



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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Annual Report 2005/2006



Nishnawbe Aski Nation Annual Report 2005/2006

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A Message From The Grand Chief Stan Beardy

Booshoo, Wacheeya to the People of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Our Elders, Chiefs and Councils.

It is my pleasure to present for your review and approval the 2005-2006 Nishnawbe Aski Nation annual report. It is the sincere intention of the NAN Executive Council and staff to work hard over the course of the year to meet the expectations and directives given by the NAN Chiefs In Assembly.

Over the course of the past year we have marked many key milestones in terms of bringing the issues of Nishnawbe Aski Nation to the forefront. It is work that has been undertaken by all of us, the Chiefs and the communities that we service.

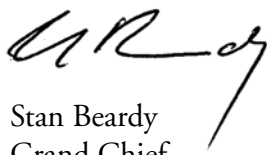
I have strived over the course of my terms as Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation to begin to change the focus of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (the organization or corporation) towards nation-building and ensuring that our nation-building initiatives include the leadership, elders, men, women and youth of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation as a political alliance and a service organization must be responsive to the communities we serve.

I encourage all leadership and members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation to review the contents of this report and assess where we are at in our development and how we can continue to work together for the future.

Meegwetch.

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION



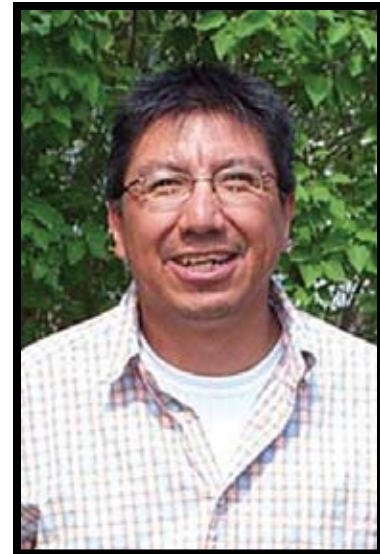
Stan Beardy
Grand Chief



Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

Chiefs, Elders, Women and Youth, Citizens of Nishnawbe Aski, Booshoo, Wa-cheeya

This past year marked the 100 year anniversary of our Treaty. Standing at the Matachewan Treaty commemoration I noticed that the flag our Treaty partners gave to the signers of the treaty is now tattered and fraying - a visible reminder of the state of the treaty relationship. While we kept our treaty promises, Canada and Ontario have failed to deliver on their promises. And when our treaty partners did deliver, it was often a day late and a dollar short.



This province, our treaty lands, has more than enough of certain things -diamonds, gold and 2 X 4s - but not enough of other things - schools, hospitals, food, housing, education and medical care for our people.

Our treaty partners have put us into a melting pot of programs controlled or imposed by outside forces.

Bill C36 the new regional health scheme, Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS) is just the latest. LHINS ignores the First Nations treaty partnership with Ontario, threatens remote First Nations with more travel to access treatment, and reduces the local control of health delivery by already existing First Nations health authorities. But we are fighting back. We opposed LHINs and are now demanding a government to government agreement with Ontario on health as a first step towards a NAN Health Act.

We need a health care system that is designed and delivered within our communities by our people that respects our own unique ways and traditions. This summer the first step in our journey toward that vision will begin with the construction of the new Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre.

But health is about more than hospitals and doctors - health is about justice. It's about suicide prevention, sexual abuse, police misconduct and faulty jails.

The youth in our communities continue to take their own lives at an alarming rate. But we have not stood idly by in the face of this challenge. The Decade for Youth Council is continuing to work to save the lives of our children, our future.

This year our special projects team have worked diligently to support the Ralph Rowe survivors. The tearing down of the Mission House in North Caribou was an important part of their healing. But closure for the Ralph Rowe survivors will need a trial.

Max Kakegamic was murdered in Kenora. Murder in any system of justice demands that - justice. But Max's family has found no justice. The Kakegamic family has been terribly wronged. That is why my staff, working with the family and other supporters, appealed the Regional Coroner's decision to reject the family's demand for an inquest. We await the Chief Coroner's decision but our goal remains a public inquiry or at the very least an inquest.

In the past we were often invisible in the mainstream media. No longer. Our communications staff have helped put our struggles on the pages of national newspapers; on radio and television.

At the end of the day we all want to know, which side is the government, our Treaty partners, on? Are they on the side of mining companies who would sue our communities when they assert their Treaty rights for \$10 Billion? And when will the Crown begin to implement the sacred treaties that they signed with our ancestors?

In closing, I would like to thank my wife Tesa, as well as my daughters Lynette and Allison for their unwavering support of my work. My children are my inspiration. I could not do it without them. I would also like to thank the Chiefs and Councils for their patience and their wisdom through all the trying times we pass together. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the health, special projects and communications staff for their work and commitment to the issues, your communities and our people.

And so, let us begin again with energy and hope, with faith and discipline. And let us work until our work is done.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alvin Fiddler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alvin Fiddler
Deputy Grand Chief

Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic

Over the past nine years, I have had the honour and the privilege of serving as Deputy Grand Chief. It has been an incredible experience and I thank the communities and the leadership for the opportunity that you have given me to work on your behalf. Together we have made much progress but it saddens me that so much remains to be done, that real progress takes so much time and that the level of basic services that other Canadians take for granted remain only a dream for our First Nations.



Someone asked me recently what were the most important things I learned during my tenure as Deputy Grand Chief. It was a good question and one which made me reflect on the many issues and challenges I have dealt with within my portfolio. In answer to that question, I believe there are three important lessons I have learned.

First, I have learned that we must look to ourselves and our communities to solve the issues that face us. It is clear to me that we cannot rely on the federal or provincial governments to improve our education system, to provide adequate housing, to deliver adequate health services or to meet our basic infrastructure needs, including safe water. These things are not really on the federal or provincial agenda despite our Treaty, despite our aboriginal rights and despite the rhetoric we hear from Ottawa and Toronto.

Second, I have learned that the path to self-reliance requires two basis elements - resources and education. We are entitled to a fair share of the benefits from the resources in our traditional lands. We require our own source of revenue in order to break the dependency on government funding and the hold over our lives that those external governments have on us as a result. Education will enable us to govern ourselves effectively, to compete on equal footing with non-native society and to create a better life for our future generations.

Finally, I have learned that our culture and our language are integral to who we are as First Nation people. The government's agenda is, and always has been, assimilation. Our primary defense against assimilation is to protect our culture and preserve our languages. If we don't take proactive and ongoing steps to ensure our children know their Native language and embrace their culture, we are destined to lose our identity as a people

As I have chosen not seek another term as Deputy Grand Chief, this will be my final report to you in this capacity. I am pleased to present to you my final executive summary of briefings provided from the programs within my portfolio. These briefings outline in detail the key issues and accomplishments over the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Goyce Kakegamic". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Goyce Kakegamic
Deputy Grand Chief

Nishnawbe Aski Police Services

Negotiations among Canada, Ontario and NAPS resulted in agreement on operating budgets for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. These budgets reflect significant increases that will provide for some much need salary, equipment and complement increases.

The issue of capital funding remains a very significant problem as the NAPS Agreement does not provide capital funding for NAPS detachments or residences. In the aftermath of the Kashechewan tragedy, we are pursuing resolution of this issue at the ministerial level.

Many Chiefs have requested an operational review of NAPS and a funding request was made to both Canada and Ontario to enable NAN and Mushkegowuk to lead such a review. Unfortunately, this request was rejected by the governments in 2005. As an alternative, NAPS is initiating a business planning process to develop a five year plan. Consultation on the plan will be part of the process. Under the NAPS Agreement Canada and Ontario will conduct their own operational review of NAPS which may address some of the concerns that the Chiefs have raised.

Policing Legislation

From the onset of policing negotiations, First Nation leaders have expressed their concern with respect to the nature and scope of the NAPS policing arrangement. Chiefs-in-Assembly have expressed the desire for a legislative base and defined jurisdictional authorities and mandates for the police service. Without legislative recognition, NAPS is vulnerable to arbitrary changes.

When the first agreement was negotiated and signed, it contained a provision for examining legislative options. This provision was clawed back by the Harris Conservative government. NAN has successfully entered discussions with Ontario to revamp the examination on the legislative and jurisdiction options on NAPS policing. The discussions or examinations have been preliminary to determine how to proceed in the best interests of both parties. Canada has taken the position that legislation and jurisdiction is within the purview of Ontario.

Northern Ontario Medical School

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine officially opened last Fall with its first intake of students. Seven members of the inaugural class of fifty-six are Aboriginal students. This represents a fulfillment of the commitment made to First Nation people that the makeup of Northern Ontario School of Medicine student body would reflect the cultural diversity of Northwestern Ontario including significant representation by Aboriginal students.

Many of our communities have been involved in hosting the NOSM medical students as they spent time living in First Nation communities as an integral part of their studies. We are continuing to work with NOSM to promote the establishment of a pre-med program. Such a program would help prepare our students for entry to NOSM.

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Post Secondary Institute

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win is continuing its core work through the development and delivery of programs specifically designed to meet the needs of our members and communities. This Fall, accredited programs in First Nations Business Administration, Native Early Childhood Education and Aboriginal Community Services Worker will be offered. In addition several non-accredited programs that directly respond to community requests will be offered including the Computer Mechanic Plus program.

Education Jurisdiction

The self-governance Education Jurisdiction negotiations between Canada and the First Nations of NAN have reached an important milestone. We have reached agreement on a draft Agreement-in-Principle. The next step is community review and input on the draft allowing communities to become informed on the contents and implications of the AIP.

First Nations that wish to continue in the self-governance negotiations based on the draft AIP will indicate by BCR their intent to be part of the Final Agreement negotiations. The AIP is not a legally binding agreement and the First Nations that choose to continue in the Final Agreement negotiations are not obligated to sign a Final Agreement

Ojibway Cree Cultural Center

Ojibway Cree Cultural Center has continued its excellent work over the past year to improve the scope and quality of resources and programs available to our communities. The Resource Center has added approximately 60 books and videos to the development of a materials data base and additional web-based materials.

OCCC presented a series of workshops to promote and support the language and cultural needs of communities. This included political terminology workshops for each language group, curriculum workshops and native language teacher workshops.

The OCCC board game, "Promises, Promises" is a fun way for students to learn and understand the significance of the James Bay Treaty.

Education

The Education Program has been very active this past year. Many strides have been made in the development and delivery of community based educational services. Working with the NAN Education Committee there are a number of best practices that will be highlighted in an Educational Best Practices Document within the NAN territory that will be completed in spring 2007.

Work is going on nationally to prepare for the 2008 Education Authority Renewals. At the National level there are four working groups preparing business cases to be presented to the Treasury Board: the Band Operated Funding Formula, Special Education, Systems and Jurisdiction, & Post-Secondary Working Groups. The development of the Education Management Framework will follow and is due June 2007.

Summary

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you who have shared your thoughts and wisdom with me during my tenure as Deputy Grand Chief. Your advice and friendship was invaluable as together we faced the daily challenges in those program areas under my portfolio.

Over the coming months, I will be turning my attention to working in two areas which I feel passionate about - suicide prevention and education. Both involve empowerment - empowering individuals to see a future for themselves and then enabling them to secure the skills and abilities necessary to make those dreams a reality.

Meegwetch. Our paths will cross again!

Executive Director's Report

The 2005/2006 fiscal year has been another year of change, learning and progress at the administrative and program operation level.

On the financial front, the results of 2005/2006 operations did include a small deficit but Nishnawbe Aski Nation has maintained a positive financial position overall. Important strides were made in a number of portfolio and project areas that you will find detailed in this Annual Report with James Bay Treaty 9 Centenary commemorative events at the forefront. Gichi miigwich to NAN's Finance, Program and Project management staff for their hard work and to the Executive Council and Chiefs Finance Committee for their guidance and support throughout the year.

We have said goodbye to colleagues whose projects have ended and who have moved on to serve Nishnawbe Aski in other important capacities. Special mention must be made of Helen Cromarty who now joins the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre management team after fourteen years of dedicated service in our Health Department. Also, I must credit and thank David Paul Achneepineskum for his strong leadership throughout with the completion of his term as Executive Director in March.

As the Organization moves forward, we find ourselves dealing with a new federal government, new priorities and a changing provincial relationship. Administratively, it is important to remember that governments, be they federal or provincial, want to make and garner success from 'their own' deals. As staff, we must be prepared to support the incoming Executive in adjusting as necessary to (re) establish and implement workable arrangements with the governments of the day to meet pressing community demands as mandated by Chiefs resolutions within our established fiscal frameworks. Continued planning and compliance with policies and procedures is essential to meet our objectives, to prevent problems and to maintain our overall accountability to the people we serve.

Actions taken on NAN Chiefs Resolutions by A/Executive Director Bill Nothing

NAN Chiefs Resolution - 06/15

Support for the participation in the Labour Market Development Agreements and Labour Market Partnership Agreement Negotiations

Letters have been sent to Prime Minister Harper and Premier McGuinty regarding the Labour Market Development Agreements and the Labour Market Partnership Agreement Negotiations.

The letters state that:

The Federal and Provincial Governments have reached these agreements but have not held any negotiations with Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements regarding strategy or the distribution of the 1.3 billion dollar fund over the next five years.

