

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Grand Chief Stan Beardy Report

1.

Relationship with Canada	1.
Relationship with Ontario	2.
Consultation, Accommodation and Consent	2.
Survival and Achievement	3.
Executive Director's Report	5.
Finance & Administration	6.
Financial Position	6.
Human Resources	6.
Communication and Information Technology	7.
Restructuring	7.
Internal Communications	8.
Visual Identity Guidelines	8.
Branding	8.
Policy and Procedural Development	8.
Design	8.
Communication with NAN Members and Organizations	8.
Media Relations	9.
Communication and Information Technology	9.
NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol	10.
Traditional Governance	10.
Grand Council Treaty 3/NAN Alliance	11.
Relationship Protocol between NAN and Grand Council Treaty #3	11.
Current Status	11.
Decision/Action Required	11.
Land Rights and Treaty Research	12.
Specific Claims Tribunal	12.
National Claims Conference	12.
Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA)	12.
NAN Fur Management Agreement (Licensing)	13.
NAN Licensing Program	13.
NAN Fur Depot	13.
Treaty 5 Commemoration Project	13.
Lands and Resources	14.
Lands and Resources Secretariat	14.
NAN Fish Habitat Program	14.
NAN Forestry Program	15.
Intergovernmental Activities	16.
Treaty Discussion Forum	19.
Treaty 5 Research	19.
Treaty 5 Booklet	19.
Treaty 5 Commemoration/Treaty 5 Medals	19.
Treaty Forum Symposium	19.
Elder's Workshop in Treaty 5	20.
Panorama	20.

Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit **21.**

Housing and Infrastructure	21.
Resource Development	22.
Governance Secretariat	23.
Conclusion	23.
Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)	24.

Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin **25.**

Justice and Policing	26.
Kashechewan Inquest Recommendations	26.
NAPS Board Chairman	26.
Stirland Lake and Cristal Lake Indian Residential Schools Litigation	26.
Health Policy and Planning	27.
Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)	27.
AHHRI Special Projects	28.
Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program (IIHCP)	28.
Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP)	28.
NAN Health Careers Program	29.
Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy Renewal	30.
Ontario Wide Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy	31.
Non-Insured Health Benefits and Medical Transportation	31.
Regional Health Survey (RHS)	32.
Chiropody	32.
Diabetes	32.
Tobacco	32.
Health Promotion	33.
Pandemic Planning	33.
NAN Essential Services Strategy	33.
Public Health	33.
Women's Issues and Family Healing	34.
Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council	34.
Equay-wuk (Women's Group)	34.
Major NAN Women's Project	35.
Family Healing Initiative	35.
Renewal Update	36.
Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Bill S-4	38.
Bill C-3	38.
Healing The Generations II	40.
The Healing Initiative - Healing From The Legacy of Mike Rowe	41.

Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose

43.

Education	43.
Water Project	44.
Child Welfare	44.
Intergovernmental Network (IGN)	45.
Governance	45.
Intergovernmental Network (IGN) on NAN Children and Youth	47.
Youth Issues	48.
Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	49.
AIDS and Healthy Lifestyles Program	51.
Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Strategy	52.
Food Security	53.
Social Services	55.
Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services	55.
Support for Sixties Scoop Litigation	55.
Regional Social Services Pilot Project	56.
First Nations Legislation	56.
Governance Secretariat	57.
Treaty Implementation Framework	58.
Treaty Strategic Plan	58.

Resolution Updates

59.

Lands, Rights and Treaty Research	59.
Resolution #09/90: Chapleau Cree First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement	59.
Lands and Resources	60.
Resolution #09/10: Support for the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP)	60.
Resolution #09/50: Nuclear Waste-Free Zone and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Nine-step Site Selection Process	60.
Resolution #09/55: Support for Whitewater Lake First Nation 2009-2010 Negotiations with the Province of Ontario on the Wabikimi Park	61.
Resolution #09/85: Pikanjikum Forest Management Plan	61.
Resolution #09/91: Rejection of Métis Engagement on Ontario Revenue and Resource Benefits Sharing	61.
Resolution #10/06: Call for the Government of Canada to Endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)	62.
Resolution #10/23: NAN Right of Consent - Policies and Developments that Affect the Territory	62.

Economic Development	63.
Resolution #09/89	63.
Housing	65.
Resolution #09/97: NAN First Nations Strategic Housing Action Plan	65.
Social Services	68.
Resolution #06/13: NAN Territorial Child and Family Services Coalition	68.
Resolution #07/11: Establishment of a Water Quality Unit, Safe Drinking Water	69.
Resolution #19/75: Child and Family Services Funding Crisis	69.
Resolution #09/76: Opposition to Sustainability Commission Pertaining to Children’s Aid Societies in Ontario	70.
Women	70.
Resolution #07/42: Birth Registration	70.
Health Policy and Planning	72.
Resolution #09/92: Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency	72.
Resolution #09/93: Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Delivery of Optometrist Community Services	74.
Strategic Planning	
Resolution #10-30: Strategic Plan Orientation	75.
Appendix A	79.
Self-Sufficiency, Self-Governance	79.
Unity	79.
Restructuring of NAN Organization	81.
Leadership	81.
Strategic Planning	82.
Changing the way we think	82.
Communication	82.
Education, Training, and Capacity Building	83.
Overall Vision for 20 Years from now	84.
Priorities	84.
How can we work together	85.
Appendix B	86.
Common Themes	86.
Spirituality	86.
Unity	86.
Law Making	86.
Licenses and Permits	86.
Self-Governance and Jurisdiction	86.
Resource Revenue Sharing, Benefits from the Land	87.
Treaty	87.
Personal Responsibility	87.
Partnerships	87.
Communication	87.
Culture and Language	87.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy



This year our Keewaywin is in Sandy Lake First Nation. We are meeting here to commemorate the signing of the adhesion to Treaty #5 in Deer Lake First Nation on June 9, 1909 between Canada and the First Nations of Deer Lake, Sandy Lake, North Spirit Lake, Keewaywin, Koochiching and McDowell Lake. As in 2005 with the commemoration of Treaty #9, this is not a time to celebrate but a time to remember our history and to honour our Treaty.

We are meeting in the home community of one of our great leaders, the late *Chief Tom Fiddler*. Chief Fiddler was a strong and determined leader who knew that First Nations must defend our inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty rights and who knew that to do so First Nations must work together. He spent many years travelling between First Nations encouraging both unity and resistance. He was so active that one can find RCMP security reports on Chief Tom Fiddler attached to INAC reports!

As we deliberate on our past year and on the year ahead, we should remember and build upon the strong, resolute, courageous, and wise example set by Chief Fiddler. As illustrated in the break-out discussions at the March 2010 Chiefs' meeting, the example of Chief Fiddler is being followed. There was strong agreement that our First Nations must work in unity to build and implement our own laws and exert our jurisdiction. As the eyes of the world begin to focus on our homeland as the source of resources to be extracted and ecosystems to be protected, our First Nations must act with strength and solidarity to ensure that our people are in charge, that we make the decisions, we reap the benefits, and we set the rules. It is certainly true that we will suffer the consequences of poor planning, bad decisions and incompetent management if we are not prepared.

These are hard times for our people. We are facing grave threats to our physical well-being through government cuts and policy changes that further impoverish our First Nations. We also face changes in our relationship with our treaty partner Canada and with the settler government on our lands, Ontario. Throughout this report there are numerous examples of the determined, if subtle, federal strategy of devolving services as our Treaty partner, to Ontario. Ontario is certainly willing to accept some of these successions, not as treaty responsibilities, but as part of Ontario's management of the lands, resources and people of the province. Ontario behaves as if our First Nations are municipalities without authority. Also throughout this report are the many examples of how our First Nations, Tribal Councils, agencies, organizations and NAN itself, are not only resisting these government strategies, but are beginning to develop our own systems of government and exercise our jurisdiction on our lands.

Relationship with Canada

As reported last year, NAN presented to Canada a proposal for revamping our bi-lateral process based on meeting the immediate, short-term and long-term needs of the NAN First Nations. We have proposed a comprehensive strategy that addresses our long-term goals and objectives while meeting the immediate and short-term needs of our people with the required capacity to address the many emergencies that our First Nations face. Nearly three years later we continue to discuss the same proposal.

CORDA, the Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement, is up for renewal this year. This has been a long-standing program. It is the only program that actually supports the exercise of our treaty rights to harvest. It is a model of co-operation between First Nations and Canada, our Treaty partner, and Ontario which claims the right

to manage our homelands. This year INAC has stated that it will not participate in a renewed agreement as this support for traditional activities apparently no longer fits their economic strategy. Ontario has suggested a one year extension to the program and will cover its costs.

The trapping agreement with Ontario is coming up for renewal as well. Canada has refused to participate in this agreement, stating that trapping is a provincial responsibility. Trapping is also a treaty right, a treaty right confirmed by the Cheechoo case and referenced in Supreme Court actions.

These are just a few examples of Canada's retreat from its obligations as our Treaty partner, its fiduciary responsibility to our First Nations and its responsibilities under the constitution of Canada. Canada's refusal to sign the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is no mistake. Canada is, bit by bit, denying our existence as nations and threatening our survival as peoples. These are hard times.

Relationship with Ontario

NAN staff continue to remind Ontario bureaucrats that they must enter into meaningful consultation with First Nations prior to any changes that might impact our Aboriginal and Treaty rights. For example, we demanded meaningful consultation on a revised sturgeon policy; a policy adopted without consultation.

For several years, NAN First Nations have been working with forest municipalities to address the collapse of the forest industry. Crises can be opportunities for change and the First Nations and municipalities have put forward a new forestry policy based on a community forestry model. This model, establishing local control over forestry, would provide all communities with some ability to control our futures and to avoid the disastrous consequences communities suffer in an economic downturn when forests are managed from a distance. Ontario has rejected the community forestry model and proposes that First Nations be involved in forestry as stakeholders.

The Joint Ipperwash Technical Table (JITT) has established seven (7) sub-tables dealing with communications, resource benefit sharing, policing, consultation and accommodation, jurisdiction, treaty commission and heritage and burial sites. All of these tables are proceeding at a very slow pace. All involved recognize that the extraordinary delay is undermining the process and is calling Ontario's commitment to change into question.

The above examples attest to the typical relationship between First Nations and Ontario. It is not uncommon for governments to simply extend negotiations or discussions until they have worn out their negotiating partner, convincing them that change is impossible. It would appear that this is Ontario's approach to the JITT. Ontario is losing its best opportunity to come into conformity with its constitutional obligations to First Nations. As with Bill 191, Ontario is laying the groundwork for increased confrontations throughout the province.

Consultation, Accommodation and Consent

Supreme Court rulings have made it clear that governments must consult with First Nations should they take any action which may infringe upon the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. It is the honour of the Crown to do so. Consultation must be meaningful, accommodation must be made and, in some cases, consent required. It is this duty to consult, accommodate and achieve consent that is the foundation of our government to government relationship, not as Ontario claims, the Indian Act!

Canada is quite simply failing in its duty to consult. There was no consultation on changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act. Nan did express its concerns and Canada duly amended the act without consultation or input.

Of even greater concern is the failure to consult by both Ontario and Canada on the introduction of the Harmonized

Sales Tax (HST). With this new tax, the treaty promise of tax exempt status will disappear. It has been estimated that the HST will collect an estimated \$85 – \$121 million in taxes from First Nations annually. The HST is a failure on many fronts. It is a failure by Canada and Ontario to consult, accommodate and gain consent on a violation of Treaty rights. It is a failure of Ontario to honour its commitment that the HST will not create tax increases. It is a failure of Canada and Ontario to protect the most vulnerable people in the province.

Since the inception of the Far North Initiative, NAN has clearly informed Ontario that it must consult with individual First Nations as it is their Aboriginal and Treaty rights which are impacted by this initiative and by Bill 191, the Far North Act. Ontario has met with NAN over many tedious hours on Bill 191. It has adopted some minor changes as discussed with Oski Machiitawin, although without informing the OM Chiefs and staff. However, on the major concerns of funding, Ministerial over-ride, dispute resolution, implementation, no accommodation has yet occurred. NAN has requested that second reading be delayed until all of our concerns have been accommodated. The bill went through second reading in May. However the Standing Committee overseeing the bill has agreed to further hearings prior to third reading, thus First Nations have yet one more opportunity to create land use planning legislation that does respect our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

This year it has made apparent that developing a government to government relationship, that gaining implementation of our Aboriginal and Treaty rights, that true respect between governments and peoples requires the determination and unity that are the lessons of Chief Tom Fiddler.

Survival and Achievement

While this year there have been disappointments, frustrations and hard lessons learned, there have also been achievements and successes. NAN and the Union of Ontario Indians are jointly organizing a national Treaty Conference in the fall of 2010 to address the new but not yet operating Treaty Commission. NAN and Grand Council Treaty #3 are continuing our dialogue on issues we hold in common, such as the HST, resource revenue sharing, health care and child and family services. We are also building new alliances with northern municipalities. In this economic downturn, northern municipalities are discovering that they face problems similar to those common to First Nations. All communities need control over their own economic future.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation continues to build relationships with industry, educational institutions and non-government organizations. We continue to work with Project Beyshick, with the Lieutenant Governor's literacy program and have added the Right to Play organization and University of Ottawa as partners. As per mandate from NAN Chiefs, the Executive continues to work hard at pursuing the needed upgrades to technological infrastructure required in our territory. We're also developing a partnership with Microsoft Canada to ensure greater opportunities for our youth.

NAN is taking action to address new issues as they arise. We are beginning to address food security, the abuse of prescription drugs and climate change in our communities. As a large portion of our homeland has been offered up to the world as an unchangeable carbon sink, I along with Elder Greg Koostachin and Carol Audet represented NAN at the climate change conference in Copenhagen in December.

NAN continues to lobby and advocate on behalf of our member First Nations, meeting with MPs and MPPs both in and out of government. I even met with our real Treaty partner, the Prince of Wales! This April NAN extended its international presence when I attended a meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous People. As part of NAN's lobbying effort, I have been a tour guide for several senior bureaucrats and others to First Nations. Certainly those who still hold power over our communities should at least set foot in these communities. Perhaps one day Premier McGuinty will visit the real "far north" not just a diamond mine.

Organizationally NAN continues to become more streamlined and efficient. Our unaudited books indicate that NAN is close to balancing the books at this time; with full audited statements available in July 2010. Our staff is

predominately First Nation, many of whom are citizens of our First Nations. Our communications program is undergoing significant changes with the development of a standard NAN brand, consistent messaging, a communications policy and greater use of new technologies.

Moving with some caution NAN continues to develop its traditional governance. Nishtam Ahkiiwininiwuk has been reviewed by the Chiefs and will be taken to community consultation in the coming year, funding permitting. In 2009, NAN presented to the Chiefs a proposal for a universal vote. The Chiefs will reconsider the proposal over the next years. Our Elder's, Youth and Women's Councils continue to provide sound and wise advice to the Executive Council and Assemblies. Funding permitting and the increased use of new technologies will allow the Councils to be even more present in NAN discussions.

Now more than ever, we must begin to take control over our future, to create our own laws, to assert our jurisdictions. We have the great example of Chief Tom Fiddler to guide us, to propel us to defend our nation through acting in unity.

Stan Beardy

Grand Chief

Executive Director's Report

The 2009/10 fiscal year for Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has found itself in very challenging positions throughout the year as the organization continues to reel from the high costs associated with our Chiefs assemblies. NAN needs to revisit the number of Chiefs assemblies hosted each fiscal year or review overall contributions to the costs of these assemblies from all affiliated organizations i.e. Tribal Councils, as the necessity of meeting with our Chiefs and receiving their input into the work of the Executive Council and staff has increased and the issues that face our First Nations and its membership are omnipresent.

The downfall of the overall economy in Canada, especially Ontario, had end results of the Province falling into a huge deficit. The implementation of changes in the Provincial and Federal governments monitoring systems have all expenditures being heavily scrutinized and it has taken away the flexibility and the discretionary funding contributions that organizations have previously had to assist First Nation's activities where community financial shortfalls had occurred.

NAN has always had good rapport with the Provincial government in terms of finding areas of agreement that would facilitate the work the Chiefs have mandated the Executive Council. The challenges felt by the organization were due to new and stricter funding and reporting guidelines that were being imposed by certain Ministries, by their rescinding of promises, at levels of the Assistant Deputy Ministers and Technicians.

NAN continues to complete its transition from a Provincial Corporation to a Federal Corporation. This will allow work to begin on the restructuring of our regional government (NAN) and gradually move it from a corporate setting towards a treaty based government. The goal of a treaty based government will be to enhance and support our First Nations governments and their membership. The work of the Chiefs Strategic Planning Committee will guide us and ensure that the vision of Nishnawbe Aski Nation that our founders had are followed and the aspirations they had for the First Nations and the people of Nishnawbe Aski are realized.

As your Executive Director, I am continuously thankful for the opportunity that has been given me to work with the First Nations, Chiefs, Executive Council and staff of Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory. I believe that by working together we will be able to take NAN to a higher level of government that will command recognition and cooperation of our Provincial and Federal Governments.

In Unity,

David Fletcher

Executive Director

Finance and Administration

Staff

Jeff Nelson, Director of Finance
Paulette Desmoulin, Senior Finance Officer
Jeff Forneri, Senior Finance Officer
Rachel Mamakwa, Finance Officer
Pam Fayrick, Payroll Officer
Sabrina Marion, Director Human Resources
Ian Beardy Human Resource Co-Coordinator
Elizabeth Achneepineskum and Pauline Greene, Receptionists

Financial Position

Because of the early Keewaywin (June 2010) this year, the Audited Financial Statement will be forwarded as an addendum to the Annual Report.

Also provided at that time will be a briefing note on the 2009-2010 statement.

Human Resources

Our full-time equivalent staff level fluctuates from 52 to 57 as projects and initiatives (generally of a time-sensitive nature) progress. Our staff compliment is approximately 79% Aboriginal (2009) overall while approximately 65% of NAN's employees to-date are registered members of NAN First Nations (2009).

Communication and Information Technology

Staff

Deanna Marie Therriault, Director of Communications
Amy Harris, Media Relations Officer
Angela Crozier, Systems Administrator

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Communications department produces, communicates, and distributes information regarding events within NAN territory and issues affecting the people and communities of Nishnawbe Aski. Department staff works to ensure the messages and perspectives of NAN are effectively and consistently communicated and understood throughout NAN territory, among other Political Territorial Organizations (PTOs), media, and general public on a local, regional, national, and international level. The Communications department includes strategic planning for publications and communication materials, media relations, special events, consultation, and branding.

On an ongoing basis and as issues arise, the department recommends specific internal/external communication initiatives/strategies to NAN Executive Council (Grand Chief and Deputies) and NAN leadership (NAN Chiefs), NAN departments, Tribal Councils, and First Nation members.

The Communications department also includes the NAN Information Technology (IT) Unit overseen by the Systems Administrator, which manages the NAN network, including both Administration and NAN Eastern offices, offering staff training and network/software updates on an ongoing basis. Additionally, organizational website updates are coordinated through the IT Unit.

Restructuring

The NAN Communications Strategy continues to focus on increasing NAN presence and visibility in all of our communities, while maintaining efficient media relations to effectively communicate the challenges and efforts of the people and communities of Nishnawbe Aski Nation to NAN First Nation membership, PTOs, various levels of government, and the public at large.

