

First Nations Statistical Institute



Presentation to the AFN Spring 2001 Planning and Dialogue Forum:

*Dialogue with National First Nation Organizations - Accountability, Outreach
and Service*

March 7, 2011
Vancouver, BC



Presentation Context



Role & Importance of Data



RCAP

“For Aboriginal people, knowing how political, demographic, social and economic changes will affect their nations and having in place data collection vehicles that provide a community and nation level aggregate picture will be essential to Aboriginal government implementation and planning processes.” (RCAP, Vol. 2, p 349)

RCAP

As Aboriginal governments assume significantly increased authority and responsibility in areas such as citizenship, financial planning and management of new services /sectors, the demand for data management systems and related capacities will increase. (RCAP, Vol.2, p. 352)

FNSI Mandate

To provide statistical information on, and analysis of, the fiscal, economic and social conditions of First Nation people;

Promote the quality, coherence and compatibility of First Nation statistics and their production through collaboration with First Nations, First Nation organizations, federal departments and other organizations;

Work in cooperation with Statistics Canada to ensure that the national statistical system meets the needs of First Nations; and,

Build statistical capacity within First Nation governments.



Current Landscape



Historical Pressures

- While statistical information about First Nations is widely available and produced by a range of public and private sector organizations, very little of this data is accessible to potential users.
- Statistical methods & approaches employed by Gov't have often not met the needs of First Nations - several communities have routinely boycotted data gathering exercised by StatsCan & INAC.

Current Context

- The gathering & use of data is a political issue yet FNS have not been adequately consulted about what data should be collected, who should gather the data, who should maintain it and who should have access to it.
- While First Nation organizations, such as the AFN and PTOs, play an instrumental role in information gathering; capacity and resources remain limited.

Impetus for FNSI

- FNSI was established precisely to address these data deficits, to improve the coverage and increase the quality of statistical information about the society and economy of First Nations, measure progress between First Nations people and the rest of Canadian society, and enable FNs to determine the effectiveness of investments
- Moreover, FNSI was established to be the authoritative source of information on the fiscal, economic and social conditions of FNs and their institutions.



Ways to Support Nation Building



FNSI Objectives

- Collects and aggregates objective and high-quality FN statistical data.
- Assists FN in data collection, research and analysis and data sharing.
- Provides a direct link w/ FN for control of, and access to, their data.

FNSI Services

- Data analysis and data analysis support
- Provide financial and demographic data
- Issue periodic publications, e.g. benchmarking reports, statistical journals, dynamic web-based applications, etc.

FN Outcomes

- Negotiate for funds, resources and programs with the public sector
- Structure investment and economic growth strategies with the private sector
- Effectively plan programs and design policies
- Demonstrate progress and accountability to their respective First Nations citizens



How will FNSI Meet Its Objectives?



FNSI assists coordinated, effective and seamless FN community planning

Enabling data access – establishing a First Nations data clearing house – a one stop shop portal – serving as a repository of information, acting as a direct link with communities about their data, providing ready access to data, and working with organizations and communities to develop quality of life measures.

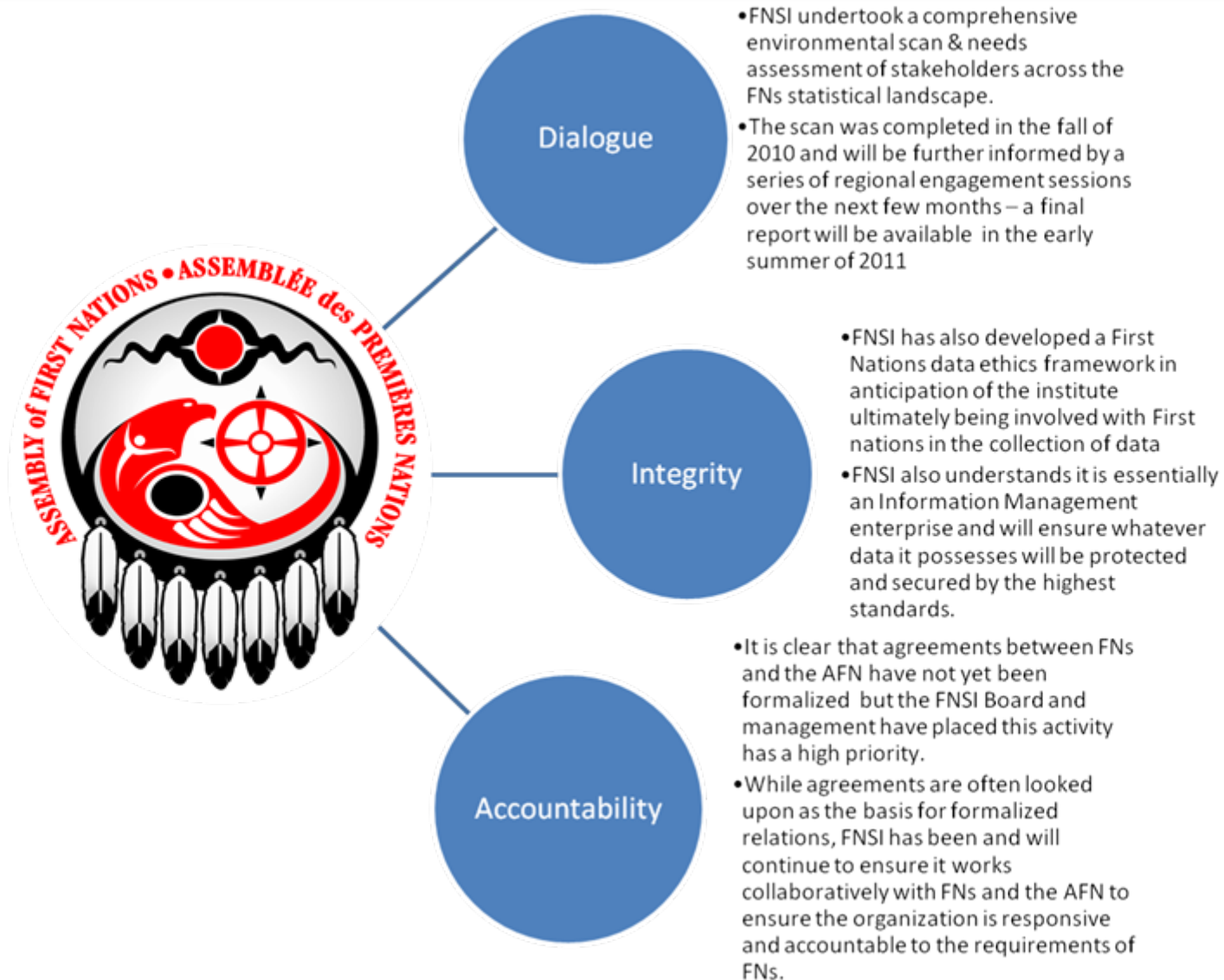
Ensuring data quality – addressing deficiencies in the two largest repositories of First Nation's data, i.e. INAC and Statistics Canada, and improving and providing enhanced access to comprehensive and accurate data.

Providing data analysis – adding value and insight to existing data, supporting and validating trend analysis; and assisting with innovative research projects

Supporting First Nations and their governments' statistical capacity – developing frameworks and policy for standardized and customized information-gathering approaches and data bases; facilitating training; supporting statistical management in support of fiscal arrangements; and supporting the transfer, revenue options and accountability provisions in an improved First Nation fiscal relationship.



Dialogue, Integrity & Accountability



Annex A: Potential Projects



Digital Divide Survey

First Nation System of Public Accounts

National Data Initiative

Local Labour Force Surveys

Bond Debenture Support and Analysis