Specifically the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements must be consulted before any program planning or development is undertaken or any of the \$113 million earmarked specifically for Aboriginal Peoples is disbursed.

It is the resolved position of the Nishnawbe Aski Chiefs in Assembly that, since our communities experience unemployment in the 80% plus range, it is essential that the AHRDAs, as the parties closest to the employment issues, participate in planning and the allocation of funds.

A response has been requested from Canada and Ontario regarding these issues.

NAN Chiefs Resolution - 06/19

Wahgoshig First Nations and Apollo Gold and the Black Fox Gold Mine

A letter was sent to the Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines regarding the failure of Apollo Gold to enter in to an MOU with the Wahgoshig First Nations as agreed.

The letter further states that Timmins is the largest Gold Camp in the world, and, according to Apollo Gold promotional materials, this camp has produced in the neighbourhood of 75 million ounces of gold over its lifetime. Billions of dollars in wealth the greatest part of which has been realized in the recent past. The First Nations in whose territory this Gold Camp exists have not benefited at all from the outpouring of wealth. A city has been created, towns have sprung up and support industries that profit from mining around the world have been born and flourished in its wealth. The First Nations of the area continue to experience hardship and poverty. This is unacceptable and cannot continue.

The letter requested that the Premier and the Government of Ontario begin the process of correcting this situation to allow First Nations people to participate equitably in the economy of the region, the province and the country.

The Grand Chief has followed up with the Premier, the Ministry of Mines and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ramsey as part of the Northern Table discussions.

NAN Chief Resolution - 06/20

Wawakapewin Communications Infrastructure

Further information has being sought regarding the communications situation in Wawakapewin with a view to improving access to reliable communications. Opportunities such as VOIP (voice over internet) services that are being used by other remote First Nations are being explored. A base standard to communication to support security and safety is essential and should be established for all NAN First Nations.

The issue of communication was addressed in the letter to Minister of Transportation Infrastructure and Communities regarding Air Access.

NAN Chiefs Resolution - 06/21

Air Access Infrastructure - Wawakapewin First Nation

A letter was sent to Minister of Transportation Cannon and Deborah Taylor, RDG Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Region stating that the community of Wawakapewin is remote and the people are reliant on float planes and ski planes for transportation in summer and winter. During freeze-up and breakup the people

are cut off from medical aid and assistance. It was pointed out that this creates a dangerous situation for the elderly, the very young and others needing medical attention outside the community.

Further the Minister was informed that the lack of an airport also makes delivery of supplies, fuel and building materials expensive and at times impossible. A request was made for the Chief and Council to meet with the Minister to discuss the construction of an airstrip suitable for the use of the community.

NAN Chiefs Resolution - 06/29

Improving Remote Airports

A letter has been sent to Minister of Transportation Cannon stating the need for the highest quality of technical and ground support for air travel in NAN territory. The letter also indicated the support of the NAN Chiefs for the Northern Ontario Aviation Committee proposal and a request that funding be provided to allow Nishnawbe Aski representation on that committee going forward. The letter also asked for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the air transport needs including improvements to airports and services.

A copy of the letter has been sent to the Northern Ontario Aviation Committee.

Finance and Administration

Diane Dunford, Director of Finance

Paulette Desmoulin, Interim Comptroller

Ian Beardy, Human Resources

Elizabeth Achneepineskum and Rachel Mamakwa, Receptionists

Autumn Yesno and Michael Coughlin, Finance Clerks

Jackie Shewaybick, Nikki Louttit (student) and Lesley Dokuchie (student), Archives

Financial Position

Without stable, long-term and sufficiently flexible funding, NAN continues to struggle to plan and to meet political priorities. NAN posted an operating deficit of \$78,540 (8/10ths of 1% of net revenue after flow through allocations) for the year with \$23,733 incurred for contributions to Treaty 9 Centenary events. Notwithstanding, NAN maintained a positive 'working capital' position throughout the year (cash and accounts receivable exceed accounts payable) and NAN enters the 2007 fiscal year with an overall unrestricted surplus of \$12,252. Revenues of approximately \$13 million are expected for 2007 of which an estimated \$5.2 million (40%) will flow through to First Nations and NAN service-delivery organizations

Human Resources

Our fulltime equivalent staff level fluctuates from 50 to 70 as projects and initiatives (generally of a time-limited nature) progress. Our staff complement is currently 79% Aboriginal overall while 66% of NAN's employees are registered members of NAN First Nations.

Capacity and Skills Building

NAN continues to approach financial administration by streamlining systems to identify opportunities to devolve service-delivery type activities and to work toward direct agreements between our First Nations and regional service providers with provincial funders. Information is posted periodically to our Fiscal Relations and Administration pages at www.nan.on.ca on reporting, horizontal management and other issues that affect day-to-day management; we welcome feedback on issues faced by our First Nation and organizational administrators.

Information Management (Archives Project)

Our Administrative Assistants have been developing a records management system leading toward on-line access to reports and documents (current, future and historical) of interest to NAN stakeholders. This large undertaking will continue through 2007.

Office Infrastructure

To increase single point of contact opportunities for NAN Members in need of information, referrals or services, we are pleased to welcome field staff from Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation to the Timmins office and from the newly started Nishnawbe Aski Heritage Fund to the Thunder Bay office.

Process Coordination Unit

Terry Waboose, PCU Director

Melinda Sault Coates, Administrative Assistant

The NAN negotiation teams for self-government sectoral agreements in Governance and Education have reached agreement with Canada on draft Agreements-in-Principle (AIP) that will form the basis of a community consultation and approval process in 2006-2007.

Over the past several months, the Governance Secretariat has been negotiating with Canada for an appropriate budget to support an effective community consultation process. We have argued that the previous annual budget limits of \$700,000 per sectoral would not allow an informed consultation process given the size and circumstance of NAN communities. A supplementary budget submission was presented on April 3, 2006 to the INAC self-government funding directorate seeking additional funding for community consultation. On April 25, 2006 we were advised that the self-government funding directorate is prepared to recommend an additional \$800,000 to support the community consultation process. We are now finalizing the terms of that offer and the related reporting requirements. Work is now underway to put in place a distribution formula which will be approved by the Steering Committees.

A plain English summary of the AIPs will be translated and made available to communities along with other community communication materials. A community consultation plan will be put in place for each Tribal Council and the Independent First Nations. Training for the Regional Governance Coordinators and has been provided. RGC consultation handbooks have been developed.

Information sessions will be held at First Nation, Tribal Council and off-reserve locations to review the draft AIP. The draft AIP will be circulated to all NAN communities for review over the next approximately six months. After that time, each First Nation will consider continuing in the Governance sectoral process. Those First Nations who approve of the AIP will continue to participate in the Final Agreement negotiation phase by passing a BCR. Approval of the AIP is not a legally binding decision on the First Nation and only indicates First Nation's continued interest to carry on to the next stage of negotiations. Some work will take place on issues related to the Final Agreement in the upcoming year however it is not expected that a draft Final Agreement on Governance will be reached in 2005-2006.

Canada's position is that they will not begin the Fiscal Transfer Agreement (FTA) negotiations until a draft AIP had been reached. A FTA will set out how funding to support our government structures will be calculated under a Final Agreement. This critical agreement will determine whether Canada intends to provide adequate resources to enable our First Nations to individually and collectively govern our communities. Now that a draft AIP has been reached, negotiation on an FTA will commence. The Governance Steering Committee will begin negotiations based on a study completed for the Governance process which calculates required funding to operate our governments.

Resolution - 06/25

Integrated Traditional Governance Plan

Work has been completed by NAN staff to address the development of an integrated traditional governance plan. As it is understood from the resolution, we are trying to bring together a common understanding of the many processes that are underway at Nishnawbe Aski Nation, as directed by the NAN Chiefs Resolutions.

An information presentation will be made on some of the key issues that must be addressed in relation to this plan during the Keewaywin Conference.

NAN/CANADA BILATERAL PROTOCOL

Alanna McKenzie, NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol Coordinator

Over the course of the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the focus of the NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol has been to work on a number of NAN Chief's Resolutions related to nation-building and the NAN Elders and Women's Councils.

The NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol department also serves to provide technical assistance to the Grand Chief's office on issues as requested (i.e. Treaty Education, NAN/COO Protocol, Integrated Traditional Governance Plan etc.)

Nishtam Ahkiiwininiwuk - Foundation of Our Nation

This document was reviewed by both the NAN Elders and Women's Councils. A NAN Chief's Resolution was passed accepting the document as named by the NAN Elders Council (NAN Chiefs Resolution 06/04).

Planning and preparation was implemented for the universal vote, however it was general consensus of the NAN Chiefs that more time is required to ensure an informed and involved vote by the People of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN Chiefs Resolution 06/31).

As such, the election process for this current term (2006) was instead made to focus on the election as a public education process. Items such as the NAN Election Code requirements, nominations and official candidates list were published in print, as well as the development of a candidates radio show to better involve the members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

NAN Elders Council

The NAN Elders Council held monthly teleconference meetings to review and name the 'Nishtam Ahkiiwininiwuk - Foundation of Our Nation' document as well as address other issues as requested by NAN staff and affiliated organizations. The NAN Elders Council has attended the Chiefs Assemblies and the NAN Treaty Conference held in February 2006.

It must also be mentioned that the NAN Elders Council also wishes to acknowledge the passing of fellow member Moses Angees of Wunnumin Lake First Nation. He will be sadly missed by the NAN Elders Council.

NAN Women's Council

The NAN Womens' Council has also continued to meet via monthly teleconference meetings. A highlight of this past year was the NAN Women's Radio Show which was broadcast on International Women's Day (March 2006). A radio show was put together to raise awareness of women's issues and achievements that are happening today across Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The NAN Women's Council has attended the Chiefs Assemblies and the NAN Treaty Conference held in February 2006.

NAN/CANADA BILATERAL PROTOCOL RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/42

Resolution Review

This process is well underway; the resolutions are being sorted and categorized at this time. There is approximately 1600 resolutions that must be reviewed. NAN staff will report on the outcome of this process and options at the next NAN Chiefs Assembly.

Resolution 05/60

Issue for the Prime Minister's Aboriginal Issues Round Table and First Ministers Conference

Grand Chief Stan Beardy along with Chief Eli Moonias attended the First Ministers Conference in Kelowna BC to present the issues of Nishnawbe Aski Nation as a territory.

The NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol Department assisted in compiling the document for presentation at the First Ministers Meeting; this document was designed to demonstrate NAN's critical needs and priorities at the national level and is available as a resource to all First Nations, organizations and Tribal Councils.

Resolution 06/04

Ratification and Implementation of "Nishtam Abkiiwininiwuk - Foundation of Our Nation"

- and -

Resolution 06/31

Coming Into Effect of the NAN Election Code

More direction will be sought from the NAN Chiefs In Assembly on how to proceed with both resolutions on the development of a community information and education process that will be required on this document and it's implementation.

Resolution 06/07

Financial Resourcing of the NAN Government

Given the current agenda and time constraints, work is on-going on this directive and a presentation will be made at the next NAN Chiefs Assembly.

Resolution 06/10

Protocol with the Chiefs of Ontario on the Representation of Northern Ontario First Nations

A briefing note and draft protocol have been prepared for the NAN Chiefs consideration on this issue.

NAN/CANADA TREATY DISCUSSION FORUM

Michael Cachagee, NAN Treaty Discussion Forum Representative
Simon Frogg, NAN Treaty Discussion Forum Coordinator
Natalie Legarde, Administrative Assistant

The background research and documentation was completed in this fiscal year involving both NAN and Canada so as to lay out the scenario from both perspectives involving the initial treaty making process. Further, a workshop was held to review these documents and consider the development of a joint paper partly to identify the convergences and divergences of issues relating to the intent and understandings. Subsequently, the development and funding was agreed to and the Joint Paper assigned for completion by the end of the fiscal year.

Also during this workshop, the priority issue identified was the administration of justice. The reason was that so many concerns brought forward in consultation and discussions respecting the application of treaty involve jurisdiction. The development of governance regimes with aspects of jurisdiction in whatever form mean the development of an order of justice. To do this will take an inordinate amount of time and resources and the basic capacity to do so. The capacity will be with development of the administration of justice. Since we are already involved in aspects of the administration of justice including enforcement, we will just need to decide which communities/tribal councils/tribal areas we will use as pilot projects using alternative justice models for the administration of justice. This would be a practical way to move systemically into the field and at the same time develop a long term strategic plan.

The NAN Treaty Forum, including Canada representatives were participants in the Treaty Commemoration activities in the various communities including the two fundraising galas. Additionally, the Treaty Forum Program with separate funding from INAC, Treaty Policy Directorate produced and distributed to all NAN communities and at the community Treaty Commemoration activities, a Treaty booklet written in English and in one of the language dialects of NAN.

The NAN Treaty Forum participated in the NAN Treaty Conference that was held in Thunder Bay in January 2006.

We also completed the initial discussion and briefing paper on Indigenous Knowledge through a Masters student placement with Laurentian University. We will be presenting our findings and recommendations during the next NAN Treaty Conference.

The main focal activity for this fiscal year, 2006-07 will be with the development of a Treaty principles document that will be used with the discussions on Treaty issues starting with the administration of justice.

