

ASSOCIATION OF IROQUOIS AND ALLIED INDIANS

Revitalizing our Solidarity

May 30, 31 & June 1

Hosted by
Delaware Nation

2012



43RD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Vision

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians is committed to protect, defend and enhance the inherent rights of the member Nations while creating mutual respect and understanding among and between the member Nations.

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians will build trust, acceptance of responsibility of all citizens of the member Nations to ensure strength of unity.

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians will utilize the knowledge and wisdom of our past to empower our peoples to create a better future to allow the full expression of our right of self determination in the reestablishment of our Nations.

Mission

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians will assist member Nations to meet their goals and aspirations and will be an advocate and a lobbyist with external governments.

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians will ensure that they have well-trained staff to carry out the goals and objective that have been established by the member Nations.

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians will complete this work by lobbying external governments; participating in national and regional assemblies; and by creating any processes that communities require for the resolution of their issues.

Adopted May 23, 1998
Tyendinaga First Nation



Welcome from Delaware Nation

Greetings

On behalf of the Lenape peoples of the community of Delaware Nation, also known as Moraviantown, I welcome you to our territory. We are honored to be hosting the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians 43rd Annual General Assembly; I look forward to your visit and a productive meeting.



The Delaware Nation has been connected with AIAI since its inception, and the citizens of our Nation have been involved at all levels of the Association. We continue to extend our full support for a collective approach to our common opportunities and challenges.

Our peoples, The Lenape people, originated in what is now the United States in the areas of the East Coast around New York, New Jersey and the Delaware Valley. After the invasion of our territories we were forced out of our homelands. Nevertheless, we have a long history of treaties with both the English and the Americans which remain unresolved to this day. We settled in this Moraviantown in 1792 and built a prosperous community on the North side of the river. The village was destroyed in October of 1813 after the battle of the Thames. It was during this same battle that Tecumseh was killed.

We were a strong agricultural community and hosted a fall fair for years, which was unrivaled in its day. Where the fairgrounds were once located you can now see our ball diamonds and community centre. Today, we have a population of 550 and despite our size we have been very competitive in sports, fastball in particular.

During the tour we will be showcasing our new store, restaurant and the Pre Contact Village that we built in partnership with the Indigenous Education Coalition.

I hope you find your short stay with us relaxing and friendly. We all look forward to sharing a laugh with old friends as well as establishing new ones.

Chief Greg Peters
Delaware Nation



Welcome from Grand Chief

On behalf of the Chiefs Council, the Executive and the staff at the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, I am honoured to extend a welcome to everyone to the territory of the Delaware Nation. It is also my privilege and pleasure to extend our thanks and acknowledge the Lenape people and the Delaware Nation Council for being the 2011-2012 host community for this 43rd Annual General Assembly.

I am also pleased to present the 2011-2012 Annual Report. It provides the member Nations the opportunity to join us in stepping back and reflecting on the significant activities that have occurred around a variety of issues, events and topics.

Our agenda this year focuses on a separation of the required corporate procedural business and the political agendas. We will also be holding a by-election for the remaining two years of the Grand Chief's term. In addition, we have extended an invitation to both the Assembly of First Nations' National Chief, Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, and Chiefs of Ontario's Regional Chief, Angus Toulouse to address the national and regional current and future activities that impact the member Nations. As this is an election year for both the National and Regional positions, we may also hear their election platforms.

Based on the Canada-First Nations Joint Action Plan, the Crown-First Nations Gathering, the Ipperwash Roundtable priorities and, the many legislative pieces that are being tabled, it is clear that both the Federal and Provincial governments do not wish to pursue the partnership relationships that is outlined in the Treaties. Even the much-heralded United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is viewed by Canada as having no legal standing. Therefore, this forum will be seeking direction on collectively moving forward. This brings me to our AGA theme:

The member Nations and Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians are on a journey.
A journey that will move us towards

“Revitalizing Our Solidarity”

as the Nations we once were and as the Nations we continue to be today.

Denise Stonefish
Grand Chief

Grand Chief

Denise Stonefish

2011 – 2012 Annual Report

Kuwiingu-neewulomwa (Lenape greetings to all) and as a member of the Lenape (Delaware) Nation, I am honoured to welcome you to Moraviantown, your host of the 43rd Annual General Assembly of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI).



The Association saw a change in leadership at end of the first quarter whereby I have had the privilege to serve, again, as your Grand Chief. It is always an honour to represent the member Nations and the Chiefs Council, and it gives me great pleasure to present this year's Grand Chief's report which starts off a busy reporting cycle for the member Nations of the Association.

Note: Some of the topic areas may also appear in other departmental reports and may contain current information up to the printing of this report.

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians



Town Hall on Provincial Elections

On October 3, 2011, AIAI hosted a Town Hall (at the N'Amerind Friendship Centre) to foster public awareness and knowledge on First Nations issues whereby a welcoming address was provided to the secured provincial party candidates and to First Nations citizens who viewed this live-streamed event.

Senate Presentation – Education

Standing Senate Committees are recognized for their contributions to influence proposed legislation and government policy. Most bills are referred to these standing committees after being passed at the first and second reading in the Senate. It is during this stage of the legislative process that the bills are examined in detail. As a part of the examinations, these standing committees sometimes hear from witnesses who may not otherwise have an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in a Senate committee meeting.

In October 2011, AIAI provided evidence relevant to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples that was examining the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations on issues concerning First Nations Education.

The evidence presented AIAI's position affirming First Nations jurisdiction over their education systems and that they should be student-based and community centered. To briefly summarize, it was felt that the governance structure must allow diversity and being First

Nations controlled would empower First Nations to develop their own laws and policies, manage schools, have partnership agreements, advocate, have parental engagement strategies, local curriculum development, language and cultural initiatives.

Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA)

This agreement is a tripartite initiative between Canada, Ontario and First Nations' governments in Ontario. It promotes resource and economic development initiatives of First Nations members by providing financial assistance (up to a maximum of \$35,000) to support a variety of projects that connect cultural, economic and natural resource development, management, harvesting and conservation.

On behalf of the First Nations, AIAI along with the other Political Territorial Organizations (PTOs) are signatories to this agreement.

It is noted that funding for 2012/2013 and beyond is subject to the renewal of the Agreement. AIAI has been informed that proposals will continue to be received (up to October 2, 2011) and reviewed in anticipation of a renewal. Should the renewal not occur, then, proposals will not be approved.

National Forum on First Nations Citizenship

In November 2011 the Assembly of First Nations facilitated dialogue to seek input and views on reasserting First Nations' rights to determine their membership (citizenship) and planning for the future.

Their agenda included some of the following components:

- **Scene Setting.** "First Nation governments and their citizens are embarking on journeys of reconnection and restoration of their inherent jurisdiction over citizenship to correct the interference from the Indian Act and varying entitlements and disentanglements to share the legal status of 'Indian'."
- **Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.** "The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) produced a landmark report, following extensive engagement and research. RCAP's 440 recommendations remain relevant and point to a path forward for fundamentally transforming the relationship between Canada and First Nations."
- **How Parliament Can Support First Nation Interests.** Discussions on "how Members of Parliament & Senators, as well as Parliamentary processes can support First Nation interests to achieve self-governance".
- **Action Planning.** "Focus on action planning on ways to bring the conversation home, to facilitate dialogue at the Regional, Treaty, Nation and community level and to develop specific recommendations for National processes to be considered by Chiefs-in-Assembly."
- **Reflecting on Regional Processes.** "An update on the actions taken by Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to develop their own citizenship codes, including the engagement process, challenges they face, current status of citizenship code development across the FSIN and additional considerations for all First Nations."

- ***Inclusion & Reconnection.*** “Presentation on the Anishinabek Nation’s consultation processes on E-dbendaagzjig Naaknigewin (belonging to the nation) and the development of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin draft constitution.”
- ***Considerations in Assuming Jurisdiction.*** “Provides an overview of the Nisga’s citizenship act and constitution, including reintroduction of traditional determinants of citizenship, exercising their inherent right to self-determination, the consultation process and addition of rules on non-Aboriginals becoming Nisga’s citizens.”
- ***Toolkit – Facilitating Community Dialogue on First Nation Citizenship.*** “The purpose of this toolkit is to provide information to support community and Nation-level dialogue on citizenship, understanding that each and every Nation will affirm their own approach that is directed by their citizens, consistent with their cultures and traditions.”

The documents and presentations are posted at:

<http://firstnationcitizenship.afn.ca/index.php/en/news-events/upcoming-events/national-forum>

Cancer Care Ontario

On November 4, 2011, I met with Alethea Kewayosh, Acting Director for Aboriginal Cancer Control. Her purpose was to garner support from First Nations PTO leadership in providing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis (FNIM) perspective to the full continuum of cancer care (from prevention to palliation, research and surveillance).

In the Ontario Cancer Plan (OCP III), Cancer Care Ontario is committed to improving cancer services along every step of the patient journey, including addressing FNIM cancer control issues/needs through an Aboriginal Cancer Strategy (ACSII).

It is felt that in order to increase education awareness, increase participation rates for cancer screening, increase focus on palliative and supportive care needs of FNIM and to sensitize and educate cancer facilities/providers to the needs/issues of FNIM, this Aboriginal Cancer Strategy II will need to recognize and respect FNIM governance and relevant protocols. Cancer Care Ontario will need to work with FNIM groups and Aboriginal health agencies to develop networks to identify and develop partnerships, and collaborative opportunities to address issues.

As part of this ACSII, a report is being developed that outlines who will be served by the strategy, why an aboriginal cancer strategy is necessary, the accomplishments and challenges in ACSII. The report will describe the six priorities: 1) relationship building, 2) cancer prevention, 3) cancer screening, 4) palliative and supportive care, 5) research and surveillance, 6) knowledge translation and exchange) and, setting Realistic targets will be outlined by 2015.

Early Learning Summit

On November 21, 2011, I participated at this summit that was held in the Ojibways of Batchewana territory. This session provided member Nations the opportunity to discuss the Ontario government's Full-time Kindergarten initiative; the implementation of this underfunded program into First Nations; and, to collectively discuss an overarching AIAI Early Learning vision.

Education Committee Meeting

As we were scheduled to be in Batchewana during the week of November 21st, I had the opportunity to sit in with some member Nations' Chiefs and their representatives to the AIAI Education Committee.

Strategic Planning Session

This planning session was held on November 23 & 24, 2011 in Batchewana. Planning is a critical component of good management and governance. It helps to ensure that AIAI remains relevant and responsive to the needs of the member Nations and contributes to its stability and growth. This process enables an organization to look into the future in an orderly and systemic way. From a governance perspective, it enables the Chiefs Council to set direction to guide AIAI and provide focus to the Executive and staff for implementation and focus. As a result of this strategizing, a recommendation to approve the revised Vision and Mission Statement will be an agenda item for the Annual General Assembly.



**Rochelle Cornelius, Executive Assistant and
Grand Chief Denise Stonefish**

Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare

On December 1, 2011, Commissioner Lewis came to AIAI's London office to provide a personal update on the Commission's activities relating to developing and implementing solutions to ensure the sustainability of child welfare.

They have completed their first discussion paper in July 2011. This paper looks at the "challenges facing Aboriginal children, families and communities and represents the Commission's commitment to developing an Aboriginal child welfare sector that reflects those unique considerations."

The discussion paper concentrates on the following components:

- History
- Aboriginal people in Ontario
- Current landscape of aboriginal child welfare in Ontario
- Realizing a Child Welfare System that Works for Aboriginal Children and Youth
- Reconfigure CAS Structures and Service Delivery
- Changing the Funding Approach for Aboriginal Child Welfare
- Developing a New Approach to Accountability and System Management
- Strengthening and Improving Service Delivery

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

This session was sponsored by both the Assembly of First Nations and the United Nations, and took place in Ottawa on December 5, 2011.

