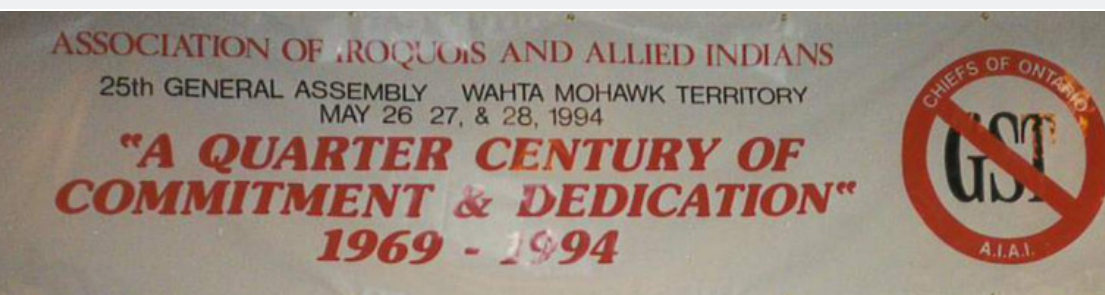




***HONOURING THE PAST...***  
***PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE***



2018 - 2019 Annual Report  
 Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians



## VISION

We, the original peoples of Turtle Island,  
knowing that the Creator placed us here  
as sovereign Nations will continue to  
exercise our full jurisdiction in  
accordance to our own traditional laws  
and practices with respect to the land,  
water, air, fire and peoples

## MISSION

The Association of Iroquois and Allied  
Indians will enhance and protect the  
inherent rights, languages, cultures,  
and laws of its Member Nations





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# Welcome from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

## She:kon, Shekoli, Annin, Kwiinga-neewul and Greetings

On behalf of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, we wish to extend our heartfelt welcome to all visiting Nations to our territory. It is once again that time of the year, where spring has arrived and the Annual General Assembly is on the horizon for the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI). This year is particularly special, as we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the General Assembly. The Mohawk of the Bay of Quinte are pleased to be hosting the gathering for the bi-centennial celebration.

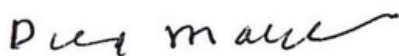
50 years ago, it was a tumultuous time for First Nations, as we were in the midst of the 1969 White Paper policy proposal that was set forth by the Trudeau government. The policy would signal the end of the special legal relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian state and ultimately dismantle the Indian Act. This White Paper was met with forceful opposition from Aboriginal leaders across the country and sparked a new era of Indigenous political organizing in Canada. Soon after this, AIAI was formed as a way of providing political representation and policy analysis to areas such as health, social development, education, intergovernmental affairs, and treaty rights. AIAI is unique among provincial associations because of the diversity of our members. While our communities may have different languages, cultural practices, and wide-spread geography, we are united through AIAI to collectively protect our Indigenous and Treaty rights.

As the Chief of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, we are undeniably proud of our Mohawk Ancestors for being a leader in the formation. Tyendinaga, also known as the Bay of Quinte, is the birthplace of the Peacemaker who brought the original Five Nation Iroquois Confederacy under a constitution of peace known as the Great Law of Peace. In the same spirit of unity, Chief Earl Hill, from Tyendinaga, recognized the importance in establishing a body with a mandate to advocate and protect our rights. Chief Hill strongly opposed the 1969 White Paper and supported the establishment of the AIAI where he served as the first Vice-President.

Part of the rich history of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, includes being a military ally to the British Crown during the American Revolution, as well as wars between England and France, which stemmed from a relationship formed through the Covenant Chain. In Tyendinaga, Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, built in 1843, is one of six Royal chapels outside of Great Britain and stands as a symbol of the colonial history of Canada.

Our Mohawk community continues to thrive with each coming day, welcoming both allies and fellow First Nations to help us to continue to develop our community to become the strongest it has ever been. It is our hope that all delegates enjoy their time here with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. This is our home and we are proud to call it so.

Kind Regards



R. Donald Maracle, Chief





# A.I.A.I. Grand Chief Joel Abram



On this 50th anniversary of AIAI, I can't help but think of the parallels between the circumstances that led to the creation of the Association and what is happening now. In 1969 the Trudeau Liberal government introduced the now infamous White Paper, and now we have another Trudeau Liberal government attempting to introduce the Framework for the Implementation and Recognition of Rights. There are more than a few similarities, but also some differences. It seems clear that the desired end result for the government remains the same; the absorption of First Nations into the body politic of Canada under the Constitution. While in 1969 the government sought the extinguishment of rights, the current tact is to have a recognition of rights, although at the end of the day those rights would be constrained by federal law, and would result in First Nations becoming a fourth order of government.

Over the last few years I have had the honour of being on the forefront of the battle along with the AIAI Chiefs Council, the AIAI Youth Council, and DGC Peters who was the first to have his 'spidey senses' tingle upon the release of the '10 principles' by then Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould. These principles were supposed to be the principles guiding the federal government's reconciliation efforts with respect to First Nations people but on a closer look reveals other more sinister intentions as noted above. AIAI has been recognized as being the champion of the Ontario region with respect to the Framework, and have helped lead the fight nationally as well. Although we were successful in forcing the federal government to abort their immediate plans regarding the Framework, it now appears to have been a change in tactics, and there now seems to be a piecemeal approach being taken.

The new plan appears to consist of passing singular pieces of legislation (eg. Bill C-91, C-92), and a rush to implement changes to policy including ATR, comprehensive claims, specific claims, and inherent rights. In addition to this are efforts to establish 'tables' with PTO's and individual First Nations to discuss various items such as Education agreements, and other areas where the federal government will 'transfer control' and some additional monies in exchange for what invariably amount to First Nations accepting delegated authority with the federal government having the final say. The devil is as they say, in the details. When AG Wilson-Raybould announced the ten principles at the AFN in Regina I got up to the mic and asked if that meant that the government would now be repudiating the 'non-assertion' model with respect to First Nations. This non-assertion model basically means that in order to benefit from X agreement, a First Nation would be required to agree to not assert their rights. This replaced the older extinguishment model which was roundly condemned at the UN. AG Wilson-Raybould gave a non-answer to my question, and I asked it twice more face to face that particular day, and finally on the third ask she just said "eventually.". I now take this to mean that once everybody is in the Canada boat there will be no need for it anymore. All that being said, I am heartened by the fact that our citizens and grassroots people are becoming more and more aware of what is being attempted. AIAI has done a great job of helping to bring awareness through our standalone website [www.stoptheframework.com](http://www.stoptheframework.com) and doing education work with various entities throughout the province and organizing resistance. Our youth have also been an integral part of our efforts which culminated in the December 4th rally in front of Parliament Hill which was very well attended by leadership, youth, and the grassroots. It attracted such attention that Minister Bennett asked to meet with the youth early on the morning of the rally. That's where we first learned that the Framework as envisioned at that time would not be going forward.

