



FNIGC | CGIPN

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

7th Annual Report to Members

2016 – 2017

Presented at the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
JULY 23, 2017 | Regina, Saskatchewan

*Cover photo of Great Slave Lake in Yellowknife, North West Territories,
taken by FNIGC employee Alana Roscoe, June 2016*



Table of Contents

Message from FNIGC's Board of Directors	4
Statement of Operations.....	5
Finance	9
Survey Management	10
Partnerships and Capacity Development	15
Research and Information Management	17
OCAP® and Information Governance	22
Methodology and Statistics	23
Communications	24
FNIGC Board of Directors	31
FNIGC Staff List	31
FNIGC Members	31

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 7th Annual General Meeting in Regina, Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 and 6 territory and the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Assiniboine, Lakota and Dakota peoples.

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

FNIGC and its Regional Partners across the country have been especially busy: wrapping up one multi-year survey process, with the release of the national report of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES, or REEES); completing data collection on the latest iteration of another foundational survey, Phase 3 of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS); and launching into the development of a brand new survey, the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey, which will gather critical and much-needed data on labour and employment in our First Nations communities.

The 2016 – 2017 fiscal year has also seen a number of exciting developments in First Nations capacity development, including a new online version of the First Nations Community Survey, a joint pilot project with the Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation that aims to assess household mould issues in communities, and the early development of Regional Information Government Centres, a long-term project that will help empower and enable Regions to take full governance over their information.

It's no small amount of work and it hasn't come without its share of challenges and obstacles along the way. This included the retirement of the organization's long-serving leader, along with data collection challenges in some communities, but in true form FNIGC and its Regional Partners persevered and the results (which are contained within the pages of this Annual Report) should be inspiring to us all. As a proud First Nations organization, we should take a moment to collectively reflect on the past seven years of steady and sustained growth and the important position that FNIGC has come to take in First Nations life.

On behalf of FNIGC's Board of Directors, we would like to thank FNIGC's staff for their diligent and determined work – occasionally in trying times – as well as all of our Regional Partners, who embody the spirit of collaboration and partnership.

Ceal Tournier, Chair, Saskatchewan Region

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Prepared by Acting Executive Director Jerry Lanouette

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Presently in our 7th year of operation, FNIGC is proud of our reputation 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 as we went.

Over the 2016–2017 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, all of which is included in our Annual Report.

This Annual Report is intended to provide an overview of the work we have undertaken since April 2016: 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 and First Nations information governance.

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

- First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS) Phase 3 ongoing activities and data collection which concluded in January 2017,
- The conclusion of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES) and the completion of the national and regional datasets,
- Growing the audience for The Fundamentals of OCAP® online training program, in with over 500 registrants over the past year,
- Conclusion of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Phase II project around First Nations household mould pilot survey project,
- Continued outreach, workshops, training and presentations to First Nations communities, organizations, universities/colleges also to government institutions, their employees, health organizations on the First Nations Principles of OCAP®.

Staffing Update

In spring 2017, we said goodbye to **Gail Mc Donald**, Executive Director, who has been FNIGC's leader for the past seven years, and involved in the RHS capacity for over 20 years. Gail retired in April 2017 back to her home community of Akwesasne to spend more time with her family and projects within her community. She will be missed much more than she (or we) realize. The contributions to the FNIGC and the data governance processes on behalf of our First Nations constituents would not be where they are if Gail had not been there to lead its efforts and accomplishments. Niawen:kiowa/ Chi-meegwetch Gail!

But, with change comes opportunity. While we have retained the core component of our dedicated, skilled and talented staff team, we also welcomed some new bright staff to our family. While, also saying goodbye to **Addie Pryce** who has moved on to the Assembly of First Nations.

Our FNIGC current staff team includes:

OCAP® & Information Governance

- Jerry Lanouette, Senior Manager OCAP® and Information Governance; also Acting Executive Director

Administrative Team

- Brooke Morningstar, Administrative Assistant
- Janet Restoule, Executive and Operations Assistant

Finance

- Colette Kataquapit, Finance Manager
- Alex LaFrance, Finance & Payroll Assistant

Research & Information Management

- Albert Armieri, Senior Manager, Research & Information Management
- Lyndsy Gracie, Projects Assistant, Research & Information Management
- Alana Roscoe, Program Manager, Research & Information Management
- Maria Santos, Program Manager, First Nations Data Centre
- Courtney Humeny, Statistical Analyst, First Nations Data Centre

Methodology and Statistics

- Fei Xu, Senior Manager, Methodology and Statistics
- Krysia Walczak, Statistical Data Analyst, Methodology and Statistics
- Xinyu Qiao, Statistical Data Analyst, Methodology and Statistics
- Fan Zhang, Statistical Data Analyst, Methodology and Statistics

Survey Management

- Arron Service, Senior Manager, Survey Management
- Lorraine Cheechoo, Programs Assistant, Survey Management
- Kyla Marcoux, Program Manager, Survey Management
- Katie Wood, Program Manager, Survey Management

Communications

- Brad Mackay, Manager, Communications



Also, starting in January 2017 we were fortunate to welcome **Dr. Esther Usborne** of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), to the FNIGC team on part-time secondment running through to fall 2018. Welcome Esther!

Operational Budget 2017 – 2018

The Operational Budget for FNIGC is reviewed annually and presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The 2017–2018 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 FNIGC financial policy and procedures is set aside into a cashable, interest bearing account.

