum held March 24 to 26, 2010, in Saskatoon.

#### CITIZENSHIP

- The AFN will continue to advocate that Canada expand the engagement process to work directly with First Nations and provide adequate financial and logistic support to address this issue.

#### HEALTH

- Advocacy, in partnership with three political organizations in Manitoba and the AFN, to address the H1N1 pandemic.
- Coordinated and lobbied for meetings with Health Canada when instructed to do so by leadership.
- Addressed the body bag issue that arose in Manitoba in the fall of 2009 with the Minister of Health Canada.
- Continued work with First Nations Health experts.

#### ABORIGINAL HEALING FOUNDATION

- Collective advocacy for the federal government to extend and restore funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF), which led to a debate in the House of Commons on March 30, 2010.



- Attended the first National Event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, including participation in a sharing circle with Ministers and Commissioners.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Numerous meetings with the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and with Aboriginal lending firms, on the Loan Loss Reserve Program.
- Attended and participated in the AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development meeting on May 30, 2010, in Toronto.
- Attended the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) meeting on April 28, 2010, in Toronto.

## EDUCATION

- Attended numerous meetings and participated in conference calls for the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education.
- Provided political assistance to several communities in Manitoba in their quest for new schools. Many schools on Manitoba First Nations are run down and in dire need of repair.
- Advocated extensively on the funding gap that exists between First Nations and other Canadians.
- Advocated for removal of the 2% cap on First Nations Post-Secondary Education funding.
- Initial dialogue with First Nations educators on developing a Kindergarten to Grade 12 Treaty-based curriculum.
- Worked with Grand Council Treaty 3 regarding a potential court challenge on our Treaty right to education.

## CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT (CHRA)

- Coordinated a meeting with leadership on January 29, 2010, to discuss the impacts of the CHRA's imposition on First Nation communities.

## AFN ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

- Co-chaired planning and coordination of cultural and social events for the 2010 AFN Annual General Assembly with the Manitoba Host Committee.

## CONCLUSION

For as long as I can remember, First Nations have continued to be tested by all levels of government on numerous issues. As your representative on the AFN Executive, I will continue to push our issues at the national level to ensure our rightful place in society is established. However, we must work together and in partnership when we are faced with injustices against First Nations. Canada must realize that it has a duty to consult our people when policies affect us directly and indirectly. No longer can we or should we be ignored by Canada.

Yours in Unity,

Manitoba Regional Chief Bill Traverse



## REGIONAL CHIEF GUY LONECHILD SASKATCHEWAN

Elders, Chiefs and First Nations:

In October, 2009, I had the honour and privilege of being elected as Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians (FSIN). I look forward to representing Saskatchewan First Nations as a Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and with working with my fellow Regional Chiefs and the National Chief, Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, in improving the well-being of our people, and bringing greater opportunity to our Elders, Women, Children and Youth.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide an overview of activities and my future priorities which include strengthening the Treaty mandate and a stronger government-to-government agenda on Crown-First Nations Relations as it relates to the Treaty Rights to Education, Health and Economic Opportunity.



### KEY ACTIVITIES

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TREATY CHIEFS

Treaty Nations across this country present a strong united front in our efforts to hold the Crown responsible for lawful obligations and to keep the spirit and intent of Treaty together for the well-being of us all.

As portfolio lead for Exercising and Implementing Rights, I co-chair the National Council of Treaty Chiefs (NCTC) with Regional Chief Ghislain Picard. In March 2010, the NCTC met in Winnipeg to discuss the development and implementation of a National Strategy on Treaties that will focus on a renewed relationship between Treaty nations and the Crown. Chiefs, community representatives and Elders discussed key components of the strategy, including collective and international strategies.

Elders in attendance at the meeting reminded us of the importance that protocol has in Treaty relations and that proper protocols must be part of any discussions about Treaty. In this regard, the NCTC Chiefs proposed that an Elders' Treaty Gathering be immediately implemented. As a follow-up to the recommendation, FSIN hosted a gathering at the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) roundtable in Saskatoon in order to discuss Elders' views on the effect of the NRTA on Treaties.

#### TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

Treaty Implementation continues to be a priority for Chiefs in Saskatchewan. In 2007, the FSIN and Canada commissioned the Saskatchewan Office of the Treaty Commissioner to prepare a report on Treaty Implementation in the context of self-government arrangements. An outcome of the study was a



report entitled *Treaty Implementation: Fulfilling the Covenant*. The federal government, after taking more than two years, provided a response to the report earlier this year. Discussions will begin in the near future between the FSIN and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on the next steps regarding implementation of the report's recommendations. INAC has indicated a need within government for a clear approach from the Federal Crown on Treaty Implementation and the Treaty Relationship, particularly with respect to the historic Treaties. Its preliminary efforts on this policy initiative has included work with the AFN flowing out of the National Treaty Conference held in 2008, including regional roundtables on Treaty issues.

On March 29-31, 2010, the FSIN, in partnership with the AFN, hosted a Treaty Roundtable with a focus on the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, 1930*, (NRTA).

This three-day event, which took place in Saskatoon, began with an Elders Gathering to ensure that appropriate protocols were in place and that subsequent discussions would be informed by the Treaty Elders. A total of 190 participants registered for this roundtable, including students, a number of our First Nation leaders, the FSIN Executive, as well as Treaty Nation representatives from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

Significant themes that emerged at the Elders' Gathering included: i) Infringements and impacts of provincial / federal legislation on Treaty and Treaty rights; ii) Unfinished Treaty business and; iii) Lack of consultation with Treaty nations. Recommendations included:

1. Establish true Treaty relations that affirm the nation-to-nation relationship:
  - a. Political / legal / fiscal / economic relations must all be pursued based on Treaty.
  - b. These require appropriate institutions to make this happen.
  - c. Control over our own "citizenship" – defining who we are was never given up as part of Treaty and happened without our agreement under the *Indian Act*;
2. Build on our own Cree laws (along with Anishnaabe / Dene / Lakota / Dakota / Nakota nations laws);
3. Create new institutions within the federal Crown:
  - a. National Treaty Commissioner that reports to Parliament;
  - b. A Treaty Implementation Act;
  - c. A separate Federal Department / Ministry responsible for Treaty Relations;
4. Develop a strategy that enables First Nations to become part of the overall "business model / structure" of Canada;
5. Consideration of international law to advance our inherent and Treaty rights (e.g., United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Organization of American States) in order to lead to the establishment and recognition of Treaty-based Indigenous governments here in Canada.



## FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA

Ensuring that our youth have the opportunity to study at the post-secondary institution of their choice continues to be a priority for me as Regional Chief. With the support of National Chief Atleo and the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly, significant efforts were made to advance the First Nations University of Canada in the national agenda at the federal and regional levels. The First Nations University of Canada is more than a 'bricks and mortar' issue; it is also about strengthening the Treaty right to education and implementing the vision of our Treaty signatories.

## INTERNATIONAL TREATY STRATEGIES

As portfolio holder for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), I believe it is imperative that our rights are actualized and do not become merely words on paper. As Chief of the FSIN and as AFN Regional Chief I carry with me the firm belief that our inherent rights and Treaty sovereignty must be taken from domestic environs to the international arena for discussion, debate and action. Earlier this year, I joined Chief Dale Awasis from the Thunderchild First Nation during his trip to Geneva. As well, I attended the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 9th Session in New York. Both opportunities highlighted the need to continue our efforts here at home, to seek full implementation of the UNDRIP. This must replace the historical inaccuracies such as the Doctrine of Discovery which have informed Indigenous-Crown Relations. As Indigenous and fully autonomous Nations, our right to determine who comprises our Treaty relations continues as part of the ongoing dialogue on citizenship. Equally important is the response by the federal government as envisioned in Bill C-3.

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2010/11

As I complete my first full year as Chief of the FSIN and Regional Chief, my top priority will continue to be Treaty Implementation. The Department of Indian Affairs has indicated that it must review its current positions on this issue in order to strengthen the Treaty Relationship between the Crown and First Nations. It is my intention to work through both the AFN and the FSIN to encourage Canada to accelerate that work. This includes defining effective ways for Canada to engage with our First Nations who are the signatories to the numbered and pre-Confederation Treaties. Discussions will also be broadened to include other levels of government in Canada.

As well, we will continue to work with our partner governments, with the support of our National Chief, to stabilize the operations of the First Nations University of Canada. This includes implementing the new provisions in our First Nations University Act and putting in place a Board of Governors that builds our university as a national institution serving the interests of all First Nations in Canada.

Regional Chief Guy Lonechild  
FSIN



## REGIONAL CHIEF GEORGE STANLEY

ALBERTA



Tansi!

I have been serving as the Regional Chief of Alberta Treaties 6, 7 & 8 for 10 months. As expected, there are many issues that we face as First Nations, which I was aware of when I took office. I realized the difficult task I would have addressing, protecting and advocating for the inherent rights for our people. All of the issues that we face boil down to the same thing – Treaty rights. I have been serving as an advocate for all First Nation communities in Alberta, as well as all First Nations in Canada, on a number of issues, including:

- Education;
- Health;
- Child Welfare;
- Economic Development;
- Environment, Water and Wastewater Management;
- Specific Claims;
- Governance;
- Bill C-3 (*Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*); and,
- Bill S-4 (*An Act respecting family homes situated on First Nations reserves and matrimonial interests or rights in or to structure and lands situated on those reserves*).

There are many other issues which remain as the Alberta region's list of priorities. The suppression and oppression our people endures through the denial of First Nations' inherent rights, which reflects the injustice and inequality that the Government of Canada continues to inflict on our people by not acting with the due diligence and accountability that it should.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

- *McIvor* (Bill C-3) has been a major focus during my 10 months in office. Our main priority has been to keep the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 updated and create a better understanding of the possible affects and consequences that the new legislation may bring. The Senate has yet to respond to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's request to proceed with the legislation. Much will depend on the Senate's response.
- Urban Strategy – There is a large population of First Nations citizens who reside in urban areas that lack access to appropriate programs and services. The rights and interests of First Nations people living in urban areas have remained marginalized within national policy agendas. As co-portfolio holder of this issue on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Committee, we have identified the need for the protection of rights and interests of urban First Nations citizens as an important





area of engagement. Regardless of place of residence, there should be program coordination and resources made available, as well as an end to inter-governmental disputes.

Current federal policy does not address the urban Aboriginal issue. The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study, which was conducted by the Environics Institute, provides some insight into the “values, experiences, identities and aspirations of urban Aboriginal peoples”, and makes recommendations on how to address the urban Aboriginal issue.

- Bill S-4 (matrimonial real property) – The Bill has completed Senate committee review with minor amendments and it will be on the agenda in the House of Commons when it reconvenes in September.

These are just some of the issues that the Alberta Regional Office has been following and advocating for on behalf of First Nations. There has been a lot of activity in our office in reaching out to the First Nations of Treaties 6, 7 & 8, listening to their concerns, assisting as needed and directing them through the proper channels.

- The Confederacy of Treaty 6 recently held its Annual General Assembly at Goodfish Lake First Nation. The Regional Office is ecstatic, as a new Grand Chief has been selected for the Treaty 6 Region. There have already been discussions with the new Grand Chief and the Chiefs of Treaty 6 to incorporate more involvement from the Regional Office and to work cooperatively and collectively.

There is also interest by the new Grand Chief to work with the Grand Chiefs of Treaties 7 & 8 to collectively support the AFN's Alberta Regional Office. Treaty 6 Chiefs are drafting a memorandum of understanding to support the Regional Office of Alberta, which will open doors for dialogue and a joint working relationship that will allow the AFN Regional Office to better advocate on behalf of the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7 & 8.

- Edmonton will be hosting the next National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. The Regional Office is working closely with organizers to assist and welcome them to our region. I have been asked to serve on the selection committee, which is exciting and an honour, but at the same time, a very difficult task as I believe all First Nations deserve to be recognized and honoured. We look forward to hosting the national awards and invite everyone to come out and join us in 2011.

## CONCLUSION

With many issues before us, including ongoing advocacy for the inherent rights of First Nations, it is the goal of the Regional Office to move forward as many issues as we can and to bridge the gap between the First Nations of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 and the AFN, so that we are able to work diligently and collectively to reach our common goals, and to advocate on behalf of the First Nations of Alberta.

*One Voice, One Nation...hiy! hiy!*

Regional Chief George Stanley



## REGIONAL CHIEF JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD BRITISH COLUMBIA



Elders, Chiefs, delegates and guests, on behalf of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) welcome to the 31st Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). This is my first AGA since being elected Regional Chief on October 1, 2009, by the 203 First Nations in BC. Over the past nine months, I have enjoyed working with our National Chief, the AFN Executive and staff in addition to working with the Chiefs and communities of British Columbia and from across Canada. There is much to do. We are in exciting times of Nation building or Nation re-building.

**“Building on OUR Success”:** At the BCAFN we continue to refine our Action Plan to implement “Building on OUR Success”. The focus of the plan is on the following four key and interrelated areas tied to a strategy that will build on the work of our Nations so that no community is left out or behind. These are:

1. **strong and appropriate governance** in order to take advantage of our opportunities in implementing our Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, and growing our economies by providing stable and sound governance that is transparent and accountable to our citizens;
2. **fair land and resource settlements** to ensure our peoples and our governments have access to the resources required to support our societies including our traditional and modern economies;
3. **improved education** to ensure our citizens are able to make informed decisions about change as well as participate in our growing economies and our governments; and,
4. **individual health** to address the colonial health legacies to ensure our citizens are strong and can actually benefit from and enjoy their title and rights.

The vision is that our plan must empower, connect and support our Nations as each Nation implements its own Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, with the ultimate objective to make the lives of our people better; for me this means an improved standard of living and practicing and thriving cultures.

**BC First Nations’ Task Force:** BC First Nations are considering options to restructure our provincial political organizations in order to more efficiently connect our communities and work cooperatively in furtherance of our common purposes and our unity. To this end a BC First Nations’ Task Force was established from among our Nations to consider strategically how we should best organize politically on a province-wide basis to advance and implement our Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, and to look contemplatively at our three existing Provincial and Territorial Organizations (the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit and the BCAFN) along with the various councils and bodies we have established. The Task Force reported and sought direction at a BC All Chiefs’ Meeting May 18 -20, 2010, and this work is ongoing. The Task Force and many of our Nations were also involved in bringing attention to our issues during the 2010 Winter Olympics.



**2010 Winter Olympics:** In February 2010 the Four Host First Nations welcomed the world to their traditional territories and to the cities of Vancouver, Whistler and Richmond for the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. The central role the Four Host First Nations played in the Olympics showcasing our peoples and our cultures to the world was unprecedented. The sight of our Chiefs being recognized as heads of state in the opening ceremonies along with the focus on Aboriginal peoples was, for me, very telling and incredibly inspiring. Often lining up for hours, more than 242,000 people visited the Aboriginal Pavilion to witness one of the many presentations put on by the Four Host Nations and their Aboriginal partners from across Canada. Our positive message that we are strong and still here reverberated throughout the dome reflected in the display of our rich cultures and traditions and our political message that while we may have challenges we are also having success in implementing our title and rights.

**BC AFN Governance Tool:** In BC we are in an exciting period of Nation building or Nation re-building as we move from a period where the focus was primarily on advocating Aboriginal title and rights, including treaty rights, to actually implementing them on the ground. In doing so we face a new set of challenges; challenges that are welcome but require different tools and approaches. As part of our Action Plan the BCAFN is developing a “Governance Community Engagement and Self-Assessment Tool”. The tool is being tailored to our situation in BC and is building on similar tools developed elsewhere in the country. It is being designed to engage and assist Chiefs and Councils, staff and our citizens in developing their own ‘exit-strategy’ from the *Indian Act* to a new post-colonial world. During the six Dialogue Sessions we have so far held across our region, and which are continuing, our leaders are discussing the self-assessment tool and other aspects of the Action Plan. Many are looking forward to using the tool to begin, or to focus, the governance discussion in their community. Every First Nation, starting from the ground up, will eventually, if they have not already done so, go through such a process as we all re-build and re-establish our own institutions of governance and exercise jurisdiction over our lands and peoples beyond the *Indian Act*.

**Recognition and Reconciliation:** BC is a microcosm of the rest of the country where we have historical treaties, modern treaties and outstanding comprehensive claims based upon un-extinguished Aboriginal title and rights. In BC, while we have this diversity there is a general recognition that we all face the same issues. Ultimately, we all deal with the same provincial and federal Crown under the same general policies and laws. As we move from pure advocacy to implementation, ensuring fair access to our lands and resources is critical. “How much land?”, “What resources?” and, “What is ‘fair’?” become the questions regardless if our First Nations have treaties or not.

Some of our Nations are beginning to re-establish their governance and benefit from their lands and resources beyond their reserves through agreements negotiated with the provincial government. More and more of our Nations are entering into, or considering entering into, what are called “Reconciliation Agreements” with the BC government; in part recognition by the Province that the provincial economy is inextricably tied to how our title and rights issues are addressed. These agreements are outside of the BC treaty process which still continues and through which other Nations are looking to implement their title and rights.



As Nations move forward with agreements, so too does the need to move forward with ways to address legal and political questions surrounding “who is the proper title holder?” and who can enter into agreements. In BC, we continue to explore ways to resolve these issues of ‘overlap’ and ‘shared territory’ in anticipation of more Nations being in a position to negotiate and reach a wide range of agreements with the provincial and federal governments.

Finally, as we move forward in implementing our title and rights, including treaty rights, in BC it is important that our challenges and our successes are shared. All our Nations must have the opportunity to benefit from their lands and resources in order to support their people, their way of life, their economy and their government.

**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):** I would like to congratulate Grand Chief Edward John on his appointment to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Permanent Forum has been instrumental in securing the passage of the UNDRIP.

It is encouraging that Canada intends to sign on to the UNDRIP along with the United States and New Zealand; the last three hold-outs. In Canada, domestically, section 35 of the *Constitution* recognizes and affirms our rights and, internationally, the UNDRIP can assist in interpreting and defining these rights. Recognition of our rights is very important, but it is, of course, not the end objective. The end objective is to improve the lives of our people and to have practicing and thriving cultures. While the UNDRIP may recognize our rights to govern, it will not define or build our governments, nor tell us how our governments should be structured or how they will operate. It won't mean our people, in our communities, will automatically legitimize our governments. Similarly the UNDRIP may recognize our right to land and to an economy but it will not tell us how to actually manage our lands or how to establish an economy and then maintain it. Our challenge now, after living in the shadow of the *Indian Act* for so many years, will be translating our rights into tangible benefits for our people that our people support.

**AFN First Nations' Governance and Nation Building Portfolio:** How we begin to translate rights into tangible and practical benefits for our people as part of individual Nation building is the approach we are taking at the BCAFN. In accordance with resolutions passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, it is also the approach I have been taking in my role as national portfolio holder for First Nations' Governance and Nation Building. We have engaged in debate with parliamentarians regarding a number of proposed pieces of federal legislation that are not specifically led by First Nations and which will affect all First Nations and, at their core, touch upon aspects of our Nation building or re-building. In particular: issues of citizenship that are raised as federal law-makers consider questions of status; jurisdiction over water and water management as law-makers consider water quality on-reserve; and issues of jurisdiction over lands and family relations as law-makers consider the division of matrimonial real property on-reserve. All are issues that our individual Nations are, or will be, considering as we implement our rights over governance as recognized under the United Nations Declaration and move beyond the *Indian Act*, and all are issues that require some sort of action now.



While we will continue to have ongoing issues with respect to the specifics of any federal legislative agenda, we cannot lose sight of the fact that federal initiative can only be seen as interim, at best, until the full expression of our inherent right to self-government is determined. Where progress on the ground to improve the lives of our people can be made now, it is important to support such progress so long as it does not compromise but rather complements our long-term objectives for self-government. It is no longer simply 'all or nothing' during this transition period as we move from pure advocacy of our rights to implementation of them on the ground. It will take time to fully re-establish our Nations and build support in our communities for the change that needs to take place.

**Looking forward:** 2009 - 2010 has been a very busy year for BC First Nations and the BCAFN. As part of the BCAFN's Action Plan, in addition to the activities I have focussed on in this report, our Nations continue to focus on issues around access to and jurisdiction over education, considering the best options for healthcare and healthcare delivery, child welfare, fisheries and fish management, gaming and the environment among others. As we address the diversity of our issues, we need to ensure at all times that our activities support Nation building and empowerment.

I thank the Chiefs of BC for your continued support. Thanks also to our Board Members for your efforts in governing the BCAFN society, BC representatives on AFN Chiefs' Committees, and to our small but dedicated BCAFN staff. Over the coming years we all look forward to working with the other regions and sharing our experiences and learning from one another as we move forward collectively. While there are many challenges that lie before us, there are also many opportunities that previous generations during the colonial period did not enjoy and that now present themselves as a result of the foresight, determination and leadership of those that have come before us. It is on this note that I close by paying my respects to the late Nisga'a Lisims Government President, Nelson Leeson (*Sim'oogit Axhlaawaals*), who passed away at the close of 2009; a Nisga'a visionary whom we will all miss. It is our responsibility as elected leaders in our communities to build on the work of our past leaders, so that every citizen, of every Nation, has a brighter and better future than their parents' generation.

*Gilakas'la*

Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould





## REGIONAL CHIEF BILL ERASMUS

### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



Mr. Erasmus was born in Yellowknife and has spent much of his career in his homeland, Denendeh. He acquired a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Alberta. Chief Erasmus' political expertise and strong leadership skills have brought significant change and advancement to all peoples of the NWT. He is a life-time advocate of Aboriginal and Treaty rights and a recognized Aboriginal leader worldwide. However, he still remains committed to the Dene Nation and his homeland Denendeh.

In 1993, Chief Erasmus received a Governor General's commemorative medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, in recognition of his significant contribution to compatriots, communities and to Canada. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty the Queen to the throne. In 1987, Mr. Erasmus was elected National Chief of Dene Nation, a position he still holds today.

He has also been a member of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Executive Committee since 1987. Chief Erasmus chairs the Centre for Nutrition and Environment of Indigenous Peoples, an independent research facility at McGill University established by Aboriginal Peoples of the North. Mr. Erasmus has contributed to communities in the NWT throughout his professional life as a fieldworker, reporter/photographer, researcher and negotiator for various First Nation communities and organizations.

Chief Erasmus is a visionary leader, well-grounded in his roots. He is a skilled negotiator and incorporates his philosophy of connection to the land, community and Nation to resolve conflict and to be an instrument of change. His deep respect for Elders, traditional knowledge and Aboriginal rights guides his vision to a better future for Indigenous Peoples worldwide. He strongly believes in family and is a dedicated father and husband to his wife Reanna, son Lonny, and daughter Sarah.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN DENENDEH

- On behalf of the Dene Nation and the AFN Regional Office, we congratulate the following leaders on their elections: Chief Cheyenne Paulette of the Smith Landing First Nation, Fort Smith; Chief Arthur Tobac of the K'asho Gotine Dene Band, Fort Good Hope; Chief Abner Caye of the West Point First Nation, Hay River; and, Chief Antoine Michel of the Lutsel K'e Dene Band.
- The Dene Nation will celebrate its 40th anniversary in Fort Good Hope, July 12-16, 2010. The theme of the celebration is "Honoring Our People". We are celebrating with monthly events leading up to the Dene National Assembly in July. Please visit [www.denenation.com](http://www.denenation.com) for more details.
- The Dene Nation hosted a Residential Schools Meeting in Deline, Denendeh, in February, 2010. The Dene Nation coordinated this meeting to bring former students together to provide information





on the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, to share common experiences and decide on future initiatives. We have many people in the communities who have relatives that died at the schools. We want to initiate a registry of the deceased and are beginning to document their names, dates of birth, schools attended, school locations and their home communities. We have started to locate their grave sites in order to erect a monument in their honour at each cemetery where children are interred. We will need cooperation from each family and community to accomplish this task.

- On January 1, 2010, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) imposed a ban on hunting the Bathurst caribou herd for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal hunters. The hunting ban came after government surveys found a sharp decline in the number of caribou in the Bathurst herd, dropping from more than 100,000 animals to 32,000 over the past three years. The Aboriginal governments responded by questioning the legality of the hunting ban and stated that the Government of NWT had no authority to place this ban on the Dene. In the meantime, in February, the NWT Supreme Court was asked by the territorial government to clarify whether the GNWT had the authority to ban Aboriginal subsistence hunting in the Bathurst caribou herd's winter range, which extends north of Great Slave Lake to the NWT - Nunavut border. The court was also asked to confirm whether the government's authority to regulate caribou hunting supersedes the hunting rights of Dene and other Aboriginal people.

The GNWT has recently withdrawn its request to get a court reference on whether its authority to regulate caribou hunting trumps the hunting rights of Aboriginal peoples and is now working with Aboriginal peoples, including the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, on a long-term caribou management plan. The proposed hunting restrictions are being considered by the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, a wildlife co-management authority that reviews all proposals on resource management in the Tlicho land claim area, which includes the Bathurst herd. The joint final report from the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board has not been completed.

- Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl launched a plan to improve the NWT's regulatory system, nearly two years after a review called for changes. The minister unveiled his plan at a Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Yellowknife, announcing that John Pollard will serve as a chief negotiator to develop a newer, streamlined system of land and water assessment boards in the territory. The land and water boards are responsible for reviewing applications for proposed developments such as mining and oil and gas projects in the NWT. Pollard, a former territorial cabinet minister and mayor of Hay River, has since started his new job as chief negotiator.

The announcement came in response to the McCrank report, a government-commissioned review of environmental assessments and other regulatory processes for proposed mining, oil and gas developments in the North. That review, released in July 2008 by retired Alberta Energy and Utilities Board chairman Neil McCrank, called for a restructuring of the Northwest Territories' regulatory system with fewer regional management boards. Some Aboriginal leaders opposed that idea, arguing that land and water boards in the NWT's Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tlicho regions are



enshrined in their land claim agreements to ensure that Aboriginal people control development on their lands. The minister stressed that restructuring the North's regulatory regimes will not prevent Aboriginal peoples from having a say in how their lands are developed. McCrank also proposed cutting the federal government out of the regulatory process by letting the northern-based boards make final recommendations and decisions. It is currently up to the minister and other federal ministers to make those final recommendations, but those decisions often take years. Minister Strahl said transferring such authority over resource management will only happen when the federal and NWT governments negotiate a devolution agreement, which would give the territory more province-like responsibilities.

- Speaking before the National Energy Board recently, Grand Chief Sam Gargan of the Dehcho First Nations criticized claims by Imperial Oil that it has consulted extensively with Aboriginal regions. Representatives with Calgary-based Imperial Oil which is leading a consortium of companies behind the \$16.2-billion proposed natural gas pipeline insisted that they held thousands of consultation meetings with Native leaders about the proposed 1,200-kilometre pipeline. Gargan stated holding several meetings does not mean the company's consultation was effective. The proposed pipeline would run through the NWT's Mackenzie Valley from the Beaufort Sea to northern Alberta. Dehcho First Nations, an organization representing Dene communities in the Dehcho region, is the only region along the Mackenzie pipeline's proposed route that does not have a land claim settlement signed with the federal government. Dehcho territory is in the southwest corner of the NWT that would be part of the right of way for the pipeline. The claim covers about 40 per cent of the pipeline's projected route. The National Energy Board is holding hearings in the NWT, with final arguments from pipeline backers and critics alike, as it decides whether to approve the Mackenzie pipeline proposal. The energy board is expected to release its decision in September. The board also heard from federal lawyer Jim Shaw, who said Aboriginal groups have been consulted well so far. Shaw added that consultation with Aboriginal regions will become a much bigger issue if and when the Mackenzie pipeline is approved.