The International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) is legally binding and provides a legal framework that can be used to bring attention to racial discrimination by signatory States.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention by its State (countries) parties.

States party to the Convention undergo routine implementation reviews, and must submit a report for evaluation. Canada was up for CERD review in February 2012.

Shadow reports are accepted by the Committee as part of the review process. Shadow reports can provide critical perspectives on a State's performance. The AFN, among several other First Nation bodies, submitted shadow reports. Due to staff capacity limitations at AIAl, we were

unable to submit a report. However, this session brought the opportunity for future review periods to our attention.



**Minister Wynne and Grand
Chief Stonefish**

Ontario Caucus Session

This session was held the mornings prior to the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly on December 7 and 8, 2011. Topics of discussion included Attawapiskat, Crown-First Nations Gathering, AANDC Education Information System, Summary Report on First Nation Jurisdiction over First Nation Education in Ontario, Support for Matawa First Nations (Judicial Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) and Trilateral First Nations Health Senior Officials Committee.

Other updates included the following:

First Nations Rights to Travel Freely: Current status indicated that the new secure Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) card may be used as an acceptable form of identification when entering the United States by land. AANDC (INAC) will still maintain controls on issuing cards certifying that the individual is a registered First Nation citizen. However, this new CIS is still not fully implemented and citizens have to travel directly to AANDC headquarters in Quebec to receive the new card.

Next steps:

1. First Nations communities in Ontario affirm their inherent jurisdiction to assert First Nation citizenship and identity in these matters.
2. First Nations communities in Ontario support the longterm goal of developing an Indigenous Passport to reflect individuals' citizenship and Nationhood.

3. Seek resources to establish a panel of experts to address the planning, monitoring and policy development related to cross border issues.
4. Recognizing that First Nations maintain the right to determine their citizens regardless of residence and the right to issue documentation accordingly.
5. Canada and the United States must continue to observe that the Jay Treaty is an agreement that guarantees First Nations border crossing rights on both sides of the border.

First Nations Policing Services: Current status indicates that COO has a technical working group under the Ipperwash Implementation process that is developing a comprehensive strategy which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2012 for Chiefs-in-Assembly presentation.

The comprehensive strategy will focus on:

1. Policy reforms that ensure First Nation policing services are reflected as essential services.
2. Addressing the critical underfunding.
3. A new framework for negotiating First Nation policing agreements and a new five-year funding arrangement.
4. Examine new models for legislation in Ontario.

Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing

This Steering Committee is an organized group of professional people dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Ontario First Nations by protecting, recognizing, and maintaining First Nations Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in regards to housing. Their mandate is to protect and maintain Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to housing, provide technical and political advice, recommendations and strategies to the Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario's Political Confederacy and Chiefs-in-Assembly on all matters pertaining to First Nations housing and related issues.

In addition to the OFNSTC on Housing, there is the Allocation Working Group where the main objective is to "ensure a fair and equitable allocation methodology for CMHC Programs and other AANDC Special Initiative Funding are coordinated to achieve the best results for First Nations". This committee meets at a minimum of two times per fiscal year.

Since this committee had been without representation at this table for some time, I have participated in the last two meetings on AIAI's behalf. Some of the topics of discussion are as follows:

- Committee representation
- A proposal to the OFNLP to possibly access funds for investment in a type of Housing Trust fund
- Banking, Investments and Trusts. Brief discussion on the recent court case that exempts First Nations investments from taxes. The commentary surrounded banking, investments and trusts. It was felt that First Nations should not continue to enrich the mainstream banks and we should be investing in our own institutions

- Indigenous building Science Centre of Excellence. Discussions pertaining to where First Nations could learn about sustainable green (environment) buildings, building products, tools, training, demonstrations and information resources. In addition, the possibility of developing a First Nations web-site for resource information on green building and energy efficiencies. It was felt that this will provide assistance to Ontario First Nations to have information located in one easy accessible location
- Holmes on Homes Project. This project has been slated for Whitefish (Atmashing) and is a trilateral partnership whereby Whitefish is providing 100% funding for the buildings and CMHC and INAC is being looked at to assist in the development of approximately 30 to 40 lots. Holmes will also assist in updating the First Nations Illustrated Housing Code (that outlines the minimum standards for health and safety). Holmes will also include Green aspects.

AIAI Name Change

Resulting from the Resolution No. 02-11 the AIAI Chiefs Council to undertake a formal review process for the name “Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians.” It was felt that the name no longer reflected the current and historic Nation alliance. A meeting was scheduled for March 28, 2012. This issue is an agenda item for the 2012 Annual General Assembly whereby an update is to be provided by Hiawatha’s Chief, Sandra Moore.

Communications

XFM Radio Interview: Participated with this local London radio station that is a part of the curricula of both the University of Western and Fanshawe College programs. This took place on December 1, 2011 at AIAI’s London office. The subject of the interview was the Attawapiskat situation. A second interview took place after the Crown-First Nations Gathering that was held on January 24, 2012.

London Free Press: A news article resulted from an interview regarding the Crown-First Nations Gathering.

Chiefs of Ontario

Political Confederacy

Strategic Policy: The PC’s post-provincial Election Discussions on setting the agenda and implementation included topics related to Jurisdiction, inclusive of Resource Benefit Sharing; Free, Prior and Informed Consent; and is based on Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions. Ontario Regional Chief Toulouse spoke of NDP as still being an option to push open some of those doors (jurisdiction, treaties, revenue sharing, economic certainty & prosperity, respect for the north, long term and sustainable energy planning, inherent right to trade, wellness, education and building respectful partnerships).

Resource Benefit Sharing: Between 2010 and 2011 the Resource Revenue Sharing Task force attempted to come to agreement on the terms for a resource revenue sharing agreement with the province of Ontario. This was a concept included in the recommendations of the Report of

the Ipperwash Inquiry, released in 2007. In 2008, Premier McGuinty made a public commitment of \$30 million toward establishing a RRS agreement.

A sort of negotiation process took place between First Nation and Ontario representatives, but agreement on terms could not be reached. What was \$30 million in 2008, would have been reduced to \$17 million due to drastic reductions in Ontario's Consolidated Revenue Fund (which was the limited basket from which they were willing to share).

Ultimately, the First Nation representatives on the RRS Task Force could not endorse what the province was recommending. Therefore, the negotiations were halted. First Nation leadership expressed the need for a RRS agreement, and remain open to discussing it with Ontario in the future. Meanwhile, the RRS Task Force has been directed to develop a more comprehensive strategy for any further RRS negotiations.

Proposed Federal Legislation: Routine updates were provided on Bill C-10 Safe Streets and Communities Act; Bill S-10 Matrimonial Real Property; Bill S-10 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act; and Bill C-7 Senate Reform Act.

Tobacco Trade: the legislation on Tobacco has received Royal Assent. COO as an intervener, is still waiting for the Province's Statement of Claim. Some of the discussions suggested that the Tobacco Trade should be a component of Revenue Sharing and at 50%. COO is looking to establishing a Task Force and is looking for representation. Should not use or acknowledge the word "Contraband" or a "contraband element". Should be referring to this as "Tobacco Trade".

COO Signatories: As a result of former Grand Chief Randall Phillips' resignation, the Chiefs of Ontario requires another signatory. Due to AIAI being a signatory previously, the natural progression was for AIAI to continue in this capacity. Therefore, a motion was passed to authorize myself as signatory.

Indigenous Youth Engagement Policy

The Chiefs of Ontario is mandated "to establish and advance the development of a regional youth voice responsible for advocating and promoting the development and implementation of local and regional youth priorities and initiatives."

To kick start this initiative, a "Youth Engagement Policy Forum Project" which has developed a "Brainstorming Booklet" to engage the youth in developing this new policy that will impact First Nations' youth in Ontario.

Current status: An Ontario First Nations Youth Policy Planning Team for the Youth Engagement Policy and Framework has been established to gather and provide information, resources and services to improve the engagement of the Ontario First Nations Youth.

The Chiefs of Ontario has hosted these First Nations community-based youth forums and is in the process of rolling up the information obtained from these engagement sessions.

Political Confederacy Strategic Planning Session

From November 28 to November 30, 2011, the Chiefs of Ontario's Political Confederacy held a Strategic Planning Session.

Social Services Coordination Unit

As a member of the Chiefs of Ontario's Political Confederacy, AIAI maintains the Social Portfolio and assumes the responsibility as chair of both the Social Services Coordination Unit and the Chiefs Committee on Social (SSCU). The SSCU receives its mandate via Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions and addresses a substantial amount of issues that relate to: Child Welfare, Ontario Works, Tripartite Tables, '65 Indian Welfare Agreement, responses to governmental Commission reports and preparing political recommendations to social issues challenge. Some of the issues are as follows:

- 2015 Mandatory Child Welfare Review
- The Ontario Specific Review
- Customary Care vs. Kinship Care
- Band Representation Funding and Training
- Jordan's Principle
- Ontario Works Cost of Administration and Technology
- Ontario Disability Support Programs
- Homemakers

6th Annual Health Forum

This session was held from February 28, 29 and March 1, 2012 and located in Toronto.

Treaty Region Engagement Sessions

These sessions was hosted by the Ipperwash First Nation Task Force for the purposes of facilitating exploratory discussions on First Nations interest in a Treaty Commission in Ontario. This session was also to engage the participants on what other structures and processes may be required at national and international levels to address First Nations' treaty grievances. This particular session was held on March 29, 2012. The COO wrap-up of these sessions may not be provided in time for the Annual General Assembly.

Assembly of First Nations

The AFN held its annual winter meeting from December 6, 7 and 8, 2011.

Conclusion

I take this time to acknowledge and thank the Chiefs Council for their direction and strong support. Many thanks and acknowledgement is also extended to Gord Peters, Deputy Grand Chief, for his contributions and experience. To all the staff, for your contributions, support, and commitment, a mere thank you would not encompass that you are valued and appreciated members of the organization.

In summary, another year has come and gone since we meet a year ago in the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte territory. This was an active year overall, however, it was not without its challenges. As we have the ability to adapt to the ever-changing political landscape, we continue to strengthen our relationships because the unity of our decisions will make us stronger as we collectively move forward as Nations.



AIAI Staff 2012

Deputy Grand Chief

Gordon Peters

Kwinagknowawaloma

Good morning – Today this General Assembly will be special in several ways. It will be the first time the Assembly has been streamed online to our peoples as well as to the Canadian general public. This is huge for the openness our peoples, the face of the AIAI and general public education.



The seating for the session is also consistent with the way business was conducted in the past. Finally, the path forward is being established that will allow further growth and development with all of our Communities.

The presence of youth is a vital step toward their development and will certainly put them in a position to determine what role they will play in our development today and in the future. Today as we move forward there is a sense of growing urgency to get our agenda established and start exercising our jurisdiction. Canada is doing its best to mire us in legislation, clearly with the intent to minimize our collective work, while employing the age-old practice of divide and conquer by using willing partners and optional legislation.

Recently the Chiefs Council had a dialogue about where they wanted to go. In this Assembly a proposal will be provided that speaks to the change of direction, by removing the Chiefs Council from the corporate side of AIAI to their own strictly political entity. This concept should generate an exciting discussion about building an accord, and the work following will be crucial to our long-term governance development.

I look forward to the Assembly and hope that it is productive and will challenge us all about taking responsibility for our future.

Office Manager

Geoff Stonefish



This past year the Association experienced some major changes that had the potential to negatively impact the organization. Because of the commitment of the Association's leadership and employees the organization has effectively dealt with these changes and has made progress in several different areas.

The following report gives a favourable overview of the administrative activities of the Association for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

This past year, as always, has been a busy year for the Association. The Office Manager has been guided by the 2011-12 operational plan and is pleased to report that the majority of the operational goals have been achieved.