TREATY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Bentley Cheechoo, Treaty Education Advisor

Frank Beardy, Treaty Education Advisor

Community Treaty Education and Awareness

The Treaty Education and Awareness has been an on-going process since the 2005 Keewaywin in Mishkeegogamang. Plans were developed to visit each of NAN Communities and these were implemented over the course of the fiscal year. Materials were generated to provide for a good education and awareness but 99% of the time the education and awareness was carried through dialogue with the people. There was number of methods employed general meetings, group meetings, individual interviews and questionnaire, what ever the comfort level for people involved. Some people cannot speak in public forums therefore want one-on-one interviews.

To date, the treaty education and awareness has been brought to 80 % of the Nan Communities. Due to some unforeseeable circumstances the process was not brought to some communities. The flood at Kashechewan is prime example, why the treaty education and awareness has been carried in that community. The cultural activities of our people is another time the affects the process, fall and spring hunts.

The original objective was complete the community work by March 31, 2006 and table a final report to NAN Chiefs at Keewaywin conference in Sachigo as their direction.

Because of the recent events this is on longer possible but we intent to table a preliminary report at Keewaywin and ask the Chiefs to have another Treaty Conference sometime after the fall traditional activities. The objective of the treaty conference is table a full treaty report with recommendations, table treaty related reports that have been previously commissioned and continue to develop the Treaty Strategic Plan.

Treaty Conference - February 21-23, 2006

NAN as per the direction of the NAN Chiefs hosted a Treaty Conference at the Victoria Inn in February of 2006. This conference drew a lot of interest and was very well attended, considering it was pay as you go conference. The outcome was very positive it laid out the basis for treaty strategic planning on outstanding treaty issues. The Treaty Strategic Plan could be an on-going document, which would outline how we would intend address a number of outstanding treaty issues.

Treaty Commemorative Statement

There were a number of discussions with representatives form Canada and Ontario on the possibility of signing a treaty commemorative statement. The strategy of both levels of government has not changed. Their suggested commemorative wording is always to maintain the status quo and continue for the next hundred years as we have for the last hundred years which is not acceptable. The accounting and redress of current activities and past activities by the governments although they say is a part of their objective but they do not want to say that on paper. To have our Grand Chief sign, a commemorative statement for the sake of signing a commemorative statement should not be an objective. A draft commemorative statement has been tabled with both Ontario and Canada; so far we have not heard from them.

Treaty Strategic Plan

From the Treaty Conference in February of 2006, the participants outlined a number of treaty issues they felt needed to be addressed over the next months and years. At NAN Chiefs meeting in March of 2006 a draft treaty strategic plan was tabled with the Chiefs and they adopted the document as guide for future negotiations with Canada and Ontario. Further direction was provided to bring the draft document to the Keewaywin Conference in Sachigo for final approval and adoption.

RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/43

James Bay Treaty Commemoration

James Bay Treaty Commemoration Statement, a number of discussions were held with government representatives from both governments on contents of such a statement. Their objective was to maintain the status quo which is not acceptable to direction provided by the NAN Chiefs and the Grand Chief. A draft wording was tabled with Canada and Ontario and to date they have not responded.

Resolution 05/45

Treaty Implementation Framework

The Treaty Implementation Framework, as per the Chiefs direction were implemented through number of processes as example the treaty conference produced the basis of treaty strategic planning which identified political, legal and communication action items. The community treaty education and awareness process identified certain action items. All of the above needs to be put into a plan that will identify what is required for each area.

The international communication strategy has not been implemented because the Chiefs need to adopt and implement the Treaty Strategic Plan prior to full implementation. The fiscal resources have to be identified to carry out this part of treaty strategic plan.

Resolution 05/46

Treaty Accounting and Redress

Part of the on-going treaty strategic planning process, the need to quantify what our land is really worth and to determine what it has yielded in past will require man years and resources. The Northern Table will attempt to address these kinds of issues of course subject to the Chiefs approval.

Resolution 05/49*Treaty Conference*

The Treaty Conference was held at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay, this conference was well attended and the outcome was basis of treaty strategic planning.

Resolution 06/26*Treaty Strategic Planning*

The Treaty Strategic Planning, a draft was provided to NAN Chiefs at their conference in March of 2006. They adopted the draft document as guide to negotiations on the Treaty Commemoration Statement and based the discussion the treaty strategic plan to be presented to the NAN Chiefs at the Keewaywin Conference in Sachigo for final approval. The final draft is ready for presentation.

EDUCATION

Dobi-Dawn Frenette, Education Advisor
April Head, Administrative Assistant

Education within the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory is delivered on-reserve through 57 Council Operated Schools/programs ranging from K-8, 9-12, alternative programming, internet programming, radio/television programming, and via services purchased off-reserve in provincial boards/schools. Adult education and training needs are met on a community to community basis utilizing funding from Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement delivery agents, post-secondary funding where applicable, Ontario Special Bursary partnership programs and other community secured or allocated funds. Services are continuing to be developed to meet the needs of the communities via the NAN Post-Secondary Institute, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win. Many strides have been made in the development and delivery of community based educational services. Working with the NAN Education Committee there are a number of best practices that will be highlighted in an Educational Best Practices Document within the NAN territory that will be completed in spring 2007.

The 05/06 year has been a very busy year in First Nations Education. Work is going on nationally to prepare for the 2008 Education Authority Renewals. At the National level there are four working groups preparing business cases to be presented to the Treasury Board: the Band Operated Funding Formula, Special Education, Systems and Jurisdiction, & Post-Secondary Working Groups.

In May 2005 INAC tabled its Education Action Plan to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, in answer to the Auditor General's observations and recommendations relating to INAC's role in First Nations Education (November 2004). One commitment in the Education Action Plan was the development of an Education Policy Framework to be completed by June 2006. The Federal (INAC) Education Policy Framework has been developed through a joint national working group with the National Indian Education Council (AFN) and HQ Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, with regional INAC representation. Regional consultations were held across the country in June on the DRAFT EPF. There will be a follow up consultation in August with the final document scheduled to be presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in September. The development of the Education Management Framework will follow and is due June 2007.

The provincial Ministry of Education is in the processing of hiring additional staff for its Aboriginal Education Unit; the Education Officers will be located in various MOE offices across the province. The Ministry of Education has hosted consultations with school boards across the province, the First Nations Education Coordination Unit and will continue to host consultations across the province regarding their Education Policy Framework with First Nations and school boards over the summer.

The Ontario College of Teachers is hosting consultations on their document: Qualifications Review Policy Options and Implications, Phase 3, which has incorporated a specific section on standards and qualifications related to Aboriginal Education.

Anti-Bullying Initiative

Research into Anti-Bullying programming lead the NAN education department to contact Roots of Empathy to discuss their school based programs. "The Roots of Empathy's mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults"(<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>

org.html). Throughout the year meetings occurred between the NAN Education department and Roots of Empathy staff. In the winter Roots of Empathy did a presentation at the NAN Education meeting. Pilot project communities were identified at this time, and resources are being sought to move to forward.

Taxation of Post-Secondary Student Allowances

On July 25, 2005 National Chief Phil Fontaine released a letter informing First Nations that “the Assembly of First Nations has secured a commitment from the Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable John McCallum, to continue to treat post secondary education funding as tax exempt. This recent development is directly attributable to the effective lobby efforts of the AFN, First Nations and First Nation organizations” (Letter, AFN, National Chief Fontaine, July 25, 2005).

Issues Being Worked On:

- Special Education: Ontario Special Education Working Group, Council Operated and Provincial programs
- Post-Secondary: PostSecondaryStudentSupportProgram, IndianStudiesSupportProgram, ISSP Ontario review, National Review
- Literacy, Project Greenlight exploratory discussions, support for Lieutenant Governor’s Literacy Camps
- Ontario Special Bursary, Community Based Program Delivery for upgrading and post-secondary programming via Confederation College
- Language
- IBM Ignite Camp, partnership with NAN, IBM and Oshki Pimache O Win
- Provincial Education Policy Framework
- Systems and Jurisdiction
- First Nations support for Education Initiative Funding
- International Fun in Athletics
- Support for Kashechewan Thunder Bay School location
- Aboriginal Management Council, Teacher Education Advisory Council, Lakehead University
- Negahneewin College,
- Ontario College of Teachers, Qualifications Review Policy Options and Implications, Phase 3, consultation
- Intergovernmental Relationship, Human Services, Education-Observer Status
- Communication
- Tuition/Education Services Agreements
- Anti-Bullying
- Education Planning Template

- Promotion of Best Practices
- Advocacy

RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/54

Federal Budget Post Secondary Education Funding Announcement

Working with, and supporting, Oshki Pimache O Win in addressing the post-secondary funding needs within the NAN territory. Information, communication and advocacy via the NAN seat on the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (Chiefs of Ontario) held by the NAN Education Coordinator/Advisor. The NAN Education Coordinator/Advisor sat on the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education, and agreed to support Oshki Pimache O Win filling the seat. The needs of the NAN territory will be well represented by Oshki Pimache O Win's participation.

HEALTH

Ernie T. Sutherland, Health Director
Wendy Caruk, Health Executive Assistant
Ellen Nowgesic, Health Planner
Wendy Trylinski, Healthy Babies/Diabetes Coordinator
Gwen Medicine, HIV/AIDS & Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator
Kathy Adcock, Responsible Gambling Strategy Coordinator
Jane Cheechoo, Health Arrangements Office

The activities of the Health Program are coordinated among the health staff to maximize efficiency of action and follow up. Although there is a division of duties and tasks, the health program maintains a team approach to the implementing of the Chiefs Resolutions' and program strategies with the Deputy Grand Chief.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and say Meegwetch to Helen Cromarty. Helen has been employed with NAN Health Program since 1992 as the Health Policy Analyst and recently accepted a position with the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre in Sioux Lookout.

We wish Helen the best of luck!

Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children

Wendy Trylinski, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children & Diabetes Coordinator

The Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children goal is to assist all Aboriginal families to provide the best opportunities for healthy development for children 0-6 years of age through family home visiting, education and coordination/access to services. The AHBHC program can include the following components:

Home Visiting - mandatory component - home visiting, preparing for parenting, prenatal/postnatal, developmental assessments, early identification, service coordination

Participant-Based - focused on groups, such as, youth, pregnant women, care-givers, families (extended) - activities include workshops, presentations, circles, traditional ceremonies

Networking - AHBHC was not meant to be a "stand-alone" program and is intended to promote co-operation among other service providers to reduce duplication of services and build communication and linkages.

40 communities received funding for 2005 2006. Two training events took place in October and March. October training focused on computer skill development and topics of such as FASD and Shaken Baby Syndrome. The March training focused on providing basic skill development around home visiting. Upon completion of the 5 day home visitor training- staff received certification. 10 staff was also trained as Trainers and are able to provide the home visiting core training as required. Programs received many resources this year to use in their programs. Funding provided through Healthy Weights initiative provided AHBHC with nutrition kits to enhance cooking circles or one-on-one nutritional topics.

AHWS provided funding to hold a pilot community asset mapping project in one community. Fort Severn participated. If deemed successful, AHWS may provide funding to hold asset mapping in each AHBHC funded community.

The AHBHC program will continue to provide basic skill development in areas of home visiting and child development. To provide opportunities for AHBHC staff to connect and support each other in their work. To promote the program through a quarterly newsletter highlighting the excellent work being done at the community level and providing information on child development, parenting, breastfeeding, etc. and the development of an orientation package to provide to new staff.

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The incidence of Diabetes continues to grow into epidemic proportions across NAN territory. A combined effort amongst service providers is needed to build a comprehensive program across the life span.

Four communities were funded through the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative- FNIHB. Sandy Lake, Peawanuck, Mocrebec and Mishkeegomang. Community activities have included radio show broadcasting, walking programs, youth diabetes camp, meal planning and cooking, grocery store tours, display of food labels in Cree, physical activities.

ADI workers attended the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association Conference held in Winnipeg. The staff from Sandy Lake presented at this national conference and also provided an information booth showcasing their project. There were many new resources available at the conference and staff identified the resources that would be most beneficial to them in their work. Resources were purchased and distributed.

ADI workers were registered as members of the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association.

This fiscal year the ADI program has been funded for a 6 month period, ending October 1st, 2006 to allow time for Chiefs of Ontario, PTO's and Health Canada to plan the roll-out of the new ADI program.

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Chiropody Program

A new Chiropodist was hired in October 2005. The late hiring was due to vacant position of the NAN Coordinator from April to mid-July.

Community visits began in January. Despite the late start, the Chiropodist was able to visit 15 communities and provide service to 500 people. Due to the difficulty experienced by some patients to get to the clinics- the Chiropodist began to conduct home visits. The visits were much appreciated by the people.

The Chiropodist noted that when he was able to work with the Home Care staff, it provided a more organized service delivery. One of the concerns is that basic foot care is lacking in some communities and causing unnecessary complications that could be addressed much earlier. A meeting was held in March with the Chiropodist and 2 RN's - who specialize in Advanced Nursing Foot Care and who designed the Feet for Life, a community-based foot care program. Discussion took place around the possibilities of providing this training in communities to alleviate the work load of the chiropodist who would then be able to focus on high risk clients. Trained staff at the community level would also provide a more comprehensive follow-up plan and provide a better system for setting up appointments. The Chiropodist could use telehealth technology with the trained foot care practitioner to provide timely interventions/diagnosis and to support the follow up care provided. Discussions to continue for training in basic foot care and use of the telehealth.

