



FNIGC | CGIPN

First Nations Information Governance Centre
Le Centre de gouvernance de l'information des Premières Nations



**The First Nations Information
Governance Centre 2015–2016
6th Annual Report to
Members**

PRESENTED AT THE
Annual General Meeting
July 11, 2016 | Niagara Falls, ON



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Message from FNIGC's Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), we would like to welcome the FNIGC Delegates and Member Organizations to our 6th Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, traditional territory of the Iroquois people.

During the past year FNIGC has been active in the gathering of important First Nations data through our dual survey processes: the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES, or REEES) which presented its preliminary results in November, 2015 and will release its final National Report on July 12, 2016, and the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3 (the long-running successful RHS), which will wrap-up data collection in September 2016.

As one of our most comprehensive survey developments to date, the REEES offers a timely and unprecedented look at many important aspects of life in First Nations reserve and northern communities. And, following the completion of data collection this fall, the RHS will provide an in-depth exploration of holistic health and wellness indicators in our First Nations communities, as it has done for the past two decades since 1997. In this third phase of the RHS, we anticipate seeing trends and changes in First Nations health and wellness.

All this hard work illustrates the critical role that quality, culturally relevant First Nations data plays in supporting the decision-making of our leadership, while helping our federal partners make informed decisions that influence the health and well-being of First Nation communities.

Without reliable data, gathered by a process that respects the First Nations principles of OCAP®, the First Nations information gap would be huge. And who better to fill that gap than First Nations themselves?

Through our Strategic Planning efforts FNIGC continues to evolve year to year, as we grow into our mandate. As a First Nations, non-profit organization we are proud of the past six years of sustained growth and look forward to serving the information needs of First Nations for years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we would like to thank all of FNIGC's staff for their tireless dedication to our collective cause, as well as all of our Regional Partners, without whom we would never have gotten to where we are. And most importantly, we want to thank First Nation citizens for taking the time to participate in our surveys and share their knowledge for the common benefit of all First Nations.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ceal Tournier, Chair, Saskatchewan Region

Melanie Morningstar, Co-Chair AFN

Tracy Antone, Treasurer, Ontario Region

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

Report from FNIGC's Executive Director

Statement of Operations

Presently in our 6th year of operation, FNIGC is proud to serve as the premier source of information about First Nation people living on reserve and in northern communities across Canada. Ever since we were incorporated as a small First Nations-mandated, non-profit organization on April 22, 2010, we have aspired to meet the data and capacity needs of First Nations communities, growing into our mandate along the way.

Looking back over the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year it is hard not to be excited about the many directions we are growing in. FNIGC has become more than our survey work ... in fact, we are much, much more.

This Annual Report is intended to provide an overview of the work we have undertaken since April 2015: the many achievements accomplished, the many barriers and challenges overcome, and an illustration of the pride we take in moving and advancing the First Nations principles of OCAP® forward.

Over the past year FNIGC has been extremely busy with many activities, including:

- First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS) Phase 3 implementation and data collection (scheduled to conclude on September 30, 2016),
- Board Strategic Planning Session which updated FNIGC's Strategic Work Plan through to 2021,
- The conclusion of data collection for the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES) and the completion of the national and regional datasets,
- The publication of the National FNREEES Report,
- Securing registered trademark status for the "OCAP" (and "PCAP") name, along with the logo, from the Canadian Intellectual Property Office,
- FNREEES Lessons Learned Workshop and Evaluation with our Regional Partner organizations,
- FNREEES Preliminary Data Release Conference, attended by 150 participants,
- Commissioned a Review of Collaborative Research Priorities and Partnerships to explore the research needs of First Nations communities,
- Undertook an environmental scan and prepared a report on the development of First Nations Regional Data Centre Hubs,
- Continued the implementation of Regional Online Data Tools,
- Entered into discussions with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to develop a First Nations labour market information survey pilot,
- Launched The Fundamentals of OCAP® online training program, in collaboration with Algonquin College,
- Published series of knowledge transfer and dissemination papers based on FNIGC survey data,
- Expanded our social media outreach,
- Expanded our "Power of Data" campaign,
- Engaged in discussions with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on a First Nations household mould pilot survey project ,
- Provided outreach, training and presentations to universities, workshops, federal employees and health organizations on the First Nations Principles of OCAP®.



Colette Kataquapit,
Executive Operations
Assistant

Staffing

We are excited and very proud to have retained our dedicated, skilled and talented staff team, which we have added to and augmented during the past year (included term and indeterminate employees). We are happy to report that we have included to our team a Human Resources Consultant to assist the work of the Executive Director and Board.

FNIGC's current staff team includes:

Gail Mc Donald, Executive Director
Colette Kataquapit, Executive Operations Assistant
Angela Ashawasagai, Special Projects Assistant (term)
Brad Mackay, Communications Coordinator
Jerry Lanouette, Training and Development Coordinator
Addie Pryce, RHS and Capacity Development Coordinator
Lorraine Cheechoo, RHS/REEES Administrative Assistant
Albert Armieri, Senior Statistical Initiatives Coordinator
Fei Xu, Senior Statistical Analyst
Alana Roscoe, RHS Statistical Analyst
Maria Santos, First Nations Data Centre Coordinator

Kyla Marcoux, Statistical Projects Coordinator, FNREEES
Katie Wood, FNREEES Technical Projects Coordinator
Krysia Walczak, FNIGC Statistical Analyst
Yilin Chen, FNREEES Statistical Data Analyst (term)
Chantal Leblanc, HR Consultant
Xinyu Qiao, RHS Statistical Data Analyst
Alex LaFrance, Finance & Payroll Clerk
Lyndsy Gracie, RHS Projects Assistant (maternity leave)

FNIGC's Elder

In 2015 FNIGC brought an Elder on board to assist us during our Board Meetings and other important gatherings. Claudette Commanda is an Algonquin Anishinabe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in the province of Quebec.

An alumni of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Common Law and Faculty of Arts, Ms.



Commanda has dedicated the last 30 years of her life promoting First Nations people, history, culture, language, traditional knowledge and rights in various capacities.

She is a professor for the University of Ottawa's Institute of Women's Studies, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Law, and the Aboriginal Studies Program, where she teaches courses on First Nations women, Native education, First Nations people and history, Indigenous traditions, and decolonization.

In addition she is the Executive Director for the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres, a national organization with the mandate of protecting, promoting and revitalizing First Nations languages and cultures via traditional knowledge and education.

She is inducted into the Common Law Honour Society; served two appointed terms as a Board of Governor for the First Nations University of Canada; and served three elected terms on the Kitigan Zibi Band Council. She is the mother of four children and grandmother of ten grandchildren.

Operational Budget 2015 – 2016

The Operational Budget for FNIGC is reviewed annually by the Finance and Audit Committee and presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The 2015 – 2016 Operating Budget identifies revenues received and revenues deferred, and illustrates the budget requirements for staff, operations, projects, and the meeting of our contractual obligations.

The Operating Budget is derived based on current actual and historical cost expenditures, reduction or increase in expenditures, contract obligations and deliverables, regional contract allocations, identification of any deferred revenues and potential undistributed regional allocations due to late contract deliverables or non receipt of deliverables. Activities planned from funds derived from administrative fees are identified and tied to the FNIGC Strategic Plan key objectives.

When possible, restricted reserve funding as provided for within the FNGIC financial policy and procedures is set aside into a cashable, interest bearing account.

During 2015 – 2016, FNIGC's Board of Directors approved a \$15,000 per Region capacity development grant (based on a proposal process) to aid in regional information governance developments. In addition, the Board also allocated a bonus incentive to Regions that achieved specific RHS Data Collection milestones within established timeframes.

FNIGC revenues are primarily derived through contracts with the federal government for national survey processes as supported by Health Canada and the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

In March 2016, funding for the FNREES concluded, however an extension was secured through October 2016 to allow for final dissemination efforts to be completed. The FNRHS Phase 3 is currently in its fourth year of a five-year implementation plan.

FNIGC enters into multi-year contribution agreements with our regional survey partners for the implementation of regional survey activities ranging from:

- data collection,
- regional infrastructure and coordination (including staffing, program supports for advisory committees, training, travel, software, promotion and incentives),
- Communications,
- printing,
- consultants,
- translation and
- other related activities.

Over the years, the Contribution Agreements (CAs) have been modified and improved by the FNIGC Board Finance Committee with the goal of enhanced accountability, provision of reporting templates, tools and schedules to support regional coordination of activities with clear milestones and deliverables.

For 2016 – 2017, the Regional CAs will again be improved to ensure greater compliance to meeting contractual milestones, targets, and key deliverables. These measures are aimed at promoting work planning with the goal of achieving project objectives and successful outcomes.

In future survey developments, FNIGC and our Regional Information Governance Centres (RIGCs) will seek interested and qualified organizations to assist in data collection activities.



FIRST NATIONS – FOR FIRST NATIONS. The FNLEDS represents a five-year process and we anticipate data collection to begin in late 2017. FNIGC is committed to improving each survey process, and we are committed to take cues from the lessons learned from our previous survey processes while embracing new technologies and methodologies. We understand survey and respondent fatigue and will prepare to address that fact.

Additional revenues for FNIGC are generated through service contracts for data access and data services offered through the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC). These include special projects with federal departments, academics, students and others and are managed through contracts developed specifically for the FNDC related to general tabulations, custom tabulations, data services and other. These contracts are stringent and safeguard and protect FNIGC data and ensure OCAP® is guarded.

In response to an opportunity for a new partnership and a request to assist a fellow First Nations organization, we are pleased to announce that the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) are now renting office space at FNIGC's Head Office in Akwesasne, Ontario, and are sharing common space and expenses. This new partnership is a mutual benefit to each of our respective organizations.

In 2014, FNIGC submitted a proposal to INAC to undertake a new national survey focusing on Employment and Labour themes in First Nations and Northern Communities. This proposal was approved in the 2015 Federal Budget and a new five-year agreement has now been signed for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (or, FNLEDS) which will run through to 2021.