One of the main operational goals for 2011-12 was to strengthen AIAI's approach to managing finance. This was achieved through the creation of new Finance Policies and Procedures as well as the review and changing of internal finance processes. The issue of AIAI's deferred revenue has also been addressed through the development and implementation of an expenditure plan.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the employees of the Association for their hard work and commitment to the organization and our member Nations. All have contributed to the organizations achievements over this past year.

The following will provide an overview of the highlights of the operational achievements of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians for the fiscal year 2011-12.

1. Operations

Staffing

Currently the Association is carrying a full staff complement, a total of eighteen (18) full time employees. Two new employees have been hired this past fiscal year, Communications Coordinator, John Jones and Social Development Policy Analyst, Stan Cloud. Both bring diverse experience to their positions and have proven to be a benefit to the organization.

Over the last two years nine (9) vacant positions have been filled and the Association has experienced no staff turnover in the past year.

Finance

As directed by the 2010-11 General Assembly, the Association was instructed to put a call out for a new External Auditor. The successful company was MNP LLP. They have been hired to conduct the external audit on the Association's financial statements starting with the 2011-12 fiscal year.

A new Finance Policy has also been implemented by the Association. The new policy replaces a "dated" policy that had major gaps and did not adequately serve the needs of the Association.

Along with the new Finance Policy the Association has changed some of the finance practices by adding more "checks and balances" to certain processes and has also started to adjust budget line items so that they are more efficient and accurately reflect departmental spending.

Deferred Revenue

As you are aware the Association has accumulated a significant amount of deferred revenue over the last several years. The Association's external auditor has consistently encouraged management and Chiefs Council to develop a plan and start to expend the deferred revenue.

The Chiefs Council has approved an expenditure plan for 2011-12 as well as 2012-13. The 2011-12 expenditure plan has been implemented and once the 2012-13 plan is implemented the majority of the deferred revenue will be expended. The Office Manager will present the detailed plans at the AGA.

Policy/Human Resources

The Office Manager has undertaken an annual review of our Operating and Employee Policies to ensure that AIAI is compliant with current employment legislation and standards.

The following new policy or additions to policy have been developed and approved this past year:

- Overall Finance Policy
- AIAI company vehicle policy
- AIAI Overtime Policy (revised)

Along with the development and amending of policy the Association has started to change some of the internal Human Resource systems within the organization. A new time/vacation/sick tracking system will be implemented this year, replacing the old system of time sheets and a sign in book.

2. Strategic Planning

The Association continued this year with its annual strategic planning process. The overall strategic provides the Association direction on member Nation priorities. A strategic planning meeting was held in November 2011 in Batchewana.

Communities had the opportunity to review a Draft Strategic Plan and provide input and potential solutions to the issues defined in each strategic plan.

The Association will plan to host a "Strategic Planning" session early in the 2012 fiscal year.

3. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs – Relationship

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has Protocol or Relationship agreements with each of the PTOs and other organizations in Ontario, with the exception of AIAI. A decision was made by the AIAI member Nations not to pursue a formal relationship with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, but agreed that the AIAI could maintain an "Administrative" relationship for funding and program purposes.

This past year the AIAI accessed funding to assist with the Governance Forum which was held in March 2012.

The Office Manager has had a series of meetings with Ministry staff regarding this year's work plan priorities and funding levels.

4. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

As reported in previous years the Association has maintained a working relationship at the administrative level with AANDC. This working relationship continued this past fiscal year. It is still a goal of AIAI to enter into a longer term funding relationship with AANDC and discussions will continue on this issue.

As with all federal departments, AANDC has been directed to cut its budget by 10%. The Association may be affected by this funding cut, but the full extent is not known at the time of this writing. A further update will be provided at the AGA.

5. Constitutional Review

As per the AIAI Constitution the Constitution needs to be reviewed at least once every two years. The last review was completed in 2009-10 with amendments presented at the 2010 AGA in Oneida. A formal review will need to be completed by the AIAI Chiefs Council via a "Constitutional Committee" by next year's Annual General Assembly (2013). The Chiefs Council has the mandate to create this committee and no action is required from this Annual General Assembly.

Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy

Suzanne Nicholas, AHWS Coordinator

Transition in to the New Governance Model of AHWS

The fiscal year of 2011-2012 was coined as a Transition Year for AHWS funded projects and "partners" to move into a new model of Governance.

During this year, funds were disbursed through use of a Grant Letter from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Through this Grant Letter there were no "agreements" to be signed by the Association. The Ministry outlined their expectations in a Grant Letter and then sent out the money. Acceptance if the funds demonstrated that we had accepted the terms of the letter.

There were other areas of the transition process which included: introduction of a draft Overarching Agreement, development/introduction of a new reporting model, training at the PTO level for completion of a Transfer Payment Budget Package.

Overarching Agreement

A draft Overarching Agreement was presented by the MCSS at a first review on June 23 & 24, 2011 in Delaware Nation of the Thames. The MCSS staff did an initial walk through of the agreement pointing out areas that were the same from the previously used "Implementation Agreement". They also provided their own interpretation of certain areas of the agreement. From this initial review there was issue/comments made in the following areas:

- Concern over the mention of need for projects to be networking cost sharing (potential lower funding levels)
- Concern of the mention of services to be provided for First Nation, Aboriginal, Metis and Inuit People

The First Nations Management Table (consists of AIAI, UOI, NAN) also did a review of the agreement and had begun the process of changing some of the wording to reflect a "First Nations" document. This document was then reviewed by Chiefs of Ontario lawyer Krista Yao. She suggested wording changes to ensure that FN rights were reflected, as well as government to government relationships as opposed to government to organization as previously worded.

A third internal review for AIAI occurred on November 27, 2011 in Hiawatha First Nation. At this time it was decided by the group that all references to Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit be removed and that this would only reflect First Nations programs and services being offered. This created a final document to be submitted to AIAI Chiefs Council.

AIAI Chiefs Council approved the agreement and it has been submitted by the First Nations Table who presented the agreement jointly to the ministry between AIAI, UOI, and NAN as a collaborative group. As of this date the agreement has not been fully approved. There was minor feedback received from the Ministry personnel, pertaining to the insertion of “Primary Health Care Services” that may be provided.

The Signing Ceremony for this Agreement has been scheduled for August 1, 2012 in Fort William between the Grand Chiefs of the PTO’s involved and Minister Miloy.

Development of Service Contracts for 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Funding

Activity/service projections were made by the AIAI AHWS funded projects and submitted to AHWS via a Transfer Payment Budget Package. This package has been used by the AHWS to develop a Service Contract which will cover funds to be paid for the 2012-2013 year.

A Service Contract for the 2012-2013 year funding has been signed by Grand Chief Stonefish. Funds will be paid in quarterly installments for the fiscal year.

Communications

John Jones, Communications Coordinator



Though the communications position had been vacant for some time; the current Coordinator has now been in the role for almost a year. The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) has definitely increased their overall profile both in the public and to their member Nations.

Online Presence

The website has been redesigned over the past year, which offers a great deal more information to the public from the different departments of the AIAI. Information is now being captured to see where the traffic is coming from and how users interact with our web pages. We have received some great feedback on our website from other organizations.

For the first time in the AIAI’s history, a live stream from the N’Amerind Friendship Center was delivered from our website, along with Nation Talk on our Town Hall on the Provincial Election.

Social media has also been embraced during the period. Our facebook page now has almost 200 likes and we get solid performance information and can see the immediate impact that posts have on the page. Similarly, our twitter account now has over a hundred followers. Our YouTube channel has over 1400 views with 16 videos having been uploaded. Our channel now has the ability to upload videos over 15 minutes long as well, which had been a hindrance. A LinkedIn company page has been created, though we are not actively using and is used merely to push viewers to our website. All company emails contain in the signature our mandate and icons that link back to one of our online mediums.

Some of our members Nations have put out their own media releases and upon request, we have additionally distributed to our normal routes which may have included website, email, and social media.

We have also posted high level jobs at the request of our member Nations.

In the Media

Our media releases have been circulated widely and are often printed in part or full at Nation Talk, Indian Country Today Media Network, Turtle Island News, Turtle Island Org, and Fanshawe College's radio station. Stories have appeared in the London Free press on a few occasions and a few of our releases have been printed in the Sault Star and the Orillia Packet and Times. The First Nation Crown Gathering provided our Executive and Chiefs an opportunity to appear in video in the Huffington Post, CBC news, audio interviews on CBC radio, and quotes in CBC news, the Globe and Mail, and London Free Press.

Monthly Update

A monthly update to be used in member Nations' newsletters has been started and will continue. The purpose will be to inform on some of the key areas the AIAI is working on along with their member Nations.

Coordination

Communication departments for the Chiefs of Ontario, PTOs, and Independent First Nations coordinated messaging prior to the First Nations Crown Gathering via conference calls. Monthly conference calls have been agreed to by all organizations as a general check-in, which should also facilitate more consistent messaging.

Summary

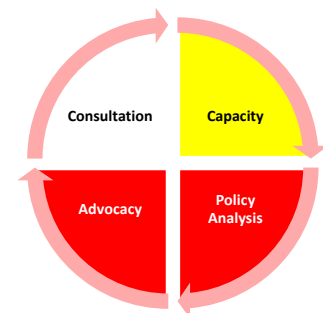
While it has been a good year for communications for the Association in general, a greater effort will be spent on overall strategy in the areas of Public Relations and Media. Media contacts and relationships must continue to be sought after and maintained. The Chiefs Council has also directed that a greater emphasis be placed on public education of both mainstream and our own membership. To this end, tools and avenues will be investigated in the coming year that will begin to meet this direction.

Education

Gina McGahey, Education Coordinator

Education Mandate

The Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians (AIAI) education services provides technical support to strengthening member Nations education management and governance capacity in areas of early learning, elementary, secondary, and Post Secondary Education. Through effective communication, networking, and capacity building, AIAI will ensure a formal consultation relationship between First Nations, federal and provincial sectors. This will empower our member Nations of their self-determination to build a brighter and stronger education future for our children.



Education Lobbying

AIAI Education Rally: In June 2011, AIAI held an Education rally at Victoria Park to raise public awareness on the continuous education underfunding by the federal government and to illustrate the impacts on Post Secondary students. It is through the driving force of our local Post Secondary students, First Nations education representatives and AIAI staff that prevailed in making the AIAI Education rally truly successful. There was an overwhelming presence of protesters who listened to the heartfelt voices of students, political speakers, as well as, the support of the NDP MP Irene Mathysen.

AFN Pre Budget Submission: In September 2011, AIAI Grand Chief among many other Chiefs lobbied the federal government during the Assembly of First Nations Chief pre-budget submission to address education underfunding.

Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples Presentation: In October 2011, AIAI made a presentation to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples illustrating AIAI's position on First Nations treaty rights to education, jurisdiction, recognizing lifelong learning, partnership support, underfunding and the commitment to improve student success. Key messages and speaking notes were prepared for the Grand Chief. As a result, AIAI presentation on partnership support was noted in the Senate Committee, "Reforming First Nations Education from Crisis to Hope" report.

Chiefs Protest Walk to Parliament Hill: In December 2011, under the leadership of Chief Dean Sayers, the AIAI Chiefs and staff participated in a walk from the Assembly of First Nations meeting to Parliament Hill demanding a response from the federal government to address education underfunding.

Respect Our Treaties Protest Walk

Finally in the cold month of January 2012, AIAI embraced a protest walk at the Crown Gathering on Parliament Hill to affirm First Nations treaty rights and to establish a government to government relationship with the Crown.



Belinda Sayers - Education Rally

Post Secondary

Authority Renewals: The federal government is currently in the process of a Post Secondary summative in preparation of the authority renewals for 2013. The report is scheduled for completion in the late summer of 2012. The federal government has indicated that the Post Secondary funding will remain at status quo for the 2012-13 fiscal year. In preparation of the authority renewals,

AIAI will be completing a Post Secondary position paper.