Best Start Aboriginal Advisory Group

Participated on the Best Start Aboriginal Advisory Group (Ontario's maternal, newborn and early child development resource center). The purpose was to develop a resource that would provide service providers culturally specific information and approaches that can be applied in everyday practice when supporting Aboriginal families. The manual was released in April 2006 - *A Sense of Belonging: Supporting Healthy Child Development in Aboriginal Families*.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder & Child Nutrition

Joyce McKay, FASD Coordinator

Another 5 years of funding was committed in March 2006. Currently 46 NAN communities receive funding from the FASD Program. This does not include training funds - none are available for the community workers. NAN did host a training conference in March 2006 - 30 participants attended.

There is an urgent need for more funding for workers, awareness, promotion & prevention.

HIV/AIDS

Gwen Medicine, HIV/AIDS & Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is in First Nation communities. First Nations are vulnerable to HIV infection due to high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), substance abuse, intravenous drug use, sexual abuse, increasing population of First Nation members entering the sex trade and limited access to or use of health care services.

The NAN HIV/AIDS Program continues to:

Educate NAN communities and organizations upon request for schools, clinic staff, band staff, elders, youth groups, treatment centres, detention centres, etc. these include local community radio and television programming.

Develop education resource material; NAN Healthy Lifestyles 16 month calendar developed and distributed; NAN AIDS website on-going; aids.nan.on.ca; two (2) public service announcements have been produced from the Elders Education Session held in February 2006, can be viewed on the website; the Elders HIV Education Session Video distributed to NAN communities, languages; English, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Cree; acquisition and distribution of teaching tools to add to education kits provided to all Nishnawbe Aski communities.

Train and encourage NAN member community workers to facilitate increased awareness and on-going education in their communities (training for frontline workers held December 2005)

Provide youth peer education HIV/AIDS training to provide youth with skills to deliver education sessions on HIV/AIDS and related issues to their peers and to encourage positive self-esteem and empower youth to make responsible healthy choices (March 2006)

Promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS by developing resources in collaboration with the Ontario First Nations HIV/AIDS Education Circle; a Youth Peer Education Training Manual for all of Ontario First Nations is

being produced, the Women and HIV video “Knowledge for Today, Hope for Tomorrow” produced and distributed.

Next Steps:

Increased communication to NAN Communities on issues dealing with HIV/AIDS; Training directed toward youth to promote healthy lifestyles; Increase awareness in communities that HIV/AIDS is a concern for all ages; Increase participation of all community members in learning and sharing of HIV/AIDS information and issues; Continue development of resources and education tools for NAN Communities; Promotional items will be acquired; Healthy Lifestyles calendar in development anticipated completion Fall 2006; Youth Peer Education Manual revised to be distributed before Fall 2006 and Proposal to be submitted to funding agencies to produce a video from the recordings of the Elders and Church Leaders Session on HIV held February 2006, (to be translated into Cree, Oji Cree and Ojibway)

The NAN Healthy Lifestyles Program has been accepted to submit a poster abstract at the 2006 International AIDS Conference held in Toronto, August 2006

Responsible Gambling Strategy

Kathy Adcock, Responsible Gambling Strategy Coordinator

This Ministry of Health program supports communities in their efforts to reduce the harm associated with problem gambling through the development and delivery of prevention and education initiatives, resources, staff training and support.

The hi-lights for 2005/06 included the: Children’s/Youth Bookmark Campaign; Community Fundraising Ideas Contest; National Addictions Awareness Week; Phase 1 Gambling Addiction Certification Training; Problem Gambling Awareness Month and Coastal Planning - 6 communities. The program assisted with other community requests for special projects, youth programs, community gatherings, radio shows, staff training and resource bundles.

2006/07 includes the development and distribution of the ‘Community Fundraising Guide’; Phase 2 Gambling Addiction Certification Training and the Community Creative Circles Project.

NAN Health Planning Group

Ellen Nowgesic, Health Planner

The NAN Health Planning Group in accordance with resolution 04/94 developed a three year Strategic Health Plan. The Strategic Health Plan focuses on capacity development in health and reflects the overall goal of the NAN Three Year Plan - Nation Building. In 05/06 the NAN Health Planning Group had: initiated discussions with the new Public Health Agency of Canada to communicate the impact of a weakened public health infrastructure in addressing environmental health concerns affecting the NAN territory; began activities to support a NAN health system that addresses the health requirements of all communities; conducted studies and research to develop a NAN wide health data base; and developed a strategy for community based health promotion and disease prevention programming.

Public Health

In 04/05 and 05/06 the NAN Health Planning Group began developing a framework for public health. A NAN Public Health Surveillance System was regarded by the NAN Health Planning Group as a first step towards building a sustainable NAN Public Health System. Beginning in this fiscal year, 06/07, several meetings and teleconferences occurred with the NAN Health Planning Group to review NAN specific health data, to discuss health surveillance and various surveillance systems, and to begin the review of existing literature pertaining to the health status of NAN communities. The compilation of this qualitative and quantitative review will be discussed further at the next NAN Health Planning Group meeting for the purpose of NAN public health priority setting and to further identify additional data sources which contain specific NAN health data, national and/or regional medical databases. Once this activity is fully completed, all additional health data including demographics, medical conditions and psychosocial conditions prevalent in the NAN communities will be compiled and final report with recommendations will be presented at the next Chiefs meeting.

Non Insured Health Benefits Medical Transportation

NAN First Nation members are still struggling with the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation Policy. Repeatedly, eligible NAN members have been denied medical transportation and/or other eligible benefits under the policies due to the discretionary powers afforded to the NIHB clerks.

NAN has sent correspondence to Health Canada demanding review of the medical transportation policy outlining the serious flaws and amendments that are required. NAN asserted that the policy has to reflect a needs based approach that acknowledges the crown's fiduciary responsibility towards NAN members versus a cost-containment program that is jeopardizing the health of the NAN population.

Health Canada finally followed-up with a meeting on the medical transportation policy issue in March 2006, where NAN asked that the letter of understanding signed by the Regional Director in 2003 be examined and the outstanding commitments made implemented. At this meeting the Regional Director committed to examining this issue further.

An ad-hoc group with representatives from FNIHB and NAN was developed to examine the policy to determine operational versus policy issues so that the policy could be clarified. By re-examining the policy and outlining ways to interpret the policy consistently, meaningful change will occur and decrease the amount of denials occurring and produce change to improve NAN community's access to the medical transportation framework.

The ad-hoc group met for the first and last time in April 2006. At the meeting terms of reference, work plan guidelines, timelines and issue identification occurred. The process however was frustrated due to an unforeseen incident and the review process is currently stalled. The ad-hoc working group will commence talks again, once the issue is resolved.

Despite this setback a meeting will be occurring on July 5, 2006 with Assistant Deputy Minister Ian Potter and one of the issues that will be brought to his attention is the medical transportation policy. Issues such as denials, patient escorts and translation services, patient liaison worker program and nursing will be discussed. Updated information will be provided to Chiefs as it becomes available.

As this issue is on-going NAN will continue to request that the Medical Transportation Policy be reviewed until noticeable changes are implemented and NAN First Nations receive treated with fair and equitable

health outcomes. As information regarding status of review and recommendations are known direction may be required at that time.

HEALTH RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/13

NAN Health Act

This is an on-going initiative that requires implementation of a bilateral agreement between the Province of Ontario and NAN so the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly can proceed to the full development and implementation of a NAN Health Act.

Resolution 05/14

Health Related Issues with the Province and Health Canada

NAN has been working with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Health Canada, FNIHB, INAC, and the Registrar General's office to develop a process for health card registration at the community level. This past April 2006 representatives from MOHLTC, Health Canada, Ontario Registrar's Office, INAC, Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre, Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin and NAN began identifying and discussing ways to resolve this outstanding issue. MOHLTC has committed to better facilitate the submission of claims and to work with the Office of the Registrar and INAC to coordinate a more efficient communications approach. All three departments have also committed to better integrating OHIP, Live Birth, and status forms into one complete package available in all languages.

Resolutions 05/33; 06/05

Local Health Integration Networks

NAN has attended meetings regarding this issue and continues to reaffirm its position that in order for the LHINs to be accountable to NAN communities supports for planning and recognition of geographic and demographic realities have to be reflected in local planning and at the provincial level. NAN continues to advocate and lobby Resolution 06/05 with the Local Health Integration Network Boards by asserting NAN's treaty right to health. By negotiating health care delivery on a government-to-government basis with NAN and Ontario it will show the Province is willing to fulfill their obligations as a treaty partner. "First Nation health care must be First Nations designed and controlled.

Most recently at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference held in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a NAN support resolution 06/43 Implementation of Local Health System Integration Act In Nishnawbe Aski Nation on June 28, 2006. This resolution calls for the Ontario Regional Chief to lobby the Province to ensure that commitments made to Nishnawbe Aski Nation for a government-to-government relationship in health is realized in an interim NAN - Ontario Health Implementation Agreement. NAN will continue to update the Chiefs on this issue.

Resolution 06/11*Pandemic Planning*

NAN has engaged both the provincial and federal governments to assist and provide necessary resources to adequately prepare for a possible pandemic influenza outbreak in the NAN communities. To date, community pandemic influenza plans have been completed by many communities in preparation for a possible world wide flu pandemic. NAN received one time 05/06 funding from Health Canada for community based influenza preparedness planning. Both levels of government have met with NAN to begin developing a pandemic influenza protocol for rapid response preparedness should the pandemic influenza appear in Canada. The purpose of emergency preparedness planning for a possible influenza outbreak is to reduce the incidence of infection and to deliver an effective response in the NAN communities. NAN will be meeting again with both governments in the fall of 2006.

Resolution 06/22*Kashechewan Ambulance Services*

On going. Update to be provided when available.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lawrence Baxter, A/Social Services Director

The aspiration on Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has always been to have full jurisdiction on the delivery of social Services and furthermore to establish a First Nations Child and Family Legislation.

The following programs fall under social Services portfolio:

- * Social Services
- * Child and Family Services
- * Disability
- * Housing

The Unit has been busy on many fronts both on the social services and Child Welfare. The Unit has been working with the three Child Welfare Agencies (Tikanagan, Kunuwanimano, and Payukotayno) in the planning for Kunuwanimano's designation and the development for NAN wide Model on Child Welfare and First Nations Legislation on Child Welfare.

NAN is also working and networking with other Child Welfare agencies in Treaty 3 and other non-native agencies on matters that pertain to designation process.

Social Services

INAC's position is NAN work with the province of Ontario under the Ontario Works. Currently, NAN has established the process of establishing contact with Ontario through the then Minister Sandra Pupatello, Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Ministry has agreed to do exploratory talks with NAN.

NAN has had three meetings with Ministry staff at the Regional Director level (Operation) and Policy Branch staff. At the first meeting NAN presented a process agreement with Ministry staff for their consideration. The process agreement would determine when and how the meetings between NAN and Ministry would be conducted.

Child and Family Services

On November 30th, 2005 NAN met with Minister Mary Ann Chambers, Minister of Youth and Children Services. During the meeting Minister Chambers committed to a NAN First Nations Legislation on Child Welfare. Also, at the same meeting the Minister committed to Kunuwanimano designation.

NAN has utilized the Executive Directors from the three Child Welfare Agencies to establish a process for negotiations and to develop a workplan. More recently, June 1st, 2006 NAN met with Minister Chambers, Treaty 3 and Chiefs Committee on Child Welfare and COO. Minister Chambers is still committed to the development of First Nations Legislation, legislation that can be used by all First Nations in Ontario. NAN's process will be rolled into a province wide initiative. Treaty 3 and NAN have agreed to form an Alliance to work on First Nations Legislation subject to approval by the Chiefs at the AOCC.

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

Kunuwanimano and the Ministry of Youth and Children Services are involved in capacity development for Kunuwanimano for the designation. Kunuwanimano also went through an assessment review as part of capacity building.

An MOU is being developed by Kunuwanimano and the Ministry. The MOU will set the parameters that will be negotiated. The Minister also gave the parties two years to complete the designation.

NAN staff is working with Kunuwanimano on their designation and also the other Child Welfare Agencies are assisting Kunuwanimano with their expertise and contacts.

Disability

The purpose of the disability program is to provide information and update on new programs and services that are available for First Nations.

A two day conference is usually held annually and this year it was held in Thunder Bay. Home Care workers, Health support workers were invited to attend the workshop. The workshop is also a good tool to use to gauge or measure what programs and services are being used by First Nations that are outside their communities.

Housing

The unit is involved an advisory capacity on housing issues in the NAN area. NAN was invited by CMHC to sit on the allocation working committee. This committee advises CMHC and INAC on their annual housing allocation dollars. The committee advises the two government agencies for equitable distribution housing dollars using several factors

Also, NAN has been involved with the Askeekan housing project. The major part of the work has been promoting and lobbying leadership and government to further the viability of the project.