We are very excited about this new survey and the continued support for First Nations governed and controlled data collection processes – BY





Facilities Management, Operations, and Staff Supports

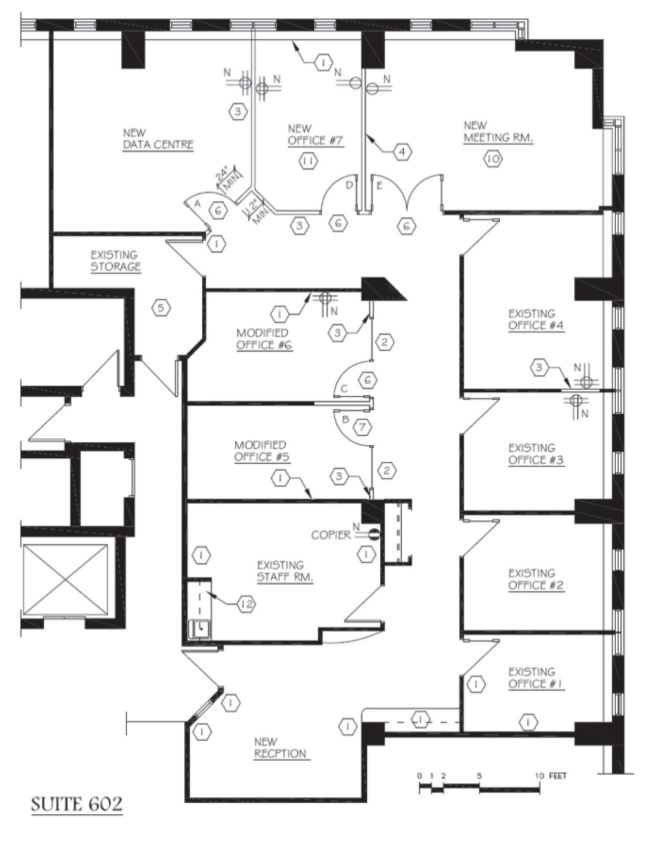
FNIGC continues to occupy two office spaces: one in Akwesasne (Head Office) and another in Ottawa (Branch Office). In addition, this year we are excited to announce that we have expanded (for a one-year term) our Ottawa office space to include another space in the same building: Suite 602. This new space will provide us 2,700-square-feet of additional office space that will host the FNLEDS team, the First Nations Data Centre, the Statistical Analyst team, and the Strategic Initiatives and Information Governance staff.

In addition, Suite 602 will house an extra boardroom and larger kitchen facilities. FNIGC will be negotiating a new lease in July, 2017.

In August 2016 FNIGC undertook an RFP tendering process for its IT Managed Services in order to find a company that would provide a greater level of IT services to address our growing needs. The firm of Grade A, an Ottawa-based IT Services company was selected. To date, we have been very pleased with their professionalism, depth of knowledge, experience, and responsiveness to our needs. We also save a significant amount per month on these services. This is proof that it pays to go out to tender and seek the best service.

FNIGC continues to support and enhance workplace ergonomics and prevention for our employees. This fiscal year we provided several staff with “Varidesk” adjustable standing desk lifts that enable staff an opportunity to sit or stand at their desks, as a means of preventing the strain

of sitting for extended periods of time. This, along with anti-fatigue floor mats, has contributed to a much more comfortable work environment.



Floorplan for Suite 602

Further, based on staff initiative, FNIGC has adopted regular exercise breaks, which are intended to reduce stress, give staff some time away from their computers, and

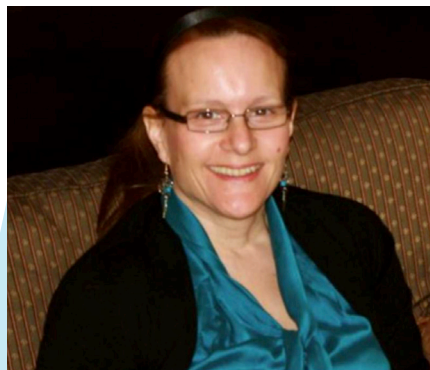
support social interaction and internal communication. These weekly activities are determined and led by staff and include stretching exercises, meditation, yoga, stair-climb challenges, brown bag lunch in the park, etc. It's a great time for all.

Financial Audit

The FNIGC Financial Audit Report for the period ending March 31, 2016, was successfully completed again this year by BDO Canada LLP. The draft Audit Report was presented and approved by the FNIGC Board of Directors on June 8, 2016 at a duly convened meeting held in Ottawa. The audit will then be presented to the FNIGC Members at the Annual General Meeting, held July 11, 2016 at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

lead investigator on a research team that is evaluating the indigenous content contained in the Ontario Nurse Practitioner Program.

She received a \$2,500 bursary from FNIGC to help support her studies.



Mary Smith,
2015 recipient
of FNIGC's
National
Student Bursary

Board Meetings and Accountability

FNIGC's Board of Directors held the following meetings in 2015 – 2016:

- April 13 & 14, 2015 (Ottawa, ON)
- June 3, 2015 (Halifax, NS)
- September 15 & 16, 2015 (Ottawa, ON)
- November 16, 2015 (Ottawa, ON)
- February 23 & 24, 2016 (Ottawa, ON)
- June 8 & 9, 2016 (Ottawa, ON)

National Student Bursary

Each year FNIGC allocates funding to support First Nations students enrolled in a post-secondary program related to information governance, information technology, data management or epidemiology. This year, only one student, Mary Smith of Beausoleil First Nation, received a bursary.

Ms. Smith is a third-year PhD Nursing student at the University of Victoria focusing on population health and chronic kidney disease. In 2011, she received a research grant from York University to examine the topic of psychiatric mental health nursing in Canada and has published several articles related to indigenous health, auto-ethnography, and story-telling. Presently she is the

Strategic Planning

Each year FNIGC reviews, adjusts, and improves upon its existing Strategic Plan, which is intended to be a living document that supports the goals, objectives and growth of the organization.

The Board consistently reviews the Strategic Plan, and in June, 2015 helped develop a revised Strategic Plan which was adopted by a resolution on September 15, 2015. The Key Objectives reflected in this plan are:

1. To demonstrating the impact of information governance
2. To maintain standards of excellence within an expanding scope of work
3. To fully implement Regional Data Centre Hubs
4. To develop a research growth pathway

These four Key Objectives formed the basis for our 2015 – 2016 Work Plan.

Board Work Plan

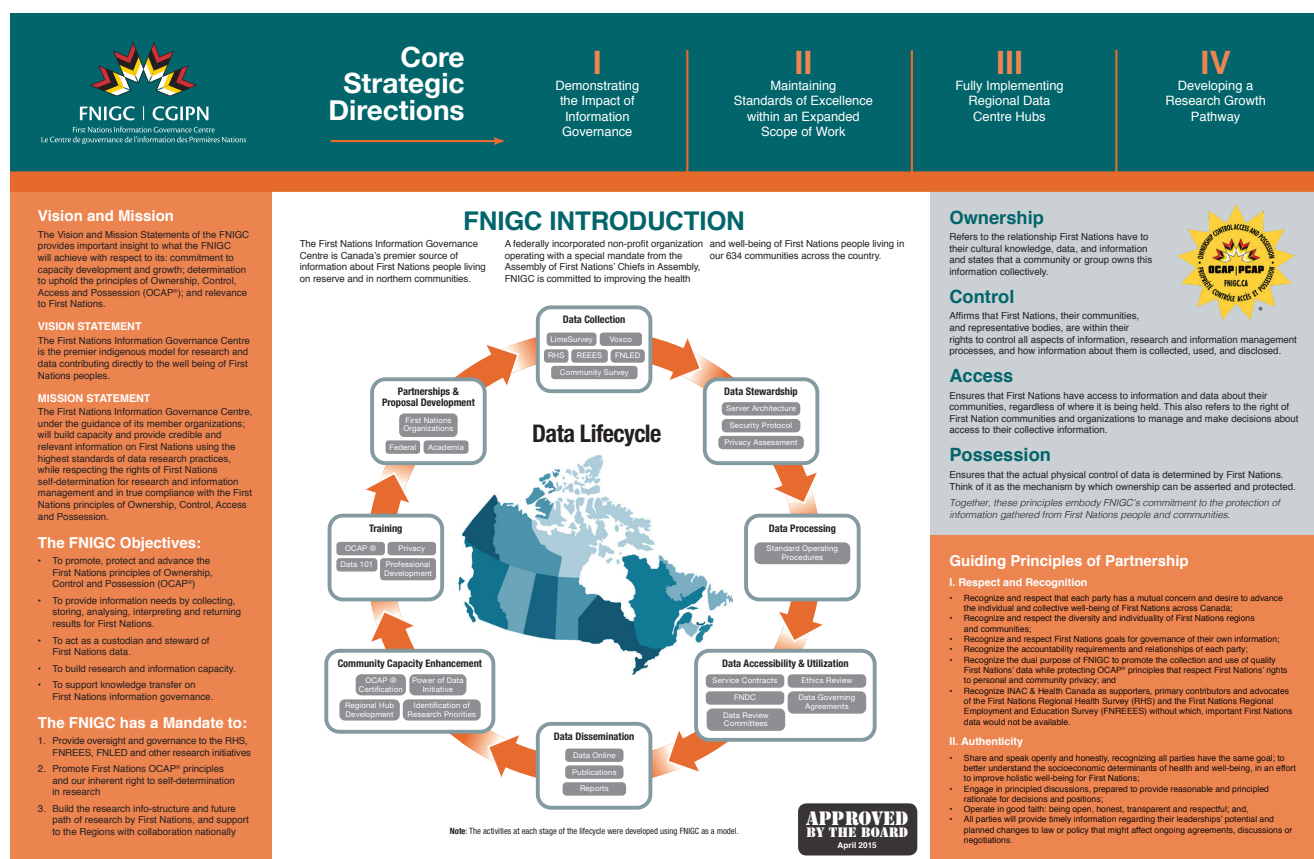
As a product of the FNIGC Board Governance work that was reviewed and adopted by the FNIGC Members in April 2015, a FNIGC Board Work Plan was developed. This Work Plan identifies specific tasks related to Board

Governance functions and specific tasks that should be undertaken on an annual basis to ensure good organizational governance and best practices.