The NAN communications department has undergone some changes since August 2009. Jenna Young left the Communications Director position with Deanna Marie Therriault assuming the role March 25, 2010. Michael Heintzman left the Media Relations Position and Amy Harris assumed this role in late 2009.

Despite the restructuring and shuffle of employees, the Communications and IT department has met all demands by the varying units/departments within the organization. The existing staff roster is exceptional and the working relationships within the unit both compliment and provide the organization with the expertise required.

Internal Communications

The Communications department works with NAN staff to develop and encourage effective information sharing strategies within the organization. Some of these initiatives include the Monday memo, daily media monitoring and distribution, and fact sheets/backgrounders.

Visual Identity Guidelines

In addition to these particular initiatives, the Communications and Tech Unit has developed *Visual Identity Guidelines* that will assist organizational staff with their external communications efforts; providing for effective and consistent messaging and appearance in all NAN promotional and marketing tools. This ultimately lends to the professional reputation of Nishnawbe Aski Nation as an organization.

Branding

A re-branding initiative is underway that will see all NAN promotional and marketing tools e.g. print materials, advertisements, marketing tools (dept. pull ups, banners), adopt a new singular look comprised of new colour photo images; blue coloured background with totem animals and black headers and footers to replace the former red. All items except letterhead, business cards, and envelopes will be redeveloped with this “new look” over the next fiscal year (2010/2011). Staff has been notified of the ongoing change.

Policy and Procedural Development

To further assist Executive and staff, a procedural communications policy was developed and introduced May 2010 that provides staff with a step-by-step guide for the development and approval of all NAN specific items. All items that bear the NAN logo must meet certain design requirements and receive Executive approval prior to distribution. This ensures consistency and professional presentation of both image and message. The policy was provided to H/R for inclusion in the overall organizational policy and procedural manual.

An overall Communications policy and procedure manual is in development that will be presented to Executive Fall 2010 that covers all aspects of internal and external communications for the NAN organization.

Design

Communications department now has graphic design expertise and is able to complete various graphic design projects in-house, saving design dollars. To date various ads have been developed, pocket folder cover designs, as well as the IGN and Girl Power Wolf Spirit Warrior logos have been produced in-house.

Communication with NAN Members and Organizations

The communications department works closely with NAN Executive Council to develop and implement key messages regarding NAN’s purpose, role, priorities, and plans with respect to political advocacy, organization/structure, and the initiatives of individual First Nation communities.

Specific publications and communication materials produced in the past year include a flip and wall calendar, governance News-in-Brief Winter of 2010, various public service announcements (PSAs) and print messages. Information kits are also distributed as backgrounders during news conferences and meetings with politicians. Various departments are coordinating completion of information booklets with the Communications Department for distribution to NAN constituency.

Media Relations

In coordination with NAN Executive Council and leadership, the NAN communications department utilizes media relations to advocate on behalf of NAN First Nations or to support the initiatives of NAN First Nations. Through consultation with NAN Executive, Chiefs, community representatives, and NAN department leads, the communications department ensures accurate information is utilized during strategic planning stages.

The communications department strives to highlight 'good news' stories (i.e.: youth mentoring programs, literacy initiatives), while positively addressing community issues that make for 'bad news' stories (i.e.: suicide, crime).

Since August 2009, the Communications department has produced and distributed several news releases, hosted news conferences and assisted in the coordination and promotion of many events.

NAN has been covered in the news more than 300 times since the beginning of August 2009. This includes news coverage on various issues spanning local, regional, national and international media sources, including newspaper, radio, television, magazine, and the web.

Communication and Information Technology

The IT unit has seen increased usage of videoconferencing from meetings and forums to include NAN wide training sessions and has also utilized webcasting in certain sessions to increase communication to NAN members and partners.

Ongoing priorities include increasing usage of videoconference and webcasting to enhance communications with NAN members and partners and further development of NAN IT and communications systems, including a new improved NAN intranet.

NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol

Staff

Bill Nothing, Director of Policy

Gail Smith, Protocol Administrative Assistant

The Executive continues to work toward the implementation of the draft proposal presented to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in April 2007, to make the NAN/Canada Bilateral Protocol more relevant and responsive by addressing the immediate, near and long term issues facing NAN First Nations as a whole.

Meetings have been held with Deputy Minister Wernick and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Wilson to consider the overall proposal and specific issues addressed within the document. A draft Terms of Reference for a Remote Energy Table has been initiated and presented by Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Gina Wilson of the Regional Operations Sector for review.

Follow up letters have been sent to the office of the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INC) indicating that it is urgent to move forward on the Protocol as promised by the Minister. A proposal has been sent to INAC for Energy under the Bilateral Protocol. NAN looks forward to continuing dialogue in order to meet the needs and identify immediate priorities.

Traditional Governance

A legal review has been carried out for the document, *Nishtam Ahkiiwininiwuk* and was reviewed by the Chiefs Steering Committee in February; further work on the legal review and recommendations are currently being carried out.

Community consultation funding is being pursued for the 2010/11 fiscal year from the Province. Funding to finalize the communications package is also being sought for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

The Chiefs in Assembly have declared that the NAN Universal Vote concept as presented in March 2009 will be subject to further review by the assembly.

Grand Council Treaty 3/NAN Alliance

Staff

Bill Nothing, Director of Policy
Gail Smith, Protocol Administrative Assistant

Relationship Protocol between NAN and Grand Council Treaty #3

NAN and Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3) have recognized that they have many issues in common in their First Nations and territories. At times, NAN and GCT3 First Nations have found themselves being out-voted or represented differently by other First Nation organizations with different interests and positions. NAN and GCT3 have discussed working together to correct this situation in the best interests of their First Nations and as may so be directed and mandated by their respective Chiefs in Assembly.

On May 12, 2010 Grand Chief Stan Beardy, NAN and Ogichidaakwe Diane Kelly, GCT3 met with a small delegation to discuss further action required and shared common interests among both Treaty areas. NAN and GCT3 respect the independence and jurisdiction of one another but recognize the need to have agreement when working on issues of common interest.

Issues as identified and agreed to by NAN and GCT3 are:

- a) Child Welfare and Family Services
- b) Health Care
- c) Resource Revenue Sharing (OFNLP)
- d) Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

Current Status

A discussion paper of the common issues will be developed with input by senior managers of both NAN and GCT3. This will be presented to Chiefs in Assembly for review and decision making on future actions.

Decision/Action Required

Discussion Paper:

- a) Review and decisions by Chiefs in Assembly on how to proceed with Alliance

Land Rights and Treaty Research

Staff

Luke Hunter, Director of Research
Joe Wheesk, Claims and Licensing Coordinator

Specific Claims Tribunal

The Specific Claims Tribunal is an independent adjudicative body created to decide First Nations' specific claims. Specific claims can include alleged breaches of treaties, fraud, illegal dispositions, or inadequate compensation related to reserve lands. The Tribunal can determine monetary awards of up to \$150 million per claim. The *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* came into affect October 16, 2008.

On November 27, 2009, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada announced the appointment of Mr. Justice Harry Slade of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Mr. Justice Patrick Smith of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, and Madam Justice Johanne Mainville of the Superior Court of Quebec as full-time members of the Specific Claims Tribunal.

Rules of Practice and Procedures are currently being developed under the *Act* by a committee appointed by the Chairperson. The Committee may also establish an advisory committee of interested parties to advise on the development of the rules. There are currently no claims filed with the Specific Claims Tribunal as the tribunal has not yet assumed full operation at this time.

National Claims Conference

NAN and Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) are co-hosting the National Claims Conference (workshop) being held in Thunder Bay this fall 2010. The conference will be held at the Victoria Inn from September 20-23, 2010. An agenda and conference details will be available in July 2010 and will be posted on the NAN website.

Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA)

On February 17, 2010 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) announced that they would not be continuing on with the CORDA program; it will no longer be funded beyond 2011. In 2009 INAC undertook a review of its economic development programming and noted that the CORDA program no longer fit within the new economic development strategy/framework the department is pursuing; funding authorities will not be renewed when the current authorities expire in 2011. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on the other hand has indicated that the Ministry has not changed its position and mandate to continue the partnership arrangement. Ontario (MNR) has arranged for additional partners such as Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (MNDMF) to participate in CORDA; this paves the way for additional contributions from the province.

The CORDA committee met with INAC officials on April 20, 2010 to present arguments for the continuation of the program. NAN Chief's resolution #10/21 was presented and distributed to both INAC and MNR officials. The Director General did acknowledge Ontario region's support and undertook to companion the program. There will be

stakeholder meetings in June 2010 to solicit further feedback. INAC has drafted a discussion paper outlining their strategic priorities and goals for new economic development programming.

NAN Fur Management Agreement (Licensing)

The current five year agreement expired March 31, 2010. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is recommending that the existing agreements be extended for another year while the program is reviewed. There are three agreements in Ontario. NAN undertook an operational review and currently reviewing the recommendations. Canada has recently indicated that they will not sign the trapping agreements noting that the matter falls under Province. INAC will continue to provide financial support on project basis.

NAN Licensing Program

The NAN Licensing program issued over 600 trapper licences for the 2009-2010 season. NAN has approximately 2500 registered trappers with close to 40 new trappers added to the current total. NAN is continuing to improve the Licensing program by updating and enhancing the database and the overall delivery of the program.

NAN Fur Depot

The 2009-2010 season was relatively quiet due to a number of reasons. First, the warmer start to the winter season delayed most of the delivery of wild fur from trappers. In December of 2009, NAN received approximately 100 wild furs compared to 550 pelts in 2008. This fiscal year, NAN has received approximately 2000 wild furs, a dramatic decrease from last season's intake of close to 3000. Fur prices have hampered trapping activities among northern trappers. Last season's poor sales of certain species (marten, otter, muskrat and wild mink) have had some trappers reconsider bringing in their furs as the market value declines. Further, the strong Canadian dollar has hurt the trapping industry.

Treaty 5 Commemoration Project

On June 9th 2010 the Treaty 5 First Nations and Nishnawbe Aski Nation will commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the signing of the Treaty No. 5 Adhesions at both Sandy Lake and Deer Lake First Nations. In support of this initiative, NAN has scheduled its annual Keewaywin Conference to be held in Sandy Lake First Nation to coincide with the commemoration activities. NAN hosted a fundraising gala May 13th, 2010 in Thunder Bay. The event was sold out and was a great success with excellent media coverage and funds raised to assist with offsetting some of the expenses anticipated for the commemoration events in the north. The keynote speaker at the event was the AFN National Chief Shawn A-un-chut Atleo.

NAN is continuing to assist the Treaty 5 communities with ongoing commemoration planning. To date, NAN is in a process of completing the treaty 5 booklet, and program (events) pamphlet. Treaty medals that commemorate that worn by Chief Fiddler at the actual signing of Treaty 5 have been ordered, as well as pins and other commemorative items. A Treaty No. 5 specific website has been developed and launched. NAN is also arranging for the original Treaty No. 5 document to travel to the region for public display in both Sandy Lake First Nation and the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Staff

Carol Ann Audet, Political Policy Advisor
Terry Wilson, Policy Analyst
Bill Maloney, Fisheries Biologist

Lands and Resources Secretariat

The Lands and Resources Secretariat plays a role in reviewing, researching, analyzing and responding to lands and resources initiatives that are implemented by various federal/provincial ministries and resource development industry sectors and coordinates information exchange for the NAN Executive Council and First Nations.

Secretariat staff provides professional and technical advice to NAN First Nations on lands and resources issues. Funding to operate the Secretariat comes mainly from federal departments and provincial ministries.

NAN Fish Habitat Program

This program of the Secretariat has continued to work on several issues that could impact aboriginal and treaty rights and fish habitat within NAN. Specifically, focus has been placed on offering technical support to First Nations to address concerns regarding fish populations e.g. declining fish stocks and related fish health issues.

The program will continue to consult and build relationships with First Nations to identify issues and objectives. It is clear that there are many fish habitat issues within the traditional territories in NAN, and more resources are being sought to help address these issues fully. Some additional issues addressed or currently being addressed by the program, include:

a) Ontario Sturgeon Policy:

On March 11, 2009 NAN Chiefs passed Resolution 09/11 in response to the Ontario government's undertaking to change the lake sturgeon policies. The position contained in this resolution was communicated to Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) officials. The position taken by NAN Chiefs was that they oppose any policy changes that take place without meaningful consultation and informed consent with NAN communities.

Despite this, the MNR passed the lake sturgeon policy on September 10, 2009 in Ontario without any notification or meaningful consultation as requested. It is unclear at this time how or if the policy changes may impact Aboriginal and Treaty Rights; the fish habitat program is continuing to seek more information on the issue.

b) Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)

The changes to the NWPA are another serious concern that impacts the rights the First Nations in NAN territory. Again, in contravention to the Crown's fiduciary duty to consult and accommodate First Nations, these changes

were put forth without consultation, notification, or informed consent. NAN was in communication with the federal government on this matter, and clearly outlined the concerns. The changes to the NWPA officially passed March 13, 2009. However, the Senate of Canada has since opened a process for ongoing communications on the issue.

NAN Forestry Program

With the continuing downturn in Ontario's forest industry economy, forestry and related issues have subsequently changed. The NAN forestry program, in conjunction with other organizations, has been working on the issue of re-vamping Ontario's forest tenure system. This effort has been ongoing for several years. The program is advocating a system whereby First Nations and communities, and not the forest industry, are the managers of the forest. Over the last few years, several Sustainable Forestry Licenses (SFLs) have been returned back to the province by the forest industry, causing Ontario to re-think its forest tenure system.

Recently (in May 2010), the government announced their proposed framework on forest tenure reform. Essentially, Ontario is not looking to adopt a new system based on community forestry. Instead, they are looking at government established Local Forest Management Corporations (LFMCs) that would assume the role of management for marketing and competitive wood sales. LFMCs will be based on business models and will adopt the forest management planning system currently in place. The manner in which Ontario wishes to involve First Nations (through a seat on the LFMC board table) dramatically contrasts with what First Nations have indicated are the minimum standards for their involvement. Overall, First Nations in NAN believe that the proposed new business system of forest tenure will continue to impact and deteriorate *s. 35 Aboriginal and Treaty rights*. NAN will continue to monitor the Ontario government's activities on tenure reform and advance First Nations positions on forestry. It will also continue to work with Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP) to advance the position of community and/or First Nation based forestry.

Also recently (May 18, 2010), a *Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement* was signed between 9 environmental groups and 21 forestry companies. This Agreement is said to be applied to more than 72 million hectares of forest from the provinces of British Columbia to Newfoundland. The Agreement includes the suspension of logging on nearly 29 million hectares of boreal forest to '*allow for caribou protection planning while maintaining essential fiber supply.*' While there is mention of First Nations in the Agreement, none including Nishnawbe Aski Nation have played a role its development nor are they endorsing it. When announced, comments were provided to the media on NAN's lack of satisfaction on this agreement and its being devoid of First Nations required free prior and informed consent. The NAN forestry program will continue to monitor this agreement.

The forestry program has also been involved in the issue of bio-fiber. A balance needs to be sought between the economic needs of the First Nations in NAN and *Resolution 07/72* whereby the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly claimed a full and unfettered access to all forest bio-fiber within NAN territory. The program convened with a conference call to discuss both the issue of bio-fiber and forest tenure with First Nations and Tribal Councils. The National Aboriginal Forestry Association was also invited. One of the goals of this call was to organize a NAN committee to address the issue of bio-fiber. The program will continue to solicit input on the formation of this committee.

Other noteworthy issues that the program has been addressing include the economic stimulus meetings, the protection of medicinal plants, ownership of forest genetics and caribou and endangered species.

The Secretariat's forestry program continues to hold committee membership in the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership, Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment Forestry Advisory Council (Lakehead University), Lakehead University's Living Legacy Research Program Advisory Committee and Natural Resource Canada's First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP). In March 2010, NAN represented Ontario's FNFP committee at a national FNFP meeting to discuss the future of the program.

Intergovernmental Activities

The Secretariat continues to participate in a number of intergovernmental initiatives related to lands and resources; updates are as follows:

a) 'Rebuilding First Nations-Canada-Ontario Intergovernmental Relations' – IGR (Tripartite)

Since the last annual report, there have been no changes on the IGR. The process continues to be at a stand-still and no formal announcements or activities leading to the discontinuation of this Ontario-wide tripartite table have taken place. Rather than utilizing an Ontario-wide consensus building approach to dealing with tripartite issues, a new re-oriented approach was proposed (PTO specific). This was a recommendation made in early 2009. Unfortunately, this new approach has not been implemented. NAN will continue to monitor the developments of the IGR.

b) NAN Oski-Machiitawin (OM) Bilateral Process

Similar to the role played last fiscal year, the Secretariat has continued to observe the efforts undertaken by this process and provide advice and/or updates on relevant lands and resources issues, where required (see more detailed report on the activities of OM in Resolution Updates). It has also played a role in providing guidance on overall intergovernmental files within NAN that may require the attention of OM.

a. Ipperwash Inquiry

At the beginning of the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the Secretariat took over a majority of Ipperwash Inquiry activities which are coordinated through the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and funded through the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA). Staff from the Secretariat participate and report on the Joint Ipperwash Technical Table (JITT) meetings and other JITT sub-tables. The last report provided to NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly on these activities was March 2010.

With respect to the JITT, concerns, on the part of both parties (First Nations and Ontario), continue to be expressed over the lack of progress that seems to be plaguing most of the sub-tables. A draft Terms of Reference for the JITT was developed in February, 2010. The JITT is currently looking at developing benchmarks for the next 6-12 month period, developing joint legislative approaches, identifying shared goals and objectives and looking at the issues and challenges faced by each sub table. The following are specific reports:

- i) Communications Sub-Table: The communication sub-table (First Nations and Ontario) have developed its first joint newsletter entitled: *Kidowenan* that will be ready for distribution *June 17-21, 2010*. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the public of the progress being made towards implementing the recommendations contained in the Ipperwash Report (2003). As per agreement, NAN will be responsible for NAN-wide distribution; printed copies will be centralized for distribution from the Thunder Bay office.

The second newsletter is anticipated for September 2010. The next issue will provide updates on the Resource Benefits Revenue Sharing, and First Nations Policing sub-tables.

- ii) Resource Benefits Revenue Sharing Sub-Table: The resource benefits revenue sharing sub-table has been continuing to work on internal (First Nations) preparations and collecting information that would inform a decision on the best approach to resource benefit sharing. An internal and preliminary valuation of resources has been developed. The sub-table has also placed a lot of emphasis this fiscal year on working towards gaining internal consensus on a path for moving this forward and has worked towards the end of the fiscal year on planning for a Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Policy Forum on Resource Revenue Sharing entitled, '*Embracing Our Resources*,' which took place in May 2010.

In addition to these Ipperwash sub-tables, NAN has established a *Technical Working Group on Resource Revenue/Benefits Sharing* and has been monitoring the activities of COO and other PTOs to determine the best approach for Treaties 9 and 5. Further clarification on the Ontario government's involvement of the Métis in the distribution of resource revenue sharing (and the utilization of a pan-Aboriginal approach, likened to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs – New Relationship Fund), will be a major consideration in how recommendations move forward.