So we know that if we make enough noise and raise enough awareness that we can have an impact going forward. We must continue to be vigilant and push back on this agenda.

Over the past year we have continued to use the media as an essential component of our strategy and I have lost count of how many interviews we have conducted through outlets such as APTN, CBC, CTV, Global, and others via print, television, and radio formats. We have fostered many relationships with various media and I often receive texts from them when issues arise for both off and on the record commentary. We have also increased our use of social media which is so important for raising awareness and visibility and we will continue to do so.

On other fronts we have continued to develop positions and initiatives to benefit our member nations. As the chair of H/SAB I have had opportunity to learn firsthand about many of the challenges facing our communities. We will do our best to address all of these priorities going forward. There are great needs in all of our communities in every area you can think of, and high on the list remain access to capital, housing, water, child welfare, and supports for our seniors and youth. We will continue to advocate on these issues and others that might arise.

I am also very proud of the continued progress of our youth leadership. They face many challenges in today's world that didn't exist not all that long ago when we were young. Although there have been trials and tribulations they continue to impress and I am confident that they will be ready for the mantle of leadership and in some ways they are already leading the way. If we support them they have shown that they are capable of anything.

I would be remiss if I don't mention the great job our staff has been doing under the leadership of Geoff Stonefish. Without them we literally could not function and I can't express enough how thankful I am to them for the jobs they do. They really do care about our communities and people and are dedicated to improving our conditions. From administration functions to policy analysis to communications to coordination I am very impressed with the jobs they do and the teamwork they exemplify.

## A.I.A.I. Deputy Grand Chief Gordon Peters



Greetings to each and every Chief, delegate and citizen of our Communities, welcome to the fiftieth Anniversary of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. This General Assembly will be exciting not only for the political dialogue but for the celebration of our relationships. Not forgotten in all of the celebration is our continued struggle to ensure our rightful place upon our homelands. We have to remain steadfast that our right to self-determination flows not from Canada or the international domain, but from our ancient place on our lands given to us by the Creator.

### Law Making Summit

In phase II of the tobacco discussions funding was not realized with the Ford government until November of 2018. A decision was made that a major activity that could be undertaken during the short timeframe was a law making summit. Immediately, work was undertaken to determine the best manner in which to approach this session.

Support was provided to each of the member Nations to facilitate capacity building processes. Some of the Nations accepted support to facilitate capacity building activities prior to the Summit. The need for additional capacity building at the community level was identified by several Nations during the Summit. Each community can still request support for ongoing work on this matter.

# Sovereign Wealth Fund

This year has been the beginning development and establishment of the operations of the SWF. This past November the Board of Directors was ratified at the AOCC. The six (6) Board members are as follows: UOI Pat Madahbee, NAN Jason Batise, Treaty #3 Don Morrison, Independents Steve Williams, Six nations Ron Jamieson.

Board and finance policies are being readied for final acceptance. Currently, we are using COO services for administration and paying for those services on a month by month basis. There is a tender for ongoing services formally known as a management agreement which will remain in place until sufficient funds are available for operations with SWF.

It is the intention of the Board to conduct the SWF GA immediately after the OFNLP meeting. The partners are the same so this would eliminate costs for travel and accommodation.

The thirty (30) million dollars is invested in a savings account. We are in process of developing an investment policy and on that point there are two actions to be taken. First, the 30 million dollars can be invested with a wealth management firm. Second, we want to determine the process and the risk associated with monetizing the shares. Once complete we can determine what the best course of action for the shares are. The dividend from shares continues to pay for the loan debt.

## Federal Process - Framework

Although many bold pronouncements have come from the federal liberal government, there is a long continued scheme of trying to eradicate First Nations pre sovereignty and have it flow from Crown Sovereignty. Although the Rights recognition Framework is no longer on the table, the Federal Government is implementing it via piecemeal legislation and policy.

1. PM has not acknowledged framework is dead
2. Process guided by Federal liberal 10 principles (no consent)
3. No commitment to work closer on language legislation
4. No commitment to work closer on child welfare legislation
5. No separation of paths, in particular the Metis
6. No commitment to Constitutional meetings

The policy revision process announced includes ATR, IRP, Specific claims, and comprehensive claims. AIAI sponsored resolutions at the AFN GA in Vancouver, followed by a joint resolution at the December AFN GA both aimed at killing the rights recognition framework. Unfortunately, this framework process by the Liberal government continues on with a conclusion date of June 2019.





# Federal Recognition Rights Framework

## AIAI has taken steps to protect our Nations peoples inherent rights jurisdiction...

As per the AIAI Resolution No. 008/2018, Rejection of the Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework the first component of our strategy was to spread awareness by hosting information sessions with rights holders and leadership in Hiawatha, Oneida, Wahta, and Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit. Presentations were also made at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Annual General Assembly, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Forum, Seneca College, and the Ryerson School of Journalism. The second part of our strategy was to develop and pass resolutions at both COO and AFN to reject the Rights Framework; establish First Nations-led processes of negotiation with Canada; establish joint-principles of understanding with Canada; and ensure that both COO and AFN hosted forums to begin discussions on developing a First Nations-led process of decolonization. For more on a youth led Rally on the Framework look under notable events page for pictures and information.

The cancellation of the Rights Framework legislation marked a pivot in AIAI's advocacy work towards helping support member nations in their nation-building efforts. AIAI hosted a Law-Making Summit in February 2019, details of which can be found under the Tobacco section. In support of this work, AIAI has also developed the Protocol for a Diplomatic Relationship with Canada: A First Nations-led Process of Decolonization, providing a framework for developing a treaty-based relationship with Canada and a staged withdrawal of Canada's assumed jurisdiction. Despite the Rights Framework legislation being canceled, Canada has moved ahead with policy and legislation undermining First Nations' inherent rights and jurisdiction. In response, AIAI passed a resolution at the COO Special Chiefs Assembly in April 2019, rejecting the co-development process – a process designed to manufacture the consent of rights and title holders for the purpose of passing legislation detrimental to the inherent rights of First Nations across Turtle Island. AIAI will continue its advocacy work to put an end to the co-development process and promote a treaty-based relationship with Canada at the AFN National Forum in May.



# Tobacco and Law Making

The Indigenous Law-Making & Tobacco Summit took place at the Nottawasaga Inn from February 20th to 22nd, 2019 in Alliston, Ontario. The purpose of the Summit was to bring AIAI member Nation community members, staff, and leadership together to discuss and explore approaches to Indigenous law-making and governance, using tobacco as a case study example. It was rooted in the AIAI Tobacco Project 2017/18.

