

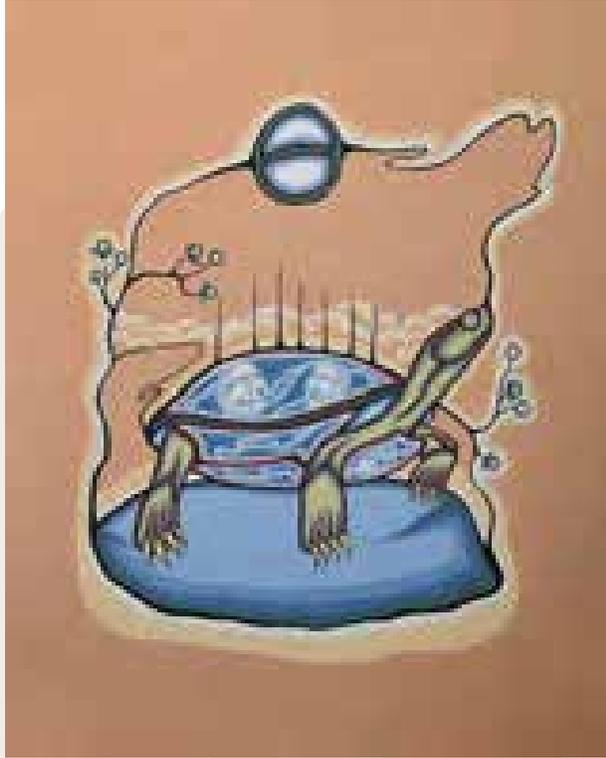


Chiefs of Ontario Annual Report 2019-20

Transformation:

The Path Forward





Taylor Cameron is 23-year-old emerging Neo-Woodland artist from Saugeen First Nation #29. His work focuses on the relationships between Anishinaabe people and the world around them. His primary medium of choice is acrylic paint.

“This painting features my depiction of Turtle Island. The turtle is seen moving in a forward motion to signify moving ahead into the future. It is surrounded by a connecting line that displays interconnectedness between the sprouting flowers, the land, and all beings. Inside the turtle are the faces of two people and also imagery representing an infant in the bottom section which symbolizes the uprising of a new generation. In order for rebirth, all things must go through transformation. Overall, this acrylic painting carries the story and idea of growth and prosperity for all nations on Turtle Island.”

Transformation:

The Path Forward

Ontario Regional Chief Report	4
Chief Operating Officer Report	10
Chiefs of Ontario Restructuring Report	12
Financial Overview	12
Human Resources Report	14
Members of the Political Confederacy	16
Economic and Sustainable Community Development Sector	18
Education Sector	20
Environment Sector	24
Health Sector	30
Social Services Sector	40
Youth Sector	46
Communications Sector	48
AOCC 2018	50
Stories of our Roots: Create to Learn Summit	52
Staff	54
Map	55



Report from the Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald



Transformation: The Path Forward

Wahcheeyay. Aanii. Shekoli.

I would like to first say miigwetch to Chief Dean Sayers, Council members and the citizens of Batchewana First Nation for welcoming us onto their beautiful territory and to the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) for hosting the 45th Annual All-Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC) this year.

It is my pleasure to present this, my first Annual Report as Ontario Regional Chief for 2018-2019. The theme of this report is appropriate for this time: *“Transformation: The Path Forward”*.

It has been a memorable and fulfilling year for me, despite the challenges and uncertainty facing the Chiefs of Ontario as an organization. I offer you a renewed vision as we turn the corner in transforming our organization into a more measured, stronger and more efficient and effective organization committed to bringing about transformative outcomes for all First Nations in the region.

I would like to thank the Political Confederacy (PC) who, despite tremendous adversity, have assisted me to move some difficult issues forward. They have provided valuable feedback and steadfast guidance, individually and collectively, throughout this past year. I also

acknowledge the leadership of the four Grand Chiefs of the Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTOs) who serve as the Board of Directors for the Secretariat, as well as their Executive Directors who have acted as a Senior Management Committee (SMC). The Board and SMC have been attentive and dedicated in their roles and have been invaluable in guiding an administrative overhaul and supporting the renewed stability of the organization. It takes a great team to manage the complex issues of our region and I want to acknowledge the COO staff who have served our First Nations and have assisted me in fulfilling my duties. Finally, I'm grateful to our Chiefs in Ontario, for your ongoing patience, support and encouragement throughout the year.

During this first year of my mandate, I have focused on sharing a heart-centered approach to my responsibilities as Ontario Regional Chief. I have been purposeful in embodying a style of leadership that is grounded in love and care, that embodies a great respect for everyone I interact with. My aim has always been to create space in and around my leadership, for First Nations, Tribal Councils and PTOs to advance their own priorities.

In terms of priorities, we have focussed significant efforts in three main areas:

1. Organizational restructuring;
2. Ongoing federal/provincial government engagement; and
3. Balancing my regional work with my national portfolio responsibilities of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Women's Council, Education (K-12) and Housing/Infrastructure/Water.



In addition, work has been done on a number of high priority items including:

- Development of a fair and appropriate funding formula;
- Assisting communities prepare for the implementation of Cannabis Legislation;
- Supporting our champions AIAI to stop the Federal Recognition of Indigenous Rights Framework Legislation;
- Coroner's Report on Deaths of Children in Care;
- Initiating a strategic direction with the Political Confederacy; and
- Ensuring a Pre-Budget Submission to Ontario to minimize funding cutbacks to First Nations; and supporting/advocating for First Nation specific concerns.

Our work is only beginning. As we move forward on these priorities, and strengthening the Chiefs of Ontario, I am confident that net result will be a more measured and stronger organization that will be better able to respond to the needs and obligations that we have as First Nations people. I look forward to continuing this work with the ongoing support of you, the Chiefs, citizens and partners of First Nations in Ontario.

Ninanaskamon!

Wishing you peace beyond all understanding,

RoseAnne Archibald

Ontario Regional Chief

As an long-time activist, Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald is committed to supporting political and grass-roots action at many levels through vocal support of the Chiefs and their communities.

Organizational Restructuring

This is a time of great transition and transformation in the Ontario Region. Over the past year, Chiefs of Ontario negotiated through a substantive budget deficit and many human resource challenges. However, through patience, vigilance and a prudent and measured operational model, we have turned the corner in terms of organizational restructuring.

The Chiefs of Ontario is pleased to report that for the past fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the organization has balanced this budget deficit by covering operational shortfalls using restricted reserve funds and started this fiscal year with a clean slate and no debt.

Although the organization has seen a reduction in staff, mostly due to funding reductions, we are grateful that the Chiefs of Ontario organization is well underway to stabilizing its human resources complement and readjusting to achieve positive results and outcomes with a reduced capacity.

We acknowledge and thank our main funding partners, Indigenous Services Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. I'm grateful for their efforts and investments as this helped us to keep moving forward to restoring credibility to the Chiefs of Ontario.

Federal and Provincial Government Engagement

There has been a monumental shift in the Ontario Region since the election of Premier Doug Ford in June 2018. Whether it has been policy changes or enacting legislation, the Progressive Conservative government has been swift in their actions. Our calls to be properly engaged on matters that directly affect us seems to be an afterthought by the new Ontario government.

Since my election, I have taken the approach of understanding this new political landscape, aligning First Nation regional priorities with provincial priorities, and infusing principle-based approaches to relationship building. Despite these efforts, there have been significant funding reductions under the recent

budget released on April 11, 2019. This has served to compound the reductions to programs and funding that happened last summer. While some programs and services have been maintained with 10-15% reductions, we can only expect less funding in the future as Ontario grapples with a massive deficit. It is clear that First Nations are no longer a priority and take a back seat to Premier Ford's electoral priorities. We still have three years ahead of us with the Progressive Conservatives, potentially longer if another election is won. We are now in a delicate balance between being strong in voicing our opposition to cutbacks while taking an effective, diplomatic approach to advocacy for economic opportunities and future funding for First Nations. Nevertheless, it is my ongoing objective to transform the traditional relationship between First Nations and PCs into one that is constructive, results-oriented and mutually beneficial. Overall, I have made close relationships with many Ministers, both federally and provincially. In particular, I've had regular communication with Minister Greg Rickford, Minister Seamus O'Regan, Minister Carolyn Bennett and Premier Doug Ford. I've attended a number of AFN meetings that included Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of his cabinet.



Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Seamus O'Regan and Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald



AFN National Portfolio Work

AFN Women's Council (AFNWC)

There is no greater priority for Indigenous women in Canada than addressing the legacy of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). We know all too well, too many of our families, communities and nations have felt the loss personally. I want to express my gratitude and lift up all the many advocates and family members who fought long and hard to bring attention to the issue and who have demanded for justice for their loved ones. The National Inquiry into MMIWG wrapped up its final hearings last fall. By the time you are reading this, we will have seen the report from the Commissioners. It is our sincere hope that the Commissioners will be providing a report that will reflect the experience of the survivors and the families. We also hope that the report includes strong recommendations and a concrete plan moving forward on how all levels of government can make fundamental, systematic changes to ensure the safety and security of First Nation women and girls.

Education (K-12)

We are at a significant crossroads for First Nations education. It is a time where we see the opportunity to act upon our respective and unique vision for education for children and youth. I'm pleased to see that within



the last year, the first step towards closing the gap in education outcomes for First Nations children and students is being taken. Approximately \$665 million in funding for education was set aside in the 2016 federal budget earmarked for "Transforming First Nation Education," that aims to replace outdated proposal-based programs with improved access to predictable core funding. While we welcome new federal commitments towards elementary and secondary learning, we must always be guided by the key principle of First Nations control of First Nations education. We remain hopeful that this new approach will be an important step toward the creation of new Treaty-based, regional and/or local education agreements that will recognize and enable First Nations control over education to better meet the needs of students.

Water

Having a good quality of life begins with having clean, fresh and accessible sources of water for each and every First Nation in Ontario. This is an area of fundamental importance for too many communities living under long-term drinking water advisories. At the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs-in-Assembly have renewed their calls for repeal and replacement of the *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act (SDWFNA)* by focusing on holding the government to account to its commitment to lift all long-term drinking water advisories by March of 2021. While we are supportive of this objective, the view of First Nations invokes the more fundamental question of addressing First Nations' infrastructure needs and enabling systemic and holistic solutions including providing significant increases in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding, and supporting First Nations in implementing Capital Asset Management approaches and developing a sound, legislative basis for sustained funding and protection of our First Nations' right to clean drinking water.

This year we saw the tragic passing of renowned water protector, Biidaasige-baa Josephine Mandamin of Wiikwemkoong. Grandmother Josephine, as she was affectionately known, began the Mother Earth Water Walk by walking around Lake Superior in 2003. Since that year, she led a flourishing movement to walk around all the Great Lakes and from all four directions of Turtle Island, to stand up and speak for the water. This spring, we also saw the passing of the torch to the next generation when her great-niece Autumn Peltier was appointed as the Chief Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation Womens Water Commission.



Conclusion

I want to conclude with highlighting my supportive and collaborative work advocating for progressive and visionary First Nations leaders across the region. I am incredibly passionate and driven about this part of my job. It is also amongst the most rewarding. Although I was privileged to support First Nations across the region, much of the heavy lifting was done by many others. Some of these successes include:

- A new ferry for Beausoleil First Nation;
- An Interim Framework Agreement on housing for Cat Lake First Nation;
- A Framework Agreement and Workplan to relocate Kashechewan First Nation.

I was able to attend gatherings to rally support to the following First Nations:

- Supporting Grassy Narrows to seek justice for mercury poisoning;
- Supporting AIAI youth to “Stop the Framework”;
- Supporting Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation in their recent court battles with regard to gaming.

As ORC, I will continue to focus on the goal of revitalizing the Chiefs of Ontario to become a healthy organization that has a clear role of efficiently and effectively coordinating communication and shared efforts, while always operating in a respectful and cooperative manner with First Nations and their various organizations. Our efforts in restructuring will succeed, I have no doubt in my mind. We will achieve this by finding a leaner, stronger way forward for the benefit of all First Nations across Ontario.

Finally, I want to reiterate that: We are strong. We are resilient. Together, we will move the obstacles from our path. We will keep this vision in the forefront: Happy, healthy children who are surrounded by the love and care of their immediate and extended families, living in safe, vibrant communities that are grounded in well-being, and their own culture and language, with their Inherent, treaty and Indigenous rights, strong, protected and intact from now, to the seventh generation.