Ontario Post Secondary Summit: AIAI Education played an active role in planning and facilitating the Ontario Post Secondary summit in March 2012. Post Secondary technicians provided the essential focus in developing an Ontario Post Secondary position framework regarding jurisdiction, delivery structure, accessibility, underfunding, accountability and improving student success.

Post Secondary Tuition Rebate: A letter was formulated to request a meeting with the Ministry of Universities and Colleges to address AIAI concerns regarding their announcement on the Post Secondary tuition rebate. A response from the Ministry of Universities and Colleges will be forthcoming.

K-12 Program

“Student First” National Panel Engagement: The Assembly of First Nations and Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Kindergarten to Grade 12 “Nurturing the Learning Spirit of First Nations Students” report has been completed and recommends improving student success by implementing a First Nations Education Act, a National Commission, school board based model, support for additional funding and an accountability framework. In September 2012, AIAI prepared a position paper regarding jurisdiction, lifelong learning, partnership support, underfunding and a commitment to improving student success. AIAI’s position paper was utilized within the Senate Committee on Aboriginal People presentation as well as the Ontario on “Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision parallel report.

Additional support was provided by AIAI Education in the completion of briefing notes on the Senate Committee Report, “Reforming First Nation Education from Crisis to Hope” along with an analysis chart on AIAI position, the National Panel report, the Ontario report and the Crown Gathering Action Plan. This resulted in the next step of hosting an AIAI Education Gathering to develop a collective education vision and to discuss the possible impacts of legislation.

K-12 Summative Evaluation

INAC is conducting a summative evaluation on all education and proposal-based education programs which includes Post Secondary, New Paths, Band Operated funding, etc. The purpose of the summative evaluation is to assess whether the current programs are doing what they were designed to do and to make recommendations to the Treasury Board. This report is still outstanding and is scheduled for completion in the late summer of 2012. An analysis will be completed once the report is completed.

Special Education

AIAI has been instrumental in the original design of a First Nations’ special education work plan. This work plan will be utilized as a planning tool for First Nations in tracking potential surplus and deficits and to assist in developing a more realistic and true picture for a special education business case for the 2013 authority renewals. AIAI Education has and will continue to participate and express AIAI concerns to the Chiefs of Ontario – Special Education Working Group on this initiative.

Early Learning

AIAI Early Learning Summit

In November 2012, in collaboration with the AIAI Education, Social and Health Departments, an AIAI Early Learning Summit was planned and implemented. The summit was hosted in Batchewana First Nation. The purpose of the summit was to develop a collective AIAI Early Learning vision, principles, identify partnerships, barriers and to develop community-based strategies. The summit was well attended by Day Care and Headstart staff, School Principals and political delegates who provided insights and direction for the collective vision. A follow up session was provided to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in December 2011. AIAI Education was responsible for facilitating the summit and preparing the final report.



Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Early Learning Summit:

AIAI Education participated in the planning of the Chiefs of Ontario-Early Learning summit in January 2012, along with a presentation at the Ontario summit to showcase the AIAI Early Learning initiative.

Tuition Agreement

AIAI Education continues to serve as a lead for the COO-Tuition Agreement Working Group. Work completed during this period included regional tuition training sessions, the design of the resource guide and final editing. The Tuition Agreement Resource is scheduled to go into production during May 2012 with an anticipated release date in July 2012.

Education Partnerships

AIAI/IEC Education Partnership

The AIAI/IEC Education Partnership Phase One report was ratified by the member Nations of AIAI and the Indigenous Education Coalition. Each member First Nation received an individual report on their community education priorities along with an overall summary report. The collective priorities established was curriculum development in culture revitalization and languages, parental involvement initiatives, Post Secondary transition and teacher training. A Phase 2



proposal has been submitted to move forward in developing Memorandum of Understandings on potential partnerships with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the University of Western Ontario and the Ontario College of Teachers. Approval of the proposal is still pending.

Student Achievement Strategy

AIAI Education is serving as a lead in a collaborative approach with the Chiefs of Ontario, Aboriginal Affairs and AANDC on a Student Achievement Strategy. The purpose of the Student Achievement Strategy is to develop broader initiatives around Literacy/Numeracy resources, parent resource supports, infrastructure and curriculum support. So far, the Student Achievement Strategy Working Group has developed an overarching workplan along with a task force Literacy/Numeracy workplan. The workplans have been ratified by the Student Achievement Steering Committee and requires approval by the Chiefs of Ontario political Chiefs. A proposal is currently being developed.

Other Services

AIAI Meetings

AIAI Education held four Education meetings during the 2011-12 period, along with attendance at the 2011 AIAI Annual Assembly and the AIAI Retreat in June 2011. Training was provided to the AIAI Education Committee on the draft tuition agreement resource guide, special education options and workplan, e-learning resources, analysis of education reports, negotiation training and the AANDC infrastructure selection process. Additional support was provided to the AIAI Chiefs Council and the Education Directors on the analysis of education reports, newsletter articles, assemblies support and community requests. Two of the most rewarding experiences, were the interactive presentations on

Career Planning at the AIAI Math & Science Camp in July 2011 and the AIAI Elder Gathering in August 2011.

AIAI Education Funding

AIAI Education's budget has doubled during the 2011-12 fiscal year due to additional funding for serving as a lead for the tuition agreement and the Student Achievement Strategy working groups along with securing First Nation Youth Employment Strategy funding for the summer employment of Post Secondary students.

AIAI Presentations

AIAI Education has provided education presentations to the:

- Ministry of Education Circle of Life conference on tuition agreements
- Chiefs of Ontario Conferences on tuition agreements and the AIAI Early Learning initiative
- Partnership to Success Conference on setting up community education systems
- Ontario Secondary School Teacher Federation on First Nations learning and resources

AIAI Post Secondary Scholarship

New to this term is the development of an AIAI Education Scholarship for a returning Post Secondary student who has overcome barriers during their education journey. This involved developing a framework and a brochure for the AIAI Education Committee to review along with promoting of the scholarship.

Health Department Report

Cathryn Mandoka, Health Director



Feb. 2012: AIAI Health Director, Cathryn Mandoka (right), Provincial Health Minister, Deb Matthews (left)

We have experienced a very busy year within the Health Department and bring forth a great deal of accomplishments for you. All the member Nations have participated in the health arena in a very meaningful way, whether it be through voicing their issues and positions on various matters or from their direct involvement at the many meetings and information sessions held throughout the year.

This year we have six permanent staff on board within the Health Department.

The Health Department consists of:

Cathryn Mandoka- Health Director
Brandy Cornelius- Health Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Doxtator- Health Promotions Coordinator
Lisa Jackson – Responsible Gambling Coordinator

Julia Hill, Health Policy Analyst
Elly Antone- HIV/AIDS Educator

Federal Funding – Health Canada FNIHB Ontario Region

As a result of the March 2012 federal budget, AIAI has been unofficially informed that we will endure a 3.5% reduction in core health funding. Core health funding within AIAI includes the positions of Health Director, Health Assistant, Health Policy Analyst, Health Promotions Coordinator, and the Health Consultation program. Nationally, the government will trim budgets and positions within their offices for a total of \$74M. The government has committed that there will be no impacts to the programs and services delivered at the First Nations level and the Indian Residential Schools and Water and Waste Water Initiative will remain intact. There will be more information as it is unveiled by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) - Ontario Region.

Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health & Addictions Strategy for Children & Youth

MCYS, MOHLTC, and MAA announced that there will be 82 new Aboriginal Mental Health and Addictions Workers hired to address children's mental health for the region of Ontario commencing immediately. These new workers will have a budget of \$75K per worker, totaling \$6M in annualized funding and \$3M for training. It is anticipated that each worker will provide services to 50 children per year. The strategy will focus on three target areas in the first three years: Fast access to high-quality services; early identification and support; and Help for vulnerable children with unique needs.

The positions will be allocated as per the following full time equivalents:

• Central East	6.5
• Central West	3.65
• Eastern	6
• Hamilton/Niagara	6
• North East	15
• Northern	25
• South East	3.65
• South West	9
• Toronto	7.5
TOTAL	82 Positions

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

The Member Nations gave direction to create a LHINs Issues Paper. This paper was completed and a meeting has been requested with the provincial Health Minister, Deb Matthews to establish a more conducive relationship between the member Nation and the LHINs. The major area of concern is the lack of consultation processes and meaningful communication with the First Nations. The method of reporting has always been a concern since the early stages due to no representation of the First Nations on the development of reporting templates.

Trilateral First Nations Health Seniors Official Committee (TFNHSOC)

As a new approach to dealing with matters in a trilateral fashion, the three governments (First Nation/Provincial/Federal) have created the Trilateral First Nations Health Seniors Official Committee (TFNHSOC). This committee is chaired by Grand Chief Stan Beardy (Chiefs of Ontario), Deputy Minister, Saad Rafi (Ministry of Health and Long Term Care), and Assistant Deputy Minister, Michel Roy (Health Canada, FNIHB). Chief Don Maracle, Tyendinaga is AIAI's representative at the Ontario Chiefs Committee on Health along with Cathryn Mandoka as technical support. The priority areas under the TFNHSOC have been identified as the following and with working groups such as: **Mental Health** (rep. Brenda Doherty – Oneida), **Diabetes & Health Promotions and Data Management** (rep. Cathryn

Mandoka), **Public Health** (rep. Julia Hill). Some of the working groups are inactive at this time due to lack of funding.

Another area included in this initiative is the Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF) and is funded by the federal Upstream Investments. HSIF is represented by Ida Cornelius from Oneida on behalf of AIAI. The advisory committee is currently adjudicating the HSIF project proposals. AIAI thanks Ida for her dedication and time commitment to the HSIF Advisory Committee!

Community Presentations - Health

In March 2012, the Health Director and Assistant made community visits for information sharing and to clarify advocacy and communications processes within the Health Department. A presentation was provided that shared the history of AIAI; current events; communication process at the PTO, Regional and National levels; and accountability and reporting. The evaluations indicated that knowledge was increased and the presentation proved very beneficial for the frontline workers that often don't have direct involvement with AIAI.

Chronic Disease & Diabetes Summit

The Chiefs of Ontario held a Summit regarding "Chronic Diseases" and AIAI's request for a special panel presentation of "people living with diabetes" was granted. This panel was coordinated by AIAI to illustrate what it is like to live with the complications of diabetes. Carmen Jones spoke about living with a diabetes insulin pump; Amanda Powless and her 11-year old son, Tyler spoke about living with Type 1 diabetes and how they have to educate the people within the school systems regarding injections, nutrition, classroom breaks etc.; Sam Sickles spoke about home dialysis treatments while he awaits a kidney transplant; and Jared Doxtator shared information on the impacts to his sight-retinal complications. Hats off to all the speakers on a job well done! Thank you for sharing your stories.

Panorama Readiness

The provincial government is in the process of creating a new system for immunizations with a data base system being developed. This new system will incorporate all immunizations and will be accessible for all in the province of Ontario. Meetings are attended by Julia Hill and Cathryn Mandoka - further updates will be provided as developmental work progresses.

AIAI Coordinates Sessions on behalf of Health Canada – FNIHB-OR

The federal government requested AIAI's support in the coordination of the Contribution Agreement and Community Based Reporting Template (CBRT) Information Sessions for the Southern Ontario First Nations. Two sessions were coordinated in Peterborough (Nov. 13-14, 2011) and in London (Nov. 17-18, 2011) which were facilitated by FNIHB Staff, Margaret Tims and Michel Bison.

AIAI also coordinated the Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF) Sessions for Southern Ontario communities on January 17-18, 2012. The coordination of the above sessions was completed by our Health Administrative Assistant amongst all her other duties – shows real commitment.