- iii) Policing Sub-Table: The policing sub-table has been developing proposals for legislative options for policing; these are expected to be completed by June 2010. Ontario and First Nations have made plans to develop a joint letter to Public Safety Canada, regarding the First Nation Policing Program Review, which is currently underway. The federal Aboriginal Policing Directorate has also been invited to participate in this sub-table.
- iv) Consultation and Accommodation Sub-Table: In 2008/2009 the consultation and accommodation sub-table developed a '*Consultation and Accommodation Toolkit for First Nations*' (available through COO). In 2009/2010 emphasis was placed developing a mechanism to enhance capacity on the toolkit at the community level. The sub-table has developed recommendations on curriculum development and a 'train-the-trainer' training module for the toolkit and will be furthering this approach in 2010/2011. The sub-table has also had an opportunity to hold a number of discussions with the province of Ontario with respect to their approach to consultation and accommodation and will continue to raise PTO specific issues as opportunities become available.
- v) Jurisdiction Sub-Table: Although not specifically recommended as an issue in the Ipperwash Inquiry, a sub-table on the issue of jurisdiction was included as part of this process (agreed to by JITT) as it was recognized that many of the other sub-tables had been impeded as a result of varying positions between Ontario and First Nations have on the issue of jurisdiction. At the end of the fiscal year 2009/2010, direction was being sought from the COO Political Confederacy on how to move forward and continued meetings will be held in 2010/2011.

- vi) Treaty Commission of Ontario Sub-Table (TCO): The Treaty Commission of Ontario sub-table will be asked to review two TCO draft documents developed by MAA. INAC will advise JITT if any options (for a TCO) will prove too onerous or difficult from their perspective. The First Nations who participate in this sub-table are of the opinion that in order for a Treaty Commission in Ontario to be successful, it must be driven from each of the Treaty areas, as Treaties in Ontario are so diverse. NAN has passed a resolution (NAN Chiefs Resolution #09/61) that states that 'the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly do not support the recognized establishment of a regional Treaty Commission of Ontario until such time that Ontario has established an acceptable Treaty relationship with the First Nations of NAN, their Treaty partners' (see more detailed report on this resolution in Resolution Updates).

- vii) Heritage & Burial Grounds Sub-Table: In the 2009/2010 fiscal year, efforts were made on the part of Chiefs of Ontario to establish this sub-table. The Ontario Ministry of Culture has expressed a desire to engage in joint work with the sub-table on issues related to preserving First Nations heritage and culture. This is in response Justice Linden's 7 recommendations made, one of which included the establishment of an 'Aboriginal Heritage and Burial Grounds Advisory Committee' which could provide advice to the Province. The COO sub-table will be examining this further in the 2010/2011 fiscal year and will be developing a work plan which will also identify required technical expertise for further work (i.e. archeological, legal, Elders & traditional knowledge keepers, etc.).

TREATY DISCUSSION FORUM

Staff

Lawrence Jeffries, Treaty Forum Manager

Treaty 5 Research

The first phase of Treaty 5 research has been completed and a summary was presented by Dr. Janet Armstrong to the Treaty 5 Chiefs on April 13-14, 2010 in Sioux Lookout ON. Phase 2 of the Treaty 5 research has commenced with Elders from the Treaty 5 area interviewed. The Phase 2 budget is

\$ 30,000.00, with continuance dependent upon funding availability and is still in the discussion stages at the TDF table. A pilot project is being discussed with KO Telemedicine for further Treaty 5 Research.

Treaty 5 Booklet

Dr. Janet Armstrong, Anita Fraser, and Deanna Therriault, NAN Dir. Of Communications continue to work on the Treaty 5 booklet. New covers were developed in-house by Communications and proofs of both covers and text were sent for our review. The total budget for this project is \$ 26,015.00 and a distribution plan has been prepared by TDF staff to be reviewed and approved at a TDF meeting in May 2010. The Treaty 5 booklet will be completed and ready for distribution June 4 2010. It will be sent to the NAN office in Thunder Bay and delivered to Sandy Lake First Nation for the commemoration activities.

Treaty 5 Commemoration/Treaty 5 Medals

Since the budgets for the Treaty 5 booklet and medals were under the Treaty Forum, the manager has been assigned to work on this file. The funding has been approved in the amount of (\$9,680.00) and work has begun on both commemorative medals and pins for presentation at the Treaty 5 commemoration. As of May 11, the councilor's medals were completed and that the Chief's medals and pins will be completed by May 31, 2010.

Treaty Forum Symposium

The 2nd Treaty Forum Symposium is being planned for October 14-15, 2010 in Thunder Bay. It is part of the work plan and budget for 2010/2011. An individual work plan for the symposium has been prepared by TDF staff and will be reviewed by at the TDF meeting May 13, 2010 in Thunder Bay. Other funding sources for the symposium will be explored through sponsorship requests as the allocated amount provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will not cover the total costs.

Elder's Workshop in Treaty 5

This workshop was held in Sioux Lookout on April 13-14, 2010 by Dr. Janet Armstrong in order to interview Elders from the Treaty 5 area as part of phase 2 of the Treaty 5 research project. The amount of \$30,000.00 was released for these interviews, the original proposed budget was \$92,000.00; this is under the discussion stage at the TDF table.

A report will be prepared by Wally McKay, facilitator for the Treaty Discussion Forum and circulated in the coming fiscal year.

Panorama

Funding for Draft # 5 of the NAN/Canada Panorama has been approved in the amount of \$19,087.00 with work continued by the Delsys Group. Collection of information and planning are required; meetings with the NAN elders for their input are expected. Draft # 5 consists of minor changes and corrections. The panorama will be on display at the commemoration in Sandy Lake June 2010. There were 49 copies of the panorama printed out and some were given to the chiefs in Sioux Lookout on April 13 and 14, with the rest to be mailed to the remaining Treaty 9 chiefs with a letter of explanation from NAN Grand Chief.

Deputy Grand Chief Les Louttit



As a newly elected member of the NAN Executive Council during the past nine and a half (9.5) months since August 2009, I am pleased to provide the NAN Chiefs with my first report for the 2009-2010 NAN Annual Report. This work has certainly had its challenges given the fact that the portfolio sectors assigned to me have come with limited or no financial and human resources. However, I have been able to address the critical issues in housing and resource development to the extent possible, until more resources are acquired in this new fiscal year.

Before going into the details of my activities in my portfolios, I would like to thank the NAN Chiefs who have had the confidence in my past experience to have elected me as one of your Deputy Grand Chiefs. I would also like to extend my gratitude and appreciation for the NAN citizens who have extended their warm hospitality during the visits I have made to your communities for various functions, events and meetings.

During those community visits, I have noted the progress made by the First Nations' leadership in community developments and I know that there remains a vast amount of effort and work to be done yet, to bring the local standard of living to par with other Ontario citizens. I am very confident though, that this gap will be reduced with the support that NAN First Nations' leadership and citizens continue to provide to our Executive Council in our efforts at the political level.

Housing and Infrastructure

One of the portfolio sectors which have been assigned to me includes Housing and Infrastructure. This is a major crisis that needs to be seriously addressed by the NAN Executive as a whole. For too long there has been much lip service given to this crisis situation by Ontario PTOs and the AFN without much evidence of actual action-planning and increased construction at the community level. All Ontario First Nations are now faced with the grim reality of the impending cutbacks in major capital dollars during the next five (5) years, and it is a historical fact that when this happens it will be NAN First Nations who will suffer the most severe, negative impacts.

The Government of Canada, through the Department of Indian Affairs (INAC) and Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC), is responsible to provide adequate financial resources for First Nations housing programs. However, we have not seen an increase in INAC Minor Capital funding since the new housing policy of 1996. And, CMHC's Section 95 is limited in the annual allocations with most uptake being awarded to road access communities where lot servicing is more available due to easier access to building materials and ready-mix cement for foundations.

Again, NAN First Nations do not benefit sufficiently for these reasons and those that do, eventually suffer from non-payment of rents thus forcing them, at INAC's compliance, to repay the loan payments from their already-stretched Minor Capital dollars.

The result is that most NAN First Nations' debt and deficits can be attributed, in part, to loan defaults with CMHC

housing programs.

And although the Canada Economic Action Plan (CEAP) had good intentions to provide stimulus dollars for new multi-unit housing, renovations, lot servicing and market housing, there has been limited uptake by NAN First Nations. The CEAP program limitations included very short project approval time frames, impossible delivery schedules for winter road communities and inability to advance such projects to “shovel readiness” status and project completion by March 2010-2011 as required.

These strict program criteria are another example of how the Government of Canada continues to ignore NAN First Nations’ unique situation and capacity to acquire new housing dollars on an equal playing field as other road-access First Nation communities in Ontario.

To begin to reverse this trend, I am exploring other options which will involve new partnerships with the housing construction industry, innovative debt financing structures and a management regime which will operate NAN First Nation housing as a business venture and as a property management facility. A more specific business proposition and long-term plan for both on and off-reserve housing will be presented to the NAN Chiefs` Assembly this coming fall 2010.

At this time, the total NAN Housing need is estimated at 5,000 for new on-reserve housing units based on INAC web data and is estimated at \$1.2 billion based on CMHC’s 2009 costing model. We are presently in the process of estimating the associated infrastructure (water, sewer, hydro, roads) for these 5,000 units. It would not be unreasonable to ‘guesstimate’ this additional cost at \$2 billion.

Resource Development

As I began my job as your Deputy, I was already aware of the immense challenges that our First Nations and Executive Council would be encountering in the face of the ongoing encroachment of resource development by big industry in partnership with the Ontario Government. The announcements of the ‘Ring of Fire’ developments were preceded by changes to the Ontario Mining Act (Bill 173) and the surprise announcement of the Far North Act (Bill 191) last June 2009 while NAN was in good-faith negotiations with Ontario under the Oski-Machiitawin (Northern Table) process.

These actions and the timely introduction of this new legislation were sure signs that the two parties are on the road to major extraction of wealth from our lands with complete disregard to the needs and demands of NAN First Nations.

Before NAN First Nations can meaningfully participate in a global economy, I believe that a blueprint to develop a NAN First Nations’ local economy must be the focus of my work during the next few months. I have already begun this process in the discussion paper titled, “The Future of the NAN Economy” that I provided at the November 2009 NAN Chiefs Assembly which addresses certain steps that should be considered by NAN First Nations.

To support this effort, I have obtained a commitment from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) to jointly plan and undertake a “*NAN Economic Summit*” which would involve the participation of delegates from all NAN First Nations, representatives of both levels of government, including sponsors from key industry players who are currently operating, or planning to operate, within the NAN territory. This very important, special Summit will include presentations and workshops on subjects such as various types of exploration agreements, Impact Benefits Agreements (IBAs), employment and training opportunities, currently planned projects under development, as well as key speakers from NAN First Nations, industry and governments.

Governance Secretariat

The only portfolio area I have been assigned which has financial resources is the Governance Secretariat. It provides administrative support services to the NAN/Canada negotiations on Governance and Education Jurisdiction which has been funded annually at \$1.35 million. However, the funding criteria are very specific and do not provide sufficient flexibility to substantially support my portfolio budget as a whole. However, I am pleased to state that after NAN negotiated the Agreements-In-Principle for Governance and Education, the Government of Canada has accepted NAN's intent to proceed to the next phase, the Final Agreement negotiations, based on the number of BCRs received to date from NAN First Nations.

I wish to thank those NAN First Nations who have supported NAN's request for these resolutions as this shows a major level of support to establish local governing structures in the NAN territory under a framework to be established within a Final Agreement. I also wish to thank, in advance, those remaining NAN First Nations who are in the process of submitting additional BCRs which will provide more leverage in the next phase of the NAN/Canada negotiations towards a Final Agreement.

Conclusion

At this moment in our history, NAN First Nations find themselves at a crossroads. It is a time when statements of unity must no longer be just political rhetoric. It is a time when the Executive Council, with the support of all NAN Chiefs, must act in unison to politically challenge big industry and governments on the need for meaningful consultations, committed accommodation and conditional consent before any, or all new resource development activities take place within NAN First Nations' homelands and traditional territories.

We are at a crossroads between maintaining our ability to retain our traditional pursuits while trying to balance these with the resource development impacts that are fast approaching our homelands and traditional territories.

We must start considering new institutional organizations to address the energy sector through the electrification of all NAN communities to the Ontario power grids. And all-weather roads must now be planned, as we have only begun to see this past winter, the diminishing economic returns on winter roads investment due to climate change.

We must be prepared to re-tool our existing regional organizations to meet these impending challenges and we must have the courage to implement new regional entities in order to meet NAN First Nations' needs in these various sectors.

In closing, to better meet these challenges, I know we must also be prepared to develop our human resources, our cultural and linguistic resources, in order to maintain our traditions going forward, and to pass them on from our Elders to our Youth for our future generations.

In Unity,

Les Louttit,

Deputy Grand Chief

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)

In order to fulfill the mandate provided by Resolution 09/53 to review the NADF organization, a draft Terms of Reference for the Committee was developed and circulated to all Tribal Councils and Independent First Nations on October 14, 2009.

There was also a need to identify funding to pay for costs related to the proposed activities; therefore, a proposal was submitted to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) requesting funding. A subsequent response was received from INAC declining the request, indicating NADF could apply if they saw a need for a strategic planning review.

With no funding available for activities, meetings were undertaken with NADF to explore other options to provide a progress report to the 2010 Winter Assembly as mandated by the resolution.

NADF provided an outline: Response to Draft Terms of Reference that would provide information to demonstrate:

1. Financial accountability based on third party reviews; and
2. Support from Chiefs for the non-political, resource-based programs and processes facilitated by the Corporation.

During subsequent meetings, it was agreed the report should also include information on the Corporation's efforts to address sustainability.

Since INAC declined to fund the NADF Review Study and the NADF Board was not in a position to do likewise, NAN Deputy Grand Chief Louttit approached Tom Meecham, Regional Manager of CESO to explore whether one of their consultants could prepare an interim report on the NADF Review for the Keewaywin 2010 Conference at Sandy Lake First Nation to be held June 8 and 10, 2010.

Tom Meecham then contacted Peter Globensky, the CESO member from Thunder Bay. On May 22, 2010, Deputy Grand Chief Louttit met with Mr. Globensky to discuss the preparation of an Interim Report. But due to prior commitments outside of the country, Mr. Globensky's would be unable to complete.

On May 28, 2010, it was decided that his work would be deferred until he had more time to dedicate to the project.

Deputy Grand Chief Louttit decided that a Program Update would be provided to the NAN Chiefs at the upcoming Keewaywin Conference. It was also decided that a full and final report on the NADF Review would be presented at the fall 2010 NAN Chiefs' Assembly. This Program Update report is being provided to the Chiefs for further discussion and direction related to Resolution 09/53.

Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin



As we are approaching the end of my first year as the newly elected Deputy Grand Chief, I would like to mention that it has been challenging and yet rewarding to serve in this capacity on behalf of the people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. In the past year, the Health Policy & Planning department has continued with the work initiated by my predecessor, Alvin Fiddler. In the upcoming year, my focus will continue to be in the areas of Pandemic Preparedness/Emergency Response, the Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency, and Non-Insured Health Benefits.

Health is a complex area with many facets, emerging, and ongoing health issues affecting the people within the NAN territory. We all know too well that the rates of illness among First Nations people are far greater than the general Canadian population. There is also an epidemic of prescription drug abuse in our communities and this issue is one of the key priority areas that will be worked on by the NAN Executive Council during the course

of our term. We all have a responsibility to improve the overall health and well-being of First Nations people. In addition to this, there are broader determinants of health that also need to be addressed. These include: poverty, substandard housing, and low levels of educational attainment, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunity. With this in mind, it our responsibility as First Nations people to begin closing the gaps so that we can begin seeing improvements in the lives and health status of First Nations people.

One of the areas that I would like to continue to focus on is to improve capacity in the communities by encouraging NAN First Nation members to pursue higher education. Development is a long-term investment and we have to focus on our children and youth, and encourage them to succeed. It is also the role of the community to encourage their children and youth to continue with their educational pursuits and to instil the knowledge of their history and teachings in order to develop a strong sense of identity and pride in their culture. It is my hope that we will begin to see more and more of our young people succeed in achieving their goals and dreams so that they can contribute to the betterment of our communities.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chiefs for giving me the opportunity to serve and I look forward to continuing to develop my relationships with the communities and organization in the NAN territory. I would also like to thank my fellow Executive for their support and guidance and I wish you all the best in the coming year.

Mike Metatawabin

Deputy Grand Chief

Justice and Policing

Kashechewan Inquest Recommendations

In May 2009, the Coroner's five member jury delivered 86 recommendations. The Jury recommended specific action from the Federal and Provincial governments in the areas of fire safety, fire inspections, policing standards, an operational review, an evaluation of policing costs, a housing policy review, detachment health and safety issues, counselling of family members following sudden deaths, problems posed by drug and alcohol abuse, community policing officers, tripartite agreement funding, amendment of the tripartite agreement, amendment of existing police services legislation, creation of provincial First Nations policing legislation and a public inquiry into First Nations policing.

Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services has implemented many of the recommendations related to fire safety, fire inspection, training and policy. NAN continues to work on implementing recommendations to ensure legislative action.

NAPS Board Chairman

Frank McKay has been named the interim Board Chair for Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service to replace Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin. The selection process for the Board Chairman is ongoing.

Stirland Lake and Cristal Lake Indian Residential Schools Litigation

NAN and Windigo First Nations Council efforts are on going to add Stirland Lake and Cristal Lake to the list of recognized schools under the Indian Residential Schools Agreement (IRSS Agreement).

Detailed and abbreviated notices on the motion to add these schools to the IRSS Agreement have been published in Wawatay, Sioux Bulletin, Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Winnipeg Free Press and online at the websites of NAN, Windigo and Rochon Genova for the information of former students from these schools. (www.rochongenova.com)

If the motion is granted, former residents/students will be eligible to apply for the Common Experience Payment and the Independent Application Process for those who suffered abuse and or mistreatment while at either of these high schools.

Health Policy and Planning

Staff

Jason Beardy, Senior Health Advisor
Wendy Caruk, Manager
Leesa Wabasse, Health Policy Analyst
Sarah Perrault, Health Coordinator
Susan Bale, Health Liaison
Loretta Sheshequin, AHHRI Coordinator

Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)

As a five (5) year federally funded initiative, the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) was due to sunset on March 31, 2010. However, with the 2010 Federal Budget announced on March 4, 2010 the AHHRI has been renewed for two (2) additional years. NAN is still waiting for details from First Nations and Inuit Health on the roll out of the funding for the AHHRI.

The AHHRI seeks to develop and implement health human resources strategies responding to the unique needs and diversity among First Nations, Inuit and Métis healthcare providers. It also aims to increase the number of First Nations who are aware of health careers as viable career options and increase the level of cultural competency of health care providers.

Activities/initiatives undertaken and/or continuing include:

- Establishment of the NAN AHHRI Working Group & regular meetings
- Participation on the Regional AHHRI Steering Committee
- Development of a NAN AHHRI/IIHCP website
- Development and distribution of “The Pulse,” a quarterly NAN AHHRI/IIHCP newsletter
- Development of a “NAN Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Providers Strategy”

AHHRI Special Projects

NAN entered into three (3) special projects during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Two (2) projects were in partnership with Lakehead University and addressed i) curricula adaptation and, ii) health science education transformation.

The first project was led by CERAH (Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health) and sought to engage the academic programs of the Faculty of Health and Behavioral Sciences to adopt a cultural competency toolbox and previously developed curriculum module in their respective programs/courses. The second project, led by the Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP), offered increased access to health science education via a distance education model of delivery of two (2) existing NNEP courses. Both projects saw NAN act in an advisory capacity, as well as assisting with personnel recruitment and/or student selection. Both projects were very successful with measurable outcomes and deliverables.