Report from the Chief Operating Officer



Shekoli

For those who may not already know me, I am Tracy Antone, from Onoyota` :ka (Oneida Nation) and , by appointment of the Board of the Directors, I assumed the role as Chief Operating Officer in November 2018. Prior to this, I was the Chiefs of Ontario Health Director for 20 years.

This past year we have experienced many changes, challenges and great successes as the Secretariat transitioned into new management with a newly elected Regional Chief. In July the Board gave me a clear mandate to ensure that all management and staffing issues be rectified, as well as audit management duties. During this implementation phase, the following was also completed: a personnel policy that had staff and director input, as well as legal review. The COO Employment Manual was approved by the Board in November 2018 and subsequently, the financial policy, organizational charts, and salary grids were approved by the Board as working documents for the Secretariat.

The Board continues to provide the corporate leadership to move the Secretariat into sound financial management and robust human resource and operational processes. These challenges have also been our successes, as we move into a new fiscal year with direction and a positive outlook. I am very proud of the staff and how they have pulled together to ensure that our work reflects the dedication and the accountability to the leadership of Ontario.

Our theme to move forward on our own path demonstrates the work that has been accomplished and sets the direction to respond to the Ontario Leadership. At this time of creating our own path, we now must look to moving forward on restructuring processes— in the short-term and in the long-term — as to how we move into the space of true Nationhood. The Secretariat will continue to provide the support and advocacy for Ontario First Nations in their assertion with both crown governments.

As we witness our political environment changing with a new government in Ontario, we have to rely on our collective and unity. The era of working with the Province is strained and as a Secretariat we have remain challenged as to how to maintain a relationship that is solution driven. The process of a structured political dialogue will need to take a strategic approach defined by the Leadership.

With the upcoming federal Government election, the Secretariat has begun to assess the dialogues needed in order to best respond to the needs of First Nations. This requires an investigation into the types of tri-partite issues that are common to First Nations within Ontario and research the best processes to move our issues forward.

Despite the challenges over the past year, I would like to acknowledge the steadfast dedication of the Directors, Policy Analysts, Coordinators and the rest of the COO Team for their commitment, hard work and diligence in advancing First Nation issues.

I also wish to thank the Board of Directors, and the Senior Management Team for their continuing support, guidance and direction.

Yaw^ko

Tracy Y. Antone

Chief Operating Officer

Chiefs of Ontario Restructuring

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

The purpose of the Committee was to provide a single Ontario representative to the Assembly of First Nations. From this Committee emerged the Chiefs of Ontario, its basic purpose is to enable the political leadership to discuss and to decide on regional, provincial and national priorities affecting First Nation peoples in Ontario. The Chiefs of Ontario has since become a vehicle to facilitate relationships between the federal and provincial governments and First Nation peoples in Ontario.

The activities of the Chiefs of Ontario are mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and guided by the Political Confederacy (PC)

Organizational Objectives:

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

In accordance with its role as a coordinating body, the Chiefs of Ontario carries out its responsibility by ensuring that all information on matters affecting and/or impacting First Nations is disseminated to the communities, Tribal Councils and Political Territorial Organizations.

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

Since the creation of what is now the Chiefs of Ontario in 1975, the organization had developed and grown with the purpose to serve the changing political climate of the day. The development included a governance process for decision-making, clarifying vision and mission of the organization and to have a unified approach to the governments of the day.

In 1995, after 20 years of operation and growth, the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to review the existing political structures of the organization. Since that time, there have been eight (8) structural reviews with the last one being the Chiefs of Ontario Restructuring Project Final Report 2018 by Jenny K.A. Restoule-Mallozzi.

From that report, it highlighted all past reports and what was accomplished from it and what was not.

By resolution at the 44th Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference in June 2018, the report was accepted and a Chiefs Committee on Restructuring. The resolution tasked the Chiefs Committee on Restructuring with developing an implementation plan with recommendations on work done to date and seek direction going forward at the Special Chiefs Assembly in November 2018.

At the Special Chiefs Assembly in November 2018, the Chiefs decided to reboot the restructuring process. The Chiefs Committee on Restructuring was replaced with a Technical Committee on Restructuring. The committee comprised of a technical representative from each of the regions.

The resolution tasks the Technical Committee on Restructuring with reviewing, assessing and developing options for implementing the recommendations contained in the previous restructuring reports for consideration by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in April 2019.

For further measure, a Chiefs Oversight Committee on Restructuring was also formed to be a sounding board and provide feedback to the Technical Committee as the options were developed.

Since January 2019, the Technical Committee met eight (8) times, in-person and by teleconference, to develop the options. To take it one step further, the Technical Committee recommended options for the Chiefs-in-Assembly to consider.

The Technical Committee on Restructuring first met on January 14 and 15, 2019 and held 8 subsequent meetings in-person and by teleconference. A Chiefs Oversight Committee was also formed to review and provide feedback on the development of the options paper.

The Technical Committee considered seven (7) existing reports commissioned over the years. The Technical Committee on Restructuring presented the options and recommendations at the Special Chiefs Assembly in April 2019.

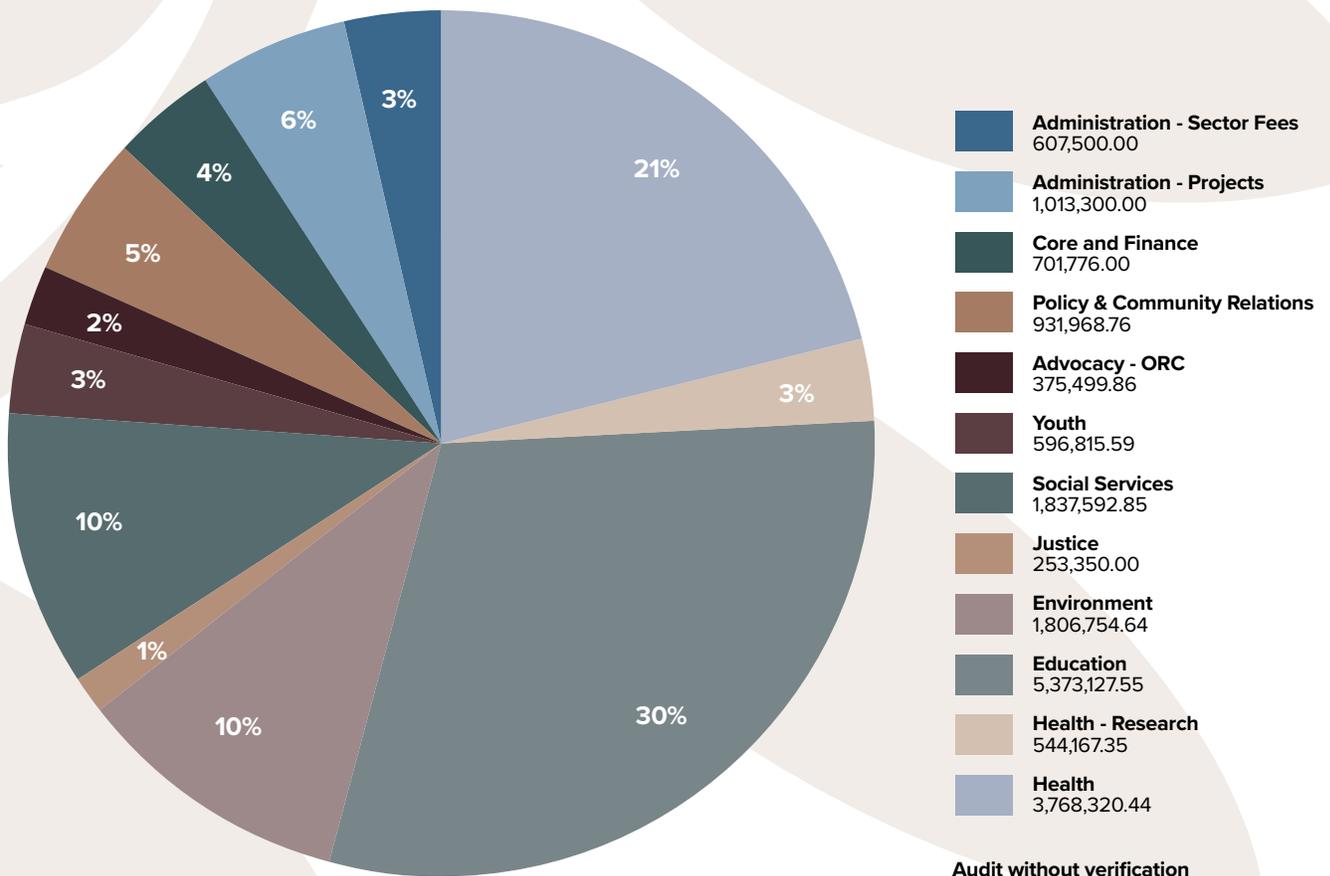
Two(2) priority areas with 10 options have been developed for consideration by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. To augment the options, the Technical Committee provided recommended options with proposed activities and timelines.

The Priority areas include:

- Protocols – Bundles, Territorial and Elders
- Constituting Documents – Charter, Political Confederacy, Board of Directors, Advisory Councils/Chiefs Committees, Chiefs-in-Assembly, Ontario Regional Chief, and Communications

The Chiefs-in-Assembly reviewed and discussed the options at length. A resolution was passed mandating the Technical Committee with the Chiefs of Ontario to develop a plan and implement the recommended options as presented. A status report will be provided to the Chiefs-in-Assembly in June 2019.

Chiefs of Ontario Financial Overview April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019



Report from Human Resources



In May 2017 the Chiefs of Ontario introduced a Human Resources Officer for the first time. Under the direction of the Chief Operating Officer, the Human Resources Officer assists in the overall operations of Human Resources matters within the Chiefs of Ontario. These matters include recruitment, external and internal contracts, and developing Human Resources Policies.

For the first time since 2005, in November 2018 after legal review, a updated Employee Policy Manual was approved by the Board of Directors. Personal days were added for employees to exercise self care and to attend to family responsibilities.

Benefits were also changed to allow employees more funding for health services such as massage and physiotherapy. The introduction of an Employee and Family Assistance Program was implemented to help employees and their families with any challenges they are facing.

As of April 2019 the total amount of Employees has been reduced by 28% from the previous fiscal year. The decrease in total employees was due to the budget restrictions put into place by our funders.



Dianne Simon, Coordinator at Chiefs of Ontario



Charnele Sondezi, Health Coordinator at Chiefs of Ontario



The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge the effort and dedication of the Chiefs of Ontario coordinators. Our coordinators are the sole backbone of this organization and their dedication and continued passion to ensuring accountability and the proper processes are followed for the betterment of the organization and First Nations communities in Ontario. Your hard work has assisted us in moving forward and to facilitating and strengthening relationships for a coordinated voice across regions in Ontario.



Sandra Williams, Finance Assistant and Alice Longboat, Health Coordinator at Chiefs of Ontario

Members of the Political Confederacy



Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald

PO Box 3355, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, ON, P0L1C0

Tel: (416) 597-1266

Email: ORCRoseAnne@afn.ca

Executive Assistant: Robin Beauclair

Email: Robin.beauclair@coo.org

Website: www.chiefs-of-ontario.org

Grand Chief Joel Abram

Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians

387 Princess Ave, London, ON N6B 2A7

Email: jabram@aiai.on.ca

Deputy Grand Chief Gord Peters

Email: gpeters@aiai.on.ca

Tel: (519) 434-2761

Fax: (519) 675-1053

Website: www.aiai.on.ca

Ogichidaa Grand Chief Francis Kavanaugh

Grand Council Treaty #3

P.O. Box 1720 Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X7

Email: grand.chief@treaty3.ca

Tel: (807) 548-4214 ex 224

Fax: (807) 548-5041

Website: www.treaty3.ca

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

Nishnawbe Aski Nation

100 Backstreet Rd. Unit 200

Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1L2

Email: afiddler@nan.on.ca

Tel: (807) 623-8228

Fax: (807) 623-7730

Website: www.nan.on.ca

Grand Council Chief Glen Hare

Anishinabek Nation

P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8

Email: gcc@anishinabek.ca

Executive Liaison: Lynn Bowerman

Email: Lynn.bowerman@anishinabek.ca

Deputy Grand Chiefs (4)

Southwest Region, Deputy Grand Council Chief

Joe Miskokomon

Cell: 519-313-950

Southeast Region, Deputy Grand Council Chief

James Marsden

Cell: 905-375-5531

Northern Superior Region, Deputy Grand Council Chief

Ed Wawia

Superior Satellite Office, 300 Amenaki Place,

Cell: 807-357-8612

Lake Huron Region, Deputy Grand
Council Chief (Interim)

Scott McLeod

Cell: 705-498-3990

Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon

Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

P.O. Box 370, Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0

Email: grandchief@mushkegowuk.ca

Tel: (705) 658-4222

Fax: (705) 658-4250

Website: www.mushkegowuk.ca



Chief Ava Hill

Six Nations of the Grand River
P.O. Box 5000, Ohswekn, ON NoA 1Mo
Email: avahill@sixnations.ca
Tel:(519) 445-2201
Fax:(519) 445-4208
Website:www.sixnations.ca

Chief Abram Benedict

Mohawks of Akwesasne
P.O. Box 579, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T3
Email: abram.benedict@akwesasne.ca
Tel: (613) 575-2348
Fax: (613) 575-2884
Cell: (613) 362-2960
Website: www.akwesasne.ca

Chief Arnold Paul

Independent First Nations
Bear Island, Lake Temagami, ON, PoH 1Co
Email: chief@temagamifirstnation.ca

Dianne Maracle Nadjiwon

Independent First Nations Coordinator
Tel: (905) 765-2222

Sector:

Economic and Sustainable Community Development

.....

