

The background of the entire page is a scenic landscape photograph. It shows a deep valley with a calm lake in the lower left, reflecting the surrounding environment. The valley is filled with dense evergreen forests. In the distance, a range of rugged mountains with snow-dusted peaks rises against a sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and earthy tones, creating a sense of natural beauty and tranquility.

INDIGENOUS RECLAMATION

OUR AGENDA OUR SOLUTIONS

2016 - 2017 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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A.I.A.I. Grand Chief Gord Peters



This year was about Indigenous Reclamation, our pride, our culture and our heritage to build a strong base for the exercise of our pre-existing jurisdiction and our pre-existing title to our lands. This is the central reason for our work, but clearly it will require the support of our citizens. We have moved on the child welfare jurisdiction and consent which we have indicated come from the treaty relationship.

The bilateral was given a boost this year and we focused on tobacco and gasoline which the Province wants to tax their citizens who buy our gas and tobacco products.

One of the achievements that have been marked this year is the signing of the EPP, education partnership, that is geared to build the best education available for our youth now and in the future. We had a great discussion with UNDRIP and presentations from Sharon Venne, Romeo Saganash, and Roger Jones. It helps build an education base for our peoples who then can be prepared to support when leadership makes decisions on how to proceed. The assembly is where we will see our youth participate in the General Assembly with full patriation rights. It is hopeful that the interest of our youth in coming together to form a youth council will continue to be supported. Finally, a men's gathering to better understand the traditional roles our men played in our families was immensely successful.

We look forward to a new year and create even more milestones in uniting, reclaiming and bringing progress to the people of our Nations.

A.I.A.I. Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish



This fiscal year has brought about many changes specifically where the province of Ontario has committed to the TRC calls to action and has committed \$250 million dollars over the next three years, for programs that will be developed and evaluated with indigenous partners. This will allow communities to develop their own culturally based programs from mental health to life promotions.

Another ongoing issue is the Canadian human rights tribunal on child welfare. A major step from the CHRT orders are the allocation of resources flowing directly to the communities for culturally based prevention programs. Even though this is a positive move forward, we must continue to hold the government responsible for their role in the impacts of Indian residential schools and the 60's scoops.

This year the national inquiry on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls has been finally called. While we don't speak on behalf of the families we are here to continue advocating and providing support. This shows that the many years of pushing for this inquiry and while it will end in 2018, there is much more work to be done in terms of changes to legislation, policies, regulations, etc.

As the chair of the AFN's women's council we are looking at the inclusion of gender based analysis and the empowerment/inclusion of our women. While the theme at the 16th session (April 2017) of United Nations is the 10th anniversary of UNDRIP, the Indigenous Women present stated, 'Nothing about us without us'.

A.I.A.I. continues to be instrumental in their advocacy and support for our children, our youth, our women, our men, and our elders.

Youth Involvement

This past year has been an exciting year in terms of our youth. Megan Logan, Delaware Nation and Ransom Doxtator, Oneida Nation of the Thames have continued to do an excellent job as the AIAI youth representatives to the Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council. Megan also holds the additional responsibility of being the Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council representative to the Assembly of First Nation National Youth Council.



Anushiik for the awesome work from both Ransom and Megan!

At the 2016 AIAI Annual General Assembly we were tasked to work in a number areas related to youth.

As a result of changes to the AIAI Constitution and the implementation of the AIAI Selection Process for the Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief, youth will be included as voting delegates at all AIAI General Assemblies beginning at the 2017 AIAI General Assembly being hosted by the Caldwell First Nation.



Youth will also be included in all aspects of the work that AIAI does on behalf of the member Nation communities from the Chiefs Council to the working groups and committees that are formed by Chiefs Council. A youth voice will be a strong part of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians moving forward.

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians hosted a Youth Symposium in 2016-17 and invited youth representatives from each of the AIAI member Nation communities as well as the official AIAI Youth Representatives, Megan Logan and Ransom Doxtator.

The youth discussed issues related to the formation of an AIAI Youth Council and the appointment process for youth representatives on the Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council, AIAI Chiefs Council and the importance of a youth voice in the work that AIAI does.