In closing, we thank our leadership and staff in our communities and regions for their hard work and efforts. We cannot move forward as a strong nation unless we are strong at all levels. Thanks to Dene Nation and AFN staff for their contributions throughout the year – they have shown consistent commitment and hard work. Thank you all for attending the AFN's Assembly General Assembly in Winnipeg. We wish you all the best in your respective communities and regions.

Mahsi Cho.

Regional Chief Bill Erasmus



# REGIONAL CHIEF ERIC MORRIS

## YUKON

### INTRODUCTION

My Tlingit name is Guchnauw meaning Dead Wolf - “One Who Disciplines” and I am from the Dahkleweidi Clan (Eagle) of the Inland Tlingit of Teslin, Yukon.

I was elected as Regional Chief for Yukon in July of 2009 at the Annual Assembly of the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN). The CYFN is comprised of 10 Yukon First Nations (YFNs) and the Gwitchin Tribal Council. The four YFNs that are independent of CYFN also participated in the election process.

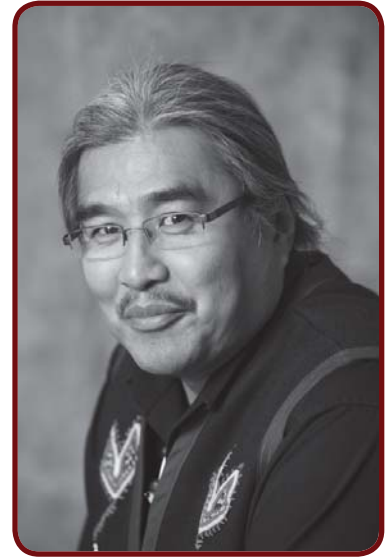
I would like to give thanks to Rick O’Brien for his service of six years as our Regional Chief for Yukon. His work on our behalf on territorial, national and international matters is very much appreciated. His dedication and leadership for our people will always be remembered and for this we are grateful.

In my first few months of work, I took time to travel to annual assemblies held by our YFNs. This allowed me to introduce myself and gain some awareness of what the communities have been working on. Capacity and inadequate resources continue to be at the forefront and the success that is gained is overshadowed by these challenges.

In September, 2009, I was appointed by the National Chief to the Environment and Economy Portfolio for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). This portfolio includes Climate Change, Fostering a Green Economy, Skills Development and Training, Housing and Infrastructure, a Northern Strategy, and Fisheries. I also serve on the Management Committee which includes the Finance Committee, Sustainability Audit, Consideration of Electoral Procedures and Future Structural Change, Special Projects and Initiatives, and Veterans.

The gain for me from a regional perspective is the immediate immersion on issues and challenges related to each of the areas contained within the portfolios. Targeting key areas of focus is the best go forward strategy. I’m privileged to work with Regional Chiefs that have years of experience and can offer insights that can only be gained by their longstanding involvement with the Assembly of First Nations. There are areas that we have not had an opportunity to discuss yet, such as Electoral Procedures, but as we go forward, my aim is to have covered all areas by 2011. The magnitude of the work and the staff we have available to carry out what needs to be done is a huge challenge.

I have been selected as a member of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Community of Interest Advisory Panel which includes representatives from Aboriginal organizations and communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mining communities, labor and the investment community. Its



mandate is to help the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) members and communities of interest improve the industry's sustainability performance, to advise MAC on the design and implementation of its TSM initiative, to raise sustainability issues of concern to the mining industry and its communities of interest, and to foster dialogue between the industry and these communities of interests.

I have been appointed as a member of the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) by the Minister of the Environment. NACOSAR was created pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act* to advise the Minister of the Environment on the administration of the *Act* and provide advice and recommendations to the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council.

Regionally, I've worked to be involved in as many areas as time will allow. The Yukon Government structured an Advisory Group to deal with the H1N1 Pandemic and I was asked to assist with work that needed to be done in preparation for a potential pandemic. I'm pleased that all of our communities were very serious about their readiness plans and worked very well together. I was given the opportunity to address and participate in a number of conferences in our region on a number of issues, including holistic health, homelessness, poverty reduction, oil and gas, land use planning in the North, First Nation governance, food security and climate change, Northern Partnerships (Economic Development in the North), Yukon Education Summits, residential schools, and languages.

I worked to support events and activities that were organized by our YFNs to bring attention to the work they are doing or focus to the challenges they are having. The significance of the presence of our leaders at these occasions is critical.

Recently, the Yukon Department of Health and Social Services created the Task Force on Acutely Intoxicated Persons at Risk and has requested my assistance. The mandate of the Task Force is to "advise the Minister of Health and Social Services on options, and suggested priority areas for action, for appropriate and effective ways to deal with acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others."

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

In the past year I have worked to ensure that Yukon First Nation issues and priorities are brought forward to the national stage and that key priorities and strategies from the AFN are communicated to Yukon First Nations.

The 2010 Olympics in Vancouver were a great opportunity for me to assist in showcasing Yukon First Nations arts and culture. I was able to attend Yukon First Nations Day. Our people from the Yukon did very well and I'm very proud of them. AFN Day was a huge success and it gave us an opportunity to be part of the Celebration of our Nations. I'd like to express our many thanks and hands raised in



appreciation of the Four Host First Nations for making all this possible. They brought the world to us and they presented us to the world.

## 2010 CONFERENCE: BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Yukon First Nations have more than 15 years of experience in self-government and over that decade and a half they have faced numerous challenges, from the transition from an *Indian Act* band to obtaining adequate funding. Despite these challenges, there has been great success. The impact on our people, and the ability to control and benefit from our land and its riches, cannot be underestimated.

To that end, the Yukon Regional Office of the AFN, in partnership with Self-Governing Yukon First Nations, is hosting a national conference entitled “Building on Success – A National Conversation on Self-Government.” Whether you are already self-governing and have experience of your own to share, or are currently in negotiations, you will find this conference valuable. We believe it will provide self-governing nations the opportunity to learn from each other and explore avenues to work together to advance self-government. It will also provide those nations negotiating or nearing effective dates, the opportunity to learn from the mistakes and build on the success of nations who have recently experienced the transition to self-government. The conference is being held September 14 to 16, 2010, in Whitehorse, Yukon. To learn more about the conference or to register, visit our website at [www.buildingonsuccess.ca](http://www.buildingonsuccess.ca).

In the coming year, I will continue to bring forward Yukon First Nation concerns, issues, priorities and successes.

Gunalcheesh,

Regional Chief Eric Morris



## AFN ELDERS COUNCIL

Since the inception of the National Indian Brotherhood / Assembly of First Nations (AFN), there has always been a place of honour and distinction for the Elders. Elders provided both spiritual and political guidance in the formation of the organization, its structures and its Charter. The Elders helped to shape AFN policies and the relationship with the federal government and other national and international organizations. Over the years, the AFN's leadership has relied upon the historical and cultural knowledge of its Elders, especially in matters relating to Treaty rights and First Nation governance.

This role continues today. The AFN Elders Council includes representatives from each of AFN's 10 regions, as well as two Resident Elders appointed by the National Chief. The Elders Council continues to play an important role in all facets of the AFN and its daily operations.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

At this time, the AFN Elders Council wants to acknowledge the passing of a dear friend, Elder Tom Eagle. He was a respected Elder and Veteran, and an activist for the rights of First Nations Veterans. May the Creator bless him with a blissful continuation in the spirit world and comfort his loved ones.

With the election of National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo in July 2009, the Elders Council welcomed two new Resident Elders, Joseph Taa-eee-sim-chilth Williams of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and Bertha Commanda of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. Resident Elders Williams and Commanda have become involved in a range of AFN work, bringing their guidance and insight to a wide variety of forums, events and activities.

While at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2009 the Elders Council took in a Gender Balanced Analysis (GBA) Framework presentation. In follow-up, the Elders Council participated in a GBA Workshop held in February at the AFN to provide their input and direction to all elements of the workshop. Also in February of this year, the Elders Council reviewed the AFN Elders Council Guidelines and Protocols; recommendations and revisions are forthcoming. At this same working group the Elders Council, alongside the Women's and Youth Councils, held a Tri-Council Meeting.

The Elders Council continues to encourage First Nations leaders and champions to draw on their wisdom and experience. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety and prosperity of future generations – especially of the little ones – just as our ancestors did for us.

The AFN continues its work to acquire more funding to enable the Elders Council to participate in a wider range of AFN activities. The Elders Council continues to meet bi-annually at Annual General Assemblies and Special Chiefs Assemblies to discuss issues and challenges facing the Council.





## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The Elders Council will continue to seek additional financial support from the federal government and alternative sources so as to ensure that Elders' perspectives are reflected in the work conducted regionally and nationally.
- The AFN staff will continue to provide administrative support, and champion the issues facing the Elders Council.



## AFN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Assembly of First Nations Women's Council (AFNWC) works with the AFN Secretariats to ensure that the concerns and perspectives of First Nations women inform the work of the AFN. Council members hold portfolio responsibilities, including participation in a wide range of panels, presentations and forums that are relevant to First Nations women.

- Resolution 12/2006 called for the re-establishment of the AFN Gender Secretariat.
- Resolution 2/2007 endorsed the AFN Women's Council's Gender Balanced Analysis (GBA) Framework.
- Resolution 21/2009 supported the implementation of the newly enhanced GBA Framework.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In February 2010, the AFN held a GBA workout session in Ottawa with the objective to develop an AFN GBA Implementation Strategy to build AFN capacity and provide GBA training across the AFN, regions, and in First Nation communities. This strategy will be implemented during the 2010-2013 fiscal years. This will involve identification of areas for needed improvement and gaps in implementation, as well as evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to record progress (e.g., a report card), in an effort to effectively mainstream GBA at all levels.

A United Nations (UN) resolution passed in September 2009 directed a reorganization of its gender agencies under one UN gender architecture. This includes an Under Secretary General to advance the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in achieving the goal of gender equality by 2015. The AFNWC is playing a lead role in pushing for an Indigenous component to be part of the UN infrastructure in the goal of mainstreaming GBA and advancing applications of GBA intercultural lenses for the inclusion of Indigenous women in the UN MDGs. The UN MDGs on gender equality will not be achieved unless Indigenous women's equality has been achieved worldwide.

In 2009, Canada reported to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on steps taken to address inadequate social assistance rates and the failure of law enforcement agencies to deal with the disappearance and murder of Aboriginal women and girls. The AFNWC jointly issued a statement with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) regarding Canada's report to CEDAW.

The AFNWC issued media releases to highlight key issues and continues to work with Amnesty International and NWAC in calling on the federal government to take meaningful action to address violence and discrimination experienced by Indigenous women and their families. These actions include the creation of a joint committee to review the matter of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and the development of a National Action Plan.

The AFNWC contributed to the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) in a coordinated effort with provinces and Aboriginal organizations in the development of a paper and recommendations for



strategies in the elimination of violence against women. The AFNWC also spoke at key events in 2009 including Amnesty International's press conference, Amnesty's panel discussion on murdered and missing women, and at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil. The AFN held key discussions with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Status of Women Canada (SWC) to strike a joint committee consisting of SWC, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Justice Canada, and Public Safety Canada to get to the heart of why so many Indigenous women and girls have been murdered or gone missing and why 25 per cent of the cases remain unsolved.

In April, the AFNWC attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in a joint statement with NWAC called on the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples to visit Canada to specifically monitor the critical issue of violence against women.

Representatives of the AFNWC also participated in several meetings and initiatives, including: participation in the Northern Conference on Victims of Crime; a presentation to the Economic Security on Women Panel convened on Parliament Hill and hosted by the Honourable Anita Neville; participation in the Vancouver memorial event for missing and murdered women; a meeting with the 13 Worldwide Indigenous Grandmothers Council to discuss future collaborative efforts in restoring sustainable communities and healing of Indigenous families; facilitation of a presentation of the AFN-GBA to the Global Mother Divine program and the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers Council; and facilitation of a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women regarding the AFN's position on violence against women.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The AFNWC will continue to make strides in advancing a culturally-relevant GBA on several fronts, including the development of a GBA Implementation Strategy, and piloting of the strategy in First Nations communities, to be implemented during the 2010-2013 fiscal years.
- GBA and First Nations family, mother, and child well-being presentations at the upcoming Canadian Conference on Global Health.
- Presentations to the Maharishi University of Management's Global Mother forum and the 2010 Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference.



# AFN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council (AFN NYC) operates as a 20-member council representing First Nations youth from each of the 10 First Nations regions (each region has one male and one female representative).

This national body, based within the structure of the AFN, represents First Nations youth across the country on issues that impact them on a daily basis. The Council provides insight to many committees and working groups, as well as the AFN Secretariat, on various youth-related issues.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN NYC has had an active year that included participation on a number of initiatives and committees beyond Council activities. This participation has ensured that these various initiatives and groups are more reflective of youth values and input and thus are more representative of what amounts to a significant segment of the First Nations population in Canada.

The AFN NYC has had a significant presence in areas such as Public Health (Sexual Health, Tobacco Cessation, Tuberculosis, and H1N1), Environment, Treaties, Mental Health, Justice (Gangs), Active Living and Sport, and Gender Balance Initiatives over the past year. Below are three specific areas where youth have had a meaningful role and subsequent impact:

**H1N1 Awareness** – The AFN NYC was actively involved in assessing the information that was made available about the H1N1 virus and the vaccine, mostly through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), to First Nations people across the country in the wake of this health crisis. A focus group of First Nations youth, including members of the AFN NYC, was brought together through the AFN Health & Social Secretariat (AFN-HSS) and PHAC to discuss how information was circulated to First Nations people across the country and how they felt about information campaigns intended for a young population. The youth represented a broad spectrum of attitudes and voices, and shared compelling feedback on what message delivery methods would be effective in reaching First Nations youth. Due to the overwhelming demand for this information, the assessment took on a learning aspect for similar occurrences in the future.

**Sexual Health** – Through the cooperative efforts of PHAC and the AFN-HSS, members of the AFN NYC were utilized to develop and carry out a pilot project that used digital media to share their outlook on how they relate to sexual health. This project yielded enlightening and powerful results and also proved to be successful in using digital media to tell compelling stories that also have the power to teach valuable lessons. The final product will be widely distributed in the coming months.

**National Forum on Increasing Smoking Cessation and Prevention Messaging in First Nations Communities** – The AFN NYC took part in this forum, as well as the National First Nations Tobacco Control Network (NFNTCN), and shared valuable insight into the youth perspective on smoking cessation and the control of tobacco. Having the AFN NYC participate on the NFNTCN ensures that



youth voices are represented on a subject that has a large impact on the lives of many First Nations youth. The participation of the AFN NYC in both the forum and network has been meaningful and has left a lasting impression that guarantees a significant role for youth in guiding this work going forward.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- Launch of a national initiative to promote active and healthy living through sport within the broad First Nation community;
- Substantial results in addressing the problems of gang and criminal culture among First Nation youth;
- Broad distribution and sharing of the digital videos produced by the AFN NYC on sexual health; and,
- Increased visibility of the AFN NYC within the various committees, working groups and the overall approach of the AFN.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) at the 31st Annual General Assembly (AGA).

The AFN has had a busy and fulfilling year accomplishing important goals, including stabilizing operations and improving services to all First Nation governments.

Through enhanced efforts to plan and organize for all meetings including National Executive meetings, Policy Forums and our Assemblies, we have aimed to continually improve the value of these forums to First Nation leadership. At each meeting, we will work to ensure that information provided is useful and accurate and that meetings enhance opportunity for dialogue and direction to be confirmed.

AFN staff have also been supported and encouraged to transform internal structures with a view to enhance cooperation and team work across the organization. Innovation, through team efforts on key functions such as parliamentary relations and fundraising, has already produced solid outcomes. We have explored new partnerships with organizations and agencies to strengthen the AFN's ability to advocate for all First Nations such as the new relationship with the Correctional Service of Canada and the emergence of focused capacity on justice and gang issues. We have also worked in many cases to provide special assistance and expertise to First Nations and organizations wherever possible.

In the upcoming year, we will continue to build on management approaches that emphasize stream-lined, efficient and effective response and support for First Nation governments. In addition, we will look to update and enhance communication to you through coordinated products and utilizing new methods including video conferencing and online dialogue to enhance timeliness and relevance of all AFN communication.

Due to imposed changes in our operating environment, not dissimilar to that faced by all First Nations and all organizations, the AFN must deal with increasing reporting requirements and more stringent parameters for federal funding. This reality places a greater strain on resources and will continue to challenge the National Executive and staff to find ways and means to conduct business more efficiently and effectively. One of the significant steps forward to address this situation has been the development of a business planning cycle which will better carry out the strategic plan priorities set by the National Executive. This process enables planning and budgeting to correspond directly to political priorities. This will be fully developed in the future to maximize our ability to respond to evolving and emerging political direction.





Despite these challenges, the National Executive is able to report significant progress in addressing the deficit situation. Through a full sustainability review of operations, the AFN is on track to address the deficit and to continue to work to stabilize and sustain all operations. Future needs of the organization will require that we examine all avenues for securing funding and supporting the organization into the future, consistent with direction from the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

We look forward to the dialogue and to your direction at the 2010 AGA.

Richard Jock  
Chief Executive Officer



# COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Communications Unit of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) produces, communicates and distributes information designed to advance the goals and priorities of First Nation peoples and governments. The Unit works to ensure that the messages and perspectives of the AFN and First Nations are properly communicated and understood, and that the National Chief, Regional Chiefs and other spokespeople are involved in and given the opportunity to speak publicly through media and other fora to communicate First Nation perspectives. The Communications Unit provides ongoing input and assistance on critical issues as they occur.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Communications Unit advises, prepares and implements strategic communications policy and planning for the AFN as a whole, as well as strategies for specific initiatives and/or activities. The Unit works to develop materials and provide information to First Nations, the media and general public about the AFN, its activities and positions, as well as the National Chief's agenda and priorities.

The Communications Unit prepares press releases, media advisories and statements which are distributed nationally (in English and French) to Aboriginal and mainstream media, with regional distribution as applicable. The Unit also prepares speaking notes for the National Chief and AFN spokespeople that are used at a variety of events for a variety of audiences, including professional associations, national and international organizations, and government. Recent events have included the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Toronto and Vancouver Boards of Trade.

Since the 2009 Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Communications Unit has prepared and distributed more than 70 press releases/statements on a wide range of issues. Communications also prepares speaking notes, media lines, backgrounders, Questions & Answers, letters to the editor and op-eds on current issues.

The Communications Unit continues to strengthen relationships with key media. One particular target is strengthening our relationship with Aboriginal media. To this end, the Communications Unit arranged for one-on-one calls with national and regional Aboriginal media in November. As well, the AFN has arranged for listening lines that allow Aboriginal media to participate in press conferences. Regular conference calls have been scheduled with Aboriginal media to further improve access to the National Chief and continue to strengthen this relationship. The National Chief has also participated in editorial board meetings with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), Globe and Mail and CBC (Ottawa bureau).

Over the past year, there have been several developments that have resulted in widespread national and international media coverage for the AFN and the National Chief. These developments include the second wave of H1N1 and community preparedness, the H1N1 Virtual Summit, the United Nations



Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the Child Welfare Human Rights case, the Olympics, developments in First Nations education, advocacy on the issue of missing and murdered women, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, advocacy on Tuberculosis and advocacy for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

In addition to the editorial boards, the National Chief participated in two key national interviews – “One on One” with Peter Mansbridge and “The Hour” with George Stroumboulopoulos – to launch the AFN’s “It’s Our Time” Communications Strategy in mainstream media. The National Chief also participated in significant media coverage surrounding the 2010 Federal Budget and Throne Speech.

The National Chief has also had the opportunity to participate in a number of local and regional press conferences to help draw attention to ongoing issues in First Nation communities.

The Communications Unit also distributes a daily media report to staff.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Communications Unit works to raise awareness and understanding of First Nation issues and the AFN’s role, responsibilities and activities in this regard.

The AFN issues regular updates on the National Chief’s activities and work underway at the national office. National Chief’s communiqués are distributed by fax to all First Nations, provincial/territorial organizations (PTOs) and tribal councils, and are also posted online in both print and video format.

The Communications Unit also offers editing and desktop publishing services. Projects have included the Annual General Assembly and Special Chiefs Assembly reports, AFN Strategic Plan, National Policy and Planning Forum, and various products for the AFN Health, Environmental Stewardship, Fisheries, Residential Schools, and Strategic Policy, Planning and Law units.

The Communications Unit is responsible for updating the AFN website ([www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)) and has initiated a redesign to be launched in the summer of 2010. Since the last AGA, micro-sites have been created for the Virtual Summit on H1N1 Preparedness and Planning, the Special Chiefs Assembly, First Nations Health Managers, National Policy and Planning Forum, and the AGA. The AFN has also expanded its use of new media with the introduction of a Twitter account (AFN\_updates) and Facebook page.

As part of the public education strategy the AFN Communications Unit has worked with AFN program areas to update fact sheets and other public materials on a number of key issues, including First Nations education, treaties, accountability, community and urban demographics, tuberculosis, and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.



Communications has also been involved in video production for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, a diabetes project in cooperation with the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, and the National Chief's monthly web addresses.

In addition, the Unit coordinates advertising requests from Aboriginal and mainstream media, maintains the AFN's database of First Nation communities, coordinates AFN merchandising, provides IT support as required, and assists with processing of the National Chief's correspondence.

## COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

The Communications Unit develops and implements global AFN communications as well as targeted strategies for specific events, issues and initiatives. The Unit provides advice, recommendations and communications support to the National Chief's Office and other program areas within the Secretariat.

The Unit has played a lead role in implementing the "It's Our Time" Communications Strategy which reflects the AFN's five-pillar strategic plan focused on: Supporting First Nation Families; Exercising and Implementing Our Rights; Supporting First Nation Governments and Nation-Building; Advancing Economic and Environmental Interests; and Advocating for Change within our Communities and Organizations. The Communications Strategy was reviewed and endorsed by Executive and implementation is underway and ongoing.

The Unit has developed a specific communications plan for a "Call to Action on Education" which aims to engage governments, post-secondary institutions, philanthropic organizations and civil society in reconciling First Nation rights to education. The plan supports advocacy on obtaining a secure fiscal framework, sustainable funding and second and third level supports. The Unit has also developed a "Fit for Life initiative" which will create a dialogue and develop new initiatives to support organizations that promote First Nation youth in sport.

In efforts to strengthen coordination with communications officers in regional offices, the Communications Unit has developed a list serve to share press releases and key messages. These are sent out in advance of the official release to the public whenever possible.

## TRANSLATION

The Communications Unit coordinates all French/English translation requirements to ensure that the Canadian public and First Nations are able to access and understand all public materials produced by the AFN in both French and English. As per AFN policy, all public documents that are distributed nationally (including those posted on the AFN website) are available in French and English.

The translation requirements of the organization have continued to increase, with translation averaging approximately 90,000 words per month.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

The AFN has hired a communications officer and a bilingual communications officer to help fulfill the requirements placed on the Unit. Communications also shares a new webmaster / graphic designer with the Health and Social Secretariat.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Ongoing media and public relations work involving media advisories, press releases, speeches, and interviews.
- Publication of Bulletins/Communiqués.
- Ongoing French translation of public materials.
- Ongoing editing and desktop publishing of AFN publications.
- Ongoing updates and launch of the new AFN website.
- Ongoing use of new media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



## PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS

As part of efforts to reinforce the clear and strong advocacy role for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), several key parliamentary and intergovernmental initiatives were undertaken in the past session. Along with a specific focus to building and maintaining relationships between First Nations leadership, Parliamentarians and senior public servants, the AFN has continued to monitor and provide strategic input and communications on legislation affecting First Nations.

Under the mandate of Resolution No. 43/2009, the AFN has also worked to advance strategic issues faced by First Nations as part of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) created last August by the Council of the Federation (CoF). This has included identifying areas for joint policy discussion with provincial and territorial governments that could be discussed between meetings of the CoF.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

#### PARLIAMENTARY ADVOCACY

The AFN secretariat piloted a Parliamentary Introductory Session and First Nation Advocacy Day on June 9-10, 2010 in Ottawa. The overall objective of the pilot was to offer information on “how parliament works” to interested leaders and technicians and then put this information into practice with a coordinated day of advocacy with Parliamentarians – known as “First Nations Day on the Hill” – which included a networking breakfast reception and individual meetings.

With AFN Executive Committee approval, the pilot was developed and launched over a period of three weeks. The concept was received with interest by several First Nation leaders and their technicians. There were 31 First Nation delegates who participated in the training session and advocacy day. With this level of participation, it enabled 17 First Nation Advocacy Teams to be formed which were mainly comprised of two leaders, a technician, and/or AFN senior staff.

The National Chief prepared the foundation for meetings during the immediate weeks leading up to the event by briefing Party Leaders. This was an important aspect in event preparation as Parliamentarians were encouraged to welcome meetings for the advocacy day.

Parliamentarians showed strong interest in participating in First Nations Day on the Hill. Overall, 51 individual advocacy meetings were scheduled with MPs and Senators; and the AFN breakfast reception was attended by approximately 100 guests in total. Also of note is that all members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development participated in this First Nation pilot initiative.

Feedback on this inaugural initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, and the AFN is incorporating lessons learned into planning for future coordinated advocacy activities in the fall session and beyond.





## LEGISLATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES

This was a busy Parliamentary session for First Nations, with several key pieces of legislation requiring monitoring and engagement. Since the opening of the session on March 3, 2010, the AFN has presented to six committees of the House of Commons and Senate.

Key legislation followed during this session included:

- Bill C-3: *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act*, which introduced amendments to the *Indian Act* to respond to the BC Court of Appeal decision in the *McIvor* case. Following amendments in committee review, the Bill remains at the report stage, and has not yet returned for 3rd reading.
- Bill C-24: *First Nations Certainty of Land Title Act*, was rushed through both houses with limited opportunity for contribution or debate.
- Bill S-4: *Matrimonial Real Property Act* was introduced in the Senate on March 31, 2010, and has completed committee review with some amendments. However, these do not reflect First Nations jurisdiction over law-making in this area, and interventions will continue when this Bill comes to the House of Commons in the fall session.
- Bill S-11: *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act* was introduced in the Senate on May 26, 2010 and will be proceeding to review by committee. The Bill creates regulations regarding First Nations drinking water, but has no provisions for capacity to comply with these. Advocacy will continue on this matter when Parliament reconvenes in the fall.

## COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION / ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

The CoF is a body formed in 2003 consisting of all provincial and territorial (PT) Premiers. The CoF has invited leaders from the five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) to meet with them in advance of their regular annual meeting since 2004. At the last meeting of the CoF in Saskatchewan in August 2009, the Premiers agreed to establish a working group consisting of PT Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and national Aboriginal leaders to follow-up on work between meetings of the CoF and to advance commitments made by PTs.

Members of the CoF also called on the Prime Minister to host a First Ministers Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal Issues in 2010. The AAWG has met twice over the past year: on October 29, 2009 and April 28, 2010 in Toronto. The National Chief and several Regional Chiefs were able to participate in both of these meetings.

The work of the AAWG over the past year has generated several recommendations relating to education, economic development and health / violence against women that have yet to be adopted by the CoF, and would – upon adoption – still require full engagement and consultation with First Nations consistent with Federal and Provincial obligations in this regard. Further progress in this regard will be provided at subsequent Assemblies.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Coordinate a second Parliamentary Introductory Session and First Nation Advocacy Day in the fall.
- Coordinate other outreach and information sessions, perhaps to the international community.
- Continue to monitor key legislative initiatives, provide information to First Nations and advocate on their behalf to Members of Parliament and Senators.
- Contribute to the Budgetary planning cycle with a Pre-Budget Submission and presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee.
- Further updates on progress arising from the CoF / AAWG process.