Activities to be addressed within this Work Plan include:

- the development of a risk-management and business-continuity plan,
- the delegation of the mandates and policies,
- Board of Directors ethics and professional conduct framework,

- a FNIGC bylaw review,
- Board of Director training,
- the organization of meetings according to the mandates and objectives of the FNIGC Strategic Plan,
- the development, review and adoption of policies and tools for good governance, and
- to ensure the succession of Directors on the Board.



The First Nations Regional Health Survey

RHS PHASE 3

On April 1, 2015, FNIGC and its Regional Partners officially launched Phase 3 of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS), our landmark, foundational survey that was originally established in 1997. In the two decades since, the RHS has become recognized as a cornerstone of reliable, quality data about First Nation reserve and northern communities and is a go-to source of information for First Nation communities, researchers, academics, and government stakeholders.

To support the launch of RHS Phase 3 data collection, FNIGC produced a series of brochures, posters, articles, blogs, social media campaigns, presentations, reports, and other Communications materials designed to promote the survey in First Nations communities.

Though several Regions wrapped up data collection for the RHS within the prescribed time frame, the deadline was extended to September 30, 2016 to accommodate a series of obstacles faced by others. These included poor weather, community tragedies, and survey fatigue. Once data collection wraps up in the fall, RHS Phase 3 data analysis and interpretation will begin and preparation for the final report will be underway.

Power of Data initiative

FNIGC's unique Power of Data initiative, which launched in fall 2014, was well-received not only by those communities who participated in the stories, but also by First Nations community members at large. The series of community stories, which are designed to bring to light how RHS data has positively contributed to program and policy planning, proved so effective that we extended the series to include new stories in other Regions. To date we have published four stories, and are planning an additional two over the summer.

The stories can be downloaded from FNIGC's website, at <http://fnigc.ca/resources>

THE POWER OF DATA

KAHNAWAKE, QUEBEC – On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River about 15 minutes outside the metropolitan island of Montreal sits one of the biggest, and arguably best-known, First Nations territories in Canada: the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake.

Stretching over nearly 50 square kilometres this bustling First Nations community (the largest in Quebec) is home to nearly 10,000 people, including the award-winning textile artists Babe and Carla Hemlock, conductor John Kim Bell (the first Indigenous person to conduct a symphony orchestra), Pan-Am Gold Medalist Wanee Hom Miller, and Olympic Gold Medalist Alwyn Morris – not to mention generations of steelworkers who during the 20th century helped shape the New York City skyline, including the World Trade Centre, Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building.

But flip through a history book and you'll learn that this community's reputation reaches well beyond the last century. Kahnawake has played key roles in landmark moments throughout history, including the Two-Row Wampum Treaty of 1613, the formation of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy in 1722, and the armed resistance against American troops during the War of 1812.

Given this track record of trailblazers and visionaries it should come as no surprise to learn that Kahnawake is also on the forefront when it comes to harnessing the power of data.

Last year, following months of discussions, Kahnawake became the first community in the history of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) to assume full responsibility for the landmark survey within their community.

Since April 2015 Kahnawake has been in charge of every detail of the RHS Phase 3 (the latest cycle of the survey) from administration, sampling and recruitment to community engagement, deployment, and data collection – a massive undertaking that is typically led by the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) and its Regional Partners, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission

Kahnawake

How one Mohawk community is embracing the power of data in a unique and inspiring new way



Aerial view of Kahnawake, Quebec

(FNQLHSSC). The innovative approach was a first for everyone involved, but the community proved uniquely suited for the task.

"I think everyone knows that Kahnawake is very advanced in many areas," says Chief Rhonda Kirby who sits on the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake. "We've always tried to have a very proactive approach, and we see the importance of having our own community members get involved in the RHS. So we're happy to be a part of this."

For 20 years the RHS has been a key source of data for First Nations communities and federal departments who want to inform their policy and planning with quality, relevant information.

Established in 1997 the RHS is the only national First Nations-governed health survey in Canada. Overseen by the FNIGC, a First Nations run non-profit, and its Regional Partners the RHS gathers vital information in more than 250 on reserve and northern First Nations communities using Western and traditional understandings of health and well-being.

Discussions between the FNQLHSSC and Orkwata'karitshera (Kahnawake's health and social service agency), began in July 2014, with an agreement being finalized six months later. The mutually beneficial deal allows the two organizations to share RHS data with each other, meaning Kahnawake will get access to their

community level data which they will use for programming and planning – such as their upcoming Community Health Plan.

"It's very important to us that we make sure that we're going in the right direction and that we understand what the needs of the community are," Chief Kirby says. "The data that we receive from the RHS will help us to either change that direction, or improve on what we currently have."

Thanks to its rapidly expanding population, Kahnawake is faced with a range of issues including housing, elder care, mental health, substance abuse, Mohawk language-use, and high school non-completion – not to mention the high prevalence of diabetes, cancer, obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Some of these issues are being addressed by a \$21-million renovation of the Kateri Memorial Hospital, the only on-reserve facility of its kind in Quebec. Built in 1986, it is in the midst of a long-overdue facelift that will boost its capacity from 43 beds to 73, see 100 new employees hired and include an X-Ray department and a Traditional Medicine unit – the only one of its kind in the province. But without quality data gathered by First Nations for First Nations it's difficult to know if projects like these are targeting community health needs.

"Up until now a lot of our information has been anecdotal. An individual would tell somebody that they had a condition, like scleroderma, and we'd hear about it from other people. But it was hearsay," says Valerie Diabo Director of Nursing at Kateri Memorial. "We're hoping that the RHS will give us strong data to support some of the information that we're getting. For example, it will let us know how many of our kids are smoking. Do we need to put new programs in place to help with that? This data is going to give us a look at trends, things to look out for that maybe we haven't included in our Health Plan."

This enthusiasm for the Power of Data extends to all aspects of Kahnawake's RHS efforts. Blair Armstrong, the RHS Community Coordinator for Orkwata'karitshera, says they have mobilized all of their resources in an "all-hands-on-deck" effort to get the word out.

This includes RHS radio ads, live interviews, posters, flyers, brochures, survey progression thermometers, social media outreach, YouTube ads, spots on community television stations, and outreach booths at community events like harvest fairs, craft fairs, and even blood donor clinics.



"We definitely have a lot of promotions out there," says Armstrong. "You can even see RHS ads up on our big electronic billboards." He says the feedback from the community so far has been "fantastic."

Their passion for the RHS is undeniable and even infectious. After spending a day in town you get the real sense that everyone in this community understands that quality data can be the key to real substantive change. You might even call them Power of Data disciples.

"Everyone at FNIGC is impressed with the kind of efforts and initiatives that Kahnawake is putting forward with the RHS," says Addie Pryce, FNIGC's RHS & Capacity Development Coordinator. "They really are a model to others who are looking for innovative ways to both gather and use First Nations data."

It's an effort that couldn't have happened without the cooperation and initiative of FNIGC's Regional Partners in Quebec, who were the first to identify this new way forward.

"Our number one priority is to get the data back to the communities so they can put it to work and make something concrete with it," says Jonathan Lucier, the FNQLHSSC's Regional RHS Coordinator. "One of the reasons I like working with Kahnawake is that they're not doing the survey just to do the survey. They have a vision, and they know what they want to do with the data. It's quite inspiring for us."

"Sometimes when you're doing this work, you feel like not everyone understands the importance of what you're doing. But here, we feel like Yeah, it is important."

For more information about the RHS and FNIGC, please visit FNIGC.ca

In 2015, FNIGC also produced a video that illustrates the positive, real-world impact that FNIGC data has had over the years in First Nations communities, and focuses on the survey data collection and implementation process in a First Nations community. “FNIGC: Data by First Nations for First Nations” highlights a day-in-the-life of a Regional Fieldworker in Sipekne’katik First Nation in Nova Scotia and explored the ways FNIGC data is used to help support capacity building in First Nations communities. The video can be viewed (in French and English) at our YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/FNIGC.

Acknowledgements

The FNIGC would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Regional Partners for their ongoing support to the RHS survey process. We would also like to recognize the hard work of the community fieldworkers, without whom the data would not be collected.

Lastly, a big thank you to the participants who give of themselves to make the RHS survey process a success – without your contributions, the ability to affect change in policy and program planning in our First Nations communities and within government would not be possible, and we gratefully acknowledge your time and commitment.



FNIGC's RHS team in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

The First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey

The 2015-2016 fiscal year marked the final year of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES, or REEES), and as such there were many concluding activities that were undertaken.

REEES data collection was completed in May 2015, with 20,429 children, youth, and adults from 243 First Nations communities contributing to the final data set. This represents five-percent of the total First Nations population in Canada, or a very admirable 70 percent of our target sample. For a new national-level First Nations survey this percentage illustrates the level of hard work and dedication that the REEES teams – both national and regional – were able to accomplish.