Lands & Resources

Carol Ann Audet, Lands & Resource Coordinator

David Peerla, Mining Coordinator

David Flood, Forestry Coordinator

Terry Wilson, Forestry Coordinator

Since Keewaywin 2005 the NAN lands and resources department has been working towards the implementation of strategies as set out by objectives in the NAN 3 Year Workplan and through directions given by the NAN leadership.

The NAN lands and resources department continues to consist of 4 staff with experts in the areas of forestry and mining. Though the department has been received ongoing funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the past, this year, funding continues to be a struggle.

The department plays a role in reviewing, researching, analyzing and responding to lands and resources policy initiatives that are implemented by various federal and provincial ministries and coordinates information exchange for the First Nations of NAN with the aim of advocating for Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

One of the major focuses this year has been on developing processes for dialogue on lands and resources issues. The movement towards this kind of strategy was a result of the launch of the “Next 100 Years” strategy for Treaty No. 9 and the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada in Mikisew that requires the governments “fulfill their duties to act honorably toward all First Nations through meaningful consultation and accommodation, and through good faith negotiations aimed a fair reconciliation.” These dialogue processes have included the proposed NAN/Ontario Northern Table and the NAN/MNR Resource Management Technical Working Group (reports under separate cover).

The NAN lands and resources department has also been working diligently on providing more tools for First Nations for the implementation of Treaty and Aboriginal rights in lands and resources by working towards updating the NAN Consultation Handbook to include consideration for newer Supreme Court of Canada decisions such as Mikisew along with developing a NAN Resource Development Policy which is planned to be launched as a draft at NAN Keewaywin 2006.

Overall, the department has been successful in working towards bringing increased attention to the situation of First Nations both in the remote north and in heavily resource extracted areas of NAN. In some respects, this has acted as a catalyst for the desire of the government to move towards more substantive efforts to develop Draft Guidelines for Ministries on Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples an Impacts and Benefits and Resource Benefits Sharing mechanism along with other mechanisms that may work address First Nations Treaty and Aboriginal rights. Throughout the coming year, these efforts to advocate for First Nation’s rights to the land will be continuing.

Forestry

Timmins Office

Since Keewaywin 2005, activities from the NAN Timmins forestry office have consisted of supporting First Nations in interpreting and navigating the existing forest management planning process and forestry projects

in the Area of the Undertaking along with advocacy for First Nations interests in various Ontario policies such as wood disposition, environmental assessment renewal, and wood waste utilization. Additional projects of the NAN Timmins forestry office have included issues related to climate change, NAN FN Youth Natural Resource Training venue (with a focus on collaboration with Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Center) and involvement in the Conservation Reserve disentanglement process in the NE region of Ontario. Networking with other PTO, regional and national organizations to maximize an understanding of trends throughout Canada has also continued. Involvement in other Ontario wide initiatives has also taken place through observer participation in the lands and resources component of the Ontario Intergovernmental Relations Process. And lastly, the NAN Timmins office has taken the lead role in facilitating and assisting in the development of the NAN/MNR Resource Management Technical Working Group (report under separate cover).

Thunder Bay Office

Since Keewaywin 2005, activities from the NAN Thunder Bay forestry office have consisted of providing technical assistance and feedback to communities, Tribal Councils, other First Nation organizations, the private sector, ENGO's and the provincial and federal governments on various forestry issues (this included a workshop to the NAN Fur Harvesters Authority on forest management planning). Efforts to ensure First Nations interests are better met in the Forest Stewardship Canada's boreal standards have continued. Advocacy around the issue of Bill 11 (Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2005) also took place and are ongoing. The NAN Thunder Bay forestry office has also played a role in responding to various provincial government policies such as MNR's internal review of their provincial Fish and Wildlife Program and their renewal of the Forest Management Guide for Cultural Heritage Values. Discussions with MNR and/or the private sector with respect to an NBI meeting to discuss issues, potential partnerships etc. has continued. Other issues addressed included the renewal of our Far North Fire negotiations and First Nation positioning regarding wood supply, commitments and utilization. Active participation in various committees has also continued (Lakehead University School of Forestry, Living Legacy Research Program Advisory, Natural Resources Canada First Nations Forestry Program).

Mining

Since Keewaywin 2005, activities from the mining coordinator's office have consisted of assisting First Nations with declared moratoria on mineral exploration in the far north. As part of these efforts, assistance was provided in developing a Mining Access Protocol which is being implemented in some First Nations in the far north. Other areas of activity have included assisting First Nations in obtaining federal pre-development funds for resource access negotiations (played a role in negotiations by providing access to relevant experts) and other environment related proposals. As part of the mandate to help First Nations assess the opportunities and risks in exploration and mining, the mining coordinator's office has also been active in providing technical advice in various negotiations, environmental assessments, archaeological reviews, review of mining files, winter drilling programs, mine closure plans, assessing community benefits, minerals screening processes, land use planning and GIS mapping proposals, data sharing agreements, land cautions, burial issues, and mine surface water data. The mining coordinator's office has also played a role in other related issues such as Parks, trapping, nuclear waste and PCBs, far north fire management, tourism, Conservation Reserve disentanglement and Treaty Land Entitlement. Analysis and policy advice on issues related to the Ontario Mineral Development Strategy and other provincial mining related initiatives has also been provided.

LANDS & RESOURCES RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/56

Climate Change

The interim recommendations presented at Keewaywin 2005 were submitted to the three key Ministries responsible for Canada's Approach to Climate Change. At that time, there was a request for participation and engagement in building approaches for healthy economies and adaptation by NAN First Nations for the long term. Since the change in federal leadership, a new submission was made to Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Environment. A response is anticipated by the end of June 2006. Early feedback indicates that the federal government is attempting to identify appropriate approaches to implement the Mikisew Supreme Court of Canada decision and how to engage all parties with interest to the develop a "Made-in-Canada" approach as announced by the Prime Minister.

The United Nations meeting of the parties of the Kyoto Protocol was attended by NAN representatives in December 2005. A presentation at that time was made to the head of the Canadian delegation with a clear message that NAN Territory is unique and has requested respectful engagement by Canada related to its domestic solutions to the issue of climate change. NAN also supported the indigenous Tiohtiake Declaration which calls for a true spirit of inclusion and action by the Annex 1 Countries of the Kyoto Protocol. Further networking with AFN, COO, OFNTSC, INAC-ANCAP, International Institute for Sustainable Development - IISD, Lakehead University, University of Ottawa, Canadian Boreal Initiative and the Center for Indigenous Environmental Research will continue to ensure the NAN position on climate change is advocated.

Resolution 05/57

Nuclear Waste Free Zone

At the 2005 Keewaywin the Chiefs of NAN declared the territory a "nuclear waste free zone." This was done in light of Ontario having 30,000 tonnes of high level radioactive waste at reactor sites in the Province. It is anticipated that Ontario's stockpile of radioactive waste will double over the next 15 years -- a nuclear nightmare for future generations. This waste remains deadly for a million years - a threat to human health and the environment. Radioactivity can be absorbed by living things through air, water and food, and increases the risk of cancer and other deadly diseases.

Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization is considering an option of permanent burial deep in the Canadian Shield rock that underlies Treaty No.9 and NAN First Nations must be prepared with a response. In addition, in June 2006 the McGuinty government pushed through a new \$40 billion commitment to build dirty, dangerous and expensive nuclear power stations. A decision to build nuclear power stations should be accompanied by a fresh look at how to deal with the waste that new plants would produce. Nuclear power employs uranium (a non-renewable resource with perhaps only a twenty-year supply remaining) to create the heat to boil the water to turn the turbines to generate electricity. Waste is created in every state of the process, from the mining process to the milling, to the fabrication of the fuel bundles that run the reactors. This was another factor in the Chiefs' decision to declare the territory a "nuclear free zone." To date, the governments have not made any substantive efforts that would require the enforcement of this Resolution.

Resolution 05/61

Protection of Mishkeegogamang Treaty and Aboriginal Rights in the St. Raphael Signature Site Area

Resources to support the Mishkeegogamang people in their efforts to represent and protect their rights and interests in the St. Raphael Signature Site Area have been offered by NAN through various avenues such as a Chiefs Resolution of support and the provision of technical advice in forestry negotiations. This will continue as requested. The current status of this issue is that no timber harvesting on the St. Raphael site will be occurring until such time that discussions between the First Nation and the forestry company resume and conclude.

Resolution 06/08

The New Parks Act

NAN has worked to advocate for the position contained in this resolution through various avenues such as the submission of a proposal to establish a technical committee and a Standing Committee submission to the Legislature (in conjunction with a number of NAN First Nations and the law firm Olthuis, Kleer and Townshend). Unfortunately, of the many proposed amendments made to the Standing Committee, only one was implemented (the “non-derogation” clause).

While many of the recommendations could not be implemented within the Bill itself, a commitment was made by the MNR Minister to deal with them a specific agreement outside of the Bill. Because time was of the essence, this was accepted by the Interim Northern Table Chiefs Committee at a meeting of the Northern Table Exploratory discussions on June 14, 2006. More recently, a draft MOU that reflects the original amendments in Bill 11 was drafted by NAN legal counsel and was provided to MNR as a point for future discussion. At the present time, discussions are ongoing and will include the participation of First Nations directly affected.

Resolution 06/09

Continuation of Exploratory Discussions on the NAN/Ontario Northern Table

Since the resolution was passed in March 2006, a number of exploratory discussions have taken place between the Interim Northern Table Chiefs Committee (INTCC) and Ontario. As part of the decision on whether or not to proceed with the Northern Table, the INTCC developed items for measures of “good faith” for the consideration of the Ontario government. Further discussion at the technical level has taken place to make them more substantive and identifiable in the short and long term and will be rolled up in a document for the consideration of the NAN Chiefs. These efforts are ongoing and will be presented at Keewaywin 2006 along with a fuller report on all activities (report under separate cover).

Resolution 06/12

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) Staff to Cease and Desist

The position contained in this resolution was provided to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. To date, there has been no response. MNDM officials have traditionally acted as the advocates of the mining industry. The intent of the resolution was to send a strong message to MNDM officials that they had abdicated

their role as “civil servants” and become simply the servants of industry.

The recently released Ontario Draft Guidelines for Ministries on Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples will see MNDM officials take on a new role in First Nation relations. As this newly defined obligation develops, First Nations will need to be careful in their communications with MNDM officials. It is recommended that the first topic of any consultation discussion should be the process itself and the funding necessary to have a consultation discussion with the Crown that is inclusive of legal counsel. As the recent court proceedings in NAN have made clear, (in *Platinex vs. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug*) any communication with MNDM officials will be used against a First Nation should court action occur. NAN will continue to monitor this case and will provide further advice on to best approaches to dealing with new MNDM relations. Some of this advice for First Nations will include how to deal with the Crown when any and all communications can and will be used against First Nations in court. For the Crown and industry, advice may be provided with respect to language barriers for communications in English, etc.

Resolution 06/19

Support for Wahgoshig First Nation

The support required in this instance was a mechanism to get a mining company to negotiate an Impacts and Benefits Agreement and associated MOU. Various lobbying efforts to support IBA mechanisms being developed in Ontario took place. This included “off-line” discussions with the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs on Resource Benefits Sharing and discussions with various ministries at the Northern Table exploratory discussions. With respect to the First Nation specifically, Wahgoshig First Nation was provided with a process document, IBA templates and draft consultation and accommodation letters to utilize in their endeavors with this mining company.

The Wahgoshig support resolution goes to a fundamental challenge facing many NAN communities-Impact and Benefits Agreements. NAN communities take the position that when mines are developed impacts and benefits agreements with the affected First Nation(s) should be compulsory. However, mining companies and MNDM officials often take the view that these agreements are voluntary. NAN will continue to lobby for compulsory IBAs.

Resolution 06/30

Ontario-Manitoba Interconnect

NAN has not played an active role in the activities of the Chiefs Steering Committee but has fielded a number of enquiries from a number of First Nations requesting clarification on whether or not the activities of the Chiefs Steering Committee will be construed by Ontario as their fiduciary duty to consult and accommodate per Mikisew, 2005. To address this question, NAN requested preliminary legal advice which indicated that we proceed with cautionary measures. As such, Ontario was notified that under no circumstances should the activities to date be construed as consultation, accommodation or consent and that this must be obtained with the First Nation(s) that are directly or indirectly impacted by the selected transmission corridor.

The working relationship of the Chiefs Steering Committee and Ministry of Energy is continuing. Communications have been taking place through their regional communications strategy and community information sessions with a fall 2006 Chiefs meeting being planned.

LAND RIGHTS & TREATY RESEARCH

Luke Hunter, Research Director

Joe Wheesk, Researcher

Brenda Iserhoff, Licensing Administrator

We continue to research and develop specific claims as requested by our member First Nations. To date, we completed 27 TLE claims. Claims that are submitted to Canada end up at the Specific Claims branch (research division) where they review the draft historical reports and statement of claims (allegations of breach). If additional research is required, SCB will undertake a counter research. Unfortunately, the specific claims process is very slow and often-submitted claims end up backlogged.