## **SUPPORTING FIRST NATION FAMILIES:**

The rebuilding of our families and communities will promote education for our learners and participation in strong and sustainable economies locally and nationally. This is our time to empower our fast-growing youth population in ways that will ensure a future of opportunity, success and prosperity and promote the knowledge of First Nations languages, history, teachings and values.





# EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES

## MANDATE

The mandate of the Education Secretariat is to consult, inform and coordinate with First Nations in all regions on education issues through proactive collaboration with the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC). The Secretariat assists First Nations by advocating governments on their behalf through policy development and analysis. It works to advance the development of quality and comprehensive First Nations education systems through projects and initiatives inclusive of the following: Head Start, early years, elementary/secondary education, special education, post-secondary education (PSE), vocational training, comparable and equitable funding, accountability, languages and cultures. The Secretariat also works toward increasing educational attainment and opportunities for First Nations learners.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.37/2009 regarding First Nation Control of First Nations Education called upon the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to:

- Adopt in principle the new national First Nation education policy as *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* based on the understanding that the paper will be revised to ensure that the development of policies is community based;
- Support the Chiefs Committee on Education and National Indian Education Council to do all things necessary to circulate *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* for ratification at the 2010 AFN Annual General Assembly; and,
- Support the development of regional community-driven First Nation education policy that feeds into, supports and strengthens *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*.

Resolution No. 41/2009 regarding Support for Constitutional Challenge to Ensure Parity of School Funding between On-reserve and Off-reserve Schools mandated the AFN to:

- Support a legal action against the Government of Canada, the provinces of Canada, and school districts for discrimination in funding levels; and,
- Provide technical, legal and other support as required to complete this challenge, including the establishment of a trust fund to support a rights-based defense.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### EDUCATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (EIS)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) approached the AFN to assist in involving First Nations in the development of national performance measures recognizing the importance of the development of a tool that would provide reciprocal accountability of INAC to First Nations communities. The AFN, through the Chiefs Committee on Education, called upon experts from across the country to come



together on the identification and establishment of key national education performance indicators and to discuss other requirements for the EIS in the following five areas: Performance Measurement; Data Management; Elementary and Secondary Education; Special Education (SEP); and Post-Secondary Education.

Under the guidance of Experts Groups, a list of recommendations was prepared, and a framework document drafted on performance measures to support broad-based regional discussions. Input and feedback was solicited from regions across Canada on performance measures, examining both current indicators and potential new indicators, and issues and areas of concern were identified relating to the implementation of a new system. A detailed report was submitted to INAC for the five key areas, based on First Nations feedback and recommendations including concerns regarding data governance, the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP), privacy, funding parity, First Nations consultation and engagement, reciprocal reporting, clarity of roles and responsibilities, and the critical importance of language and culture as the foundation for student success. Key issues were identified for future joint work over the next three years.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

A tool kit was created to explain and promote the importance of second and third level aggregation of data management, performance measurement and school success plans. Materials were designed for distribution to schools to promote a Primary and Secondary School Retention and Completion Campaign as well as materials to promote a Post-Secondary Education Role Models campaign including posters and a video message.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (SEP)**

In addition to the extensive work completed with performance measurement through the Experts Groups, a review of the research which looks at the disparity of outcomes of boys vs. girls in elementary and secondary schools was conducted, as well as a review of a proposed research agenda for Special Education.

## **POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

In addition to the extensive work completed with performance measurement through the Experts Groups, a joint implementation plan was also developed to maximize the delivery of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), the University and College Entrance Program (UCEP) and the post-secondary Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) to First Nations students. Recommendations were made for the revision of INAC PSE Program policies and guidelines.

## **ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY EDUCATION**

In addition to the extensive work completed with performance measurement through the Experts Groups, a set of user-friendly teaching tools based on best practices in numeracy for First Nations learners was created for distribution to First Nations.

## **SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY (SCA) ON EDUCATION**

In December, 2009, the Education Secretariat coordinated a First Nations Education Caucus and took the lead in coordinating the SCA with emphasis on “Equitable Funding” and “Legislation, Policies and





Programs.” The SCA also included a presentation by the CCOE on a new draft of *First Nation Control of First Nation Education*, an update to the *Indian Control of Indian Education* document from 1972, to reflect today’s educational needs. A final draft is to be presented at the Annual General Assembly in July. Also introduced was the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) / Assembly of First Nations (AFN) *Lifelong Learning Model*.

## AFN POLICY FORUM

In March, 2010 the Education Secretariat coordinated the education portion of the AFN Policy Forum in Saskatoon. Focus was on “First Nations Education: Building Consensus to Drive the Agenda for Change” and introduction of the *AFN Education Logic Model*.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The AFN Education Secretariat has enjoyed the support of many First Nations education organizations as well as non-First Nations organizations which have assisted in implementing our mandate. These include but are not limited to the following groups:

- **Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG)**  
Provincial Territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and leaders from five national Aboriginal organizations have committed to ongoing dialogue with a view to identifying and implementing concrete and tangible actions to improve outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
- **Senior Task Force – Network of ADMs on Aboriginal Affairs**  
The purpose of this Task Force on Education and Transitions is to jointly examine the programs and support services in place, which assist First Nation and other Aboriginal people from early childhood development through to adulthood with obtaining employment.
- **Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)**  
There was follow-up on the AFN’s participation at the CMEC Aboriginal Education Summit in February, 2009, with a report on recommendations reflecting a commitment to addressing the disparity in Aboriginal student outcomes across Canada.
- **Canadian Council of Learning (CCL)**  
The *Aboriginal Education Report* was released in December, 2009, and there was continued partnership work with the CCL on Aboriginal Holistic Lifelong Learning Models and Performance Indicators.
- **Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)**  
The AFN maintained dialogue with the Executive Director and Government Relations Officer of the CFS to coordinate messaging with respect to advocacy efforts for increased funding to



post-secondary education and the continuation of the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP).

- **Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)**  
The AUCC contacted the AFN to support our First Nations stance on post-secondary education. There is interested in ongoing collaboration.
- **Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)**  
*The Funding Requirement for First Nations Schools in Canada (May 2009)* focused on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) capital budgeting to assess the school infrastructure funding requirements. For the sake of completeness in estimating fiscal impact, the PBO also examined other school-related costs including operating and maintenance expenditures, instructional services expenditures, transportation, and off-reserve costs, co-related with the existing condition of the school infrastructure on First Nations reserves.

## DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION NETWORK

A Network of Directors of Education of First Nations Schools has been developed and preparation and planning is underway for a National Directors of Education Conference to be held in the fall of 2010 to expand this network of First Nation professionals, and to provide policy direction, support with research agendas, and exemplars in First Nations education.

In addition to work done in partnership with INAC, the AFN Education Secretariat also provides expert analyses on all education matters internally in the form of speaking notes, PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets and networking with other AFN Secretariats. Externally, the Secretariat provides the same level of expertise to non-government agencies, researchers, students, and more importantly, directly to many First Nations communities, their leadership, educators, parents and their children.

The Education Secretariat has worked diligently to protect the Treaty and Inherent Education Rights and the Treaty and Inherent Right for First Nations to deliver and administer comprehensive First Nations Education programming and services, including First Nations Language, Culture, and History in First Nations owned and operated schools and institutions.

In the advancement of these rights, the Secretariat has focused on three main areas of work:

- **First Nations Jurisdiction and Governance** – ensuring First Nation control over education;
- **Responsibility** – not only for the right of First Nations to take and assume responsibility of their children, but also holding the federal and provincial governments accountable for their responsibility in educating our children; and,
- **Funding** – specifically, comparable funding between on- and off-reserve schools. While First Nations schools and post-secondary institutions remain chronically underfunded, the Secretariat has collaborated to accumulate the most accurate facts and figures outlining the issues surrounding the outdated Band Operated Funding Formula (BOFF), the double standard that currently exists in the tuition amounts received by First Nation schools as compared to the Provincial Tuition Agreements.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Implementation of the *First Nation Control of First Nation Education* policy through a coordinated national strategy that aligns with the National Chief's "Call to Action" utilizing five key strategies – federal engagement, communications, litigation, social movements, and provincial engagement;
- Continued First Nations input into INAC's Education Information System to ensure adherence to the principles of OCAP, privacy, data governance, and third-party access to information;
- Clarification of education roles and responsibilities between INAC and First Nations and implementation of a systematic review and evaluation process;
- Establishment of a legislative basis to ensure comparable, predictable and adequate funding for First Nations schools including the resources necessary for provision of holistic programs and services grounded in First Nations languages, values, traditions and knowledge;
- Full research agenda for post-secondary education including the development of an alternate delivery mechanism for PSE, and establishing a legislative basis for post-secondary student support;
- Special Education Program full system review to ensure all First Nations lifelong learners have access to an education system with programs and services grounded in First Nations languages, values, traditions and knowledge, through programs and services that are accountable, accessible, acceptable, and adaptable; and,
- Development of a national communications strategy aimed at mainstream Canadians that highlights best practices in Aboriginal education across Canada and the benefits to Canada of a well-educated Aboriginal population on the economic well-being of our country as a whole.



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Health and Social Secretariat (HSS) report is broken into sections: Strategic Policy, Public Health, Community Programs and Social Development. Health strategies and decisions are developed in partnership with the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN) and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH).

## STRATEGIC POLICY

### 1. AFN - HEALTH CANADA (HC) TASK FORCE WORK PLAN

The Task Force is the highest level of work on health and has the potential for immense influence and change on program and funding sustainability, program coherence, and innovation, such as that of the multi-jurisdictional partnerships approach. Phase One is complete and an agreement was signed on January 13, 2009, between the National Chief and the Minister of Health initiating work under Phase Two (2009-2011).

In January 2009, the Task Group endorsed a new mandate, identifying nine projects within a new two-year work plan. These projects have been informed by the first phase of activities and continue to support collaborative efforts to improve the effectiveness of the First Nations health system. The projects support the mutual interest in integration of health systems and multi-lateral approaches that promote an enhanced First Nations governance role.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The Task Force Work Plan working group is currently developing Phase Two of the work plan to build on previous accomplishments. Anticipated approval by the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is expected to be received in the fall of 2010. Issues such as governance, non-insured health benefits, north of 60, health human resources, public health integration, and social determinants are expected to be addressed within this plan, leading to achievable targets for January 2011.

Building on Phase One and recognizing the mutual interest in multi-lateral collaboration, the Task Group has identified three areas of mutual interest that future projects will support: Harmonization/Integration; Public Health Protection, Prevention and Promotion; and Administrative Capacity and Operational Support.

**Harmonization/Integration** – Seamless and harmonized health services integrated with provincial/territorial and First Nations systems to provide accessible quality care with recognized standards and evidence-based benchmarks while supporting an increased role of First Nations in health services governance.



**Public Health Protection, Prevention and Promotion** – Strengthened public health in First Nations communities through disease and injury prevention, health promotion, health protection, and public health emergency preparedness and response.

**Administrative Capacity and Operational Support** – Increased capacity among First Nations communities and health organizations, and a renewed and collaborative relationship to address administrative barriers through practical approaches.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Incorporate language that is agreeable to all parties including North of 60.
- Complete work plan and move forward with Phase Two.

## 2. UPSTREAM RENEWAL

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2004, \$700 million was committed by the federal government at a First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) for upstream initiatives for a five-year period (2005-2010).

The six upstream initiatives are as follows: 1) Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF); 2) Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI); 3) Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI); 4) National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS); 5) Maternal and Child Health (MCH); and 6) Early Child Development / Aboriginal Head Start (ECD/AHS).

In the recent budget announcement there was a commitment made to renew these programs for an additional two years (2010-2012).

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Incorporate recommended revisions to program renewals as recommended by the National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN).

## 3. HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES

### A. ABORIGINAL HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES INITIATIVE (AHHRI)

The AHHRI is one of the \$700 million upstream investments whose authority and mandate ended March 31, 2010. Renewal of AHHRI was announced. However, Treasury Board has not yet approved the funding breakdown or design features. Health Canada has been advised to wait until the initiative has gone through Treasury Board to ensure approval before discussing any proposed details. It is essential that any upcoming discussions on funding for AHHRI include First Nations representation at the table.



## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AHHRI has been focused on a number of key issues, including bridging and access programs to facilitate improved enrolment and success of Aboriginal students in post-secondary health science programs. It has been noted that First Nations students are not provided with adequate tools and preparation in math and science to prepare them for post-secondary education, thereby the need for bridging and access programs. The AFN is currently in the process of initiating discussions with stakeholders, which are intended to lead to the development of a comprehensive strategy to address this serious gap in education so that more First Nations students may be eligible to pursue health careers.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Renew and strengthen the role of the First Nations/Inuit (FN/I) AHHRI Advisory Committee in AHHRI decision-making related to the national role.
- Advocate for meaningful First Nations involvement in the planning and roll out of a renewed AHHRI.
- Establish a First Nations AHHRI working group to address the issues identified by First Nations for inclusion in the renewed AHHRI.
- Develop a communications plan on AHHRI with Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTO) AHHRI coordinators.

## B. FIRST NATIONS HEALTH MANAGERS (FNHM)

FNHM are leaders who honour, maintain and uphold inherent ways of knowing while balancing management principles to bring excellence to their communities and health programs.

A resolution was passed at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December (Resolution No. 14/2009) to support a National FNHM Association, within specific parameters, as specified through recommendations from the AFN's National First Nations Health Technicians Network (NFNHTN). The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) has confirmed that they will provide start up costs to the association. Messaging put forward at regional information sessions is that the Association is not a political advocacy group, but is instead a body that will advocate for professional development; and membership is voluntary.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

On February 10, 2010 the founding board of Directors for the FNHM Association was established and official incorporation was confirmed on May 17, 2010. The FNHM Association will provide leadership in health management by promoting quality standards, research, certification, and professional development. Long-term benefits, including improved service delivery, can potentially improve health outcomes for First Nations people.





## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- AFN participation/membership on the Board of Directors is to be confirmed.
- Board member(s) to meet with NFNHTN.

### 4. ABORIGINAL HEALTH TRANSITION FUND (AHTF)

Funding under the AHTF had originally been allocated through three envelopes: the Adaptation Envelope, the Integration Envelope, and the Pan-Canadian Envelope, in the amount of \$200 million over five years (2005-2010). As part of the upstream initiatives, this program was set to conclude in March 2010, however it has now been extended to March 2011. This is not a renewal but rather is the result of unspent funds in the amount of \$11.9 million which has been re-profiled from previous years. According to communication received from the AHTF Secretariat, these funds have been designated to allow current projects to complete their work on evaluation, communications and knowledge transfer. The wrap up of existing AHTF projects, knowledge transfer events, and evaluation are going ahead as already planned.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Based on the 2010 budget announcement, Treasury Board has not yet approved the funding breakdown or design features. Health Canada has been advised to wait until it is through Treasury Board to ensure approval before discussing any proposed details.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Incorporate recommended revisions to program renewals as recommended by the NFNHTN.

### 5. PATIENT WAIT TIMES GUARANTEE (PWTG)

Patient wait times are a concern across Canada. In particular, there is a disparity of wait times in First Nations communities when compared to the general population. Former Health Minister Tony Clement announced pilot projects to test the PWTG in 20 First Nations communities. Nationally, \$612 million has been set aside for the PWTG trust. \$30 million was earmarked for pilot projects to “discover and overcome the challenges to minimize” wait time. Through FNIHB and various stakeholders, prenatal care and diabetes were identified as priorities for pilot projects.

All communities were invited to participate. A total of 75 communities responded and a selection committee, including members of the AFN, reviewed the applications. Based on agreed criteria, 20 communities (or cluster communities) were chosen. Selection criteria included a mix of urban, rural, remote, transferred, and non-transferred communities.



Ultimately 19 communities were involved in the pilot projects—10 communities in the diabetes pilot, while nine participated in the pre-natal pilot. Selected communities that participated in the project were from the regions of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Atlantic.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Evaluation of the process and data collection.
- Design of communication strategies.
- Organization of interviews with communities on best practices.
- Presentation of the summative report and data to pilot communities.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### 6. PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health focuses on the social, environmental and economic factors affecting health, as well as the communities and settings where people gather and live. Programs and services are designed to promote and protect health, and prevent injury and disease.

Protecting the health of First Nations and preventing disease is a priority area for both the AFN and FNIHB who have been collaborating to develop a First Nations Public Health Strategic Plan and longer-term vision. Following the completion of the AFN's Public Health Framework in 2006, support was secured for three five-year projects in Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, File Hills Qu'Appelle, and Kenora Treaty 3. These projects are now entering into their fourth year. These initiatives recognize the need for increased capacity at the regional level, a more inclusive governance structure in the management of public health services, enhanced disease surveillance, integrated public health programming with the provinces, and an agreed upon legislative base on which to protect the health of individuals and their community.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The pilot projects in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario have provided an opportunity to explore many of the recommendations in the AFN Public Health Framework, and their outcomes will be better appreciated following the completion of the formal evaluation.

In addition to the focus on the pilots, the AFN Public Health team is establishing relationships with federal government departments and national organizations such as the Correctional Service of Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Canadian Lung Association, Canada Healthy Heart Strategy, and the Canadian Stroke Network, among others, to ensure the ongoing inclusion of First Nations in the development of new strategies to improve the health of First Nations.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Complete year three evaluation of the public health pilot projects.
- Assist FNIHB with their consultative dialogues in each region for feedback on their public health vision for the Branch.
- Assist PHAC with their dialogue with First Nations regions in developing a PHAC policy framework on PHAC's role in First Nations public health.
- Development of an AFN Policy Framework on Health Impact Assessments and Social Determinants of Health.

### A. CANCER

The incidence of cancer is rising faster in First Nations communities than in the general Canadian population. There is potential for cancer to surpass diabetes as the number one killer of First Nations people.

The AFN will continue to monitor what is happening throughout the cancer care continuum (risk factors/prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, end of life/palliative care) to keep apprised of how First Nations might be affected.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Cancer survival rates tend to be worse for First Nations populations because patients are likely to be diagnosed at a later stage of the disease. First Nations peoples have low rates of participation in organized cancer screening programs and the current situation regarding screening in First Nations communities is largely unknown.

To that end, the AFN completed a literature review, with national and regional components, in July 2009. The review attempts to form a clear picture of what is currently happening in Canada regarding screening and First Nations. This review was done to determine future strategies and develop action plans that support and strengthen First Nations efforts regarding cancer.

The AFN's abstract submission on the literature review was accepted by the 3rd International Cancer Control Congress 2009 (ICCC) for poster presentation. With financial support from the Canadian Cancer Action Network (CCAN), the AFN presented at the ICCC in November on *First Nations in Canada and Cancer Screening: addressing the needs of Indigenous peoples*.

The AFN continues to work collaboratively in a positive manner with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), which has a role to ensure that the most reliable and current cancer knowledge reaches all parts of the country, including knowledge about prevention, screening, diagnosing, and treating cancer, as well as data and research.



The AFN has a positive connection with CCAN, which includes members from all of the major cancer-site patient groups and several population organizations. CCAN was created to ensure that the patient voice is paramount to those making decisions on cancer policies nationally and within the provinces/territories. The AFN has a seat on the CCAN Board of Directors to ensure that patient issues relevant to First Nations populations are brought to the table.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Analysis of the literature review and regional reports on cancer screening and First Nations.
- Identification of key issues, options for policy change, strategies, and action steps that support and strengthen First Nations efforts regarding cancer issues.
- Raise profile of cancer as an emerging crisis for First Nations.
- Development of a network of First Nations cancer survivors and/or caregivers to assist with sharing of experiences, patient concerns, knowledge transfer, and communications.

## B. TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

TB is not just a public health issue; it is a social justice issue and a true marker of poverty. First Nations currently have rates of TB that are 31 times that of non-Aboriginal Canadians. Overcrowded housing, poor access to health care, and food insecurity contribute greatly to this national disgrace.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN is working with FNIHB to develop a Strategic Plan to address the burdens of TB in many First Nations communities. The AFN has had a great deal of success in advocating to this end through a World TB Day event that included a press conference to raise the issues of TB and its relationship to housing, as well as a presentation to the Standing Committee on Population Health. The AFN also worked with the AFN National Youth Council (NYC) to develop cartoon strips that will aim to raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding TB in First Nations youth.

As part of the Canadian Tuberculosis Subcommittee to the Canadian Tuberculosis Committee, two papers were accepted—one on knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs, and another on the lack of legislative support for treating First Nations people on reserve. There is significant evidence of delayed diagnosis and treatment of TB in First Nations communities. Data demonstrates that First Nations people visit health care providers five times more often than non-First Nations before a diagnosis of TB is finally made.

The Global STOP TB Initiative, managed by the World Health Organization (WHO), approached the AFN and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) to help design and lead a strategy targeted specifically at reducing rates of TB among Indigenous peoples globally. Additionally, the project is intended to build the will among Indigenous communities to demand help with the TB crisis they face. This initiative has attracted global attention as the world is becoming increasingly aware of the 370 million Indigenous



peoples in over 70 countries who suffer burdens of TB and other diseases at rates greater than non-Indigenous citizens. The WHO has applauded the leadership of the AFN in calling attention to this matter.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Strategic Plan for the Control of Tuberculosis in First Nations communities.
- Continued participation in the Global Indigenous Initiative to Stop TB.

## C. ASTHMA AND THE LUNG HEALTH FRAMEWORK

The First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS) revealed that a significant number of First Nations people reported to have asthma. This past year, the AFN, together with the Canadian Asthma Society and ITK, collaborated on a project to understand why the incidence and prevalence of asthma among First Nations children, youth and adults exist. The results of the project revealed two main themes: the lack of trained health human resources in communities to diagnose and treat asthma appropriately; and issues regarding indoor air quality including second-hand smoke exposure.

Subsequently, the federal government announced \$10 million over three years to support the Canadian Lung Framework, an initiative led by the Canadian Lung Association that brought several key lung stakeholders together to develop a framework to address lung health issues facing Canadians, including First Nations. The AFN has a seat both on the Executive and Steering Committee of the Lung Health Framework. Of the \$10 million allocated to the framework, \$1.4 million went directly to FNIHB and the remaining \$8.6 million went to PHAC. PHAC has issued a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for projects that were identified in the framework as priorities, including First Nations lung health issues. This is in addition to the \$1.4 million given to FNIHB.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Although the AFN was pleased to see First Nations lung health issues identified as a priority within the federal government allocation, the transfer of the \$1.4 million to FNIHB came without any input being sought by the AFN as to the spending of this money. Some of the decisions to spend this money have been met with concern, both by the AFN, as well as the Lung Health Framework Steering Committee, who also have no jurisdiction over the spending of this money.

Nevertheless, several key projects have been supported by the remaining \$8.6 million, including the building on work done previously by the AFN and the Canadian Asthma Society to determine how best to support the needs of First Nations with asthma.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Completion of the Canadian Asthma Society project, including the development and testing of asthma education tools, in collaboration with six First Nations communities in Quebec and the Atlantic.
- More input into the final two years of FNIHB spending in the areas of lung health.
- A Lung Health Action Plan for First Nations.

## D. PANDEMIC PLANNING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Health Emergency Preparedness has been a top priority for all First Nations communities since the H1N1 pandemic last year. The AFN has been actively engaged with key stakeholders in an effort to ensure that all First Nations have access to appropriate prevention and treatment responses for any future health emergency.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has been participating on a Trilateral First Nations Pandemic Working Group with PHAC and FNIHB since 2006. The working group is mandated to develop and monitor the implementation of a three-year trilateral work plan on pandemic influenza preparedness and response for on-reserve First Nations communities. The work plan includes such activities as developing a school-based surveillance tool.

The AFN has developed a section on the Public Health website intended to provide First Nations with up-to-date information on pandemic and other health emergencies.

The AFN has been involved in discussions with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) on pandemic preparedness, knowledge translation and funding opportunities with respect to pandemic and First Nations.

The AFN participated on the Rural and Remote Working Group, with the PHAC, to revise the current Canadian Pandemic Plan Guidelines to better service the needs of rural and remote communities. Last year's experience with H1N1 raised a number of new issues, including priority groups for vaccines and antivirals, pre-positioning personal protective equipment, and addressing the health human resource crisis. The results of this work are available on the PHAC website.

In an effort to communicate the above information and all other information, the AFN hosted a Virtual Summit with National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo on November 10, 2009.





## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Increased capacity and enhanced pandemic planning/preparedness in First Nations communities through enhanced funds and tools to support communities in their work.
- Ensure adequate distribution and utilization of the Influenza Surveillance Guide for First Nations to all communities.
- Evaluation of the role of telehealth technology during H1N1 as an indicator for how it might be used in future health emergencies.

## E. ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Environmental public health refers to conditions in the environment, both natural and man-made, that may adversely impact human health. The impacts of environmental hazards and pollution have a detrimental affect on the health of First Nations people and there is generally a greater vulnerability to the effects of exposure to environmental health hazards.

A thorough understanding and the capacity to deal with environmental health issues are vital to protecting health and reducing risk within First Nations communities. There is a tremendous amount of room for the AFN to grow in this research and policy area.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has maintained a positive working relationship through ongoing regular meetings with the Environmental Public Health Division at FNIHB. Activities including policy development, capacity building and communication components support the objective of raising awareness with leadership, all levels of government, professional organizations, and First Nations communities.

The AFN has participated on the Strategic Water Management on Reserve Committee to share information, coordinate actions and provide leadership in addressing strategic issues on water supplies and wastewater management in First Nations communities.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Raise awareness of environmental health issues among First Nations leaders and community members.
- Communication to First Nations communities and leadership on environmental public health issues as they arise.
- Greater collaboration with the AFN Environmental Stewardship Unit.
- Determine environmental public health concerns for First Nations regionally.



## F. FOOD SECURITY

Food security exists when there is a comprehensive continuum of resources in the community's food system. The continuum of resources ranges from those providing short-term relief of acute food insecurity, to those that build the capacity of the community to feed itself, to strategies that redesign the food system toward a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable model.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has been working to increase awareness of the issues surrounding food insecurity among First Nations. A few examples are participation in a cross-departmental reference group on Food Security with FNIHB, participation in the evaluation of the National Food Mail Program, participation in research increasing knowledge about food security, and the convening of a First Nations working group on food security.

During the past year, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has been reviewing the Food Mail Program for strengths and weaknesses, and identifying opportunities for improvement. The AFN provided input into their review.

The AFN has partnered with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to increase access to nutritious foods for children in the school setting, including a partnership with ONEXONE and the National First Nations Breakfast Program, as well as a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Breakfast Clubs of Canada (BCC).

The AFN continues to advocate for reductions in poverty, improvement in water quality and greater knowledge on the issue of contamination and food supply.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The AFN will be requesting from INAC, an innovative, national strategy, specific to First Nations communities and Food Security, beyond the Food Mail program. Proper consultation of First Nations would be required if the strategy is to be acceptable.
- The AFN will continue its partnership with ONEXONE and its current 12 pilot projects, and will raise awareness for the program so that more First Nations communities, especially those that are remote, can receive a breakfast program.

## G. INJURY PREVENTION

Injuries are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in First Nations communities; this is especially the case among youth and young adults. Injury prevention is concerned with modifying behavioral or contextual factors that place First Nations at greater risk for unintentional injury, morbidity and mortality from (unintentional) injuries when they occur.