An AIAI Youth Working Group will continue to work on the appointment process and make recommendations to the Chiefs Council on these appointments. It is hoped that an official AIAI Youth Council will be recognized by the AIAI Chiefs Council early in 2017-18.



Indigenous Reclamation

A.I.A.I. works to empower our People to exercise Indigenous jurisdiction so they can flourish as Nations.

By adopting and advancing principles of Indigenous reclamation, AIAI continues to support our Nations' self-determination, as well as the resettlement of relationships with the Crown.

AIAI is committed to advancing Indigenous reclamation in our Member First Nations through four priority areas: Governance, Relationships, Culture and Language, and Economy Building. The development of each of these areas is key to strengthening our Nations' ability to exercise their full jurisdiction as sovereign entities with respect to their land, water, air, fire and Peoples.

Indigenous reclamation is critical to the operationalization of the Political Accord, which affirms a commitment between the Political Confederacy and the Province of Ontario to work together to identify and address priority issues on a government-to-government basis.

A.I.A.I. / MIRR

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Chiefs Council has continued

a bi-lateral relationship with the Provincial government through the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation over this past year.

The bi-lateral table acts as the central hub to address the collective interests of AIAI member Nations and set a direction for shared priorities.

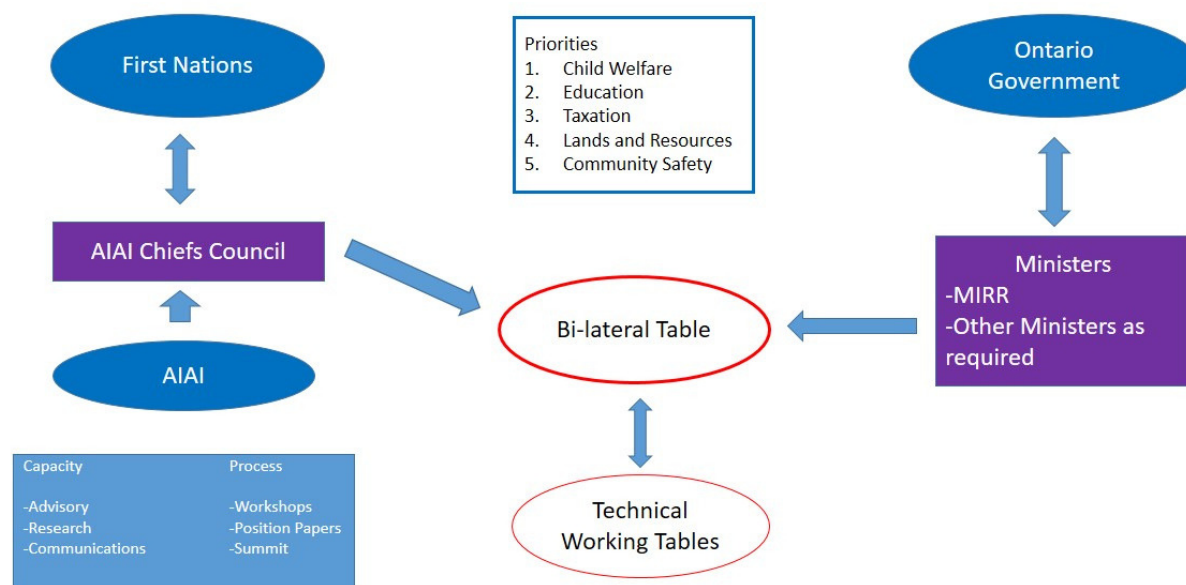
A joint 2016-17 work plan was approved by the AIAI Chiefs Council and the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation with the focus on the following priority areas:

- 1. Family Revitalization**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Taxation (Tobacco and Gasoline)**
- 4. Treaties, Lands and Resources**
- 5. Community Safety**

The bi-lateral process consists of a political leadership table that includes the AIAI Chiefs Council, which is co-chaired by the AIAI Grand Chief and the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. A joint technical table with representatives from AIAI and the Ministry support the Leadership Table.