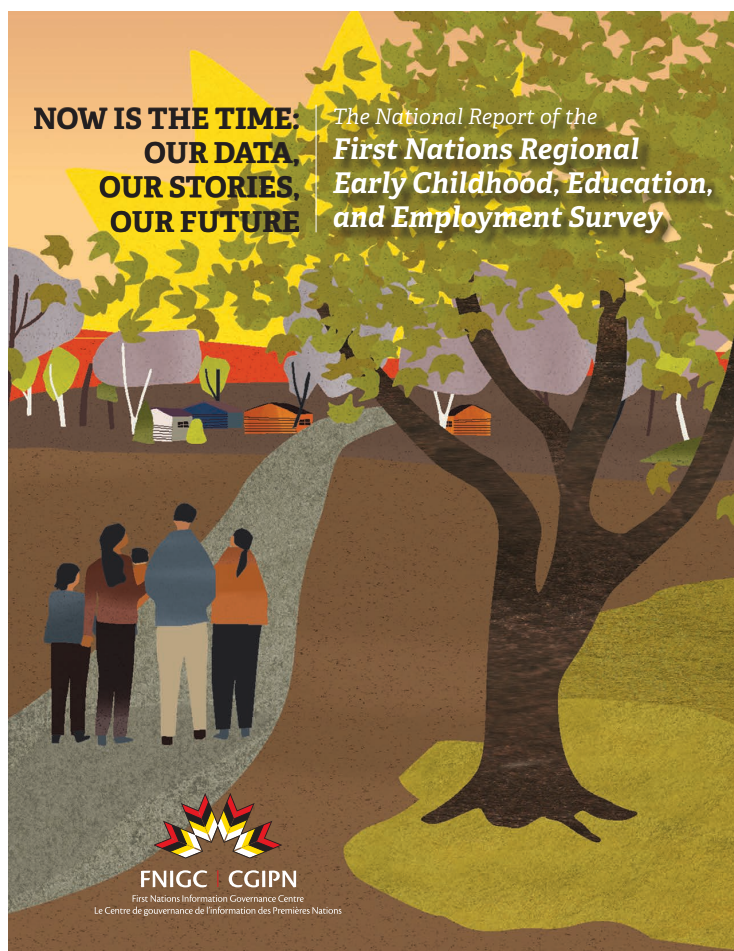
We would like to congratulate FNIGC's national staff, Regional Partner organizations, Regional Coordinators, Regional Data Analysts, Administrators, Fieldworkers, First Nations Leadership, Community Staff and the various committees and consultants who participated and contributed to the success of the REEES data-collection processes. And, most importantly, a big "Thank You" to the more than 20,000 First Nations community members who took the time to fill out the survey and contribute to our growing knowledge of First Nations community life.

In October 2015, FNIGC convened a Lessons Learned workshop in Ottawa that brought together our Regional Partners to gather information on the issues identified during the data collection process, and address lessons that were learned. The Lessons Learned session focused on the experiences during the REEES process with the goal of creating a set of best practices to guide future surveys. These lessons could then be incorporated into the ongoing work of the current Regional Health Survey, and future FNIGC survey, in an effort to improve upon the processes involved.

In addition, an external evaluation of the REEES process was undertaken by Bell Browne Molnar & Delicate Consulting Inc. following an RFP process. The purpose of the FNREEES Process Evaluation was to undertake an evaluation of the survey processes at the regional level. An evaluation of differing regional structures and modes of survey administration (including staffing, recruiting, training, and monitoring of survey delivery) was used to help to determine which models have the best success rates. This helped to formulate a set of best practices, or standards to ensure efficient and effective survey administration and collection for future surveys at the regional level.

Around the same time, FNIGC was also busy organizing a national REEES conference entitled "Now is the Time: Our Data, Our Stories, Our Future" which was held November 17-19, 2015 at the Westin Ottawa Hotel. The conference was attended by over 150 participants including First Nations experts, community leaders, planners, academics and government representatives and stakeholders who gathered for three days of workshops, discussion groups, and skill-building sessions. Preliminary results from the FNREEES were presented at the conference at the national and regional levels. Infographics were created showcasing key national findings and were shared with all conference participants. Participants were also able to attend special presentations on various information governance initiatives, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and training workshops along with special social functions and events.

Following the REEES conference, we began the hard work involved in producing a final national data report. In seeking qualified writers, an RFP process was undertaken to seek experts in the areas of early childhood, education and employment. A team of writers were then contracted to collaborate with FNIGC



in the development of preliminary results, which were released at our REEES National Data Release Conference. As the writers produced the chapters, several reviews were conducted by internal and external review committees, in addition to a cultural review. We were pleased to provide the draft REEES National Report to our funders on March 31, 2016 having met a significant milestone and deliverable.

The final report, titled *Now is the Time: Our Data, Our Stories, Our Future, National Report of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education, and Employment*

Survey will be released on July 12, 2016. In this national report we present the REEES results in a descriptive analysis of the key findings in the areas of early childhood education, education, employment, and labour. We also provide a description of our methodology and the cultural framework that was used to develop the questionnaire and served to guide the report format.

Results for the REEES report were triple-checked for accuracy. This report will provide an overview of the national results in select areas covered in the survey. As the REEES covered many themes and topics, the report is not intended to address them all; however, it is the intent of FNIGC to produce supplemental and specialized reports derived from this very rich REEES data source.

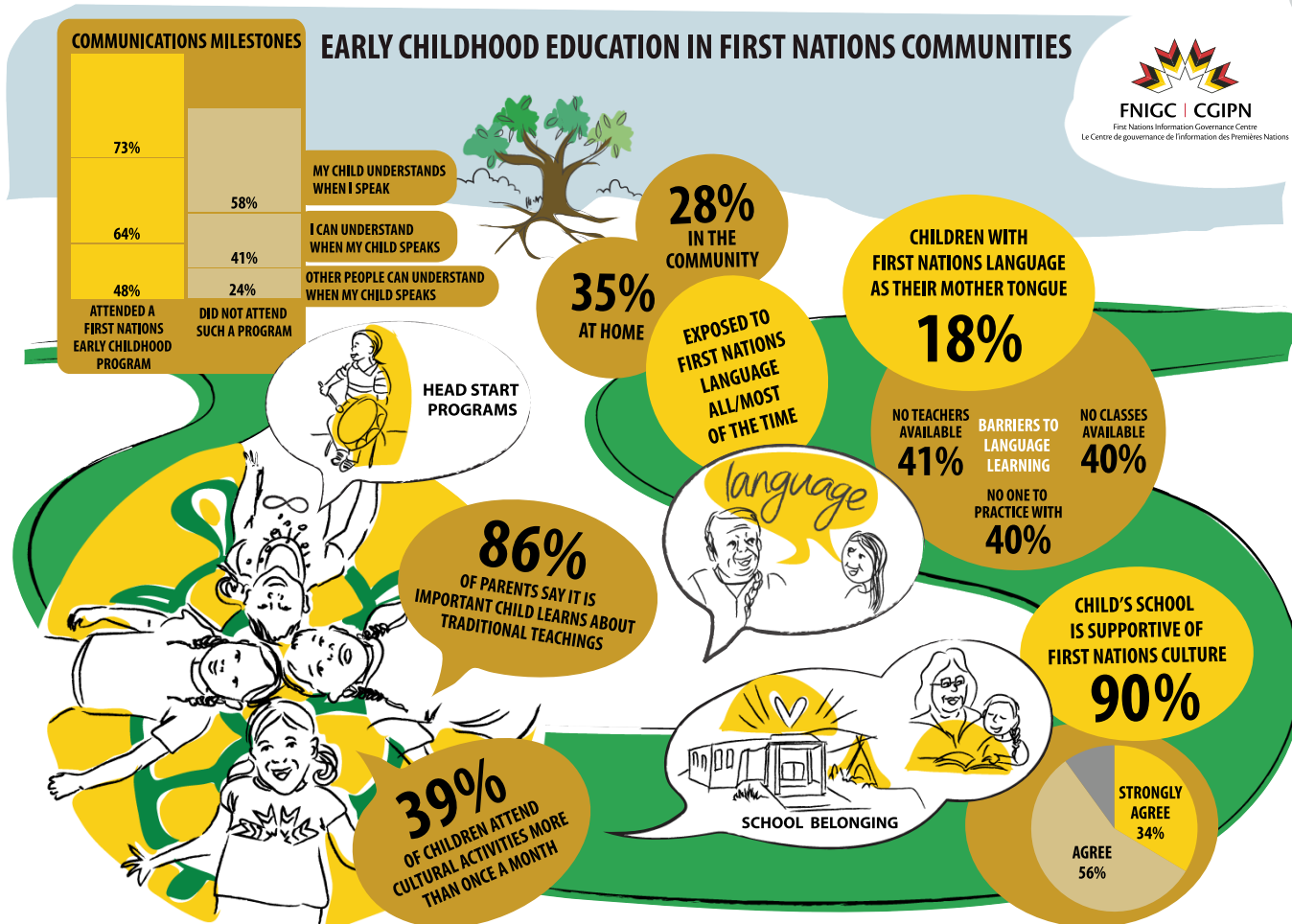
The REEES National Report and its focus on early childhood, education, and employment will provide a critical first look into these important issues and expand our knowledge of the issues, strengths, resiliency, and conditions of First Nations people living on reserve and in northern First Nations communities in Canada.

In addition to this final report, FNIGC is producing several supplementary communications materials aimed at First Nations communities and leadership. A Quick Facts publication, targeted for First Nations leadership, will be released at the AFN's 37th Annual General Assembly in July 2016. As well, three "Did you Know?" Fact Sheets will also be ready for the AFN AGA and will later be mailed out to all communities who participated in the REEES. Finally, efforts are underway to ready the REEES data for upload to our First Nations Data Centre and FNIGC Data Online.

This REEES National Report and its related publications, is just the beginning of the knowledge we will gain from this important survey, which will provide information for years to come on the strengths, resilience, and key

conditions and realities in First Nations communities across our lands. Thank you to all the First Nations Communities and members who took the time to participate in the FNREEES.

1



The First Nations Information Governance Center (FNIGC). (2015).
The First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey 2013-14 [Data Set]. Ottawa, ON: FNIGC.

FNIGC.CA

FACEBOOK.COM/FNIGC

TWITTER.COM/FNIGC

Communications

The past 12 months have been dynamic ones for FNIGC, as we continue to further our Vision, to build capacity and provide credible and relevant information about First Nations for First Nations people living on reserve and northern communities across Canada.

Collectively, we work as a strong team to fulfill our mandate and meet core strategic objectives. Communications has been doing its part to back this sustained effort, whether it's supporting Internal Communications (with the Sunrise News, Open Atrium) or External Communications initiatives which over the past year have included: social media outreach, Power of Data stories, ongoing Communications efforts for the RHS, and a continued commitment to video communications.