Chiefs Committee on Housing:

Chief Shining Turtle, Chief R. Don Maracle, Chief Linda Debassige, Chief Leo Friday, Chief Stan Beardy, Chief Ava Hill, Chief Johnny Yellowhead, Chief Joe Ladouceur, Chief Paul Burke, Councillor Jeff Loucks (Hiawatha)

Overview

The Economic and Sustainable Community Development (ESCD) unit provides information sharing and policy analysis on files related to wealth creation, energy, housing & infrastructure and other community development issues. The goal of the unit is to provide support for the development of health and sustainable First Nation homes and communities.

Current Issues

Sovereign Wealth Fund

The agreement to purchase over 14 million Hydro One shares was finalized December 29, 2017 with 129 First Nations partners. The Board of Directors, who will act as stewards for the fund, were ratified by the Chiefs in Assembly at the November 2018 Annual General Membership meeting of the shareholders.

The Board of Directors have developed an investment strategy for Sovereign Wealth Fund and implementation of that investment strategy will commence in the summer of 2019. The next shareholders AGM is on July 4th, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario.

The Chiefs of Ontario has been administering quarterly loan payments for the purchase of the shares and all payments are up to date. Details regarding share values and loan balances will be provided at the July 2019 AGM.

Housing and Infrastructure

In the Fall of 2018, the Chiefs of Ontario commenced coordination amongst the regions within Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations who are in the process of developing a National Housing Strategy. In December of 2018 the Chiefs in Assembly at the AFN endorsed the national strategy in principle. This strategy will lay the foundation for the care and control of housing to be taken on by First Nation communities in Canada.



Director of Economic and Sustainable Community Development, Barret Dokis

In January 2019, the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation commenced a data collection study of housing needs in Ontario. This data collection exercise will help inform the national strategy in terms of financial resources to improve housing conditions in First Nation communities.

The Chiefs of Ontario has been coordinating and communicating the development of this national strategy with communities in Ontario.

OI Leasing

The ESCD has been implementing the established plan with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and a communique was distributed in June 2018. Since this time, the ESCD has been referring former OI Leasing clients/employees to specific staff identified by CRA to review their files under this plan. When discussions with CRA and COO commenced there was just fewer than 600 individuals in 'collection status' with CRA. The ESCD had a call with the CRA at the end of September and learned that there is now approximately 350 individuals still in collection status. Meaning that nearly 250 individuals received relief from their debts, had their debts reduced, or payment plans were established that better aligned to their financial situation.



Director of Economic and Sustainable Community Development, Barret Dokis joined by Sarah Gammon of UOI, Chief Debassige, Chief Maracle, Director of Environment, Kathleen Padulo and Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald at the Assembly of First Nations Housing Meeting in Vancouver

Sector:

Education



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

**Deputy Grand Chief
Derek Fox**, Chair, Political Confederacy Education Portfolio Holder
Alternate Chair: Open

Chiefs Committee on Lifelong Learning (CCOLL):

Grand Council Treaty #3 – **Chief Howard Kabestra Naotkamegwanning**

Independent First Nations – **Open**

Anishinabek Nation (AN)/Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) – **Chief Myeengun Henry**, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) – **Open**

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) – **Open**

Six Nations of the Grand River – **Councilor Audrey Powless-Bomberry**

First Nations Education Coordination Unit:

GCT#3 – **Yolanda Fobister**

IFN – **Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon**

AN/UOI – **Murray Waboose**

AIAI – **Gina McGahey**

NAN – **Cherity Calder**

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

AIC – **Wendy Johnson**

AMO – **Nelson Toulouse**

OFNYPC – **open**

Overview

The past year has been a productive year in carrying out mandates provided by the Chiefs in Assembly. New mandates this year include creation of the Ontario Technical Table – Interim Funding Approach to support and provide recommendations on the K-12 Education Transformation process currently underway, and activities related to the proposed federal Indigenous Languages Act. Significant progress was made in all priority areas related to lifelong learning including improvements in growing partnership relationships with relevant federal and provincial counterparts.

The Education Sector within Chiefs of Ontario (COO) remains focused on the overarching priorities of the Charting Our Own Path Forward initiative; increasing First Nations control of First Nations education and securing funding based on the diverse and unique needs of First Nation learners.

Education Accomplishments:

First Nations Lifelong Learning Table

The FNECU and the Indigenous Education Office at the Ministry of Education continue work at the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table (FNLLT) to address the five (5) priority areas set out in the co-developed Three-Year Strategic Plan (Relationships, Languages and Culture, Curriculum, Information, Access and Accountability and Policy Development).

Information gathered through regional engagement sessions have formed recommendations to move the work forward, develop strategies and tools to overcome issues, challenges and barriers identified.

Over this past year, the FNLLT portfolio completed research projects in the following topic areas: Trauma Informed Schools, Professional Development on Community and Student Well-Being, Current Information Sharing Practices between First Nations and School Boards, Analysis and Review of Education Act and Relevant Policies that guide First Nations and School Board Relationships.

Special Education

The Special Education Support Technicians (SESTS) have been diligently working over the past year to support First Nation communities and organizations to build capacity in many areas related to the delivery of special education programming to better support the needs of their learners. In 2018, they visited 60 different communities to support school administration with various elements of special education programming and funding,

The SESTS continue to produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter titled *Our Gifted Children*. The newsletter focuses on community success stories, special education information supporting parents and teachers.

COO hosted three (3) Special Education Information Sharing Sessions in the past year:

- Trauma, Mental Health and Drug Related Issues, October 2-3, 2018, in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- Building Capacity in Education, January 29-30, 2019, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
- Striving Forward: Supporting Student Success, April 16-17, 2019 in Toronto, Ontario.

The Sharing Forums are always at capacity and are building a reputation as one of the top special education sharing forums. As a result, non-Indigenous educators from provincial school boards are requesting to attend.

This past year, COO received a Parents Reaching Out grant from the Ministry of Education. This funding was utilized to host a parental/guardian/educator session in April 2019 focusing on autism and behavioural strategies.

As mandated by the Chiefs in Assembly, the Ontario First Nations Special Education Working Group (OFNSEWG) facilitated a needs-based process that resulted in \$6M distributed to communities and organizations by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Ontario Region.



Chiefs of Ontario, Department of Education Staff

First Nation Languages

COO has been involved in several First Nation languages initiatives over the past year. With provincial funding, the Leadership Committee on Languages (LCOL) was established to assist in the development of the organizational structure of the Anishinaabek, Mushkegowuk, Onkwehonwe Language Commission. Community engagement sessions have focused on needs of communities to reclaim, restore and revitalize First Nation languages. The next engagement took place May 7-8, 2019, on Manitoulin Island and sought input on the structure and mandate of a languages body and shared best practices and experiences from existing language programs and initiatives.

Federally, COO submitted recommendations to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage regarding Bill C-91: An Act Respecting Indigenous Languages. Resolution #15/19 was carried at the April 2019 Special Chiefs Assembly directing COO Education sector to submit and present recommendations for legislative amendments to the Senate committee.

Post-Secondary Education

COO worked with the National Indian Education Council on the post-secondary education co-developed policy proposal to address necessary policy changes to post-secondary programming and seek additional investments to address acute underfunding for First Nation students and institutions. The Memorandum to Cabinet developed from the policy proposal has passed the governmental approval process. Some of the change recommendations to the First Nations Post-Secondary terms and conditions have been implemented. The policy proposal included a funding request for an additional investment of \$3.4B over five years. As of May 2019, the Federal government has yet to make a decision on the funding request.

COO is working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to address \$19M shortfall for Ontario First Nation's post-secondary education (PSE) 2019-2020 allocation. This shortfall is due to funding avenues that ISC Ontario historically tapped into to maintain Ontario's level of growth, being no longer available resources. Additional First Nation PSE funding in the Federal 2019 budget will address some of that deficit, leaving Ontario \$8M short. Exploration of alternative avenues for funding are underway to fund Ontario at the same level as previous years.

Charting Our Own Path Forward Initiative

There was much work on the Charting Our Own Path Forward initiative as a result of the co-developed policy proposal on K-12 First Nation Education Transformation. This is a step in the direction of First Nations control of education funding and programming and creates opportunity for First Nation education systems development. The policy implements an interim funding approach (IFA) based on the Provincial Grants for Student Needs until First Nations create their Regional Education Agreement.

The Ontario Technical Table - Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA) was developed as a joint table with First Nations PTO Education Directors and Indigenous Services Canada to discuss the development, implementation and on-going evaluation of the Interim Funding Approach for Ontario First Nations. OTTIFA made significant modifications and enhancements to the formula including a change in the provincial school boards used for comparative purposes in the formula, implemented a factor for remote, isolated and fly-in communities and ensured that no First Nation falls below their 2017/2018 special education funding allocation.

To support the rollout of this process, trained facilitators visited communities to share information on the IFA and to gather feedback on direction and supports required. Approximately 80% of First Nations received an initial visit. In November 2018, two (2) regional sessions were held to present communities with the first draft of their 2019/2020 education budget. All First Nations have received their 2019/20 budgets and COO and ISC continue to support communities with implementation and the new terms and conditions.



October meeting of the Leadership Committee on Language (LCOL) in Thunder Bay

In the Year Ahead:

- Special Education Information Sharing sessions
Parents Reaching out sessions
- Special Education review and gap analysis
- Interim Funding Approach
evaluation and enhancement
- Education Transformation Support sessions

Sector:

Environment



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Grand Chief Abram Benedict,
Akwasasne, Chair

Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon, Alternate Chair,
Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

Youth Delegate:
Julianna Lesage

Chiefs' Committee on Environment:

**Anishinabek Nation (AN)/
Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)**

Chief Gerry Duquette
Jr., Dokis First Nation

Regional Deputy Grand
Council **Chief Ed Wawia,**
Northern Superior

Chief Dean Roy,
Sheshegwaning First Nation

Chief Linda Debassige,
M'Chigeeng First Nation

Chief Franklin Paibomsai,
Whitefish River First Nation

Chief Reginald Niganobe,
Mississauga #8

**Association of Iroquois
& Allied Indians (AIAI)**

Chief Dean Sayers,
Ojibways of Batchewana

Chief Jessica Hill,
Oneida of the Thames

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

Chief Denise Stonefish,
Delaware Nation

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Deputy Grand Chief
Jason Smallboy

Grand Council Treaty
#3 (GCT#3)

Independent First
Nations (IFNs)

Chief Daniel Miskokomon,
Walpole Island First Nation

Chief Gregory Nadjiwon,
Chippewas of Nawash

Chief Stacey LaForme,
Mississauga of New Credit

Chief Wilfred King, Gull Bay

PC Environment Technicians/ Coordinators:

AN/UOI: **Rhonda Gagnon**

AIAI: **Chris Hoyos**

NAN: **Joselyn Cheechoo**

Mushkegowuk: **Vern**
Cheechoo

Grand Council Treaty
#3: **Chris Herc**

IFNs: **Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon**

Six Nations: **Amy Lickers,**
Nathan Wright

Gull Bay: **Beth Boon**

Mississaugas of New
Credit: **Margaret Sault**

Overview

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

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

Each Chief will provide oversight and guidance to specific matters falling within his or her portfolio. The portfolios within the Chiefs' Committee on the Environment are:

- **Water:** topics pertaining to safe potable drinking water, source water protection, Canada Ontario Agreement, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, fisheries, water policy/governance including water security, freshwater ecosystems and aquatic habitat, Areas of Concern, lake-wide management issues, and First Nations' rights, jurisdiction, authorities and responsibilities to water.



