

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SECRETARIAT OF MANITOBA

Executive Summary



AUGUST 2018

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECRETARIAT OF MANITOBA

FNHSSM GOAL

The goal of the FNHSSM is for First Nations in Manitoba to have increased opportunities to participate in: the planning and development of a Unified Health System in Manitoba; influence regional and national health policy; health system changes; program development in areas including, but not limited to: health consultation, maternal child health, e-Health/Panorama, youth suicide, mental health, inter-governmental health, research and health governance.

GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors:

Chief Sheldon Kent, Black River First Nation, Chairperson (SERDC)

Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation, Co-Chairperson (DOTC)

Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation, Secretary (Southern Independent)

Chief Walter Spence Fox Lake Cree Nation, Treasurer, Personnel and Finance Chair (KTC)

Chief Garnet Woodhouse, Pinaymootang First Nation, Personnel and Finance (IRTC)

Chief Gilbert Andrews God's Lake First Nation, Personnel and Finance (KTC)

Chief Nelson Genaille Sapotaweyak Cree Nation (SCTC)

Chief Eugene Eastman O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation (WRTHS)

Island Lake Tribal Council – Vacant

Northern Independent – Vacant

OUR VISION

The objectives of the FNHSSM is to carry out business in the areas of health and social development for First Nations in Manitoba that are founded in the Treaty and inherent right to health and that are culturally appropriate, holistic and community-based. To these ends the FNHSSM will:

- i. Develop strategies and initiatives to promote and increase the participation of First Nations in Manitoba in the control and delivery of health;
- ii. Pursue tripartite collaboration for a unified health system in Manitoba;
- iii. Promote understanding of the health and social issues that affect First Nations through partnerships, research and collaboration;
- iv. Affirm, protect and incorporate First Nations traditional knowledge and wellness practices; and,
- v. Provide innovative programs and services for the well-being of Manitoba's First Nations communities and individuals regardless of their place of residency.

["The FNHSSM stand committed and will dedicate the work to address Sections 18 to 24 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRCC\) Calls to Action"](#)



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FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SECRETARIAT OF MANITOBA

Community Engagement

Partners:

Manitoba First Nations, Tribal Councils and PTO's



Work to be undertaken:

Supporting First Nations to determine their own knowledge processes to lead improvements in health, defining the structures and processes of FNHSSM to ensure that the regional organization functions to influence developments and opportunities at the community level and to determine objectives for engagement with the Province of Manitoba and Federal Government to support tripartite actions to support First Nation governance.

Benefits to First Nations:

- o Connect and unify all data and information gathered into a discussion paper that will help guide and inform the process towards a Unified Health System.
- o Provide First Nations summary reports of the forums for their use in reports, proposals and other written documents for their First Nation.
- o Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action activities highlighted

Northern and Southern Forums and Gatherings:

- 2 - Brandon & Winnipeg Engagement Forum – February and March 2017
- 2 - Thompson & The Pas Engagement Forum – March 2018
- 2 - Manitoba First Nations Health Directors Gathering - April 2016 & March 2018

Community Engagement - Events, Gatherings and Conferences Attended:

Staff assisted with presentations, facilitation, notetaking for reports, Elders and knowledge keeper helpers, and other duties as assigned. Engaged in discussions and conversations for the discussion paper themes.

Also, gathered research information and documents that may assist with the Discussion Paper.