Resolution 34/2008 supported the work on Injury Prevention. Resolution 57/2009 supported the development and implementation of the National Comprehensive Injury Prevention Strategy.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The work at the national level is focused on raising awareness of injuries and their impact, building capacity for communities to carry out injury prevention work and relationship development with the goal of addressing programming gaps with the adaptation of existing injury prevention programming. Much of this work is guided by the First Nations Regional Injury Prevention (FNRIP) Advisory Group.

**Raising awareness** – Injury prevention was a major component in the launch of the First Nations' Public Health website and a First Nation Injury Prevention communications plan has been developed. It is designed to coordinate injury prevention efforts from a national perspective with the overall goal of safe and healthy First Nations communities that are injury free.

**Community capacity in injury prevention** – The AFN in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) completed a Community Injury Prevention Needs Assessment survey and report. It provides a better understanding of how the CRC can help First Nations communities in the area of injury prevention.

**Stakeholder engagement** – The BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit's grant application for the 'Canadian Institutes of Health Research Team in Child and Youth Injury Prevention' project was accepted, which the AFN participates on as part of their First Nations and Inuit Injury Indicators Working Group. The project will identify and address gaps that will lead to the generation, translation, and mobilization of new knowledge for end-users and stakeholders who develop and deliver policy and programs, and advocate for children and youth in Canada.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Implementation of the National Comprehensive Injury Prevention strategy (including development and refinement of the AFN's Injury Prevention Business Case, work plan, handbook, and press kit) with direction from the FNRIP advisory group as per Resolution 34/2008 and Resolution 56/2009.
- FNRIP advisory group to discuss AFN injury prevention resolutions, strategic planning, activity updates, and network with national injury prevention organizations.
- Continue discussions with FNRIP advisory group and the CRC on next steps from the AFN-CRC community injury prevention needs assessment survey and report.

## H. HIV/AIDS

First Nations are acquiring HIV at a disproportionately higher rate than the general Canadian population; in particular, the rates among First Nations women and young adults (under 30 years of age)



are much higher than those observed in Canada overall. As well, two-thirds of new infections are acquired through injection drug use; this proportion is two times higher than that seen in Canada overall.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The work in HIV/AIDS involves raising awareness with First Nations leadership, in addition to promoting the need for research and policy development/analysis on national level initiatives around HIV/AIDS.

**Raising awareness** – The National Chief issued a press statement on World AIDS Day (December 1), calling on action for HIV/AIDS and to address stigma and discrimination in First Nations communities. The AFN NYC created 5-10 digital videos on sexual health promotion targeting First Nations youth, which will be posted on the AFN website. The AFN partnered with the Native Youth Sexual Health Network on the development of their ‘Reducing Homophobia and Normalizing Sexuality’ awareness campaign for Aboriginal youth.

**Research and policy analysis** – The AFN provided input into several national initiatives, such as the drafting of a 10-point Action Plan to address Hepatitis C among First Nations/Inuit/Métis (FN/I/M) in Canada at the National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Conference.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) outlining our continued partnership and commitment to addressing sexual and reproductive health for First Nations.
- A joint position statement for emergency contraceptives and Human Rights of accessibility, to be collaboratively developed with Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, SOGC, and the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health.
- The continued development of a sexual health page on the AFN website.
- Collaboration with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network on the redevelopment and re-establishment of the Young Eagles Challenge.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### 7. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT/E-HEALTH

First Nations have witnessed an explosion of projects across the country aimed at increasing real-time disease surveillance and the use of electronic health records. The opportunity for First Nations to participate in these activities has varied across the regions.

The role of the AFN in supporting regional e-Health initiatives required greater definition and, as such, the AFN secured the assistance of Khiasma Health Transformation to develop a draft First Nations



strategic framework that would enable the AFN to identify its role and strategy in representing First Nations across Canada.

Given that many stages of First Nations activities in this domain have implications for First Nations data protection and privacy, the AFN hosted a two-day meeting that brought Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) experts, the First Nations Information Governance Committee (FNIGC), and e-Health experts from all regions to discuss these implications and propose next steps.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The federal government has made many announcements regarding work on e-initiatives taking place across a number of different departments. These include: Panorama, a Public Health Surveillance System, supported through FNIHB and Canada Health Infoway (CHI); the Health Infostructure Strategic Action Plan, supported through FNIHB and the Business Planning and Management Division in e-Health; a Client Registry Project; and a connectivity initiative underway with INAC, to connect communities with reasonable internet connectivity.

As various electronic tools, including electronic medical records, panorama, and client registries are developed and implemented across the country, there becomes an urgent need to have First Nations Chief Information Officers for each region that would represent the needs and rights of First Nations, including the principles of OCAP.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Secure funding for Phase Two of Client Registry pilot project and begin early implementation.
- Overview of proposed changes to the Health Infostructure Strategic Plan for FNIHB.
- Engage regions to determine successful projects and e-Health priorities and develop strategic plans utilizing outcomes from the March 2010 Privacy and Protection workshop. This will include hosting a workshop to determine the following:
  1. Regional policy needs and advocacy requirements;
  2. Identify best practices from across the country;
  3. Determine regional leads for e-Health;
  4. Build relationships between AFN and the regions;
  5. Determine funding requirements from Health Canada and Canada Health Infoway; and,
  6. Determine regional requirements around engaging and working with PTOs.

## 8. NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB)

The National NIHB Program provides coverage to registered First Nations and recognized Inuit to support them in reaching an overall health status that is at least comparable with other Canadians. Benefits under NIHB include eye and vision care, dental, medical transportation, drugs, medical supplies and equipment, crisis mental health counseling, and approved health services outside of Canada.



## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

**AFN/NIHB Work on the Joint Handbook** – The AFN and NIHB began working on a joint handbook in 2008. The handbook is currently undergoing approval processes both at the AFN and FNIHB senior levels. The booklet is similar to the previous version with the addition of incorporated recommendations received from the AFN Caucus and Legal Counsel.

**First Nations and Inuit Oral Health Strategy (FNIOHS)** – In response to the FNIOHS, the AFN recently completed a Draft First Nations Oral Health Strategy entitled “Teeth for Life”, which is meant to compliment the FNIOHS. The AFN Oral Health Strategy provides recommendations for improving the oral health status of First Nations and addressing NIHB dental policy restrictions, as well as implementing more prevention programs at the community level.

**SOGC** – In an effort to coordinate common themes across files, NIHB, Public Health, and Sexual Health are collaborating with SOGC to discuss reproductive therapeutics for First Nations women and First Nations specific screening/prevention standards.

**Pharmacy** – New Brunswick has had legislation enabling pharmacists to prescribe medication since fall of 2009. This legislation allows pharmacists to prescribe repeat prescriptions (existing medication for which the client is currently receiving), not new prescriptions. It also allows pharmacists to prescribe over-the-counter medications (OTCs). Other provinces are following same course of action, and NIHB will be recognizing new prescribers within their scope of practice.

**Palliative Care** – NIHB has also implemented a new policy to reduce the frequency of billing for short-term dispensing to 28 days. They also implemented a palliative care formulary in the fall of 2009, which is basically a streamlined process for approving palliative care drugs for patients requiring specific drugs for end of life care.

**NIHB Navigators** – The AFN advocated for NIHB Client Advocates or Navigators in each region to help those people who are having difficulty accessing a benefit. Over the past few years, several regions have managed to obtain a funded position for a navigator(s). Ontario and Alberta, in early 2010, were approved for two navigators, one in the North and another in the South. The NWT, Yukon and Quebec regions do not have navigators in place. The AFN will continue to advocate for navigators in each region.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Reduced policy restrictions to the NIHB Dental Program and improved access to benefits.
- Continue to advocate for NIHB Navigators in each region/territory.
- Continue to advocate for increased NIHB Program funding.





## 9. MENTAL WELLNESS

Mental wellness files within the AFN include mental health, suicide prevention, addictions, mental health supports for residential school survivors, and tobacco. Throughout 2009-2010, the AFN has focused on advocacy within federal and national programs and initiatives. Advocacy within federally funded programs/strategies includes: the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS), National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), Brighter Futures, Building Healthy Communities, Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Supports Program (IRSHSP), First Nations & Inuit Mental Wellness Advisory Committee (MWAC), and Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FTCS). Advocacy within national strategies includes the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), and the MHCC First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Advisory Committee (FNIMAC).

### A. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

#### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN continues to be a key partner in the First Nations & Inuit Mental Wellness Advisory Committee (MWAC). The MWAC recently underwent an exercise to prioritize areas for future work within the Strategic Action Plan. Priorities identified include engagement of regional partners and stakeholders, increasing networking opportunities and mechanisms, and increasing knowledge exchange on what works in community-based mental wellness.

The MHCC has released a framework for a mental health strategy for Canada, “Toward Recovery & Well-being”. The framework was informed by a pan-Canadian consultative process. The MHCC is now in a second round of pan-Canadian consultations to further develop the framework into a mental health strategy. The AFN has been advocating for a First Nations specific consultation process to be established to ensure First Nations mental health is not absorbed by a pan-Canadian strategy. The AFN is currently in discussions with the MHCC to hold a First Nations / Inuit / Métis forum to gather distinct input. The AFN has also been engaged in some MHCC FNIMAC national activities to develop guiding documents to strengthen consideration of First Nations ethics and cultural competency within the development of the mental health strategy.

The Mental Health and Addictions Directorate (MHAD) Cluster within FNIHB at Health Canada is subject to an evaluation conducted prior to March 31, 2011. The AFN has been invited to join a working group to advise on the evaluation of the MHAD cluster. The evaluation will be a key opportunity to identify gaps and areas for improvement in the administration and dissemination of funds and programs within the MHAD. The AFN has advocated for the inclusion of community-based informants to ensure there are community perspectives brought forward regarding the efficiency, relevance and effectiveness of MHAD administration of funds and programs.





## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Establishment of a Mental Wellness Advisory Committee to the AFN to provide advice on federal and national mental wellness files.
- A plan/strategy for engaging AFN regions in regionally-based implementation of the MWAC Strategic Action Plan.
- Establishment of a First Nations specific process for provision of distinct input in the development of a National Mental Health Strategy for Canada by the MHCC.

## B. SUICIDE PREVENTION

As a part of upstream renewals, the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS) was renewed at par for a two-year period. Despite efforts and calls to increase and enhance the program, at par renewed funding will at least allow communities to continue to run programming. The AFN efforts have now focused on advocating for evaluation summation that reports findings that support increases and enhancement past 2012.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

During 2008, the National Youth Council worked with the AFN to develop a Youth Leadership Development Initiative. The initiative is composed of a curriculum titled “CEPS: Cultural, Economic, Political and Social Youth Leadership Development Curriculum”, which was finalized by the AFN National Youth Council in 2008 but without a print and dissemination plan. As a result, the AFN has re-engaged the AFN NYC and is currently working with them to produce an implementation guide and strategy for community-based dissemination later in the fiscal year.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Launch and national dissemination of CEPS Youth Leadership Development Curriculum.

## C. ADDICTIONS

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In partnership with the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF) and Health Canada, the AFN continues to be a key partner in the NNADAP Renewal Process. The NNADAP Renewal Process has been unique in taking an approach to developing a renewed program framework that is informed by culture, evidence and needs. The drafting of the renewed program framework is currently in progress; the drafting is being informed by regional needs assessments and recommendations, research papers, feedback from forums attended by First Nations, and existing literature. The renewed program framework will be unique in taking a system-approach to supporting First Nations on addressing addictions prevention and treatment needs. Once drafted, the renewed program framework will undergo



regional focus groups with AFN and NNAPF regions for feedback and validation. Once revised, the final program framework will then be presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for ratification.

The AFN has been working in continued partnership with NNAPF and Health Canada to establish a NNADAP Renewal Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will be responsible for advising on the transition and change management from renewal through to implementation. The Leadership Team will be composed of First Nations individuals recommended by the AFN and NNAPF.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Presentation of a renewed program framework for NNADAP to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the December 2010 Special Chiefs Assembly.

## D. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SURVIVORS

The AFN has been focused on advocating for thorough provision of mental health supports for survivors, their families and communities throughout all components of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2009, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) delivered distinct messaging that Health Canada would be responsible for provision of mental health support at national TRC events. As a result, the AFN has focused on advising Health Canada on the provision of mental health supports and planning for safe spaces through participation on a Resolution Health Supports Advisory Committee (RHSAC) to Health Canada, and a direct working relationship with the Mental Health and Addictions Directorate (MHAD) health support planning team. Due to condensed timelines in preparing for the first national event of the TRC, the RHSAC process has been only minimally effective in advising on safe spaces and health supports planning. As a result, the AFN has also been directly advising MHAD on various components of the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRSRHSP), and TRC event planning.

In addition, the AFN has been exploring ways to increase community preparedness within the scope of mental health supports as a result of Settlement Agreement activities. The AFN is currently engaged in developing a strategy which includes seeking funding to conduct community preparedness through community-based capacity building and knowledge translation and exchange.

*At the time of Annual Report drafting, the first national TRC event had not yet taken place. For a more recent report, please refer to the mental health supports section of the Special Report on the TRC.*



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Development of a project that increases training opportunities and knowledge of what works for provision of supports for IRS survivors, their families, and communities.
- Continued operations of an Advisory Committee tasked with advising Health Canada on thorough mental health support planning for TRC truth and reconciliation activities.

## E. TOBACCO

Through the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy (FTCS), the AFN received funding to develop a national First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy, host two national tobacco forums, re-engage a National First Nations Tobacco Control Network, and conduct knowledge development and transfer activities.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has re-engaged a national tobacco network, the AFN Tobacco Action Circle (TAC), which advises the AFN on federal and national tobacco control initiatives. The TAC will also be advising AFN on the development of a National First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy. The strategy will be informed by existing and new culturally competent evidence, community-based promising practices, and community/regional feedback.

The first national tobacco forum was held in March 2010 in Wendake, Quebec, and focused on sharing successes and producing recommendations in the area of integrating smoking cessation and prevention messaging into existing tobacco and non-tobacco programs. The second national forum will be held in November 2010 (date and location to be determined) and will focus on sharing best-practices and collecting feedback on the draft National First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- A second national forum on tobacco control, cessation and prevention.
- Community and regional review of a draft National First Nations Tobacco Control Strategy.
- Update and national distribution of a youth information booklet “Keep it Sacred: Don’t Misuse Tobacco”.
- National distribution of key findings from an environmental scan on community-based tobacco control, prevention, cessation, and re-investment initiatives.

## 10. CHILDREN’S HEALTH

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The AFN has been working to ensure the continual funding of the Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program through the Upstream Investments, beyond the current two-year renewal received April 1, 2010.



The AFN continues to work with FNIHB on the Aboriginal Head Start Program On-Reserve (AHSOR), including work on Menu-Planning Guidelines and is a contributing member of the AHSOR Operations Guide Working Group.

Working in partnership with other non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) and the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists ensures that the issues that affect First Nations children remain a priority with the federal government.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The AFN plans to examine issues affecting First Nations children including childhood obesity and nutrition, gangs and tobacco.
- The AFN, as a member of the planning committee for the 4th International Meeting on Indigenous Children's Health to be held in Vancouver in March 2011, will ensure that First Nations children's issues are brought to an international level.

## 11. DIABETES

In 2005, \$190 million (\$133 million for First Nations) was allocated to an enhanced Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) program to assist in expanding programming across all First Nations communities in Canada. In 2006, the AFN created a First Nations Diabetes Working Group (FNDWG) with regionally-appointed First Nations representatives to provide ongoing support and guidance to the ADI, as well as other related diabetes initiatives and AFN activities. The ADI was renewed in March 2010 at \$285 million over two years, which explored options and evaluations aimed at ADI renewal and its processes, which the FNDWG feeds into.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The FNDWG supported the ADI renewal process in identifying gaps, overlaps and in ensuring that AFN representatives in the regions participated in the Provincial/Territorial Organizations (PTO) renewal discussions. Throughout the ADI renewal discussions the AFN also advocated for a priority focus on pregnancy, maternal and gestational health. The FNDWG Life-Giving Medicine Wheel workshop and video is a tool in self-care management and works to increase awareness and knowledge of diabetes during a women's gestational/prenatal period. The AFN participated in several ADI Experts meetings in preparation for ADI renewal, to assist in building awareness of the twin epidemic of diabetes and obesity in First Nations communities. The AFN also collaborated with the Canadian Diabetes Association and the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association in linking advocacy efforts calling for ADI renewal.

The AFN Fitness Challenge to First Nations (Phase 2) took place from October 14 to November 30, 2009, and engaged 80 schools and 1,400 students. The 2nd Challenge to First Nations was announced at the December 2009 Special Chiefs Assembly and the AFN is currently exploring avenues to expand this initiative to empower more First Nations communities across Canada.



The 1st International Conference, Building Healthy, Sustainable American Indian Communities, was hosted by the Ho-Chunk Elders Advisory Council of Winnebago, Nebraska in collaboration with the Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, Iowa in September 2009. The conference focused on education, energy, agriculture, cultural preservation, and risk reduction approaches in treating diabetes, cardiovascular disease, substance abuse, suicide, and depression among American Indians with scientifically-proven stress-reduction transcendental mediation (TM) techniques.

The Ho-Chunk Elders presented to the national FNDWG at their working group meeting in November and shared their experiences and the benefits of TM with the Winnebago Tribe. In December 2009, the FNDWG was invited to learn TM and the AFN received confirmation of course fees waived for FNDWG members across Canada.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Expand the AFN Fitness Challenge and explore avenues to engage all communities across Canada in making the positive link between healthy active lifestyles and reducing the risk of diabetes.
- The FNDWG will continue to support the Diabetes Lifegiving Medicine Wheel Walk video presentations at varying forums.
- The FNDWG members will begin preparations for their meeting in October during the Canadian Conference on Global Health and to learn transcendental mediation as a technique for regulating diabetes and tools to facilitate stress reduction.

## 12. HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HCC)

The First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program (FNIHCC) assists people who have chronic and acute illnesses to receive the care they need in their home or community. Care provided in familiar settings allows First Nations people to be close to their loved ones as long as possible and maintain their independence. HCC services may include nursing care, personal care such as bathing and foot care, home support such as meal preparation, and in-home respite care. FNIHCC includes the authority for additional support services which can be provided if there is sufficient funding for palliative care and rehabilitation services. However, there is rarely funding for these services.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Some of the key issues with the First Nations health systems are the inability to offer competitive salaries due to funding. First Nations are unable to compete with federal, provincial or territorial governments and insufficient resources have impaired recruiting of health care employees, and their retention. Wage parity has been a long-standing issue with HCC. As well, due to the funding shortfalls, HCC nurses are not able to offer the same level of service to clients, nor do they have same training opportunities as provincial nurses. HCC nurses have to work longer hours and often in difficult conditions. Communities are struggling to support their health units and recruitment issues are further impacted due to yearly contracts that don't promote job security.



There has been no increase in HCC funding since 1999. The overall funding does not meet the community needs and current funding levels do not allow for all communities to be served. The AFN has been advocating for increased funding. Health Canada is proposing to address this by integrating FNIHB's FNIHCC with INAC's Continuing Care (CC) Program. Discussions on integration of the two programs have occurred during the past year; one of the main concerns to be addressed is the need for a substantial increase to the program's funding in addition to, or despite of integration.

The Quality Improvement Working Group (QWG) has been in place since October 2006 and has been working toward the enhancement of quality in the HCC program. Currently, the QWG is assisting in the development of the Quality & Risk Management Improvement Guide, which will be piloted in eight communities. The Quality Guide's purpose is to build capacity for Quality Improvement within First Nations and Inuit communities. The guide is in final stages of editing and a final document is expected by the end of the summer. The Quality Guide has been long-awaited by the First Nations HCC nurses and service providers.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- Continue to bring forward First Nations Partners' HCC concerns to FNIHB senior management and advocate for increased funding.
- Draft a plan that would add needed funding for those communities who are not currently receiving HCC services.
- Continue to participate in the National Evaluation Study, QWG, and the Abuse of Older First Nation Seniors Task Group.

### **13. CONTINUING CARE (CC)**

#### **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Joint Working Group (JWG) on CC finalized a Policy Options Analysis Paper in August 2008, which provides a comparative analysis of three options identified to address the need for improvements in funds and continuing care services, such as increased home care services, palliative care, supportive housing options, and accessible long-term care facilities either on reserve or within close proximity.

As part of the improvements to home care services, the report recommends that the in-home care services, funded by INAC, be transferred to Health Canada for integration with the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program (FNIHCC). A Costing Study was completed, which provides the estimated costs for all proposed improvements to continuing care, including enhancements to HCC, supportive housing, facility-based care, and palliative care. The final Costing report was presented to the JWG in 2008. The JWG confirmed their support for the integration and expansion of federal program components, particularly to increase higher levels of care to meet the needs of First Nations within or in close proximity to their communities. The JWG also strongly recommended increased political support





and promotion by First Nations leadership to bring focus to this important issue as it moves through the federal government policy development approval process.

The final Options Analysis Paper was scheduled to be presented to the CCOH in April 2010. The report will be used by Health Canada and INAC to generate discussions at various levels of government to determine how to address the need for improvements to continuing care services.

Research and various reports confirm that the status quo is not an option. Current programs and policy framework has no capacity to meet changing needs and growth of the population. It is critical to close the gaps between existing continuing care services accessible to First Nations and those accessible to the general Canadian population.

One major program change that is being recommended by both the Assisted Living (AL) Program Evaluation (2007-08) and the CC Policy Options Analysis Paper is the proposed transfer of authority and funding for the “in-home care component” of the AL program to Health Canada to be integrated with the FNIHCC Program. This aligns with the ongoing work to develop a seamless continuum of care and will require further discussions and coordination between INAC and Health Canada. The AFN has stressed the need to ensure First Nations input before the departments proceed with integration. Both Health Canada and INAC advised that there are many steps to be taken before integration can occur and agreed that First Nations will be consulted prior to any action being taken on integration. However, there have been some preliminary discussions between the two departments regarding the process to transfer the services so this option is being actively explored. Neither the AFN nor First Nations regional representatives have been included in these discussions at this time.

The existing home care programs (FNIHCC and Assisted Living) face major sustainability issues due to limited funding which need to be addressed, in particular where some First Nations communities do not have a HCC program. The CC Research report indicates that Health Canada and INAC need to increase current allocations for HCC by 90% plus another 50% over the next five years due to population growth, inflation, and costs related to increases in acuity. These issues are briefly mentioned in the Policy Options Analysis Paper but the paper does not include any recommendations to address sustainability because this issue was outside the scope of the CC initiative. Both Health Canada and INAC agreed to continue to work with their respective First Nations working groups to develop a process to address the sustainability issues for the existing programs.

## **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- Continue to seek federal government support, as outlined in the CC Options and Analysis Paper, for improvements to CC services and to work on a process to address sustainability issues for the existing Assisted Living and the FNIHCC programs.
- Begin discussions on the proposed integration of the “in-home care” component of AL and the FNIHCC Program; however, both departments have committed to First Nations input and consultations prior to initiating an integration process.





## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The AFN Social Development Secretariat has had the responsibility over the years to work in the areas of First Nations Child Welfare, Income Assistance, National Child Benefit Reinvestment, Family Violence Prevention, Jordan's Principle and Assisted Living. Since the AFN filed the Canadian Human Rights Complaint on Child Welfare, INAC has severely reduced funding to the AFN for any work relating to social development.

## **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

The funding received for fiscal year 2009-2010 was \$15K to do some work in the area of Income Assistance. The AFN completed a draft Income Assistance Active Measures Policy Framework Literature Review. Until social funding is reinstated or an alternate source is secured, the Social Development Unit will continue to remain without staff.

## **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- A proposal has been submitted for fiscal year 2010-2011 to address issues in the areas of Income Assistance, Assisted Living and Family Violence Prevention—to date this proposal remains unfunded.



## FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL LONGITUDINAL HEALTH SURVEY (RHS) AND THE FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION GOVERNANCE CENTRE

The RHS is the most comprehensive study of First Nations health and living conditions in Canada. Since its inception over 14 years ago, the RHS has had a clear objective – to collect information about the health and wellness of First Nations. The First Nations on-reserve populations were excluded from several national surveys, leaving a significant information gap. The RHS is filling that information gap. The RHS captures information for on-reserve First Nations, as well as in our northern communities (Northwest Territories and Yukon), and produces valid statistics at the national and regional levels. The survey is holistic, addressing both health conditions and the many determinants of health including diabetes, obesity, migration, language, and housing.

The RHS is the only national research initiative carried out under the complete control of First Nations, in keeping with the First Nations Principles of OCAP – Ownership, Control, Access and Possession. The RHS process is the initiative that created the term “OCAP” which represents First Nations governance over information. It is unique in addressing a research agenda of First Nations’ priorities for the adult, youth and children populations from a holistic perspective.

The RHS is designed as a longitudinal survey and data will be collected every four years up to 2016 with additional opportunities for specialized surveys in between cycles. The RHS (1997 and RHS Phase 1 (2002-03)) national and regional reports are available at [www.rhs-ers.ca](http://www.rhs-ers.ca).

The RHS process is implemented through strong regional processes under the skilled coordination of RHS Regional Coordinators supported by the RHS National team. The RHS process in each of the regions is guided by individual regional processes that often include regional information and research committees, which are supported by regional political support resolutions.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The RHS Phase 2 data collection was conducted in 250 First Nations communities and was completed in the spring of 2010 with an overall response rate of 80%. A call for writers was undertaken in early 2010 that will result in a RHS national report with over 38 chapters covering a wide range of subject areas. The results will be published following a unique, accountable First Nations OCAP-compliant process for analysis, interpretation and reporting of results under the guidance and direction of the mandated committee – the First Nations Information Governance Committee. Each of the participating regions will also be producing 10 specific regional reports in the coming year following their regional processes. The highly anticipated results for RHS Phase 2 will be released on March 1-3, 2011 in Ottawa.

At the Special Chiefs Assembly held in December 2009, Resolution No. 48 was passed that supported the development of the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIG Centre). Regional support resolutions are anticipated in the coming months. The Centre will be comprised of a national central office supported by regional offices to be structured as a federally incorporated Centre (at the national



level) and governed by a mandated board who will be directly accountable to First Nations communities and leadership through existing practices and structures much like the current RHS model.

The First Nations Information Governance Centre corporate bylaws have been developed in conjunction with Krista Yao, Legal Advisor from the Nadjiwan Law Office. The complete incorporation package was prepared and delivered to Industry Canada on April 22, 2010. The Centre's Head Office space has been secured in Akwesasne, effective May 1, 2010 and the office space in Ottawa was secured for July 1, 2010. A draft service agency agreement was prepared that will address the transition of RHS from the AFN to the FNIG Centre.

The inaugural Board of Directors meeting was held on June 4, 2010 in Ottawa to adopt bylaws, appoint officers, and approve the agency agreement/financial contribution with AFN to transfer RHS funds to the new First Nations Information Governance Centre. The RHS Regional Agreements for 2010-11 were prepared. The initial Board will have the duties to act in the best interests of the corporation and can vote and take actions. The Regions (regional organizations) will submit applications for membership into the corporation and formally appoint their respective delegates and directors.

The First Nations Information Governance Centre will:

- be the permanent home for RHS;
- be the premier source of First Nations information;
- be devoted to First Nations;
- make the most of research and information that will truly benefit the health and well-being of First Nations;
- strive to partner with entities that seek to achieve success in working with First Nations, through the use of credible information and processes that respect First Nations jurisdiction to own, protect and control how their information is collected, used and disclosed;
- promote and advance the First Nations Principles of OCAP;
- assist in building First Nations capacity in research, information technologies, health surveillance and data analysis; and,
- measure improvements to First Nations health and well-being through the RHS and specialized surveys.