Chiefs Committee on Housing and Water Chiefs: Linda Debassige & R. Don Maracle, OFNTSC: Grace Martineau, COO; Kathleen Padulo, OFNTSC; (the late) Rob Olivia, NAN; Mike McKay,

- **Land:** topics pertaining to environmental regulatory gap on reserves, land use planning, forestry, Far North Act, transportation networks, sustainable development, environmental assessments, biodiversity, greenbelt initiatives – Ontario growth plans, impacts on hunting, trapping, and food gathering in First Nations territories.
- **Climate Change:** topics pertaining to a First Nations Climate Change Action Plan, First Nations Climate Change Summit, First Nations Climate Change framework, adaptation, and mitigation plans, Federal Carbon Pricing Backstop Program, Climate Action – local regional climate change issues, Species at Risk, with a focus on caribou herds.
- **Legislative, Policy Advocacy & Program Access:** topics pertaining to emerging legislative and policy areas, strategic legislative and policy for example:
- **Federal Environmental Reviews (FERR):** Modernization of the NEB, Impact Assessment Act, Fisheries Act, Navigation Protection Act

Current Events:

Climate Action: Since elected, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party under leadership of Premier Doug Ford, cancelled the existing climate change policy in Ontario. This action triggered the Federal Carbon Pricing backstop on the province in which the Ontario government is legally challenging the federal carbon tax. Meanwhile, with the release of its new plan, *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan*, it remains unclear on how First Nation communities will be included in collaborating on climate action funding and activities. With unclear climate action from the Ontario government platform, the Climate Change Coordinator duties transitioned into participating on the national climate action activities.



Environment Accomplishments: Highlight priorities, events and meetings from June 2018 to present

Climate Action

Focus shifted from nonexistent provincial climate action for First Nations to national climate action activities. Participation on Assembly of First Nations (AFN) climate action committees, specifically the Joint Committee on Climate Action and Advisory Committee on Climate Action and Environment. Distribution of federal climate action funding information following communication protocols.

Climate Change Information Sessions: August 4-6, 2018

Over 20 chiefs and 100 technical staff participated in this session which not only provided information to communities on new and groundbreaking solutions to climate change, but the communities also received a template that they can work with to achieve solutions in the community. A recap session is planned for the future to review and implement findings.

In the Year Ahead

- AFN Advisory Committee on Climate Action & Environment, Fredericton, New Brunswick, July 22, 2019.
- AFN Annual General Assembly, Fredericton, New Brunswick, July 23-25, 2019.

Four information sessions to be conducted during the summer and fall to build awareness of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) activities relating to the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat, including the development of federal policies, program elements and regulations.



Chiefs' Committee on Environment and Technicians Meetings

The Chiefs' Committee on Environment met in the fall of 2018 at the Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA) in Toronto. Presentations for discussion included the provincial government's reduction to Environmental programs. The Environment Commissioners Office - ECO (a third party independent environmental watch dog to the government of Ontario), was removed May 1. A resolution calling for the reinstatement of the ECO and petition by the Chiefs was mandated by the Chiefs in Assembly.

During the spring 2019 SCA in Toronto, the Chiefs' Committee on Environment met to receive updates on the numerous files from the Environment team at COO. These updates included Water legislation, Operations and Maintenance engagement sessions, climate change, Great Lakes initiatives, and a current overview of legislation and policy updates.

Chiefs of Ontario Information Sessions on Water Legislation

Two (2) Water Policy Information sessions were hosted by COO in Thunder Bay and Toronto. The purpose of the meetings was to exchange information on the ongoing initiatives and common concerns related to safe potable drinking water and operation and maintenance in First Nation communities and to prepare a wrap-up report of the discussions that took place in order to assist First Nations in Ontario to access information that would assist them meaningfully to participate in AFN engagement sessions held later in the spring.

The Human Rights to Water: A Guide for First Nations Communities and Advocates

COO and Human Rights Watch worked together on a guide as a follow-up to the 2016 Report: *Make It Safe: Canada's Obligation to End the First Nations Water Crisis*. This report seeks to set out how First Nations communities and advocates can use the human rights framework as an additional tool in advocating for safe drinking water. This guide seeks to provide an overview of the legal framework behind the human right to water and recommendations on how to engage government actors on the topic. Chiefs received a copy of the guide in their Spring SCA kits. Comments and feedback are welcome until September 2019.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) is a binational agreement between the United States and Canada. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is responsible for implementing the GLWQA. COO actively participates in Annex meetings regarding the implementation of the GLWQA. A summary of the Annex meetings attended by COO staff are listed below.



Annex 2: Lakewide Management – Lakewide Management Plans (LAMPs) are developed for each Great Lake and are used to guide the implementation of the GLWQA. There is a LAMP for each Great Lake; they are five (5) year plans, respectively. Lakewide Management is an Annex that is typically discussed at all Annex meetings.

Annex 3: Chemicals of Mutual Concern - The Annex 3 subcommittee met in Chicago, Illinois, on September 20, 2018. Topics covered at the Annex 3 meeting include: updates to the PBDE Strategy, PFOS Strategy, Update on the Draft Progress Report; as well as reporting on the Priorities for Science and Action.

Annex 4: Nutrients – The Annex 4 Subcommittee recently met in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on April 23-24, 2019. The objective of the meeting was to brief the subcommittee on updated phosphorus loads for Lake Erie, review the Adaptive Management plan, finalize the binational strategy, and prepare key messages for the June Public Forum.

Annex 9: Climate Change – The Annex subcommittee met via conference call on February 22, 2019 and in-person on September 24, 2018. Annex 9 focusses on climate change impacts and trends in the Great Lakes and provides an update on the Quarterly Climate Change Impacts and Outlook: Great Lakes Region March 2019 Report.

Annex 10: Science – The role of the Annex 10 Subcommittee is to coordinate, integrate, synthesize and address Great Lakes Science. Annex 10 has bi-monthly calls for the remainder of 2019 (May 14/July 9/ Sept 10/ Nov 12). The May 14, 2019, call provided a high-level overview on monitoring and science plans for 2019; as well as ship and vessel schedules in an effort to increase the collaboration efforts.

Canada-Ontario Agreement

On March 20, 2019, ECCC hosted a session to discuss considerations for a new Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) on Great Lakes and Water Quality Ecosystem Health. Discussion included: Great Lakes governance, the role of the International Joint Commission (IJC), as well as the development of a Great Lakes Collaborative. COO staff advocated for the inclusion of our Nations in working towards a new COA: Canada-Ontario-First Nations.

Annex 13: Engaging First Nations - In collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (MOECC) and ECCC, COO has coordinated Annual and Annex-specific meetings with First Nations specific to the 2014 COA, as per Annex 13. Since 2016, there have been three (3) annual COA meetings with Ontario and Canada, and specific meetings on Annex 1: Nutrients, Annex 6: Aquatic Invasive Species and most recently (2019) Annex 10: Science. Meeting summary reports are available.

Annex 10: Science – On February 6, 2019, COO hosted the Annex 10: Science workshop in conjunction with the Annex 13: Engaging First Nations meeting in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Approximately 40 First Nation representatives attended. The workshop provided an opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge of Great Lakes governance and initiatives as well as a Summary of Annex 10 as it pertains to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Discussion was also focused on how Federal and Provincial governments have engaged with TEK in relation to COA, as well as roundtable reflections, insights and recommendations. The summary report will be distributed to Chiefs at the 2019 June assembly.

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

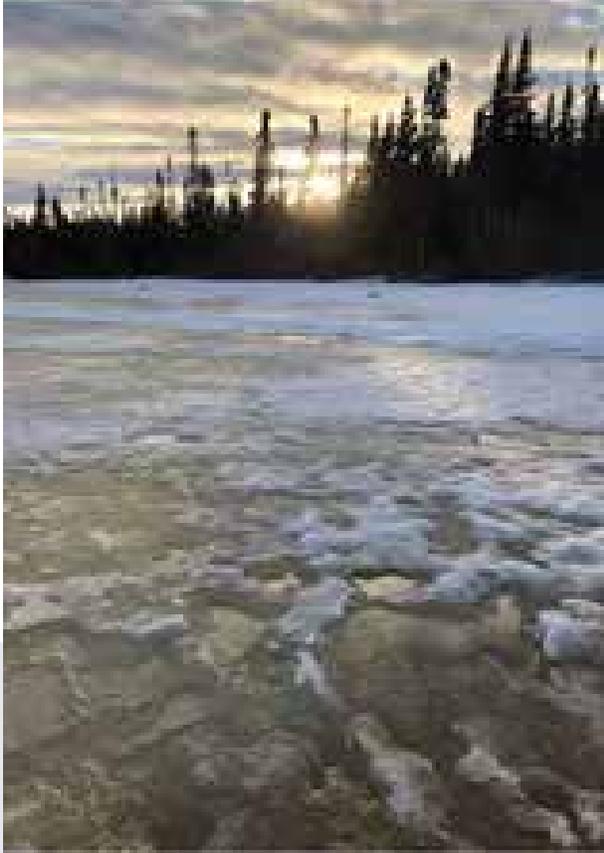
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Under the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (formerly the G.L. Charter Annex), the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has been coordinating meetings with U.S. Tribes and Ontario First Nations specific to Great Lakes water diversion applications from border cities. COO participated in the May 26, 2018, First Nation and Tribal meeting held at Kewadin Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, along with member First Nation communities and PTOs. Discussion focused on many of the diversion projects happening with our territories including Waukesha and Racine.

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Collaborative Summit

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Collaborative Summit was held in Toronto, Ontario, on May 1, 2019. The goal of the Summit was to discuss the Collaborative Strategy for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River proposing new and innovative protection approaches and enhanced alignment of government science, programs and investments. The recommendations will be submitted to the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and also shared with the Governments of Ontario and Quebec, Indigenous and municipal leaders and the broader community in the Region. The collaborative strategy will focus on climate change, toxins and other harmful pollutants, nutrients, and beaches and bacteriological contamination.

The Great Lakes Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of 131 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working together to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative works with local officials to integrate environmental, economic and social agendas. ~~Replace strikethrough:~~ The last Great Lakes Cities conference took place on June 5-7, 2019, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.



The Great Lakes Adaptation Forum was held on September 25-26, 2018, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The forum brought together practitioners and scholars from across the Great Lakes region of Canada and the U.S. to share climate adaptation and resilience solutions and products in an engaged learning program.

International Joint Commission

The International Joint Commission (IJC) hosted an Indigenous Peoples Workshop on May 10 and 11, 2019, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations to guide the Commission's future work with Indigenous Community.

Canada and the United States created the IJC because they recognized that each country is affected by the other's actions in lake and river systems along the border. The two countries cooperate to manage these waters and to protect them for the benefit of today's

citizens and future generations. The IJC is guided by the Boundary Waters Treaty signed by Canada and the United States in 1909. The treaty provides general principles rather than detailed prescriptions for preventing and resolving disputes over waters shared between the two countries and for settling other transboundary issues. The specific application of these principles is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Great Lakes Compact Council

Great Lakes Compact Council held their Regional Body and Compact Council meeting with Tribes and First Nations on June 20, 2018, in Duluth, Minnesota. First Nations in attendance reminded the Compact Council that water is *not* a commodity, it is the lifeblood of Mother Earth; it is what is needed for all life to exist.

Sector:

Health



Ontario Chiefs Committee On Health (OCCOH)

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler
Co-Chair, Political Confederacy Portfolio

Chief Elaine Johnston
Co-Chair, Political Confederacy Portfolio

Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon
Political Confederacy Portfolio

Chief R. Donald Maracle
Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Chief Tobi Mitchell
Independent First Nations

Vacant
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Ed Wawia
Anishinabek Nation/Union of Ontario Indians

Chief Kathy Kishiqueb
Grand Council Treaty #3

Sherry-Lyn Hill-Pierce
Six Nations of the Grand River

Health Coordination Unit (HCU)

Vacant
Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Suzanne Nicholas
Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Lyndia Jones
Independent First Nations

Jamie Restoule
Anishinabek Nation/Union of Ontario Indians

Jennifer McKibbon
Grand Council Treaty #3

Lori Davis Hill
Six Nations of the Grand River

Accomplishments:

Co-ordination of the Annual Health Forum – February 26, 27 and 28, 2019.