A.I.A.I. / MIRR con't

AIAI and Ontario Bi-lateral Process



A DRAFT Terms of Reference has been completed by the Technical Table and has been forwarded for final approval to the Chiefs Council. It is hoped that the Terms of Reference can be formalized early in 2017.

AIAI continues to advance Member First Nations' Treaty relationships and inherent rights through the bi-lateral relationship established with Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) under the Political Accord, signed in August, 2015.

This relationship includes a political leadership table, inclusive of the AIAI Chiefs Council, that is co-chaired by Grand Chief Peters and Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR). It also includes as a joint technical table comprised of policy staff from both AIAI and MIRR.

AIAI has coordinated several bi-lateral meetings and tables throughout the year to address five priority areas:

1. **Child Welfare**
2. **Tobacco and Gas (Taxation)**
3. **Community Safety**
4. **Lands and Resources (Treaties)**
5. **Education**

AIAI continues to further movement on the AIAI/Ontario Joint Work Plan, which addresses each of these areas. For the 2017/18 year, Health has been added as a sixth priority area.

AIAI is also pursuing the expansion of the bi-lateral relationship to include Federal counterparts in key areas requiring tri-lateral cooperation.

Family Revitalization

Family Well-being Program

In February 2016, the Ontario government released Walking Together: Ontario's Long-Term Strategy to End Violence Against Indigenous Women. The strategy outlines actions to prevent violence against Indigenous women and reduce its impact on children, youth and families. With the release of Walking Together, the Family Well-being Program was launched as a new program for Indigenous groups that will provide prevention-based programming and services for indigenous children, youth and families that is community driven, and culturally appropriate. Over the Fall of 2016 and early Winter of 2017, the member Nations developed their Family Well-being program frameworks based on their community needs and secured direct service agreements with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

During this current 2017-2018 fiscal year, the member Nations will be finalizing their program frameworks and securing full program funding for this year and the following fiscal year (2018-2019). AIAI will be supporting the member Nations Family Well-being program by taking on a coordination role which will be focused on:

- Discussing and facilitating training for Family Well-being workers;
- Gathering feedback/evaluations on programming; And
- To participate and to report back on the activities of a Family Well-Being technical table.

A coordination framework will be presented at the next Chiefs Council for final approval.

Bi-Lateral Relationship - Family Revitalization (Child Welfare)

This past year, AIAI has established a relationship with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to discuss and address the immediate Child Welfare issues within the member Nations. Two meetings have been held with MCYS. The first meeting occurred in September 2016 where AIAI's Family Revitalization Working Group met with ministry staff from MCYS's Strategic Policy and Aboriginal Relationship Branch and Regional Managers to discuss the Child Welfare issues that the member Nations are currently experiencing.

Immediate Issues that were raised at this meeting include:

- Jurisdiction – On & Off Reserve
- Supporting Children and Families
- Funding and Capacity
- Legislation and the Court System Local Children Aid Societies Issues
- Lack of Accountability
- Poor Relationships
- Lack of Communications
- Lack of Cultural Awareness



In March 2017, AIAI's Family Revitalization working group met with MCYS again to follow up on the discussions from the previous meeting and to begin co-developing a working plan that would move towards resolving those issues that were raised at the previous meeting. AIAI and MCYS will be having a follow-up meeting in the late Spring of 2017 to finalize the workplan and begin working towards addressing those immediate issues.

Taxation - Gas - Tobacco

Identified as one of the priority areas to address through the bi-lateral relationship with the Ontario Government, AIAI has continued to support Chiefs Council on their stance regarding Tobacco and Gasoline.

AIAI Chiefs Council asserts that Indigenous Nations have the inherent right and jurisdictional authority to freely trade, sell, and manufacture tobacco products and to be free of external government taxation in their traditional territories. AIAI has facilitated meetings with the Province to discuss Ontario's resource revenue initiatives, the cigarette allocation system, and our local economies related to tobacco.