- Manitoba First Nations Health Technicians Meeting – January 23 & 24, 2018, Winnipeg, MB.
- Improving the Quality of Life - eHealth Conference – February 6-8, 2018, Winnipeg, MB
- First Nation Health Transformation Summit (AFN)– February 13 & 14, 2018, Toronto, Ontario
- iPHIT (Initiatives for Primary Healthcare Transformation) – Transforming Primary Health Care Gathering – February 21-22, 2018.
- First Nations Research Ethics, Knowledge Translation, Exchange into Action Summer Institute – Winnipeg, MB - May 1-5, 2018
- Cree Birthing Workshop – May 23, 2018, Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Nibi (Water) Gathering – May 24 – 27, 2018, Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Chiefs Assembly on Health – AMC – June 6 & 7, 2018

**Community
Engagement**

IN A FIRST NATIONS-LED CONTEXT ON
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PROMOTING UNIFIED,
POSITIVE CHANGE

RESEARCH PROJECT: SPOR DIABETES STRATEGIES FOR PATIENT ORIENTATED RESEARCH – DIABETES AND ITS RELATED COMPLICATIONS

Partners:

University of Toronto, Canadian Institutes for Health Research and 16 other Universities & Foundations across Canada

Work to be undertaken:

“National Training in Culturally Safe Diabetes Education” for research and health professionals over next 3 years.

Benefit to First Nations:

Increased awareness of racism and its impact on the health of Indigenous people. Research data and analysis that will assist leadership at the Chief and technical level to advocate for changes in the provincial and federal levels.



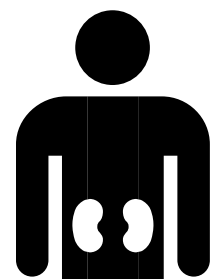
RESEARCH PROJECT: I K HEALTH - IMPROVING RESPONSIVENESS ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF KIDNEY HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE MANITOBA FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

Partners:

First Nation patients with lived experience of kidney disease, University of Manitoba (UM) and the Manitoba Renal Program

Work to be undertaken:

- o Mapping patient journeys in rural and remote areas;
- o Assessing primary health care’s role in kidney health;
- o Evaluating and developing appropriate kidney health education;
- and o Exploring alternative models of dialysis treatment delivery.



Benefit to First Nations:

A diagnosis in an earlier stage of chronic kidney disease (CKD) can lead to interventions that help manage the disease and reduce the possibility of progressing to later stages and the need for dialysis.

RESEARCH PROJECT: SPOR KIDNEY “CAN-SOLVE CKD – OPTIMAL APPROACHES TO CKD CASE FINDING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Partners:

University of British Columbia and Manitoba Renal Program

Work to be undertaken:

3 – 4 First Nations in MB to be screened (to be confirmed)

Benefit to First Nations:

Renal screening in 3 – 4 First Nations communities. Support, training and capacity building of front line staff.



RESEARCH PROJECT: TYPE 2 DIABETES IN MANITOBA

Partners:

Request from MB Health, Centre for Health Policy

Work to be undertaken:

The final report is to be completed in the fall of 2018 with regards to: health service use, physician visits, hospitalization, prescription drug use, changes over time, income quintiles and regions of the province, early onset of type 2 diabetes and diabetes in pregnancy.

Benefit to First Nations:

Analysis of major trends in type 2 diabetes, prevalence, incidence, complications and mortality in Manitoba from 1979 – 2015.



FOOT CARE PROGRAM

Partners:

All First Nations, Tribal Councils, FNIHB

Work to be undertaken:

Implementation of foot care service delivery in all First Nation communities.

Benefit to First Nations:

Basic foot care services to all clients with diabetes to prevent amputations.

INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT (ISA)

Panorama, the public health surveillance tool, is currently utilized in Manitoba to track immunizations, vaccine inventory and eventual communicable disease tracking. First Nation communities have been waiting for Panorama to be deployed in the communities, pending the ISA, which identifies the protection of First Nation data adhering to OCAP principles. The ISA was finalized and sent to community leadership in May 2018 for review and signature. Bridging Service Agreements were included in the package. Once both agreements are signed, communities have been asked to send both agreements back to MB Health. A final package of signed (Community and MB Health) documents will then be sent to communities for files. MB Health will notify the FNHSSM Panorama team of the receipt of the agreements and the team will schedule the training week for identified staff in communities. The Bridging Service organizations of FNIHB and WRTC have been trained. Fisher River, the pilot site for Panorama has been trained and fully deployed. In July 2018 Tatenda Bwawa – Panorama Project Coordinator and Gwen Gillan – Panorama Trainer begin deployment in the following communities:

Week of July 16, 2018 – Norway House

Week of July 23, 2018 – Roseau River

Week of July 30, 2018 – Peguis

As they continue the deployment of these communities they continue to work on the project and dates for other communities as they receive the signed ISA from leadership.



eANISKOPITAK

This a Manitoba First Nations controlled eHealth network focusing on wholistic health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. The First Nations committee guides the FNHSSM eHealth Unit in the promotion, development, implementation and support of new and ongoing eHealth initiatives for Manitoba First Nations communities. The FNHSSM eHealth Unit provides Secretariat support to eANISKOPITAK. Membership from the seven Tribal Councils, 2 Northern Independent nations, 2 Southern Independent nations, one Independent Chief representative from the north, one Independent Chief representative. The committee meet quarterly.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Many communities are seeking information on ehealth applications, their usage and which application would meet their health care needs. FNHSSM eHealth unit contracted Gevity to conduct an environmental scan to find out exactly what applications are available to First Nations and what are the parameters to resource the applications. The last day of the ICT conference held in February 2018 was dedicated to sharing the information to date and to work with conference attendees to discuss needs and challenges. The information has been provided in a report which was presented to Health Directors in a 1-day meeting held prior to their Health Director meeting in March 2018. Interoperability is a challenge and efforts to address this challenge are being discussed in many circles.

EHEALTH CONFERENCE

A few years ago, the FNHSSM eHealth unit, along with other indigenous national partners, identified a need for a First Nations focused eHealth conference where information that was pertinent and helpful for our communities would be the priority. It was determined Manitoba would be the host given our central location. Efforts to support communities to attend were first and foremost in the planning. The annual conference is now in its' 3rd year, held in February to showcase our winters and to support the winter road travel! It is well attended and each year lessons learned are gathered. Much work is involved in organizing an event of this size and the eHealth unit is commended for their expertise and dedication to showcasing and supporting community work.



YOUTH PROJECT

Last year's project was a success on March 29, 2018 we graduated 30 Youth from 26 First Nation communities. Six of the Youth have gained full time employment with their First Nation or within a First Nations organization in Winnipeg. Three youth have returned to school to complete their grade 12 diploma or will be attending a University program this fall.

We have submitted another proposal to INAC for funding for another 30 Youth for a program called "Youth Leaders of Tomorrow" focusing on Health and Wellness. With this proposal all youth will attend Job Readiness sessions for 4 months and then go onto a 3 month work placements with FNHSSM departments. During these 7 months they will travel to Winnipeg 1 week per month to complete the program. Our anticipated start date will be September 3, 2018 and end March 29, 2019.



Intergovernmental Committee on Manitoba First Nations Health (ICMFNH)

Partners:

ISC, MB Health, FNIHB, Province of MB, PHAC, Traditional Healers and Grandmothers, PTO's, MB First Nations and Tribal Councils

Work to be undertaken:

- o Identify collective key health issues, inform policy and government to support action on jointly developed strategies, solutions and initiatives aimed at advancing the health and wellness of Manitoba First Nations.
- o Development of the First Nations Model of Wellness Action Plan that will facilitate linkages across efforts in areas that contribute to priorities identified by Manitoba First Nation Health Directors.

Benefit to First Nations:

First Nation centered health initiatives and research that will inform public and primary health care systems.



Research Development

CREE BIRTHING

Partners:

Indigenous Research Team consists of 17 members

Work to be undertaken:

- o Based on direction given from community leaders, members and Elders, the vision for communities is to bring wellness back to our Nations by returning birthing back to our communities.
- o Building upon the Traditional Doula Research project by following the health and wellbeing outcomes of a cohort of children born with the help of an Indigenous birth helper.