NAN also coordinated and hosted a regional health human resources (HHR) planning session, *“Keeping the Momentum Going: A Forum for Ontario First Nations Health Human Resources”*, which took place on March 23-25, 2010 in Thunder Bay. The delegation was comprised of approximately 35 Health Directors, Education Directors, AHHRI Coordinators, young people and healthcare professionals from across Ontario. Delegates worked to identify First Nations HHR priorities over the next 3-5 years and then developed strategies to address those priorities. This will be used to inform the current and future work plans of NAN and other stakeholders.

Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program (IIHCP)

The Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program (IIHCP) were created in 1984 to increase the number of Aboriginal professionals in the health care industry. The IIHCP provides program contributions to support participation in education and activities leading to professional careers in health. The funding is A based, and therefore not impacted by renewal. The resources NAN receives under the IIHCP are allocated to two (2) files, the NNEP at Lakehead University, and NAN Health Careers programming.

Native Nurses Entry Program (NNEP)

NAN administers the contribution agreement for the NNEP and flows funding to Lakehead University. This ensures a direct relationship with NAN and enhanced accountability to First Nations. NAN actively supports promotional awareness of the program and is a member of the NNEP Advisory Committee. A multi-year (2010-2013) work plan and budget submission for NNEP's continued operational funding was drafted in collaboration with NNEP and submitted by NAN to FNIH-OR on April 7, 2010; a formal response/decision is still pending.

Interest in developing a southern based Aboriginal Bachelor of Science in Nursing preparatory program, similar to and modeled after, Lakehead University's NNEP has been voiced at the PTO level for some time. At their request, the Lakehead University School of Nursing and the NNEP delivered a presentation to the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Health Coordination Unit (HCU) on December 8, 2009 to provide an overview of the program's development and describe the features that contribute to its continuing success. Discussions surrounding this issue have taken place between FNIH-OR and the PTOs and IFNs via the regional AHHRI Steering Committee and the COO HCU.

On February 11, 2010 the COO HCU met to discuss IIHCP funding and moving forward beyond March 31, 2010. Four (4) possible funding scenarios, including fully funding the southern based program were presented by FNIH-OR. Three (3) of the four (4) options completely eliminated the LU NNEP program as a funding consideration; the fourth option proposed to fund the LU NNEP and the development of a southern program but eliminated PTO allocations completely. Ultimately, it was decided that the funding levels for the IIHCP should/would remain at status quo for the current fiscal year. It was also decided that further dialogue would be necessary to determine how to move forward beyond the current fiscal year.

A letter has been sent to Dr. Valerie Gideon, Regional Director, and FNIH-OR to advocate for the continuation of the LU NNEP program beyond this fiscal year and to request confirmation of current NNEP funding based on the proposal submission for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

NAN was the driving force behind the establishment of the NNEP, and is a vested partner in that many students and prospective students are/have been from the NAN territory. NAN remains strongly committed to the NNEP and will continue to lobby to ensure that its existence is not placed in jeopardy.

NAN Health Careers Program

In Ontario the IIHCP is administered by each of the four (4) Political Territorial Organizations (PTOs) and the Independent First Nations respectively. The Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health (OCCOH) has approved an allocation formula of \$3,000.00 per community per PTO. Based on this formula, NAN received \$141,000.00 for the 2009/2010 fiscal year for the purpose of implementing a Health Careers program to promote interest in the pursuit of health careers to the people of the NAN territory.

Health careers promotion materials have been developed and disseminated to NAN communities and organizations on an ongoing basis. Community Based Health Careers Grants were also offered in the fall of 2009, and a total of ten (10) projects were funded. All projects were successfully completed and final reports have been received.

NAN's 2010/2011 work plan and budget submission was submitted to FNIH-OR and subsequently approved; an amendment to NAN's CA is being processed. Planned activities include the preliminary planning of a "NAN Health Science Expo & Fair", a health career digital scrapbook/diary contest and the continued offering of the Community Based Health Careers Grant program. These activities primarily target the young people of NAN.

Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy Renewal

Resolution 08/39 was passed as a result of AHWS renewal consultations NAN held in June 2008, directing that the Phase IV Implementation Agreement for AHWS to be “subject to ratification and signature by all NAN First Nations.” A resolution was also passed at the All Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly in November 2008 that mandated “the Ontario Regional Chief and the Political Confederacy to facilitate the establishment of a separate AHWS governing entity with additional resources that will govern Phase IV for First Nations on a Government-to-Government basis.”

The mandate is being carried out through the work of the First Nations Technical Working Group on Resolution 08/77 and through discussions at the Bilateral Working Table with the Province of Ontario to explore those options. The position of the Independent First Nations is being respected and there are no negotiations of an agreement on their behalf.

On October 16, 2009 the First Nations Technical Working Group tabled a draft umbrella AHWS Agreement Phase IV with Ontario government representatives. This draft Agreement is the culmination of work conducted by the Leadership and Technicians participating in monthly meetings held by the First Nations Technical Working Group over the past year.

In the proposed First Nations amendments to the AHWS Agreement:

- The parties would collectively sign an umbrella AHWS Agreement setting out roles, responsibilities, management and funding allocations.
- Funding agreements would continue to be in place between the Government of Ontario and the Provincial Territorial Organizations, First Nation or Aboriginal Party to the Agreement.
- The proposed model tabled by the First Nation Technical Working Group does not diminish resourcing levels.
- No funding agreements would be in place with the First Nation Management Table or the Chiefs of Ontario office.
- There will be no staffing through the Chiefs of Ontario office.
- It is not anticipated that there will be additional money forthcoming in the Phase IV Agreement.

A copy of the draft amended agreement was distributed to the NAN Chiefs during the November 2009 assembly.

Four Bilateral meetings between the First Nations Technical Working Group and two Assistant Deputy Ministers represented by Ontario have also taken place. The First Nations Leadership have been cautious in the development of this draft Agreement to not sign away the governance and management authority guaranteed by the current Agreement. This draft Agreement enhances the effectiveness of these authorities through amendments to Schedule A and the establishment of a First Nation Management Table rather than joint management with non-governmental organizations.

Resolution 09/35 was passed on December 2, 2009 at the Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly supporting the amended agreement and directing the AHWS Technical Working Group to continue to advocate and negotiate with Ontario for the implementation of a First Nation specific AHWS agreement.

The AHWS Phase III Implementation Agreement was scheduled to sunset on March 31, 2009 however the agreement was extended for one year until March 31, 2010 in order to address First Nations jurisdiction issues. NAN has received correspondence stating that funding will continue to support AHWS programs and services in 2010/2011.

A decision from the provincial government on the governance of a renewed AHWS is expected by the end of June 2010.

The Ontario Regional Chief and PTOs have requested an immediate face to face meeting with the four AHWS Ministers (Health/Aboriginal Affairs/Social Services/Children & Youth) to get a response on the proposed governance model.

Ontario Wide Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy

Work is underway towards the development of an Ontario-wide Prescription Drug Abuse strategy through the Chiefs of Ontario. A First Nations Advisory Panel was established in January 2010 to contribute to the development of an Ontario-wide Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy as mandated by COO resolution 68/08. Participants that attended the COO Health Forum in February 2010 had an opportunity to contribute to the Ontario-wide Prescription Drug Abuse strategy on Day III of the Forum. NAN will continue to update the First Nations, Tribal Councils and NAN Health Authorities on the progress of this work.

Non-Insured Health Benefits and Medical Transportation

NAN continues to work with the NAN-FNIH Working Group on NIHB Medical Transportation. This work initially focused in the Sioux Lookout Zone, but because many NAN First Nations have ongoing issues with Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), the Working Group was expanded in spring 2009 to include all of the Tribal areas in the NAN territory.

NIHB issues are currently handled at the community level, with little opportunity for regional coordination of issues or support for dealing with denials, appeals and other system issues. Several other provinces have engaged NIHB Navigators to assist communities and clients with these problems, and to coordinate the process among First Nations communities, develop databases, etc. Alberta, BC, Atlantic Region and Saskatchewan have Navigator positions in place. Some provinces also engage Aboriginal liaisons through Health Authorities or hospitals themselves to deal with discharge coordination issues. There is currently no process for coordination of NIHB issues in Ontario. Work is in progress to establish two NIHB Navigator positions in the Ontario Region through the Chiefs of Ontario. The NIHB Navigator positions will not impact the Sioux Lookout Patient Liaison program that is housed at the Shibogama Tribal Council, and provides services to the 28 First Nations in the Sioux Lookout Zone.

Regional Health Survey (RHS)

The RHS is the only First Nation-owned health data collection survey in Canada. The first survey and its findings were collected and presented in 2002-2003. The response rate from Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) was only 30%; therefore, due to the all sample size, the data from the first survey could not be used for health planning purposes, or for use in demonstrating the need to enhance health programs and services based on poorer health status, etc.

The second First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS) was launched by the Chiefs of Ontario in 2008 and seven (7) Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities were randomly selected to participate with a target of completing 1176 surveys. Three (3) out of seven (7) communities participated completing a total of 409 surveys, which is a response rate of 34.7%.

The total surveys collected for the First Nations in Ontario is 3,323, which is 80% of the target of 4,552 surveys. A data base is being completed on the PTO/Independents and will be forwarded to the National office for cleaning once completed. Chiefs of Ontario will be required to complete a report that will provide the analysis of the data by PTO/Independent First Nation. A process will also be outlined for individual First Nations to apply for their individual data for their communities.

Chiropody

NAN received funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to provide Chiropody services to the NAN First Nations during the 2009/2010 fiscal year. The Chiropodist travelled to North Caribou Lake, Fort Severn, Nibinamik, Cat Lake and Wunnumin Lake and provided direct diabetic foot screening, risk assessment and medical care when necessary. A total of 369 patients were seen, 78 nail surgeries performed and 24 home visits were made. Due to increased demand for this service, the Chiropodist has increased the number of days spent in each community which allows for more patients to be seen. NAN has submitted a proposal to MOHLTC to ensure continuation of this service for 2010-2011.

Diabetes

In January 2010, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) received \$68,500 from the Northern Diabetes Health Network (NDHN) Northern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (NOADI) to implement a Diabetes Prevention and Management Training Program. In March 2010, NAN delivered a 2 day workshop, "It's All Good – Train the Trainer", to 18 participants from NAN communities. In May 2010, NDHN approved NAN's proposal for funding to deliver Phase II and Phase III of the "It's All Good" program in 2010/11. Another 2-day session is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2010.

Tobacco

In December 2009, NAN submitted an amended proposal to the Health Canada's Federal Tobacco Control Strategy at Health Canada to offer a Smoking Cessation Education Project to 10 community-based health workers. In April 2010, the proposal was approved for \$100,000 and a 2 day education session will be offered in June 2010. Partnerships have been established with Dr. James Morris, the "Quit Coach" at the Thunder Bay Regional Sciences Centre in Thunder Bay, and with Mr. Robert Loney, Manager – Patient Access and Health Policy, of Pfizer Inc. Through this training, participants will be trained as "Assistant Quit Coaches" and will assist in the delivery of a Smoking Cessation Program within their respective communities.

Health Promotion

As the NAN representative on the Chiefs in Ontario's (COO) Ontario First Nations Integrated Health Promotions Strategy, we have established a website for health promotions: www.ourtimeourhealth.org that provides health promotion resources on: physical activity, nutrition, smoking cessation, community programming, funding opportunities, training opportunities, etc.. COO hosted the "Our Time, Our Health" diabetes prevention train the trainer workshops in London and Thunder Bay in February/March 2010.

Pandemic Planning

As of April 21, 2010, Ontario has been experiencing very low levels of influenza activity since January 2010. As a result, the province is winding down activities and operations are returning to normal. The Health Canada/FNIH hotline and email address will be discontinued at the end of April 2010; however will be reactivated as deemed necessary. The Ontario First Nations Pandemic website is still accessible online.

NAN Essential Services Strategy

NAN established an essential services working group in September 2009 to develop the Essential Services Strategy: Continuity of Essential Services to Remote and Isolated Community Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory. The purpose of this document is to ensure the continuity of essential services (e.g., airlines, utilities, telecommunications, shipping and freight, etc.) to our communities during a pandemic. It is also a 'fluid' document that can be updated on a continual basis. There is also a potential for this document to be amended to merge into community emergency response plans because contact information is already in place for providers of essential services within NAN territory. NAN's Pandemic Plan and Business Continuity Plan are also provided for information purposes.

Public Health

As the NAN representative on the Chiefs in Ontario's (COO) First Nations Public Health Advisory Committee, as of July 31, 2009, the roll out of the COO's public health community consultations and questionnaires has been completed within NAN territory. As a result, the *NAN's Analysis of the Public Health Services on Reserve in Ontario Survey Form and the Public Health Consultation Guide*, a compilation of the NAN's completed community consultations and questionnaires, has been received by NAN and forwarded to each participating Tribal Council. For Part III of the public health project, the validation process, NAN received \$40,000 from COO to validate or review the NAN analysis report with the assistance of the participating Tribal Councils Health Directors.

WOMEN'S ISSUES AND FAMILY HEALING

Staff

Christine Simard, Director of Women's Development
Betty Naveau, Family Healing Coordinator
Jason Smallboy, Women's Project Liaison

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Women's Council under the leadership of Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin has supported initiatives for women in NAN by providing guidance and input for the Major NAN Women's Project, Family Healing Initiative, and through the development of the proposal for the 4th Annual NAN Women's conference.

The NAN Women's Council has held four face-to-face meetings since Keewaywin 2009 and has had several teleconferences.

The NAN Women's Council includes:

NAN WEST

Dora Beardy, Bearskin Lake First Nation
Tina Rae, Sandy Lake First Nation
Lorraine Crane, Slate Falls First Nation
Mary Lou Winters, Kingfisher Lake First Nation

NAN EAST

Jackie Fletcher, Missinabie Cree First Nation
Theresa Sutherland, Fort Albany First Nation
Donna Orr, Constance Lake First Nation
Rebecca Friday, Kashechewan First Nation

Youth

Serene Spence, Marten Falls First Nation, has replaced Esther McKay as of November 2009.

Equay-wuk (Women's Group)

Grand Chief Beardy with members of the Executive Council and the NAN Women's Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding on November 20th, 2009 with the Equay-wuk (Women's Group) to work together to build on the achievements of the Equay-wuk (Women's Group) and the NAN Women's Council to date and to further support the joint action of these groups on behalf of the women of the Nishnawbe-Aski communities and their families while recognizing the separate identities of both groups.

The NAN Women's Council along with Equay-wuk (Women's Group) completed a 5-year strategic plan to help women and their families across NAN. Work is ongoing and discussions are still occurring regarding funding and future projects that both groups may try to do.

Major NAN Women's Project

Members of the NAN Women's Council (NANWC) are facilitating portions of the Personal Capacity Building and Leadership components of the Major NAN Women's project. Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO) has come on board as a partner within this initiative to assist with the delivery of the leadership workshops.

A total of 44 communities have been visited from July 2007 to April 2010. One community has withdrawn from this process. The remaining 4 communities will be visited from May to mid June 2010.

The Major NAN Women's documentary is almost at completion which tells the story of the major NAN Women's Project and why funding is necessary for NAN communities.

Evaluators are starting the process of wrapping up the information into a draft report. The report will be presented at the next NAN Chiefs Assembly.

This project ends July 2010.

Family Healing Initiative

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation Family Healing Initiative has focused on the achievement of three goals:

1. To promote peace, safety, harmony and family unity for women, youth, children and families in NAN territory. This has been accomplished through the establishment of a Family Week by way of resolution. The Executive Council along with the NAN Women's Council announced the event for the week of March 8th, 2010. Information packages were mailed to each First Nation.
2. Education and awareness of family healing and healthy sexuality through training sessions that have occurred in conjunction with the major NAN Women's Project. This will be done through the NAN Youth Decade Seven Sacred Teaching Conference and the NAN Women's Forum. The Family Healing Initiative has also partnered with the NAN Decade for Youth with the Youth Resiliency Project.
3. To have families and communities supported to promote healing, recovery and to ensure the continuum of care is maintained. This occurred by providing funding for traditional healer projects and through providing assistance to proactive community family healing activities.

Renewal Update

The INAC Family Violence program is going up for renewal in March 2012.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), several women's shelters along with the other PTO's in Ontario receive funding from INAC to coordinate family healing (violence prevention) based activities.

NAN currently assists with funding for violence prevention projects for Matawa, Mushkegowuk, Sioux Lookout First Nation Health Authority (SLFNHA) and Wabun. Funding is also shared between the NAN Women's project, Girl Power Wolf Spirit program, NAN Women's Conference, Decade Youth Conference and also funds small proposals that are submitted to NAN that are based on healing activities. The salary for the NAN Family Healing Coordinator comes out of this funding.

INAC is trying to prescribe a process for the Ontario PTO's along with other organizations to discuss an Ontario Regional Family Violence Prevention strategy. This process appears to work well in Alberta. The proposed title is called the "Ontario Council of Women's Shelters" (OCWS).

The Terms of Reference main points are as follows:

- Support Women's shelters province-wide and a regional approach to domestic violence prevention in Ontario;
- Be the unified voice for domestic violence shelters province-wide;
- To influence public policy and increase public awareness;
- Undertake research on a regional/national/international level database for abuse prevention and resources;
- Membership in the Council include the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) office, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV), the PTO's (Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Grand Council Treaty#3 (GCT#3), Union of Ontario Indians UOI), Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), and any other relevant federal, provincial and territorial officials.
- *OCWS shall be an Aboriginal incorporated entity that is authorized to receive a transfer payment, under the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) policies, directives related to the delivery of the programs, under the "Policy on Transfer Payments" Management Control Framework. OCWS may determine the need for a board structure mechanism, this is to be determined.*
- *A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Band Support Council Resolution (BCR) by First Nations and PTO's currently receiving funding to administer the family violence prevention program is recommended to support the transfer of funding currently allocated through INAC to support OCWS. INAC provides \$1.2M annually, to support the family violence prevention program, of this amount 10% will be allocated for administration and operating costs of the OCWS. INAC will be responsible for approving the proposed working group concept and the structure of this new delivery concept of the program. On the understanding that this structure is approved under the new management regimes, this will be effective April, 2012.*

- Members of OCWS report to their respective leadership, INAC and Provincial senior officials concerning the information shared, and the status of current activities and plans.

Issues/Concerns:

- Membership. The membership sounds Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS)-like. The Native Women's Association of Canada or its provincial affiliate Ontario Native Women's Association has never worked with NAN. The NAN Women's Council also states that these groups do not represent them;
- The decision for funding. INAC basically wants the PTO's and shelters in Ontario to give up their funding and put it into one pot and have the group decide where and who will get funding – again very AHWS like. This would mean that NAN would give up its annual funding;

Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Bill S-4

First reading of the bill was on March 31st, 2010 by Senator Marjory LeBreton.

The Bill is exactly the same as former Bill C-8 which was at 2nd reading prior to the prorogation of parliament. Since this Bill was introduced, it must go through the Senate process then back to the House of Commons. When both Houses agree, the Bill will receive Royal Assent. However, there is an option where Minister Strahl can introduce the Bill into the second reading stage that Bill C-8 was at before prorogation provided the Senate re-introduces the bill in the same form as it was in the previous session and if it sent to the House of Commons in the first sixty days of the new session.