Throughout the two-and-a-half-day Summit, participants were engaged in exploratory dialogue on jurisdiction, governance, and law-making. Discussions took place in small facilitated group sessions and key discussion points were shared with the larger group. Presentations were also provided to help expand the dialogue and possibilities for moving forward with law-making and the next phases of the Tobacco Project. Participants were able to establish and clarify understandings of jurisdiction and governance in a participatory and collective manner, explore possibilities of law-making and governance at the community level, and to begin developing community action plans. AIAI committed to continuing this work through community sessions on Indigenous rights, responsibilities, and law-making throughout 2019. Leadership and staff look forward to continuing discussions on potential pathways forward and to helping the member Nations outline foundational elements for the establishment of agreements that support Indigenous jurisdiction.

See section in Notable Events for photos



# Community Safety

**First Nations are highly overrepresented in corrections, accounting for 13% of those in provincial custody...**

while representing only 2% of Ontario's population. Further, restorative justice, diversion, and Gladue programs continue to be underfunded and underused. Elders, Native Inmate Liaison Officers (NILOs), and Community Correctional Workers (CCWs) are often overburdened and unable to meet needs, while not receiving the support they need within prisons. With its focus on punishment rather than restorative justice, the Canadian justice system is not equipped to address First Nations issues and it is doubtful it can be sufficiently adapted to do so.

AIAI is working with the Provincial Committee on Policing and Justice hosted by the First Nations Women's Caucus to advocate for corrections reform with the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Further, the Government of Canada is in the process of developing a Pan-Canadian Strategy to Address Overrepresentation of Indigenous People in the criminal Justice System and are currently looking for feedback from First Nations communities and organizations. AIAI staff are currently developing a strategy to respond to this engagement and corrections reform more generally.

## Policing

**Insufficient funding for First Nations policing has resulted in overworked police officers, under-serviced communities, and deteriorating infrastructure.**

Although Minister Goodale of Public Safety Canada has recently announced that the First Nations Policing Program will receive a funding injection, the situation will be only marginally improved as the funding amounts to very little once spread out across the 450 First Nations participating in the program.

Solutions put forward by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) through the Safer Ontario Act, 2018 (SOA) were created without First Nations input and, in some cases, undermine their inherent rights. The newly elected Conservative Government has not made any significant changes regarding First Nations policing in the Police Services Act, 2019. AIAI staff continue to provide technical support at leadership and technical meetings with Public Safety Canada and MCSCS to advocate for member nations under the Ontario First Nations Policing Agreement (OFNPA). Upcoming meetings with MCSCS and the Ministry of the Attorney General are set to discuss enforcement and prosecution of First Nations bylaws.



# Cannabis

The use of recreational cannabis became legal in Canada on October 17, 2018 without proper engagement, inclusion, and consideration of First Nation rights, concerns and realities. Despite persistent advocacy, First Nations are excluded from the federal-provincial cannabis tax revenue sharing agreement and do not receive a portion of the Province's federal allocation or sales revenue. Unlike municipalities, First Nations have yet to receive support for community planning and engagement, harm reduction, public education and awareness, business or capacity development, enforcement, or law-making.

The Association continues to raise the discriminatory oversight of First Nations in both the Ontario and Federal Governments' approach and implementation of recreational cannabis legalization through political-level communications with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Indigenous Affairs Ontario, Health Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, and the Federal Department of Justice. Supports for recreational Cannabis education, information and awareness, and harm reduction are identified as a priority by the Health/Social Advisory Board (H/SAB). AIAI is continuing to seek and identify potential funding opportunities to address these needs and working to develop and disseminate relevant resources for the member Nations. The Association also looks forward to assisting the member Nations build relevant capacity through community sessions on Indigenous law-making and tobacco, which are being scheduled for this upcoming year.

# Housing

## National Housing Strategy.

Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Resolution 27/2017, Development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy, established a national joint working group with the purpose of developing a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy. This resolution guides the strategy in that it must not be a top-down or one-sized approach, must respect regional approaches, and be First Nation-led. A draft First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy was endorsed by the Chiefs in Assembly at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2018 (SCA Resolution 57/2018, National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy). The joint working group continues its work on the Strategy, with completion expected early summer 2019.

## National Housing Data Collection Exercise

As part of the work underway in the development of First Nations' National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy, the AFN is undertaking a national collection of First Nations' community housing and infrastructure needs data. This national housing and infrastructure collecting data exercise is meant to support the strategy and its associated policy reform framework, which will be submitted in a Memorandum to Cabinet. The data collection process in Ontario region is being facilitated by Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC). The data collection process has been underway since December 2019, and as of April 8, 2019, a total of 81 Ontario communities have participated in the data collection process.

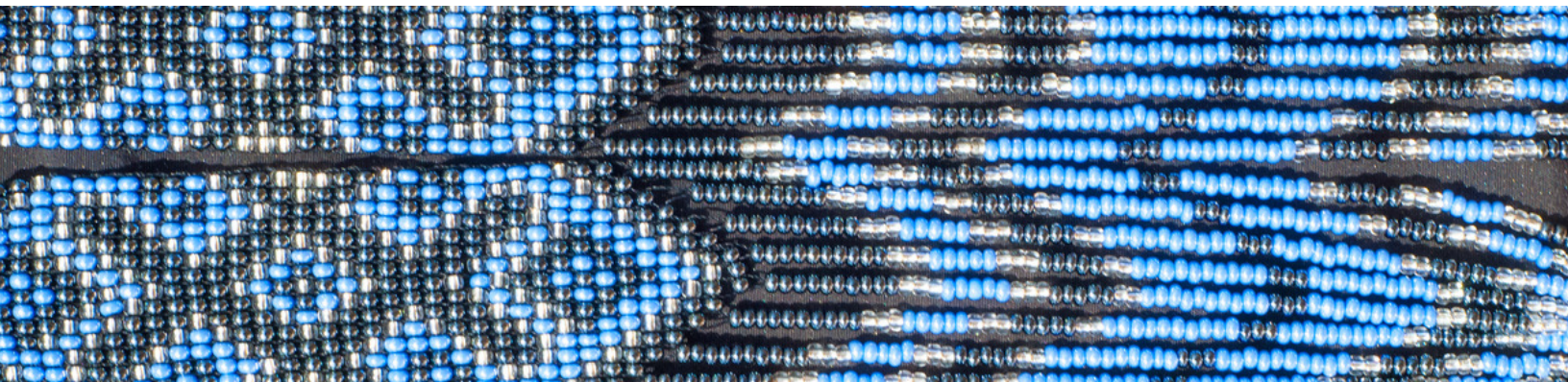
# Assessing the Housing and Infrastructure Needs of AIAI's Member Nations

In support of AIAI Resolution 007/2018, Safe, Proper and Affordable Housing, AIAI has recently commissioned First Nations Engineering Services Ltd. to provide a cost estimate of the housing and infrastructure needs of the member Nations over a 20-year planning period. This assessment will draw upon previous capital planning studies, feasibility studies, and existing First Nation housing data. It will be supplemented by direct discussions with communities and take into account key variables, such as population growth, to ensure an optimally accurate cost projections. The findings from this assessment will support AIAI and the member Nations in future discussions and lobby efforts for the increased housing and infrastructure funding required to address community need. A staff from First Nation Engineering Services will be reaching out to the contact(s) identified by the member Nations over the summer of 2019 to have this project completed before the end of the calendar year.