2016 / 2017 Accomplishments

- Participated in a bi-lateral tobacco forum (March, 2017) to learn about current government initiatives and legislation related to tobacco.
- Rejected the Province's flawed framework for a Tobacco Revenue Sharing agreement.
- Developed a Position Paper outlining Member Nation's perspectives on Tobacco, formalizing a position rooted in Indigenous jurisdiction, inherent rights and treaty relationships.
- Drafted a proposal for submission to the Province to secure resources to support Member Nations' internal exploratory dialogue and research regarding tobacco in our communities.



Community Safety

Identified as one of the priority areas

for the bi-lateral relationship, community safety and security continues to be an area of joint significance. Community safety and security has been verified as an area that encompasses more than policing, it also includes community wellness, fire services and emergency medical services. Under the direction of Chiefs Council, the focus within this priority has been concentrated on ending violence in our communities.

2016 / 2017 Accomplishments

- Secured funds to hold a second men's forum. Walking in Balance and Harmony focused on men's roles in healthy relationships.
- Actively working with the First Nations Women's Caucus to promote regional awareness, initiatives, and participation in activities related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the National Inquiry.
- Completed a draft environmental scan, designed to determine areas or concern that impact community safety within Member Nations.

Treaties, Lands and Resources

The implementation of the Treaty relationship remains a priority for the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians Chiefs Council. Public education and awareness continue to be a large part of the AIAI mandate. Over the past year a communications coordinator has been hired that will spearhead a public awareness campaign related to Treaties. AIAI will finalize a Treaty Education website as well as a video.

Related to the Treaty Relationship is lands and resources, with the following issues having been identified:

• Additions to Reserve

- Continued municipal property tax charge during conversion
- Province and Municipalities do not have a "veto" in the ATR process but can delay it significantly

• Municipal Expansion/Planning

- The expansion of municipalities into Indigenous territories and the lack of collaboration with Indigenous Communities

• Connectivity

- The lack of internet connectivity for Indigenous communities

These issues that been discussed at the both the Bi-lateral Leadership Table and the Technical Table, A way forward has been identified by the technical table that involves meetings with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing technicians leading to a meeting with the Minister.

Education

2016-2017 has been a busy year for education. After many years of lobbying the federal government to increase funding for education

First Nations have now witnessed the federal government's acceptance that First Nations education is underfunded and provided new funding in the 2016 budget for education core services. It included funding, such as, the band-operated funding formula, special education, guidance & counselling and infrastructure. It is the plan that this new funding would be in place until an agreed up funding formula is developed along with the development of a system reform strategy and agreed upon accountability mechanisms are in place.

Education Reform Strategy

In March 2017, AIAI hosted an Education Reform Gathering as a next step forward to develop a funding reform position only. It is and has been the position of AIAI that jurisdiction of system should be held with the First Nations. As a result of the Education Reform Gathering, an AIAI position paper was developed which included fifteen recommendations to be presented and ratified at the AIAI Annual General Assembly. It is the hope and intent to move the AIAI funding reform positions forwarded to the Chiefs of Ontario approach and to assist in the Assembly of First Nations funding task teams' work.

Post Secondary

In 2016, the federal government made a commitment to increase funding for the Post-Secondary program but unfortunately it did not occur. In the 2017 budget announcement there is a national commitment of \$90 million over two years. First Nations are still waiting for the funding to flow at this time.

Another new development this year is changes to the provincial Ontario Student Assistance Program.

Consultation with First Nations have begun with AIAI having representation on the Chiefs of Ontario OSAP Transformation Working Group. Information and engagement sessions have been set up along with an OSAP helpline for First Nation students.

AIAI Bilateral with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

Two meetings have been held with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The meetings provided the opportunity for First Nations to engage with various provincial ministries on education issues affecting First Nations. In the education sector, such items identified were, revisions to the Education Act, Ontario Works housing subsidy for post-secondary students and curriculum development. A draft work plan has been developed and a future meeting will be held with the Ministries to finalize the work plan.

Education con't

Ministry of Education Partnership 2016

During the 2016-2017, AIAI education continued to have a partnership with the Ministry of Education on identified initiatives. Initiatives that occurred this past year was the Youth Development Camp held in August 2016 for thirty Grade 5-8 students; the Promising Practice Gathering for twenty-five educators in Hiawatha in May 2016, and the continuation of the Oneida sign language initiative.