The NAN Women's Council will be submitting a proposal to INAC on MRP to develop a NAN MRP Framework.

Updates will be provided at the next Chiefs Assembly on this Bill.

An Act to promote gender equity in Indian registration by responding to the Court of Appeal for British Columbia decision in *Mclvor v. Canada*

Bill C-3

Bill C-3 has gone through first and second reading. The Bill was then referred to the Aboriginal Standing Committee. Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse appeared as a witness with several concerns regarding the proposed Bill that was presented. Included within his presentation was the concern of funding and if INAC would be adding funding for the increase in band membership lists. Regional Chief also spoke to the Canadian Human Rights Act and the impact that this Canadian Law would have if bands reject band members as it could appear as discriminatory.

Regional Chief recommended the following on Bill C-3:

- Recognize and respect First Nations right to determine and have jurisdiction over our own identities and citizenship.
- Acknowledge Canada's colonial history and commit to a process of decolonization. This should serve as the foundation for all other efforts to help First Nations peoples.
- Comply with human rights standards described in international law relating to indigenous peoples, in particular the indigenous right to determine identity and membership as well as the right to free, prior, and informed consent.
- Canada, working together with First Nations, should focus on addressing fiscal relations in order to move away from the existing unsatisfactory contribution arrangements.
- Address the reality that cost implications are a key interest underlying the government's insistence on controlling status.
- Commit to providing financial assistance to First Nations before the implementation of this legislation.

The Liberal Party was successful in adding a clause that addresses the long-standing injustice that has denied some direct descendants of First Nations women the entitlement to full status under the Indian Act. Direct descendants of status men born before April 17, 1985, have always had full entitlement to status, but the descendants of status women who married non-status men, and those that were born out of wedlock, are discriminated against simply because they descend from a woman.

Updates will be provided at the next Chiefs Assembly on this Bill.

Healing The Generations II

Staff

Sam Achneepineskum, Residential School Program Coordinator

This is the final report for the “Healing the Generations”, Residential School Program for the fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

The Program held a gathering of residential school survivors in July of 2009 at the site of the Pelican Lake Residential School. Churches were invited to participate and the focus of the gathering was Reconciliation. There were approximately 180 residential school survivors who attended the event.

We received funding from Health Canada (\$121,000.00) to hold 5 “healing week sessions’ with survivors. The sessions held in Thunder Bay, Cochrane and Sioux Lookout. Sessions were also held in the communities of Mishkeegomang and Peawanuck First Nations. Approximately 100 participants were in attendance.

The program provided ongoing assistance and support to residential school survivors experiencing problems around their CEP and IAP processes.

On March 7th, 2010, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation announced that it there will be no additional funding to continue with community projects. As of March 31, 2010, NAN’s “Healing the Generations” Residential School Program will close.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has begun their work. The first national event will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 15-19, 2010. Updates and information is available on their website. www.trc.ca.

One of the issues that the Truth and Reconciliation is undertaking is the “Missing Children”. It is an issue that is ongoing and will probably come to more prominence in the course of the TRC hearings.

The survivors in the NAN area have started to come out, and talk about their experiences, in the last 5 months alone, we have had a good response to the workshops that we offered; we had to turn people away in some instances, because the groups were getting too big. Many have said that they need something like that. We have only begun to work with the 2nd generation of residential school survivors, because many of the parents of the younger generation have begun to talk about their experiences and they want to find out more.

The Healing Initiative

Healing From The Legacy of Mike Rowe

Staff

Sandra Brown, Director of Special Projects

During the 2008/2009 fiscal year, 12 individuals came forward to lay charges against Ralph Rowe. The Trial took place in Kenova from April 14 – 17, 2010. Judge Stanch sentenced Rowe to one year concurrent. Rowe was released shortly after the trial. Stanch felt that Rowe should not serve more time because “serial prosecution amounted to a harsh punishment.”

During this fiscal year the program has received financial support from:

- Ministry of Attorney General: Ontario Victim Services Secretariat (3rd & 4th qtr funding only); and
- Health Canada

2009/2010 Activities have included:

April 14-17, 2009	Kenora: Trial Dates
Nov/Jan/Mar 2009	Community visits re: disclosures and statements
Dec 14-17, 2009	Counseling visit
Feb 8-12, 2010	Front-line Worker training: Fireweed; group therapy for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse
Feb 16-19, 2010	Family Healing Week
Mar 1-5, 2010	Intake/Family Healing Week
Mar 28 – Apr 1, 2010	Intake/Family Healing Week

We closed the year with 40 new disclosures, 9 men have made statements to police.

Crisis Team Program

We have now completed the 6th year of Phase 3 of the Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy. There was an extension of one year (the 09/10 current fiscal year) to allow time for continued discussion among the partners with regard to AHWS’ Phase 4 renewal.

First Nation Agreements:

Aug 15, 2010 Deadline	NAN 2009/2010 Year End Report for AHWS (includes individual FNs activity and financial reports)
Aug 15, 2010 Deadline	NAN 2010/2011 Annual Submission to AHWS (includes individual FN's annual submissions and work plans, budgets and authorized signatures)

Current fiscal year funding is available to First Nations once prior year activity and financial reports are complete.

Ongoing Training Strategy:

Feb 8-12, 2010	Train the Trainer: Fireweed group therapy for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse
Mar 8-12, 2010	Professional Development Instructor Training: Injury prevention

- Ongoing training in *Suicide Prevention, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, First Aid/CPR and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing* has also been provided (additional training in other areas also provided).
- Lead NAN trainers (in alphabetical order) are: Bill Constant, Maggie Chisel, Michael Morrison, and Carol Rowland.
- Four Tribal Council Crisis Intervention Coordinators accessed funds to provide a variety of training opportunities with their member First Nation Crisis Teams.

Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy funding will continue for the 7th year of Phase 3.

Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose



As is our custom, I would like to begin my second term as Deputy Grand Chief by recognizing of Nishnawbe Aski Nation: Elders, women, men, youth, and children. I thank you for your continued support and appreciate the wisdom you have shared with me as we continue to work together to find solutions to the many challenges faced by our people and our communities.

The challenges we face are significant. The need in our communities for funding, infrastructure, programs and services to meet the requirements of a growing population, are clashing with the policies of the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario. Our forced reliance on their funding continues to leave us vulnerable to their policy and budget decisions. As tough as things have been for our communities, I fear they may get worse before they improve.

We have learned during the recent economic crisis that we are not immune to the impacts of the world economy. When the price of crude oil is raised, the cost for almost everything in our communities goes up. When the demand for metals goes up in China, exploration in our traditional territory explodes. When U.S. banks cause a global financial crisis, that crisis impacts our businesses and our economic opportunities. And when Canada responds with a stimulus package to sustain the economy, we have to brace for the restraint in government spending that will inevitably follow.

This Annual Report includes updates on some of the activities and challenges in the portfolio areas for which I have responsibility, and I will highlight some of the challenges which I believe require our collective action.

Education

Education is our Treaty right. It is a right that entitles each and every member of our First Nations to a quality education and life-long learning. Unfortunately, it is a right that is not being respected by the Crown.

In response to criticism from the Auditor General on the lack of accountability from INAC in First Nation education, INAC introduced two time-limited proposal-driven programs: the First Nation Student Success Program and the Education Partnerships Program.

Although these programs do provide some immediate funding, they are only one-time short-term investments that don't address the long term need for significant increases in the core funding for education. In every community, our schools continue to struggle to offer quality education programs and services because of inadequate funding. Without such increases, our children will continue to be offered education programs that are underfunded and the achievement gap with other education systems will widen.

At the same time that INAC is introducing these short-term programs, they are introducing long-term cuts to education funding. A key example is INAC's review of Northern Nishnawbe Education Council's WAHSA program. INAC has only committed to three months funding for the program, pending a review of the program, with no clear indication of what the budget will be for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. This forced the Northern Nishnawbe Education

Committee (NNEC) and administering communities to consider the closure of 26 community learning sites and the layoff of 30 community workers and over 20 program staff.

In addition to funding challenges, changes to government policy will have dramatic impacts on the future of the Post-Secondary School Support Program. It now seems clear that the Government of Canada intends to remove control and administration of this program from First Nations. This is “Indian Control of Indian Education” in reverse. Rather than adequately funding the program, the government’s solution is to disempower First Nations and ignore our Treaty right to education.

Despite several studies showing that investments in First Nation education will benefit all Canadians, the federal government has chooses to ignore our Treaty right to education. The education of our children is being sacrificed in an effort to control government spending. We cannot allow this to continue.

Water Project

Access to safe drinking water is an essential service for our communities. The federal government says that safe water is a priority but the way they have chosen to address this priority is misguided. They want new legislation so that they can turn over the responsibility for safe water to First Nations. What we desperately need is funding for updated water infrastructure and training in order to provide every NAN member with full access to a reliable source of safe potable water.

In June 2009, NAN submitted a three stage drinking water management improvement proposal to Health Canada that would combine community-based and NAN-wide actions to address water quality issues and identify the gaps that exist in our communities. We received some funding for the first phase designed to provide the baseline information which can be used to help build better drinking water management and protection in NAN First Nations. We are continuing to work on a proposal to complete the initial baseline work and to move forward in partnership with First Nations and Tribal Councils.

Child Welfare

Funding cuts and a flawed funding formula have threw child welfare in NAN First Nations into a state of crisis in 2009 as the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) cut an approximate \$23 million from an already underfunded system. These cuts put other already vulnerable First Nation child welfare agencies in an even tougher position to serve our people and left many vulnerable children at even greater risk.

Before Christmas, Payukotayno James & Hudson Bay Family Services was on the verge of closing due to severe funding cuts. It was prepared to close its doors and had already issued layoff notices. Likewise, Tikinagan Child & Family Services continued to face ongoing funding challenges, even though its caseload volume was up 20 per cent.

First Nation child welfare agencies in northern and remote communities face much higher operating and service-delivery costs. Under the current funding formula, our child welfare agencies are funded based on operating costs from the previous fiscal year, even though several reports have concluded and recommended that remoteness factors should be applied to budget allocations. This is a flawed formula that has resulted in chronic underfunding. What is required is a sustainable long-term funding formula that will see the ministry fund to the actual level of needs faced by First Nation child welfare agencies.

Children in care are some of our most vulnerable members. But despite rising caseloads, Ontario still refuses to ad-

equately fund the three child welfare agencies in NAN territory. This unnecessarily puts our children and families at considerable risk, and may eventually leave our child welfare agencies unable to fulfill their legislative mandates.

Fortunately, we were able to secure eleventh-hour funding for Payukotayno, and we are working with MCYS Minister Laurel Broten to commit to additional funding to these agencies for this fiscal year. We are also working with Ontario to ensure that Kuuwanimano Child & Family Services receives its designation as a fully mandated child welfare agency.

In July 2009 the Government of Ontario established the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, with a mandate to propose changes for Children's Aid Societies. NAN Chiefs have passed a resolution against participation in any review process designed without our input, as we know that in government that "sustainability" is code for expenditure cutback and fiscal restraint. On January 21, 2010 I delivered a clear message to the Commission that NAN will not participate in the Commission's review. But I remain hopeful that we can work with Ontario to develop long-term funding for our child welfare agencies.

Intergovernmental Network (IGN)

Youth issues, including suicide prevention strategies to programs empower our young people, were added to my portfolio responsibilities this year and am I pleased to report that much progress has been made. This year we reaffirmed our official tripartite with the governments of Canada and Ontario to strengthen the Intergovernmental Network on Nishnawbe Aski Nation Children & Youth (IGN), which was established to prevent youth suicide by build resiliency in NAN youth. A revised Terms of Reference and a Three-Year Strategic Framework was adopted by the IGN in June 2009.

Since Keewaywin 2009, the IGN has continued administering and providing training, program evaluation and strategic planning supports to prevention through social development initiatives in several communities. And while the Decade for Youth & Development (2000-2010) is winding down, we are undertaking a major community-based youth resiliency project to enhance the health and resilience of NAN youth through the implementation of the Girl Power/Wolf Spirit program in 10 of our communities. As well, the Oshkaatisak Council & Development Office formally changed its name from Decade for Youth & Development Office during Keewaywin 2009, and continues to do great work with, and on behalf of our young people.

Governance

Our people, our future, our government. We know that we - not Canada or Ontario - must take responsibility for our future as a people, especially as the Government of Canada's agenda is assimilation. What is our agenda? I believe it must be self-determination and self-governance, determining our own future by moving out from under the Indian Act to govern our communities under our laws.

For the past 10 years NAN has worked towards taking a step in that direction through self-government negotiations with Canada. Under the authority of NAN Resolution 98/75 (Governance and Education Jurisdiction) we have successfully negotiated draft Agreements-in-Principle (AIP) in both sectors. Once the AIPs are signed we can move to the next stage of negotiating Final Agreements in governance and education.

I would like to be clear, however, that moving to Final Agreement negotiations does not obligate any First Nation to sign a Final Agreement. It simply allows us to see exactly what Canada is prepared to put on the table in terms of powers and funding. But these non-binding AIPs are critical, as they represent the agenda for the next phase of the sectoral negotiations. If we don't remain at the negotiating table we will never know what we could have achieved.

We have nothing to lose and much to learn by continuing to Final Agreement negotiations.

The people of Nishnawbe Aski face a difficult future. We have seen the warning signs in the federal and provincial budgets, and we have seen see policy changes and budget cuts that are negatively impacting virtually every program and service required by our people. We see the federal agenda designed to disempower our leaders and assimilate our people.

Our Elders remind us of our responsibility to future generations. But with so many day-to-day challenges it is easy for us to get caught up in the issues of the day, not worrying about tomorrow until it comes. Too often we have to deal with the urgent, not the important. But despite these challenges I believe we have the opportunity for a brighter future, one built upon self-reliance and self-government.

It is a privilege to continue to work under your direction to improve the lives of our people and our communities. I thank you for the confidence placed in me, and I look forward to building stronger relationships as we rise to meet the challenges that lay before us.

Terry Waboose

Deputy Grand Chief

Intergovernmental Network (IGN) on NAN Children and Youth

Staff

Corrine Fox, Director of IGN on Nishnawbe Aski Nation Youth and Children
Jackie Alto, Decade Liaison Officer
Catherine Cheechoo, Decade for Youth Coordinator

Over the past year the Intergovernmental Network on NAN Children and Youth (IGN) has worked at reaffirming the only official tripartite table that Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) is involved in - the Intergovernmental Network on NAN Children & Youth. NAN, along with provincial and federal government officials meet three times per year on the issue of children and youth resiliency in NAN in response to suicide. In June 2009, a revised Terms of Reference and a Three-Year Strategic Framework was adopted by the IGN. The next step is to have meetings between the Grand Chief and the federal and provincial ministers represented at the IGN table.

Since Keewaywin 2009, the IGN has continued administering and providing training, program evaluation and strategic planning supports to Prevention through Social Development Initiatives in a number of NAN communities and oversees all Youth initiatives at NAN.

During the last year the IGN has undertaken a major youth resiliency initiative and produced a music video with the NAN Decade for Youth Council. In addition, the Oshkaatisak Council & Development Office formally changed its name from Decade for Youth & Development Office at the 2009 Keewaywin Conference. The IGN continues to make contacts with the private sector and foundations on fundraising for the reestablishment of the NAN Youth Charitable Trust Fund.

As the end of the Decade for Youth & Development (2000-2010) approaches, the IGN is undertaking a major youth resiliency project with a budget of approximately \$1.3 million. This is a community-based and strategic approach to enhance the health and resilience of Nishnawbe Aski Nation Youth through the implementation of the Girl Power/Wolf Spirit program in 10 communities.

The fifth annual Seven Sacred Teachings Youth Gathering was held January 25-29, 2010 at the Best Western Nor'Wester Resort Hotel in Thunder Bay with 203 delegates in attendance. The gathering focused on strength-building practices of the Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Funding was provided by Health Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the NAN Family Healing Initiative.

The Girl Power and Wolf Spirit Pilot Project completed the second year of its three year pilot-project. This project was funded by Health Canada, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the World Primate Relief Development Fund, and Communities in Action Fund grant provided by the Ministry of Health Promotion.

The Girl Power and Wolf Spirit Pilot project provided or enhanced existing self-esteem and culturally relevant programming to 10 NAN First Nation Communities.

Training sessions were held in March 2010 and July 2010 to train a Girl Power and a Wolf Spirit worker from each community. The training provided facilitation and planning skills with the goal of each community worker providing a program to youth in their respective communities. A Values, Structures, and Process (VSP) community development tool has been developed between NAN and Carleton University as a resource for the Girl Power and Wolf Spirit Programs. The VSP tool is currently being offered to three communities: North Caribou Lake First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, and Moose Cree First Nation. The VSP tool is a process that will be incorporated into the Girl Power and Wolf Spirit programs with the goal of building sustainable, community-driven programs.

Over the past year we have worked at reaffirming the only official tripartite table that NAN is involved in the Inter-governmental Network on Nishnawbe Aski Nation Children & Youth (IGN). NAN, along with provincial and federal government officials meet three times per year on the issue of children and youth resiliency in NAN in response to suicide. In June 2009, a revised Terms of Reference and a Three-Year Strategic Framework was adopted by the IGN. The next step is to have meetings between the Grand Chief and the federal and provincial ministers represented at the IGN table.

Since Keewaywin 2009, the IGN has continued administering and providing training, program evaluation and strategic planning supports to Prevention through Social Development Initiatives in a number of NAN communities and oversees all Youth initiatives at NAN.

Youth Issues

During the last year I have focused my efforts on youth issues, and as a result we have undertaken a major youth resiliency initiative and produced a music video with the NAN Decade for Youth Council. In addition, The Oshkaatisak Council & Development Office formally changed its name from Decade for Youth & Development Office at the 2009 Keewaywin Conference I have continued to make contacts with the private sector and foundations on fundraising for the reestablishment of the NAN Youth Charitable Trust Fund.

As we come to the end of the Decade for Youth & Development (2000-2010) we are undertaking a major youth resiliency project with a budget of approximately \$1.3 million. This is a community-based and strategic approach to enhance the health and resilience of Nishnawbe Aski Nation Youth through the implementation of the Girl Power/Wolf Spirit program in 10 communities.

As you can see, this past year has been extremely rewarding. I'm glad to have contributed positively to the development of our people and communities.

The fifth annual Seven Sacred Teachings Youth Gathering took place from January 25-29, 2010 at the Best Western Nor'Wester Resort Hotel in Thunder Bay with 203 delegates were in attendance. The gathering focused on strength building practices of the Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Funding was provided by Health Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the NAN Family Healing Initiative.

The Girl Power Wolf Spirit Warrior pilot project completed the second year of its three year pilot-project. This project was funded by Health Canada, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the World Primate Relief Development Fund, and Communities in Action Fund grant provided by the Ministry of Health Promotion.

The Girl Power Wolf Spirit Warrior pilot project provided or enhanced existing self-esteem and culturally relevant programming to 10 NAN First Nation Communities.

Trainings were held in March 2010 and July 2010 to train a Girl Power and a Wolf Spirit worker from each community. The trainings provided facilitation and planning skills with the goal of each community worker providing a program to youth in their respective communities. As developed between NAN and Carleton University to provide a community development tool as a resource to the Girl Power Wolf Spirit Warrior programs. The tool is currently being offered to three communities which are North Caribou Lake First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, and Moose Cree First Nation. The VSP tool (Values, Structures, and Process) is a process that will be incorporated into the Girl Power and Wolf Spirit programs with the goal of building a sustainable community driven program.

Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

- Breastfeeding resources completed, kits include parent resource booklet, posters, magnets, and front-line staff manual. Training will be held in the fall through video-conferencing in partnership with Meno-Ya-Win. Resources will be distributed to Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children (AHBHC) programs shortly after the training. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meno-Ya-Win and nurses to contact AHBHC worker when moms are released from hospital to ensure continuum of support back in the community. Similar MOU will be developed with other hospitals in Timmins and Thunder Bay.
- Empowering Families-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder conference held March 8-12 through funding from First Nation Inuit Health. Funding allowed invitations to be extended to the other three First Nation political territorial organizations. A strategic planning session was held and the following are recommendations to address the challenges faced by communities and people living with FASD:
 - A need for more community awareness about FASD (including education in schools).
 - Support for FASD affected individuals, families, and communities.
 - Training for persons working with FASD affected individuals.
 - Training for individuals working in the social, health and law enforcement agencies.
 - Identifying existing resources in Ontario and other provinces.
 - Providing community access to early identification and diagnosis of FASD affected children.
 - Development of substance-abuse treatment programs, including services for prenatal women.
 - Opportunities for networking and community healing.

Children and adolescents living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) are at high risk for secondary disabilities when there is little intervention or support. Early diagnosis and appropriate interventions are critical to reduce the life-long deficiencies caused by the brain damage. Secondary disabilities can include mental health problems, repeated school failures, trouble with the law, inappropriate sexual behavior, drug and alcohol problems.

Five protective factors have been identified to decrease secondary disabilities:

1. Living in a stable and nurturing home.
2. Not having frequent changes of households (children in foster care are high risk).
3. Not being a victim of violence.
4. Having received developmental disabilities services.
5. Having been diagnosed before the age of six years.

AIDS and Healthy Lifestyles Program

Staff

Gwen Medicine, HIV/AIDS Coordinator

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is in First Nation communities. First Nations are affected by many social, economic, and behavioral factors, such as high rates of poverty, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections and limited access to or use of, health care services, all of which increase risk to HIV.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN) Healthy Lifestyles Program continues to educate NAN communities and organizations upon request; develop education resource materials; acquire and distribute appropriate First Nations-specific materials; promote awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS; provide training sessions to encourage positive living and make responsible healthy choices.

Education:

- Video Conferencing – KNET
- Education Booths and Displays
- Community visits by invitation

Training:

- Summer Student - May to August 2009
- Two-day Health Directors Planning Session - November 2009
- Two-day Elder/Church Leader Education Session - February 2010
- Five-day Youth Peer Education Training (in collaboration with the Ontario First Nations HIV/AIDS Education Circle) - September 2009

Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Strategy

The Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Strategy (ARGS) is a program by the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion to support communities in their efforts to reduce the harm associated with problem gambling through the development and delivery of prevention and education initiatives, resource development, staff training and support.

August 2009 to March 2010 included National Addictions Awareness Week Resource Kits, Problem Gambling Prevention Month resources and the Annual Gambling Addictions Regional Training in Thunder Bay, January 2010. A program presentation and education session was held at the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Food Symposium for Health Directors in January and at the NAN Healthy Lifestyles Elders Gathering in February. The ARGS program contributed \$5,000 to each of these events to assist with delegate travel expenses.

The program continued with the ongoing development and distribution of promotional and educational resource materials and completed 25 community requests for youth gatherings and career fairs; community conferences and staff training; special events and projects; displays, resource bundles and community development initiatives.

Food Security

A Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Food Symposium was held in November 2009. The following is a summary and recommendations that came out of the symposium.

The Food Symposium had a variety of presenters discussing topics ranging from historical practices, research on forest gardens, community breakfast programs, food boxes, blueberry initiatives, healing gardens, solar greenhouses, school curriculums, youth programs, hunting subsidy programs, gifts from the moose and local producers/farmers.

Presenters were from NAN, Ginoogaming, Missanabie Cree, Fort Albany, Aroland, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Manitoba.

Recommendations:

- Host another symposium in the spring or fall to learn skills needed to plant, harvest and preserve a variety of food.
- Invite Mildred Richard Dacosta, Healing through Gardening, and Kaaren Dannamen, Gifts from our Relations the Moose, to the next symposium.
- Communities are interested in purchasing Earth boxes as presented by Connie Nelson to grow vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers. Earth boxes are used all over the world where growing conditions are not ideal.
- Assist communities to start community gardens involving the Elders and young people.
- Learn from the Elders about times they planted vegetables and harvested wild foods.
- Provide teachings on wild food/traditional foods - harvesting/preserving.
- Develop a NAN website for information on gardening/traditional foods/recipes/nutrition.
- Learn more about Traditional medicines.
- Follow through with the solar greenhouse to see how the vegetables grew over the winter months and explore opportunities for development/training in First Nation communities.
- Highlight more NAN communities at next symposium.
- Explore opportunities for trade between NAN communities and other regional sources (e.g. blueberries for vegetables)
- Chart a visual map of the food trail from the United States and South America to our table.
- Explore bulk buying clubs.
- Provide organic/heritage seeds for growing vegetables and learn how to save seeds for next season.

- Use video-conferencing to bring information to the communities.
- Learn about what foods can be grown in the North.
- Provide training on safe food handling and food preparation.

Action Items:

- 100 Earth boxes for growing vegetables/fruit have been purchased and have been distributed to interested community members. Information session on using the boxes will be through video-conferencing starting May 26 and running every month until September. Earth boxes will also be distributed to nutrition programs.
- Garden kits including heirloom seeds, garden tools, watering can, seed starters, resource books on gardening were distributed at end of March to interested community members.
- One summer student placement from May to August will work with local gardens/farmers to increase awareness and interest in horticulture/agriculture. This student will manage a garden plot at Lakehead University and will participate in various workshops.
- Information pamphlet on accessing regional food through farmers (fresh produce, grass-fed beef, pork, bison, eggs) will be distributed early July.
- A vision session was held at the NAN Women's Council in March on how participants envisioned their community 10 years from now. A book will be printed with drawings.
- Solar greenhouse produced fresh vegetables and herbs over the winter so is a viable project for the North.
- Apply for funding to host a second symposium in September.
- Research funding to support a pilot greenhouse project in one or two NAN communities.
- Ontario government developing policy linking food with health to decrease incidents of diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular illness.

Social Services

Staff

Lawrence Baxter, Director of Social Services

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services and Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services continue to work on capacity development for the designation of Kunuwanimano as a fully mandated child welfare agency.

On February 18, 2010, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Terry Waboose, Chiefs from the Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services catchment area, and Kunuwanimano Executive Director Vicky Hardisty, met with the Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of Children & Youth Services (MCYS), and senior officials in Toronto to present concerns regarding child welfare in their communities and to press the Minister regarding the designation of Kunuwanimano.

The Minister has indicated that she is committed to moving forward with the designation and eventual mandating of Kunuwanimano as a fully mandated child welfare agency. She committed to a follow-up meeting to provide a detailed update on the status of the designation process for Kunuwanimano.

Status:

Capacity development towards the designation Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services is continuing.

Support for Sixties Scoop Litigation

Between 1965 and 1985 an estimated 16,000 Aboriginal children in Ontario, including members of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nations, were removed from their homes and placed in other communities. An entire generation lost its Aboriginal identity and culture during the "Sixties Scoop."

On February 9, 2009, Marcia Brown and Robert Commanda launched a lawsuit against the Attorney General of Canada in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice under the Class Proceedings Act. Marcia Brown is a member of NAN. Robert Commanda is a Union of Ontario Indians member.

NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly agree and support the First Nations people and communities including Marcia Brown (aka Sally Mathias) in their efforts to support with litigation proceedings.

Status:

A certification hearing will be held April 26-28, 2010 in Toronto to determine if the case can proceed as a class action lawsuit.

Regional Social Services Pilot Project

The development of regional social services pilot project for the delivery of a Social Assistance programs in the NAN communities.

Status:

New pilot projects on social assistance are still on hold until the existing three pilot projects are complete. The completion date for the three pilot projects has been pushed back to September 2010. The completion was originally set for March 31, 2009.

First Nations Legislation

Former Minister of Children and Youth Services Mary Anne Chambers committed to First Nations in Ontario a First Nation Legislation on Child Welfare. A technical committee was established to draft the legislation. So far, the committee has gathered an inventory of information for the drafting of the legislation.

Status:

In October 2008, the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services suggested that a proposal be resubmitted to her ministry. The proposal was submitted in February 2009. No response has been received to date.

Governance Secretariat

Staff

Bentley Cheechoo, Director
Melinda Sault-Coates, Administrative Assistant

The Governance Secretariat provides administrative services to Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)/Canada negotiations on Governance and education jurisdiction. The Secretariat coordinates all activities and ensures the needs of the negotiations are accommodated in timely manner. The Secretariat is also responsible for ensure financial management of the resources identified for to support the negotiations and funded through Gathering Strength Governance funding.

For fiscal 2009-2010, the Secretariat was funded \$1,348,000 to support the negotiations. \$700,000 of the identified funding supports Regional Governance Coordinators who work at the Tribal Council level to work with the First Nations. Funding arrangements have been established with each Tribal Council to deliver community communication and awareness on the negotiations. The other portion of the funding is used to pay for the negotiator's fees, legal counsel, technical support and other support related services. We received one-time supplementary funding of \$500,000 to help bring the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) message to the people of NAN.

Currently, we have Dr. Emily Faries as the negotiator for the Education Jurisdiction and Mr. Doug Semple as the negotiator for Governance. Together, they are referred to as the NAN Negotiating Team (NNT). They explained in great detail the current status of the Governance and education jurisdiction negotiations at the Chiefs Assembly held November 24-26, 2010. The NNT is directed and supported by the Governance and Education Jurisdiction Sectoral Steering Committees, which are appointed by the Tribal Councils to represent their regions in these negotiations. Both committees have been very instrumental in providing a sound foundation on how these negotiations were proceed, with strong emphasis on our Treaty relationship with Canada.

As indicated at November 2009 Chiefs Assembly, we have an AIP in both Governance and education jurisdiction, and we needed the support of the First Nations through First Nation resolution to proceed to the final agreement phase. At the March 30 - April 2, 2010 Winter Chiefs Assembly it was reported by the Negotiators that we had the support of two First Nations to continue negotiations towards a final agreement. The negotiator expressed their concern with lack of support for the process to continue. The Government of Canada set a deadline of April 14, 2010 to get all of the support resolutions in place or the negotiations would not continue.

The Governance Secretariat is assisting with getting the message to each Chief and Council on the support resolution process, and has conducted radio broadcasts and newsletter to deliver the message to each home in NAN.

The Tribal Councils have worked very closely with the Secretariat in implementing AIP communication plans and will continue to implement these plans until all of the First Nation support resolutions are in place. Once the resolutions are in place indicating support, then plans will go into place to have the Grand Chief to sign the non-binding AIPs sometime in the fall of 2010. It should be noted that no First Nation will be forced to participate in next phase of these negotiations if they choose not to participate. The federal government negotiator wants to know the level of support for these negotiations - that is the main reason for the First Nation resolutions. We have not determined what number of resolutions would constitute support for the process and negotiations to continue.

It is very important for NAN First Nation leadership and community members to realize that these negotiations are about each First Nation implementing their recognized governing system under a framework to be established within final agreement. Furthermore, it will allow for the creation of regional governance structures if a group of First Nations wish to pursue that objective, or if the NAN Chiefs want to establish a governing structure in all of the traditional territory they can implement that objective.

Treaty Implementation Framework

Similar to 2008/2009, there has been very little activity within treaty education and awareness for the past three years because due to a lack of resources. In 2005/2006, we were successful to bringing the treaty education and awareness process to 80 per cent of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) communities, but were unable to bring the process to 20 per cent of the Treaty 9 communities due lack of resources. We continue to work with Treaty Discussion Forum (TDF) and officials from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to secure resources to complete our work to enable us to provide a report on our findings. Currently, it is not feasible to provide a final report as we not have been to all of Treaty 9 communities.

NAN continues to work with the Treaty 5 on the commemoration, which will be launched in June 2010. Securing resources for the commemoration has been positive. Feedback from Treaty 5 work at the community level also provides the basis of for the continuing development of the Treaty Strategic Plan. It should be noted that Treaty work receives very little support through government funding.

Recommendation:

That NAN Chiefs continue to support the completion of Treaty work (Treaty 5 and 9) as it is an important part of our history that should be recorded and clearly understood by the people of NAN.

Treaty Strategic Plan

Since the adoption-in-principle of the draft Treaty Strategic Plan in 2005 by the Chiefs of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) there has been no opportunity to discuss the plan in any detail. As an example, the final draft of the Treaty Strategic Plan was supposed to be presented to the NAN Chiefs at the 2006 Keewaywin in Sachigo Lake First Nation and again at the 2007 Keewaywin in Aroland First Nation. In both cases, presentations were not held due to agenda restraints. A presentation was made to NAN Chiefs on the draft Treaty Strategic Plan at the Winter Chiefs meeting in March 2009. Treaty discussion is not an issue that can be discussed in half an hour, and requires a minimum of two days.

Recommendation:

That Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs endorse a Treaty Conference sponsored by each First Nation sometime in 2011 with the objective of completing the Treaty Strategic Plan and working towards a Treaty Implementation Plan.

Resolution Updates

Portfolio: LANDS, RIGHTS AND TREATY RESEARCH

Resolution #09/90: Chapleau Cree First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement

In January 2006, Canada adopted a position that the treaty land entitlement short fall under the provisions of Treaty 9 will be considered on the Date of Treaty (DOT) and not a Date of First Survey (DOFS) shortfall. Ontario has always taken this position regarding Treaty 9 TLEs.

The two governments' positions are founded on the fact that a "schedule of reserves" was appended to the treaty which they interpret as the intent of the parties to "fix" the size of the reserves at DOT.

The fact that Canada will not accept TLE claims for negotiation (validate a claim) beyond its lawful obligation under their current policy. This means that Canada and Ontario will only provide land based on an outstanding land quantum owing. If First Nation(s) want more land, they have to purchase the land on a fair market value. It's been the practice of Canada not to designate excess land into a reserve; often First Nations are required to hold land under fee simple title. Although Canada may designate the land in the future; land held under fee simple is subject to crown or municipal taxes.

In some cases Canada and Ontario will provide additional land in excess of DOT as form of compensation either in combination of land and cash settlement. As of today, both governments have not departed from their positions. This has frustrated those First Nations who are currently in negotiations that want to engage in negotiations beyond crown's lawful obligation or DOT.

Please note the DOT analysis only applies to the 1905/06 Treaty 9 TLE claims. Canada has not formally adopted a position for the adhesion TLEs in treaty 9.

Resolution #09/10: Support for the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP)

This resolution called for NAN to endorse NOSCP's charter outlining the principles of community based forestry. NOSCP, and others, are calling for a provincial reform in regard to Ontario's forest tenure system. They would like to see communities, instead of the private forest sector, managing the Sustainable Forestry Licenses in the Area of the Undertaking.

The resolution also mandates NAN to continue to work with NOSCP on the issue of tenure reform. In the fall of 2009, Ontario hosted a series of province wide workshops to look at the issue of tenure reform. Comments were provided to Ontario on this issue at that time (these comments included the recommendation to make direct wood allocations to First Nations).

Recently (in May 2010), the government announced their proposed framework on forest tenure reform. Essentially, Ontario is not looking to adopt a new system that is based on community forestry. Instead, they are looking at government established Local Forest Management Corporations (LFMCs) who would assume the role of management, marketing and competitive wood sales. LFMCs will be based on business models and will adopt the forest management planning system currently in place. The manner in which Ontario wishes to involve First Nations (through a seat on the LFMC board table) contrasts severely to what First Nations have indicated are minimum standards for involvement. Overall, First Nations in NAN believe that the proposed new business system of forest tenure will continue to impact and deteriorate s. 35 Aboriginal and Treaty rights. NAN will continue to monitor the Ontario government's activities on tenure reform and advance First Nations positions on forestry. It will also continue to work with NOSCP to advance the position of community/First Nation based forestry.

Resolution #09/50: Nuclear Waste-Free Zone and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Nine-step Site Selection Process

This resolution was passed in addition to a previous resolution (05/57) declaring the NAN territory a nuclear waste free zone. It clearly outlines the position that any site selection process created by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) must state that 'any potentially affected First Nation in NAN must fully approve of any proposed site selection located in, adjacent to and/or through their reserve lands and traditional territories.'

The NWMO has been reviewing all the feedback from their information sessions held throughout 2009 in order to fine-tune their site selection process. Therefore, Resolution 09/88 was sent to Pat Patton, Director of Aboriginal Relations at NWMO. The current form of the 9-step site selection process neither respects Aboriginal and Treaty Rights nor grants the First Nations in NAN the absolute ability to consent or reject nuclear waste in their traditional territory. Therefore, in order for the NWMO 9-step selection process to have any legitimacy and be congruent with

section 35 of the Canada Constitution Act, it must fully incorporate and respect the position of the Chiefs in NAN as expressed in Resolution 09/88.

As of May 2010, the NWMO has not completed its 'fine-tuning' of this site selection process and has not stated a completion date. NAN will continue to monitor this process and provide information to NAN Chiefs in Assembly.

Resolution #09/55: Support for Whitewater Lake First Nation 2009-2010 Negotiations with the Province of Ontario on the Wabakimi Park

This resolution directed the NAN Executive Council to continue to work in collaboration with Whitewater Lake First Nation in their negotiations with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on a Memorandum of Intent regarding issues around the Wabakimi Park. Though it agreed to a negotiation process at a meeting on November 27, 2009, the Ministry later suspended negotiations, ostensibly to review its internal mandates. The Minister sent a letter on April 30, 2010, which included a draft memorandum of understanding on some of Wabakimi Park issues. However, after review, it was determined that the memorandum was simply a restatement of previous unacceptable positions tabled by MNR officials. The Whitewater Lake First Nation plans to send a formal counter-offer to the Ministry and request the resumption of negotiations in the normal course. In order to facilitate this process, it will be necessary to work with senior provincial officials in Toronto. The continued assistance of NAN will be required. On related note, the NAN Treaty Research department has worked with Whitewater on archival research, in support of a possible claim. An Elders interview project should be under way shortly.

Resolution #09/85: Pikangikum Forest Management Plan

This resolution is a support resolution for Pikangikum First Nation's efforts calling for the Province of Ontario to approve its completed draft revised Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM). This approval was necessary so that Pikangikum can proceed with the development of their forest management plan.

The OMNR's FMPM was approved, and out for distribution, in November of 2009. Section F of the manual is entitled, "Additional Requirements for the Whitefeather Forest."

Resolution #09/91: Rejection of Métis Engagement on Ontario Revenue and Resource Benefits Sharing

This resolution mandated the NAN Executive Council to bring the message contained in this resolution to the attention of the Ontario government. A letter was sent to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs urging him to reconsider this approach, it included the resolution itself. As of May 2010, no response has been received nor has the government made any indication on this issue in any other Ontario wide forum. The NAN Resource Revenue Sharing Technical Working Group (RRSTWG) will continue to monitor the government's response to this. This will be a

major consideration in how the RRSTWG make recommendations on moving forward.