## Environment

As original title holders of the lands and resources of Turtle Island, First Nations maintain their inherent and unextinguished rights and jurisdictions over the waters in their traditional territory. These rights and jurisdictions have never been ceded through treaty or by any other means. Despite this, billions of litres of water continues to be extracted without consent from First Nations traditional territory on a yearly basis. Nestle is responsible for over half of the water takings for bottled water in Ontario. Over the past year, AIAI has undertaken a number of initiatives to address the issue of water takings and the permits to take water process in Ontario. The first step was to develop a position paper outlining the various issues with water takings from both an environmental and rights-based perspective. This document also details AIAI position on water takings and provides recommendations to advance First Nations water rights in Ontario.

As a part of our broader advocacy strategy on water, AIAI hosted a Water Forum in January 2019 in Niagara Falls where traditional knowledge keepers, youth, academics, and advocates for First Nations water rights were invited to discuss and begin to develop a strategy to address the issue of water takings. Also announced at the Water Forum was AIAI's Nestle Water Boycott and the release of our website dedicated to First Nations water rights, which can be reached at [www.ourspiritsourlaws.ca](http://www.ourspiritsourlaws.ca). AIAI staff are currently working on a follow-up strategy to help support member nation youth in developing community water declarations and water sovereignty action plans. On March 22, 2019, AIAI hosted a World Water Day rally to promote the Nestle Boycott and bring attention to lack of access to clean drinking water for First Nations. After hearing speeches from First Nations leadership, academics, and allies in the environmental advocacy community, participants marched through downtown London and on to Harris Park where a water ceremony was performed on the banks of the Thames River.



# Social Development

## Ontario Social Assistance Reform

- On July 31, 2018 under the new Ontario Progressive Conservative government, Minister Lisa MacLeod, Ministry of Children and Community Social Services (MCCSS), announced the Ministry's intentions to develop a sustainable social assistance program that moves away from the "...previous government's patchwork system". Minister MacLeod set an accelerated 100 day deadline to develop and announce the new social assistance system.
- On November 22nd, Minister MacLeod announced Ontario's plan for social assistance reform will be guided by four principles: Moving People to Employment; Locally Focused Social Services; Supporting People with Disabilities with Dignity; Cutting Red Tape and Restoring Accountability.
- Since these announcements, there has been no information on how the Ministry plans to make changes to Ontario's social assistance system. It's expected that the Ministry will begin discussions with First Nations in the Spring of 2019 on Ontario's social assistance reform plan and how First Nations fit within that process.

## AIAI Income Assistance Program Reform Engagements (Federal)

- Budget 2018 committed \$8.5 million over two years "to work with First Nations to understand how to make the program more responsive to the needs of individuals and families on reserve and to identify supports required to help individuals better transition from income assistance to employment and education."
- Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has taken the approach of facilitating a First Nations-led engagement process with support from the Department.
- In January 2019, AIAI began discussions with the Member Nations on Income Assistance and Income Security (for Elders) reform. A final report is expected in May 2019.
- Feedback from these discussions will assist AIAI in future positioning and lobbying on Income Assistance and Income Security. As well, the feedback will be shared with ISC with consideration to help inform future Income Assistance Program reform.

## Basic Income Pilot Project (Ontario)

- In April 2017 under the Liberal government, the province announced three (3) cities will be hosting the three (3) year study of how a basic income system might improve health, education and job prospects for those living in low-incomes. The first phase for participant enrollment was completed in April 2018.
- On August 31, 2018 under the new Ontario Progressive Conservative government, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services announced the ending of Ontario Basic Income Pilot Project by March 31, 2019.
- The August announcement would end the pilot project after being in operation for only one-year of its three-year proposed timeframe.



# Social Development con't

## National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Framework (Federal)

- On September 17, 2018, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Metis National Council (MNC) and the Government of Canada jointly released a co-developed National Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework;
- Up to \$1.02 billion has been committed to support Indigenous ELCC over 10 years.
- AFN Special Chiefs Assembly Resolution No. 59/2018, First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Regional Funding Allocation Approach, set out regional funding allocations for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Indigenous ELCC Transformative Initiative Funding.
- On March 11, 2019 Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) informed the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) that the Region's 2018-2019 funding was withdrawn and submitted for reprofiling with the intent to carry the 2018-2019 funding into future years.
- AIAI Chiefs Council expressed significant frustration and disappointment in ESDC's unilateral decision to ignore Ontario leadership direction and not release the 2018-2019 funding to communities.
- At the COO Special Chiefs Assembly April 2019, a resolution was passed by the Chiefs in Assembly demanding the immediate release of the 2018-2019 funding and outlining the funding allocation for 2019-2020.
- In Summer of 2019, it's expected that COO will be undertaking a review of Ontario First Nations' current ELCC capacity and needs.

## Child Welfare - Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT)

- As of February 1, 2018 the Tribunal has ordered Canada to:
  - Reimburse First Nations that had paid for Band representatives and mental health funding retroactive to January 26, 2016.
  - Start paying for band representative and mental health services at the level of their actual cost by February 15, 2018.
- The order to fund Band Representatives is to be in place until the Tribunal says otherwise. Canada may not divert other funds, including funds earmarked for prevention to the band representative program. There is no end point to the order to fund actual costs for mental health services.
- For 2018-2019, Ontario First Nations received \$51.79 million in community-based prevention funding in the following amounts:
  - Immediate Relief Prevention Funding – \$12.4 million;
  - Ramp-Up – Immediate Relief Funding – \$21.78 million; and
  - Community Well-being & Jurisdiction Initiative Funding - \$17.6 million.
- For 2019-2020, Ontario First Nations can expect to receive \$38.89 million in community-based prevention funding.

## Technical Table on Child and Family Wellbeing – First Nation Child and Family Services Policy and Funding Reform

- In response to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Orders, the Federal Government (Indigenous Services Canada) has provided Immediate Relief Prevention funding to First Nations across Canada and in Ontario.
- In Ontario, a tri-partite technical table (Representatives from Indigenous Services Canada; Ministry of Children and Youth Services; and the Chiefs of Ontario Social Services Coordination Unit) has been established (known as the Technical Table on Child and Family Wellbeing) to review and inform future policy and funding mechanisms with respect to the First Nation Child and Family Services in Ontario.
- The CHRT has ordered Canada to undertake and fund an Ontario “Special Study” to study the gaps created by the 1965 Agreement and propose alternative funding and/or program delivery structures to eliminate discrimination against on-reserve First Nations children.
- A final report is expected to be presented to the Chiefs in Assembly at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference on June 11-13, 2019.