Education Partnership Program Initiative

Effective February 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partnership agreement was signed between five of AIAI First Nations, the Ministry of Education and Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada for the purpose to creating initiatives to improving student success. It involved working with the partners and First Nations on drafting a MOU, a work plan, presentations to the First Nations communities for ratification, planning the signing ceremony and a proposals. Some of the initiatives to be implemented in the upcoming years includes the existing initiatives with the Ministry of Education, community language strategies, an Oneida graduation coaching pilot project, Batchewana Student Well-being program and Wahta Mohawk school-based Resource Centre.

AIAI Education Meetings

Throughout the year, the Association held three Education meetings with First Nations. The meetings provide an opportunity for First Nations to receive information and to discuss education issues that impact First Nations. Positions were formulated and forwarded to the AIAI Chiefs Council for approval and forwarded to the Chiefs of Ontario Education Coordination Unit for an Ontario approach.

Advocacy

AIAI Chiefs Council participated in two lobby efforts. In November 2016, the Chief Council lobbied the federal government regarding funding for post-secondary and participated in the Chiefs of Ontario's Days in the Legislature on provincial issues. Provincial issues included post-secondary housing subsidy, surplus schools, curriculum reviews etc.

Policy Analysis Services

Additional technical support was provided to the Batchewana to research a Special Education MOU with an area school board, staffing positions, Jordan Principles process and education restructuring. Also, orientation and staffing requests were provided to the Delaware Nation.

In summary,

It has been an encouraging and rewarding year for all of us involved in education in seeing new funding to the First Nations from the federal government and implementing partnership initiatives from the Ministry of Education. So let's begin a new journey, as we embark on the new tri party AIAI Education Partnership program's initiatives.



Health / Social Advisory Board

H/SAB Strategic Planning Priorities

The H/SAB has developed issue papers for each of their six (6) strategic plan priorities:

Health Care Service Provision

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)
Mental Health
Elder Abuse Prevention
Elder Housing and Support Care
Community Safety & Security

Health Care Management & Operation

Funding & Reporting issues

Family Revitalization

Environment

Housing

Safe Drinking Water

1. Key Points: Mental Health Issues Paper

Increased resources for youth and male services
Housing – overcrowding, emergency housing, supportive, second stage
Increase in mental health workers in community
Support for culturally based services
Wage parity
Transportation issues
Increased resources for infrastructure
Increased resources for Addictions workers
Suicide prevention resources

Significant Outcome(s):

Provincially through their Journey Together initiative, a request for proposals will be issued to communities to address service and accessibility gaps. The Ontario and federal governments will be establishing up to six (6) new or expanded Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions treatment centres, both on and off-reserve.

2. Key Points: Elder Abuse Prevention Issue Paper

- Elder Abuse takes many forms including: Physical, Emotional, Mental, Spiritual, Financial and etc. Government Funding Discrimination;
- Elder Abuse may be perpetrated by Care Givers; Family Members. Professionals such as Doctors & Personal Support Workers; Friends and other Community Members;
- There are no resources nor programming to support elders who are experiencing abuse; there is no safety net when they are in need of safe spaces, counselors or advocates;
- Lack of awareness amongst community members on what is elder abuse.
- Recommended support funding and capacity for the member Nations to have specialized programming that focuses on family violence (elder abuse) prevention in the communities. This program would focus on educating and training of community workers and members on family violence and prevention efforts.
- Recommended infrastructure and funding to support safe spaces for elders in the member Nation communities.

Significant Outcomes:

AIAI in collaboration with member Nations has developed an Elder Abuse Prevention Tool Kit and Awareness campaign. Kits will be distributed to the communities in the very near future.

Health / Social Advisory Board con't...

3. Key Points: Elder's Housing and Support Care Issue Paper

- Communities are in need of capacity and funding to support long-term planning for their older adult population and to begin program realignment/development to support the needs of their older populations.
- Additional levels of programming, services and facilities to care for and support the older population is needed.