National Aboriginal Youth Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)

The funding for this program comes from the Upstream Investments (federal government – Health Canada) and has been proposal driven until this current year, 2012-2013. The two communities within AIAI that had projects were Oneida and Batchewana. To date, the program has taken on the involvement of the youth who have been asked to create a regional workplan. The workplan entails working in the areas of life promotion campaigns via radio and public service announcements, etc. Health Canada – FNIHB has withheld \$500K as a contingency fund for communities to access who are in

crisis dealing with suicides. There will be a possible reduction in the regional workplan due to carve outs for the Independents First Nations and Grand Council Treaty #3.

AFN – First Nations Diabetes Working Group

AIAI's Health Director remains the representative participating at the AFN's First Nations Diabetes Working Group, representing all Ontario First Nations at this table with involvement of all other regions within Canada. To date, the First Nations within Ontario have direct funding to their communities for diabetes programming through the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative. The other regions have Diabetes Educators as opposed to direct allocations. This is a proud region, leaving the work to be done as community driven and appropriate to their membership. While at the meetings, Cathryn provides examples of what is being done in the communities and adds comments in the areas of research. Cathryn assisted the AFN representative, Marie Frawley-Henry with presentations regarding the Life Giving Medicine Wheel Walk, Transcendental Meditation and impacts of new insulin.

AIAI 2011 Math/Science Camp – Creator's Gifts

AIAI delivered a cultural camp for the AIAI Member Nations with emphasis on promoting interest in a Health Career. The primary components focused on math and sciences utilizing AIAI's camp curriculum, Creator's Gifts.

The four-day camp took place at the Fern Resort in Orillia the week of July 17-22, 2011 with Fire, Air, Water and Earth being the themes for each day. The camp included participation of 36 youth representing six of our eight member Nations (Hiawatha & Caldwell youth were unavailable). Presentations and workshops were provided by health and education technicians; Science Teachers; Finance Managers; MRI (Magnetic Response Imaging) Administrator; Youth Role Models; Traditional Knowledge and Medicine Keepers; and an Environmentalist/Meteorologist.

The camp was a success based on information gathered from the pre and post evaluations as well as the presenters and community evaluations.

AIAI will attempt to secure resources to host another camp for the summer of 2012. The Creator's Gift curriculum was presented as a model at the National AHHRI (Abor. Health Human Resources Initiative) Conference in February 2012 in Moncton, NB. The curriculum has been utilized by the Independent First Nations in Ontario and nationally beginning in British Columbia. This is viewed as a success due to the Youth being involved in the writing of the curriculum in 2010 led by Donna Young and coordinated by Audrey Logan.

Health Scholarship Award Recipient

For the past 22 years the Association has offered an annual \$1,000 Health Scholarship to support First Nations students that demonstrate a commitment to obtaining a career in the health field. The 2011 Health Scholarship was awarded to Lillian Sherrard a member of the Batchewana First Nation who obtained her Practical Nursing diploma through Sault College. One of Lillian's professors wrote, "Lillian displays remarkable integrity and has been successful in meeting the outcomes for each of her required courses. She is an enthusiastic, self directed and engaged as an active participant in the teaching-learning process. Lillian consistently displays professional and caring behaviour towards others whether



working in groups within the structured educational environment at the college or within her role as a health care provider at her clinical placement.”

Community Recognition Award Presentation- September 2011

Cathryn Mandoka received a Community Recognition Award from the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI) in recognition of her contributions to diabetes awareness and prevention in 2011.

Julia Hill, Health Policy Analyst

Joint Ontario Aboriginal Cancer Committee



Julia Hill preparing for an Education Rally!

In June 2011, the Health Policy Analyst participated in discussions of the renewal of the Aboriginal Cancer Strategy (ACS II). Alethea Kewayosh, Director of Aboriginal Cancer Control at Cancer Care Ontario, has gathered feedback on the ACS II from our Member Nation health technicians.

NIHB Networking Meetings

In November 2011, the Health Policy Analyst participated in the NIHB Navigator Networking meeting to discuss recurring and new issues with the NIHB program being experienced by First Nations members.

The Health Policy Analyst presented resolutions 05/11 and 07/11 to share AIAI Member Nations' concerns with the group and to seek support and/or additional information. The Navigators provided assurance that the new NIHB database housed by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) would assist in tracking these community-level issues with the NIHB program. In November 2011, AIAI sent letters to the Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq to request meetings to discuss the two resolutions. To date, no official response has been received.

On January 12, 2012, the Health Policy Analyst prepared an information/update session on NIHB and presented to health and political representatives from the Member Nations. The two Navigator positions do not have funding to expand into this fiscal year, 2012-2013.

Water

In May 2011, the Health Policy Analyst had the opportunity to participate in the Mother Earth Water Walk in Sault Ste. Marie and it was a very empowering experience! On February 29, 2012, Bill S-8 (formerly Bill S-11): *An Act respecting the safety of drinking water on First Nations lands* was re-introduced in the Senate. Bill S-8 has no new funding to support drinking water infrastructure and upgrades or human resources for operation. Also, the federal government maintains the power to change, administer and enforce regulations with no accountability for its actions and despite negotiations with First Nations. On March 7, 2012, Bill S-8 passed second reading. Further direction is anticipated by the AIAI Chiefs Council on Bill S-8.

Elly Antone, HIV-AIDS Educator

Since I was away on maternity leave for most of the year – returned February 2012 – this update will be from the work done by Karen Elijah who was in the “Acting Capacity.”

The AGA, Elders Gathering and most community events such as Health Fairs, Powwows, etc were visited for education displays and presentations. Various



conferences/training opportunities were attended to better understand HIV-AIDS and related issues.

Community Member Nations

HIV-AIDS funding was allocated to each Member Nation for their HIV-AIDS related activities. Workshops and year-end reports from each Member Nation were submitted to the HIV-AIDS Educator.

HIV-AIDS Community Training

The annual HIV-AIDS community training was hosted in partnership with AIAI's Responsible Gambling (RG) program in Niagara Falls, ON in August 9-11, 2011. The theme, "Reducing the Harm", consisted of HIV-AIDS and Responsible Gambling updates followed by sessions on Spiritual Identity and Planning a Workshop. To maintain your Spiritual Identity you should have four main things: spirit name, your clan, your nation and your traditional clothing colours. Planning a Workshop shared presentation styles with a miniature mask session for self-reflection.

Ontario First Nations HIV-AIDS Education Circle (OFNHAEC)

Circle meetings were attended and education displays were set up at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival and COO Health Forum.

The annual HIV-AIDS Youth Peer Education training was held on Oct 24-27, 2011 at the Batchewana Learning Centre. AIAI was the host and two Youth from Batchewana were the co-facilitators.

In March, the OFNHAEC supported the First Nation People living with HIV-AIDS (FNPHA) members in hosting their 1st Ontario regional summit for First Nation and Aboriginal People living with HIV-AIDS (PHAs). This event gave everyone an opportunity to share their lived experiences of living with HIV-AIDS and how they can support and educate one another on various issues such as treatment issues, family and community issues, and therapies to name a few.

Effective April 1, 2011, the administration of the OFNHAEC contribution agreement has been transferred from AIAI to Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). As per past practice, the agreement holder will be rotated amongst the PTO's.

Carolyn S. Doxtator, Health Promotions Coordinator

Aboriginal Diabetes Education & FASD Programs

The Health Promotions Coordinator (HPC) maintains the administration of the Aboriginal Diabetes Education program for the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, as well as the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder/Child Nutrition program for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.



Oct. 2011: Carolyn S. Doxtator, Health Promotions Coordinator, AIAI, with Sam McCracken, General Manager of the Nike N7 program at the Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon.

Health Fairs and Workshops

The HPC set up health displays and gave out promotional items on seven occasions in three AIAI communities and one student powwow. The HPC and the Health Policy Analyst did a presentation on Building Healthy Communities in First Nations for a class at Fanshawe College.

Ontario First Nations Integrated Health Promotions Strategy (OFNIHPS)

The Health Promotions Coordinator participates on the Ontario First Nations Integrated Health Promotion Strategy. Their goal is working towards improved health for First Nations through health

promoting strategies, awareness campaigns and policy development. The HPC was part of an Advisory Council for a project to develop a teaching manual to address diabetes prevention. The manual, “Weight Management, Healthy Eating & Active Living for Diabetes Prevention Program” was pilot tested in 7 First Nation communities including one AIAI community and feedback from the trained facilitators and community members was provided. The project was deemed a success and the manual has now been completed and will be available on the Chiefs of Ontario website, www.ourtimeourhealth.org for First Nation communities to use.

Injury Prevention Advisory Working Group (IPAWG)

The HPC represented AIAI on Chiefs of Ontario subcommittee, Injury Prevention Advisory Working Group. The HPC and Christi Poulette, RN from Oneida (alternate member of IPAWG), presented Injury Prevention workshops in Oneida and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to strategize preventing injuries in their respective communities. The HPC and Christi Poulette participated in a 3-day mentoring session in Oneida and are now certified trainers in the Canadian Red Cross ‘Walking the Prevention Circle – It’s Not Your Fault: Violence and Abuse Prevention’ program.

Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI)

The HPC continues to participate on the Board of Directors for SOADI. SOADI continues to enhance their educational initiative and has produced a “13 Grandmother Moon Diabetes Wellness Curriculum”.

Nike N7 Fund

The HPC continues to coordinate the sales of the new Nike Air Native Tempo+ N7 running shoes through AIAI’s partnership with Nike Canada. Carolyn was sponsored by Nike to make a visit to the first Nike Sport Summit held at the Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon, last October 2011. Nike’s N7 Fund allows profits from the sale of the Nike N7 running shoes to be utilized for grants to First Nation Programs in both Canada and the USA for sports and cultural activities to promote diabetes prevention.



CPR – FIRST AID

All of AIAI staff has received certificates in CPR & First Aid training in May 2011.

Lisa Jackson, Responsible Gambling Program Coordinator

The Responsible Gambling (RG) Program was present at various events at our Member Nations throughout the year with information on the program and its initiative, prevention, awareness and reducing stigma related to problem gambling. Information booths were displayed, speaking engagements were delivered, several workshops/training sessions were attended and several information packages were distributed.

The RG program was also present with a booth display at the Elder’s Gathering, Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum, the Association’s AGA, and the ORAPC (Ontario Region al Addictions Partnership Committee) Conference.



Responsible Gambling/HIV Wellness Conference

This past year the RG program and HIV/AIDs program coordinated a Reducing the Harm Conference with over 20 people in attendance. The intention of the 1.5 day training was in Reducing the Harm; with a focus on Traditional Teachings as the connection to overall wellness, balance and living a good life. Participants took part in training sessions on Responsible Gambling, HIV/AIDs update, Train the Trainer by Carla Maracle from New Credit and Traditional Teachings on Youth with Lotunt Hunyust from Oneida.

Ontario Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program -Working Group

The OARGP-WG consists of the RG coordinator from each PTO, and representatives from ONWA (Ontario Native Women's Association), MNO (Métis Nation of Ontario), Independent First Nations, and OFIC (Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centers). The Ministry of Health and Longterm Care recently announced funding for Coordination Support and Evaluator for the OARGP. The Ministry received several proposals and is currently reviewing the proposals.



Health/Social Advisory Board (H/SAB) Program

Valerie George, H/SAB Coordinator & Community Development Specialist

General Overview

The Health/Social Advisory Board (H/SAB) met in the Wahta Mohawks Territory, July 5 & 6, 2011, October 18' 2011 in the Oneida Nation of the Thames community, and February 23 & 24, 2012 in Brantford (New Credit First Nation).

The Health/Social Advisory Board representation is comprised of two, Chief and Council appointed delegates. Currently, under the Board Terms of Reference, each community may appoint health or social technicians, or political representatives. It may be a combination of any of the three positions with the addition of one named alternate. Once selected a written document or Band Council Motion is forwarded to AIAI as notification.