## Indigenous Child Welfare Legislation

- In January 2018, Indigenous Services Canada held an Emergency Meeting on Indigenous Child and Family Services. At the meeting, the federal government committed to six points of action to address the over-representation of Indigenous children in care and the reform of Indigenous child and family services. One of the points action was a commitment to:  
“Supporting communities to exercise jurisdiction and explore the potential for co-developed federal child and family services legislation.”
- The emergency meeting was followed by a Canada-wide engagement session over the summer and fall of 2018 with the intent to explore options for the co-development of federal legislation on Indigenous child and family services reform.
- Former Minister Jane Philpott announced the federal government's intentions to move forward with Indigenous Child Welfare Legislation in late November 2018.
- On February 28, 2019 Bill C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families was introduced.
- Bill C-92 proposes to affirm Indigenous peoples inherent right to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services, however the legislation has severe limitations in regard to First Nation's jurisdiction and lacks a statutory funding commitment to support First Nation child welfare laws and systems.
- AIAI is opposed to the legislation and is seeking amendments.

## Water Forum 2019

The Association continues to advance safe drinking water for First Nations as a priority. Fulfilling a mandate set forth in resolution 001/2018 Safe Drinking Water, AIAI hosted the 2019 Water Forum on January 23 & 24 in Niagara Falls. The Forum was a great opportunity for member Nation leadership, technicians, youth, elders, and staff to come together to discuss community water issues and strategic approaches for creating change.

There were several presentations providing information on topics such as, traditional water teachings, governance traditions for protecting water, legal landscapes for First Nations in Ontario, jurisdiction, and source water protection. The AIAI Youth Council provided a presentation on water protection and officially launched the Nestle Water Product Boycott. The event wrapped up with nation-based roundtables where participants were able to outline and share their approaches and next steps for securing safe water in their communities now and in the future.

## Political Advocacy

AIAI continues to advocate the solutions identified in the 2018 Water Report: Bad Water is Bad Water and formally adopted in resolution 001/2019 Safe Drinking Water. The Association continues to point to current federal funding policies for First Nations water infrastructure and O & M as discriminatory, advocating for First Nation decision-making authority and needs-based funding.

Throughout the past year, AIAI has undertaken significant efforts to increase education and awareness about First Nations water, hosting the Water Forum in January 2019 and a rally on World Water Day in London, Ontario in March 2019. Water was also a key topic in the Federal Lobby which took place in Ottawa in April 2019. During the lobby, AIAI Chiefs advanced their community-specific water issues, sought support for viable solutions, and voiced the critical need for increased capital allocations for Ontario Region, which are not currently reflective of the population or outstanding infrastructure deficits.

For AIAI member Nations, water needs remain significant. As documented in the 2018 Bad Water Report, the collective long-term cost for AIAI member Nations drinking water alone was estimated to be over \$248 million. On a positive note, two AIAI member Nations have been added to the federal list of communities with Long-Term Drinking Water Advisories that are to be resolved by 2021. This will bring in some much-needed resources for those Nations as advocacy for more systemic change to address all First Nation drinking water needs continues. The Federal Government is now initiating engagement processes for the development of new federal legislation for safe drinking water for First Nations. AIAI is monitoring this process to advance the Chiefs' positions and flag and concerns arising.

Staff continue to develop advocacy materials in the form of fact sheets, pamphlets, template letters, and information booklets. These resources can be sent to you upon request and are available on the AIAI Water Website: [www.ourspiritsourlaws.com](http://www.ourspiritsourlaws.com).



## K-12 Education Funding Formula

AIAI Education engaged member Nations in several areas with regards to federal initiatives. An ongoing engagement process was done in collaboration with other organizations within Ontario to work on the outdated K-12 funding regional formula through the establishment of the Ontario Technical Table Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA) and arising initiatives related to regional education agreements (REAs). In order to help AIAI member Nations with the new funding formula, community visits were conducted to gain a better understanding of the formula's adaptations, proxies, implications, and improvements. In preparation for exploring regional education agreements, AIAI hosted opportunities to review current education systems that was inclusive of the following presentations: Maskwacis Education School Commission, Este-Cate em Ponvky Cuko, Creek Immersion Program for Seminole Tribe and the First Nations with Schools Collective in Ontario.

## AIAI Data Collection Initiative

Another engagement area of AIAI Education suggested by member Nations was the need to investigate a reciprocal data system established to enhance the wellbeing of our First Nations students. This led to phase one of the AIAI Data Management Project to which a data consultant was hired to conduct a needs assessment report through consultation visits with all member Nation communities. In addition to the report, AIAI Education also hosted a data system engagement intended to give member Nations a better understanding of the kinds of data already collected on their students, who stores that data and the opportunity to identify any gaps that exist within. The recommendations of this engagement were wrapped up into a report that outlined the importance of looking more closely into school board data as the data collected varies and the identified need for more parental involvement in the data analysis. Overall, the data system engagement findings included a need to analyze the exposure to Indigenous languages, life skills acquired, recognition of different learning styles, long-term aspirations/careers, health, children in care and individualized education plans (IEPs).

## Post-Secondary Funding

For the past year, the Assembly First Nations worked on a policy proposal ask to the Federal Government for additional funding in the amount of \$544.3 million to modernize the Post-Secondary Program that will ensure every student to be funded at \$19,500; to provide transitional funding for secondary upgrading and to develop a Post-Secondary funding model. In March 2019, the federal national budget announced \$824 million over ten years (pending the government of the day). This is still insufficient funding and AIAI forwarded a letter of support to the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada requesting them to deal with this proposal by June 2019.

## Right Framework Impacts on Education & Indigenous Languages

Since April 2018, AIAI Education has been monitoring the work regarding the Federal Government's proposed "Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework" and its impacts on education, such as, the possibility of formulating an aggregation of Nations into regional education agreements. The framework's rejection has played a substantial role in asserting jurisdiction of First Nations control over First Nations education. AIAI Education stands by the position to support member Nations as independent Nations (or regions) with unique educational needs and priorities.

Indigenous Languages Act (Bill C-91), is another piece of legislation that can benefit and/or hinder First Nations. In one sense, it provides recognition including Indigenous Sign Language and provides nationally \$333.7 million for the next five years in language funding (pending government of the day). Unfortunately, the legislation focuses on a pan-Indian approach, delegated jurisdiction, Inherent rights interference and no mention regarding sustainable statutory funding. In April 2019, AIAI lobbied the federal government on these issues.