The FNIG Centre will focus on five major objectives in its initial year of operation:

1. Secure long-term operational funding for the national and regional centres.
2. Establish effective communications with First Nations at all levels to:
  - promote and advance the RHS data utilization and access;
  - promote training opportunities;
  - support evidenced-based decision making; and,
  - promote the First Nations Principles of OCAP.



3. Establish effective partnerships with organizations to ensure mutual benefits from the contributions of the Centre with:
  - federal and provincial governments;
  - public health networks;
  - academia;
  - students; and,
  - Aboriginal organizations.
4. Develop and deliver a series of training programs.
5. Establish the RHS Research Data Access Centre to promote the use of RHS data and support additional analysis and interpretation of research results.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- Work on draft RHS Phase 2 (2008-10) national results (38 chapters) for release in March 2011.
- Develop a communications strategy to inform First Nations on the First Nations Information Governance Centre.
- Establishment of the RHS Research Data Centre.
- Training for community workers on RHS, OCAP and introduction to data analysis and interpretation, etc.



## INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has been instrumental in achieving a fair and just resolution package for former students of Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The successful uptake on the compensation components, Common Experience Payment (CEP), Independent Assessment Process (IAP), implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), and commemoration activities require that the AFN provide an essential role in advocacy support of former IRS students and their families. The AFN is uniquely positioned to ensure an effective and efficient advocacy and communications strategy is implemented, providing leadership for healing and reconciliation between government, the churches and First Nations.

There are indicators that many former IRS students are dissatisfied with the compensation components of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), which may impact the TRC and commemoration activities. Former IRS students in remote communities are further challenged by the lack of access to information or support in the CEP and IAP processes. In an effort to help address these issues, the AFN plans to build on the success of a Community Outreach Mobile Notice Plan, which established contacts, including many in remote/isolated communities, for the first time.

It would be a tremendous disservice to all who participated in the process to risk losing the benefits of the IRSSA because of a lack of advocacy and outreach. This would constitute a further injustice to the former IRS students and their families. It is important to ensure that former IRS students are treated fairly and that the Government of Canada gives substance to the apology.

The IRSSA is not only a historic agreement, it is a path toward healing and reconciliation for First Nations, Canada and the churches. The AFN must continue to play a key and central role in the IRSSA.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Many former Indian Residential School students are not familiar with their rights in the IRSSA, leaving some frustrated and re-victimized in regard to the compensation components of the CEP and IAP. The closing dates for applications are September 19, 2011, for the CEP and March 2012 for the IAP process. Time is of the essence if former IRS students are to realize the full benefits of the IRSSA.

As party to the IRSSA, the AFN has a responsibility to protect the interests and advocate for former IRS students and their families. Kathleen Mahoney is the AFN representative on the National Administration Committee to ensure implementation of the approval orders and deal with appeals. Paul Favel is the AFN representative on the Independent Assessment Oversight Committee. The courts have appointed Crawford Class Action Services to monitor Canada's compliance with the IRSSA. Their role is to work with the officials with unfettered access to the administration of the IRSSA. An all-party meeting to address the issues and concerns needs to be held as soon as possible.

While the IRSSA anticipated 80,000 IRS survivors, 99,803 CEP applications have been received and 75,759 have been paid (94.7%). Approximately \$1.5 billion of the \$1.9 billion budget has been



paid out. The majority (at least 40%) of applications in reconsideration relate to compensation for day schools, which currently are not compensated within the IRSSA. A Day School Class Action is posing difficulties for many former students seeking justice for abuses they suffered in day schools administered by the Government of Canada. Only four schools have been added to the IRSSA out of 1,407 requests – the majority of requests are to add day schools to the IRSSA. Appeals for the CEP or IAP are subject to availability of the judges in the various jurisdictions, leaving many former IRS students waiting for months for resolution or decisions that impact their claims.

The IRSSA initially projected 12,500 IAP applications – 14,879 have been received. Revised projections indicate that 21% of CEP claimants (21,000) will come forward in the IAP process. Approximately \$564 million has been paid in compensation to date, which does not include administration of the IAP. There are 97 Adjudicators and one Chief Adjudicator.

Although the uptake in the CEP and IAP processes may have exceeded expectations in some regions, others are underrepresented due to isolation and remoteness of the communities. The majority of IAP applications are on hold due to inadequate records that require follow-up by the claimant's counsel. Many IAP applicants are choosing to self-represent, possibly leaving themselves vulnerable in a very complex IAP process. The Student on Student and Persons of Interest cases pose difficult challenges as many individuals are from the same community and the only contact with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is via telephone. This leaves alleged victims and perpetrators vulnerable and at risk with no adequate health supports.

The closing of 134 Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) projects has left the Yukon, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Manitoba regions without healing projects. Twelve treatment centres will remain open until 2012. Although an INAC Evaluation recommended ongoing funding of the AHF, the Government of Canada cut funding. As frustration grows regarding the compensation components of the IRSSA and as plans for the first National Truth & Reconciliation event unfold, former IRS students and families may be at risk.

Health Canada has 136 Resolution Health Support Workers, 221 Cultural Support Workers and 1,264 Service Providers nationally. This is inadequate. Health Canada officials insist that they are filling the gaps of the AHF projects through the Resolution Health Support Program. INAC is ultimately responsible under the IRSSA for adequate health supports. A total of \$65.9 million was set aside in INAC's budget for health supports for 2010-2012.

The First National Truth and Reconciliation event is scheduled for June 2010 in Manitoba. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has also developed a guide for community-based TRC events which has been distributed and posted on their website.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Advocacy and distribution of information to remote and isolated First Nations communities and regions that are underrepresented in the compensation components of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement;
- Liaison with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission regarding regional and national events;
- Establishment of regular monthly high-level meetings with INAC, the Independent Assessment Process Secretariat and Health Canada to address issues and concerns of former IRS students and families and, as needed, establishment of processes to protect the interests of former IRS students and their families in implementation of the IRSSA process;
- Regular updates to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and First Nations organizations; and,
- Advocacy for adequate and culturally-appropriate health supports for former IRS students and their families.







## **EXERCISING AND IMPLEMENTING OUR RIGHTS:**

First Nations have inherent rights that give them the control to make the decisions that affect their lives. The AFN will support First Nations in implementing those rights and the treaties using clear standards, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We say to Canada that we are all Treaty people, and we have responsibilities to one another and an obligation to honour those sacred promises. It is our time to act on First Nations inherent rights and authority by supporting traditional governance, achieving acceptable consultation and accommodation standards, and securing resource revenue sharing.





## HONOURING TREATIES

In a Political Agreement signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and National Chief in November 2007, Canada committed to address Treaty related issues not addressed by the new Specific Claims Tribunal legislation. Following the Joint Assembly of First Nations (AFN) - Canada Treaties Implementation Conference, *As Long as the Sun Shines*, held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in March 2008, the AFN was able to engage Canada in an ongoing dialogue about Treaties and Treaty implementation.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The focus over the past fiscal year has been on building and sustaining momentum with respect to the establishment of a National Strategy on Treaties. Through an extensive series of local, regional and national meetings, the National Chief and Executive Portfolio Holders have sought to identify common issues and interests that are reflective of the national Treaty landscape. The AFN's role in this regard has been to help facilitate a dialogue between Nations, and to develop an advocacy strategy that would support Treaty holders to advance and benefit from their Treaty rights.

In addition to the broad discussion that took place at the most recent Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2009, two follow-up meetings took place in Winnipeg in February and March 2010. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) was also able to host a successful pilot regional "roundtable" on March 29-31, 2010, with support from the AFN.

The outcomes from 2009-10 suggest that work in the 2010-11 fiscal year would focus on continuing to build support for a National Strategy on Treaties, and that this would take place by way of further roundtables – subject to the receipt of adequate funding. The focus of these roundtables, however, is expected to be on pre-1867 Treaties and post-1867 Treaties – rather than being "regionally" based.

The anticipated adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2010-11 could provide a significant focal point for a Treaty-based dialogue with the federal government and between Treaty holders. The UNDRIP may provide a common framework to guide Treaty implementation issues and the confirmation of a National Strategy on Treaties could be guided by this thinking.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Advancement of a National Strategy on Treaties by way of a new resolution.
- Further roundtables to bring together interests relating to pre-1867 and post-1867 Treaties respectively.



## COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS

Resolution No. 40/2009, passed at last December's Special Chiefs Assembly, advanced the need to protect Aboriginal title and rights and called for a process of Comprehensive Claims reform. In response, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has established an ad hoc working group that began to meet early in 2010 to consider options and to seek support for detailed reforms that could ultimately be advanced with the federal government.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

In its current form, Canada's Comprehensive Claims Policy is outdated and does not reflect many of the advancements – legal and otherwise – that have been made over the past few decades. Just as significantly, Canada's approach to Comprehensive Claims has failed to achieve meaningful results; less than two dozen agreements have been reached over what is almost four decades of work, and frustration and uncertainty continue to characterize negotiations in many parts of the country.

The Government of Canada recently signaled a change with respect to its approach to Comprehensive Claims. Canada's commitment to reconcile Aboriginal and Crown interests through the negotiation of modern treaties based on the recognition that a First Nation has existing rights – and that these rights have not always been respected – represents a significant departure from Canada's previous orientation.

Work is underway to confirm a strategy of engagement that will seek to address the many challenges that exist with Canada's current Comprehensive Claims Policy. It is expected that one or more resolutions to this effect will be brought to the Chiefs-in-Assembly this July and that a more extensive program of work will be advanced over the balance of this fiscal year.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Establishment of an AFN working group on Comprehensive Claims / Aboriginal Title and Rights implementation.
- Update on progress to the Chiefs-in-Assembly resulting from the activities of a new working group subject to the discussion / resolution that is expected to be advanced this July.



# IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP / the “Declaration”) was adopted by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in resolution No. 37/2007. It is an expression of the fundamental rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. It sets out the principles of partnership and mutual respect that should guide the relationship between states and Indigenous peoples. It provides ways to measure and assess the way states are respecting and implementing the rights of Indigenous peoples.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The UN Declaration was adopted by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) on September 13, 2007. Although Canada had been an active participant in drafting this document over a period of two decades, Canada opted to oppose the adoption in 2007, along with three other UN member nations: Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. In the meantime, these three UN member states have either reversed or signaled their reversal of their initial opposition to the Declaration. In Canada, this past March, after more than two years of Indigenous advocacy, in its Speech from the Throne, Canada also expressed its intention to announce a qualified endorsement of the UN Declaration.

The UNPFII met in New York, in April 2010, which included many highlights relating to the Declaration, in particular, a North American Panel. National Chief Shawn Atleo was honoured to be selected to represent the North American Indigenous Caucus in the Half Day of Dialogue on North America. The panel was comprised of Chief Oren Lyon, a long-time advocate at the international level, UNPFII North America member Ms. Tonya Gonella-Frichner, and two government representatives, Ms. Kimberly Teehee, Senior Political Advisor on Tribal Relations to President Obama, and Mr. Fred Caron for Canada.

The National Chief spoke to key areas for action by First Nations and the Government of Canada, including Treaties, citizenship, comprehensive land claims, border rights, water rights and missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. In each area, the AFN identified the need to address these issues based on the principles of the UN Declaration – principles that serve to establish a minimum baseline upon which to address a wide range of issues affecting First Nations in Canada.

In addition, in May 2010, the AFN, the Métis National Council and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami issued a joint letter calling on the Government of Canada to quickly endorse the UNDRIP and to work with the Indigenous peoples of Canada to implement the rights contained in the UN Declaration through consultation, policy and legislative reform.

Most recently, in June 2010, the UNPFII released a Report that expresses that, among other things:

*The Permanent Forum urges the Governments of Canada and the United States to work in good faith with indigenous peoples for the unqualified endorsement and full implementation of the United Nations*



*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and urges that such endorsement and implementation honour the spirit and intent of the Declaration, consistent with indigenous peoples' human rights.*

*The Permanent Forum encourages United Nations agencies and other bodies to offer training programmes for Canadian and national parliamentarians and United States members of Congress, and staff within national institutions such as human rights commissions and other agencies, with the aim of integrating the spirit and intent of the Declaration into national policies.*

There is clear momentum among Indigenous peoples and all the member states of the UN to move forward using the UN Declaration as our collective framework.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- To secure the Government of Canada's clear endorsement of the UN Declaration and to establish a framework for its implementation.
- To develop a First Nations implementation plan with the Government of Canada.





# RESOURCE REVENUES

## BUILDING RESOURCE REVENUE OPTIONS

In the years and decades to come, green and renewable energy will gradually gain a larger share of the energy market, replacing non-renewable sources, such as oil, gas and coal. First Nations are positioned to become leaders in this emerging market through wind, solar, hydro, and bio-mass generated energy projects. Other resource revenue opportunities are being explored to assist First Nation communities in their bid to strengthen local economies.

Over the past six months, there have been a number of major energy project commitments made with First Nation communities, from wind power in British Columbia to solar power in Ontario. A First Nation renewable energy company has recently applied to have its stocks traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### GREEN ENERGY

Through speaking engagements, the National Chief has promoted green energy as a means of economic self-sufficiency. In this light, an Inter-Nation Trade and Energy Summit is being explored for spring 2011. The National Chief has presented the concept for a summit to the Province of Ontario, and has been informed of interest to participate in the event as a co-host.

### TAXATION

Taxation continues to be an important consideration for revenue generation. The Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) has discussed exploring necessary leaders-level and technical interventions to support taxation and fiscal resources being owned by First Nations. This discussion, coincidentally, is in line with the June 29-30, 2009, working group meeting on taxation where it was recommended that a focus on establishing better fiscal systems, relationships and arrangements be advanced.

Importantly, it should also be noted that the First Nation leadership in Ontario has successfully arrived at an agreement with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada on an exemption from the Harmonized Sales Tax. The strong opposition and negotiations were led through the Chiefs of Ontario, tribal councils and individual Chiefs.

At the time of the preparation of this report, in British Columbia, the First Nation leaders continued their efforts to make known their strong objections to introducing a Harmonized Sales Tax in their region.



## FORESTRY AND MINING

The AFN has been invited to participate in an Advisory Committee to focus on the Mining Sector, namely the Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) – Deputy Minister Evaluation Advisory Committee on Mining Sector Performance Review. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in November, 2009. The committee brings together federal officials for NRCAN with mining industry, national organizations, AFN, Mining Watch Canada, and the forest industry to define key issues.

Although focus areas continue to be discussed, at this point, key consideration is being given to four broad research themes. As such, it has been recommended NRCAN start seeking evidence of past improvements and opportunities for future improvement on optimizing socio-economic impacts, reducing the ecological footprint of mining, transparency and accountability (including reporting, monitoring and compliance enforcement), and community engagement and involvement (including approaches to land-use planning and consultations).

NRCAN's forest sector has indicated it would consider sponsoring the AFN's next economic summit, should there be sufficient linkage to forest sector issues. NRCAN's forest sector has assisted in funding AFN youth and forestry workshops.

Working relationships with the Forest and Mining sectors have been established. Each relationship is for a two-year period supported by a two-year joint work plan; results are reported to the AFN CCED.

The AFN will monitor the Forest Products Association of Canada's (FPAC) agreement with the environmental non-government organizations (ENGOS) to reduce activity in certain regions of the boreal forest. The AFN has requested a briefing on this arrangement. Some members of the AFN CCED have noted concerns and questions on the agreement between FPAC and ENGOS, in that appropriate consideration to First Nation jurisdiction is needed.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Update on planning for the Trade and Energy Summit.
- Continue to explore research and provide information to First Nations on resource revenue options.
- Monitor resource development, impacts to domestic economy, industry agreements, issues, and new revenue sharing/impact benefit sharing tools.
- Promote public education, First Nations' unique relationship with the Crown and the federal government.



## **SUPPORTING FIRST NATION GOVERNMENTS AND NATION RE-BUILDING:**

The AFN will support First Nations, as the rightful holders of title, rights and as signatories to treaties, to engage with governments and serve their citizens wherever they live. The AFN will advocate for full recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction and sustainable transfer agreements to support our responsibilities to our people. It is our time to re-build our nations by uniting and taking the necessary steps towards replacement of the Indian Act.





## SPECIFIC CLAIMS

In June 2007, Canada announced its Specific Claims Action Plan – *Justice at Last*. On November 27, 2007, Bill C-30, the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* was introduced into the House of Commons and, at the same time, a companion Political Agreement was signed by the National Chief and Minister of Indian Affairs that set out a series of commitments relating to resolving other issues not addressed by the legislation.

In December 2007, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution (no. 50/2007) verifying their support for this initiative. The *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* became law on June 18, 2008, and came into force on October 16, 2008. The Tribunal was formally established by legislation on October 16, 2008, but no judges were appointed until November 27, 2009, when three full-time appointments were announced. Mr. Justice Harry Slade was appointed Chair of the Tribunal in December 2009.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

While the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is ongoing, there has been a marked decrease in direct engagement with INAC since the Joint Task Force that had been established to complete this work was disbanded in March 2008. In an effort to support a more robust process of collaboration and engagement, the AFN has been working actively with its Chiefs Committee on Claims (CCoC), and has hosted two further “think tanks” focused on establishing a framework for the 5-year Review. This framework is expected to contain a wide range of issues / topics relating to specific claims and additions to reserves (ATR) and will provide a focal point for discussions with INAC in 2010-11.

### TRIBUNAL RULES

The AFN and Canada jointly developed proposed Rules of Procedure for the Tribunal, which were provided to Tribunal members under a joint cover letter from the Minister and National Chief on December 14, 2009. The Tribunal has had the benefit of these proposed Rules in considering the development of its own Rules. A process of wider engagement on the Rules on the part of the Tribunal is expected to take place in 2010-11.

### CLAIMS OVER \$150M

Claims over \$150 million are excluded from the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. At the same time, INAC has been reluctant to engage the AFN in a meaningful process relating to these very large claims, and has refused to formally discuss this issue in 2009-10. Based on a discussion that took place at the AFN's Policy & Planning Forum in March 2010, the AFN has committed to coordinate a forum for First Nations with very large claims to organize themselves and share information.



## MEDIATION CENTRE

Canada's commitment relating to the provision of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services was expressed in its announcement of *Justice at Last* in 2007 and was tied to the former Indian Specific Claims Commission (ISCC). The ISCC has since been wound down, and there is currently no dedicated place for First Nations negotiating specific claims to seek ADR support. Instead, INAC is seeking the AFN's engagement in the establishment of a "mediation" unit that would function as a department within INAC. In an exchange of letters between the Minister and National Chief, the AFN has signaled that it does not currently have the mandate to do so given that this represents a departure from *Justice at Last*. It is expected that this issue will be brought to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2010-11 for consideration.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Confirmation of a framework for the 5-Year Review complete or near-complete.
- Tribunal process to engage stakeholders on Rules of Procedure underway or completed.
- Ongoing coordination of a forum for First Nations with very large claims to share information.
- Confirmation of a mandate relating to how the AFN will proceed in regards to the provision of mediation / ADR.



## CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Legislation passed by Parliament opens the doors for discrimination complaints to be made in regard to decisions made under the *Indian Act*. *An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act* S.C. 2008, c. 30, came into effect on June 18, 2008. For INAC, this took effect upon the passing of the legislation in 2008, but for First Nation governments it will take effect in June 2011.

It was the enactment of section 67 in the first version of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* (CHRA) in 1977 that shielded any decisions made pursuant to the *Indian Act*. Recognizing that the repeal of section 67 and the full application of the CHRA has the potential to trigger critical capacity, implementation and planning issues for First Nation governments, the Chiefs-in-Assembly directed the AFN to undertake a study to determine the preparation, capacity and fiscal and human resources that will be required in order for First Nations to meet the challenges under the CHRA (AFN Resolution No. 05/2008, Implementation of Bill C-21, Repeal of s. 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, July 16, 2008).

A draft report based on a dialogue with First Nations in all regions of Canada about the repeal and the broader issue of protecting First Nations human rights was undertaken. Ten regional engagement sessions were held between January and March 2010, attended by a total of 216 persons. In addition, surveys were sent to all participants in advance of the regional meetings.

Among the findings in the draft report *Assessing the Readiness of First Nations Communities for the Repeal of Section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act* are that: 1) awareness of the repeal of section 67 and the CHRA is low; 2) communities have various levels of existing capacity to create and review policies to ensure compliance with the CHRA and First Nations human rights principles; and 3) approximately 1,700 public buildings and 21,000 band-owned houses are estimated to require accessibility improvements, according to a preliminary readiness assessment of community infrastructure.

In addition, the fiscal hardships associated with ensuring that communities are ready for the repeal of section 67 have not been adequately addressed, especially in the critical areas of communications, infrastructure needs, education, policy review and internal human rights mechanisms.

As further outlined in the report, various concerns related to the repeal of section 67 have been identified. The lack of resources for First Nations to prepare for the application of the CHRA and meet the new responsibilities flowing from application of this *Act* during the 36 month transition period is a key concern identified by First Nations during the engagement sessions. The AFN has received limited funding but this does not address resource requirements needed by First Nations to meet the impending responsibilities under the *Act*. In addition, the duty to consult First Nations rests with the Crown, not with AFN, and with respect to the repeal of section 67, it remains an outstanding item.

In addition, every current complaint currently relying on the CHRA against INAC before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has been challenged on jurisdictional grounds (as noted by Chief Commissioner Jennifer Lynch before the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on





April 22, 2010). It is INAC's argument that the Tribunal does not have the jurisdiction to hear these complaints. This contradicts INAC's position of urging First Nations to turn to the CHRA for relief against discrimination arising from the *Indian Act*.

True legitimacy in human rights legislation can only arise from a meaningful inclusion of First Nations people in developing a process that respects our traditional and customary practices and which is directly related to our self-determination. Therefore, the AFN report emphasizes the need to recognize and develop opportunities for the principles of self-government through First Nation specific human rights mechanisms.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- The AFN will continue to push Canada to discharge its obligations as outlined in the legislation and ensure that First Nation communities are prepared and adequately resourced in anticipation of this provision coming into effect in June 2011.



## FIRST NATION CITIZENSHIP

In 2009, work continued advocating for the advancement of recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction in regard to Citizenship. This work corresponded to Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution No. 01/2009 – Action Plan on First Nation Citizenship.

Considerable attention was also spent addressing the narrower issue of registration or 'status' under the Indian Act through monitoring and responding to developments pertaining to the British Columbia Court of Appeal (BCCA) decision in *McIvor v. Canada (Registrar, Indian and Northern Affairs)*, including *Indian Act* amendments. This work corresponded to resolutions, notably No. 38/2009 – Federal Approach to the McIvor Decision of the BCCA.

In April 2009, the BCCA ruled that *Indian Act* registration provisions – and the ability to pass on eligibility for registration – discriminate based on whether an individual traced their status through male or female ancestors. As a result, the BCCA struck two sub sections of the *Indian Act* - 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(c) – and gave Parliament one year to fix the discrimination. Throughout the late summer and fall of 2009, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) held limited engagement sessions on its proposed approach to addressing the decision of the BCCA.

On March 11, 2010, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development tabled *Bill C-3: Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act* to respond to the McIvor decision. AFN BC Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould presented on the Bill to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples and Northern Development on May 15, 2010.

The AFN provided evidence supporting ending gender discrimination in the *Indian Act* through Bill C-3 and, along with other witnesses, encouraged Canada to go further and remove remaining areas of discrimination not addressed in Bill C-3. It was also made clear that the Government of Canada will need to ensure that no further financial hardship or strain be imposed on First Nations' governments or their citizens as a result of any amendments to the *Indian Act* registration provisions.

The AFN concluded its submissions by stating that long-term solutions do not lie in further tinkering with the *Indian Act*. Our Nations have an inherent right to determine who is and who is not a Citizen of our Nations in accordance with our own laws, customs and traditions. This is fundamental to self-government. The real and ultimate solution to addressing ongoing discrimination in the *Indian Act* lies in the full recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction over our own citizenship.

Bill C-3 was amended significantly through Committee review, but these amendments were ruled out of order by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Currently, the Bill remains at the Report Stage and has not yet proceeded to Third Reading.

In the tabling of Bill C-3, the Minister announced an exploratory process to examine broader issues surrounding registration, band membership and Citizenship that could not be addressed through the Bill. As explored with delegates at the National Policy and Planning Forum in March 2010, the AFN intends



to facilitate an inclusive national-level engagement on First Nation Citizenship, taking full advantage of modern technology to be as far-reaching as possible. At the same time, the AFN has strongly advocated that dialogue needs to occur at the regional and First Nations levels as well, and that resources must be provided. The AFN will continue to press Canada to consult on the development of any future frameworks directly with rights-holders – First Nations themselves.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Supporting efforts to end legislative discrimination in the determination of ‘status’ under the *Indian Act*.
- Confirm ‘exploratory’ process with Canada regarding the broader, more important, issue of Citizenship.
- Launch of a multimedia forum for dialogue, exchange and advancing First Nations’ perspective and approach on asserting and implementing First Nations’ jurisdiction over citizenship.



## URBAN STRATEGY

A priority under the AFN's Urban Strategy is intended to strengthen connections between First Nation governments and their citizens, to move away from the restrictions of the *Indian Act*, and to work towards securing a continuum of services and rights for all First Nation citizens.

In March 2010, a workshop on the AFN Urban Strategy at the National Policy and Planning Forum in Saskatoon helped consolidate momentum and solidified some of the options to be explored as part of this strategy. In particular, delegates noted the need to include urban perspectives in AFN decision-making and facilitate information-sharing. Further, research on current governance options and advocacy for First Nation specific approaches within a multi-lateral approach were also identified as important components of the Urban Strategy. The proposed elements of the AFN Urban Strategy are outlined in a resolution to go before the Chiefs-in-Assembly for deliberation.

The AFN will continue to work with partners, such as the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC), to move forward on the development of a nationally-facilitated, regionally-coordinated, and locally-led First Nations Urban Strategy.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Securing funding to pursue activities under the AFN Urban Strategy.
- Exploring options for inclusion of urban perspectives in AFN decision-making.
- Developing a communications strategy.
- Planning a series of Policy and First Nation Citizens Forums on urban First Nation issues and priorities.



## JUSTICE

Over the past year, addressing gang violence and violence against women has served as a primary focus of AFN efforts within the justice portfolio.

In response to concerns put forward by the Chiefs-in-Assembly regarding the proliferation of First Nations gangs in various regions throughout the country, the AFN has recently launched a Justice Initiative on Prevention of Community and Gang Violence. The focus of this initiative is on preventative measures designed to assist First Nation communities in preventing future gang recruitment, activities, and violence.

The AFN has also continued to advocate to governments about the seriousness of violence against our women, in particular, the extremely high incidences of murdered and missing Aboriginal women. The National Chief raised this matter directly with the Premiers at the August 2009 meeting of the Council of the Federation, and again in meetings with Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs in October 2009 and April 2010. At the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the National Chief also recommended that the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples visit Canada to specifically monitor the critical issue of violence against Indigenous women. While Budget 2010 announced \$10 million over two years to address this matter, it is still unclear how this money will be allocated. Advocacy efforts to ensure that these monies reach First Nation communities are ongoing.

In addition to addressing gang violence and violence against women, the AFN has worked to improve communications with federal departments on Justice and Corrections initiatives, and has met with the federal co-chairs of the Federal / Provincial / Territorial (FPT) Ministers on Aboriginal Justice Working group, Public Safety on changes to the First Nations Policing Program, and the Department of Justice Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio on collaborative activities.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Significant research underway with First Nations on community safety and pathways to gang activities.
- Compilation and sharing on the AFN website of best practices to support First Nations youth.
- Improved capacity and relations on corrections, justice and policing.



## MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY

On March 31, 2010, the government introduced into the Senate Bill S-4 to regulate the division of property on reserves upon marital breakdown. The Bill is entitled *An Act respecting family homes situated on First Nations reserves and matrimonial interests or rights in or to structure and lands situated on those reserves*.

AFN BC Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould presented to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights on May 31, 2010, to deliver the AFN's submissions on the proposed legislation. Consistent with the mandate set out in AFN Resolution No. 26/2008, the AFN called upon the federal government to recognize and implement First Nations' jurisdiction over matrimonial real property on First Nations' lands and to do so in the context of the wider governance issues associated with matrimonial property (e.g., lands, wills and estates, family relations, divorce, etc.) and establish an alternative process and approach to addressing these complex issues. The AFN also expressed concern over the provisional rules that will apply to the division of property until, and if, a First Nation enacts a law over matrimonial property pursuant to the delegated law making powers in the Bill.

The Bill has since completed committee review with minor amendments and we can expect it to be on the agenda in the House of Commons when it reconvenes in September.

It is clearly important that we find solutions to matrimonial property rights issues on reserves. It is even more important that we get it right, as failure to do so will only result in the imposition of further hardship on First Nations' families and communities. Without attention to implementation and supporting safe and strong communities, legislative reform in itself can not significantly improve the lives of our families. What is required is support for First Nations to develop their own laws as part of a broader process of rebuilding our Nations from the ground up – in a manner that clearly respects First Nations' jurisdiction.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- The AFN will continue to pursue clarity on this matter and to advocate that First Nation governments' jurisdiction over lawmaking in this area be clearly recognized; that they be supported in the development of local dispute resolution mechanisms, which are fully recognized in legislation; and, that barriers to accessing justice are removed.







## ADVANCING ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS:

First Nations can be active players in the economy and, in doing so, help build our economies, create wealth and jobs and support our people in shaping the national economy. It is our time to take a leadership role as Indigenous peoples to balance development opportunities and conservation of the earth through environmental protection and green development. We are the first to feel the impacts of environmental degradation, like climate change, yet we are often the last to be heard. Our voices must be heard, our rights must be respected and we must be part of the solution.





## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Environmental Stewardship Unit (ESU) works on a broad spectrum of international, national, regional, and local environmental issues. The ESU has a mandate to conduct research, develop policy and advocate on behalf of First Nations. The ESU is highly aware of the complex relationships among many environmental issues. For example, climate change, water quality and chemical contaminants each have an impact on traditional food security, which then impacts First Nations' health and lifestyle. Through its work, the ESU considers each of the factors which may have an impact on any given issue, and looks at how their interplay must be considered in order to affect real and positive change.

The ESU continues to focus its work on a group of key policy areas: environmental health and contaminants, traditional foods safety, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, climate change and the *Clean Air Act*, forestry, mining and oil extraction, nuclear waste, water issues and source water protection, fisheries, species at risk, biodiversity and ecosystems, and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and genetic resources.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

#### BIOMONITORING

In 2008/09, the AFN began working on the First Nations Biomonitoring Initiative (FNBI), a biomonitoring study specific to First Nations people that will allow for the assessment of environmental contaminants for First Nations people on reserve. Biomonitoring is a scientific technique that can detect both synthetic and naturally occurring chemicals in human tissues.

The First Nations Biomonitoring Initiative seeks to:

- identify toxic chemicals that First Nations are exposed to; and,
- provide the opportunity to seek out the sources and routes of exposure.

The goal of the initiative is to create baseline data on environmental contaminants that are found in First Nation communities. Currently there is no baseline data on environmental chemicals for First Nations people on reserve.

In 2009, the ESU conducted a First Nations and Biomonitoring Interest Assessment to assess the interest of First Nation communities in participating in a First Nation specific biomonitoring program. This was important to gauge community interest and awareness of biomonitoring and determine priorities to develop suitable biomonitoring parameters. The results of the First Interest Assessment indicated that many First Nation communities were interested in the initiative but would like more information on what exactly biomonitoring is and how it could be beneficial to their communities.

In response to this, the ESU developed communications materials which included a background paper, newsletter and fact sheets on various aspects of biomonitoring. In 2009/10, the ESU conducted a variety of education and outreach activities, including:



- distribution of the communications materials by mail and broadcast fax;
- the development of an FNBI poster, logo and informational video;
- four Regional Information and Educational Workshops on the FNBI (Toronto, Oromocto First Nation, Wendake First Nation, and Tsuu T'ina First Nation);
- a wrap-up session on the FNBI and results and feedback from the regional workshops at the AFN National Policy Forum – Saskatoon (March 2010); and,
- distribution of a 2nd Interest Assessment to determine if there was uptake and further awareness of the program after the communications materials mail-out and regional workshops.

The general response from the workshops and the 2nd Interest Assessment has been that communities are interested and want to participate.

## CHEMICALS AND THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA 1999) requires the Government of Canada to categorize all of the chemicals on the Domestic Substances List (DSL) to see whether they possess certain characteristics that may indicate they pose a risk to the environment or human health.

Those characteristics are:

- Human Exposure – those substances that have the greatest potential for exposure to Canadians.
- Persistence – the time it takes for a substance to break down in the environment.
- Bioaccumulation – the tendency for a substance to accumulate in the tissues of living organisms and be passed up through the food chain.
- Inherent Toxicity – whether a substance is harmful by its very nature to human health or other organisms.

The AFN sits on the Chemicals Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Council, which is a multi-stakeholder committee that contributes to the implementation of the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP). The purpose of the Council is to provide stakeholders an opportunity to offer advice and input to the government on the implementation of the CMP, and to promote dialogue on issues pertaining to the CMP between stakeholders and government, and among different stakeholder groups. There may be up to three meetings per year over a three-year period.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

The ESU has been advocating for First Nation specific climate change adaptation programs that reflect the need for responding to climate change impacts to First Nations' health and well-being. The ESU has assisted the First Nations and Inuit and Health Branch at Health Canada in designing their Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nation and Inuit Communities program, which funds research in northern First Nations and Inuit communities on expected climate change impacts to human health and possible adaptation strategies.



The ESU has begun to develop a program of work related to clean energy. Clean energy programs are already being utilized at the community level to provide improvements to energy supplies and sustainable energy solutions. Renewable energy and energy efficiency projects offer a solution to current infrastructure that relies on diesel generators. These include small-scale hydro and wind power projects, solar energy projects in the North, district heating, waste heat recovery and energy efficiency in housing. These projects have had a strong track record of success in promoting sustainability and economic development for First Nations. The First Nation communities involved have also gained valuable management and project development experience, economic benefits and increased capacity.

The ESU continues to participate in international discussions on climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Accord. The AFN participated in intergovernmental working groups held in Bonn, Germany and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, Denmark. The ESU is putting pressure on developed countries to reach concrete agreements on monitoring, reporting and verification on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the second round of the Kyoto Protocol. The AFN also has been advocating for specific adaptation programs for Indigenous peoples.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CONTAMINANTS

The ESU is actively engaged in environmental health issues. With its environmental health program, the ESU is conducting research which promotes health and quality of life by reducing the risk of diseases or deaths that result from interactions between people and their environment. The ESU is also working with government and First Nation communities on primary prevention of illnesses through a combination of surveillance, education, enforcement, and assessment programs which identify, prevent and abate the environmental conditions that adversely impact human health.

The ESU continues its involvement with the National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program through participation on the steering committee, as well as through promotion of the program and providing input as First Nations' advocates. The program provides funding for First Nations community-initiated research projects on environmental contaminants.

The ESU is involved in a research study on traditional food safety and First Nations' health, the First Nation Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES). The AFN has partnered with the University of British Columbia and the University of Montreal to undertake this research project, which is expected to take place over 10 years. This research will allow us to document traditional and market food consumption, estimate exposure to contaminants and intake of nutrients of concern across communities, document self-reported health status and lifestyle habits across communities, and document food-related needs and concerns. Using an ecozone sampling framework, the FNFNES will gather information from 100 randomly selected First Nation communities south of the 60th parallel across Canada. Data will be collected on:

- current traditional and store bought food use;
- food security;



- the body burden of mercury, by testing hair samples from community members;
- the nutrient value and content of environmental chemicals in traditional foods;
- the trace metals content of drinking water; and,
- the presence of pharmaceuticals in surface waters.

The FNFNES completed its work in British Columbia and has moved the study to Manitoba for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

## SPECIES AT RISK

The National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) was officially established on September 21, 2005. NACOSAR is currently undergoing a new appointment process. The previous AFN representative, Regional Chief Bill Erasmus, was also elected as the Council chair responsible for ensuring a successful website launch, 2009 workshop and securing a NACOSAR coordinator.

An AFN staff member serves on the Policy and Planning Subcommittee on the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk and provides technical support and advice to the AFN representative. The Policy and Planning Subcommittee has met several times since December 2009, at the direction of NACOSAR, to provide technical support and assist in the preparation for the National Species at Risk Workshop.

The AFN Species at Risk Act (SARA) toolkit has been updated and distribution to all First Nation communities is planned for the fall of 2010. The SARA toolkit will again be publicly available on the AFN website. The Environmental Stewardship Unit continues to provide information to assist First Nations across Canada of the possible implications of this *Act* on their rights and economic interests.

The ESU has responded to a number of potential listing requests from Canadian Wildlife Services and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Occasionally the ESU is asked to comment on a certain aspects of the *Act*. The National Chief appeared before the Standing Committee to make a submission on the legislated five-year review of the *Species at Risk Act*.

## BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The ESU has been advocating for changes in Canada's biodiversity file by providing a First Nation's perspective on the value and status of plant and animal species in First Nation territories, as well as identifying threats to its biodiversity. It is the AFN's position that Canada cannot develop policy and programs related to biodiversity unless it has an accurate picture of what is actually on the land and the relative health and stability of the various species that inhabit that land.

The AFN strongly believes that First Nations must be included in decision-making that has an impact on the health of the environment in which they live. The AFN has encouraged the strengthening of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide more protections to First Nation communities. All First Nations must be involved and actively engaged in any future process regarding the CBD. The



Environmental Stewardship Unit will continue to monitor work completed on the Convention and work towards meaningful engagement for all First Nations.

The AFN has participated in Access and Benefit Sharing meetings at the CBD in Paris, France; Montreal, Canada; and Cali, Colombia.

## NUCLEAR WASTE FUEL DIALOGUE

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) recently wrapped up its public dialogue sessions with Canadians and Aboriginal groups, which they used to design the process for selecting a site for the long-term storage of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The NWMO will now publish its finalized site selection process document, which will be periodically reviewed during the site selection process to ensure it continually evolves.

The sharing of information about nuclear fuel waste and radiation with First Nations is an important part of the AFN's activities in this program. The AFN will continue to provide information materials to First Nations in the form of fact sheets, discussion papers, and/or backgrounders where knowledge gaps between First Nations and the mainstream scientific community exist. In addition to this, the Nuclear Waste coordinator will liaise with First Nations communities and organizations to maintain a network of transparency and communication. This coordinator will also be available to respond to any queries from First Nations about the nuclear fuel waste project.

The AFN will provide input into and feedback on the ongoing site selection process that reflects the interests of potentially affected First Nation communities, and will ensure that planning and decision-making processes are built on the direct involvement of First Nations. To this end, the AFN will seek input from Elders and First Nation communities and organizations in order to produce a document on the modern application of traditional decision-making practices. This will ensure that First Nations are consulted with respectfully and are given the opportunity to take part in making important decisions.

## WATER

The January 2009 Budget Act contained significant amendments to the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) that threaten the ability of this *Act* to provide adequate protection to waterways to ensure protection of their navigability. The amendments to the NWPA were pursued with no consultation with First Nations. Despite this lack of consultation and a lack of information from the federal government on the content of the proposed changes, the AFN continues to provide comments on the regulatory and Ministerial Orders produced by the federal government. The AFN remains concerned that the amended NWPA will enable infringements of First Nations' rights and is continuing to seek avenues of recourse in this regard.

In 2002 the government amended the *Fisheries Act's* Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) to allow lakes and other freshwater bodies to be re-classified as "tailings impoundment areas". This means that mining companies can use pristine lakes as tailings ponds. There is no consultation process in place prior





to the re-classification of a lake as a tailings pond. The AFN continually asks the federal government to require mining companies to use existing technologies to properly manage their mining waste instead of using lakes as tailings dumps.

## ANTICIPATED ACHIEVEMENTS BY DECEMBER 2010

- The ESU will be participating in Health Canada's multi-stakeholder working group as it begins implementation of its new Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Northern First Nations and Inuit Communities program.
- As part of its role in the multi-stakeholder working group, the ESU will communicate key information on programs to First Nation communities and assist in the community selection process.
- The ESU will continue to participate in Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Water Advisory working group.
- The ESU will continue to participate in the Chemicals Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Council.
- The ESU will continue to attend meetings and contribute AFN input regarding the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Consultative Group.
- The ESU will begin to implement the First Nation Food, Nutrition and Environment Study in the Manitoba region and provide a report of findings for the British Columbia region.
- The AFN will continue to participate in climate change discussion at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Production of public information papers, which may include fact sheets, discussion papers or backgrounders, for use by First Nations on nuclear waste and other contaminants.
- Establishment of a communication network between the AFN and First Nations provincial/territorial organizations to stay informed about regional nuclear waste-related issues or decisions.
- Nuclear Waste Management Organization engagement with First Nation communities in which the AFN will provide advice and recommendations to the NWMO on how best to approach the communities and who should be informed.
- The establishment of a Biomonitoring Planning and Advisory Committee Meeting – consisting of regional First Nations representation and other technical experts, youth and Elders.
- Initiation of a biomonitoring pilot project to test study design and methodology and its compliance to the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP).
- Development of formal AFN positions on access and benefit sharing, climate change, biodiversity, and traditional knowledge, based on regional input and acceptance by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.



## ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Economic Partnerships Unit addresses several areas, including Economic Development, Labour Force and Human Resources Development, Connectivity, and Building Resource Revenue Options. This portion of the report will focus on the three first areas, and updates on additional areas will be provided in other sections of the annual report.

In the past year, almost a dozen national resolutions have been passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly dealing with the federal strategies, economic trade cooperation, policy coordination, land, taxation, certification processes, and economic infrastructures.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The National Chief has spoken at several national forums in support of First Nation economies, including two Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce and a Native American Indian business summit. The National Chief has also spoken on subjects related to the green economy and responsible development at a number of events.

The AFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development (CCED) met on March 30-31, 2010, in Toronto, where they discussed corporate relationships and reports under the Corporate Challenge. The Corporate Challenge is an initiative that was recommended to the CCED by First Nation expert-technicians in 2005, and was subsequently launched in 2007. The first two years of the initiative were intended to be an incubation period, with regular reporting to the CCED. The CCED will be discussing the next phase of activity and what this work should emphasize in the near future.

During their March 2010 meeting, the CCED also received an update from the Academics Table (also known as the Making First Nation Poverty History Committee). The academics informed the CCED that it had drafted a proposal on building an approach aimed at reducing poverty indicators and increasing economic outcomes as a means to improved health. The proposal was submitted to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and funding was awarded for five years to conduct this project.

The CCED also received a presentation by federal officials regarding the Federal Framework on Aboriginal Economic Development (Framework). While the AFN has shared its concerns with INAC, the CCED had clearly communicated the frustration that communities are experiencing resulting from a lack of input on the federal process relating to the Framework, a lack of respect for leadership mandates pertaining to First Nation economic strategies, its focus on pan-Aboriginal engagement, and limited information on the strategy. The CCED also reminded INAC that with time remaining before federal materials are finalized, there is still an opportunity to work together to establish the necessary constructs to support First Nations economic growth.



The AFN has also convened a meeting of Economic Experts comprised of representatives from various economic organizations and institutions dealing with, or holding a role in, First Nation economic growth. A report of the discussions has been prepared and presented to the CCED. Work is ongoing to formalize the structure of the Committee to continue to provide policy advice and recommendations to the CCED.

The National Chief spoke at the RES 2010 American Indian Business Conference in February 2010. The AFN has been working with the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations. The purpose of the MOU is to formalize collaboration to achieve the mutual goal of advocating and facilitating sustainable economic development for First Nations and Tribes. The AFN has revisited a trade cooperation concept, which was drafted with Indigenous input between January and March 2009, to support this initiative. A trade proposal has been developed and submitted for funding. The proposal examines the linkages to increased trade opportunities with a clear consideration for environmental issues.

## FIRST NATION LABOUR FORCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The National Chief met with Minister Diane Finley, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), on March 30, 2010. The National Chief and Minister spoke on the importance of continued investments to develop a strong First Nation labour force. Discussion also included the need to work together to appropriately transition to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS), improve successes in investments to the First Nation labour force, and the need to establish political and technical relationships and processes to support these efforts. The National Chief and Minister also spoke about education, economic partnerships, energy and international issues.

The Chiefs Committee on Human Resources Development (CCHRD) met on November 3-4, 2009. The CCHRD held its first day of meetings in conjunction with the First Nation Technical Working Group on Human Resources Development (TWG) to obtain a fulsome technical update, in addition to a general portfolio update. The CCHRD was briefed on the First Nation National Action Plan that was drafted by the TWG. It was also noted that the work for this plan received support from the Chiefs-in-Assembly in July 2007. The CCHRD provided information on past reports to the Chiefs-in-Assembly, status of federal strategic efforts on ASETS, as well as the Federal Framework on Aboriginal Economic Development. Perspectives from subject matter experts were provided to CCHRD on key issues in moving from the Aboriginal Human Resources and Skills Development Strategy (AHRDS) to the ASETS. In an effort to help overcome quorum issues, the last meeting was held jointly with other committees with complementary mandates.

There is ongoing activity pertaining to Human Resources and Labour Force Development policy planning, and work initiated and led by the TWG, which includes promoting the thematic recommendations contained in the TWG's National Action Plan.



In the last five years, and particularly over the past year, a key focus of the TWG has centered on the transition from the Aboriginal Human Resources and Skills Development Strategy (AHRDS) to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (ASETS) that was originally to have taken place on April 1, 2009. The original timeline was extended by one year, and followed by a soft start managed by the federal government, with three and six month work plans enabling funding to continue to flow to First Nation program delivery partners and operational plans to be worked on for the period.

ASETS was announced in September 2009 as a \$1.6 billion, five-year strategy ending in 2015. The core funding levels remain unchanged compared to previous strategies. All First Nation agreement holders have received either three or six month extensions in order to complete their five-year work plans. Several First Nation agreement holders have requested a one-year extension until March 31, 2011. Of the First Nation organizations with a three-month extension, most continue to plan to be ready to fully transition to ASETS for July 1, 2010.

The TWG met on March 4, 2010, with senior officials of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) from the Aboriginal Affairs Directorate, and the Program Operations Branch. The meeting focused on ASETS transition. Officials were informed of concerns/support, in addition to the lack of information, lack of support, and the lack of time and resources provided to First Nation agreement holders in order to prepare for the transition to ASETS, as well as the need for Chiefs and leadership to be involved in the process. In June 2010, three lengthy teleconference calls were held between federal officials and the TWG to discuss phrasing in the federal draft of the Agreement Template, the associated schedules, and terms and conditions. The conference calls were aimed at addressing areas of concern in these instruments and offering critical advice on improvements. As part of these discussions, HRSDC officials have agreed to examine a process to formally establish a joint technical committee.

The National Chief was a keynote speaker at the Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) “Inclusion Works” conference in Toronto on April 28, 2010. AFN Regional Chiefs also attended. With respect to relations between First Nation Agreement holders and the AHRC, the National Chief has suggested that it may be useful to begin exploring ways to work together and to identify changes that are needed to resolve past issues.

In First Nation Caucus meetings of human resources experts, continued support has been noted to work with sector councils, share research conducted on First Nation Employment Parity, and work with the corporate community.

The AFN is working with the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC) on two training and employment projects that began January 1, 2010, and will end March 31, 2011. The projects are funded through a “national component” of the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ATSTIF), which is a one-time stimulus fund that was established in response to the global recession.



## FIRST NATIONS E-COMMUNITY

In 2008, Resolution No. 16/2008 mandated the AFN to seek support for new and existing initiatives for the continued development of integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services at the community and regional levels until a comprehensive framework is in place. Resolution No. 54/2009 also urged the AFN to advocate for high-speed broadband internet connections in all First Nation communities.

On March 29-30, 2010, the AFN coordinated an ICT National Working Group meeting with First Nation ICT specialists and federal officials responsible for broadband, infrastructure and connectivity initiatives. The discussions focused on a draft terms of reference for a national committee, defining broadband requirements, sustainability, and communications planning. In June 2010, a follow-up videoconference was held with the ICT working group to provide an opportunity to discuss regional updates, share information on federal funding announcements and identify priorities. The results from the meetings will be presented to the CCED for consideration and next steps. The CCED continues to discuss the need to develop key recommendations for new ICT investment in communities.

The AFN has continued to communicate the need for greater attention to community connectivity requirements. Regional e-profiles have been distributed to federal policy counterparts and at key AFN events and meetings throughout the past year. The regional profiles included: the First Nations Technology Council (BC); First Nations (Alberta) Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG); Atlantic First Nation communities connectivity profile; and, the Kuhkenah Network (Knet). Recently, regional e-profiles have also been completed for Manitoba and Saskatchewan and will be distributed in the upcoming months. A First Nations E-Community session was a key component of the AFN National Policy and Planning Forum held March 24-26, 2010, in Saskatoon. The session was an opportunity to highlight First Nations ICT policy issues and regional First Nations ICT initiatives.

The AFN has also developed an ICT Historical Overview paper that examines information management – information technology (IM-IT) historical opportunities, connectivity issues, barriers and sustainability issues that impede on services or show trends of impacts.

### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Coordinate economic policy planning meeting amongst organizations.
- Establish firm dates for INTES 2 and/or energy summit and continue on event delivery planning.
- Coordinate activity for economic trade.
- Continue to work with First Nation TWG on human resources development.
- Coordinate technical meetings related to the First Nations E-Community portfolio.
- Identify communications activities to continue to raise awareness of First Nations ICT policy issues.
- Pending confirmation of funding, host a First Nations E-Community Forum in fall/winter 2010.
- Present business institute research/work plan to CCED.
- Participate in a Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) event.



- Continue to monitor and provide updates on the transition from AHRDS to ASETS.
- Provide an update on the projects with MiHR and RAC.
- Provide an update on activity by AHRC to engage First Nation AHRDAs.





# HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## MANDATE

Resolution No. 81/2008 called for a direct and inclusive role for First Nations in the evaluation of the 1996 On-Reserve Housing Policy. The evaluation process includes a critical look at the manner in which the policies, programs and activities of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) were devised; the degree of First Nations consultation and influence in the developmental process; regional variations of interpretation of policy intent and decision making; and that the evaluation process be seen as the starting point of meaningful participation in all future activities in the renovation of the 1996 Policy in preparation for the next Treasury Board Submission and its accompanying Memorandum to Cabinet.

Resolution No. 14/2007 called for the recognition of First Nation Governments to manage and control housing and infrastructure programs from a local, tribal council, Treaty organization, or provincial/territorial organization structure. It also called for the transition of management and control of all housing matters from the federal government to First Nations, with an appropriate First Nation network of support, including national and/or regional First Nation 'Centres of Excellence' that are local, territorial and regional in scope and be made available to ensure an adequate First Nation capacity development framework.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### EVALUATION OF THE 1996 ON-RESERVE HOUSING POLICY

INAC and CMHC, with the engagement of the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) and the Technical Working Group (TWG), have been actively participating in the *Evaluation of the 1996 On-Reserve Housing Policy*, its programs, activities and initiatives, and assessing the need for change.

AFN Resolution No. 81/2008 was put forward at the Special Chiefs Assembly in December, 2008, in an effort to ensure that the policy evaluation process, inclusive of planning, contracting, data collection and reporting, respect the authority and jurisdiction of First Nations and work with First Nations and their duly-authorized representatives and organizations to accomplish this effort through regional, territorial and local First Nation initiatives. It also resolved that there be direct involvement of First Nations in the management and delivery of the evaluation process in First Nation communities and that any external consultants engaged in these activities be First Nations in origin and agreed to by First Nations and their duly-authorized representatives and organizations in the process.

A senior Strategic Evaluation Committee (SEC) and an Advisory Committee (AC) have been formed to review and direct the evaluation process. The SEC provides guidance on evaluation issues, scope and methodologies, evaluation work and its findings and conclusions. The AC presents the interests and concerns of participating audiences in the development and implementation of the evaluation. Both





committees have agreed to incorporate regional variations into the evaluation plan and process, to engage First Nation communities and respect the First Nation organizational structures in place, and use First Nation expertise to the extent possible.

Data and information collection to date has included both external (First Nation available) and internal (INAC) literature and documentation, household occupant surveys, key informant interviews, housing condition assessments and case studies. Use of First Nation expertise for household occupant surveys and the housing condition assessments is currently being determined. An evaluation of the Ministerial Loan Guarantees and Shelter Allowances for housing has also been conducted by KPMG through a standing offer with INAC.

A final draft report is currently being completed and will be made available in late July, 2010.

## **BUDGET 2009 – CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN**

The 2009 Budget included \$400 million for First Nations housing. INAC is responsible for the delivery of \$150 million and CMHC is responsible for the delivery of \$250 million. CMHC is providing \$125 million for new social housing using the existing Section 95 program and calls for enhanced energy efficiency requirements. There is also \$125 million for renovation and retrofit of existing CMHC Section 95 housing units.

For the new housing units under CMHC, there has been \$62.5 million earmarked for both 2009-10 and 2010-11. There was a condition that all projects committed to must be underway within three months or risk losing the commitment – lost funds have been reallocated within and across regions when necessary. For the renovation of existing CMHC Section 95 units, there will also be \$62.5 million earmarked for both 2009-10 and 2010-11. Commitments for each fiscal year must be completed during the year of commitment and work must begin within three months of the commitment. There will be no opportunity for re-profiling funds across the two fiscal years.

CMHC is allocating resources to regions based on the current percentages used by the Section 95 program. Allocations are considered 'notional' and can be cancelled and reallocated if work has not commenced in the three-month window of opportunity.

INAC has utilized the \$150 million provided in four priority areas:

- \$25 million will go to lot servicing for new CMHC Section 95 housing units and INAC-funded housing projects that feature market-based housing, rental units, multi-unit developments and energy-efficient developments;
- \$40 million will be earmarked for new construction that targets First Nations not accessing CMHC funding that are ready to build high density, multi-unit, energy efficient and accessible housing;
- \$55 million will go to renovations that address overcrowding, energy efficiency retrofits and mold-affected units; and,



- \$30 million will target the conversion of band-owned units to market-based housing for private home ownership.

INAC's allocation and delivery of funds has been proposal and project-based and selections were made based on a pre-defined set of criteria that was determined by INAC and CMHC with no consultation with First Nations on any level.

### **BILL C-304 (AN ACT TO ENSURE SECURE, ADEQUATE, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR CANADIANS)**

This is a private member's bill that sets out parameters for the development of a National Housing Strategy that recognizes that improved housing conditions are best achieved through cooperative partnerships of government and civil society and the meaningful involvement of local communities.

The Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation shall, in consultation with the provincial ministers of the Crown responsible for municipal affairs and housing and with representatives of municipalities and Aboriginal communities, establish a national housing strategy designed to ensure that the cost of housing in Canada does not compromise an individual's ability to meet other basic needs, including food, clothing and access to education.