During the 2015 – 2016 year Communications activities included:

- 1) FNIGC.ca
- 2) Social Media
- 3) RHS
- 4) REEES
- 5) First Nations Community Survey
- 6) The First Nations principles of OCAP®
- 7) First Nations Data Centre
- 8) #PointTheWay survey and social media campaign
- 9) Sunrise News
- 10) Other activities

FNIGC.ca

Though FNIGC's Communications activities are multi-faceted at the core of it remains FNIGC.ca: its go-to source of information, whether that's data reports, publications, blog posts, media releases or job postings. FNIGC.ca was launched in 2013, and served to present FNIGC and its various assets in an easily accessible and modern manner.

In the three years since the Drupal-based site has expanded, playing host to new sections (like the First Nations Data Centre, Training, and the Fundamentals of OCAP® online course), and enhanced versions of existing content, like the revamped OCAP® section. All of these activities and content have helped boost traffic to our website in a substantial way.

Web traffic

Over the past year FNIGC's website has received a total of 64,431 page views for an average of 5,369 views a month, a marked increase from the previous year when we received 41,510 views, or 3,459 average monthly views.

This represents record growth for FNIGC.ca, with an average overall increase in traffic of more than 50 percent (55%); we received 22,921 more visitors during 2015 – 2016, which translates to 1,910 more pageviews a month. This marks the highest growth ever for our website.

Monthly website traffic peaked at 3,828 pageviews in November 2015, when our three-day National REEES Conference took place in Ottawa.

Daily traffic peaked on November 18, 2015 (with 312 page views), which was likely related to the fact that FNIGC released the initial results from the REEES on our website on that day.

The average session duration during the 2015 – 2016 period was nearly three minutes (2:57), which marks a jump from the average session duration for 2014 – 2015, which was 2:32 minutes. This metric is important as it represents the average amount of time that a visitor spends on our website.

As expected, the majority of users (or 1 in 4) visited FNIGC.ca's home page (15, 471 page views) making it the #1 most visited page. Our OCAP® section (FNIGC.ca/OCAP®) came in second place (with 5,809

pageviews), FNIGC.ca/resources (aka our reports and downloads page) was third with 3,441 pageviews, data.fnigc.ca/online (FNIGC Data Online) was fourth with 2,916 pageviews, FNIGC.ca/our-work/rhs (our RHS main page) placed fifth with 2,810 pageviews, and our media release for the REES preliminary data, which was released on the second day of the REES National Data Release conference on November 18, 2015, appeared at #6, with 2,065 page views. This marks the first time a release of any kind has made an appearance in the Top 10. The FNDC section of the site also appeared on the list for the first time: it was in the 10th spot, with 930 pageviews.

		64,431 % of Total: 100.00% (64,431)
1.	/	15,471 (24.01%)
2.	/ocap.html	5,809 (9.02%)
3.	/resources.html	3,441 (5.34%)
4.	/online	2,916 (4.53%)
5.	/our-work/regional-health-survey/about-rhs.html	2,810 (4.36%)
6.	/news/new-data-offers-comprehensive-look-early-childhood-education-and-employment-realities-first	2,065 (3.20%)
7.	/about-fnigc/contact-us.html	1,577 (2.45%)
8.	/about-fnigc/careers-fnigc.html	1,310 (2.03%)
9.	/our-work/fnrees/about-rees.html	1,007 (1.56%)
10.	/fndc	930 (1.44%)

Top Ten visits to FNIGC.ca, via Google Analytics

Downloads

FNIGC's reports for the First Nations Regional Health Survey remain the top downloads from FNIGC.ca, being accessed a total of nearly 2,500 times in the past 12 months, while reports from RHS Phase 1 have been downloaded 341 times and RHS Phase 2 reports have been downloaded 1,200 times.

The five infographics for the REES preliminary data were downloaded nearly 2,000 times, while the "Power of Data" RHS stories were accessed 2,100 times.

Audience

There were more than 43,500 unique users of FNIGC.ca between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

On average, the majority (91%) of FNIGC.ca's users reside in Canada, with the United States in second place at 3.8%, which remains unchanged from previous years. The large majority of our users (91%) also remain English-speakers, with nearly 5% identifying as French.

Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) visitors to FNIGC.ca accessed the site from Ottawa, with nearly 1 in 10 (8%) accessing us from Toronto, and nearly 5% accessing us from either Gatineau, Vancouver or Winnipeg.

There was a positive shift between new and returning users, with new users representing 44% of our page views and returning users representing the other 56%; this is small (4%) but positive shift towards more new users compared to 2014 – 2015.

In addition, more than 1 in 5 (or 20%) of users accessed FNIGC.ca on a mobile device; 62% of whom did so on an iPhone or iPad. This indicates a slight increase from the previous year, when 1 in 6 accessed the site with a mobile device and represents a general three-year trend of more mobile users. This will continue to influence how we present website content in the year ahead.



In addition, FNIGC.ca's bounce rate (the percentage of visitors who leave a website after looking at just one page) decreased from 56% to 52%. This is a positive change.

Social Media

In today's virtually connected age, few can ignore the influence of social media. Whether it's Twitter or Facebook, if a social platform is used correctly, consistently, and capably it can yield tremendous power to help an organization deliver their message to their desired audience.

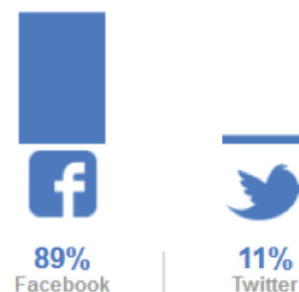
For FNIGC, social media continues to play an important role in our outreach and promotional efforts to First Nations people, communities, and other stakeholders. The past year has witnessed consistent growth and impact for our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn accounts.

Tweets	Top Tweets	Tweets and replies	Promoted	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
FNIGC @fnigo: Mar 16	Great @duncanmccue piece on CBC about how seamstresses in Nunavut are creating a new chic market for sealskin owtjZydyf	1,043	13	1.2%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Feb 1	FNIGC & @AlgonquinCollege just launched an online course about the First Nations principles of #OCAP owtjZydyf	942	23	2.4%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Mar 7	Our new video takes you inside FNIGC's data collection work in First Nations communities. Check it out! owtjZ1RLg	716	18	2.5%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Jan 21	@IndigenousXca It's true! This video describes how it all went down fnigc.ca/news/new-fnigc...	625	7	1.1%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Jan 18	Are you an Inuit actor bwn 13 - 23-years-old? Check out this open call for a new film shooting in Nunavut owtjZ6ZPU	590	8	1.4%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Feb 19	Hey all! Have a happy FNIGC #FFI @camacq @ShyBarberstock @AnnSyllboy @KaitieWarren and special thx to @INDIGTop10!	565	14	2.5%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Mar 2	We are happy to report that 78 people have signed up for our Fundamentals of OCAP course. Will you be 79? owtjZVTx5	498	10	2.0%	Promote	
FNIGC @fnigo: Apr 1	Happy #FF from FNIGC! @Meghann_Brinoni @SaikuzJasmine @wewap @RHS Sask @redrockcamps	494	5	1.0%	Promote	

Top tweets for 2015 – 2015, via Twitter

For example, our Twitter account received 78,400 impressions during the 2015 – 2016 period and gained 283 new followers, to 1,300 (from 1,017 last year) representing 28% growth. In addition, FNIGC is currently listed on 42 First Nations Twitter lists (up from 29 last year). A Twitter list is a curated group of Twitter users and is an indication of a user's authority in a subject area.

Meanwhile on Facebook, the number of people who "Like" FNIGC's Facebook Page increased from 739 in 2014 – 2015 to 1,164, a total increase of 425 or a growth of 56%.



These metrics show that our Facebook presence is experiencing quicker growth, which may inform our strategy moving forward. Facebook continues to be the key source of social media traffic to FNIGC.ca, with Twitter coming in second.

In addition, our YouTube channel (YouTube.com/FNIGC) has received viewed 4,607 which represents a 68% increase over the previous fiscal period. The most popular FNIGC videos are "Understanding the First Nations Principles of OCAP®: Our Road Map to Information Governance", which was viewed 2,232 times and "Wab Kinew raps FNIGC's Regional Health Survey (at 1,084), followed by "The 2015 Community Survey" and our series of Fieldworker training videos.

In 2016 we decided to shift our primary video hosting site, from YouTube to Wistia, a professional video hosting site which offers higher quality videos, easier online sharing, and more detailed analytics. While we will continue to use YouTube as a social media platform, Wistia (which is no-cost) will be the primary point of contact for our videos for the time being.

In summary, FNIGC's social media reputation has continued to prosper over the past year thanks to a concerted Communications strategy that engages people based on their interest in First Nations social, culture, and academic issues. Our reputation online allows us a direct line to a wide-range of First Nations decision-makers and people across the country that we would otherwise be unable to reach out to with more traditional modes of communication.

Profile Summary

Followers	1,299
Following	988
Listed	42

RHS Phase 3

As part of FNIGC's ongoing commitment to our foundational survey process, the First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS), on April 1, 2015 we launched a special Communications strategy designed to highlight the positive real-world impact that RHS data has had in First Nations communities over the past two decades.

This strategy, which we called "The Power of Data", began with the creation of three new brochures: a general informational one for the RHS, another targeted at answering common questions raised in communities, and a third FNIGC-centric one that leveraged the Power of Data messaging. We also produced an e-poster or the brochure.

Ms. Jade Ernest @msernest4161

Collecting data to promote health care initiatives like #FirstNations community gardens @fnigc @CBC_Aboriginal #Sask

9:18 AM - 11 Jun 2016

As an added push, we produced a series of Power of Data community stories and a new video that stressed the role that FNIGC data has played in shaping federal government policy and programs for First Nations communities and how that data has supported local capacity development as well (see REEES section for more about this initiative).