Theme: *Knowledge Transfer: Sharing our Stories, Sharing our Strengths*

Participants: 300 delegates/observers
Information Booths: 12 organizations

Opportunities: Speakers Corner to share the great activities and progress in First Nation communities.
Workshops/Presentations: 13 Workshops and 5 Panel Presentations.

Pre- workshops: Bi-Annual Health Research Symposium

Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee

** Waiting to determine future direction by the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health and priorities moving forward. Anticipate meeting to occur before All Ontario Chiefs Conference June 2019.

Accomplishments:

The Chiefs of Ontario convened a First Nations caucus meeting on February 15, 2018, seven years after their formation, to reflect on how well the Working Groups established by the Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officers Committee (TFNHSOC) are serving the needs of political territorial organizations (PTOs) and First Nation communities.



Chiefs of Ontario, Director of Health, Carmen Jones with Bernadette deGonzague, Alice Longboat and Charnele Sondezi.

Recommendations on TFNHSOC From the Three Working Groups

Provide clarity on:

1. First Nations roles and representation in TFNHSOC and the Working Groups;
2. How First Nations and governments work together;
3. Relationships with other health organizations serving First Nations;
4. Ensure balanced representation and input to the Working Groups between government and First Nations, and technical and policy/strategy levels;
5. Consider a person-focused approach to First Nations representation including participation by traditional knowledge keepers/healers, LGBTQ2S and youth, and other relevant community members;
6. Provide direction to allow First Nations to take on a greater leadership role in the Working Groups;
7. Address the funding and approvals cycle, to be streamlined in order to reduce administrative delays and lapses in funding. Timelines for the approval of funds, implementation of programs, and reporting requirements must be realistic;
8. Ensure that the trilateral activities are addressed through the lens of health transformation;
9. Consider the role of interministerial relationships with respect to future activities;
10. Continue to provide adequate funding for the caucus and service provider meetings, and implementation of work plan activities; and
11. Increase accountability of the trilateral process by improving information flows between communities and TFNHSOC/Working Groups regarding program funding decisions and implementation, conduct an analysis of the proportion of funding that directly benefits communities, and support the development by the technical tables of a policy review.

In the Year Ahead: (2019-2020)

- Seeking direction from Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health on future Next Steps of the Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee
- Given the Provincial Election and Shut-Down by Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), we are waiting to determine future direction on key priority activities which include MOHLTC
- Finalization of the cultural competency modules and develop implementation plan to roll out to First Nations and Public Health Units
- Continue to support SLFNHA's ACW model and WAHA's model development



Toronto Council Fire All Nations Drum Group at the Health Forum 2019

- Continue discussions on the OPHS review
- Further develop the SDOH framework options for the PHWG
- Strengthen linkages with the Mental Health and Addictions Working Group, the Data Management Working Group and Health Promotion For Diabetes Management-Working Group
- Continue to explore linkages in the area of children and youth for the PHWG
- Continued information sharing/support for communities to explore alternate models/tools
- Knowledge-sharing on:
 - Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) 2017 Score Card on the Mental Health of Children and Youth in Ontario; have requested ongoing First Nations specific analysis of the data with IC/ES.
- Training:
 - Three (3) training sessions on Mental Health/Trauma Informed Approaches to Care Training.
 - Two (2) certificate training sessions on Incident Management Systems with a focus on social/mental health emergencies were provided using the Provincial curriculum to align with regional processes.

Health Accomplishments

2018/19 Achievements

- Completed second year of Photovoice project to support youth Life Promotion in partnership with COO OFNYPC, UWO and Ontario Brain Institute. Coordinator position was vacant from April 30 – September 2018; some changes to the workplan were necessitated by the lapse.
- Shared Literature Review on impacts of maternal opioid use on infants and families with Community Wellness Development Teams, explored alignment with other research on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and how the work can inform and define policy and program needs for prevention and support.
- The MHAWG continues to provide expertise on submissions for provincial and Federal initiatives, Mental Health resource capacity training needs, public health issues related to addictions such as opioid overdose and Naloxone needs for distribution and education, and other relevant issues as needed.

- Mental Health and Addictions were highlighted at the COO Health Forum, including Harm reduction approaches, several workshops focusing on community successes in land-based programming for Addictions, traditional food.
- Resolution: Health Human Resources Strategy 18/18: Identify needs and advocate for training resources to help develop a comprehensive and responsive First Nations workforce to address mental health and addictions in communities through traditional and western approaches.
- Resolution: Opioid Surveillance Resolution 20/18 work will continue and expand on the knowledge base of opioid use among Ontario First Nations.

TFNHSOC Diabetes/Health Promotion Working Group

The Provincial election put a hold on opportunities to meet and there was no action on this working group this fiscal year. There is intent to continue with this group and re-convene as soon as funding is confirmed.

In the Year Ahead:

- Increasing capacity of First Nations partners at TFNHSOC to participate and drive initiatives moving forward; consideration to having technical expertise participate (observer capacity) Support the development of “Train the Trainer” programming to provide more flexible training over the course of the year (e.g., Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, Trauma-Informed Care);
- Knowledge-sharing activities will focus specifically on mental health and addictions for First Nations communities (opioid surveillance, harm reduction strategies, impacts of legalization of cannabis);
- Opportunities to advocate for midwifery training and services in community; and Coordinating approaches to opioid surveillance and treatment between the TFNHSOC working groups, including training on the Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, Trauma-informed care, and other areas as identified.

Midwifery

Resolution 19/16: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS MIDWIFERY IN ONTARIO calls for support of the development of a First Nation’s Midwifery Strategy in partnership with the Association of Ontario Midwives. COO supported a midwifery summit in Thunder Bay with funding provided by FNIHB Ontario Region to provide an opportunity to increase awareness and raise the profile of Midwifery among Ontario First Nations, and will continue to provide advocacy and support this important aspect of maternal and child health.

Task Group on Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation

In the Year Ahead:

The discussion paper was completed and approved by the Chiefs in Assembly next steps for follow up in the 2019-20 fiscal year. The final draft will be distributed at the June assembly. The work of the Task Group with AFN, as per AFN national resolution 11/17.

Chief Operating Officer will coordinate and seek advice and support from Social, Health, and Youth Coordinator.

Achieving First Nation Transformative Change in Ontario

Accomplishments:

COO partnered with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN); Association of Iroquois and Allied Nations (AIAI); Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT#3); Anishinabek Nation (AN)/Union of Ontario Indians (UOI); and, the Independent First Nations (IFN) to undertake a series of First Nations Health Engagement Sessions which occurred between December 2017 – September 2018 and provided an opportunity for First Nations in Ontario to discuss and identify structural and systemic changes required to make the present health system more responsive, culturally appropriate and effective for First Nations in Ontario. However, the immediate needs of First Nations have to be addressed throughout this health transformation process.

There were several key themes identified throughout the regional engagement sessions. Some of the key themes include the following:

- The need for research and data in First Nations communities, to identify trends and demonstrate need in communities. There is a need for comprehensive data collection occurring in First Nations across all programming sectors;
- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) continue to be a challenge for First Nations. More funding is required within the program;
- Capacity is required within communities, from administration to human resources to infrastructure;
- First Nations have unique health needs, including historical and intergenerational trauma that impact their health; however, access to health services is a challenge for First Nations;
- Health services delivery for First Nations varies across the province; however, specific needs, such as cultural and traditional health services, culturally competent health services, equity and equality, access and systemic change are needed;
- Agreements and funding need to be flexible, adequate and sustainable;
- Planning is required, including the development and implementation of community health plans;
- Provincial and federal policies have to be changed to reflect the needs of First Nations;
- Engagement of First Nations community members was identified as a challenge. Health transformation must include all members of the community and engagement is key; and,
- Relationships and partnerships are integral to developing and implementing a health system that meets the needs of First Nations.

Short-, medium- and long-term goals were also identified, with the long-term goal being increasing knowledge and capacity in First Nations for the gradual implementation of a First Nations health delivery model, developed and delivered by First Nations.

Discussions also occurred on potential governance models. The participants identified existing models and spoke to principles that must be included in any model that would be developed - specifically, Regional Health Authority (RHA) model(s); Shared Services Model/s; as well as BC's First Nation Health Authority paradigm.

In the Year Ahead:

Bill-74:

On April 2, 2019, Chief Elaine Johnston (Co-Chair of the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health) was invited to speak to the Standing Committee on Social Policy on behalf of COO. At this time, Chief Johnston stressed the inadequacy of Ontario to duly consult First Nations regarding Bill-74 and its proposed changes to health systems in Ontario. In addition, First Nation Leadership requires a designated voice in any further discussions and processes that may impact our citizens, particularly at the Premiers Health Council as well as a First Nation-specific Advisory Council – not a pan-Aboriginal “Indigenous Council”.

However, while the Ministry of Health did respond later that week with a commitment to ensure the establishment of a First Nation Advisory Council, Leadership passed a resolution at the Spring 2019 Special Chiefs Assembly rejecting Bill-74 due to the lack of meaningful engagement with First Nations in its drafting.

Further remediation discussions with the Province are anticipated.



Members of the Ontario First Nations Youth Council at the Health Forum 2019

Health System Transformation

In the effort to ensure complete transparency, COO Health contracted the professional services of Hunter-Courchene Consulting to co-facilitate and draft the consolidated report resulting from the various health system transformation engagement sessions. A draft document was received on April 15 and will be reviewed by the respective participating PTO, Independents, and Unaffiliated First Nations to validate preliminary findings and recommendations.

Non- Insured Health Benefits Navigators NIHB Navigators Accomplishments:

Non Insured Health Benefits Joint Review

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

Meetings with First Nation and Health Organizations in Ontario

- Meeting with Anishnawbe Health Toronto along with AFN NIHB Lead regarding NIHB coverage for Healers/Elders and seeing out-of-province Healers/Elders, August 28, 2018.
- Northern Navigator participated in Education Collaborative on Indigenous Perceptions of Dementia – November 1, 2018. Discussion on First Nation elderly support during access to health care is ongoing.
- NIHB Orientation and Update with Ontario Region, Ottawa - November 13, 2018.
- Participated in diabetes medication and access discussion with Dilico Health Team, NIHB Drug Exception Centre (DEC), NIHB Representative from Anishinabek Nation and Representatives from Cancer Care Ontario - January 14, 2019.

- Participated in discussion with NIHB Representative from Anishinabek Nation, Representative from Cancer Care Ontario and NIHB Drug Exception Center regarding vaccine Shingrix; received an NIHB update regarding recommendations from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner on the collection of PHI- March 22, 2019.
- Northern Navigator participates and does networking with health services and system in Northern Ontario.

In the Year Ahead:

Non-Insured Health Benefits

NIHB Navigators will continue to provide support and advocacy to First Nations citizens to reduce barriers and increase access to the NIHB benefits and other health services by navigating, assisting in appeals, assisting with denied benefits before going through the appeal process.

- Work on coordinating services for NIHB clients accessing medical care in Toronto and outreach to other hospitals accessed by First Nations.
- Continue to work with Ontario FNIHB to improve NIHB services for First Nations and identifying solutions.
- Work on updating and creating communication tools on NIHB for First Nations and providers.
- Continue to do outreach and information sessions to increase knowledge on NIHB.
- Continue to be engaged in the Joint Review Process, and collaborate with providers.
- Continue to work with NIHB regionally and nationally on seamless process for First Nations to obtain NIHB benefits and increase access to services.