On January 11, 2006 the Specific Claims Policy Unit informed NAN that they have clarified the Treaty 9 date of crystallization for determining land quantum for TLE claims. After more than five years of research on NAN TLE claims based upon a DOFS approach, SCB informed NAN that Canada is taking a “Date of Treaty” or DOTS approach to calculating land quantum under Treaty 9 rather than the “Date of First Survey” or DOFS approach used elsewhere in Canada. The SCB Policy has determined that SCB only has the authority, under the 1998 Treaty Land Entitlement Guidelines, to accept claims based on a crystallization date of treaty schedule (DOTS), for bands in which the size and location of the reserve was identified in a treaty schedule. All other aspects of the Guidelines would apply, such as late adherents, absentees, etc.

In SCB’s view, as the detail provided in the treaty schedule is unique to Treaty 9, the date of treaty adhesion is the appropriate date of crystallization, and only applies to Treaty 9 bands. For those Treaty 9 bands, to which the reserve size is not provided in the treaty schedule, such as Fort Hope the 1998 TLE Guidelines instruct Canada to follow the Date of First Survey (DOFS) approach. The Policy directive also states that where “the DOTS approach occurs, all other aspects of the [1998 TLE] Policy apply to the TLE claim, such as late adherents, etc.” which means that adjustments must be made to a First Nation’s Date of Treaty Schedule population to include absentees/arrears, late adherents, and late additions from landless bands. Therefore, if NAN agrees on a claim-by-claim basis, to have the claims proceed according on the DOTS approach consistent with Canada’s policy; SCB could undertake the analysis and recommendation to the Minister without DOJ review.

For any claims in which NAN would want to argue an approach other than DOTS, such as DOFS or current population, further legal analysis would be needed. An historical report, pay list analysis based on the proposed approach, and legal arguments supporting such a position would be required. The claim would then be submitted to SCB Research and Policy for analysis and then to DOJ for legal advice. Ontario has long argued that DOTS should be the crystallization date for NAN TLEs, but its policy does not include other elements of SCB’s TLE guidelines, such as counting late adherents towards Treaty Land entitlement so there is still an inconsistency between Canada’s and Ontario’s approaches even though they agree that the Date of Treaty Schedule or adhesion is the appropriate date of crystallization in Treaty 9.

NAN has informed SCB that it does not agree with the DOTS approach and will challenge Canada’s interpretation of its obligation with regard to Treaty 9 TLE claims. The DOTS approach is a step backwards and has serious implications to current and future submitted claims. In effect, Canada is unilaterally interpreting and defining the treaty. In other words, Canada is saying that the Treaty schedules that “roughly describes” the reserves forms part of the treaty and that the treaty is therefore determinative.

Next Steps

1. SCB Policy has agreed that NAN can submit arguments that would challenge the DOTS approach and will only consider these arguments only once. SCB would first analyze the arguments and may require a legal review from the Department of Justice. The outcome of this review will form Canada's final position on the issue of the date of crystallization for the Treaty 9 TLE claims.
2. NAN will review all current claims and conduct a risk assessment using the two approaches (DOFS and DOTS).
3. SCB agreed to participate in a meeting with NAN Chiefs to discuss the 1998 TLE Guidelines and SCB's position regarding the date of crystallization for Treaty 9 TLE claims. They will also provide updates to NAN First Nation claims on individual basis. This meeting will occur sometime in the fall.

Specific Claims Research Program

Funding for development of First Nation's land claims are funded by the Native Claims Contribution Program. The research funding program consists of two parts: 1) researching Comprehensive and Specific claims; 2) Negotiations support (loan funding). Over the last ten years, funding levels have been frozen. Funding Services is currently reviewing its current funding guidelines and have indicated they are developing new guidelines that will be "result based" and measured by "deliverables."

As a result, NAN's research unit was cut by 10% and 8% respectfully in the last two years.

Specific Claims Resolution Act (Bill C6)

Bill C-6 was passed as the Specific Claims Resolution Act in 2003. It received Royal Assent on November 27, 2003. Section 85 of the Act states that it will come into force when proclaimed by the Governor in Council; this has not happened therefore the Act is not yet a law in force. Although, the current Minister (Prentice) has agreed not to implement the new Act, while at the same time AFN is reviewing the current Bill for possible recommended changes.

Federal Compensation Policy

A recent lower court decision as set out in the *Whitefish Lake Band of Indians v. Canada* raises serious concerns to First Nations that have outstanding claims. This court decision will have an impact how Canada compensates First Nations. The judge rejected compound interest on the claim. Instead he applied CPI (consumer price interest) from the date of the claim (1886) until 1992, the Date of the Crown Liability and Proceedings Act on the basis that the Crown is not liable for any form of pre-judgment interest prior to that Act. He then applied simple interest only (no compound at all) until the date of judgment. Contrast that with Canada's current practice of bringing forward historic dollar amounts on the basis of 80/20 (80% CPI and 20% compound interest); should Canada decide to alter its 80/20 practice for Specific Claims to this model, which is under active review then our estimates of what Specific Claims are worth will have to be radically downsized. It is our understanding that this matter is under appeal and hope that it will get over-turned.

NAN Fur Depot

The 2005/2006 trapping season was slow and there was a decline in wild fur harvest. Wild furs received this year dropped approximately 65% than the previous year. For example, in 2005 we received more than 7,500 marten and this year we only received 1,700. It is interesting to note that the price for marten (global market) was in its highest, averaging over \$110.00/pelt. In comparative analysis, this translates roughly \$640,000 in loss revenue to our trapper's. Other fur species (beaver, muskrat, and mink) made a comeback that produced higher prices which was pushed by strong demand by the traditional wild fur buying countries, fashion industry and expanded markets to Asia. The slow season could be explained by the warmer winter conditions, the high cost of gas, and decline in (or interest) trapping.

Licensing Program

The NAN Licensing Program issued 1237 trapping licenses for 2005-06. In March, fifteen licensed trappers received and completed training for the Aboriginal Trapper Instructor Training course. The purpose of the training is to certify instructors. The certified instructors would then be able to train and certify trainees in their own community or surrounding communities. All trainees who complete the course will be recognized as qualified instructors and will be able to issue certificates in Ontario. Also, the Nishnawbe Aski Harvesters Association held a Harvesters Conference at the Travelodge Airline on March 7th - 9th, 2006. The purpose of the three-day conference was to provide information on the status of the fur industry and provide awareness to trappers and harvesters on recent policy developments that impact their traditional activities. Two new members of the NAHA board were elected during the Conference. They are David Wesley from Kashechewan First Nation and Lorne Flood from Matachewan First Nation. With the signing of the Data Sharing agreement for the issuance of licenses between NAN and MNR, the license administrator will have access to the FURMIS program for the upcoming trapping season.

LAND RIGHTS & TREATY RESEARCH RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/08

NAN Legal Defense Fund

In the March 27-30 Winter Chiefs Assembly, we reported that we have not received names of the four trustees that is required to complete the Trust corporation. We recommended that we would seek nominations or list of potential names through the Tribal Council areas. We will be sending out the request for names shortly and hope to complete the Trust application by late August 2006.

Resolution 05/52

Revitalization of an Intergovernmental Forum in Ontario

The rebuilding of the Intergovernmental Relations Forum has made little progress since its interception in June 2005. The IGF initially considered a wide range of possible agenda items. Although opinions varied and concerns raised by various parties, it became apparent that as vast Ontario is; we simply cannot take two or

ten issues and expect to resolve all the issues at the same time. The IGF initially considered establishing two working groups to address lands & resources and human services, the latter which is addressing education as its first agenda item. Each working group was launched by a two-day working session to share information and begin formulating work plans. Progress in the IGR process in 2005/06 has been difficult because of:

- (1) concentration of the parties' attention on the First Ministers' and Aboriginal Leaders' Meeting in November 2005;
- (2) political uncertainties regarding commitment to the IGR process;
- (3) changes in staffs; lack of preparation, consistency in participation and co-ordination at meetings; withdrawal and/or observer status by some PTOs and independents;
- (4) lack of appropriate, secure resourcing for IGR activities; and,
- (5) reliance on a single part-time facilitator with no secretariat.

There is an urgent need for the parties to reconfirm their commitment to revitalize an Ontario-wide intergovernmental process to address the serious matters that hinder respectful, productive, forward-looking relationships between First Nations in Ontario, Canada and Ontario. ***Until both the commitment of the federal government and clarification by some First Nations (PTOs) regarding their participation (to clarify coordination and process issues), the IGF is currently under temporary suspension.***

Resolution 06/27

Access to Records for the Purpose of Researching NAN Specific Claims

The key aspect of preparing a specific claim is the access to records held by various government institutions so that First Nations can properly assess their claims. Access to Information Act and Privacy Act requires First Nation Research Units to request records held by Canada or other governmental institutions. Often, requests take time and delays occur which can create problems for meeting workplan deliverables and reporting. These problems often create delays in accessing research funding.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Carol Rowland, Special Projects Director
Sandra Brown, Crisis Teams Coordinator
Sam Achneepineskum, Residential School Coordinator
Catherine Cheechoo, Youth Team Coordinator

The NAN Special Project Department oversees projects related to social health issues. The main area is suicide. In 2004/05 there were 24 completed suicides. From January 2006 to June 30th, there have been 14 completed suicides.

The Intergovernmental Table On Aboriginal Youth Suicide (IGT) has continued to meet this year, with representatives from 10 Ministries. Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Grand Chief Stan Beardy act as co-chairs. The addition this year is that Treaty 3 also has a chair and representative at the table. The IGT members have worked with their ministries to try to identify funding for targeted projects related to the Sakanaee Inquest recommendations, including suicide prevention training, peer helping, and community development support in several communities. Because of the IGT, NAN was able to help access some year end funding for some NAN communities which had high completion rates.

NAN Decade for Youth and Development

The Decade for Youth and Development has struggled this year with lack of core funding, but in spite of the challenges, has continued to run the Decade Youth Council, support community youth council development, host the Seven Sacred Teachings youth conference, offer Wolf Spirit training and develop materials for Girl Power programming.

Project Beyshick was successful last summer with 9 NAN youth taking the opportunity for job shadowing in Toronto. The project will run again August 19-26, 2006. The project is offered in collaboration with the POA Foundation, supported by the Asian/East Indian community.

Family Violence/ Sexual Abuse

NAN has supported 2 communities to develop Sexual Assault Protocols this past year. A number of community level family violence workshops were also delivered. Also, some Sexual Assault / Abuse Training has been provided to frontline community health/mental health workers.

Residential Schools

NAN Residential School Coordinator has been very busy providing information on the residential school payout process (AIP) which has been in the works this last fiscal year. At this point, elders who attended residential school are able to apply through the process. NAN also implemented a residential school training of trainers this year. Curriculum is available to the community schools.

Crisis Teams

NAN continues to receive crisis team funding from the provincial Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy. The funding is distributed on formula to the NAN communities for Crisis Team Coordinators and Teams. This past year NAN lobbied hard to have the “Crisis Intervention Worker” designation from AHWS changed back to being “Crisis Team Coordinator, and was successful. We look forward to working with the communities to revive the teams this year. NAN continues to work with AHWS to try to simplify reporting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/15

Recognition of Cristal Lake, Stirland Lake and Poplar Hill Residential Schools

NAN has made a submission to Resolutions Canada that Cristal Lake and Stirland Lake be recognized as Residential Schools. The issue is to establish a funding connection between the Government of Canada and the entity that operated the schools.

Resolution 05/58

Continued Healing Program and Services For Residential School Survivors and Intergenerational Impacts

The Residential School Program has received confirmation of continued funding until March 2010. Among other activities, the funding allows NAN to train community members so that they may facilitate healing initiatives within their own community. NAN will continue to network with regional and national agencies to ensure that information and action is shared.

Resolution 05/62

Anglican Church Funding for Residential School Healing

The Government of Canada pays one hundred percent of the compensation to survivors of Residential Schools. The Anglican Church will pay \$25,000,000 to the Healing Fund once the agreement is finalized.

Resolution 06/06

NAN Residential School Regional Office

NAN has submitted its proposal to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The AFN will advocate on NAN’s behalf. We don’t anticipate feedback until the settlement of the Compensation Package which is expected by March 2007.

Policing / Legislation and Jurisdiction

Wally McKay, Advisor

In 1986, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) entered into an agreement with Canada and Ontario resulting in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. One of the first key items put on the table for negotiations was policing. Eventually the negotiations resulted in the signing of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) agreement in 1993-94 establishing division “A” operations with the transferring of 33 constable positions. Included in the agreement was the establishment of the Police Services Board and an independent NAN Citizens Review Board for the purposes of ensuring police accountability to the public.

Subsequently, there have been numerous agreements negotiated and signed to this date resulting in a total present complement of 120 constables, 27 civilian staff, and 4 special constable positions. NAPS is presently providing police services to all NAN communities covering the land mass comparable to the country of France. NAPS is the largest First Nations policing service in Canada.

From the onset of policing negotiations, the Chiefs have expressed their concern on the nature and scope of the NAPS policing arrangement. The Chiefs wanted a legislative base and defined jurisdictional authorities and mandates for the police service. They viewed the negotiated arrangements merely as administrative undertakings. NAPS policing has always been a program; thereby, it is and will not be parallel to other legislatively recognized police services. Without legislative recognition, NAPS can become vulnerable to changes subject to the powers that make such delegations. To this day, NAPS is just a program.