These articles proved very popular, with communities and government stakeholders, and we began getting

Laura Syms @LauraSyms1

#Data alert. @fnigc Data Online great and easy to use source for stats on Canadian #FirstNations. I'm excited! data.fnigc.ca/online

6:50 PM - 6 Jun 2016

FNIGC @fnigc - 9s
@LauraSyms1 Thanks for the shout-out!

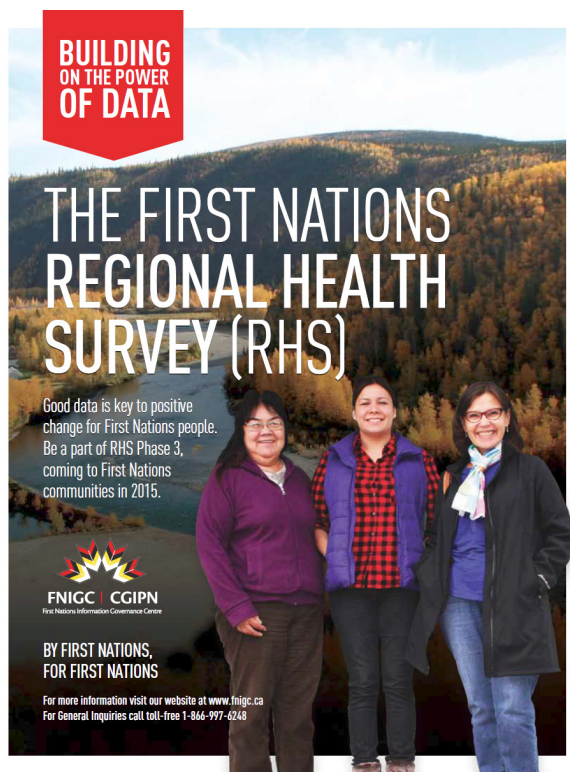
request to replicate the process in other Regions (we completed work on one in Quebec, will soon publish one based in BC, and are planning two more in Alberta and Manitoba). The Power of Data stories also made an impression on our government partners: INAC used the series as an example of the good work they were funding in a submission to Industry Canada in 2015.

We also continued the good work of the RHS: In the Field blog, which serves to highlight positive results in survey deployment across the country.

Twitter and Facebook were also leveraged to help spread the word, with FNIGC assisting our Regional Partners at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous Nations to establish a Twitter and Facebook profile for the RHS Phase 3.

REEES

As REEES data collection geared down in 2015, Communications geared up to help promote the launch of the data set collected by the landmark First Nations survey. On the heels of a successful social media campaign for the REEES in winter 2015, we began



preparing in summer 2016 for the release of initial preliminary data from the REEES which was scheduled to be released during a National Conference in November.

In addition to a media release promoting the new data (which was released in a series of five infographics) we produced a new video, “FNIGC: Data by First Nations for First Nations”, which focused on the good work of our Regional Partners in Sipekne’katik (Shubenacadie) First Nation in Nova Scotia. The video, highlighted the work of one local Fieldworker who collected data for the REEES and the RHS. It also stressed the importance of FNIGC national data over the years in supporting policies and programs in First Nations communities.

The video launched on the first day of our REEES conference in Ottawa, on November 17, 2016, and has been cited since as a valuable communications tool.

On November 18, the second day of the conference, we published media release on our website that featured the REEES infographics and initial REEES data. The release proved to be our most popular to date, appearing in the Top 10 of most visited pages on FNIGC.ca for 2015 – 2015.

In addition, Communications conducted a Workshop at the conference on Strategic Communications Planning, and hired two First Nations youth as Social Media Officers for the conference. Thanks to their hard work, attendees to the conference were actively engaged on Twitter and Facebook.

In 2016, we began the long process of creating a National Data report based on the final REEES data set. After a lengthy writing and editing process, *Our Data, Our Stories, Our Future, The National Report of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education, and Employment Survey*, is scheduled for release on July 12, 2106 at the 37th Annual AFN AGA in Niagara Falls, Ontario. It will be accompanied by a media release, social media outreach, a Quick Facts for leadership booklet, and a series of REEES Fact Sheets designed for First Nations communities in mind.

First Nations Community Survey

With the launch of the First Nations Community Survey in a new online format in 2015, FNIGC decided we needed a renewed Communications push to help promote the importance of the Community Survey in support of community planning. This included two video (2 minute version and 7 minute version) that explained the survey process to leadership and community members in a clear, concise way.

In addition, we created a new bilingual brochure for the Community Survey that was designed to accompany the video.

The First Nations principles of OCAP®

OCAP® is at the core of everything we do at FNIGC, and as such has come to be closely associated with us at every level during the nearly 20 years of its existence. As such, Communication plays a significant role in explaining OCAP® to the public.

In August 2015, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) registered trademark status to the “OCAP” (and “PCAP”) acronym marking the end of a four-year process to safeguard the OCAP® name and logo. As a result of this, a set of “Qs and As” for the website was developed that serves to explain OCAP®, as well as the background of its creation, how it applies to First Nations, how it applies to researchers, and how OCAP® should be cited. This was published on the website in May 2016.

At the same time, we published a feature article on the homepage (“OCAP™ is now OCAP®: Understanding the new trademark status”) that officially announced the new trademark status of OCAP®, described how OCAP® should be cited, and explained the legal and moral implications moving forward.

First Nations Data Centre

In December 2015, FNIGC launched a section of the website dedicated to the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC). The new section, which was accompanied by a media release announcing the grand opening of the FNDC, includes a description of the Data Centre, fee structures, along with an online data request tool.

The new section greatly expanded the reach of the FNDC, which was previously operating by word-of-mouth with the academic and research communities. It proved popular enough to appear in the Top 10 of most visited pages on FNIGC.ca for 2015 – 2016 (at #10). In addition, in May 2016 we created a new booklet to help promote the FNDC. The unique publication features French and English content in one 16-page “booklet” style, and adopted a new look-and-feel designed to appeal to our new audience (researchers and academics).

Sunrise News

For three years The Sunrise News (FNIGC’s internal newsletter) has filled an important role as a virtual gathering place for FNIGC staff, Regional Partners, Board Members and Member Delegates. The bi-monthly newsletter is now available in both electronic and PDF forms, and includes regular updates on the REEES and RHS, a column by FNIGC’s Executive Director, Announcements and Appointments, Out and About (which features extracurricular activities), a

“Recommended From The Web” section, and the popular “Govern This!” which focuses on issues surrounding data privacy.



Other activities

In the past year Communications was also kept busy with other activities. These included creating a “Governance Placemat” for the Board of Directors illustrating the work of the Board Governance Committee and provides a broad overview of the FNIGC, initiating the transfer of FNIGC Data online to a new and more accessible web platform, overseeing the development of a new banner for our trade show presence, fielding media calls and requests for information, and servicing the writing and editing requests of employees and the Regions.

Conclusion

In summary, 2015 – 2016 has been a prolific and rewarding year for FNIGC’s Communications unit. We have cultivated a credible online profile, expanded our use of video communications, and furthered our high-level of professional written communications. We look forward to continuing these efforts, and furthering them, in the year ahead.

For more information about Communications contact Brad Mackay, Communications Coordinator, at ext. 109.

Privacy and Data Security

With the assistance of Biotika Inc., a data privacy consulting group, FNIGC has been working diligently over the past year to advance our privacy and security program. Building upon the recommendations from the Privacy Issues Identification audit that FNIGC commissioned in 2013, a suite of policies and standard operating procedures has been drafted in an effort to guarantee that we meet or exceed industry best practices.

Given FNIGC's reputation as a data collection and protection standard-bearer, it is important that stringent internal policies and procedures are in place to safeguard

our information, and the information that we have been entrusted with.

By implementing an enhanced privacy and security accountability framework, FNIGC can be assured that we are fully protecting the privacy and confidentiality of First Nations individuals and communities who have chosen to participate in our survey processes.

This work is of tremendous importance and will further solidify FNIGC's reputation as a data collection agent and repository.



First Nations Data Centre

The First Nations Data Centre (FNDC) is a special knowledge exchange service that provides easier access to data from FNIGC's respected survey work, such as the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) and the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES, or REEES).

Officially opened in December 2015, the FNDC is the first service of its kind and offers data access to approved applicants pursuing research or policy and planning. In the months since its grand opening, the FNDC has been steadily ramping up its business.

In fall 2015, FNDC launched its own section on the FNIGC website (www.fnigc.ca/fndc) which provides information on how to access the Data Centre's services including an online application process. Since its launch the FNDC section of FNIGC.ca has received nearly 1,200 pageviews, and is the sixth most visited section of the website.

In addition, a special FNDC booklet was developed to help market its unique services. The bilingual booklet is designed with researchers in mind and therefore has a distinctive look to help set it apart from FNIGC's other Communications products. It has been distributed at presentations, meetings, and conferences, where it has been met with positive feedback.

Furthermore, FNIGC presented several times on the FNDC and its services over the past year to various forums, which included: the REEES National Data Release Conference, the annual meeting of the Canadian Research Data Network, and the Indigenous Health Conference hosted by the University of Toronto.

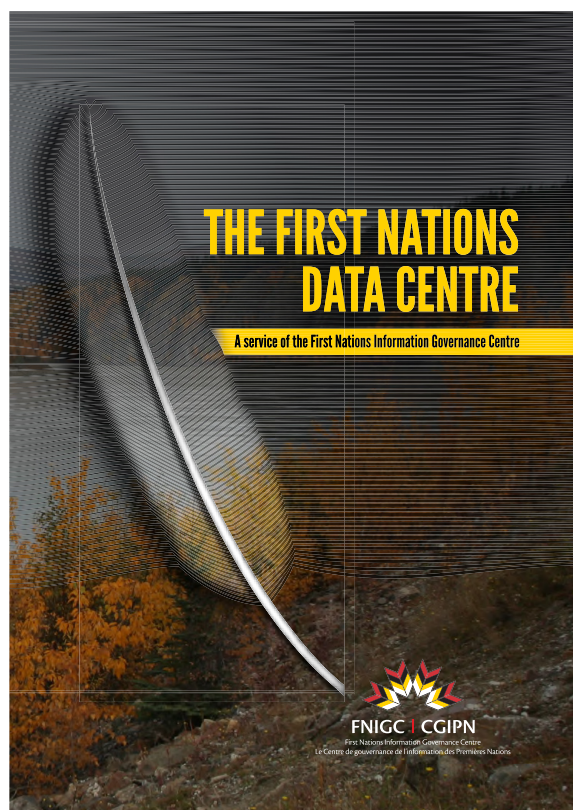
In its effort to increase exposure the FNDC is looking to secure more partnerships to encourage more use of its data holdings for the benefit of First Nations. The FNDC has also been engaged with the review of policies and procedures related to privacy and security at FNIGC. By identifying areas that require improvement and

implementing the necessary changes, the FNDC will be better structured to take on additional services such as holding other datasets.