Jordan's Principle Liaison

In 2017, The Jordan's Principle Working Group comprised of PTO Jordan's Principle Navigators and FNIHB Jordan Principle Representatives was created to discuss process issues for Ontario. The Northern NIHB Navigator currently acts as a Jordan's Principle Liaison and coordinates activities or meetings between FNIHB and Jordan's Principle Navigators as needed, and assisting with broad policy issues. COO provides technical support such as with meetings as needed. The Jordan's Principle Liaison also participates on the AFN Jordan's Principle Action Table and the ISC Jordan's Principle Oversight Committee

In the Year Ahead:

Jordan's Principle

- Continue to be informed of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings as it relates to Jordan's Principle.
- Coordinate discussion paper on Jordan's Principle long-term implementation options for First Nations in Ontario. Work with Ontario Region's Jordan's Principle Technical Working Group and identifying and resolving gaps in Jordan's Principle Process in Ontario.
- Support and work with First Nations and First Nation organization to create Jordan's Principle Models that is community-based and addresses unmet needs for children and families.
- Work with other sectors on Jordan's Principle implementation as needed.
- Planning for a Jordan's Principle Exchange Gathering for front line workers in the fall of 2019.

Health Research Sector:

Accomplishments:

Reducing the Burden of Diabetes on First Nation Communities

Approved by the Health Coordination Unit (HCU), this project is in its final year. It is a partnership between Queens University, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES), and Laurentian University. The project has been approved by the HCU and the First Nations Data Governance Committee for the use of the Indian Registry System to link to IC/ES administrative data bases. As well, five (5) communities have agreed to participate in the qualitative portion of the project through interviews. The Patient Advisory Group is a key element of the project as they provide input and feedback on the overall project.

The Diabetes Research project was presented to the HCU in January 2019. The project was highlighted in one of the Health Forum workshops in February 2019. The full Atlas Report is in progress and the writers group planned to meet in late April 2019. The Diabetes Peoples Report will be developed with fact sheets and recommendations for leadership to use to advocate on behalf of First Nations. An Executive Summary of the Report will be available at the annual AOCC in June 2019.

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

This Study is being conducted by COO in partnership with Laurentian University and the IC/ES. This project will be the first to study health services use among older First Nations people in Ontario in a culturally-driven, comprehensive, and inclusive way. This study is in the final stages of writing.

Regional Health Survey Phase III (RHS)

The RHS Phase III is complete. COO is in the final stages of drafting the Ontario RHS Peoples Report 2017-2018 and should be released by summer 2019.

Chronic Conditions: Prevalence, incidence and mortality for 18 chronic conditions in First Nations populations in Ontario [Ontario Population Trends in Improved Mortality: Informing Sustainability & Equity of the health care system (OPTIMIZE) study]. The data from this project was released at the 2nd Bi-Annual Research Symposium held on February 25, 2019.

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

Health Research Symposium

The 2nd Bi-Annual Health Research Symposium entitled “Moving Forward in First Nations Health Research” was held on February 25, 2019, in Toronto. There were 49 attendees including guest speakers. Five (5) studies were presented and updates provided to participants. They were: Cancer in First Nations People in Ontario: Incidence, Mortality, Survival and Prevalence; Chronic Disease and Mortality Trends Among First Nations People in Ontario; Ontario First Nations Aging Study; Opioid Use Among First Nations People in Ontario; and Reducing the Burden of Diabetes on First Nations People in Ontario. Additionally, two (2) panels consisting of national and provincial representatives from: Canadian Institutes of Health Research-Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Research (CIHR-IIPH), First Nation Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) and the Ontario Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit held informal fireside chats covering topics specific to the future of First Nations research. Attendees participated in small groups to consider health research priorities. A detailed report is expected early summer of 2019.

Home and Community Care

In the fall of 2016, COO and MOHLTC collaborated to launch the First Nations Advisory Committee to develop collaboration with First Nations on the investment of nearly \$222M over three (3) years followed by \$104.5M. The committee is community driven with two (2) representatives designated from each of the PTOs/Independents.

Key Challenges:

1. More seniors with complex needs while experiencing home care staff shortages;
2. Multiple funders and service providers at the federal and provincial levels with gaps in service;
3. Little coordination between sectors (hospitals, primary care, community-based care teams);
4. Align federal and provincial services in First Nations communities;
5. Address planning issues within home care and palliative care with COO and FNIHB;
6. Address training issues with MOHLTC and FNIHB (discharge planning, case management, Personal Support Workers, etc.); and
7. Collaborate with OPCN to identify and support implementation of flexible hospice models and to address palliative care needs.

Key Recommendations:

1. Increased provision of training for culturally-safe care in First Nations communities;
2. Approve training for communities based on the communities' priorities;
3. Provide opportunities for collaboration at the federal, provincial and First Nation levels;
4. Streamline reporting within the federal and provincial governments;
5. Consider developing a collaborative resource to share information and training opportunities; and

6. Coordination of federal and provincial resources to stabilize home care in communities.

Long Term Care:

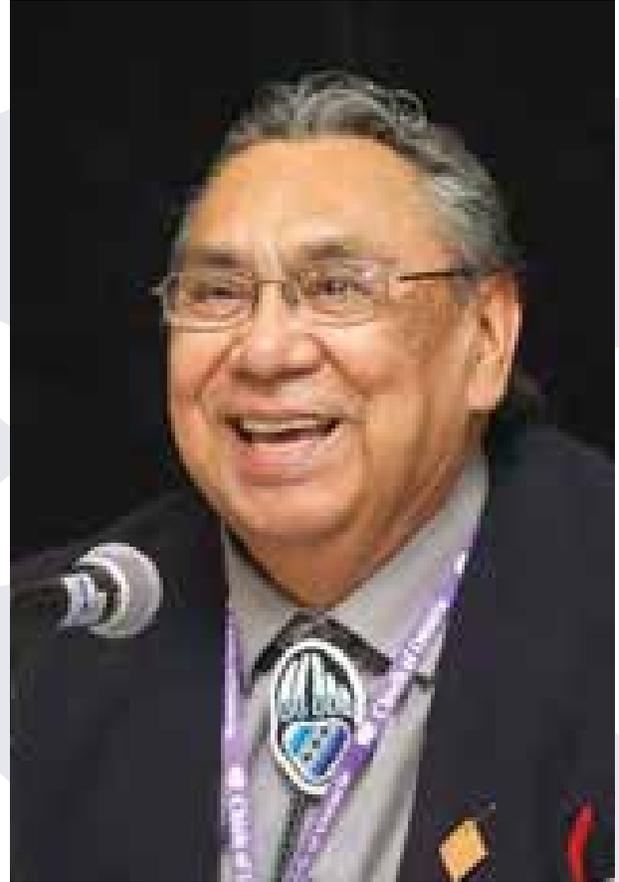
AOCC Resolution 22/17 saw the development of a Tripartite Working Group between both levels of government and First Nations.

The results of these meetings are: Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and Fort William First Nation were to establish a long-term care facility in their First Nation. Six Nations was also granted more beds for their existing long-term care home. Capital funding is still ongoing. Future meetings are being determined.

E-Health

First Nations Health Information Management Project

The First Nations Health Information Management in Ontario (FNHIMiO), led by the Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KMAG) continued to identify the requirements to implement and sustain the use of digital health tools provided by the province or available in the market place that improve health information management within First Nations health service organizations. The project developed and validated privacy and security policies, tools, templates, and checklists to support planning, implementation, adoption, and use of health information management tools. KMAG also developed a road map to implement FNHIMiO across the province. KMAG has also developed a path forward in the development of a First Nation Health Information Management System. This idea will need support by leadership on how to move forward.



Sector:

Social



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Grand Chief Joel Abram, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Chiefs Committee on Social:

Councillor Melba Thomas, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Chief Arnold Paul, Temagami First Nation – Independent First Nations

Chief Dan Miskokomon, Bkejwanong Territory – Independent First Nations

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

Ogimaa Duke Peltier, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory – Anishinabek Nation

Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon – Anishinabek Nation

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

Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Grand Chief Soloman, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Vacant, Grant Council Treaty #3

Social Sector Coordination Unit:

Diane Maracle-Nadjiwon, Independent First Nations

Arliss Sky, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Debbie Lipscombe, Grand Council Treaty #3

Bobby Narcisse, Nishnawbi Aski Nation

Adrienne Pelletier, Anishinabek Nation

Robyn Mitchell, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

First Nation Women's Caucus:

Rebecca Timms, Anishinabek Nation

Donna Debassige, Anishinabek Nation

Lyndia Jones, Independent First Nation

Isobel White, Grand Council Treaty #3

Sandra Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Chief Carolyn Francis, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Vacant, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians

Richelle Ritchie, Independent First Nations – Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council

Vacant, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Overview

The Social Sector provides coordination support, technical information, and recommendations to the CCOS, SSCU, Joint Social Services Table (JSST), Political Confederacy and COO on child welfare, social assistance, and women's issues.

Social Accomplishments:

Technical Table on Child and Family Well-Being

The Technical Table is comprised of Indigenous Services Canada – Ontario Region, Ontario Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services, the SSCU, and the CCOS. The Technical Table met 12 times over the year to discuss, review, and make decisions regarding the Ontario Special Study, Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, and the Ontario First Nations Child and Family Services Policy and Funding Reform Joint Commitment implementation work plan.



First Nation Women's Caucus and Front Line Workers participated in a Trauma Incident Reduction Training with the Trauma Resolution Centre

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

Grand Chief Joel Abram and Ruby Miller participate at the National Advisory Committee and the Consultation Committee on Child Welfare with COO's lawyers from OKT to discuss implementation of the tribunal's orders from an Ontario First Nation perspective. In the Federal Budget 2018, the government announced additional funding services with Ontario First Nations to receive \$51.79 million in total prevention funding in the following amounts:

- a. Immediate Relief Prevention Funding – \$12.4 million;
- b. Ramp-Up – Immediate Relief Funding – \$21.78 million; and
- c. Community Well-being & Jurisdiction Initiative Funding – \$17.6 million.

For 2019-2020, Ontario First Nations will receive \$39.89 million in prevention funding in the following amounts:

- a. Immediate Relief Prevention Funding – \$15.9 million;
- b. Ramp-Up – Immediate Relief Funding – \$6.38 million; and
- c. Community Well-being & Jurisdiction Initiative Funding – \$17.6 million.

The Tribunal's jurisdiction over its orders was to end on March 31, 2019. COO has filed or is participating in a variety of motions before the Tribunal to get orders to lock down aspects of immediate relief and long-term reform.

Ontario Special Study

The SSCU advises the CCOS on the technical and political implications of the Ontario Special Study (OSS). MNP was originally to write and deliver the OSS; however, their product given to the SSCU was unsatisfactory and as a result, the SSCU did not accept the final report. Currently, INDsight Consulting are the consultants that have taken on the remaining activities of the OSS. The SSCU plus a technical working group have been working with the consultants to ensure the funding model, service delivery model and recommendations are provided to the Chiefs in Assembly in a timely manner. They expect to have a final product for June 2019.

Joint Social Services Table

The JSST is comprised of up to two (2) representatives from all of the Provincial Territorial Organizations, Independent First Nations, Six Nations of the Grand River, Niigaaniin Services, Min-O-Qwe-Ke-Ga-Bwe'in Social Services, Stepping Stones Support Services, and the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association. The JSST met five (5) times throughout the year to discuss service planning at First Nation social assistance delivery sites, policy directives, priorities, and the changes to social assistance and Ontario disability.

Early Learning and Child Care

The SSCU monitor and advise on the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework and funding roll-out. The SSCU provides options to CCOS to determine funding options going forward. The SSCU met four times to discuss ELCC. The 2019-2020 funding allocation has been determined to use the Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership (OFNLP) funding formula.

Walking Together – Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women

The Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women (EVAIW) Strategy consists of an Executive Committee and six (6) Provincial Committees. The membership includes seven (7) Ontario Indigenous organizations and seven (7) Ontario Ministries. The Provincial Committees met nine (9) times, the Executive Committee met once, and the Indigenous Caucus of the EC met twice. The EVAIW Strategy's mandated closed as of March 31, 2019; however, Indigenous partners at the table have agreed to work together in the future. This work begins with correspondence to the All Parliamentary Party to End Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

First Nation Women's Caucus

The FNWC met four (4) times throughout the year and participated on 10 conference calls. The FNWC participated in a Trauma Incident Reduction Training with the Trauma Resolution Centre. The FNWC additionally created a three-year strategic plan outlining the goal to complete annual community based initiatives. The FNWC met to discuss the provincial EVAIW strategy, the National Inquiry, human trafficking, First Nation Women's Leadership, and forced/coerced sterilization of Indigenous women.