## Provincial Initiatives

In the past year, AIAI Education has conducted various community engagements regarding information access and accountability, language & culture, policy development, curriculum development and enhancing school board relationships. The community engagements involved community members, youth, parents, teachers, language speakers, and education technicians. Some topics of discussions included input into a regional language model, language instructor strategy, how to support provincial teachers in schools on Indigenous issues, reverse tuition agreement, how to increase First Nations visibility in schools and to reflect the TRC on residential schools and treaties into the provincial curriculum. Input provided by the communities were rolled up into an Ontario regional approach.



## Education Partnership Program

The AIAI Education Partnership Program, also known as the EPP program is a Tri-lateral partnership program between AIAI, the Ministry of Education (EDU) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and five AIAI member Nations who actively participates and receive financial resources to conduct education enhancement programming and language revitalization.

As we move into the third year, the implementation stage - we will start to see programs and services being offered for students and community members in language revitalization, enhanced educational programming, student transition strategies and student well-being services. AIAI Education also engages in a several EPP Initiatives highlighted below:

### Youth Development Camp

This activity is held each year during the month of July. Last year (2018) we took the Camp to the Batchewana Learning Centre for a week of fun and with many hand-ons learning activities. The presentations and workshops focus on math, science and technology activities, as well as, the four sacred teachings of air, land, water and fire. Thirty member Nations' youths from Grade 5-8 along with their chaperones actively participated in the camp activities.

### The Education Directors Forum

This initiative is about creating better working relationships with Provincial School Board Directors and our First Nation Education authorities. The idea here is to create education strategies for Indigenous students to feel welcomed and comfortable in their provincial schools, as well as, to promote and increase graduation rates for Indigenous students.

The strategy also focuses on the importance of Cultural studies, Indigenous languages and having safe places within the schools for Indigenous students to go to. AIAI held this event in November 2018 at the Wahta Administration Building. The presenters' themes focused on data sharing, student transition strategies, Indigenous culture and languages and effective communication strategies needed for building better working relationships.

### Cultural Awareness Training

This is also known as AIAI's Promising Practices workshops. This year, Oneida Nation was our host for a two-day event held on March 25 and 26, 2019. The Promising Practices workshops brings together non-Indigenous teachers with Indigenous presenters on how to present Indigenous culture, history and land-based activities into the classroom. The two-day workshop focused on the new Ontario legislation regarding Residential School curriculum and land-based learning. It is certainly good news to hear that all students will now receive classroom instruction about Indigenous history, culture, customs and the different language groups.



# Education con't

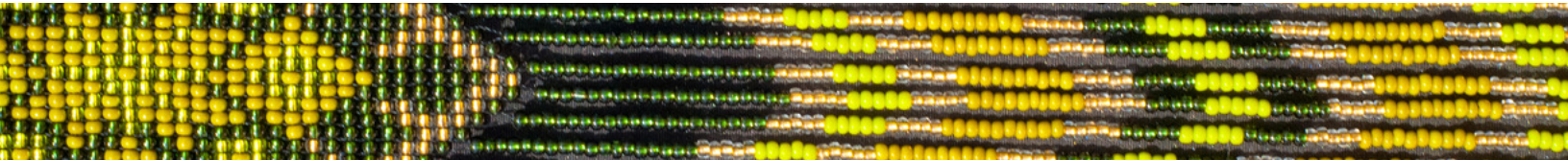
## Creating Education Resources

AIAI EPP has two initiatives that are performed by professional consultants.

1. The New Teacher Induction program, which is designed to give new teachers in First Nation schools and Provincial schools where our students attend, professional development training about First Nations' communities. We are happy to report the New Teacher Induction/First Nations and Inclusive Education Teachers Manual is now available in print. We also have the Wahta Mohawks and Eelunaaapeewii Lahkeewitt (Delaware Nation-Moravian of the Thames) community profiles completed and available for education resources.

Phase II of the New Teacher Induction Program is in progress and will be designing teacher training modules for professional development purposes.

2. Adaptive Learning Model focuses on creating educational resources that will work with the Ontario education curriculum and special education programming. An Adaptive Learning Assessment tool will be developed to identify and enhance students' natural born abilities and talents that will promote a more positive learning environment and will lead to potential career pathways.



## Youth

This has been a milestone for the youth and brings them a new level of growth, experience, and development finishing up their first year as AIAI Youth Council Representatives. The representatives grew in their participation from attending meetings such as the AIAI Chiefs Council, AIAI Health Social Advisory Board, and AIAI Education Committee. In participating in national and regional meetings with the Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations, the youth council representatives have demonstrated a willingness to learn and play a role to help make a difference. They used this forum to address important issues amongst themselves and other attendees. Through these activities, the youth council has established a link with their past and their culture. They have obtained a level of understanding regarding governance and how to be more politically active in the roles they have taken on. These experiences will lead them towards a better future and provide memories they can reflect upon for guidance.

### AIAI Youth Council Representatives

Caldwell First Nation – Kia Peters

Delaware Nation – Megan Logan & Kamryn Whiteye

Oneida Nation of the Thames – Kathleen Doxtator, Brandon Doxtator, Dominique Ireland

Hiawatha First Nation – Vacant

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte – Melanie Grey

Wahta Mohawks – Brooke Temple

Batchewana First Nation – Hanna Sewell & Juliana Lesage-Coribere

# Youth con't

## Accomplishments from the AIAI Youth Council

In June youth council Reps co-chaired alongside Grand Chief Abram & Deputy Grand Chief Peters at the 49th Annual General Assembly held on Oneida. This was a great learning experience for the youth to gain the knowledge of political protocol.

In August the Youth Council took part in the Elders gathering in Caldwell First Nation where they did an update on Youth Council and the upcoming events that they would be hosting and taking part in. The AIAI Youth Council coordinated a Youth Culture Fair this past October that focused on the cultural backgrounds, Leadership, and traditional sports for AIAI Communities. This was hosted in Tyendinaga (MBQ) and we had great youth participation and involvement.

In December the youth council put together a huge rally at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. They voiced their opposition of the Federal Rights Framework being put on the indigenous communities from the government and with great success they were able to have their voices heard and had a great impact all across turtle island.

In January the youth council presented a water presentation at the AIAI Water Forum in Niagara Falls. They had another tremendous turn out of support on the issues that our communities face in the safe drinking water crisis. At this Water Forum was the launch of the Nestle Boycott. With the powerful words shared by the youth council on this topic, they were invited to present this information for the Oneida Nation "Putting Yourself First Conference".

The last big event the youth council put together was in partnership with the AIAI education department which was the Youth Education Leadership Training held in Niagara Falls. The youth learned about board training, effective communication strategies, lateral violence, self-confidence/team building, and self-care. The turn out for this event was a success and we had really great reviews from the youth participants and parents.