Next steps

Appreciating the significance of using the data that is collected at FNIGC, the FNDC will be working this year to engage more with universities, researchers, First Nations organizations and federal agencies to promote the Data Centre and its data holdings. With the national dataset housed and protected in Ottawa and Akwesasne, the FNDC also hopes to identify ways to improve access for students and those residing out of town.

For further information on the FNDC, please contact the FNDC Coordinator, Maria Santos, at ext. 110



Capacity Development

Achievements

FNIGC Capacity Development Initiative

Regional capacity development in the area of information and data governance has been identified by the FNIGC Board of Directors as a priority. As a result, discussions around the development of Regional Information Governance Centres (RIGC) have taken place, with the Board and several federal departments having voiced interest in proposals to support this new direction.

In the summer 2015 an environmental scan was completed and input was solicited from our Regional Partners in an effort to discover what roles and functions the RIGC's would be required to fill in order to support information and data governance initiatives in the regions.

Following this review, the Board is now preparing a more comprehensive look at the possible structures, mandates, finances, and infrastructure requirements

that would be necessary to move this development further. These discussions will culminate in a proposal that will be submitted to various federal departments.

The discussions are ongoing but it is anticipated that a proposal for the funding of RIGCs will be well-received.

FNIGC Research Ethics Review Function

FNIGC has recently finalized procedural and substantive documents to support an FNIGC Research Ethics Review Function within our organization. It is anticipated that the FNIGC ethics review function will be launched during the fall 2016, at which time a formal Ethics Review Committee (ERC) will be in place at FNIGC. A call for interested ERC members, with expertise in various content areas, will be circulated later this summer.

Procedures developed for the FNIGC ERC will also serve as templates for RIGCs who may also desire to implement such functions in their region.



The First Nations Community Survey

The latest iteration of the First Nations Community Survey (FNCS), a unique initiative designed to complement the FNREES and FNRHS, was deployed in the fall of 2015 with an anticipated completion date of March 2016. Although the uptake was initially slow, the pace for collection has since increased and an extension until September 2016 was approved by the Board of Directors.

The FNCS is organized into 12 “themes” or sections representing different aspects of life in a First Nations community, such as: housing, justice, safety, health services, and governance. The survey will be used to provide context to the health and wellness outcomes gathered from the RHS and the REES. Furthermore, it can also be used by the community, regionally or nationally for community planning and development.

As of May 2016 nearly 100 communities have participated in the FNCS, with varying completion rates. In total, 15 percent of the expected number of sections to be collected has been received.

FNIGC Regional Partners have had varying experiences with FNCS data collection. Although the survey was launched with an online administration focus, some regions have reported that they’ve opted for the more traditional paper- or phone-based administration.

Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of time to identify the designated community experts or “persons most knowledgeable” to complete the survey and that certain sections require more than one person to complete. As we evaluate expanding the survey to all communities, these concerns will need to be fully explored and addressed. However, the regions that have used the online survey application have expressed that the LimeSurvey (software) application was easy to use and had an effective tracking capability.

FNIGC has offered extra assistance to the Regions to complete the FNCS, in the form of First Nations students to collect this important information over the summer. At this point in time, we are currently waiting for the Regions’ response prior to engaging this approach.

In addition, a Community Survey brochure was developed to complement the video that was produced in 2014 – 2015. The bilingual brochure, which was distributed to communities, during presentations, meetings, and conferences, had a unique audience in



THE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY SURVEY

INTRODUCING THE 2015 FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY SURVEY

The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), in collaboration with its Regional Partners, is launching a re-designed **First Nations Community Survey** that will roll-out in 330 First Nations reserve and Northern communities in 2015 in a new online format.

The 2015 **First Nations Community Survey** will be conducted as part of FNIGC's nationally mandated **First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS)** and **Regional Early Childhood Education and Employment Survey (FNREES)**.

Together, the results from these three surveys will provide a more holistic picture of the various issues affecting First Nations communities and provide First Nations people the ability to examine the relationship between community level factors and individual well-being.

For example, the information collected in the 2015 **First Nations Community Survey** will help First Nations communities understand how real-world factors – like a safe clean water system, a community or youth centre, or a First Nations-run school – can have a positive impact on the well-being of their people.

WHAT IS THE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY SURVEY?

Founded in 2005, the **First Nations Community Survey** is a unique initiative of the FNIGC and is designed to complement the **FNRHS** and **FNREES**. The Community Survey provides a valuable portrait of communities by surveying select community members on a series of themes, each intended to represent the range of issues First Nations communities face.

FNIGC | CGIPN
First Nations Information Governance Centre
Le Centre de gouvernance de l'information des Premières Nations

mind and therefore was developed with a different look-and-feel from other FNIGC products. We are impressed with the final product and look forward to more people inquiring about our service.

As we move towards the final deadline for collection of the FNCS data, FNIGC will be working over the summer to create the syntax necessary to process the data and produce a more user-friendly type of report that the regions can provide to their communities.

To learn more about the Community Survey visit our website, www.fnigc.ca. Also check out our YouTube channel (www.YouTube.com/FNIGC) where you can view our two First Nations Community Survey videos, a short promotional version intended for general viewership and a longer one intended for leadership and community members (each is available in English and French).

For further information, please contact Maria Santos, the FNDC Coordinator, at ext. 110.



A still image from "FNIGC's Community Survey Video"

Collaborative Review of Research Priorities and Partnerships

FNIGC is closely associated with quality First Nations data, in part because we know that information gathered by First Nations for First Nations is critical when it comes to making informed, knowledge-based decisions at the community level. Good data also has the ability to inspire effective policy and programs on a federal level, which has the power to influence and inspire First Nation people living in reserve and northern communities across Canada.

In light of this, in 2015 FNIGC commissioned a special review of its research priorities with the goal of identifying the research areas that are of immediate importance to First Nations, and devising ways to translate FNIGC's existing data sets into rigorous, strength-based research that supports positive change. That's where the Collaborative Review of Research Priorities and Partnerships (CRRPP) came in.

Led by by an experienced team that included Dr. Jodi Bruhn (Stratégiste Canada Inc.) and Dr. Rose-Alma McDonald (Katenies Research and Management Services), the Collaborative Review engaged with the FNIGC's Regional Partners, federal partners and stakeholders (including parliamentary researchers, academic researchers and indigenous professional associations), and First Nations communities in an effort to:

- identify priority research themes (i.e., "burning issues") shared by First Nations, federal partners, and other stakeholders,
- identify collaborative research opportunities based on these shared priorities, and
- build awareness of the RHS, REES and Community Surveys as viable data sources.

One-on-one and small group interviews were used to collect information from contributors.

To supplement this, FNIGC designed an online survey (which was supported by a social media campaign) to solicit opinions from First Nations communities. Both groups were questioned about four key areas:

- What are your priorities for future research, and what kind of data is needed to address them?
- What kind of research relationships are required, and what principles should inform them?
- Who are the partners (First Nations, government, academic) and what are their roles?
- What supports are required for First Nations research, and what are the best ways to share the research?

Interviews

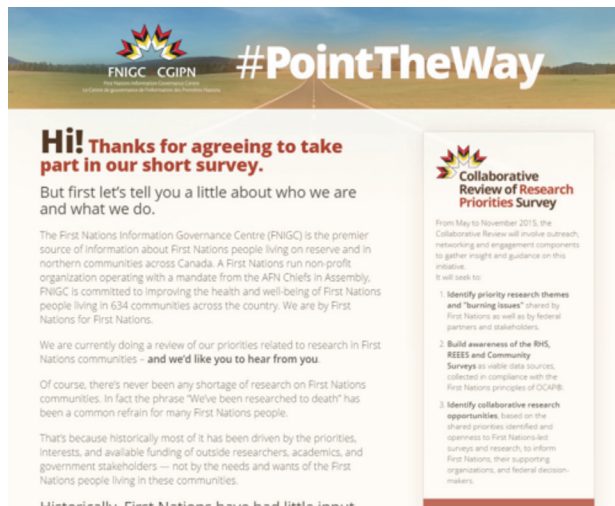
Nearly 100 people were identified as potential interview subjects over a six-month period (May to October 2015) time period; out of that number 65 individuals were interviewed.

The following diagram illustrates the research priorities and 13 themes that arose in the Collaborative Review



Online survey and social media campaign

In October 2015 FNIGC launched “#PointTheWay” a Facebook campaign that invited First Nation community members to complete a short (10-minute) online survey about research priorities. The campaign of targeted posts ran for two weeks and connected some 45,000 First Nations people in communities, youth, and health organizations.



The #PointTheWay campaign was the most popular in FNIGC's history of targeted Facebook initiatives. It sparked 454 “Likes” and 294 “Shares,” and contributed to 125 completed surveys

Participants were asked questions pertaining to research priorities for First Nation communities, processes for building positive research relationships, and suitable approaches for sharing results of First Nation led research.

Results

After compiling all of the responses, it became clear that there were four main themes that represented a broad agreement about the basic foundations of First Nations research:

- Research Purpose: Ultimately research should support positive change in communities and drive improvements in policies, programs and relationships.