Rebecca Timms and Donna Debassige of the First Nations Women's Caucus

In the Year Ahead:

- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal
 - Ending as of March 31, 2019 (extended)
 - Motions filled before the Tribunals closing date
- Ontario Special Study completed
 - New funding mechanism
 - New service delivery model
 - Next steps – further development
- Early Learning and Child Care
 - Funding dispersed
 - Technical support for planning
- Child Welfare
 - Funding dispersed
 - Technical support for Child Welfare Law development
 - Technical support for Child Welfare Service Delivery
- Social Assistance
 - Technical support
- Capital Funding – Day Care, Child Welfare Services
 - Technical support
- Joint Social Services Table
 - Meeting in May 2019
 - JSST co-development continued
- Third Family Gathering: Charting a Path Forward for Youth
- Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Strategy

Sector:

Youth



Political Confederacy Portfolio Holder/ Alternates

Grand Council Chief Glen Hare, Anishinabek Nation

Grand Chief Joel Abram, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians



Minister of Indigenous Services, Seamus O.Regan with members of the OFNYPC

Overview

Under the auspices of the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) is mandated to discuss, address, and provide a unified voice on regional and national priorities affecting First Nations youth in the communities. Through youth engagement and capacity building, the OFNYPC strives to empower young people to lead change and contribute to decision-making processes in their communities. The OFNYPC take leadership roles on the advocacy of issues affecting First Nations youth across the province, to all levels of governing bodies.

Youth Accomplishments:

OFNYPC Meeting with Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR): June 18, 2018

Members of the OFNYPC met with MIRR Deputy Ministers Deborah Richardson and Shawn Batiste, alongside staff. The basis of the meeting was to provide updates on Government initiatives developed in response to youth issues, to discuss mutual priorities and potential partnerships and to reaffirm an open relationship on both ends moving forward.

OFNYPC Meeting: September 28, 2018

Members of OFNYPC met with Indigenous Affairs Ontario as a follow-up to a number of issues raised at the June meeting. OFNYPC also provided updates on their regional youth councils and files, provided input into a proposal for a youth gathering under Canada's Tobacco Strategy as well as draft recommendations created in Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women.

Special Chiefs Assembly: November 20-22, 2018

Members of OFNYPC participated in COO's fall Special Chiefs Assembly. OFNYPC also participated in a youth engagement session with the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation regarding Mental Health. OFNYPC convened a meeting to discuss priority issues and also met with the Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald.

Stop the Framework Rally – Parliament Hill: December 4, 2018

Members of OFNYPC travelled to Ottawa to support the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Youth Council in their call-to-action to stop the Federal Governments Proposed Federal Framework on the Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights.

Chiefs of Ontario Annual Health Forum: February 25-28, 2019

OFNYPC attended and presented at the COO Annual Health Forum using a platform called “OFNYPC Talks” – a spin on Walrus Talks that allowed each participant five (5) minutes to share their point of view on a topic of their choice. Topics ranged from Addictions, Child Welfare, Culture and Language and LGBTQ2S Advocacy.

OFNYPC Youth Gathering on Tobacco and Cannabis: March 22-24, 2019

OFNYPC planned, delivered and facilitated over 100 youth participants to gather to discuss the topics of Tobacco and Cannabis. A wide range of topics were covered including traditional uses and planting of tobacco, public policy in creating smoke-free spaces, Cannabis Legalization, youth empowerment in community law creation, and mental health effects of using cannabis at a young age.

OFNYPC Retreat and Meeting: March 30-31, 2019

OFNYPC and members of Six Nations Youth Council met to revise the mandate and roles of the OFNYPC, to strategize future priorities and activities, and discuss ways to improve communications amongst the council and youth in communities. A revamped Terms of Reference, strategic plans and work plans were created as a result of the meeting.

Stories from our Roots Facilitators Training:

October 20-21, 2018 – Thunder Bay;

November 17-18, 2018 – Kenora

Approximately 15-20 participants attended each session. Participants left with training and certification in both safeTALK and PhotoVoice Facilitators training; meaning they are able to deliver workshops in their individual communities using the Stories from our Roots curriculum.



OFNYPC Representative Mark Hill at the AIAI Framework Rally in Ottawa

February 4-8, 2019 – London

“Special edition” partnership with TakingITGlobal. This gathering brought 40 youth and media mentors in from imagineNative Film + Media Arts festival to learn how to create videos to tell a story. Each community in attendance received a technology kit; along with each of the PTOs/IFN/OFNYPC – to ensure every community has access if needed.

In the Year Ahead:

- Continue Stories from our Roots facilitators training for youth across the province
- Revamped Terms of Reference to present to Chiefs in Assembly at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference
- Participation and Presentation at the Indigenous Services Canada Ontario Region Joint Gathering
- Partnership Development with various organizations and youth groups

Sector:

Communications

.....

Overview

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

Communications, Outreach and Public Awareness

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

Communications and the tools it uses is an essential component for COO in reaching out to First Nation citizens and communities with information and expressing the views and concerns to mainstream media and non-Indigenous people. By having a citizen-based focus for the external portion of our communications strategy, we begin the process of enabling First Nation citizens to be active, become better informed and defenders of their culture, languages, and rights.

As part of the ongoing service, the communications department strives to provide timely and informative materials and statements either proactively or on a reactive basis. Over the past year, the department experienced some new challenges in delivery and responsiveness due to a decrease in operational capacity affecting the department's ability to acquire information and analysis in a timely manner. A further challenge over the last year has been a change in the provincial government and adjusting to a new communications style and developing a more collaborative relationship with the various provincial ministries. The department will continue to analyse alternative ways to address these situations in order to maintain a high quality of service for First Nation leadership and communities.

Accomplishments

The communications team continues to make progress on expanding and implementing the existing communications strategy, and using current technology and social media to inform First Nations and non-Indigenous peoples of issues, news and events.



Jr. Communications Officer, Genna Benson with Director of Communications, Scott Cavan at the Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly in November



Ontario Regional Chief, RoseAnne Archibald joins Chiefs and delegates in Ottawa at the AIAI Framework Rally in Ottawa

Accomplishments of note:

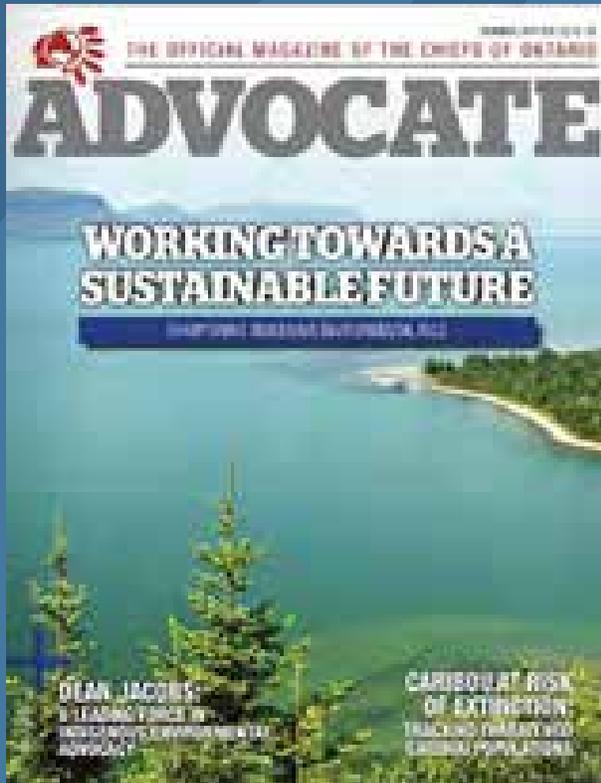
- Transitioned to a new website with a more comprehensive calendar and resource database
- Launched two (2) editions of The Advocate in the first half of 2019
- Promotion of more diverse events Ontario-wide to increase community knowledge and COO's participation at the ground level
- Enhanced still photography and video ability, with attendance at all COO events, annual sector conferences, special meetings, etc., are now routinely captured by the department, as well upgraded the equipment to increase the quality and ability to produce in-house video's, and media materials
- Rebranding with new design for the Chiefs of Ontario Secretariat. New branding was produced for use in all outgoing and public COO materials (memos, letterheads, press releases, PowerPoint presentations and business cards)
- Launched new Registration Website which allows visitors, delegates, and observers to register for events and conferences and pay directly via online payment. This will now be a standard for all upcoming conferences and events

Media Relations

The department also supports the Regional Chief and other First Nation leadership and organizations with media relations activities when appropriate and required.

Activities and responsibilities include:

- Responding to government announcements and mainstream issues about First Nations through news releases, press conferences, and social media posts, etc.
- Identifying key media contacts and continually building upon and reorganizing database of media contacts, regionally and nationally.
- Analysing incoming media requests for appropriateness by communicating with journalists to determine subject, deadline and line of questioning. Preparing Ontario Regional Chief or alternative spokesperson, such as First Nation leadership, for media interviews by gathering any relevant updates, briefing notes and/or speaking notes prior to media interviews.
- Media outlets are routinely monitored throughout the day by communications with relevant articles forwarded throughout the organization or leadership as necessary.



Publication

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

Over 3,000 copies were printed with an estimated readership of over 8,100, distributed to all 633 First Nations across Canada with a large focus on Ontario, friendship centers, all Provincial Territorial Organizations and various government agencies and advertisers. The publication is sent via direct mail and made available through social media outlets. The publication will attract new potential sponsors for COO events and forums and provide a forum for community chiefs to promote initiatives and projects.

The latest, Issue #6, will be distributed the Summer of 2019.

Ontario Regional Chief Support

Supporting the Ontario Regional Chief through updates, taking media requests, providing speaking points and support documents for various events as required.

Chiefs of Ontario Website and Social Media

Our newly designed website is a foundational tool that COO utilizes to connect with First Nation communities. It is the primary hub for information related to all COO activities and also connects with our social media platforms. First Nations are more connected than ever before in their communities and most First Nation citizens are using social media in order to obtain information about their communities or political actions taken by First Nations organizations.

Through effective use of social media, we continually try to be a trusted resource for information for First Nations in Ontario and utilizing this effective tool for political action and information sharing.

The Social Media tools currently being utilized are:

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

Twitter - COO Twitter and Ontario Regional Chief Twitter accounts are active almost daily and are followed by Chiefs, community members, government leaders, industry and ministries and the general public, with the audience continually growing. The COO account had 14,600 Followers on Twitter starting last year, growing to our current audience size of 21,400 as of May 2019, averaging over 50 tweets per month.

Instagram

As for general and responsive statements, the communications department has distributed over 60 News Releases, Statements, Communiqués to media and First Nations from June 2018 to May 2019.



Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde at the Chiefs of Ontario Chiefs Assembly in April 2019



Jr. Communications Officer, Genna Benson



Director of Communications, Scott Cavan and Grand Chief, Abram Benedict

Advancing Our Nations: Nipissing First Nation Hosts Historic 44th Annual All Ontario Chiefs Conference

It was an historic 44th All Ontario Chiefs Conference this year as the first female Regional Chief was elected to lead the 133 First Nations over the next three years.

RoseAnne Archibald of Taykwa Tagamou Nation was elected through a traditional selection process at the annual All Ontario Chiefs conference held in Nipissing First Nation June 26-28.

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare says he's pleased a woman was elected to the role for the first time. "That gives us a good picture of where our governance is going in our communities," he said. "There are more female leaders in our communities and that's so awesome to see. We're getting more balance and there are lots of new ideas at the table."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler said, "I am confident she will be a strong advocate for the North in this challenging new role. I would like to acknowledge former Regional Chief Isadore Day and thank him for his leadership over the past three years. We look forward to working closely with RoseAnne and strengthening our relationship with Chiefs of Ontario."

According to reports, one of Regional Chief Archibald's main priorities will be to build relationships between communities, between governments, and between cultures. "It would really be a step forward in all relations — First Nations and non-Indigenous relations — if we focused on things that we could work together on," she said. "Then, rather than fight, we can actually build things together."

The conference's theme was 'Securing a Future For Our Children: Advancing Our Nations' and opened with a Grand Entry played in by drum groups Red Hawk Drummers from Nipissing First Nation and the Grand Council Treaty #3 Drum Keepers.

Nipissing Elder Evelyn McLeod led the opening prayer with welcome addresses by Chief Scott McLeod, MP Anthony Rota, MPP Vic Fedeli, Mayor of West Nipissing Joanne Savage and former Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day.

After sector updates from Elders, youth, education and health, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee was honoured for his lifetime of work serving the people of Anishinabek Territory.