When the first agreement was negotiated and signed, it contained a provision for examining legislative options. This provision was clawed back by the Harris Conservative government. NAN has successfully entered discussions with Ontario to revamp the examination on the legislative and jurisdiction options on NAPS policing. The discussions or examinations have been preliminary to determine how to proceed in the best interests of both parties. Canada has taken the position that legislation and jurisdiction is within the purview of Ontario.

The NAN has tabled 5 key elements requiring legislative accommodation as follows;

1. Appointment of Officers

All NAPS constables are appointed by the Commissioner of Ontario Provincial Police.

2. Recognition of NAPS Police Services Board

The present capacity of NAPS board is of administrative scope and nature based on the agreement. Legislative recognition will change the scope and nature of the capacity of NAPS.

3. Recognition of Citizens Review Board

The Citizens Review Board lacks legal capacity to compel parties to abide by its findings and rulings. To this date, parties have operated on good-will and accommodation. This section will deal with a comprehensive police accountability framework.

4. Contracting of Police Services

NAPS does not have the capacity to contract police services with any other institutions for policing services but is restricted to terms and conditions of the agreements negotiated with Canada and Ontario.

5. Territorial Designation

NAN is seeking to have exclusive policing jurisdiction throughout NAN territories aside from certain sites. First Nation communities adjacent to municipalities and urban centers will be policed through arranged protocols.

The discussions with Ontario have been examining the most appropriate and relevant process to accommodate the special interests of NAN in dealing with legislation and jurisdiction. There are no existing models in Canada, whereby NAN and Ontario could implement a cookie cutter approach. Both parties are chartering new waters; therefore, it will take time and resources to reach and accomplish the necessary tasks associated with the exercise.

The first step is to secure recognition from Ontario the fundamental right of First Nations in NAN to design, develop, implement and control their policing responsibilities as part of their governance. The recognition should be included as a clause in the legislation. The parties will determine as to how the legislation will be framed to accommodate NAN policing initiatives. Presently, the two options being examined are to opt into the Police Services Act (PSA) with special clauses on First Nations policing or have a special part added to PSA that will deal with First Nations policing. The opting in into the PSA will be a cumbersome process which will require Ontario to open the PSA for amendments.

The discussions with Ontario have included the participation of the Commissioner of OPP to deal with matters of jurisdiction. At this time, many jurisdictional issues affecting the police operations and enforcement between OPP and NAPS are being addressed through protocol arrangements. The proposed territorial designation will have numerous impacts including the financial requirements.

The Grand Chief has requested meetings with the Ministers of Natural Resources who is responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney General of Ontario and with the Minister of Public Security. A meeting with Minister Monti Qwinter, Minister of Public Security is slated prior to the Keewaywin Conference, and an update of that meeting will be presented to the Chiefs.

The Ipperwash Inquiry will be presenting their findings to the Ontario government beginning of this coming year. The mandate of the Inquiry is to make recommendations on how tragedies could be prevented in the future with police services. The Ipperwash Inquiry will be addressing the First Nations policing services and in all likelihood address matters of legislation and jurisdiction.

COMMUNICATIONS

Jenna Young, Director of Communications
Kristy Hankila, Communications Assistant
Angela Crozier, Systems Administrator

The NAN Communications department produces, communicates, and distributes information regarding events taking place within NAN territory or issues affecting the people and communities of Nishnawbe Aski. Department staff work to ensure the messages and perspectives of NAN are properly communicated and understood throughout our territory, among other Political Territorial Organizations, media, and the general public on a local, regional, national, and international level. The Communications department provides ongoing strategic internal and external communications support to the Grand Chief and Executive Council and to NAN Chiefs, Tribal Councils, and members as issues arise.

The Communications department has grown to include the NAN Information Technology Unit and we're happy to add Systems Administrator Angela Crozier to our team. The IT Unit manages the NAN network, including our Administration and Timmins offices and offers staff training and network/software updates on an ongoing basis. The IT Unit is also working on various projects to upgrade our web services to better meet the needs of NAN members.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Strategic Communication and Consultation

Strategic communication planning and consultation, such as messaging, positioning, and branding is ongoing and as issues arise. Through consultation with NAN Executive, Chiefs, community representatives, and NAN departmental staff, the Communications department ensures accurate information is utilized during strategic planning stages.

Branding

Through brand management of a relatively new corporate look and logo, NAN is able to position itself as a multi-layered organization ie: First Nation communities, Tribal Councils, political advocacy, etc. By using the NAN "brand" on all internal and external communication materials, NAN has created a recognizable look that outside sources can associate with the people and organization. NAN has also branded the centennial commemoration of James Bay Treaty 9 with a re-creation of the original badges distributed by British Commissioners during the signing of the treaty.

Other internal communication initiatives include: Monday Memo,

Daily Media Monitoring and Distribution, Fact Sheets/Backgrounders, Intranet, and the developmental stages of a standardized general filing system and digital resource library.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Publications and Communication Materials

The Communications department produced and distributed Governance News Spring 2006 and The People and the Land Vol 1, Issue 1 to NAN communities March 2006. Both publications will be distributed to a wider audience of other PTOs, Aboriginal organizations, partners and stakeholders including schools and libraries, and municipal, provincial, and federal governments summer 2006.

Media Relations

While taking a proactive approach to current political and community issues to raise the profile of Nishnawbe Aski Nation the Communications department strives to highlight “good news” stories (ie: youth mentoring program, literacy initiatives), while positively addressing community issues that make for “bad news” stories (ie: suicide, drinking water).

Since its inception in August 2004, the Communications department has produced and distributed 61 news releases, hosted 12 news conferences, and assisted in the coordination and promotion of over 45 events.

Since the development of the Communications department and as a result of an increased profile, Nishnawbe Aski Nation has been covered in the news an average of 163 times per year (based on statistics retrieved February 2006). This includes news coverage on various issues spanning local, regional, national, and international media sources, including newspaper, radio, television, magazine, and web.

PERIOD 1: Since Inception of NAN Comms Unit 01/01/2004 to 02/07/2006

Media	Number of times NAN appeared in news
Magazines	3
Major World Newspaper	31
Canadian and non-U.S. Newspaper	178
U.S. Newspaper	1
U.S. Regional Newspaper	2
Wire Stories	111
Total	326
Average (times per year)	163

PERIOD 2: 5 years prior to NAN Comms Unit 01/01/1999 to 12/31/2003

Media	Number of times NAN appeared in news
Magazines	7
Major World Newspaper	19
Canadian and non-U.S. Newspaper	128
U.S. Newspaper	3
U.S. Regional Newspaper	12
Wire Stories	120
Total	289
Average (times per year)	57.8

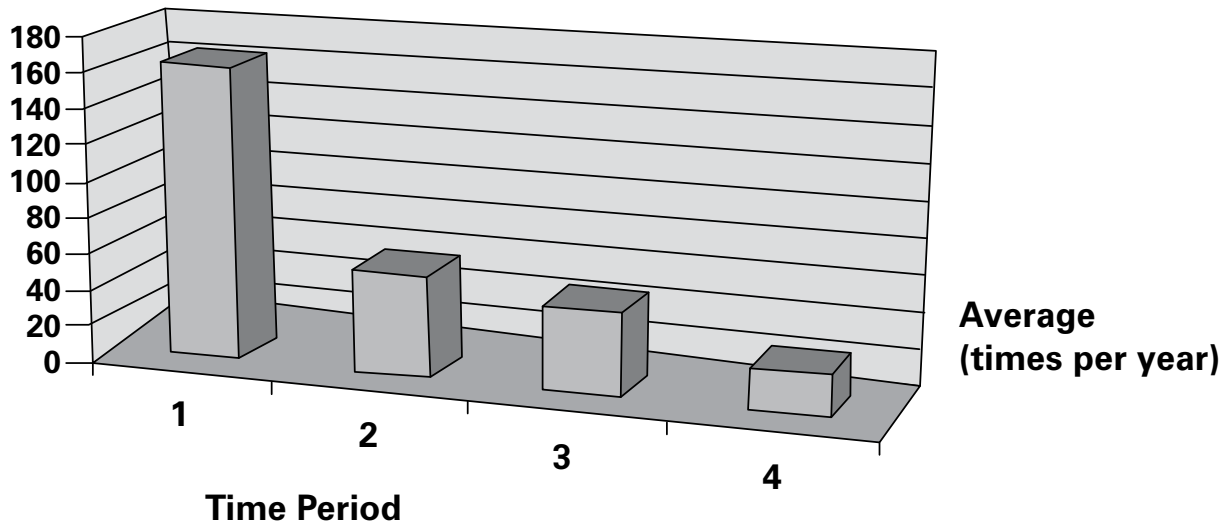
PERIOD 3: 10 years prior to NAN Comms Unit 01/01/1994 to 12/31/2003

Media	Number of times NAN appeared in news
Magazines	8
Major World Newspaper	34
Canadian and non-U.S. Newspaper	168
U.S. Newspaper	6
U.S. Regional Newspaper	21
Wire Stories	231
Total	468
Average (times per year)	46.8

PERIOD 4: 25 years prior to NAN Comms Unit 01/01/1979 to 12/31/2003

Media	Number of times NAN appeared in news
Magazines	12
Major World Newspaper	74
Canadian and non-U.S. Newspaper	196
U.S. Newspaper	9
U.S. Regional Newspaper	25
Wire Stories	259
Total	575
Average (times per year)	23

NAN Media Coverage



* Time Periods:

Period 1: 2004 - 2006 (since inception of NAN Communications Unit)

Period 2: 1999-2003 - Five years prior to NAN Comms. Unit

Period 3: 1999-2003 - Ten years prior to NAN Comms. Unit

Period 4: 1979-2003 - 25 years prior to NAN Comms. Unit

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation

Evelyn Baxter, Executive Director

Overall all programs were able to achieve the majority of goals set out in our workplans for this fiscal year. The following is a brief summary of the major activities undertaken and the issues faced this past fiscal year.



Financial Position

This year NALSC will be reporting a surplus in funds which will be explained further in our Annual Report. The lack of a full complement of staff has been the main contributor to the surplus. With the overall Legal Aid Ontario deficit, it will be difficult to obtain additional funds from LAO for the Corporation - at least until LAO is more financially stable.

Legal Aid

A new President and CEO of Legal Aid Ontario has been appointed, Robert Ward will commence his position on September 5, 2006. The Certificate program remains in high demand, summary legal advice is provided to members three afternoons per week, and we are now able to take legal aid applications by video from the jails in Thunder Bay. NALSC has also been actively participating in the Air Procurement Group process to develop a Request for Proposals for the provision on non-scheduled air service for the court planes. This is a result of the use by provincial government employees of the court planes, and the government requirement that these flights be tendered out. In an effort to improve our legal services in Timmins we relocated our CLW and Staff Lawyer to the NAN sub-office space where the lawyer will work out of two afternoons per week.

Restorative Justice

The program focus has shifted to capacity building in the communities. We launched a Community Youth Justice Initiative for the James Bay coastal communities of Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, Fort Albany and Moose Cree and as well as Pikangikum, Sandy Lake, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations. Protocols to refer charges to restorative justice have been signed with OPP and to refer bullying, etc. in some First Nations schools, work is continuing in this area to develop protocols in all regions of the NAN territory. Workshops have been conducted in Attawapiskat, Neskantaga, Constance Lake, Weagamow Lake, Webequie, Kashechewan, Fort Albany, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations. The Eabametoong Pilot Project to administer NAPS pre-charge referrals has now secured funding to continue until March 2008. A local justice committee was set up to oversee the project's development and implementation. In this past fiscal year we have seen a decrease in the number of youth charges which may be accounted to the success of the restorative justice model.

Special Projects

Talking Together

Revisiting and establishing new protocols with First Nations and child welfare agencies we are currently working with Tikinagan and Wahgoshig First Nation. A new Talking Together Facilitator, Mary Rose Kamalatisit, has been hired for the coastal communities located out of Moose Cree First Nation. A Talking Together/ Restorative Justice Training workshop was held in Taykwa Tagamou. Official launch of the video “The Road Back Home” took place in July. The evaluation of the Talking Together Program conducted by Hoshizak and Company is available on our website.

Sexual/Abuse Restorative Justice Training Program

In the summer of 2005, a five-week training on RJ/Sexual Abuse in Ginoogaming and Aroland First Nations was completed. Funding from the AHF was extended from July 2005 to November 2005 for further training in Wahgoshig First Nation. Further strategizing and securing of funding is needed to keep the program moving forward.

Offenders Program

We received \$42,000.00 from NAN this fiscal year which allowed us to hold several one-on-one healing sessions and group healing retreat/workshops. One-on-one counseling was provided to 19 Mishkeegogamang First Nation community members. Four group healing retreats were held in Mishkeegogamang, Matheson, and Rat Rapids in which 48 men participated.

Public Legal Education

A service delivery model plan was created and implemented. The PLE program has undertaken many new developments, initiatives, and partnerships. In-house materials and resources were refreshed and updated. Workshop series and materials were developed for bullying, child custody/access and support, bail and sureties, and Legal Aid Ontario. The newsletter is delivered on a quarterly basis. Special projects and partnerships include ProBono Law Ontario whereby community members via their Community Legal Worker can access free legal advice and information over the internet through the Ask-a-Lawyer website; the Ontario Justice Education Network which seeks to make positive links between the justice sector and students and teachers through their ‘Circuit Court Justice Education Program’, and Justice for Children and Youth which specializes on covering legal topics that affect homeless and street youth. In the next fiscal year armed with new materials, information and partnerships, we hope to be traveling more to the communities to make presentations and hold workshops.