We would like to acknowledge the support from our Chiefs in working with the youth to bring "community signs" to their home communities and utilizing the signs for the deaf and hearing impaired.



# Health & Wellness

AIAI continues to advance the health priorities identified in the Health/Social Advisory Board's (H/SAB) strategic plan and mandated by the General Assembly. Health was one of the main focuses of the Federal Lobby 2019, where needs in critical health areas, such as housing, seniors supports, health infrastructure, safe drinking water, and mental health resources were advanced.

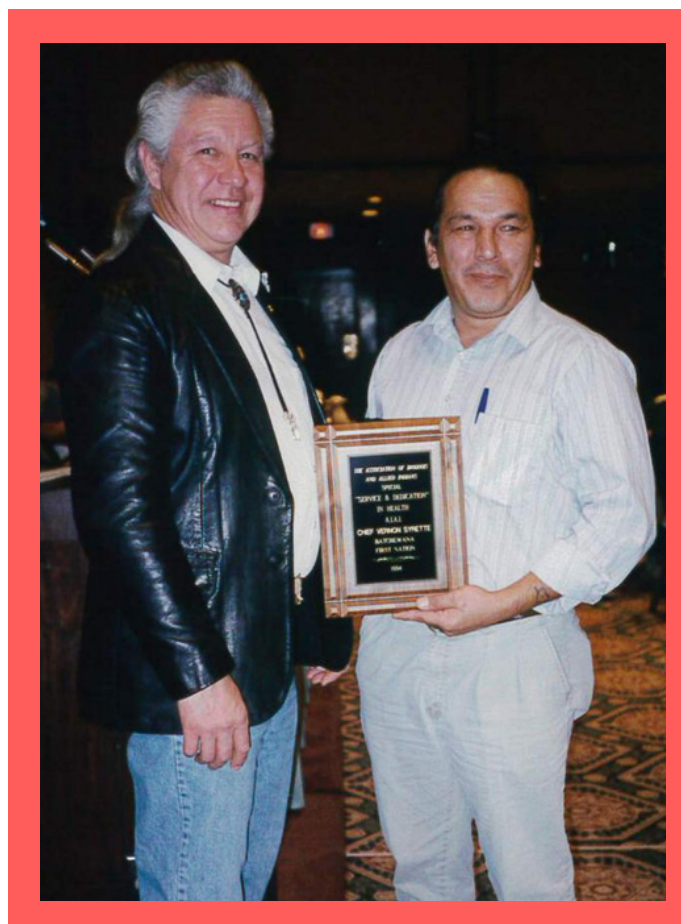
## Seniors

Seniors needs have been a critical area of advocacy throughout the past year, as well as one of the main focuses of the Federal Lobby 2019. The need for support and resources for seniors continue to be pushed for in key areas, including:

- Family violence and elder abuse prevention training
- Full circle of care networks and advanced care planning
- Health infrastructure, including seniors' complexes & long-term care homes
- In-home and community living supports
- Housing renovation supports and grants
- Security services
- Culturally-based and trauma-informed care services
- Income security
- Traditional medicines

Strong efforts to establish a working relationship with the Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (formerly the Ministry of Seniors Affairs) are being made, as mandated by Resolution 003/2018: Elder Supports and Resolution 011/2018: Income Security for Our Elders. The Association has faced a lack of responsiveness from provincial ministries under the current Conservative Government of Ontario but, continues to push for more working relationships at the provincial and federal levels.

Advocacy work on the seniors' file continues to be strengthened by the 2018 AIAI Seniors Care Survey and Seniors Fact Sheet, as well as other statistics, research, and feedback continually being gathered. Key sources for this work are the Elders' Roundtable Discussion Report, coming out of each Annual Elders Gathering, along with collaborative First Nation-specific research projects undertaken by the Chiefs of Ontario and Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.





## Non-Insured Health Benefits

AIAI staff continue to monitor the National Joint Review of the Non-Insured Health Program (NIHB) as the process moves closer to the end of its 5-year span. Correspondence from Grand Chief Joel Abram has been sent to Indigenous Services Canada outlining concerns with this review process, as well as outstanding issues with NIHB program policy and practice impacting the health of the member Nations' citizens.

Relationship building efforts with Ontario Region First Nation and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to address NIHB program issues and implement viable solutions are continuing. The Health/Social Advisory Board held a one-day rapport-building and issue discussion with FNIHB staff in November 2018 and are now monitoring progress on the action items identified. AIAI also maintains representation on the Chiefs of Ontario NIHB Networking Group to ensure the perspectives, issues, and concerns of AIAI member Nations are brought to the regional and national levels, and to facilitate information flow back to the communities, the Health/Social Advisory Board, and political leadership.

## Mental Health and Addictions

Mental health and addictions remains a priority of the Health/Social Advisory Board (H/SAB). The significant need for culturally-based services, programming, resources, and infrastructure for mental health and addictions services continues to be advocated for at both the federal and provincial levels.

Support for the member Nations' mental health needs are also advanced through existing partnerships and working groups. AIAI maintains representation on the Chiefs of Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Working Group and the Opioid Surveillance committee, directing and/or implementing key initiatives such as:

- The development of a Health Human Resources Strategy
- Collaborative research projects on First Nations health and mental health
- Frontline service training for emergency response and trauma-informed care
- Youth life promotion training programs

AIAI looks forward to furthering this file over the next year through the identification of potential opportunities and the advancement of member Nation perspectives and needs in the area of mental health and addictions.



## Jordan's Principle

At the 2018 Annual General Assembly, resolution 004/2018 was passed. This resolution provided the mandate in three areas:

- Continued advocacy for remediation of Jordan's Principle implementation issues
- Exploratory work on developing a process for the member Nations to address health, social, and educational gaps for their children and families
- Work with FNIHB, and other relevant governments and programs, to determine funding for communities to build their own capacity to address their own health, social and educational gaps

In the 2018-19 fiscal year the Jordan's Principle Coordinator position was vacated. Funds remaining from this vacancy were used to offset the costs to host an AIAI Jordan's Principle Forum which provided member Nation delegates with the opportunity to:

- Learn of other service coordination models that exist in Ontario and in Manitoba
- Learn more about the CHRT ruling for Jordan's Principle from the First Nations Caring Society
- Receive information to access funds for service coordination from Indigenous Services Canada in order to build capacity at the community level whether it be to assist with application or to build an actual team of professional services as required

Though funding for the Jordan's Principle Coordinator position at AIAI will not continue, AIAI continues to advocate for the remediation of implementation issues pertaining the Jordan's Principle requests.