At regular Board meetings, the agenda is usually set by AIAI staff who present on issues that the communities should be made aware of. However, prior to setting the agenda, member Nation representatives are sent notice that, should they require time on the agenda to discuss or seek resolution to an issue they are to submit an Agenda Request Form. This process is beneficial since it allows AIAI staff the opportunity to investigate the situation and can be better prepared to provide adequate information at the meeting. So that member Nation staff, and the community overall, will know what is happening and how it may affect their well-being, it is the responsibility of each Board member to report back to their community the proceedings from each meeting.

At the conclusion of regular H/SAB meetings, an Action Report is created so that work can begin on recommendations or action items as a result of discussions. In addition to the Board members, the Minutes and Action report of these meetings are sent to the AIAI Chiefs Council to keep them informed, and more specifically, in case there are recommendations for their consideration and/or action as a result of discussions.

On occasion, governmental representatives or other organizations are invited to make presentation to the Board on specific issues. Questions from the Board can then receive immediate answers, direct communication dialogue takes place, and an expert opinion can be provided. Again, this can be initiated through community Board members, as well as AIAI staff.

So that you are aware of who your community Board representatives are, and AIAI staff involved, they are listed below:

Valerie George, H/SAB Coordinator & Community Development Specialist

Gord Peters, (Chair) Deputy Grand Chief

Cathryn Mandoka, Health Director

Julia Hill, Health Policy Analyst

Stan Cloud, Social Development Policy Analyst

Suzanne Nicholas, HWS Coordinator

Brandy Cornelius and Shayna Phillips (recorders)



Elder's Gathering 2011 – "Stars Alive"
Janis Joplin, Patsy Cline, Michael Jackson
and Justin Bieber

Member Nation H/SAB Representatives:

Batchewana First Nation:

Laura Robinson, Technical

Harvey Bell, Political

Caldwell First Nation:

Chief Louise Hillier, Political

Janne Peters, Political

Delaware First Nation:

Valerie Peters, Technical

Philip Snake, Political

Hiawatha First Nation:

Tina Howard, Technical

Other: Vacant (TBA)

Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation:

Helen Tobias, Technical

Erma Ferrell, Political



Elvis Presley

Oneida Nation of the Thames:

Ida Cornelius, Technical

Deborah Hill, Political

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte:

Roy Maracle, Political

Lynn Brant, Technical

Wahta Mohawks:

Dan Stock, Political (Interim)

Sandra Monette, Technical (Interim)

Working Groups

In the onset of the Health/Social Advisory Board, a 20 Year Strategic Plan was created and has now entered into its 13th year. The main focus has been on one of the major tasks, creating an AIAI Member Nation Health Law Framework. It

underwent two draft reviews by an H/SAB mandated working group and was recently sent for legal review. It was presented at the April 30 & May 1, 2012 joint H/SAB- Chiefs Forum.

Another part of the Strategic Plan, as a result of discussions at the April 2011 H/SAB-Chiefs Forum a direct focus has begun in the area of the Strategic Plan around Child Welfare. The working group has met 3 times recently with representation from member Nations that were able to participate. The meetings were made possible through one-time grant funding from the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.

Annual Events

The first major event in each fiscal year is the annual H/SAB-Chiefs Forum which usually takes place in April. This is where the Board has the opportunity to meet with the AIAI Chiefs Council to review, revise and update the Strategic Plan as may be required. It is also an opportunity to revisit the H/SAB_s, Terms of Reference and Mandate to ensure it_s effectiveness. To ensure the effectiveness, an H/SAB Review was conducted where Board members and applicable AIAI staff were interviewed. A complete report was provided and discussed at the H/SAB-Chiefs Forum.

The next major annual event is the annual Elders Gathering. Last year it was held August 23, 24 and 25, 2011, hosted by the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. It was a successful event, enjoyed by everyone involved. This year it will be held August 21, 22 & 23, 2012 and the Hiawatha First Nation will be the community host. Full participation (4/member Nation) will be sponsored to attend the 2-1/2 day event. The theme this year will be *"Restoring Health, Living It Well!"* This is an excellent opportunity for the elders to come together to share their ideas and feelings on what goes on regarding First Nation issues, particularly in their home communities. They learn about what's going on in other member Nations and can provide feedback/comments based on their own knowledge. Afterward, a summary report is forwarded to the Board and AIAI Chiefs Council so they are made aware of their elders' perspectives.

As always it has been a pleasure to be out in the communities whether the initiative was specific to my position, a Board meeting, or working group. I sincerely hope that you will continue to see the benefit that the Board contributes to your communities and what it can do for you in the future.



**Zorro, Audrey Hepburn (Holly Golightly)
and Rod Stewart**

Child Welfare

Stan Cloud, Social Services Coordinator



Customary Care

Customary care is considered to be the heart of First Nations child welfare practice. It provides a legislated opportunity for First Nations to exercise our inherent right to care for our children based on each individual community's traditions and customs. In a contemporary setting it is preferred over the commonly used kinship care model, which does not provide financial support to the already impoverished family members that chose to care for the children in need. Many of the non-Aboriginal CASs use kinship care over Customary Care, simply because of familiarity and comfort with the process.

The Child Welfare Secretariat in response to this issue has hired Barnes Management group to develop a Customary Care Process Guide to be a reference for CASs and First Nation communities. The Social Policy Analyst is a member of the steering committee overseeing this project. The objective is increase the implementation of customary care agreements between CAS and First Nation members.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

As a result of Bill 210 and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services transformation agenda non-aboriginal CASs are using the ADR processes more consistently, as an alternative to the court system. There are three different processes the Formal ADR, Family Group Conferencing and Aboriginal Approaches. Non-Aboriginal Children's Aid Societies are provided with funding for the development and implementation of ADR, while First Nations have not been provided with any substantial resources. The MCYS has entered into discussion with the SSCU to identify ways of supporting First Nations and its members that would like to provide these services. Currently, there is only one First Nation individual that provides these services in Ontario. MBQ Family Services also provides this service to local mainstream CASs.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT)

Assembly of First Nations/First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada Complaint (CHRC) v. INAC

RE: Child Welfare Funding

In February 2007, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) jointly with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCSC) launched a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging that the Government of Canada has discriminated against thousands of First Nations children in care due to inadequate funding in comparison to provincial funding levels allocated for child and family services.

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) filed a motion to obtain interested party status in the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) brought against the government of Canada as a result of the inequities in funding and services for First Nations Child and Family Services agencies.

The Tribunal granted the Chiefs of Ontario interested party status which includes the right to call witnesses, cross-examine witnesses and make submissions in relation to the 1965 Indian Welfare Agreement.

On January 8, 2010 the newly appointed Chair Shirish Chotalia, vacated all tribunal dates. The tribunal has been delayed until a jurisdictional motion on the federal challenge to dismiss the complaint on

grounds that the tribunal lacks jurisdiction. Ruling could take 2-3 months and in the best case scenario, if in favour of First Nations, the tribunal could start hearing the case in June/July 2010, though it could take as long as January 2011. If the federal government wins the jurisdictional motion, First Nations next step would be to file for a judicial review.

On March 30, 2010 a Federal Court judge chose to uphold the decision by a principal clerk (prothonotary) of the of the federal court to stay Canada's application to derail the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal on First Nations child welfare until after the tribunal is concluded. This effectively allows the tribunal on the merits to go ahead without intervention from the federal court.

On March 14, 2011, a ruling from Chair dismisses the complaint based on a preliminary motion brought by the Federal Government, even though the Federal Government had tried, and failed, to get the case dismissed on similar grounds in Federal Court on two previous occasions. Chair Shirish Chotalia dismissed the case on a legal technicality suggesting that the child welfare services provided by the Federal Government to First nation children could not be compared to that provided by the province to non-First Nations children. The base argument was there was no "proper comparator group" to review, as evidence. The case was dismissed without hearing the full merits of the case.

The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada immediately appealed the dismissal ruling to the Federal court. A date was set to hear the appeal on February 13-15, 2012, the proceedings would be presided over by Federal court Justice J. Mactavish. On April 18, 2012 Justice Mactavish released a decision. The March 14, 2011 decision of the Tribunal is set aside, and the matter is remitted to a differently constituted panel of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for re-determination in accordance with these reasons.

The Federal Court granted the judicial review applications based on the four separate errors or grounds noted below:

- 1) The Federal Court ruled that the Tribunal did have the authority to rule on the comparator group issue on a preliminary basis before a full hearing on the merits of the complaint. The Federal Court determined that the procedure followed by the Tribunal was definitely not fair, that being a reversible error.
- 2) The Federal Court ruled that the Tribunal made another error by not providing any reasons why the complaint could not proceed under section 5(a) [denial of service] as opposed to section 5(b) [differentiation in service] of the CHRA. The original complaint dealt with section 5 in general terms.
- 3) The Federal Court ruled that the Tribunal made another error when it decided that an identifiable comparator group is always required to find discrimination in the provision of service under section 5(b) of the CHRA. The narrow and technical approach taken by the Tribunal was not consistent with the liberal intent of the CHRA, the wording of the CHRA, principles of interpretation for human rights statutes. The Court noted that the Tribunal's approach would lead to the unacceptable result of the CHRA being largely unavailable to Aboriginal people in Canada.
- 4) Finally, the Federal Court ruled that the Tribunal made another error in not considering the significance of Canada's own adoption of the provincial standard for child welfare programming, in the context of the determination of whether there was an available comparator group for the discrimination analysis. The provincial standard is adopted by Canada in the national program service manual and the 1965 Welfare Agreement. The Tribunal did not provide coherent reasons why the provincial standard could not be used for discrimination analysis under the CHRA.

The Federal government can file an appeal within 30 days. If an appeal is filed the process could be extended another 9-12 months. If no appeal is filed, the redetermination hearing should be

Commission to Promote Sustainability in Child Welfare in Ontario

The commission was created in November 2009 with a three-year mandate to develop and implement solutions to ensure the sustainability of child welfare in Ontario. The Commissioners have the authority to implement change in some areas, including developing strategies to evaluate and improve service delivery, establishing ways to measure performance and, after consulting with the ministry, directing Children's Aid Societies (CASs) to develop consolidation plans or change business processes. The Commissioners also have the authority to make recommendations to the Minister of Children and Youth Services on things like ministry processes, accountability structures, government policy, funding, legislation and changes that affect other parts of the children's system. The Commissions are to work with the ministry, Children's Aid Societies, and other partners to carry out its mandate. The Commissioners are; Barry Lewis, Ene Underwood and Wendy Thomson. For brief biography on the Commissioners please see the Commissions' website at <http://www.sustainingchildwelfare.ca> . Denise Cole has been appointed as Executive Lead for the Commission. The Commissioners are to work independently, and at arm's length from the government, but at the same time they are directly accountable for fulfilling their mandate to the Minister of Children and Youth Services.

The commission will complete their work in September 2012. It is important to ensure the desire and vision of AIAI member nations have been heard and understood by the commission, as they move forward in preparing their final report and recommendations. A meeting was occurred on December 01, 2011 between Commissioner Lewis and Grand Chief Stonefish (GCS) at AIAI head office. Commissioner Barry Lewis presented a brief history of the commission's work and where they are to date and where they are going. At this stage the commission is focusing on key messaging and recommendations that will be a part of their final report to be presented to the Minister of MCYS. Key messages presented were the current child welfare funding system and even the CW funding model (Local Needs Based Funding Model) they are recommending will not work in FN communities. The commission will recommend that FN must have a separate CW funding model that is reflective of the "true" needs of FN. Commissioner Lewis further stated his emphasis will be on the crucial importance of involving FN leadership/ technical people to develop what a child welfare model needs to look like in FN and then identify the financial resources required for the CW model. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the model could include a position that is essentially a band rep function, but labeled as something different, due to the Feds stance on the band rep program. Commissioner Lewis ended the meeting with an open invitation to the Grand Chief to telephone, e-mail or send a letter, if the GCS has any other issues or would like to provide further information. GCS stated that the views of AIAI have continually been put forward by the SPA during meetings and correspondence, but will forward any other information that the AIAI member nations would like brought forward for the consideration of the Commission.