- Underlying Principles: Strong relationships are the foundation of research with First Nation communities. These take time and must be based on respect and the principles of OCAP®
- Strength-Based, Holistic Research: Research needs to be strengths-based and focus on wellness. Research needs to be holistic and utilize social determinants of health.
- Comparative Research: Across communities and regional level comparisons along with national level comparative research is needed.

Next Steps

These themes and research priorities were showcased in Ottawa on November 17-19, 2015, during FNIGC's National FNREES Data Release Conference. Moving forward FNIGC is taking these priorities and assembling a Strategic Research Framework which will support research into these critical areas of priority. It is also our hope that the new federal government will give these priorities attention and support them accordingly in a spirit of respect, collaboration and partnership, which is inherent in the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Partnerships

FNIGC has gained considerable credibility over the past six years since we opened our doors. As the premier source of information about First Nations people and communities, the credibility comes from the excellent work we undertake with our Regional Partners in designing, developing, and implementing our First Nations - driven survey processes.

However, FNIGC is more than just surveys. We are also committed to building capacity for First Nations and one way we accomplish this is through special partnerships. In 2015 – 2016 we pursued many such partnerships that we feel will yield positive results for years to come.

Research Papers

This year we contracted Dr. Jennifer Walker, formerly of Nipissing University, to write a paper on frailty in older First Nations people living on-reserve and northern communities. This paper, which is the first of its kind to examine these issues, is slated to be published later this year.

Environmental Scans

In 2015, we undertook an environmental scan and literature review with Dr. Amy Bombay, of Dalhousie University, regarding the intergenerational impact of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system on First Nations people. This review, which is titled *Responding to the Legacy of Indian Residential Schools System and Historical Trauma: Past Approaches and Current Needs*, will be used to support the gathering of information that will support requests for future IRS mental health-funding beyond the 2020 deadline.

Collaborative Research Review

In 2015 FNIGC commissioned a study entitled a Collaborative Review of Research Priorities and Partnerships that examined what the burning research issues were for First Nations communities and who should be partner with FNIGC in examining those issues. The review also served to raise awareness of the RHS, FNREEES and the Community Survey data.

Assembly of First Nation/FNIGC Research Protocol

In 2011, the FNIGC Board of Directors drafted an AFN/FNIGC Research Protocol to establish principles and procedures which will enable FNIGC to work collaboratively with the AFN on a shared research agenda. We have now resumed discussions with AFN on this Protocol and hope to conclude its development in the very near future.

Employment Skills and Development Canada

Over the past nine months discussions have taken place with Employment Skills and Development Canada (ESDC) in order to develop a pilot study and survey instrument that would gather labour market information (LMI) on-reserve. The goal of this pilot would be to help fill a long-standing LMI data gap that exists for First Nations communities.

This potential partnership with ESDC could open new possibilities to expand the role of the Regional Information Governance Centre's (RIGC's) and build new relationships with existing ASET organizations who deliver labour and employment services on reserve.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

FNIGC continues to nurture and expand our relationship with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) via continued survey work and research opportunities. In 2016 we will initiate a new national survey process with the support of INAC, the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLEDS) which will examine employment and labour issues. The FNLEDS will be the new thematic survey which will carry on from the FNREES which focused on early childhood development, education and employment, and carry on through to 2021.

Public Health Agency of Canada

FNIGC has worked in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for much of the past year to develop the First Nations component of the Pan-Canadian Baseline Reporting on Health Inequalities. The goal is to contribute to the advancement of the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health (Rio Declaration), which responds to Canada's pledge under the declaration to establish, strengthen and maintain systems for monitoring and reporting on health inequalities. Work on this project will continue in 2016.

Outreach

FNIGC presented at several conferences in 2015 – 2016, including the Canadian Population Society, Calgary, AB where we highlighted the results of the FNREES; and the Canadian Open Data Summit, in St. John, NB where we participated in a "lightening talk" about OCAP®. Both presentations were a welcome addition to those proceedings and helped open new doors to FNIGC's information governance message.

First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program

FNIGC had an opportunity in 2015 – 2016 to submit a proposal to manage the First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (FNECP) currently coordinated by FNIHB. However, upon our assessment of the program's resources, Health Canada's expectations, and the impact of 3 year commitments made against the existing program resources, we determined that it would pose a risk to take the program on.

Next Steps

Moving forward, FNIGC will continue to expand our partnership opportunities by attending meetings, presenting at conferences, and providing outreach about the First Nations principles of OCAP®. We will also continue to provide training and support capacity development wherever possible, and share the potential of our rich data sources to support research and fill the gap on information on First Nations on reserve and northern communities.



The Fundamentals of OCAP®

As FNIGC continues to deliver on its mandate we are always trying to find new ways to assist in building capacity for First Nations communities. With the February 15, 2016 launch of The Fundamentals of OCAP® online training course we have blazed a new path in this regard.

This new online training course, a first for FNIGC, was developed in collaboration with Algonquin College and is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of OCAP® to First Nations and other interested parties (researchers, academics, students, government stakeholders).

Since registration began in February, we have had 129 registrants and 47 participants completing the course to date. Of notable mention, our first participant to complete the course in February completed it in three days.

The Fundamentals of OCAP® course proved so successful, that we are currently in the final stages of creating a French-language version

of the course which is slated to launch this summer. All of the texts, outside resources and graphics have finally been translated, and are being programmed into the Learning Management System (LMS) through Algonquin College. The testing phase has begun and we target the French course to launch July, 2016.

FNIGC is developing its next course "Privacy & Data Governance." Target 2017 completion. Stay Tuned!



Training and Development

As outlined in its mandate, one of FNIGC's key directions is directly related the advancement, promotion, and sharing of the First Nations Principles of OCAP® and to assist in building capacity in First Nations communities in information governance. FNIGC has been very active in presenting information workshops and delivering training to government departments, our regional partners and to the First Nations communities during the 2015 – 2016 fiscal period.

FNIGC's Training and Development Coordinator Jerry Lanouette conducted several OCAP® workshops and training to First Nations, organizations, universities and conferences. These include:

- On October 29, 2015, FNIGC was invited by the Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office to present to the Chiefs, staff and interested community members of the Saugeen First Nation and Chippewas of Nawash (Neyaashiinigmiing) Unceded First Nation on October 30th, 2015, on the First Nations Principles of OCAP® and the FNIGC. Both presentations were very well attended with over 60 people in attendance at both workshops.
- November 18, 2015, FNIGC delivered two workshops on the First Nations principles of OCAP at the FNREEES Preliminary Release Conference in Ottawa, ON.
- On December 8 and 10th, 2015, FNIGC presented two workshops for Health Canada's Strategic Policy, Planning and Information Directorate, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, where 60 participants attended in person and 10 via teleconference for both workshops.
- On February 12, 2016, FNIGC presented to the environmental researchers at the Algonquin's of Ontario Consultation Office, Pembroke, Ontario, where a four-hour workshop was attended by 35 staff and researchers from their office.
- On March 18, 2016, FNIGC presented to Employment Skills and Development Canada (ESDC) while attending their "Developing an

Indigenous Stream within a WISE Effectiveness Research Program" workshop. FNIGC was asked to provide insight on how the First Nations Principles of OCAP® might apply to the effectiveness of a Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs) for a number of at-risk populations.

- April 20, 2016, FNIGC participated in the Federal Innovations Fair with INAC Strategic Research Directorate, with a "Power of Data" theme.
- April 28, 2016, FNIGC presented a "lightning talk" on OCAP® at the Canadian Open Data Summit, in St. Johns, New Brunswick.
- May 2, 2016, FNIGC met with the AFN, Research and Policy Coordination Unit to establish a working relationship and review the AFN/FNIGC Research Protocol.
- May 27, 2016, FNIGC presented at the Indigenous Health Conference, University of Toronto, on Self-Determination Applied to Research: FNIGC and the Principles of OCAP®.
- June 6, 2016, FNIGC presented on "Ethical Issues throughout the Research Lifecycle" and the First Nations Principles of OCAP® at the Carleton University Institute on the Ethics of Research with Indigenous Peoples.

FNIGC continues to promote OCAP® and the Fundamentals of OCAP® online training course through our regional partners, First Nations' organizations, government networks and social media.

FNIGC has also assisted our Regional Partners in the implementation of their own Regional Online Data tools. This development provides the expertise and support to each region to develop and implementation this innovation web based tool that will facilitate each region providing their regional survey data to their respective communities and general public. This project concluded in June 2016.

For further information on FNIGC's training please contact Jerry Lanouette at ext. 112.

Publications

Over the past year FNIGC has worked on three significant research initiatives, each of which leverages data from the First Nations Regional Health Survey.

Seniors' Frailty Paper

FNIGC, working in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Walker, formerly of Nipissing University, produced a manuscript that focuses on seniors, aging, and frailty in First Nations communities. We believe this paper and its subject matter is well-timed, in that it represents the first published overview of aging amongst seniors living in First Nations communities.

The final manuscript has been reviewed by FNIGC's Board of Directors and will be submitted for publication to an academic journal in summer 2016.

Smoking and First Nations youth

In 2015 – 2016 FNIGC worked with Dr. Rose-Alma McDonald of Katenies Research and Management Services to produce a special report on smoking behaviours among First Nations youth. The report will adopt a strengths-based approach to understanding

what contributes to youth resiliency when it comes to smoking. The information gleaned from this paper, which will be published this summer, is intended to serve to inform policy and programming at the federal and local levels.

Pan-Canadian Report on Health Inequalities

Finally, FNIGC has continued its work with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), contributing to the Pan-Canadian Report on Health Inequalities. This reporting initiative makes a major contribution to advancing the World Health Organization's "Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health", a global political commitment for the implementation of a social determinants of health approach to reducing health inequities and to achieving other global priorities.

Moving forward, FNIGC will work to finalize its long-term Strategic Research Plan, built upon the research priorities identified through FNIGC's Collaborative Review of Research Priorities and Potential Partners, conducted in 2015.



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Notes

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