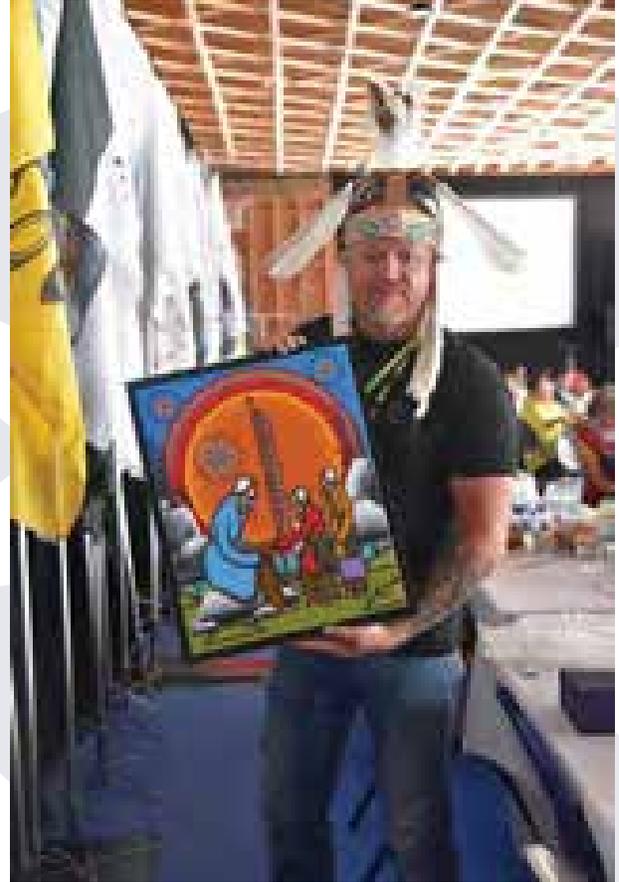
In the evening Nipissing hosted a community feast, fish fry and open mic talent show.

Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod was proud to host the conference this past year giving him the opportunity to not only showcase his community's culture and hospitality but also highlight progressive ventures and projects currently in the works.

"We are very proud of the opportunity to showcase this new \$750,000 hockey arena, which was funded through our land claim settlement," said Chief Scott McLeod. "Our youth told us they wanted a place for kids of all ages to gather and play sports. This is our commitment to them, and our overall commitment to invest land claim funds for the betterment of our community."

Nipissing First Nation also hosted an award presentation before opening ceremonies where they received a national public sector leadership award from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) and Deloitte.

Nipissing First Nation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) received the national award for their strategic collaboration and shared resource stewardship efforts on Lake Nipissing. The award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership by taking bold steps to improve Canada through advancements in public policy and management.



Stories from our Roots: Create To Learn Summit

'Stories from our Roots' is a youth-led, Life Promotions project that utilizes digital media technology to convey stories of resilience, hope and strength.

In February 2019, a partnership was developed with the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) and international organization, TakingITGlobal, to develop and present a unique training experience for youth. The training session included media mentors from imagineNative Film + Media Arts Festival who provided training and supplied youth participants with media technology kits to support the creation of films during the gathering. The trained youth returned home with their kits to be used within their communities to support video creation and editing.

At the summit youth participants took part in safeTALK training (Suicide Alertness for Everyone Training) safeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper. Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. Through their words and actions, they invite help to stay alive. SafeTALK-trained helpers can recognize these invitations and take action by connecting them with life-saving intervention resources, such as caregivers trained in ASIST.

In addition to safeTALK, participants were trained in Photovoice Facilitator Training in how to facilitate a Digital Media and Photovoice workshop for friends and peers. The youth were divided into groups where they had a media mentor from imagineNATIVE in which they were trained in digital media, by the end of the week the youth created videos to showcase to peers, staff, and various guests. Each youth participant was given a media kit to take back home into their community. The contents of the kits are:

- iPhone
- DJI OSMO Pocket
- MacBook Pro
- DJI Mavic Air Drone
- LavMic

As part of the acceptance of the Media Kit and its contents, the criteria for accepting this equipment is to ensure that it is for:

- a. Community Benefit (not owned by any individual or for individual profit)
- b. Youth-Led participation and follow-up training with other youth on skills gained
- c. Being Utilized and Accessible with a plan of accountability in place



OFNYPC Representative's Connor Martion and Kamryn Whiteye promoting Stories from our Roots



The videos that were created to at the youth summit can be found on these links below:

Highlights video of the gathering: <https://vimeo.com/316832642>

Straightouttatherez:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru31RIaPuTo&list=PLyMV8Qi5zjsaYQvq_AkAdR5-naaBocomJ

Windtalkers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGSF8xpj6io&list=PLyMV8Qi5zjsaYQvq_AkAdR5-naaBocomJ&index=2

World Bingo Championship:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcouLDj4xP8&list=PLyMV8Qi5zjsaYQvq_AkAdR5-naaBocomJ&index=3

I Am Not:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atFlPhvpAPI&list=PLyMV8Qi5zjsaYQvq_AkAdR5-naaBocomJ&index=4

My Story My Roots:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRKZZidei1w&list=PLyMV8Qi5zjsaYQvq_AkAdR5-naaBocomJ&index=5

Technology kits were presented to the 22 First Nations represented at the gathering, the OFNYPC, each Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO) and Independent First Nation (IFN) to ensure that each of the 133 communities that the Chiefs of Ontario serves has access to these resources when required.

The Stories from Our Roots project has been quite successful. Over 90 First Nation youth across Ontario have been trained to deliver PhotoVoice training. Of the 90 trained, 40 youth have also been trained in video production, creation and editing. These 40 youth have the ability to visit other communities to train youth to use the equipment and to support any video projects that a community may wish to undertake.

Staff Of The Chiefs Of Ontario



Political Office:

Robin Beauclair
Executive Assistant to
Ontario Regional Chief

Secretariat Office:

Tracy Antone
Chief Operating Officer

Lori Keeshig-Martin
Executive Assistant to the
Chief Operating Officer

Ashley Nardella
Human Resources Officer

Dianne Mishibinjima
Lead Coordinator

Stewart Ense
Receptionist

Finance Sector:

Melvin Thompson
Director of Finance

Julie Altman
Finance Assistant

Sandra Williams
Finance Assistant

Economic and Sustainable Community Development Sector:

Barret Dokis
Director of Community Relations

Education Sector:

Murray Maracle
Interim Education Director

Holly Golabek
Senior Education Coordinator

Angel Maracle
Education Policy and
Research Analyst

Alison Anderson
Policy and Research Analyst

Andrew Butko
Education Coordinator
and Policy Analyst

Nicole Nicolas-Bayer
Policy Analyst

Patricia Magiskan
Special Education Support
Technician – Thunder Bay

Patrik Lowen
Senior Special Education
Support Technician

Environment Sector:

Kathleen Padulo
Director of Environment

Sally Gaikhezhyongai
Environment Coordinator

Cheryl Recollet
Senior Environment
Communications Analyst

Lillian Trapper
Ontario Regional Climate
Change Coordinator

Health Sector:

Carmen Jones
Director of Health

Lily Menominee-Batise
Senior Health Advisor

Bernadette deGonzague
Senior Health Policy Analyst

Linda Ogilvie
Public Health Advisor

Alice Longboat
Senior Health Coordinator

Cindy Owl
Health Coordinator

Charnele Sondezi
Health Coordinator

Miryan Rutledge
NIHB Coordinator South

Jennifer Shisheesh
NIHB Coordinator North

Emily King
NHIB & Jordan's Principle
Navigator Policy Analyst

Roseanne Sutherland
Research Manager

Matthew Resmini
Health Technical Policy Analyst
(e-health/communications)

Donna Loft
Home Care Advisor

Social Services Sector:

Ruby Miller
Director of Social

Melanie Baldwin
Social Services Coordinator

Fallon Andy
Policy Analyst

Youth Sector:

Megan Logan
OFNYPC Senior Coordinator

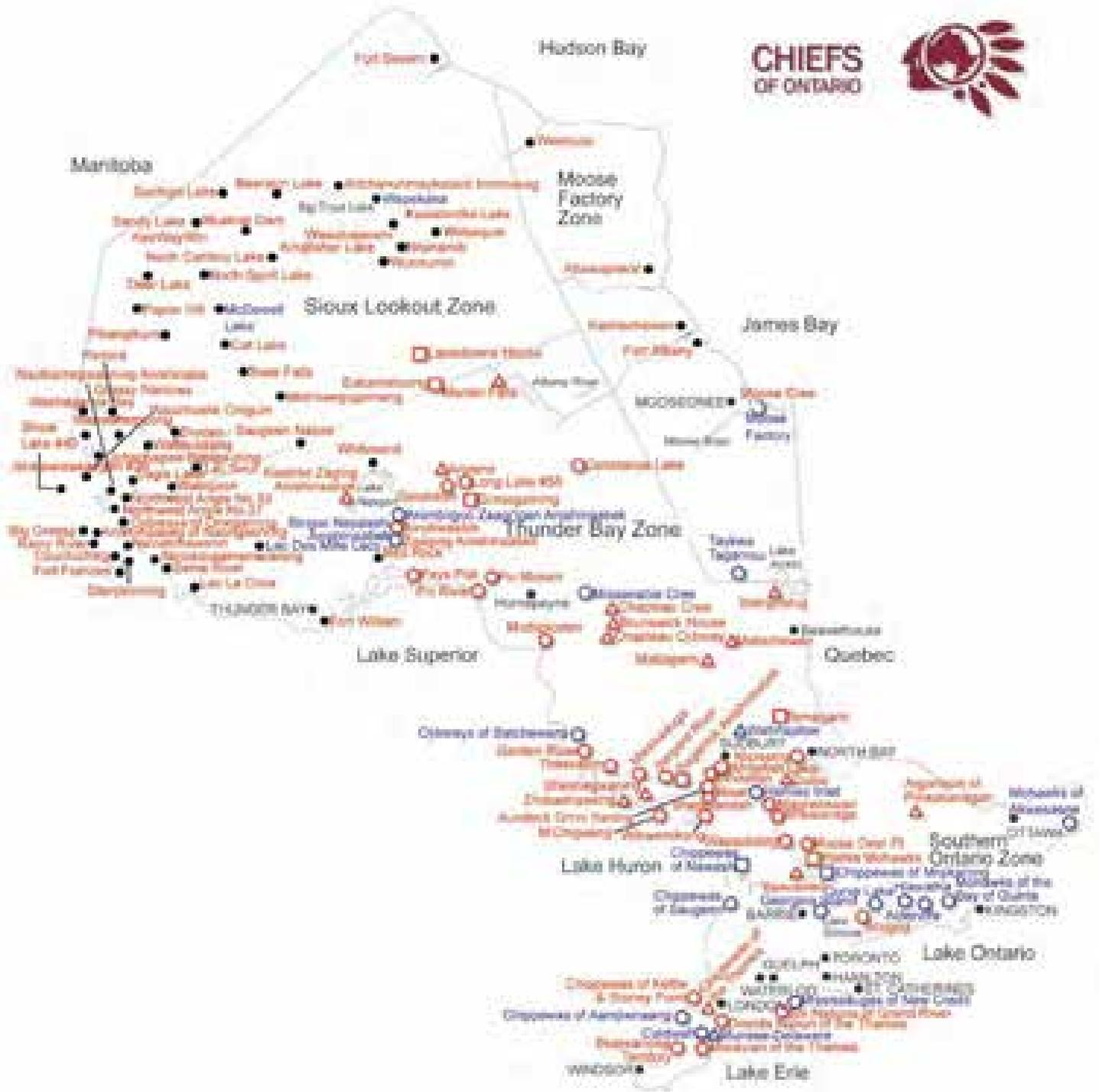
Tristen Schneider
Integrated Mental Health
Program Coordinator

Communications Sector:

Scott Cavan
Director of Communications
and Federal Affairs

Genna Benson
Jr. Communications Officer

CHIEFS
OF ONTARIO





Toronto Administration Office Location:

468 Queen St E, Suite 400, Toronto, ON M5A 1T7

Toll free: 1 (877) 517 6527 Phone: (416) 597 1266

Fax: (416) 597 8365

Political Office Location

Taykwa Tagamou Nation

RR#2 Box 3310

Cochrane Ontario

PO1Co



@chiefsofontario



vimeo.com/chiefsofontario



facebook.com/ChiefsofOntario



flickr.com/photos/chiefsofontario

www.chiefs-of-ontario.org