Resolution #10/06: Call for the Government of Canada to Endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

In follow-up to this resolution, a letter was sent to the government of Canada urging that they work with First Nations as they consider signing on to the declaration. In addition, approximately 22 post-cards that were signed during the March NAN Chiefs Assembly were sent to Prime Minister Harper.

A delegation was sent to the *United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* during the week of April 19 – 23, 2010. At that time, a written intervention (including a copy of the resolution) was filed with the Permanent Forum. The written intervention included recommendations with respect to how Canada should be engaging with First Nations as they consider endorsing the declaration (i.e. through the establishment of a framework for an Implementation Accord). It was also recommended that the *UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples* conduct a mission in Canada to investigate human rights violations in Treaties No. 9 and 5 related to cases where homelands are not officially recognized by Canada.

Resolution #10/08: Support for Climate Change Research Project

This resolution supported the initiation of a collaborative research project with a Lakehead University (masters in forestry) student on climate change with First Nations in NAN. A research agreement and/or contract is expected to be finalized in mid-June 2010 and focus groups will be taking place to assist the researcher in determining where focus will need to be placed and to gather more input on what First Nations know/observe about climate change, etc. These focus groups are expected to take place in the summer of 2010. Other community workshops may also take place depending on the interest of First Nations up until the fall 2010 when the research document will be written.

This resolution also mandates the NAN Executive Council to work the establishment of a 'NAN Research Committee' calling for a draft terms of reference by Keewaywin 2010. In follow-up to this resolution, the senior managers of NAN have been assigned to work together to determine the various research issues the various programs deal with and to develop recommendations on how a committee should be structured, how issues should be addressed, etc. To date, this work has not been finalized and will be on-going and more substantially reported at the next NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly.

Resolution #10/23: NAN Right of Consent – Policies and Developments that Affect the Territory

This resolution establishes the NAN law on consent as the minimum requirement for policies and development.

It further elaborates on the matter of consent being subject to enhancement at the First Nation or Tribal Council level and outlines some of the elements that may be included (such as: private/government revenue sharing, participation in ongoing decision making, employment and contracting spin-off developments, and establishment of environmental review boards). The resolution also mandated the NAN Executive Council to work with First Nations and/or Tribal Councils to develop more detailed policies and protocols to elaborate on the fundamental right of consent and to invite key Ministers of the Governments of Ontario and Canada to attend the 2010 Keewaywin Assembly to confirm that the NAN position on consent will be respected.

A letter, including the resolution, was sent to the key Ministers on April 26, 2010. In order to develop practical measures for the implementation of the resolution, NAN, in the near future, would like to bring representatives from the First Nations and/or Tribal Councils together to develop an action plan/strategy.

Portfolio: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolution #09/89

The above-noted resolution calls for a Regional Economic Development Strategy which will assist NAN First Nations in their consultations and negotiations with resource developers such as forestry companies, mining exploration companies including mine developments and operations.

This strategy and economic action plan would identify, address and ensure adequate consultations to future resource extractions within the NAN territory and this preparatory planning needs be developed with full input from all NAN First Nations.

The regional economic development strategy would include all sectors:

- Forestry
- Mining Exploration
- Mine Developments and Operations
- Tourism
- Electrical Energy
- All Weather Roads

There is also a need to identify the minimum requirements which NAN First Nations would require in any resource development agreements such as in:

- Impact Benefit Agreements
- Exploration Agreements
- Mining Operations Agreements
- Related Agreements in All Sectors

This regional economic development framework needs to be developed at three levels:

- Political Level
- Legal Level
- Operational Level

To begin this process over the next few weeks, NAN will work closely with the First Nations impacted by the Ring of Fire to ensure that they receive the full level of support from the NAN political level in achieving their benefits in all areas such as training skills, employment opportunities, business and economic opportunities, including the full range of financial compensation.

NAN has undertaken meetings and discussions with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to plan and schedule a 'NAN First Nations Economic Summit' which will take place in the fall of the new fiscal year. The content and recommendations which would result from this summit would form the basis for an economic and resource policy framework which may be implemented in the NAN Territory by NAN First Nations with support of governments and industry stakeholders.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs officials are open and committed to this proposed forum which would have the direct input of NAN First Nations, governments (Fed-Prov-Municipal) including industry players for sponsorships. This very important, special Summit will include presentations and workshops on subjects such as various types of exploration agreements, Impact Benefits Agreements (IBAs), employment and training opportunities, currently planned projects under development, as well as key speakers from NAN First Nations, industry and governments.

Once further talks result in specific details as to format, content, dates and location, the information will be provided to NAN First Nations and Tribal Councils. Presently NAN is preparing a budget which will be submitted to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in early June 2010.

I will be preparing a Final Report to be presented to the NAN Chiefs Assembly this coming fall 2010.

Resolution #09/97: NAN First Nations Strategic Housing Action Plan

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has received various resolutions during the past decade to address the very serious housing crisis within all NAN First Nation communities.

Since my last report in March 2010, I have met with various regional housing committees including the Ontario First Nation Steering Committee on Housing.

NAN will continue advocating improving the quality of life for the First Nations people of Nishnawbe Aski territory. Part of this consideration to the quality of life involves the housing improvements required.

Housing Situation

There are currently 26,368 people living on-reserve¹ in the NAN territory. Looking at a population increase from 1999 to 2009 of 31.4% enables the determination that 34,648 people and 45,527 people will be living on-reserve in the years 2019 and 2029 respectively.

As of 2008, there were 5,795 homes² on-reserve in the NAN territory with a housing density of 4.6 people per house. Comparatively, the provincial density is calculated at 2.5 people per house³. Therefore to meet provincial averages, another 4,752 houses would immediately need to be constructed which would cost approximately \$1.2 Billion⁴. Further, using the current housing stock and previous population projections, an additional 8,864 houses and 12,416 houses will be required in the NAN territory in 2019 and 2029 respectively.

Note: This estimate only addresses the overcrowding situation (housing backlog). It does not address the costs required for minor and major renovations; issues with the quality of housing including mould; high costs for new housing; or, access to funding.

-
- 1 Sourced from the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada First Nations Profiles website. The complete Microsoft Excel spreadsheets can be provided upon request.
 - 2 Sourced from Mr. Gilles Duford, Project Manager of ICMS, of the Infrastructure Operations Directorate, Community Development Branch, Regional Operations Sector out of the Montclair Office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The complete Microsoft Excel spreadsheets can be provided upon request.
 - 3 Calculations used data collected in the Statistics Canada 2006 Census. The complete Microsoft Excel spreadsheets can be provided upon request.
 - 4 Calculations used final housing costs from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The complete Microsoft Excel spreadsheets can be provided upon request.

Housing as a Business Venture

NAN Executive is proposing a business style strategy to address the housing crisis. This Strategic Housing Plan could address long term planning with a PRIORITY of new housing (later this strategy could look at repairs and maintenance and other housing issues).

In the year 2010, NAN Executive is proposing that an estimated 180 homes⁵ for a price tag of 5% to 10% less than current costs (refer to *Construction Improvement Considerations* Section 1.4 for more details) will be required through an accelerated construction plan.

The objective will be to continue building 180 homes each subsequent year 2011 and 2012 to provide further results and measures for improvement. This strategy style would represent the optimal economy of scale (4 houses per community).

The foundation of this business strategy will be a for-profit housing entity complete with a Board of Directors composed of various First Nation Technical Representatives from the Tribal Council areas. This entity will have business administrative staff that will work collaboratively with the Tribal Council Technical Units.

Other than the main objective of this Strategic Housing Plan which is to build homes to accommodate the growing population, it will also build quality, durable and energy efficient housing including: house designs; lot availability/quality; streamlining method of purchasing materials; qualified construction management; training for new products/systems; financial monitoring; sufficient insurance coverage; refining housing management; management regime; and, pouring foundations during summer season.

This strategy acknowledges that there will be overhead costs in the first year such as development of plans and employee acquisition. However the following illustrates the expected advantages of the Strategic Housing Plan:

- Share success stories with INAC and other First Nations across NAN Territory
- Improve accuracy to reduce costs (construction, maintenance, fuel, shipping)
- Buying power through bulk purchasing
- Conscientious skilled community labour
- Community ownership of housing plans
- Reduce the administrative burden in each community as well as the respective government agencies (i.e. eliminate the Expression of Interest process each year)

⁵ This estimate is based on the assumption that all 45 NAN communities currently with a land base opt into the strategy.

It is being proposed that NAN will utilize Sections 10 and 95 of CMHC to build these 180 homes each year through dedicated NAN housing allocations from CMHC budgets. It is also being proposed that any outstanding costs will be covered by INAC Minor Capital dollars (i.e. balance of housing which does not qualify under CMHC programs). The *Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development* states that the Government of Canada will:

“Take a whole-of-government approach to Aboriginal economic development, recognizing that all federal initiatives need to be complementary and mutually reinforcing.”

Start-Up Requirements

There will be a first-year start-up funding required estimated at \$230,500 to establish the NAN Housing Entity with less funds needed in years 2 and 3 when sufficient project development funding can sustain these business operations. This strategy proposes that three federal departments will be able to assist with this start-up funding: i.e. FedNor, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

There will not be any capital contributions from First Nations for ongoing operational funding in future years except for actual construction costs. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient financing generated through rent collection to not only sustain the Housing Entity but also maintain the existing housing and infrastructure.

A business plan is being developed with NADF’s assistance for submission to the above-noted, three federal agencies early in the coming new fiscal year. A more detailed report will be presented to NAN Chiefs at their fall 2010 Assembly.

A Financing Option

NAN is currently meeting with the housing construction industry with the intent of seeking assistance from major contractors with asset values and financial leverages of over \$500 million to supply and construct on-reserve housing units on a design-build basis.

This approach would enable First Nations to undertake an accelerated housing construction program utilizing other people’s money (OPM) while negotiating a financing package which combines federal contributions, private sector funds and long-term debt financing at preferred interest rates based on project scope.

In other words, the cost per unit can be substantially reduced if a housing project of \$20 million involving several First Nations can be arranged versus a project of \$1million involving 1-2 First Nations.

This option will be explored during meetings with these interested companies and updates will be provided to NAN Chiefs as to viability and success based on other First Nation experiences in northern Canada.

A more specific business proposition and long-term plan for both on and off-reserve housing will be presented to the NAN Chiefs Assembly this coming fall 2010.

Portfolio: SOCIAL SERVICES

Resolution #06/13: NAN Territorial Child and Family Services Coalition

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Resolution 06/13 mandates the three child welfare agencies (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, Payukotayno James & Hudson Bay Family Services, and Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services) to form a coalition to represent the interests of NAN First Nations on child welfare issue through a single voice.

Status

In recent months the agencies, particularly Payukotayno and Tikinagan, have experienced severe funding shortfalls, which resulted in layoff notices issued to staff and the possibility of the closer of the agencies. As well, these funding cutbacks left the agencies unable to meet their legislative mandates, which put children and families in NAN territory at considerable risk.

A joint lobbying effort by NAN, Chiefs of Ontario, and with technical support from the affected child welfare agencies, was successful in convincing Ontario Children and Youth Services Minister Laurel Broten to provide additional funds to these agencies. This funding was short-term, however, and does not address long-term funding requirements.

NAN is continuing to work with the child welfare agencies to lobby the Government of Ontario for sustainable funding in all areas that will ensure the delivery of the legislative mandate of child welfare services in NAN territory.

Resolution #07/11: Establishment of a Water Quality Unit, Safe Drinking Water

Issue:

- To develop a water quality monitoring unit in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) for the collection of water samples and other information to generate baseline data.
- To analyze, interpret and store data in a computerize form for use as a tool to determine the stake of drinking water in NAN communities.
- To ensure safe drinking water is being provided to all NAN communities.

Status

The proposal was approved by Health Canada and partial funding for stage one has been received. The funding will assist NAN and bands that want to be included in the pilot to initiate dialogue and establish an assessment of the existing monitoring program.

NAN has visited some communities and arrangements to visit other communities are ongoing.

Resolution #09/75: Child and Family Services Funding Crisis

Funding cuts of approximately \$23 million announced by the Ontario Ministry of Children & Youth Services (MCYS) threw child welfare agencies into chaos in 2009, leaving Payukotayno James & Hudson Bay Family Services and Tikinagan Child & Family Services facing financial crisis and placing vulnerable members of NAN First Nations at even greater risk.

NAN raised opposition to these cuts with the Government of Ontario in fall 2009 and helped secure last-minute funding from MCYS to alleviate Payukotayno's fiscal crisis in the short-term.

NAN has addressed the need for sustainable, long-term funding for the three child welfare agencies in NAN territory (Tikinagan Child & Family Services, Payukotayno James & Hudson Bay Family Services, and Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services) with both the governments of Canada and Ontario.

NAN continues to advocate for a funding formula that will see MCYS fund to the actual level of need faced by First Nation child welfare agencies.

Resolution #09/76: Opposition to Sustainability Commission Pertaining to Children's Aid Societies in Ontario

In July 2009 the Government of Ontario established the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare with a mandate to propose changes for Children's Aid Societies. On November 26, 2009 Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs passed Resolution 09/76 against participation in any review process designed without NAN First Nation input.

Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose delivered a clear message outlining NAN's opposition to this process when members of the Commission met in Thunder Bay on January 21, 2010.

Portfolio: WOMEN

Resolution #07/42: Birth Registration

The following activity has taken place from April 2009 to March 31, 2010:

- Service Ontario has developed an action plan to improve access and support to birth registration services in NAN communities and to remove the barriers to birth registration and challenges for unregistered individuals applying for various government program and benefits, particularly Indian Status registration.
- Partnerships to-date include Ministry of Government Services (Service Ontario and Ontario Diversity Office), Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Service Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Health Canada, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN).
- The action plan to-date includes:
 - In-person support for birth registration and birth certificate requests through a partnership with Service Canada outreach staff. From August 2009 to January 21 NAN communities have received assistance, resulting in 540 birth certificate applications completed, 20 newborn registrations and 48 delayed birth registrations.
 - Inclusion of the fees for delayed birth registration and birth certificates in the Ontario Works dis-

cretionary benefits allowance through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. A letter was sent to First Nation Ontario Works administrators and Regional Directors advising them of the fee. NAN forwarded letters to Chiefs and Councils, Tribal Councils, Health Directors and front-line staff.

- Ongoing consultation with INAC to find ways to make it easier for parents to apply for Indian status for newborns. Initial phase to focus on paper forms and additional phase to consider online options such as integration with the Newborn Registration Service.
- Review of Service Ontario's policies and procedures to ensure that birth registration and birth certificate services are accessible by all customers.
- Develop and pilot/test sustainable long-term options and models for support of delayed registration of birth, which includes community clinics and individual support. Pilot held in Big Trout Lake in January. NAN communities will be contacted to participate in pilot projects in spring 2010. Results of pilot will determine what changes need to happen within Service Ontario.
- Site visit to Moose Cree First Nation to learn about the service delivery experience from the communities' perspective.
- Regular monthly update meetings with NAN and Service Ontario to monitor progress and provide direction.
- Posters and radio ads are being developed with community input to raise awareness of the importance of registering newborns.
- Regular briefing notes sent to COO, Provincial Child Advocate's office and First Nation Inuit Health (FNIH)-NAN Medical Transportation working group.
- Service Ontario presented at Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy/Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children working group to determine support and training of front-line staff to assist families in completing the forms.
- Dedicated staff within Service Ontario who can provide phone assistance if there are questions when completing the forms.
- Service Ontario is looking at ways to share information on this initiative with all First Nations in Ontario-looking at available options (newsletters, letters to Chief's, attending annual assemblies)
- Service Ontario sent a letter of invitation to Ontario Chief's to participate in a teleconference call in May, called the Local Ambassador Network Pilot, to discuss the idea of local contacts and ongoing training by Service Ontario.

Resolution #09/92: Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency

As a follow-up to the Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency resolution, a letter was sent by DGC Mike Metatawabin to the Royal College of Pharmacists and Surgeons, Ontario Medical Association, and the Ontario College of Pharmacists to recommend policies be developed that: reduce accessibility to Opioid prescription drugs for non-medical use by completing a thorough screening process; to establish treatment plans; to educate on the risks/benefits and periodic reviews to determine other treatment methods that would benefit patients; referrals to chronic pain/addiction specialists; to implement a tracking system such as triple scripting to identify double doctoring and; to increase physician, pharmacist, and patient accountability.

Assistance and expertise was sought from the Royal College of Pharmacists and Surgeons, Ontario Medical Association, and the Ontario College of Pharmacists in developing best practices and policies that are aimed at improving the health of NAN First Nation members. Cooperation was requested in bringing together relevant sectors to work collectively in addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

Letters were also sent to Health Canada FNIH-OR, INAC-OR, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), and the Ministry of Community and Safety and Correctional (MCSCS) Services to secure their commitment in reducing the negative impacts of Prescription Drug Abuse in the NAN territory.

Rick Bartolucci, MCSCS responded that the issues raised fall within the jurisdiction of MOHLTC. NAN's position is that this is not solely a health issue since crime and violence has increased in NAN First Nations. Given that CSCS funds NAPS, crime prevention techniques, and strategies/initiatives that reduce crime and violence within NAN First Nations need to be developed jointly with NAN.

In response to the NAN Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency, Health Canada FNIH-OR has proposed the following tentative work plan:

- 1) Identify multidisciplinary professional support team members to assist communities in developing their strategies;
- 2) Review and finalize an "Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse at the Community Level" tool;
- 3) Develop an Ontario Prescription Drug Abuse website through K-Net and consider options for a toll-free information line;
- 4) Coordinate multi-agency meetings to discuss how to establish a continuum of support services for individuals and communities;

- 5) Develop an evaluation framework to assist communities in tracking progress on community-based strategies and;
- 6) To participate, as required, in the Chiefs of Ontario coordinated approach to the development of the Ontario First Nations Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy.

FNIH-OR has indicated their area of expertise is in mental health, addictions and nursing. A multi-sectoral approach will be needed in the development of a comprehensive NAN Prescription Drug Abuse strategy across all sectors: Child Welfare, Education, Justice, Policing and security, and Social Services, etc.

NAN has received a funding commitment of \$100,000 from FNIH-OR and INAC-OR to hire a NAN Prescription Drug Abuse Coordinator to: 1) To ensure coordination on initiatives that alleviate the current health and social crises being faced by First Nation as a result of prescription drug abuse; 2) To coordinate the development of a comprehensive NAN prescription drug abuse strategy.

The overall intent is to develop and implement a comprehensive NAN Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy that builds upon the work that has been completed or is underway, i.e., the Chiefs' Forum on Social Issues and the COO Prescription Drug Abuse Strategy.

NAN has proposed a Steering Committee to be established that consists of NAN, and federal and provincial representatives. In addition to this, NAN has also proposed a Sub-Working Group be established that consists of: grassroots community members; First Nations leadership; Tribal Councils; First Nation systems (i.e., Health, Social Services, police, child welfare agencies, schools, churches, traditional healers/elders); NAN service delivery organizations; medical professionals and; pharmaceutical industry.

Conference calls between NAN, FNIH-OR, INAC and the province regarding the NAN Prescription Drug Abuse State of Emergency are ongoing.

Resolution #09/93: Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Delivery of Optometrist Community Services

The NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly directed that the NAN Executive Council to work with NIHB to address Optometrist issues to ensure that Optometrists continue to provide eye examination services at the community level. The resolution also called for NIHB to develop and fund a comprehensive plan for the replacement of optometry equipment and the delivery.