Social Assistance / Ontario Works Integration of Employment Services

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has been meeting with ASETS and Service Canada to discuss how to best integrate their employment services. MCSS using the term "enhanced collaboration", when they discuss this process. This is being completed through 3 reference groups based out of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Toronto. The group membership is:

Sault Ste Marie

- Elizabeth Richer, North Shore Tribal Council (OW)
- Candace Ozawagosh, North Shore Tribal Council (OW)
- Annie Austin, North Shore Tribal Council (ASETS)
- Tammy Webb, Metis Nation of Ontario (ASETS)

City of Toronto

- Miziwe Biik
- Tammy Webb, Métis Nation of Ontario (ASETS)

MCSS stated when the SPA requested inclusion in these discussions; **“We are no longer directly involved in the meetings/activities of the reference groups. If you’d like to be involved in future sessions, I recommend that you contact someone from each group and let them know that you’re interested. If new meetings that we’re involved in come up, we’ll certainly let you know.”**

Recently at the MCSS sponsored First Nations Forum Ontario Works Director Jeff Butler stated that the MCSS will be engaging in similar Reference Groups, as the plan to implement “enhanced collaboration” moves forward. The SPA will be gathering information on the available employment services in the member Nations, as part of a risk assessment activity. The purpose will be to ensure our community members do not become unemployed, as this integration takes place.

Recommendation: The SPA request permission to seek inclusion in the “to be formed, Reference groups”. To ensure AIAI Member Nations are directly involved in all discussions that may impact the services provided within their territories.

Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario

In the 2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy, Ontario committed to reviewing social assistance with a focus on removing barriers and increasing opportunities for people to work.

In January 2010, Ontario appointed the Social Assistance Review Advisory Council to provide advice on a proposed scope for the review. The council's June 2010 report recommended a review of the whole income security system, including, but not limited to, social assistance. This includes a comprehensive review of income security, employment supports and related services for working-age adults.

The Social Assistance Review Advisory Council (SARAC) recommended a number of strategies for social assistance reform. In developing recommendations related to these strategies, the review will undertake research and a comprehensive analysis of the following:

- Best practices in other jurisdictions
- Ways to improve the sustainability of the system
- Methodologies for determining; the benefit structure and level of rates, asset limits and exemptions
- The most appropriate means and approaches for providing special purpose benefits such as the Special Diet Allowance to best address individual needs
- The most effective ways of supporting families with children who have severe disabilities
- Appropriate supports and services to connect people who cannot work to their communities.

The Social Assistance Review will take approximately 18 months to complete, from January 2011 to June 2012.

The Mandate of the commission is to develop specific recommendations and create a concrete action plan for reforming Ontario’s social assistance system by improving client outcomes. A reformed system will:

- help get people back to work
- be part of a larger income security system that includes municipal, provincial and federal programs
- share responsibility for improving the outcomes of low-income Ontarians with municipal and federal governments as well as the people who rely on social assistance
- be simple to understand and access, and provide people in need with basic income support in a fair and equitable way
- work well with other municipal, provincial and federal programs outside of social assistance - including education, training, housing, child care and health benefits - to support employment
- respect the autonomy, responsibility and dignity of individuals and recognize that clients are best placed to decide how to spend their money to meet their needs
- be efficient, financially sustainable and accountable to taxpayers, and
- meet its intended purpose as a system of last resort.

Ontario has appointed The Honorable Frances Lankin, P.C., United Way Toronto's past President and CEO, and Dr. Munir Sheikh, Canada's former Chief Statistician, as commissioners.

The scope of the review will focus on social assistance and how it impacts, and is impacted by, other parts of the income security system. Social assistance will not be examined in isolation. The review will examine social assistance along with other federal, provincial and municipal income security programs to gain a better understanding of how programs across all governments can better promote positive client outcomes.

The outcomes of the review will make recommendations that will enable government to:

- Establish an appropriate benefit structure that reduces barriers and supports people's transition into, and attachment within, the labour market.
- Place reasonable expectations on, and provide supports for, people who rely on social assistance with respect to active engagement in the labour market and participation in treatment and rehabilitation.
- Simplify income and asset rules to improve equity and make it easier to understand and administer social assistance.
- Ensure the long-term viability of the social assistance system.
- Define Ontario's position vis-à-vis the federal and municipal governments as it relates to income security for Ontarians.

The review will also be making recommendations to recognize the roles and responsibilities the federal government should be undertaking.

The development of an action plan from the review is to map each recommendation to one or more outcomes. In addition, the action plan is to include performance measures for each of the outcomes. Where appropriate, these performance measures are to align with performance measures in Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).

The commission is due to present its final report to the Minister in June 2012.

Child Care / Early Learning

In April 2010 the Ontario Liberal government announced that it would be transferring the responsibility of Child Care from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to the Ministry of Education (MEdu). The government stated intentions were:

"to create an integrated system and support transitions for children and families."

The government is implementing the change in phases.

- Child care policy and program responsibilities were transferred in May 2010.

- Funding and contract management for Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) were transferred on January 1, 2011.
- Funding and contract management for First Nations child care transferred on April 1, 2011.
- Responsibility for child care licensing will transfer from MCYS to the Ministry of Education on January 1, 2012. Until then, child care licensing and enforcement remains the responsibility of MCYS.

To ensure the “duty to consult” with First Nations is respected and implemented during this governmental process. All member Nations are affected by this change and must be informed and consulted with regarding any changes in policy or program delivery. The Ontario government has very recent history of implementing major changes to the CFSA in the form Bill 179 and displayed total disregard to First Nations and their concerns. This must never occur again.

An initial meeting was held with the SSCU members and MEdu. The discussion focused on committing to engage First Nations during the transition and to address First Nations concerns that existed in child care that were never resolved; special needs funding, equity and new centres. The ADM premised his comments by bringing attention to the current fiscal situation in the province and Canada. Examples were provided by MEdu on how they have already addressed some First Nation specific requests, but would like a structured process that could be utilized in the future, when similar situation arise. The SPA will continue to participate with the other SSCU members, in a bi-lateral process with MEdu. The focus will be to ensure that any “standardized” process developed by the MEdu to address First Nations concerns also includes a protocol that will respect the individuality and uniqueness of each First Nation.

Intergovernmental Affairs – Federal

Joshua Shoemaker



Nation-to-Nation Trade – Tobacco

Following the passage of *the Supporting Smoke-Free Ontario by Reducing Contraband Tobacco Act*, AIAI has been working with Carol Godby and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to identify next steps to secure provincial recognition of the right to Nation-to-Nation trade. Through discussions with Grand River Enterprises’ (GRE) legal counsel, Chantell Montour, the Chiefs of Ontario has conducted a legal review of GRE’s Statement of Claim against Ontario.

COO’s legal counsel has recommended that COO intervene as a friend of the Court. The application for intervener status has yet to be submitted.

At the political level, COO has assembled a technical committee on First Nations tobacco (with Joshua Shoemaker sitting as the AIAI representative) and a political committee on First Nations tobacco (with Grand Chief Denise Stonefish sitting as the AIAI representative). Only the technical committee has met for a preliminary meeting thus far, where Kathleen Lickers’ report to the Ministry of Revenue was reviewed. AIAI is awaiting word from COO for further meetings.

Canada Summer Jobs

AIAI has actively sought the reinstatement of the Aboriginal Allocation in the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) funding model to Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) Agreement holders.

In its activities, AIAI prepared correspondence to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Diane Finley, but did not receive a favorable reply. The Grand Chief has held two meetings with Jean Crowder, NDP Critic for HRSDC, where information from AIAI member Nations was presented to her. The Grand Chief has also spoken to Minister John Duncan about the issue. Up to that point the Minister was unaware of the change to the CSJ funding model, but said only that he prioritizes First Nations students in his riding, so his numbers have not changed.

AIAI circulated questionnaires asking for the number of recipients of CSJ funding in each member Nation. Only three AIAI members have sent the questionnaire back to AIAI. Work on the file is ongoing.

Crown-First Nation Gathering

In preparation for the Crown-First Nation Gathering (CFNG), AIAI created and distributed a proposal that calls for an end to Canada's extinguishment policy and the beginning of a staged withdrawal of federal jurisdiction out of First Nation lands.

COO picked up on the proposal and incorporated AIAI's document into the Ontario position paper in its entirety.

The proposal itself was not adopted by Canada; however, AIAI intends on expanding the document to include a more detailed process for future use.

Citizenship – AIAI Citizenship Forum

As part of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC) exploratory process on First Nation citizenship, AIAI submitted a proposal to hold its own forum on First Nation citizenship. AANDC funded AIAI with \$18,130.00 to hold a one-day discussion on citizenship at Oneida Nation of the Thames.

The forum generated valuable discussion amongst the delegates that has been captured into a final report. This report has been circulated to all member Nations. As part of the funding agreement with AANDC, AIAI was required to submit a final report to the department detailing the discussion and any recommendations made from the meeting. The delegation instructed AIAI to compose a letter to the Minister in place of that report, conveying that First Nation citizenship is the jurisdiction of First Nations alone. The letter appears to have been accepted by AANDC.



Governance – Indigenous Reclamation

Having been directed at the AIAI Citizenship Forum, the Association held a two-day governance workshop entitled *Indigenous Reclamation* at the Nottawassaga Inn in Alliston Ontario. The agenda and meeting materials were developed by AIAI staff, with Deputy Grand Chief Gord Peters and Joshua Shoemaker facilitating the two days of activities.

The workshop was designed to help the delegates identify elements of colonized thinking and begin to formulate ways to assert First Nation jurisdiction.

The workshop was divided into five exercises. The delegates were divided into groups for each exercise either by community or by random assignment. Each group was asked to share their thoughts and feedback to questions posed in each exercise with the larger group. These responses were collected at the end of the session and compiled into an end report for circulation.



Governance Workshop – Indigenous Reclamation

Additional governance workshops are currently being planned.

1. *International*

CRED Training

AIAI representatives attended a workshop on preparing a shadow report for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CRED). Although a shadow report was not prepared by AIAI, the workshop provided education on UN bodies and processes. This knowledge will be applied in future work, particularly when Canada once again is reviewed by the CERD.

NAIPC Preparatory Meeting

AIAI also participated on the Planning Committee for the North American Indigenous People's Caucus (NAIPC) Preparatory Meeting. The committee met in-person twice, and had numerous teleconferences. Initially the Grand Chief from AIAI acted as the Chair at each meeting, but Roger Jones eventually took on the role.

The NAIPC Preparatory Meeting itself was held in Niagara Falls, ON, on March 9th-11th, 2012. The meeting was attended by Deputy Grand Chief Gord Peters and Joshua Shoemaker, as well as representatives from at least four AIAI member Nations. The meeting served to educate Chiefs and Councilors about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

2. *Federal Legislation*

To date, AIAI has been following five Bills in Parliament that will have either a direct or indirect impact on First Nations. These Bills include: Bill S-2, *Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act*; Bill C-10, *Safe Streets and Communities Act*; Bill C-27, *an Act to Enhance the Financial Accountability and Transparency for First Nations*; Bill S-6, *First Nations Elections Act*; and Bill S-8, *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act*.

AIAI's participation in the legislative process has been limited since the 2011 federal election. This is in part due to the lack of progress that most Bills have made through the House of Commons and Senate. The other significant factor is that, with the exception of the Bill S-6, *First Nations Elections Act*, each Bill has been recycled from older legislation that died on the *Order Paper* due to the 2011 federal election. As a result, many committees are opting to refer to AIAI's submissions from the previous version of the legislation rather than invite the Association to participate in Committee hearings for the new version of the Bills.

It is recommended that member Nations hold a discussion at the AIAI General Assembly on how best to respond to these legislative initiatives and their expectations for the Association in the legislative process.