Benefit to First Nations:

Development of Cree Nation based indicators to measure wellness and to support the return of bringing practices back to our nations.



DEVOTION

Partners:

A multidisciplinary cluster of investigators, policy makers, and provincial stakeholders integrated to advance translational research and understanding of the developmental origins of health and chronic disease (DOHaD) in children.

Work to be undertaken:

Under the direction of the Grandmother’s Council and Indigenous partners within Manitoba. Overall goal of supporting wellness of children and families, we need to bring back our own teachings, values of Pimatziwin, “Living a good life”.

Benefit to First Nations:

Working to re-establishing traditional women’s and men’s roles to support healthy pregnancy and raising healthy children and continue to develop a process that supports Manitoba First Nations in developing their own research governance processes.

Research Development

INNOVATION SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITY-BASED PRIMARY HEALTHCARE RESEARCH PROJECT (iPHIT)

Work to be undertaken:

- o This research project aims to: work with First Nations that have developed primary health care models, identify key ingredients for success from a First Nations perspective, further develop healthcare models to improve delivery of primary health care services and support the implementation of these models.
- o iPHIT team hosted a Knowledge to Action workshop in February 2018 with over 110 participant with key results shared; and future directions for PHC research discussed with input from most First Nations in Manitoba.
- o Continued project writing for publication and continued work with communities to carry out their community-specific research priorities/write up community case studies and produce an iPHIT End of Project report by March 31, 2019.



Benefits to First Nations:

Manitoba First Nations to learn from each other what elements, attributes and community strengths are important and contribute to improving Primary Health Care and Wellbeing overall.



INDIGENOUS DOULA AS A CULTURALLY BASED HEALTH INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND BIRTH OUTCOMES FOR FIRST NATIONS WOMEN IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES WHO TRAVEL FOR BIRTH

Partners:

Manitoba Indigenous Doula Initiative, University of Winnipeg, Pimicikamak Cree Nation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Work to be undertaken:

A culturally based health intervention to improve health and birth outcomes for First Nations women in remote communities who travel for birth.

Benefits to First Nations:

Expectant mothers in partnering First Nation communities will be paired with a local Indigenous doula (birth helpers) who has undergone culturally specific doula training with an Indigenous Midwife.

Research Development

FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

Partners:

First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), 10 Regional partners across Canada, participating Manitoba First Nations

Work to be undertaken:

Successfully hired and trained 62 data collectors in 35 Manitoba First Nations surveyed 3509 adults, youth and parents/guardians of children achieving 85.50% of the targeted sample of 4104 surveys.

Benefit to First Nations:

Data analysis has begun in preparation for the regional report and community profiles to be returned to participating MFNs.



FIRST NATIONS LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT SURVEY (FNLED)

Partners:

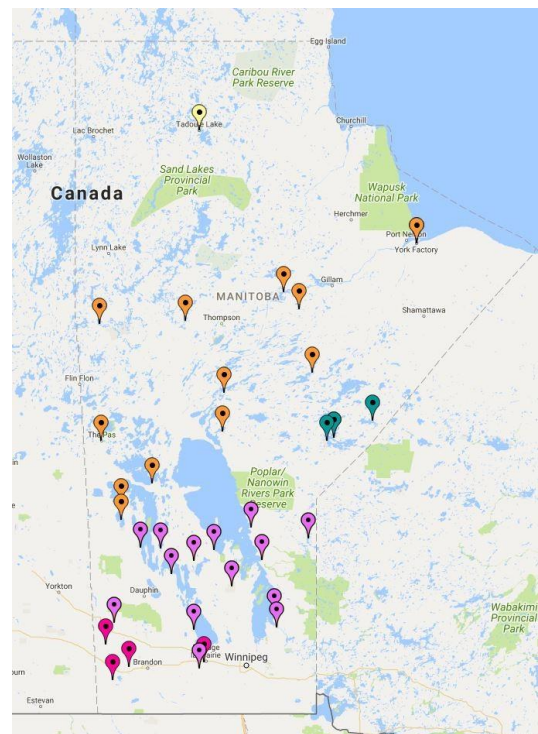
First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), 10 Regional partners across Canada, participating Manitoba First Nations

Work to be undertaken:

Review and approval of survey content to address the needs of First Nations across Canada. Our regional oversight committee was one of the first to provide content and identify indicators to the national core questionnaire.