The member Nations have identified the following items to help support and care for their older adults and elders:

- Assisted living/community living programs and infrastructure
 - Long-term care facilities
 - Affordable housing and housing support programs
 - An increased in the number of support staff such as personal support workers and home markers.
- AIAI Nations expressed the need for approximately 3-10 additional PSW's and/or Homemakers to adequately support and care for their elders, totaling approximately \$1.2M annually.

Significant Outcomes:

Through the First Nation Advisory Committee on Home Care Engagement (Tripartite table), the federal and provincial government has earmarked \$10.5M for Home and Community Care and palliative care. First Nations can use their discretion for utilizing their allocation. Funding formulas will be determined in June 2017.

4. Key Points: Environmental Issues Paper

- Nuclear Waste Storage in the Canadian Shield – there are concerns with the long-term effects such as waste spilling into the ground and seeping into the water sources and impacting the environment and all life forms.
- Close proximity to landfill sites – land and air contamination.
- Watershed - There is no money for consulting on the expansion of landfills or participation in long-term remediation

Cultural Impacts:

- Loss of traditional medicines due to ground/soil contamination
- Loss of First Nations' connectedness to the land and their natural environment
- Overuse and loss of habitat for wildlife. This has impacted traditional ways of life – hunting and gathering.

Capacity and Resources:

- Lack of capacity to review and respond to environmental assessments
- Lack of financial supports to allow First Nations to address recommendations made by Environmental Health Officers to manage health risks associated with the environment.
- Lack of human resources to address communicable disease control i.e. health surveillance, investigation and education.

Significant Outcomes:

There is potential for the federal government (Min of Environment and Climate Change) to establish an Ontario First Nations Environmental Issues Table.

Provincially, the government is in the process of establishing a Political Table on Environment and Climate Change with the Political Confederacy to seek direction on climate change and other environmental concerns.

Health / Social Advisory Board con't...

5. Key Points: Housing Issues Paper

- Severe shortage of housing available to meet the growing needs of the population. One member Nation will require an additional 654 housing units within 20 years (at 2015). To reach their housing demand, it will cost that First Nation \$60.8M.
- Overcrowding and multi-family dwellings (approx. one quarter (23.4%) of FN Adults live in overcrowded housing, compared to Canadian adults at 7%)
- High prevalence of household mold or mildew
- Lack of access to potable water (35% of FN adults do not have a main water supply in their home for safe drinking water).
- Substandard housing units that include insufficient sewer/septic system, lack of electricity and heating sources, improper insulation, improper ventilation, rodent infestation, etc.
- Need increased funding for site development and site servicing.
- Access to additional land for expansion of community, timelines of the Addition to Reserves (ATR) process as problematic.

Significant Outcomes:

INAC and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) are currently engaging First Nations on a National Housing Strategy. CMHC committed to having their consultants reach out to AIAI member Nations to foster better working relationships.

6. Key Points: Safe Drinking Water Issue Paper

- The federal government violates this basic human right and disrespects the spirit and intent of the original treaties by not properly responding to the on-going boil water advisories and sanitation issues that are occurring within the member Nations. The lack of response in addressing safe drinking puts community members' health at risk and exposes them to potential life threatening scenarios.
- There is a severe lack of funding to secure, upgrade and/or maintain water treatment systems, groundwater wells, sanitation facilities, personal septic systems within the member Nation communities.
- In comparison to provincial and territorial systems, there are no regulations governing safe drinking water and sanitation on reserve to protect on-reserve residents of First Nation communities. Since 2006, the federal government has used contract law (direct funding agreements) to govern safe drinking water on reserve. This has resulted in First Nation communities living without comparable protection and access to safe drinking water and sanitation as those living off-reserve. This issue continues to exist even with the passing of Bill S-8 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act.

Significant Outcomes:

The federal government has recently reinstated the Circuit Rider Training (operator training).