Legislative Summaries and Impacts:

Bill S-2, Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act

Bill S-2 creates two separate regimes for matrimonial rights and interests (MRI) law – a federal provisional code and a First Nations code. Although the federal provisional code creates laws similar to provincial matrimonial real property law, family homes are *not* transferred to non-members. Under the First Nation code, First Nations may create their own MRI laws.

Impacts:

- The development and implementation of either MRI regime will put additional governance demands on First Nations. There is currently no money for First Nation governments tied to this Bill.
- The legislation does not recognize the existing authority of First Nations to create and implement their own law.

Current Status: Bill S-2 has passed through the Senate and currently sits at Second Reading debate in the House of Commons.

Bill S-6, First Nations Elections Act

Bill S-6 creates a new election code for First Nations outside of the Indian Act election regime. The new code creates four year terms for Chief and Council, as well as a number of offences—including fraud—in the election process that carry fines or imprisonment. The purpose of the new election code is to create more continuity with respect to community governance and a tighter elections process.

This legislation is optional, requiring First Nations to first opt-in by way of a BCR. To be removed from the election code, the First Nation must hold a community vote to adopt a different election code.

Impacts:

- It remains unclear if any funding is available for First Nations that wish to opt-in to the legislation.
- For First Nations that wish to have a more regulated election process and longer terms, the legislation may be desirable.
- For First Nations wishing to implement their own leadership selection process, the new election code may not be appropriate.

Current Status: Bill S-6 currently sits in the Senate at Third Reading Debate.

Bill S-8, Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

Bill S-8 creates a framework for drinking and wastewater regulations on reserve. Although the legislation is federal, it uses provincial water standards and regulations for the delivery of drinking water. The Bill also creates liabilities for the owners of the water systems, and permits the infringement of Aboriginal and Treaty rights to the extent necessary in the provision of drinking water.

Impacts:

- The legislation creates an additional avenue for provincial jurisdiction on reserve.
- There is currently no money for First Nation governments tied to this Bill.

Current Status: Bill S-8 currently sits in the Senate at Second Reading debate.

Bill C-10-, Safe Streets and Communities Act

Bill C-10 creates mandatory minimum sentences for a number of offences, including the possession of drugs and illegal firearms.

Impacts:

- Bill C-10 removes discretion allotted to judges when sentencing First Nation offenders (i.e. the ability to consider factors that contextualize behaviour, such as the effects of colonial policy and residential school).
- The legislation will likely result in more First Nation offenders being incarcerated.

Current Status: Bill C-10 has received Royal Assent

Bill C-27, an Act to Enhance the Financial Accountability and Transparency for First Nations

Bill C-27 requires that all First Nations prepare a *Schedule of Remuneration* that details the remuneration paid by the First Nation or an entity under its control to its Chief and each of its Councillors for each financial year, (Section 6.1). This includes “salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses, fees, honouraria, dividends and reimbursement of expenses — including the cost of transportation, accommodation, meals, hospitality and incidental expenses—and any other monetary benefits and non-monetary benefits.”

Impacts:

- Bill C-27 legitimizes and reinforces the misconception that First Nations are bad financial managers.
- Beyond an additional formality in the reporting process, the impact of this legislation is expected to be minimal for AIAI member Nations

Current Status: Bill C-27 currently sits at Second Reading debate in the House of Commons.

Upcoming Legislation:**First Nations Education Act**

The 2012-2013 Federal Budget cites Canada’s intention of having a *First Nations Education Act* in place by September 2014. The legislation will likely aggregate First Nation schools into school board-like systems, and offer new funding models that provide longer-term funding.

No legislation is known to currently exist.

Private Property on Reserve

The Government of Canada has indicated that it will table legislation that creates private property regimes on-reserves. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is currently studying Land-Use and Sustainable Economic Development, where Manny Jules has advocated for such a regime.

No legislation is known to currently exist.

Intergovernmental Affairs - Provincial

Victoria Hill



This report summarizes the activities and initiatives in which Victoria Hill, AIAI's provincial-level Policy Analyst and Government Relations Advisor, took part since last year's Annual General Assembly.

Introduction

This past year has been a dynamic one for both First Nations political advocates in Ontario and for us here at AIAI. There is no doubt that a great deal of our work focuses on efforts to reinstate the rightful relationship between First Nations and the Crown's administrators (federal and provincial governments). However, a definite shift is taking place within First Nation communities and leadership; a shift toward asserting the inherent strength of our Nations, independent of the policies, legislation, and processes that external governments intend to impose upon us. Exploring and learning from this turn in thinking has been the highlight of my role with AIAI this year.

I am proud to have been a part of the efforts that AIAI put into preparing for the First Nation/Crown Gathering in January, organizing the Governance Forum at Nottawasaga in March, and contributing to the Chiefs of Ontario's Special Chiefs Forum, "Our Voices: Clearing the Path to Nationhood."

The remainder of this report will focus on my role as AIAI's technical representative on the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee.

Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities & Action Committee (IIPAC)

A significant portion of my responsibilities revolves around my participation on the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC). The IIPAC, established in 2008, includes political and technical representatives from First Nation organizations and the Ontario government.

At the technical level, much of my participation is in cooperation with the First Nation Ipperwash Task Force, with other technical representatives from the Union of Ontario Indians, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Grand Council Treaty #3, Independent First Nations, and the Chiefs of Ontario. Each of us contributes to the development of initiatives and work plans guided by the recommendations of the final report of the Ipperwash Inquiry, direction from leadership, and priorities of the communities for which we work.

Faced with financial and capacity limitations based in Ontario's program-delivery approach to the IIPAC process, the priorities of the 2011-2012 fiscal year were:

- 1) Treaty Commission of Ontario Interim Initiative;
- 2) First Nation Policing; and
- 3) Burial and Heritage Sites.

Treaty Commission of Ontario Interim Initiative

As introduced in last year's AGA report, this initiative is a short-term project with the objective of gathering information and perspectives on a Treaty Commission in Ontario (TCO) as a potential mechanism for addressing Treaty grievances.



Of the 78 policy-related recommendations in the Final Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry the first seven provide a detailed recipe for a Treaty Commission in Ontario. Despite the clarity with which Justice Linden set out how a TCO could be formed both First Nations and Ontario quickly became bogged down in their own sources of complexity. By 2010, progress on a Treaty grievance mechanism came to a standstill.

The purpose of the TCO Interim Initiative is to compile more information on Treaty Commissions, and gather perspectives on the elements and functions of a potential TCO. To do this, Stonecircle Consulting Inc. was selected to take on the role of Project Director. Working with the First Nation Ipperwash Task Force, Stonecircle conducted interviews with federal and provincial government officials, as well as academics and experienced experts. Separate engagement sessions were held with First Nations across Treaty regions within Ontario.

The interview and engagement activities represented the first of two phases of engagement. A second phase is planned to take place over the next four months to hold more detailed discussions with First Nation Treaty regions. Stonecircle is currently completing a report on the first phase of the Initiative.

First Nation Policing

The First Nation Ipperwash Task Force has been continuing to work with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) on the establishment of a legislative base for First Nation policing in Ontario.

As was communicated in last year's AGA report, the Task Force and MCSCS hosted three policing forums to examine the viability of a legislative base to strengthen the foundations of First Nation policing services. Following direction from Chiefs in Assembly, the Task Force has been working to 1) develop a First Nation policing strategy that includes research on the original vision of First Nation police services; 2) call for an independent study of the First Nation Policing Policy; and 3) seek a legal opinion on the implications of legislation for First Nations and inherent and Treaty rights.

Much of this work is ongoing. A legal opinion of the impacts of First Nation policing legislation on inherent and Treaty rights has been obtained and is currently being reviewed.

Burial & Heritage Sites

At present, Chiefs in Assembly have not established an IIPAC-specific mandate for this priority area. However, the First Nation Ipperwash Task Force has identified several resolutions dating back to 2006 that outline outstanding mandates that align with recommendations of the Ipperwash report.

Based on those earlier resolutions, the Task Force began formulating a work plan to support existing efforts being taken by First Nations to protect sacred sites. The Ministries of Aboriginal Affairs and Tourism, Culture and Sports were open to beginning some joint work to gather and share information about the numerous policies that impact First Nation burial and heritage sites.

In February 2012, the Task Force, MAA, and MTCS hosted a technical information sharing meeting with various Ontario Ministries that administer policies or legislation that impact, or have the potential to impact, First Nation sacred sites. This introductory dialogue opened important lines of communication, and revealed the need for further research.

Youth Report

Shayna Phillips, Administrative Assistant



The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI) is still in the early stages of forming its youth council. Member Nations have put names forward; however, full male/female representation hasn't been completed. Once again, we are seeking one male and one female representative from each member Nation to participate on AIAI youth council. To date we have five (5) names. The purpose of the youth council is to engage the youth and have their voices heard by our political leaders. Member Nations have forwarded requests for Shayna Phillips (AIAI Youth

file holder) to make presentations to youth about what AIAI is and the importance of youth councils. The first visit will be with the Mississaugas of the New Credit youth council in mid May. Shayna will be contacting other member Nation youth coordinators to arrange a visit to their communities.

Once AIAI's youth council is formed, the youth will have an opportunity to work with the regional Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council (OFNYPC) to develop initiatives that create awareness and knowledge on issues that First Nations youth face throughout Ontario. It will also create opportunity to hear what is happening with First Nation youth at the National level as well. The Ontario region has two seats on the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council (AFN NYC). The AFN NYC consists of two representatives (one male, one female) from each of the ten regions.

The National Youth Council (NYC) had their two co-chairs, Sasha Maracle and Noel Joe; participate in the opening precession of the First Nations Crown Gathering that was held in January. During the Gathering the NYC had the opportunity to meet with the Governor General and his wife. There was some dialogue that took place but it was mostly introductory; however, the Governor General did suggest that another meeting be arranged in the future, which is a positive next step. A copy of 3rd World Canada was presented to the Governor General as a special gift from the Ontario Region youth council.

Over the last year the NYC has been working closely with the National Elders and Women's council on a new tri-council approach. At the last AFN Assembly, the tri-council presented a resolution that was that was passed by consensus at the assembly. The resolution spoke to providing more support to the three councils to ensure that there is tri-council inclusion in all AFN activities and finding additional funding for the core budgets of the council. Currently, the AFN is working on the implementation of these goals.

Last but not least, the NYC has been working diligently on the planning of the 4th National Youth Summit. The closing date for the request for proposals was April 13, 2012. The NYC is in the selection process phase and is aiming to host the summit no later than October 2012. The NYC is hoping to have representation from each of the First Nations across Canada; their goal is to have 1300 participants in total. At this point it is undetermined which expenses will be covered by the NYC to have the youth participate in this event.

As you are aware, AIAI has two seats (one male, one female) on the OFNYPC. AIAI's current male representative is Justin Logan, Delaware Nation Moravian of the Thames. It was with sincere regrets that Amanda Sault, Mississaugas of the New Credit, has given up her seat as AIAI's female representative at the regional level. We wish Amanda all the best with her future endeavours.

Over the past few months, Shayna has had some opportunities to participate in discussions with the OFNYPC. The focus of their recent meetings has been on Health and in particular, the Life Promotion Awareness Campaign, and the funding is available through Youth Suicide Strategy. This Strategy was set to begin on April 1, 2012. The OFNYPC are looking to link with organizations to help assist in a Tom Longboat relay which will be coordinated to coincide with the 2012 All Ontario Chiefs Conference (AOCC). They are also in the early planning stages for their 7th Annual Youth Symposium which will focus on Health and will be held in Akwesasne.

Another initiative that the OFNYPC participated in was the Indigenous Youth Policy Framework. Five (5) sessions were held within the last year in various locations of Ontario. This initiative was led by the OFNYPC to develop the Policy and Framework that will identify and determine how First Nation youth will be meaningfully engaged in planning and decision-making. This initiative was funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The fifth and final session was held in Thunder Bay on April 12 & 13, 2012. An update will be forthcoming upon completion of the framework.



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