Benefit to First Nations:

Data collectors will be hired and trained and data collected will be shared back to participating communities to address gaps in labour and employment for First Nations living on reserve.



Research Development

PARTNERS FOR ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE (PEKE)



Partners:

Researchers from University of Manitoba, University of Victoria, University of Winnipeg, National

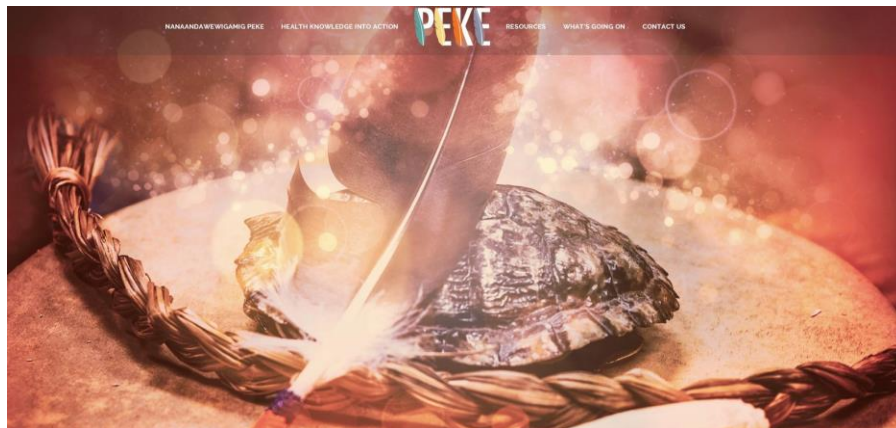
Collaborating Centre of Aboriginal Peoples Health, Saint Elizabeth First Nations, Inuit and Métis Program, Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, Te Atawhai o te Ao: Independent Maori Institute for Environment & Health, Whakauae Research for Māori Health and Development, CIHR International Infectious Disease and Global Health (IID&GH) Training Program

Work to be undertaken:

To share, exchange and/or create partnerships across Manitoba, Canada and internationally, regarding First Nations and Indigenous health programs, projects and research (e.g. diabetes/obesity, suicide prevention, tuberculosis, oral health and social determinants of health) to build a united community of health knowledge,

Benefits to First Nations:

Continue to assist with partners and Knowledge Translation (KT) members to conduct Knowledge Translation, Exchange into Action (KTEA) tasks, in conferences and community gatherings related to First Nation health, wellness and research, providing network with the support via interactive map online.



Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health



Partners:

MB Health, University of Manitoba, WRHA and FNIHB

Overall Goal:

To support the development and implementation of the Maternal Child Health Program in First Nations Communities in Manitoba.

Work to be undertaken:

- o Verify current status of infant mortality in Manitoba based on a review of provincial and regional analytics.
- o Develop policy options with recommended actions based on the research, analysis and synthesis of best available information.

Benefit to First Nations:

- o Reduce the rate of Infant Mortality in First Nation communities.
- o Promote culturally safe care for women and families giving birth in hospital.

Research Areas:

- o Northern Prenatal Study
- o Scaling up Dental Study
- o Cree Birthing Project
- o ENVISION Study
- o DREAM and DEVOTION (Diabetes Prevention in Pediatrics and Breastfeeding)
- o Child ATLAS

Policy Areas:

- o Infant Mortality Working Group
- o Child Inquest Review Committee
- o Shared Health related to MCH i.e. Midwifery services and Primary Care in the north
- o Returning birthing back to communities/OFC Policy