As a follow up to this resolution, DGC Mike Metatawabin wrote to Dr. Valerie Gideon, Regional Director, of FNIH-OR considers and addresses the following:

- Prioritize the replacement of Optometry equipment in the Sioux Lookout Zone;
- Designate a staff person to oversee the repairs, maintenance, replacement and upgrading of equipment;
- Ensure NIHB provisions are provided to optometrists at levels consistent to those provided to dentists;
- To ensure food supplies are based on the actual duration of optometrist visits to communities and;
- Fund and develop a plan to ensure the continuity of ophthalmologist and optometrist services in the NAN First Nations.

The response from FNIH-OR is as follows:

- The Sioux Lookout Zone retains three portable optometric sets of equipment that are shipped to respective communities as required. Each set contains: Phoropter; Manual Lens meter; Trial Lens Sets; Tonometer; Colour Vision Tests and; Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope. Optometry equipment is repaired and cleaned at the request of the visiting optometrists by Topcon Canada of Waterloo, Ontario.
- Dental practitioners working in the Sioux Lookout Zone have been secured under contract and FNIH has tendered contracts to organizations that then employ the required health professionals including dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants. The scope of the work for the dental professionals is outlined in the contract and conveyed by the employer. The employer is also responsible for remuneration to their staff for professional services. It is understood that employees are not paid for travel time en route to or from Sioux Lookout, nor are they paid travel time when visiting isolated communities. Travel is arranged by the Zone Dental department. Travel costs for dentists and dental hygienists travelling to isolated communities are charged to NIHB. Costs associated with dental staff travel to and from Sioux Lookout from southern locations are included in the contract.
- The Sioux Lookout Zone executes an annual call out to visiting optometrists, schedules clinics, and distributes the annual schedule to the communities. Travel arrangements are booked one month in advance, which allows sufficient time for optometrists to reschedule travel if required. Changes to travel can be facilitated through the Zone office during working hours. An alternative approach, such as reimbursing the optometrist has been offered if their preference is to make their own travel arrangements; to date, there has been no interest by optometrists to adopt this model.
- The Sioux Lookout Zone arranges for necessary accommodations and meals for community optometry

clinics. Meal provisions are supplied in the form of a meal box which covers the full duration of the trip. A standard meal box covers five days, but can be adjusted according to the duration of the trip. If a daily meal allowance is preferred in lieu of a meal box, visiting optometrists may purchase and ship groceries of their choice to the community. A similar arrangement applies for travelling dental staff.

- Vision care services are delivered through visiting optometrists on a fee for service basis at the established NIHB rates. Because of the geographic remoteness of the Sioux Lookout Zone communities, FNIH arranges for optometrists to travel into NAN communities. This is a benefit to clients, particularly the elderly or infirm, who are not readily able to leave the community. Offering optometry services to Sioux Lookout communities is open to any optometrist who expresses an interest to FNIH.
- FNIH has communicated with all affected providers to advise that effective July 15, 2009, upon prior approval, postage expenses would be reimbursed based on actual cost for shipping glasses to a community.

Further follow-up on this issue will be done through the NAN-FNIH Working Group on Medical Transportation, as required.

Portfolio: STRATEGIC PLANNING

Resolution # 10-30: Strategic Plan Orientation

BACKGROUND

In an open letter sent to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs, prior to the NAN Winter Chiefs Assembly 2010, Grand Chief Beardy highlighted some of the critical challenges facing NAN First Nations. In order to give the NAN Chiefs an opportunity to discuss these issues, the Chiefs Assembly was structured differently than usual. Day one of the Chiefs meeting was devoted to break out sessions where small groups of Chiefs met to talk about the issues facing NAN and NAN First Nations. The Chiefs addressed four questions.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you wish to see NAN and the NAN First Nations in 5-20 years
2. What are your immediate and long term priorities
3. How important is Unity?
4. How can we work together better for the good of each First Nation and for the good of all our First Nations.

The findings from the sessions were presented to the Chiefs and discussions took place regarding next steps.

Resolution 10-30 was passed calling for a strategic plan to address the Chiefs' findings.

Themes From The Breakout Sessions

- Self-Sufficiency, Self-Governance
- Unity
- Restructuring of NAN
- Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Changing the Way We Think
- Communications
- Education, Training and Capacity Building

Priorities From The Breakout Sessions

There were also common, specific priorities that emerged during the sessions:

- Resource Revenue Sharing
- Re-structuring NAN
- Make alliances and partnerships with municipalities and industry
- Jurisdiction and Law Making
- Unity
- Economic Development and Capacity Building, Education and Training
- Strong Leadership

Development of a Strategic Plan

Resolution #10-30

The NAN Chiefs have mandated that the findings from their discussions be moved forward through the direction given in Resolution 10/30. The resolution calls for a strategic plan to address the Chiefs findings from the breakout session, 2010 Winter Assembly, and an outline for implementation. It also calls for a Chiefs Planning and Implementation Committee to guide the development and implementation of the plan, and that a draft of the strategic plan be prepared and presented at Keewaywin 2010.

Past Initiatives

The Chiefs expressed concern over past initiatives, including the Mattagami Chiefs Retreat, which seemed to get shelved. They also discussed the importance of the Foundation of Our Nation, adopted by the Chiefs in 2006, and the Thunder Bay Pact. The following three documents (Based on the Declaration of NAN, 1977) were subsequently analyzed with respect to the same four questions that the Chiefs discussed in their breakout sessions:

NAN Chiefs Retreat Meeting Notes, Mattagami, 2007

An In Depth Examination of the Thunder Bay Pact, 1982

The Foundation of Our Nation, 2006

Themes From The Three Documents

- Spirituality
- Unity
- Law Making
- Licenses and Permits
- Self-Governance and Jurisdiction
- Resource Revenue Sharing, Benefits from the Land
- Treaty
- Personal Responsibility
- Partnerships
- Communication
- Culture and Language

The Process for the Development of the Strategic Plan

A technical working group was formed to do preliminary work that would assist the Chiefs Planning and Implementation Committee in the development of the strategic plan.

All of the components for the plan were brought together in one reference document, in table form, so that the Chiefs Committee could have a clear and organized compilation of the information.

The current NAN 3-year plan was analysed to see what initiatives in the NAN 3-year plan are related to the Chiefs findings and to identify current work that supports the Chiefs findings.

The Chiefs Committee convened with NAN Executive (Grand Chief and ED) and the technical working group May 25, 26 to develop the strategic plan. The technical working group completed the final draft of the plan as per the Chiefs Committee directions.

Process for the Implementation Plan

The Chiefs Planning and Implementation Committee will oversee the development of the implementation plan after the Chiefs have reviewed and discussed the draft strategic plan at Keewaywin 2010, June 8-10.

Workplans detailing the specific activities for implementation of the goals in the strategic plan will need to be developed during 2010.

Activities in the implementation plan will be integrated into the NAN 3-year plan.

Initiatives like the fall 2010 NAN Economic Summit, as well as other information and expertise, will provide valuable data for the development of the implementation work plans.

Appendix A

Summary of Breakout Sessions Chiefs Winter Assembly 2010

Common Themes:

Self-Sufficiency, Self-Governance

In all of the breakout groups the Chiefs expressed a desire to see NAN First Nations self-sufficient and not dependent on government funding, but generating their own revenues from such things as resource revenue sharing, ownership of resource companies, partnerships with resource companies and other enterprises and economic development initiatives. Impact Benefit Agreements were not seen to be effective in economic development in the long term or in the short term, and could not be relied on as a sufficient and stable long-term source of revenue for First Nations. They are not standardized across NAN. There should be a common standard.

Getting out from under the *Indian Act* and claiming jurisdiction over our affairs and our traditional lands was seen as part of the process to self-government and self-sufficiency.

We should be making our own laws and not be concerned with government policies. NAN, Tribal Councils and even First Nations spend too much time chasing government policy and should be making our own and setting our own agenda. We need to make and enforce our own laws.

We should be in control of our institutions and our traditional territories within the next 5-20 years. Most participants felt that we should be strategizing and making plans for the immediate future as well.

First Nations are fighting over small pots of government money. NAN, Tribal Councils and First Nations are all competing for funds and this is divisive. We need to be self-sufficient so we do not have to compete for money. If we were not governed by the *Indian Act* there would be no need for INAC, which absorbs so much of the money allocated for First Nations.

Unity

Unity was the central issue in all of the discussions in the break out sessions. There was universal agreement that if First Nations were truly united and supporting each other NAN would have a stronger voice and would have more leverage.

“Unity is a challenge, but we must meet it” was the sentiment in the breakout sessions.

Unity cannot be achieved without respect for each other, regardless of creed or opinions or beliefs on issues. Some of the sessions questioned the roll of Tribal Councils and some participants felt that Tribal Councils could sometimes contribute to lack of Unity between in NAN by not supporting NAN.

Unity requires better and more consistent communication between First Nations and each other and between First Nations and NAN. We need to set the example for youth on the importance and effectiveness of unity.

In order to achieve unity the grass roots people need to be more involved and engaged in the issues and with NAN. There is a disconnect between the citizens of the NAN territory and the organization.

First Nations should strive not to fight amongst each other, especially in the area of lands and resources and resource development. They need to work together. First Nations who are impacted by the same development need to work together and need to inform each other about what is happening in their territories if it impacts the other.

Money destroys unity, scrounging and competing for funding affects unity. It is a trap we have fallen into brought on by the Federal and Provincial government policies we follow, the *Indian Act* and the fact that the Treaties have never been implemented.

NAN First Nations are united and supportive of each other on many issues and demonstrate this unity, as in the case of emergencies or when there is a tragedy. How do we channel that unity into other things? As soon as business and money are in the picture unity doesn't seem to matter.

In order to achieve unity we need to strategize together, agree on our vision, have common goals, support each other and be willing to compromise. First Nations are autonomous but autonomy at any cost does not help unity.

Participants also felt that there should be relationships with municipalities and possible "coalition government" or partnerships with First Nations and municipal governments, and that the possibility of unity as Northern communities exists.

We need to sort out our own relationships first e.g. Tribal Councils and NAN, First Nations and each other, First Nations and NAN etc. We also need North/South unity in NAN.

Restructuring of NAN Organization.

The need to re-structure NAN was a significant theme that emerged in all four groups.

Some Chiefs felt that NAN should be an advocacy organization that did political advocacy and lobbying only, especially on common issues, and did not provide programs and services. Other Chiefs felt that NAN should be re-structured to be a form of government and that programs and services should be more centralized within NAN.

Still others felt that programs and services should become specialty areas of particular groups of First Nations who already do certain things very well. The issue of administration of programs and services within NAN needs to be addressed

Another theme that was repeated throughout the session was that community people needed to be more involved and engaged. The citizens of NAN territories have no voice and are disconnected because they are not involved in the political process. NAN needs to be restructured to give more voice to its people. Some felt moving to a “one person, one vote” method for selecting the leadership would ensure better community engagement in the issues. Others felt that providing more forums for Youth, Women, and Elders to be heard would also help.

Most participants agreed that the re-structuring of NAN to make it more effective was essential for any progress. We need to stay focused at meetings and make better use of our meeting time to work on the issues and enhance our unity.

Leadership

Strong leadership is required in order for NAN and NAN First Nations to achieve self-governance, jurisdiction and self-sufficiency. Leadership in NAN is too concerned about getting funding for its processes, which leads to too much compromise with the government. A leader should not be afraid to act strongly and should be willing to accept the consequences of strong action if it is taken on behalf of the people.

Leaders have become politicians instead of leaders. Leaders lead. They should not be waiting for the approval of everyone. We need more assertive and aggressive leadership.

The Grand Chief has a mandate to dialogue and lobby but no authority for decisions. The government wants to deal with NAN and the GC. When GC says what the people want, the government asks for BCRs. In this way the government divides NAN. FNs fear to give power to NAN.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is essential to the success of NAN First Nations. We need to be strategizing together rather than always reacting. We need to develop plans that are independent of the government's agenda. We need to decide together on priorities and develop short and long term plans together and from our own agenda not the government's.

Some participants felt that we need a Chief's Committee to develop strategies and plans and to look at how to restructure NAN.

Changing the Way We Think

Changing our mind set was a consistent theme through the sessions as well. NAN First Nations need to move from the mindset of following and implementing government policy to following and implementing their own policies. We need to change our minds about playing by the rules that have been laid down by the Federal and Provincial Governments and begin to make our own laws. We need to be unified in this.

Communication

There is a communication gap between NAN and the people. Even though NAN may send information to First Nations there is still a big gap. There is also a gap between one First Nation and another. An example was given in one group of how one First Nation was unaware of the development going on in the territories of a neighbouring First Nation, which would impact both of them.

There is a need for NAN Leadership to visit communities more. There is also a need for program people to visit more and not just "hit and run". (in for a few hours). People need to stay a few days to hear what the people have to say.

We need to make sure that all First Nations have state of the art technology for communication. All First Nations need good access to the new medias of Internet, email etc. We need to use these more. NAN needs to communicate via Wawatay more.

Chiefs get together a few times a year but that is not enough communication. We need mechanisms to communicate regularly with NAN and with other First Nations.

Change has to be community driven. Communities have to be informed and understand the issues. We need better communication to do this.

Education, Training, and Capacity Building

All First Nation members need fair access to education. Training and capacity building are a priority to move First Nations forward and prepare for the future.

We also need to educate our children and our people about where we come from, who we are and about the Treaties. We need to maintain our language.

A student in one breakout session explained that she was doing all the right things, going to school, getting her education so that she could contribute to her First Nation and to all NAN First Nations. Her vision of her life was to be able to live in the NAN territory, raise her family, to work and to use her skills and education, but she was not sure if this was a viable goal because of the lack of economic development and opportunity.

There were also common, specific priorities that emerged during the sessions:

1. Resource Revenue Sharing - RRS is the number one immediate priority for First Nations to help move them out of the cycle of poverty. The general consensus was that RRS could not be attained by First Nations working individually. NAN, working along with NAN First Nations, should immediately take a leadership role in the development of a RRS arrangement with government and industry.
2. Re-structuring NAN - Defining the organization's role and how it relates to Tribal Councils and First Nations, and what FN and TC roles and relationships are with NAN should be undertaken immediately.
3. Make alliances and partnerships with municipalities now - This was brought up as a priority and needs to happen as soon as possible because municipalities are joining together to deal with many of the same issues that First Nations are dealing with, and municipalities want to partner with First Nations.
4. Jurisdiction and Law Making - Making and enforcing our own laws; understanding laws that have been made by the provincial and federal governments; harmonizing our laws with government where possible; emphasis to be on our laws not the government's laws; implementing our law making authority and our jurisdiction on reserve and on traditional lands. (It was noted that on reserve some of this could be accomplished through the Negotiated Governance and Education Jurisdiction Agreements already in process. First Nations need to be well informed about this process)
5. Unity - Recognizing our autonomy as First Nations and our differences, we still need to work together on common issues and support each other on individual issues. We need to be serious about this unity and not ignore unity for money. We need systems of communication which will allow us to support each other better. We can recognize the strengths of individual First Nations and Tribal Councils and their experience with certain issues and give them the leadership role on issues. For example, Sandy Lake could play a leadership role on the drug issue. Mushkegowuk could play a leadership role on environmental research.

6. Economic Development and Capacity Building, Education and Training - Take every opportunity for capacity building, education and training, and lobby the government for capacity dollars for all initiatives and programs. Capacity building in the area of lands and resources, both development and protection, should be a priority. We have a responsibility to our youth and future generations to ensure jobs and prosperity as well as protection of the land.
7. Strong Leadership - There is an identified need for NAN leadership to be more assertive when dealing with government, more aggressive in their lobbying, and less concerned with politics and government agendas.

Overall Vision for 20 years from now

- Self-governing
- Self-sufficient
- Jurisdiction over lands and resources and traditional territories
- Own institutions (education, health etc)
- Own laws and policies
- United
- Healthy
- Economic Development
- Proper infrastructure (water, roads, energy etc)
- Own Source of Funding
- Opportunities for Youth
- Preservation of Land
- Strategic plans
- Prosperity
- Maintenance of Language and Culture
- Implementation of Treaties

Priorities

- Unity
- Jurisdiction

- Lawmaking (protection and control of development on land)
- Partnerships
- Re-structuring NAN
- Strategic Planning
- Better Communication
- Education and Training, Capacity Building
- Employment, Economic Development
- Own funds (RRS and other)
- New thinking, set own agenda
- Strong Leadership

Importance of Unity

- Critical

How Can we Work Together

- Better Communications
- Strategic Planning together
- Sort out rolls and relationships (NAN TCs, FNs)
- Support each other
- Tolerance of differences and support for each others beliefs, mutual respect
- Don't' fight over money
- Find ways to source activities without government money
- One voice that reflects the voice of the communities
- Re-structure NAN to be more effective
- More effective meetings, working on our issues together
- Agree on priorities, vision and goals and targets

Appendix B

Summary of Document Review, Documents Based on the Declaration of NAN

NAN Chiefs Retreat Meeting Notes, Mattagami, 2007

An In Depth Examination of the Thunder Bay Pact, 1982

The Foundation of Our Nation, 2006

COMMON THEMES

Spirituality

The People of NAN are a spiritual people. Our spirituality, traditional and Christian, will help heal the people and will bring a restoration of sovereignty. Acknowledgment and belief in the Creator as the only law-maker and the only sustenance for the people will restore nationhood. The people and the leaders must follow the Creator.

Unity

Unity is the key to success. We must be in a state of real and meaningful solidarity with each other. We must cultivate unity and a devotion to the principles and vision of the Declaration of NAN and the Thunder Bay Pact. The government will use all means to divide us and assimilate us. We must not let the offer of money or programs to individual First Nations erode our unity. Long-term gains through unity will be better than short term gains on our own.

Law Making

We must make our own laws. Law making is the foundation of jurisdiction. We must develop our own legal system and we must understand Canada's and Ontario's legal systems.

Licenses and Permits

We must develop our own system of licenses and permits to implement and assert our jurisdiction on the land.

Self-Governance and Jurisdiction

We must become self-governing on reserve and on traditional lands. We must re-establish our governing structures. We must implement our jurisdiction. We must sustain ourselves from the land and from its resources in order to implement our jurisdiction and inherent right.

Resource Revenue Sharing, Benefits from the Land

We shall continue to sustain our lives from the land, which was given to us to live on and to sustain ourselves, by the Creator. We are entitled to benefits from the land. We need to develop a resource revenue sharing system, as well as other ways of benefiting from resource development, including developing capacity and being the economic hubs of the territory.

Treaty

We need to recognize our Treaty more, include the word Treaty in more documents, and make the Treaty the foundation of our relationship with the governments of Canada and Ontario. We can modernize the Treaty or re-negotiate the Treaty if need be to ensure the promises are met and our relationship is government-to-government.

Personal Responsibility

We need to take individual responsibility for the protection of nationhood, the healing of our communities and our people, and the resolution of our problems. We need to develop strong and healthy communities.

Partnerships

We need to develop partnerships with business, municipalities, other third parties and organizations, and other First Nations and First Nation organizations to work towards our common goals and common good.

Communication

We need to communicate with each other, First Nation to First Nation; Tribal Council to Tribal Council and First Nation; NAN to First Nations and Tribal Councils. We need to be in constant communication with each other.

Culture and Language

We need to ensure our language and culture will thrive. Our communities