Ontario and the federal government is working as part of a Trilateral Working Group on drinking water to develop a plan to eliminate long-term drinking water advisories in Ontario and develop long-term solutions. \$33.6M allocated to ending water advisories

Environmental Symposium

Environmental shifts have reformed cultural ways of being, insomuch that the well-being of current and future generations have been undeniably impacted. To address these growing concerns AIAI hosted an environmental meeting. The focus was identifying AIAI specific climate change and environmental issues, as well as an opportunity to exchange information with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and other pertinent presenters. This two-day meeting facilitated discussion on nuclear waste, line 9 pipeline, traditional knowledge, environmental jurisdiction, and provincial governmental initiatives.



- Informed the Member Nations on newly implemented and upcoming environmental policy
- The session assisted in setting the foundation for future AIAI environmental strategies

Men's Gathering

This year A.I.A.I. organized another Walking In Balance event with the focus on Men's Roles in the community, their family and their culture. This was a very successful event that was well received and received much enthusiasm for a second event. The speakers in attendance were Jane Burning, Tom Porter, Michael Bisson, Lotunt Hunyust and Brent Stonefish. Each one contributed in a different field to bring awareness to the event from language, to the men's role or the spirits journey. Many of the nations that attended have expressed an interest for another event with a similar theme.

Lisa Jackson expanded on the event by saying "Walking in Balance II is the follow up to our initial forum held in 2015. Out of those discussions on the issues of MMIW came the need to have in-depth discussions on the role of Indigenous men; in healthy relationships and addressing family violence. We have some excellent First Nations knowledge keepers that shared their thoughts, work and way of life; and how each and every one of us has a role to play towards that end." If there is another Walking In Balance event than it is with great hope that even more will be able to attend and we can assist with spreading a good message.



Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Decision

Federal Immediate Relief Funding

On January 26, 2016 the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT or the Tribunal) issued its decision regarding the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society Human Rights complaint and found that the Federal Government of Canada was racially discriminating against First Nations children living on-reserves. In this finding, the tribunal has ordered the federal government to immediately stop applying its limited and discriminatory definition of Jordan's Principle and to immediately take measures to reform their First Nations Child and Families Services program. In response to the tribunal decision, the federal government announced through the 2016 Federal Budget, that they would be committing \$71,000,000 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to Child Welfare prevention services. Ontario Region received \$5.83 million for immediate relief prevention funding and it was distributed to Ontario First Nations communities in December 2016.

On February 8 2017, AIAI hosted an Information Session on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Decision for the member Nations which was facilitated by Judith Rae, a lawyer from Olthuis Keer Townshed LLP. Judith Rae provided an overview of the decision, its legal implications and the current status of the INAC following through on the orders of the tribunal.

Beginning in January 2017, the Chiefs of Ontario Social Services Coordination Unit (SSCU) and the technical staff of Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), and staff of Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada (INAC -Ontario Region) have been coming together to discuss and formulate recommendations on future federal prevention funding and the reform of INAC's First Nations Child and Family Services program. To date, the trilateral technical working group have been focused on 2017-2018 federal prevention funding and working towards formulating recommendations for leadership on how this 2017-2018 prevention funding should be distributed to Ontario First Nation communities. Recommendations are forthcoming and will be presented to leadership in the very near future.

BILL 89: SUPPORTING CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ACT, 2016

On December 8, 2016, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, Michael Coteau tabled Bill 89: Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2016, in the Ontario Legislature. The proposed bill would create the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, and would replace the Child and Family Services Act.

On April 6, 2017 Grand Chief Peters presented to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy regarding Bill 89 and discussed the significance of First Nation Jurisdiction over Child Welfare, highlighted concerns with the new bill and made recommendations on improving the structure of the indigenous considerations.

Following the Standing Committee presentation, AIAI wrote follow-up correspondence to the Ontario Premier to restate the concerns and recommendations and to call for the Bill to be placed in abeyance until these considerations are properly addressed. AIAI will continue to monitor the progress of Bill 89 and continue to advocate that First Nation jurisdiction and considerations are properly addressed.

little bit of body text

In Loving Memory



Art Vowles - Councillor - Hiawatha First Nation

Viola Stonefish - Elder - Delaware First Nation

Josie Dodge - Elder - Caldwell First Nation

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