Where does FNIGC get its funding from?

FNIGC receives its funding for the RHS and REEES through agreements with Health Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. FNIGC administers this funding under contract with our Regional Partners who conduct this important survey work in collaboration with FNIGC.

Our Regional Partners include: the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Chiefs of Ontario, the Union of New Brunswick Indians, the Dene Nation (Northwest Territories), the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Service Commission, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the First Nations Health Council (British Columbia).

What is next for FNIGC?

FNIGC continues to grow into its mandate by continuing to develop new research products, creating innovative ways to make our data available to communities, building capacity in research and information governance, and promoting OCAP™ training and certification.
What is the First Nations Information Governance Centre?

The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) is Canada’s premier source of information about First Nation people living on reserve and in northern communities. An incorporated non-profit organization operating with a special mandate from the Assembly of First Nations’ Chiefs in Assembly (Resolution #48, December 2009), the FNIGC is committed to improving the health and well-being of First Nations people living in our 633 communities across the country.

In collaboration with its Regional Partners, FNIGC conducts unique data-gathering initiatives that allow us to build culturally relevant portraits of the lives of First Nation people and the communities they live in. FNIGC recognizes that quality information — information that is collected by First Nations people for First Nations people — has the power to change lives by influencing knowledge-based decision-making and inspiring effective policy and programs for all First Nations communities.

That's the Power of Data!

What does FNIGC do?

FNIGC is responsible for a wide-range of work, from research and planning to certification and training. But our core responsibility is the development and administration of national First Nations survey initiatives with our Regional Partners. These currently include: the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS) and the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES).

The FNRHS (or RHS for short) is the only First Nations-governed national health survey in Canada. Established in 1997, it collects health information in more than 250 First Nations communities using both Western and traditional understandings of health and well-being. The FNREEES (or REEES) collects a wide-range of information about early childhood, education and employment in more than 250 First Nations communities. When complete it will provide a comprehensive and unprecedented understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing First Nations in Canada.

FNIGC’s pioneering survey work has been reviewed by Harvard University (in 2006) and Johns Hopkins University (in 2012), which concluded that our methodology was “outstanding,” “excellent” and “first-rate.”

OCAP™

FNIGC is also home to the First Nation principles of OCAP™, a set of principles that guide how research with First Nations people should be conducted and how that information should be stored.

OCAP™ stands for ownership, control, access, and possession. It means that First Nations control data collection processes in their communities and that First Nations own, protect and control how their information is used. Access to First Nations data is important, and under OCAP™ First Nations determine how and when external researchers are allowed to access and use their information. OCAP™ is an important expression of First Nations jurisdiction over its information.

To learn more about the First Nations principles of OCAP™ go to the OCAP™ section of our website, FNIGC.ca/OCAP

First Nations Data Centre

The First Nations Data Centre (FNDC) is a new service from FNIGC that serves the data needs of individuals pursuing academic research, policy development, and program planning and evaluation.

Located at FNIGC’s Ottawa office the FNDC provides access to unpublished data from our data repository to approved applicants on a pay-per-use basis. The RDC is not intended for commercial use.

When was FNIGC established?

FNIGC became an independent, incorporated entity on April 22, 2010. But its history stretches back nearly two decades to 1996, when a National Steering Committee was created to design a new national First Nations health survey. This was in response to a decision from the Federal Government to exclude First Nation people living on reserve from three major longitudinal population surveys.

The result was the First Nations and Inuit Regional Longitudinal Health Survey, a 1998 pilot project which was intended to address First Nations and Inuit health and well-being issues, and acknowledged the need for First Nations and Inuit people to control their own health information.

In 2002 the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey Phase 1 began, this time as a solely First Nations survey. This version saw more than 22,600 surveys collected in 238 First Nation communities, and included the Yukon and Northwest Territories for the first time.

In 2008 data collection began for the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 2, which collected nearly 22,000 surveys in 217 First Nation communities.

In June 2011, FNIGC received a mandate from the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in Assembly (Resolution No. 19/ 2011) to conduct a new survey, the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (REEES). REEES data collection in 250 reserves and northern communities began in November 2013, carried out by FNIGC’s Regional Partners. Preliminary data from the REEES is scheduled to be released in Spring 2015.

To learn more about the REEES, follow our progress on our blog REEES: In the Field, fnigc.ca/reees-field.

In Fall 2014 data collection is scheduled to begin for RHS Phase 3, a landmark survey that will allow FNIGC for the first time to report on trends in First Nations health and well-being.