In a recent presentation to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development the AFN expressed a commitment to participate in the development of such a strategy. This commitment was made in a spirit of optimism that reflects what we know can take place if we create collaboration that allows for strategies to emerge within a multi-jurisdictional environment.

A National Housing Strategy that meets the 'Continuum of Housing Needs' from Homelessness and Emergency Shelter to Elderly and Disabled, to community-owned assets and social housing stock, to rent-to-own and private homeownership.

A National Housing Strategy must truly acknowledge what secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing is and spells out how all parties can work collaboratively to achieve desired outcomes. The participation of the AFN will assist in linking First Nation leadership to existing or emerging multilateral tables of dialogue that will result in the ability to harmonize programs and services between on and off reserve.

It will provide a First Nation perspective to a long-term strategy that addresses the need for more culturally-appropriate social housing, transitional housing for women and men, second stage housing and mental health programs that directly involve the people they are meant to serve. It will foster new relationships that allow for First Nation access to programs, activities and initiatives in the off-reserve environment and will help to create a First Nation institutional framework for housing that assists in developing appropriate capacities for sustainable housing strategies and linking that framework to the multi-jurisdictional environment found off reserve.



Bill C-304 is at third reading in the House of Commons.

## FIRST NATIONS MODEL HOUSING POLICY GUIDELINES

In response to Resolution No. 14/2007, the Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat has been actively researching two key areas of housing that reflect practices illustrating good governance. These include a First Nation Regulatory Environment and the Operational Control of Housing within the regulatory environment. A regulatory environment will identify the manner in which each First Nation, region or territory structures their own means of service delivery and capacity building. The work will help to define the replacement of Government of Canada control and interventions by creating First Nations solutions that develop new options and opportunities.

The AFN also undertook a contract with CMHC to produce “First Nation Model Housing Policy Guidelines” to assist First Nations in developing their own community-specific policies. This guide outlines an approach to enhancing First Nations’ understanding of the developmental process. It will assist in creating the environment to properly control the various aspects of the First Nation housing portfolio. The project has drawn from successful housing initiatives implemented by First Nations across Canada and helps to define necessary elements, provide templates and act as a guide for the development and implementation of local First Nation Housing Policies that foster internal First Nation controls and create greater self-reliance.

This project is now complete and translation is underway for publication by the AFN. The final version will be posted on the AFN website and communicated to all First Nations by July 31, 2010. Copies can also be obtained by contacting Dewey Smith at [dsmith@afn.ca](mailto:dsmith@afn.ca).

## THE HOLMES GROUP PROJECT

An initial meeting between AFN staff and the Holmes Group (Holmes on Homes) took place at the National Policy and Planning Forum in March, 2010. Discussion explored the potential for a joint project that would identify a First Nation community that would pilot activity in the area of Green Community Design and Planning. This Green focus would look at issues of infrastructure, utilities, land use, new home construction, existing housing renovation, and community buildings such as schools and band offices.

The Holmes Group recently confirmed their decision to make this project an organizational priority and begin planning activities. The AFN staff has responded by meeting internally and formulating an opening position in preparation for joint planning activities. It is anticipated that these joint activities will begin following the 2010 AFN Annual General Assembly.

The project must respect the First Nation as the ‘authority having jurisdiction’ and actively engage the First Nation and their duly mandated technical service providers and authorized representative organizations in all facets of the process.



The project will demonstrate the necessary actions that lead to heightened environmental responsibility, focus on energy efficiency and cost effectiveness, and meeting the First Nation continuum of needs. It will demonstrate holistic green community planning and design.

The AFN will actively facilitate a process that engages First Nations in project selection, design and implementation. They will use the AFN website as a vehicle of communication for all First Nations and will chronicle and document the process and its features so that all First Nations may undertake similar activity.

The Holmes Group has also agreed to assist the AFN in developing the Centre of Excellence defined in Resolution No. 14/2007. Their assistance will focus on defining the parameters of the First Nation regulatory environment and the operational controls necessary to achieve green and sustainable First Nation community design.

## FIRST NATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The First Nation Infrastructure Fund (FNIF) combined three existing funds to simplify access to infrastructure funding for First Nation communities: the First Nation components of Infrastructure Canada's Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and Gas Tax Fund, as well as contributions from INAC's Capital Facilities and Maintenance (CFM) program. The objectives were to improve the health and safety of First Nation communities, contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment, improve the delivery of public/government services including education and e-health to First Nation communities, enhance collaboration between First Nation communities, municipalities and provinces, and leverage other sources of funds for infrastructure projects.

Five project categories were eligible for funding: solid waste (management), energy systems, local roads and bridges, community planning and skills development, and connectivity. Connectivity was added in the third call for proposals.

There was great response to the call for proposals. The initiative demonstrated the need for access to infrastructure funding for those areas that have not received priority. For example, in the third and final call for proposals, 49% of proposals were for Roads and Bridges compared with 65% in the first round; 21% for connectivity (connectivity was added in the second round); 16% for Solid Waste versus 14% in the first round; 7% for Energy Systems versus 10% in the first round and 6% for Community Planning and Development versus 11% in the first round.

An evaluation of the program found the following:

- the objectives align with the federal governments priorities;
- FNIF is responsive to the diverse needs and priorities of First Nation recipients;
- there is a legitimate, appropriate and necessary role for the federal government in supporting FNIF, as most of these projects would not have been undertaken without such funding and there are more eligible projects than can be funded from available funding;



- the FNIF design and budget allocation align, in general, with program objectives and First Nation needs and priorities;
- FNIF is being implemented as planned, with the exception of timing of calls for proposals and performance data (there is no indication that outcomes or performance data is being collected); and,
- completed projects are achieving the intended results and improving the quality of life in First Nation communities.

Through the first two calls, \$94.3 million of the \$127.5 million FNIF was allocated and an additional \$129 million was leveraged. For the third call, a total of \$140 million was available, consisting of \$33 million from the first round and \$107 million in last round.

The FNIF is managed by a National Oversight Committee consisting of Infrastructure Canada and INAC. The AFN has observer status.

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY MARCH 31, 2011**

- Evaluation of the 1996 On-Reserve Housing Policy will have gone through all planning, review and approval stages. Final report will have gone through circulation and review by First Nations and their respective organizations. It is expected that the comments and feedback gathered on this report will frame the next phase of policy renewal and revitalization. The position taken by AFN has been that the policy renewal process include active and meaningful engagement of First Nations and that the roles and responsibilities of all parties are clearly defined and communicated.
- The First Nations Model Housing Policy Guidelines will be distributed. A workbook will be under development to assist facilitators and First Nations in the process of developing individual First Nation Housing Policies. A Train-the-Trainer session is anticipated to ensure that there are available facilitators to assist First Nations in each region.
- The AFN Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat will investigate the need for a Housing and Water Policy Forum that will potentially bring together First Nations and their duly mandated organizations with various federal departments and agencies, industry, professional associations and technical service providers. This policy forum will be a critical ingredient to the revitalization and renovation of the 1996 On Reserve Housing Policy.
- Establishment of a web portal to host an integrated Housing and Infrastructure Centre of Excellence.
- The Holmes Group project will have identified a pilot First Nation community and assisted that community and their technical service providers and partners to generate a Green and Sustainable Community Plan and define and assist in implementation of the plan.



# WATER

## MANDATE

Resolution Nos. 23/2008 and 24/2008 directed the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for meaningful consultation on matters affecting First Nations rights with respect to water and wastewater. Resolutions Nos. 49/2008, 51/2008, 52/2008, 12/2009, 42/2009 and 44/2009 also provide similar direction on water rights and the duty to consult. These resolutions called on the Government of Canada to begin meaningful consultations with First Nations prior to developing any legislation or regulations regarding First Nations' water resources. Resolution 12/2009 directed the National Chief to seek a meeting with the Ministers of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada with respect to Canada's failure to engage First Nations appropriately.

Resolution No. 50/2008 directs the AFN to start the process for the development of the framework for a Commission on Water.

## KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

### DEVELOPMENT OF A REGULATORY REGIME FOR DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

In February and March 2009, INAC undertook an engagement process that would lead to the development of a legislative framework for drinking water and wastewater in First Nation communities. This consisted of engagement sessions held with First Nations, regional First Nations organizations and provincial/territorial officials.

INAC also funded the regions to carry out Impact Analyses of the Legislation on First Nations which were done concurrently with the engagement sessions. Summary reports of the engagement sessions and of the Impact Analyses were prepared by the Institute on Governance. Regional First Nation water technicians have concerns related to the Impact Assessment reports in that the Crown has not satisfied its duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.

In the summer and fall of 2009, INAC Legislative Directorate staff met with regional political leadership to discuss their concerns about the water legislation consultation process. They shared a hard copy of their presentation "Proposed Elements of First Nations Safe Drinking Water Act". INAC explained that this will essentially be the basis of the enabling legislation that will be tabled in Parliament. This enabling legislation would give authority to the Minister to begin to develop regulations for water and wastewater in First Nation communities. INAC indicated that First Nations would be involved in the detailed activity of developing what regulations would be appropriate for First Nations communities. Since then INAC has suggested that it would work with a region that would want to move forward and work with the government in the development of their pertinent regulations.





On May 26, 2010, the government introduced in Parliament through the Senate Bill S-11, *“An Act respecting the safety of drinking water on first nation lands.”* The bill was into second reading on June 3, 2010. The government has explained that this is a health and safety matter not a rights issue. The summary of the bill states *“this enactment addresses health and safety on reserve lands and certain other lands by providing regulations to govern drinking water and waste water treatment in first nations communities. Regulations could be made on a province-by-province basis to mirror existing provincial regulatory regimes, with adaptations to address the circumstances of first nations living on those lands.”*

The full impact and legal and technical implications of the bill should be understood by First Nations leadership.

## FIRST NATIONS/INDIGENOUS WATER COMMISSION (FNWC)

Resolution No. 50/2008 directed the AFN to start the process for the development of the framework for a Commission on Water and to report on the status at the 2009 Annual General Assembly (AGA). The Housing and Infrastructure Directorate secured grant funding from the Canadian Water Network to convene an experts meeting to discuss how this FNWC might function. A project coordinator was assigned to work with the Directorate.

From 2007 to 2009, the AFN completed earlier work and analysis on the possible functions and structure for a First Nations Water Commission. The conceptual framework was presented at the AFN's Housing and Water Policy Forum in February 2007. Resolution No. 15/2007 directed the AFN to continue to investigate and seek avenues of support and funding for those First Nations that will require assistance in complying with a regulatory framework for water. If effectively conceptualized and established, a FNWC could help to move authority over water management-related decisions into First Nations' hands.

The next identified step required to establish a FNWC is to work closely at a regional level to set up a pilot technically-oriented FNWC that can demonstrate First Nations-led management of drinking and wastewater treatment systems on-reserve. A FNWC will provide practical assistance to First Nations in managing their water systems, whether or not a regulatory framework has been created. A web portal will be developed to provide a central forum for best practices, lessons learned and full integration of a holistic approach to a community-wide approach to sustainable community practices.

It will be essential to collaborate with INAC, Environment Canada and Health Canada to ensure that the Commission's work is relevant to existing functions. Any collaboration with INAC in the near future on this project should be pursued with caution to ensure that the FNWC remains a truly First Nation-governed entity.

Resolution No. 50/2008 directed the AFN to seek non-federal funding sources to start the process for the development of the framework for a Commission on Water. The funding provided by the Canadian Water Network (CWN) from April 2009 to April 2010 allowed the AFN to host two Experts Meetings





to discuss and identify what work needs to be done to realize the FNWC. The water caucus held at the 2009 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly provided some background and discussion on this project.

Additional funds and other support from external sources will be required to move this forward.

## **ENVIRONMENT CANADA CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT CANADA-WIDE STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER EFFLUENT AND ENVIRONMENT CANADA'S PROPOSED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR WASTEWATER EFFLUENT**

Environment Canada (EC) conducted consultations with Aboriginal groups between October 2007 and January 2008. In conjunction with the consultations, EC contracted an independent Aboriginal firm to conduct a formal evaluation of the Aboriginal consultation sessions. The report was accepted by EC on July 29, 2008. In the final report, the consultant arrived at three conclusions and five recommendations. On August 10, 2009 this final report containing management's response to the evaluation and its recommendations was received by e-mail. This report is dated February 25, 2009.

In summary, the evaluation determined that EC met its obligation to consult based on the federal government's definition of consultation. However, the department agreed to take action and contact national and regional Aboriginal organizations to discuss possible options for the next phase of the consultation and wastewater regulations. They also agreed that process adjustments for future dialogue with Canada's Aboriginal people may be required.

The *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on February 17, 2009. On March 20, 2010 Environment Canada posted the draft wastewater regulations on Canada Gazette 1 with a 60-day comment period ending May 20, 2010. Letters to First Nations followed along with a copy of the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations and the Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement.

As a follow-up to the Independent Evaluator's recommendation that Environment Canada work with regional and national First Nations organizations, the department engaged the AFN in the development of a Consolidate Comments Report as a resource tool for use by First Nations when providing comments to EC. A two-day workshop was hosted by AFN on April 20-21, 2010, with the First Nations Technical Water Advisory Group to gather input and comments. The final report was distributed to First Nations communities and organizations starting May 14, 2010. It should be noted that Environment Canada will continue to accept comments even though the deadline for comments has passed.

Some concerns were raised. Along with an understanding of the ability of First Nations wastewater systems to effectively control deleterious substances, there is also a need to understand the legal and economic impacts of the proposed regulations before they are implemented. Many concerns addressed the need for resources to manage, monitor, test, and report on the systems. Since the regulations are new, many First Nations will not have the trained human resources available to carry out the required tasks under the regulations. Funding and time to train and employ these human resources will be required.



The Consolidated Comments Report is posted on AFN website at: <http://www.afn.ca/misc/Consolidated-Comments.pdf>.

It is expected that the regulations will be posted on Canada Gazette 2 in December, 2010, and will come into force on January 1, 2011.

## **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES**

This is a project to conduct an engineering assessment of private and public water and wastewater systems, and associated operation and maintenance practices, in First Nation communities, including an evaluation of risk to health and overall serviceability analysis (i.e., communal systems as well as private individual systems such as wells, septic systems, cisterns, etc.) for each community. On May 25, 2009, INAC awarded the contract to Neeqan-Burnside, an Aboriginal engineering consultant based in Ontario. The second phase of the study is underway and the site visits should be completed this summer. The draft reports for the first round of community reports have been mailed to First Nations and fact-checking of the report has been requested. Unfortunately, First Nations will not be given an opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations for their community as INAC holds the view that these reports are an independent review of First Nations' needs. There are concerns that the consultant may reach a different conclusion than previous findings from a separate engineering study.

The results are expected to inform a Treasury Board submission requesting funding for another five-year First Nation Water Management Strategy renewal. Budget 2010 announced the extension of the First Nation Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP) for another two years for 2010/11 and 2011/12. The two-year extension of the First Nations Water Management Strategy provides time for the assessment to be completed and results identified.

INAC Headquarters has established INAC regional coordinators to work on this project. The AFN Acting Director of Housing and Infrastructure is one of the coordinators. The Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat participates in weekly teleconferences and provides updates to the regional water technicians. It is expected that the project will be completed December, 2010.

## **INAC WATER, WASTEWATER AND DE-CENTRALIZED SYSTEMS PROTOCOLS**

INAC continues to amend the Protocol for Safe Drinking Water for First Nation Communities, which has been in force since 2006. INAC is developing two new draft protocols, one for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal and the other for Decentralized Water and Wastewater Systems. The Wastewater protocol will have similar application to First Nations and will be part of the First Nations' contribution agreements. First Nations will be responsible for meeting its requirements.

The Decentralized Systems protocol deals with individual wells and septic systems. INAC is revising its policy on funding individual wells and septic systems and will consider funding these systems. The policy



is limited to five households or greater and will not be retroactive prior to its date of application. Again, this will be part of the First Nation's funding agreement. These protocols are still in the draft stage.

The Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat and the AFN Technical Water Advisory Group have provided input in these draft protocols. The purpose is to assess private and public water and wastewater systems and associated operations. A draft revision of the Capital Facilities and Maintenance (CFM) policy for Potable Water and Wastewater and its corresponding Levels of Service Standard (LOSS) was released by INAC. This draft policy now includes funding for centrally managed on-site systems (wells, trucked water, water storage tanks, trucked sewage, septic tanks and tile fields).

### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010**

- Continue to work with the government on the water and wastewater legislation to:
  - Seek opportunity to work with the Government of Canada on a proper consultation process on water and wastewater legislation options;
  - If enabling legislation is passed, work to ensure First Nations are fully involved and resourced to participate in the development of the regulations;
  - Work towards assisting the First Nations/Regions who may decide to move forward with developing their pertinent regulations; and,
  - Continue to inform the Government of Canada that the infrastructure resource gap needs to be addressed prior to implementing a water and wastewater regulatory regime.
- Work with INAC on the National Engineering Assessment to ensure the consultant delivers a project that will be supportive and provide a true picture of First Nations water and wastewater facility needs;
- Continue work with Health Canada on water-related issues;
- Continue to provide comments on the water, wastewater and de-centralized systems protocols;
- Continue to develop a conceptual framework on how a First Nations/Indigenous Water Commission might function;
- Investigate the need for another Housing and Water Policy Forum; and,
- Establish a web portal to host an integrated Housing and Infrastructure Centre of Excellence.



## FISHERIES

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Environmental Stewardship Secretariat – Fisheries Unit is working on the development and implementation of a renewed National Fisheries Strategy 2010-2015 (AFN-NFS). Access to fisheries, aquatic and ocean resources continue to represent an integral part of the diet, socio-economic well-being and cultural survival of First Nations communities within coastal and inland areas. The AFN-NFS has been designed to assist and restore First Nations' rightful role in managing the fisheries, and provides a long-term plan that embodies the recognition, protection and implementation of First Nations' Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

The National Fisheries Strategy engages on a broad spectrum of legislative, policy and key program sectors within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) which serves to inform and communicate the various technical implications through joint dialogue processes with First Nations. These important dialogue processes also inform government where they must engage with First Nations on consultation and accommodation on relevant matters that can impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights. In addition, the NFS also supports and promotes sustainable First Nations fisheries, aquatic and ocean resource activities that can open new doors to explore new innovative opportunities.

Resolution No. 83/2008 focused on the strengthening and renewal of the AFN mandate to develop and implement an enhanced NFS that encompasses a strategic plan to support the development of new technical environmental and socio-economic development action plans. These strategies will assist in sharing business models, foster environmentally-sustainable plans so that First Nations are equipped to build their economies, create wealth and jobs in their communities, and have the means to undertake environmental practices.

Over the next five years, the NFS will explore the feasibility of establishing First Nation owned and operated Fisheries corporations/institutions/commissions. The NFS will also identify new opportunities for research and business partnerships and developing prosperous relationships with academic institutes, industry, private sectors, foundations and government. Fisheries have been identified as a strategic priority nationally. It is imperative that all First Nation rights are respected and First Nations must be part of the decision-making process on matters that impact their lives.

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

#### NEW RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL BETWEEN AFN/DFO

First Nations have been calling for a high level mechanism that will assist in fostering better relationships with DFO on policy development and communications. On December 3, 2009, National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and Fisheries Minister Gail Shea agreed to the establishment of a joint AFN/DFO National Relationship Protocol. The Protocol will promote collaborative partnerships on policy development and transparent communication mechanisms that are efficient, timely and accountable through respectful dialogue processes throughout DFO sectors, nationally and regionally.



The AFN/DFO National Relationship Protocol will emphasize the need for regular conversations with First Nations through joint review processes to ensure government legislation, policy and programs are fully consistent with Aboriginal and Treaty rights. It also includes the need for transparent and accountable consultation and accommodation processes to ensure that communications are effective on issues related to fisheries management and decision making. Once a draft is acceptable, it is suggested that the protocol could be formally signed by the National Chief and Fisheries Minister following their respective ratification processes.

## AFN NATIONAL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

The AFN National Fisheries Committee (NFC) met in the Okanagan Nation territory to discuss the various elements and priorities for the NFS. First Nations have emphasized the need to engage in discussions and activities related to “taking back our First Nation fisheries” as a central theme of the NFS framework. This shift is now focused on the importance of building a balanced strategy that will promote economic and environmental initiatives that can create sustainable communities through the fisheries. First Nations also discussed various concerns with respect to the decline of other stocks and fisheries management issues.

The NFC also offered national support to the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their community’s water supply. Water is an important resource and their efforts are aimed to protect the Brown’s Creek Watershed from forestry company activities. The logging was threatening archaeological sites and the main water source for their seven First Nations. National Chief Atleo also offered his support to the Okanagan Indian Band on their stand to protect their water rights.

## NATIONAL FISHERIES TASK FORCE

The AFN National Fisheries Committee meets once a year to address all fisheries issues. Under the direction of its two new co-chairs, Regional Chiefs Roger Augustine and Eric Morris, the Committee established a National Fisheries Task Force (NFTF) that will develop strategies and action plans to provide technical and political support on fisheries issues through monthly conference calls.

As part of the NFTF agenda, the group discussed the strong likelihood of the *Fisheries Act* emerging, recognizing the importance of the Cohen Inquiry for the BC sockeye salmon on the Fraser River and raised conservation concerns with respect to the Atlantic salmon in the east.

The Task Force also committed to developing proactive plans on other stocks that have been diminishing and addressing other issues that have impacted First Nation’s fishing rights and activities. Priority access remains a key principle in all fisheries management issues with First Nations. The Task Force also identified ways to encourage youth involvement within the overall strategy. The AFN continues to support First Nations in their efforts to promote sustainable fisheries and provides assistance as required.



## AFN SUPPORT ON FISHERIES

The AFN has provided support to many First Nations, including the Atlantic First Nations on the reduction of the snow crab quotas, increased access to turbot and the protection of the Atlantic salmon. Within the Inland First Nation fisheries, efforts have been focused on the protection of Treaty rights to fish, habitat protection and examining the impacts of the Major Projects Management office, and looking at improvements to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. On the West Coast, AFN has provided updates and attended the BC Fish Council Assembly in Chehalis, BC, and provided support in their technical efforts to engage in the Aquaculture regulatory reform and Fraser River Salmon crisis.

The AFN has supported Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht (AMIK) in their efforts to expand into a new international marketing initiative. AMIK is also involved in processing seafood products and has developed projects in aquaculture, conducts scientific research, and resource development and management. AMIK is entering into new areas of marketing at an international global scale, using a First Nation Tipi as their exhibition kiosk to provide a unique First Nation experience and vision.

National Chief Atleo attended the grand opening of the Minigoo Fisheries in the Lennox Island First Nation in P.E.I., which is the first and only First Nation owned and operated lobster processing plant in Canada. The efforts of Minigoo Fisheries will result in increased access to the commercial lobster fishery for First Nations domestically and internationally. Minigoo Fisheries is an outstanding example of a First Nation and the private sector working together for long-term economic growth for both the First Nation and Canadian economies. First Nations such as Lennox Island First Nation have set the tone for new relationships and new standards for cooperation.

## NATIONAL HABITAT WORKING GROUP

The AFN has established a National Habitat Working Group that provides a forum where First Nations can begin to address policy, program and legislative reviews. Habitat Policy Operating Statements are up for review and First Nations have begun to examine and provide recommendations on how to strengthen the provisions on habitat and environmental assessments. Habitat resources are required to provide First Nations perspectives and policy analysis advice related the predictability, risk assessments, strengthening partnerships, decision making, major projects, and habitat compliance measures.

## AQUACULTURE

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has launched a National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan initiative, *Strengthening Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Canada*. First Nations have various views on aquaculture development in regard to the protection of Aboriginal and Treaty rights, jurisdiction, environmental protection, enhancement of species, and economic development opportunities.

In February 2009, the BC Supreme Court ruled that the BC government does not have the right to regulate salmon farms. Fish inside the farms are now considered a fishery, not agriculture and thus the





federal government has exclusive right to regulation. As a result of the *Morton* decision, the courts have ordered the federal government to bring in proper legislation for the finfish farming under a new DFO Regulatory framework by December 18, 2010.

The BC First Nation Fish Council has concluded a series of community meetings focused on the development of a new BC Aquaculture Regulation. Their final report is available on the Aquaculture page of the Fisheries Council website. The AFN continues to provide support to BC First Nations as required.

Over the next few months, aquaculture regulations could be modified drastically in BC and perhaps the rest of the country. The AFN has met with DFO Aquaculture and discussed the feasibility of establishing a National Aquaculture Working Group to provide First Nations input on the development of the DFO National Aquaculture Strategic Plan initiative, which can prepare First Nations for consultations and engagement on aquaculture issues. It is important for First Nations who share various interests in aquaculture to participate and provide input in the overall Aquaculture plan, and to ensure DFO is conducting proper consultation with First Nations.

## SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)

First Nations can be impacted by the SARA through various factors associated with their food, social and ceremonial fisheries, commercial activities, modifications of fishing gear requirements, restrictions on by-catch species, fishing areas closures or reductions of species. SARA makes a unique reference to Aboriginal traditional knowledge in the assessment of species.

The Standing Committee of Environment and Sustainable Development was tasked with the review of the *Species at Risk Act*. The National Chief appeared before the Standing Committee to deliver the AFN submission on SARA as it pertained to terrestrial and aquatic species. Many First Nations also had the opportunity to engage in the SARA review to ensure any proposed amendments to the existing legislation did not adversely infringe upon Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

There are still a number of issues that will impact First Nations that are not clearly outlined in the *Act*. For example, there are approximately 14 sets of regulations that have yet to be drafted under SARA, including compensation, which would benefit from dialogue with First Nations.

The AFN SARA Aquatic toolkit and SARA Survival Guide has been updated and revised will be publicly available on the AFN website and AFN Fisheries Portal. The AFN continues to provide information to assist First Nations of the possible implications on their rights and economic interests. The AFN has responded to a number of potential listing requests from Canadian Wildlife Services and DFO. The AFN will continue to monitor SARA Review developments and provide technical assistance as required.





## NUU-CHAH-NULTH DECISION

On November 3, 2009, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council celebrated a historic victory in the BC Supreme Court (BCSC) which recognized that Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have an Aboriginal right to harvest and sell all species of fish found within their territories.

The BCSC decision ruled that the Nuu-chah-nulth have proven the right to access fish in their territories and they have established a right to sell fish. The court did not rule on the issue of 'title' as the judge said it would be redundant because it was claimed in relation to the right to fish and the right to sell fish. Although the decision has been appealed, it is crucial that First Nations garner support for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, so that others may benefit from a positive outcome. The AFN will continue to monitor and provide support as required.

## DFO SCIENCE RENEWAL

First Nations have expressed the need for increased capacity in both science and monitoring activities in their integrated fishery management plans. A major challenge for First Nations has been to gather, identify and manage scientific data. First Nations involvement and participation within the DFO Science Renewal can provide added value by extracting from the local ecological knowledge base which can foster community stewardship action plans. The AFN and DFO Science Renewal directorate have begun to look at ways to implement or establish an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge parallel process.

## FIRST NATION REPRESENTATION ON REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES BODIES

The AFN has produced an inventory of existing fisheries bodies at federal, provincial and territorial levels. Only a very small percentage of First Nations hold any representative capacity in these bodies. The AFN continues to support First Nations who are seeking to actively participate in bi-lateral and tri-lateral processes with government that will provide information and accountability that will broaden and enhance communications with First Nations.

## FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION

Several AFN resolutions have called for a joint review of the operations and functions of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC). The joint review could assess the fisheries management and regulatory regimes to ensure that First Nation harvesters are "equal players" with the federal and provincial governments. First Nations have expressed interest in participating in a joint review to assess the FFMC, and looking at possible opportunities to improve it, including a subsidy program for fishers, and examining the feasibility of the establishment of a First Nation entity.



## AFN FISHERIES WEB-BASED PORTAL

The new AFN Fisheries Portal is a secure web-based application used to share fisheries information. It provides the AFN and First Nations with a virtual clearinghouse / storage area for electronic documents on the various national fisheries issues, organizations and the AFN Fisheries Unit. The portal allows its users to share document libraries, events, announcements, tasks, and links.

## OCEANS ACT IMPLEMENTATION

The *Oceans Act (1996)* recognizes three zones and gives the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans specific powers to regulate ocean areas under its control. It creates three major tools for protecting Canada's ocean environment: the National Ocean Strategy (2002), the Integrated Management Plans, and allowing the Minister to designate Marine Protected Areas that impose legal restrictions on use of a particular area.

DFO's Oceans Directorate intends to hold information sessions with First Nations communities to discuss issues and concerns, and comment on the oceans management process and relevant local Marine Protected Area initiatives. The AFN and DFO are looking at establishing a joint national working group to discuss specific details of the DFO Ocean Action Plan.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES BY DECEMBER 2010

- Coordination of a National Policy Analysis Group meeting, National Fisheries Committee meeting and National Habitat Working Group sessions with First Nations and DFO sectors.
- Establishment of a joint National Aquaculture Working Group and National Oceans Working Group, and drafting of the terms of reference.
- Publication and distribution of a plain language Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) information guide for Inland First Nations.
- Publication and distribution of resource tools on Environmental Assessments, Major Projects Management, Metal Mining Effluent Regulations and Regulatory Compliance, Trends in Fisheries Management, and a Guide to AAROM and AIHP bodies.
- Finalize the terms of reference and draft a framework for the National Fisheries Task Force.
- Publication and distribution of the SARA aquatic toolkit.
- Development of communications tools, updating of the inventory of experts and databases, and populating of the AFN Fisheries Portal.
- Review of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to enhance improvements.
- Provision of First Nation input/feedback on the DFO National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative.
- Completion of an analysis and First Nation recommendations on the *Fisheries Act*.
- Completion of meeting reports for the Working Groups, National Policy Analysis Group and the National Fisheries Committee.



*Consolidated Financial Statements of*

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**

*March 31, 2010*



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## Auditors' Report

To the Executive Council of  
National Indian Brotherhood

We have audited the consolidated balance sheet of National Indian Brotherhood as at March 31, 2010 and the consolidated statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at March 31, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Canada Corporations Act, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

Chartered Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

May 28, 2010

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Consolidated Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2010**

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**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Consolidated Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
year ended March 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) (Schedule 1)	\$ 12,363,879	\$ 11,772,026
Health Canada (Schedule 2)	7,276,576	10,509,219
Canada Health Infoway Inc. (Schedule 2)	103,047	-
Public Health Agency of Canada (Schedule 2)	99,501	-
Canadian International Development Agency (Schedule 2)	47,164	-
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) (Schedule 2)	174,582	316,039
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Schedule 2)	664,194	757,268
Environment Canada (Schedule 2)	194,147	187,028
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (Schedule 2)	199,935	174,020
All other funding agencies (Schedule 2)	750,393	783,220
Canadian Heritage (Schedule 2)	-	374,721
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (IRSRC) (Schedule 2)	-	799,811
Trust Fund (Schedule 3)	80,389	73,748
	<b>21,953,807</b>	<b>25,747,100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising, promotion and publications	219,117	405,480
Amortization of capital assets	352,423	306,050
Insurance	30,062	26,159
Miscellaneous	125,992	102,629
Bad debt	-	689,129
Office expenses	1,087,425	1,488,088
Professional fees	2,570,511	3,925,373
Regional service delivery	2,537,874	2,947,519
Rent	1,917,808	1,539,193
Salaries and benefits	8,330,972	9,087,924
Travel and meetings	4,569,528	6,858,958
	<b>21,741,712</b>	<b>27,376,502</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 212,095</b>	<b>\$ (1,629,402)</b>

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheet**  
**as at March 31, 2010**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,885,539	\$ 1,723,135
In trust asset (Note 6)	20,987	19,637
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	9,268	-
Grants and contributions receivable (Note 3)	2,981,919	4,842,792
Other accounts receivable	1,582,178	1,608,961
GST recoverable	152,503	242,627
Prepaid expenses	164,130	201,029
	<b>6,796,524</b>	<b>8,638,181</b>
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)</b>	<b>1,134,159</b>	<b>1,386,152</b>
	<b>\$ 7,930,683</b>	<b>\$ 10,024,333</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,581,423	\$ 7,169,068
In trust liability (Note 6)	20,987	19,637
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	1,235,901	427,522
Excess contributions (Note 8)	531,167	1,750,114
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 9)	212,136	212,136
	<b>7,581,614</b>	<b>9,578,477</b>
<b>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 10)</b>	<b>97,587</b>	<b>194,333</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT (Note 9)</b>	<b>266,225</b>	<b>478,361</b>
	<b>7,945,426</b>	<b>10,251,171</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY (Note 11)</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	558,211	501,322
Restricted funds (Note 12)	206,671	227,943
Unrestricted - general operations	(779,625)	(956,103)
	<b>(14,743)</b>	<b>(226,838)</b>
	<b>\$ 7,930,683</b>	<b>\$ 10,024,333</b>

ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pierre Simon, Regional Chief, Chairman Management Committee



**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
year ended March 31, 2010

	Invested in Capital Assets	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted - General Operations	Total	
				2010	2009
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 501,322	\$ 227,943	\$ (956,103)	\$ (226,838)	\$ 1,402,564
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	(21,272)	233,367	212,095	(1,629,402)
Purchase of capital assets	100,430	-	(100,430)	-	-
Repayment of related debt	212,136	-	(212,136)	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(352,423)	-	352,423	-	-
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	96,746	-	(96,746)	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 558,211	\$ 206,671	\$ (779,625)	\$ (14,743)	\$ (226,838)

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**  
year ended March 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:		
OPERATING		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 212,095	\$ (1,629,402)
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	(96,746)	(94,420)
Amortization of capital assets	352,423	306,050
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	808,379	(1,204,323)
Increase (decrease) in excess contributions	(1,218,947)	490,428
	<b>57,204</b>	<b>(2,131,667)</b>
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items (Note 13)	<b>427,034</b>	<b>3,038,286</b>
	<b>484,238</b>	<b>906,619</b>
INVESTING		
Purchase of investments	(9,268)	-
Sale of investments	-	400,000
Purchase of capital assets	(100,430)	(113,260)
	<b>(109,698)</b>	<b>286,740</b>
FINANCING		
Repayment of long-term debt	(212,136)	(212,136)
NET CASH INFLOW	<b>162,404</b>	<b>981,223</b>
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<b>1,723,135</b>	<b>741,912</b>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<b>\$ 1,885,539</b>	<b>\$ 1,723,135</b>

# **NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**

## **Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

year ended March 31, 2010

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### **1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS**

The National Indian Brotherhood (the "Corporation") was incorporated under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act on September 29, 1970 with the following objectives:

- to assist and to work towards solutions for problems facing the First Nations people;
- to operate as a national body to both represent the First Nations people and to disseminate information to them;
- to study, in conjunction with First Nations representatives across Canada, the problems confronting First Nations and to make representations to the government and other organizations on their behalf;
- to assist in retaining the First Nations culture and values; and
- to act as the national spokesperson for First Nations throughout Canada.

The Corporation acts as the secretariat to the Assembly of First Nations ("AFN").

The Corporation is a not-for-profit organization and, as such, is not subject to income taxes.

### **2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### *Financial instruments*

All financial assets are required to be classified as either held-for-trading, held-to-maturity investments, loans and receivables or as available-for-sale. All financial liabilities are required to be classified as held-for-trading or as other liabilities.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial instruments were acquired or issued, their characteristics and the Corporation's designation of said instruments at the time of initial recognition. Settlement date accounting is used and transaction costs related to investments are expensed as incurred.

# NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

year ended March 31, 2010

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### *Financial instruments (Continued)*

Classifications made by the Corporation:

Cash	Held-for-trading
In trust asset	Held-for-trading
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	Held-to-maturity
Grants and contributions receivable	Loans and receivables
Other accounts receivable	Loans and receivables
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	Other liabilities
In trust liability	Other liabilities
Excess contributions	Other liabilities
Long-term debt	Other liabilities

#### Held-for-trading

These financial instruments are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. Fair value fluctuations including interest earned, interest accrued, gains and losses realized on disposal and unrealized gains and losses are included in interest revenue.

#### Loans and receivables

These financial assets are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment.

#### Held-to-maturity

These financial assets are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment.

#### Other liabilities

These financial liabilities are recorded at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

#### *Revenue recognition*

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

# NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

year ended March 31, 2010

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### *Revenue recognition (Continued)*

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate program in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Contributions received towards the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and amortized to income on the same basis as the related depreciable capital assets are amortized.

#### *Basis of consolidation*

The financial statements include the accounts of the Corporation and those of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund which is controlled by the Corporation. All significant inter-organizational transactions and balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

#### *Capital assets*

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of contribution.

Amortization is provided on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	3 years
Leasehold improvements	10 years

#### *Excess contributions*

The excess of revenue over expenses of some programs may require repayment and is recorded as a liability. When approval to retain the funds has been received, the excess is then recorded as revenue.

#### *Allocation of expenses*

Allocation of administrative expenses between the programs or funding agencies is done in accordance with the stipulated basis of allocation and maximum amounts or percentages mentioned in each of the different contribution agreements entered into by the Corporation.

# NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

year ended March 31, 2010

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### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### *Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. The estimated useful life of the capital assets and the net realizable value of grants, contributions and other accounts receivable are the most significant items where estimates are used. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

#### *Accounting changes - Section 4400, Financial Statements by Not-For-Profit Organizations*

In September 2008, the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) issued amendments to several of the existing sections in the 4400 series *Financial Statements by Not-For-Profit Organizations*. Changes apply to annual financial statements relating to fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2009. Accordingly, the Corporation adopted the amended standards for its fiscal year beginning April 1, 2009. The amendments include: a) additional guidance in the applicability of Section 1100, *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*; b) removal of the requirement to report separately net assets invested in capital assets; c) requirement to disclose revenues and expenses in accordance with EIC 123, *Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal Versus Net as an Agent*; d) requirement to include a statement of cash flows in accordance with Section 1540, *Cash Flow Statements*; e) requirement to apply Section 1751, *Interim Financial Statements*, when preparing interim financial statements in accordance with GAAP; f) requirement for not-for-profit organizations that recognize capital assets to depreciate and assess these capital assets for impairment in the same manner as other entities reporting on a GAAP basis; g) requirement to disclose related party transactions in accordance with Section 3840, *Related Party Transactions*; and h) new disclosure requirements regarding the allocation of fundraising and general support costs.

The CICA issued amendments to Section 1000, *Financial Statement Concepts*, to clarify the criteria for recognizing an asset.

These changes did not have any significant impact on the consolidated financial statements.

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**3. GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE**

Grants and contributions receivable are as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Canadian International Development Agency	\$ -	\$ 85,000
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	1,231,885	1,611,803
Health Canada	233,643	427,840
Canadian Heritage	1,335,159	1,513,938
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada	85,000	85,000
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	-	290,000
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	462,100	1,190,432
Environment Canada	114,626	202,526
Nuclear Waste Management Organization	119,680	125,382
Justice Canada	5,200	-
Public Health Agency of Canada	99,501	-
	<u>3,686,794</u>	<u>5,531,921</u>
Allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(704,875)</u>	<u>(689,129)</u>
	<u>\$ 2,981,919</u>	<u>\$ 4,842,792</u>

**4. CAPITAL ASSETS**

	<u>2010</u>			<u>2009</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Computer equipment	\$ 1,786,728	\$ 1,651,153	\$ 135,575	\$ 200,732
Office equipment	584,728	469,803	114,925	138,624
Leasehold improvements	1,631,370	747,711	883,659	1,046,796
	<u>\$ 4,002,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,868,667</u>	<u>\$ 1,134,159</u>	<u>\$ 1,386,152</u>



**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**5. CREDIT FACILITY**

The Corporation has a banking agreement which establishes a demand credit facility for general business purposes up to a maximum of \$2,500,000, bearing interest at prime plus 1%. The loan is secured by a general security agreement representing a first charge over all of the Corporation's assets. The balance outstanding at year-end is \$NIL (2009 - \$NIL).

**6. AMOUNTS HELD IN TRUST**

The Corporation is holding in trust an education fund totaling \$20,987 for Kelly Morrisseau's children. These funds were donated by individuals and organizations.

**7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS**

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 427,522	\$ 1,631,845
Contributions received during the year	21,326,506	22,488,502
Contributions recognized as revenue during the year	<u>(20,518,127)</u>	<u>(23,692,825)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 1,235,901</u>	<u>\$ 427,522</u>

The balance, end of year is comprised of the following:

Canadian International Development Agency	\$ -	\$ 63,192
Health Canada	1,126,299	-
Natural Resources Canada	-	87,060
Canadian Water Network	50,915	-
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada	19,762	-
Other	<u>38,925</u>	<u>277,270</u>
	<u>\$ 1,235,901</u>	<u>\$ 427,522</u>

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**8. EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Excess contributions are as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 311,055	\$ 162,144
Health Canada	95,610	1,400,219
Canadian Heritage	-	178,779
Environment Canada	72,853	8,972
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	8,114	-
Nuclear Waste Management	43,535	-
	<u>\$ 531,167</u>	<u>\$ 1,750,114</u>

The Corporation has not recognized revenue from these excess contributions in either fiscal year.

**9. LONG-TERM DEBT**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Leasehold improvements payable, maturing in 2014, unsecured and non-interest-bearing, payable by monthly installments of \$17,678 until 2011 and of \$9,511 thereafter	\$ 478,361	\$ 690,497
Current portion	<u>212,136</u>	<u>212,136</u>
	<u>\$ 266,225</u>	<u>\$ 478,361</u>

Principal payments required in each of the next four years are as follows:

2011	\$ 212,136
2012	114,137
2013	114,137
2014	<u>37,951</u>
	<u>\$ 478,361</u>

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**10. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS**

Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 194,333	\$ 288,753
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	<u>(96,746)</u>	<u>(94,420)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 97,587</u>	<u>\$ 194,333</u>

**11. CONTINGENCY**

The Corporation receives funding from various government agencies based on specific program needs and budgets and allocates certain expenses to the various programs. In many cases, the funding agent has the right to review the accounting records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their programs. At this time, no estimate of the requirements, if any, to reimburse the agencies can be made. Management of the Corporation feels that their allocations of expenses are fair and appropriate in the circumstances. Adjustments to the financial statements as a result of these reviews, if any, will be recorded in the period in which they become known.

**12. THE NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD TRUST FUND**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund; which is controlled by the Corporation. A summary description of this controlled entity is provided below.

The Trust Fund was established as a registered charity under paragraph 149 (i)(f) of the Income Tax Act and is comprised of the Language and Literacy Fund, the Youth Healing Fund, the Research Sponsor Fund and the Heroes Award Fund.

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**12. THE NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD TRUST FUND (Continued)**

Restricted funds are comprised of the following and are to be used for the purposes described below:

- The Language and Literacy Fund was established to promote education of First Nations' citizens by way of scholarship awards and promotion research, seminars, conferences of an academic nature on First Nations rights, histories and cultures among First Nations' peoples as well as the Canadian public.
- The Youth Healing Fund was established to support efforts to improve the self-esteem and profile of First Nations' Youth in Canada by organizing events which may bring together First Nations' Youth with political leaders and elders for spiritual and leadership training and support in the Youth's representation of the Nations at conferences and gatherings in Canada and internationally.
- The Research Sponsor Fund was established in 2001 with the purpose to participate in research into the economic, social and scientific problems of Indian communities with a view to proposing solutions to the problems.
- The Heroes Award Fund was established in 2001 with the purpose of giving recognition to those First Nations' citizens who demonstrate a proven record of intellectual and academic ability, integrity of character, interest and respect for fellow human beings, ability to lead, and the initiative to use their talents to the fullest.

The Corporation appoints the Executive Council of the Trust Fund and ensures that the Trust Fund operates in compliance with the Corporation's Charter.

**13. CHANGES IN NON-CASH OPERATING WORKING CAPITAL ITEMS**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Grants and contributions receivable	\$ 1,860,873	\$ 3,937,187
Other accounts receivable	26,783	(415,687)
GST recoverable	90,124	69,413
Prepaid expenses	36,899	13,577
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>(1,587,645)</u>	<u>(566,204)</u>
	<u>\$ 427,034</u>	<u>\$ 3,038,286</u>

# NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

year ended March 31, 2010

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### 14. COMMITMENTS

The Corporation is committed to future minimum lease payments totaling \$7,550,258 under operating leases for office space and equipment for which minimum annual payments for each of the next five years are as follows:

2011	\$	1,825,879
2012		1,459,660
2013		1,439,678
2014		1,417,812
2015		1,407,229
		<hr/>
	\$	<u>7,550,258</u>

### 15. EXECUTIVE SALARIES

By virtue of an Annual General Assembly Resolution (62/98), the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) receives a salary which is adjusted annually in connection with the Consumer Price Index. Similarly, by virtue of a Confederacy of Nations resolution and an Executive Committee resolution, each Regional Chief is allocated a Director's fee. Management and unelected officials are compensated within average industry remuneration levels for their positions.

### 16. RETIREMENT ASSISTANCE

The Corporation contributes to a defined contribution pension plan for its employees and Regional Chiefs. Contributions are up to 6% of an employee's salary. The employer's contributions for the year were \$391,858 (2009 - \$422,578).

### 17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### *Fair value*

The fair value of long-term debt is determined using the present value of future cash flows under current financing agreements, based on the Corporation's current estimated borrowing rate for loans with similar terms and conditions. The fair value of the long-term debt is estimated at \$462,487 at March 31, 2010 (2009 - \$877,851).

#### *Credit risk*

The risk arises from the potential that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
year ended March 31, 2010

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**17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)**

*Credit risk (Continued)*

The Corporation's various receivables represents credit provided for the Corporation's programs. The credit is provided mainly to the federal government and accordingly presents minimal credit risk to the Corporation.

The maximum credit exposure of the Corporation is represented by the fair value of the investments and various amounts receivable as presented in the consolidated balance sheet.

*Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk refers to the adverse consequences of interest rate changes on the Corporation's cash flows, financial position, investment income and interest expenses. The Corporation's cash and investments are exposed to interest rate changes. The impact of adverse changes in rates is not considered material.

**18. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)**  
**year ended March 31, 2010**

	Basic Organizational Capacity	F.N. Policy Process Mandate for Change	Education	Housing and Infrastructure Secretariat / E-Community Design	Social Income Assistance Program	F.N. and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy
Revenue						
Contribution/Grant - INAC	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 499,330	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,472
Contribution/Grant - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of publications	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	49,345	108,359	-	10,528	-	-
Registration fees	-	374,645	-	-	-	-
	<b>5,049,345</b>	<b>2,483,004</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>509,858</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>6,472</b>
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	33,826	14,418	5,924	5,969	477	-
Allocation of administrative expenses	(563,655)	(225,462)	-	-	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	70,550	7,605	14,779	6,976	-	-
Insurance	15,530	2,434	1,548	774	193	-
Miscellaneous	1,677	3,931	-	-	-	-
Office expenses	298,811	165,934	60,705	20,500	2,667	-
Professional fees	281,535	181,099	44,814	35,496	13,292	-
Regional service delivery	1,002,052	250,520	-	-	-	-
Rent	475,444	91,374	139,444	85,428	5,401	-
Salaries and benefits	2,980,300	572,007	640,933	291,182	27,062	6,472
Travel and meetings	500,872	1,160,291	100,623	51,753	(1,202)	-
	<b>5,096,942</b>	<b>2,224,151</b>	<b>1,008,770</b>	<b>498,078</b>	<b>47,890</b>	<b>6,472</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (47,597)	\$ 258,853	\$ (8,770)	\$ 11,780	\$ (32,890)	\$ -



**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)**  
**year ended March 31, 2010**

	<u>Transition</u>	<u>Gender - Based Analysis</u>	<u>F.N. Veterans</u>	<u>Economic Partnerships</u>	<u>Indian Residential Schools</u>	<u>Treaty Implementation Action Plan</u>
Revenue						
Contribution/Grant - INAC	\$ 499,000	\$ 38,518	\$ 10,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 635,000	\$ 600,000
Contribution/Grant - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of publications	-	-	-	-	20	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	(238)	-	24,675	-
Registration fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>499,000</b>	<b>38,518</b>	<b>9,762</b>	<b>310,000</b>	<b>659,695</b>	<b>600,000</b>
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	60	138	-	1,801	828	3,607
Allocation of administrative expenses	-	-	-	-	28,729	-
Amortization of capital assets	-	1,407	-	3,488	3,563	3,488
Insurance	-	-	-	388	193	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	310	-	-	-
Office expenses	4,663	459	21	25,769	24,798	12,407
Professional fees	199,850	12,999	3,000	11,455	33,907	51,969
Regional service delivery	-	-	-	-	-	175,000
Rent	242,335	2,344	-	41,543	37,885	23,166
Salaries and benefits	30,974	10,188	-	190,697	260,274	159,285
Travel and meetings	25,232	10,983	14,629	66,584	293,520	171,358
	<b>503,114</b>	<b>38,518</b>	<b>17,960</b>	<b>341,725</b>	<b>683,697</b>	<b>600,280</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (4,114)	\$ -	\$ (8,198)	\$ (31,725)	\$ (24,002)	\$ (280)

Schedule 1 (Continued)

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)**  
**year ended March 31, 2010**

	Specific Claims	Modernization	Additions to Reserve	Canadian Human Rights Act	New Secure Certificate of Indian Status	Total	
						2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>							
Contribution/Grant - INAC	\$ 200,000	\$ 96,746	\$ 199,097	\$ 666,339	\$ 21,043	\$ 11,796,545	\$ 10,885,436
Contribution/Grant - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,000
Sale of publications	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	192,669	511,851
Registration fees	-	-	-	-	-	374,645	264,739
	<b>200,000</b>	<b>96,746</b>	<b>199,097</b>	<b>666,339</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>12,363,879</b>	<b>11,772,026</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Advertising, promotion and publications	218	-	391	1,711	173	69,541	55,531
Allocation of administrative expenses	-	-	-	-	1,913	(758,475)	(631,531)
Amortization of capital assets	2,182	96,746	3,918	2,612	1,736	219,050	274,316
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	21,060	18,297
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	5,918	14,919
Office expenses	12,904	-	6,500	24,687	489	661,314	696,259
Professional fees	50,889	-	42,468	109,461	-	1,072,234	1,263,374
Regional service delivery	(2,000)	-	-	98,000	-	1,523,572	1,140,769
Rent	10,677	-	15,799	26,984	4,582	1,202,406	758,301
Salaries and benefits	50,101	-	74,419	177,621	166	5,471,681	5,725,366
Travel and meetings	75,329	-	55,602	225,263	11,984	2,762,821	3,203,086
	<b>200,300</b>	<b>96,746</b>	<b>199,097</b>	<b>666,339</b>	<b>21,043</b>	<b>12,251,122</b>	<b>12,518,687</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (300)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,757	\$ (746,661)

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Other Funding Agencies**  
year ended March 31, 2010

	<u>Health Canada</u>	<u>Canada Health Infoway Inc.</u>	<u>Public Health Agency of Canada</u>	<u>Canadian International Development Agency</u>	<u>HRSDC</u>
Revenue					
Contribution/Grant	\$ 7,265,037	\$ 103,047	\$ -	\$ 47,164	\$ 174,582
Sale of publications	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	11,544	-	99,501	-	-
Registration fees	(5)	-	-	-	-
	<b>7,276,576</b>	<b>103,047</b>	<b>99,501</b>	<b>47,164</b>	<b>174,582</b>
Expenses					
Advertising, promotion and publications	130,096	-	-	-	173
Allocation of administrative expenses	631,066	-	-	6,500	775
Amortization of capital assets	113,446	-	-	-	1,736
Insurance	6,485	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,270	-	-	-	-
Bad debt	-	-	-	-	-
Office expenses	347,689	-	-	1,434	372
Professional fees	891,461	94,504	99,501	38,188	135,830
Regional service delivery	1,014,302	-	-	-	-
Rent	565,024	-	-	-	1,278
Salaries and benefits	2,367,799	-	-	2,417	13,071
Travel and meetings	1,206,938	8,543	-	319	21,347
	<b>7,276,576</b>	<b>103,047</b>	<b>99,501</b>	<b>48,858</b>	<b>174,582</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,694)	\$ -

Schedule 2 (Continued)

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses**  
**Other Funding Agencies**  
**year ended March 31, 2010**

	Fisheries and Ocean Canada	Environment Canada	Nuclear Waste Management Organization	Other	Total	
					2010	2009
Revenue						
Contribution/Grant	\$ 664,194	\$ 194,147	\$ 199,935	\$ 73,476	\$ 8,721,582	\$ 12,697,389
Sale of publications	-	-	-	(200)	(200)	540
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	657,667	768,712	1,150,172
Registration fees	-	-	-	19,450	19,445	53,225
	<b>664,194</b>	<b>194,147</b>	<b>199,935</b>	<b>750,393</b>	<b>9,509,539</b>	<b>13,901,326</b>
Expenses						
Advertising, promotion and publications	6,693	1,373	951	10,290	149,576	349,949
Allocation of administrative expenses	57,633	22,934	26,079	13,488	758,475	631,531
Amortization of capital assets	7,654	4,695	1,918	3,924	133,373	31,734
Insurance	1,548	193	388	388	9,002	7,862
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	45,262	47,532	25,519
Bad debt	-	-	-	-	-	689,129
Office expenses	25,988	11,898	13,168	25,562	426,111	791,829
Professional fees	16,551	11,860	7,344	173,919	1,469,158	2,643,677
Regional service delivery	-	-	-	-	1,014,302	1,806,750
Rent	102,104	28,138	15,993	2,865	715,402	780,892
Salaries and benefits	254,725	96,108	78,462	46,709	2,859,291	3,362,558
Travel and meetings	194,008	16,948	55,632	302,972	1,806,707	3,655,872
	<b>666,904</b>	<b>194,147</b>	<b>199,935</b>	<b>625,379</b>	<b>9,388,929</b>	<b>14,777,302</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (2,710)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,014	\$ 120,610	\$ (875,976)

**NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expenses - Trust Fund**  
**year ended March 31, 2010**

	Language and Literacy Fund	Research Sponsor Fund	Heroes of Our Times Fund	General Fund	Total	
					2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>						
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Interest	-	-	-	10	10	3,573
Golf fund raiser	42,479	-	-	-	42,479	49,175
Sponsorship	-	-	16,000	-	16,000	16,000
Miscellaneous	400	1,500	-	20,000	21,900	-
	<b>42,879</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,010</b>	<b>80,389</b>	73,748
<b>Expenses</b>						
Golf fund raiser	56,542	-	-	-	56,542	41,191
Professional services	9,182	-	-	19,937	29,119	18,322
Scholarships	-	-	16,000	-	16,000	16,000
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
	<b>65,724</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>19,937</b>	<b>101,661</b>	80,513
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	<b>(22,845)</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>(21,272)</b>	(6,765)