## Mental Wellness Crisis Response

A collaboration between the Federal and Provincial governments allowed funding for one Mental Wellness Crisis Response Team to service AIAI communities. The allocation of only one team did not provide the resources to fully accommodate a team approach to address AIAI diverse regional and largely populated needs. Through the Health Social Advisory Board, and Chiefs Council processes a different approach was approved in which each of AIAI's Nations (Wahta self-excluded) would receive funds and put forward one member that would form a team to address Crisis in AIAI communities when required. In the 2018/19 fiscal year the team was able to have discussions on their level of Crisis preparedness, best approaches to providing assistance to other AIAI Nations, and begin to build a strong network of support with each other.

Team funding for the 2019/2020 fiscal year and beyond is yet to be confirmed as of April 2019.



# Health & Wellness con't

## Cancer Care

The area of Cancer has been identified as a priority of the Health Social Advisory Board, and a working relationship has been developed with the Indigenous Cancer Control Unit of Cancer Care Ontario.

The issues identified in this area are the need for increased community level resources to support in the areas of:

- Prevention
- Screening
- Palliative
- Program/client needs
- Mental wellness
- Traditional services

There currently are no areas of funding identified for First Nations to address their Cancer needs despite their high rates of Cancer. AIAI continues to work with Cancer Care Ontario to collaborate on issues identified, and will continue to advocate the need for First Nations Cancer funding to address community need.





# Health / Social Advisory Board

The Health/Social Advisory Board is the longest-serving advisory board for the Association. It is comprised of three representatives per member Nation (health, social, political) and is chaired by the AIAI Grand Chief. The board meets bi-annually (conference calls occur as needed) to provide coordinated recommendations to the Chiefs Council on critical health and social services issues affecting the AIAI member Nations.

The H/SAB provides a unique opportunity for member communities to come together to discuss current programs and new proposal ideas, evaluate and plan services, analyze and discuss policies and legislation, share best practices and problem solve jointly. The H/SAB also facilitates a coordinated stance on critical policy and funding issues allowing the formulation of a cohesive voice on position papers and the articulation of local issues and concerns.

The Health/Social Advisory Board (H/SAB) is responsible for:

- identifying health and social priorities based on their community interests;
- identifying issues and make recommendations related to health and social affairs;
- acting as a networking body to share information and identify best practices in program and service delivery; and
- will be guided by the mandates received from the AIAI Annual General Assembly and the Chiefs Council.

Throughout the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the H/SAB held three face-to-face meetings (May, July, Nov.) and two conference calls (Oct, Jan. 2019).

The H/SAB held its first ever joint meeting with the AIAI Education Committee in November 2018. The meeting proved to be very beneficial in facilitating dialogue amongst the three sectors on similar priorities such as Early Learning, Mental Health, Jordan's Principle, Child Welfare and Data Management.

Information was researched and presented to the H/SAB on several important programs, policies and legislation, including:

- Mental Wellness Crisis Response Teams
- Safe Drinking Water and Nestle Water Boycott
- Recreational Cannabis Legalization
- The Office of Children's Lawyer
- Tripartite Health Transformation
- NIHB Rapport Building session with Indigenous Services Canada (FNIH)
- Children's Oral Health Initiative
- Community Wellness Development Teams
- Early Learning and Child Care Initiative
- Jordan's Principle
- Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Services
- National Pharmacare Engagement
- Child Welfare Engagement Reform & Discussion Paper
- Social Assistance/Income Supports Engagement
- H/SAB strategic planning discussions included: Elders Housing Support and Care; Elder Abuse Prevention, Mental Health, Environment, Community Safety, Social Assistance, Housing, and Cancer Care.

# Health / Social Advisory Board con't

<b><i>CURRENT H/SAB MEMBERSHIP</i></b>		
<i>NATION</i>	<i>REPRESENTATIVE</i>	<i>POSITION</i>
<b>Batchewana</b>	Teala Nadjiwon	<i>Health Director</i>
	Harvey Bell	<i>Councillor</i>
<b>Caldwell</b>	Robyn van Oirschot	<i>Councillor</i>
<b>Delaware</b>	Sherry Huff	<i>Councillor</i>
	Joanna Noah	<i>Health Director</i>
	Amanda Logan	<i>Social – Ontario Works</i>
	Stacey Timothy	<i>CHN - Alternate</i>
	Desiree Logan	<i>Child Advocate - Alternate</i>
	Greg Peters	<i>Councillor – Alternate</i>
<b>Hiawatha</b>	Tina Howard	<i>Health &amp; Social Manager</i>
	Julie Thompson	<i>Asst Health &amp; Social Manager</i>
	Cynthia Gray	<i>Councillor</i>
	Kathryn Wilson	<i>Councillor</i>
<b>Oneida</b>	Olive Elm	<i>Councillor</i>
	Ida Cornelius	<i>Health Administrator</i>
	Darlene Ritchie	<i>Director Community Development</i>
<b>Tyendinaga</b>	Susan Barberstock	<i>Director Community Wellbeing</i>
	Brandy Maracle	<i>A/Program Manager – Mohawk Family Services</i>
<b>Wahta Mohawks</b>	Cindy Thompson	<i>Health Manager</i>
	Chief Philip Franks	



# Notable Events

## Water Forum & Rally

On March 22nd, 2019, the Association hosted its first annual World Water Day Rally in London, Ontario. The event included speeches from Chiefs, AIAI leadership, First Nation advocates and youth, and environmental advocates. Together the speakers highlighted water as the source of all of life and everyone's responsibility to protect the water for the next seven generations. The late Water Walker and Elder Josephine Mandamin was honored with speeches and an honor song by youth drum group Young Medicine. After the rally, Lela George led the group on a march through the streets towards the Thames River. At the banks of the river a water ceremony was held and prayer led by Amanda Doxtator.



## Law Making Summit





# Notable Events

## Ottawa Rally

In December 2019, AIAI's Youth Council hosted a well-attended rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to raise their voice in opposition to the Rights Framework. Their message was heard loud and clear, putting an end to Canada's plans of passing Rights Framework legislation during the Trudeau administration's first term. The rally was followed by impassioned speeches from the AIAI Youth Council at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly, driving home their message to First Nations leadership from across the country. Shortly after, a second AIAI sponsored resolution was passed at the AFN to reaffirm the rejection of the Rights Framework and call on the AFN to support First Nations in developing their own nation-building processes, including law-making, institution building, and research of traditional governance systems.



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**Ira Timothy**

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**Brandy Cornelius**

HSAB Coordinator

**Kristin Doxtator**

Youth Coordinator

**Shirley Miller**

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Administrative Assistant

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Healthy Lifestyles Educator

**Gina McGahey**

Sr. Education Policy Advisor

**Lisa Jackson**

Responsible Gambling Coordinator

**Joan Ireland**

Lifelong Learning Researcher

**Elly Antone**

HIV / AIDS Educator

**Sue Ireland**

Administrative Assistant

**Tina Powell**

Health & Wellness Policy Advisor



# Generations







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