Victim Witness Advocate

The Board of Directors have agreed to re-visit the mandate and delivery model of the Victim Witness Advocate Program. Kathy Beck will be conducting a thorough analysis of the program and make recommendations on how NALSC can effectively use this program to deliver victim witness and advocacy services to the NAN territory.

NISHAWBE-ASKI POLICE SERVICE

Paul Trivet, Chief of Police

It is with pride that I assumed the role as the Chief of Police in the largest and fastest developing First Nations police service in North America. I come to the Nishnawbe-Aski police service with vision, confidence and a passion to address the numerous and complex issues in the diverse communities of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. I am thankful for the competencies, energy and commitment of our dedicated uniform and civilian members as they serve to accelerate the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service into the national policing forum. I am also grateful for our emerging partnerships with many people, organizations and services that are allowing our organization to effect positive change. The continued support of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, the Tribal Councils and our member communities as well as the contributions of the Police Services Board and Citizens Review Board have properly positioned our police service for the challenges of the 21st century.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service is committed to the investment that is required to develop a positive and trusting relationship with the communities we serve. We appreciate the role that we play in creating safer communities with protection for the victims of crime and alternative court processes for offenders.

Our police service is now hiring at a considerable rate and we are intent on recruiting the best possible candidates from the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. Many of our thirty-five detachments will receive additional officers over the next two years to address the increasing calls for service.

The unseasonably mild winter challenged the delivery of the modular detachments that had been pre-fabricated in Manitoba last year. The infrastructure needs and capital requirements for the service have been reevaluated as a result of the tragic loss of life in the Kashechewan detachment fire. We have developed a facilities standards manual that will assist those communities that wish to build new police detachments. We have created a property management company to explore funding options for police buildings and residences for officers. We have worked in partnership with the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, the Police Services Board and Tribal Council representatives to lobby the provincial and federal governments for capital to address our infrastructure needs. We will no longer accept standards that don't adequately address the safety of officers and community members.

Drug enforcement and interdiction issues have contributed to the development of a specialized NAPS unit. This year we will commit officers as we partner with the RCMP, OPP, Thunder Bay Police Service, Treaty Three Police Service and others to monitor and investigate drug and alcohol trafficking offences in the NAN territories. We are gathering strategic intelligence and will be utilizing aggressive enforcement initiatives to combat the growing problem of trafficking. I have committed to represent NAPS as the co-chair of an LCBO working group on interdiction issues in northern Ontario

In March of this year NAPS members participated in the provincial Sergeant examination and two of our members were successful in the process. In 2007 we will be offering participation in the Sergeant, Staff Sergeant and Inspector examinations.

The training and development of the officers continues with management courses, general investigative courses and specialized training. This year the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service will partner with the community of Eabametoong to offer an accredited Ontario Police College course in a NAN community for the first time.

In partnership with the OPP Academy we have developed an E-Training program to train officers in the

investigation of sexual assaults. It is a first of its kind training course developed in the spirit of continuous learning. Computer accessed training is rapidly becoming the way of the future for many policing organizations.

In 2005 we partnered with the Six Nations Police Service and the OPP to provide our officers with elements of operational training. We have been asked in 2006 to assist the OPP in their regular firearms and use of force training sessions.

This past year saw the retirement of the former Chief of Police, Wes Luloff. Wes was instrumental in the growth of the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service in spite of having suffered through some lean years with insufficient funding. I have the utmost respect for Wes and all of the former NAPS officers that have allowed us to forge ahead on the strength of their years of service.

I have been informed that this year Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakagamic will not be seeking re-election at the Keewaywin conference. I would like to thank Goyce for the invaluable support, insight and guidance that he provided to our police service while holding the policing portfolio for the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

John Domm commenced his duties as Deputy Chief with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service on May 2, 2006. Deputy Chief Domm is a member of the Chippewas of Nawash having served with the Halton Regional Police Service for 17 years.

Each day brings new issues, expectations and demands but we remain focused on continuous improvement and client service in the evolving policing environment. I look forward to working with each community to ensure we are addressing your critical issues.

Meegwetch !

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education & Training Institute

Rosie S. Mosquito, Executive Director
Peggy Wassegijig - Finance & Administrative Officer
Estella Howard - A/Program & Student Service Coordinator
Dale Anderson - Community Liaison & Student Recruitment
Edith Thunder - Student Support Worker
Valerie Nabigon - Administrative Assistant



Oshki-Pimache-O-Win was formally established as an independent, post-secondary institute in 2001 to provide our people with culturally appropriate post-secondary education and training programs. We offer choice, accessibility, flexibility, opportunities and support services to suit individual and community needs. Educating our people in a meaningful way will make a difference now and in the future. Positive changes have been made to allow the Institute to effectively meet its' mandate within the available resources including a move to new site at a cheaper rate. The logo was updated in new colors; the letterhead, business cards, presentation folders, Web Site, Information Display Units, Annual Report and promotional materials like pens, pencils and calculators were made consistent.

Community Consultations

Dialogue with the communities and organizations is a priority. Consultations regarding the Institute and programs were held in Weagamow, Bearskin Lake, Deer Lake, Webequie, Keewaywin and Sandy Lake. More will be held.

Programs

Accredited Programs:

Program Agreements are negotiated to develop or deliver programs. Most are delivered in a modular format where students attend on-campus sessions for two weeks in each semester and the rest is through independent learning. The Fall 2006 offerings are:

- First Nations Business Administration Certificate - This 2 semester program starts on August 21, 2006 and will help prospective or current administrators to effectively use financial, human and material resources in First Nations settings.
- Native Early Childhood Education Diploma - This 2 semester program starts on September 4, 2006. Communities with daycare centers or head start programs should sponsor students who can become certified staff.
- Aboriginal Community Services Worker Diploma - The 2nd of 4 semesters starts on September 18, 2006. Originally developed by NAN as the Community Health Representative Program, this program has evolved to include courses for Mental Health and Alcohol & Drug Abuse Workers.

Non-Accredited Programs:

Oshki also offers programs that are not accredited but respond to employment, training or learning needs. However, students cannot secure financial support because they're not accredited. The Computer Mechanic Plus Program is an example. It meets industry standards. Students learn to trouble shoot most computer problems that create savings on repair and maintenance costs. With education as one of the five purposes, communities should provide financial support from the Casino Rama funds. They could be used for non-accredited, community based or training programs too.

Partnerships

Partnership agreements were negotiated with Cambrian College in Sudbury, Confederation/Negahneewin College and Lakehead University to collaborate in meeting the learning needs of the NAN communities and for accreditation according to provincial standards. This means certificates or diplomas granted to our graduates have currency with employers. To sponsor students, most funding agencies require that programs are accredited. Objectives include: improve accessibility to, retention and success of students in post-secondary education and training programs; address the employment and training needs in NAN communities, and; contribute to the advancement of self-governance, sustainable economic development, and self-sufficiency in NAN.

Projects

Concurrent Disorders (Mental Health & Addictions together) Training Pilot Program

A needs assessment will be held with Alcohol and Drug Abuse Workers from Sandy Lake, North Caribou Lake, Fort Severn, Attawapiskat, Mishkeegogamang, Kingfisher Lake, Cat Lake and Pikangikum. A training program may be developed for NAN.

IGNITE Technology Camp, August 15 - 17, 2006

Oshki with IBM and NAN will host a summer technology camp for youth, ages 8 - 14, to create awareness of opportunities in engineering, computer science and technology.

Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)

Aboriginal Reference Group

We participate in this group as the NAN representative. It provides advice to NOSM in administration, academic and research concerning the aboriginal world view. It is also the primary resource for implementing the recommendations in admissions, community engagement, communications, curriculum and research made at the NOSM Aboriginal Workshop in June 2003. The status of the recommendations will be reviewed in a workshop on Fort William First Nation, August 1 - 3, 2006.

Pipeline to Science and Medical Careers Project, July 17 - 21, 2006

Oshki is one of many partners that will hold a Science Day Camp for 5 Aboriginal and 5 Francophone youth in grades 8 - 10 to encourage youth into the health and medical careers. The first year medical students will participate as role models.

Aboriginal Education & Training Strategy (AETS), Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities (MTCU)

On the recommendation of the Proposal Selection Committee, the MTCU did not approve the two proposals submitted to AETS, 2005/2006 despite an additional \$1,000,000 allocation for aboriginal institutes. Oshki depends on this sole provincial funding source that helps address some of learning needs in NAN. Considerable time and resources were spent in participating in the Rae Task Force on Post Secondary Education in Ontario, 2004/2005, that contributed towards the increased funding. Oshki as the Institute that serves largest number of communities didn't receive any.

Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) Funding, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada

Chiefs of Ontario (COO) - COO had a meeting with the INAC Ontario Region Education Director in October 2005 concerning the COO Resolution calling for a comprehensive review of the ISSP funding. We were not consulted nor informed even though they were aware that Oshki and NAN tabled the resolution for political support.

National Review of the Post Secondary Education (PSE) - The AFN/INAC joint working group for the review the PSE Program included the ISSP by Chignecto Consulting. The report includes a recommendation for equitable funding. Ontario Region has some concerns and is now considering an ISSP review in the region. The Aboriginal Institutes' Consortium has recommended that political support from the leadership be secured.

Governance

Oshki is governed by nine Governing Council members from across the NAN territory:

- Joseph Gagnon, Chair - Aroland First Nation
- Chief Darby Harper, Vice-Chair - Koocheching First Nation
- Joanne Cheechoo, Treasurer - Eabametoong First Nation
- Ken Neegan, Secretary - Constance Lake First Nation
- Lindbergh Louttit, Elder - Chapleau Cree First Nation
- Catherine Cheechoo, Youth - Moose Cree First Nation
- James Brown - Wapekeka First Nation
- Frankie Crowe - Sandy Lake First Nation
- Abraham Hunter - Peawanuck First Nation

OSHKI-PIMACHE-O-WIN RESOLUTION UPDATES

Resolution 05/04

Federal Budget Post Secondary Education Funding Announcement

In 2005/2006, Ontario Region received an additional \$136,000 for the Indian Studies Support Program. They approved \$69,750 for Oshki. For the 2006/2007 fiscal year, \$81,145 was approved. The increases are a result of combined efforts including NAN's political support, meetings with the Indian Affairs Regional Director and the extensive distribution of over 100 copies of Oshki's Annual Report to federal officials.

Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

Diane Riopel - Executive Director
Kim Piché - Executive Secretary
Kathy Perreault - Resource Centre Coordinator
Anastasia Weesk - Translator/Interpreter
J.P. Jacasum - Translator/Interpreter
Jim Hollander - Curriculum Writer



RESOURCE CENTRE

Greater access to resource materials is required by the schools and communities of the NAN area. The resource centre catalogue is available online.

Community Contacts

More contact with NAN communities is required to respond more effectively to their needs. The following NAN communities were visited in the past year: Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat.

NAN BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Begin using these applications and services within the NAN area, specifically with schools, communities, and organizations.

WORKSHOPS

More workshops are required to promote and support language and education needs of communities.

The following workshops have been presented in the NAN territory:

1. Political Terminology Workshops for the eastern, western (Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway)
2. Omushkego Education Conference NOESA Pathways for Student Success JK-12
3. NAN Education Conference: Best Practices
4. Great Moon Gathering: Omushkego Culture Curriculum Update
5. Working Together 2006 Workshop with Ojibway and Oji-Cree language teachers from Northwestern Ontario
6. Matawa First Nations Education Conference: Omushkego Language and Culture Curriculum

OCCC NEWS

The OCCC News Volume 5 Issue 1 was published in November 2005. The next newsletter will be published in October 2006. Continue to promote the programs and activities of the OCCC.

PROJECTS

NAN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY AND LIFE EXPERIENCES

PROMISES, PROMISES: A BOARD GAME COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY NO. 9

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Developing new language and culture materials for NAN communities continues to be an important part of OCCC's work.

- 1) Northern Ojibway Style Wigwam Construction
- 2) How to Make Mittens
- 3) Ojibway Children's Picture Dictionary
- 4) Oji-Cree Children's Picture Dictionary
- 5) Cree Children's Picture Dictionary
- 6) English, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Ojibway Political Terminology Glossary
- 7) Kindergarten Working Together Reading Series
- 8) Promises, Promises: A Board Game Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Treaty No. 9
- 9) Omushkego Culture
- 10) OCCC News: Volume 5 Issue 1
- 11) OCCC Catalogue of Materials for Sale (Revised)
- 12) OCCC CD of Website and Materials for Sale (Revised)

Continue developing materials to meet the needs of NAN area schools and communities.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation - Staff Directory

NAN Executive Council

Name	Title	Direct Line	Email Address
Stan Beardy	Grand Chief	(807) 625-4943	sbeardy@nan.on.ca
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Dan Kooses	Deputy Grand Chief	(807) 625-4921	dkooses@nan.on.ca
Alvin Fiddler	Deputy Grand Chief	(807) 625-4903	afiddler@nan.on.ca

Office of the Grand Chief

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Bilateral Protocol


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**Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Highlight Photos
Of The
Past Year
2005-2006**