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 October 2016, funding for the FNREEES extension was concluded. FNIGC had received an extension to allow for final dissemination efforts to be completed. The FNRHS Phase 3 is currently in its fifth and final year of the five-year implementation plan. Work is underway to start planning and developing a proposal for the FNRHS Phase 4 targeted for April 2018.

In 2016 FNIGC began work on a new national survey about employment in First Nations and northern communities. The new five-year survey agreement with INAC for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLED) will run through to 2021.

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 activities.

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

In future survey developments, FNIGC and our proposed Regional Partner Information Governance Centres (RIGCs) seek interested and qualified organizations to assist in data collection activities within First Nations and Northern communities.

As we continue to live by the motto “BY FIRST NATIONS – FOR FIRST NATIONS”, FNIGC is committed to improving each survey process, and take cues from the lessons learned from previous survey processes by embracing new technologies and methodologies where appropriate.

As we continue to be self-reliant, additional revenues for the FNIGC are generated through service contracts for data access and data services offered through the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC); and also 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.

We also generate revenue to by charging for the online course for the First Nations Principles of OCAP® registration in cost recover our efforts to educate and inform on the First Nations Principles of OCAP®.

Facilities Management, Operations and Staff Supports

FNIGC is pleased to announce we will be moving to new office space in Ottawa at 180 Elgin Street, Suite 1200, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 2K3, effective July 31, 2017. This move was done in order to consolidate our existing office space that is divided between the 6th and 9th floor of our current location at 170 Laurier Avenue. After negotiations with our new property manager, the costs are comparable with what we are currently paying now, not including additional incentives. In addition, the new office space will house an extra-large boardroom with increased capacity of 20 and gives us ample space for additional chairs around the walls of the room. We will also have larger kitchen facilities and space for the staff to eat on-site.

We will also be introducing new data collection software called Voxco this fall in order to stay current with technologies and provide

an alternative to Entryware, who have ceased supporting and updating their software.

FNIGC continues to support and enhance workplace ergonomics for our employees. This involves providing the staff with ergonomic adjustable office equipment that enable staff an opportunity to make their office space comfortable as a means of preventing the strain of sitting for extended periods of time. This continues to contribute to a much more comfortable work environment.

FNIGC staff continues to participate in weekly exercise breaks, which are intended to reduce stress, give some time away from computers, and support social interaction and internal communication. These activities are determined and led by staff and include stretching exercises, meditation, yoga, stair-climb challenges, brown bag lunches in the park, among other activities.

Financial Audit

The FNIGC Financial Audit Report for the period ending March 31, 2017 was successfully completed this year by March 31, 2017. The draft Audit Report was presented and approved by the FNIGC Board of Directors on June 6, 2017 at a duly convened meeting held in Ottawa. The final audit will be presented to the FNIGC Members at our Annual General Meeting, held July 23, 2017 at Regina, Saskatchewan.

The auditor's report expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements. There were no significant deficiencies disclosed during the audit. The organization is presently in a positive cash and positive net asset position. There are no liabilities to governmental agencies.

Board Meetings and Accountability

FNIGC's Board of Directors held the following meetings in 2016 – 2017:

July 11, 2016 (Niagara Falls, ON)
 September 7 & 8, 2016 (Wendake, QC)
 December 6, 2016 (Ottawa, ON)
 December 13, 2016 (Teleconference)
 January 11, 2017 (Teleconference)
 February 22 & 23, 2017 (Vancouver, BC)

National Student Bursary

Each year FNIGC allocates funding to support First Nations students enrolled in a post-secondary programs around information governance, information technology, data management or epidemiology. The recipients of last year's bursary are **Kody Doxtator** of Six Nations of the Grand River in Ontario and **Kathrina Chief Moon Riley**, of the Blood Tribe (Kainai) Reserve in Alberta. This year's bursary will be announced around mid-October.



Kathrina Chief Moon Riley



Kody Doxtator

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 we have scheduled a Strategic Planning review for July 24 and 25, 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan, where we will review the FNIGC Strategic Plan which was adopted by a resolution on September 15, 2015. Currently, FNIGC has four key strategic directions:

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

FINANCE

The FNIGC Finance team has made great strides during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The team is made up of **Colette Kataquapit**, Finance Manager, and **Alex Lafrance**, Finance and Payroll Assistant.

Investments

On January 26, 2017, FNIGC purchased term deposits worth \$2 million. The 30-, 60-, 90- and 120-day term deposits were purchased at \$500,000 each with a guaranteed return of 0.80% to 0.95% on a monthly basis. Once the initial investments matured, they are rolled over for another 120 days with guaranteed 0.95% return. The term deposits at maturity can be cashed out, if needed, at no cost. The investment returns would go towards achieving the overall goals of FNIGC.

Banking

In 2016, we closed a couple of bank accounts that were no longer required. The surplus funds were moved to the operations account which significantly helps with our cash flow needs.

Software

We have invested in new software called Orchid EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) that was installed in our accounting system, Sage 300 ERP. Establishing the EFT payments to our regular vendors including Regional Organizations will provide for faster direct deposit of payments, eliminate our need to courier out payments and to expedite payments. The downtime for EFT is 3 to 5 business days versus 2 to 3 weeks for manual cheques.

We have changed Sage 300 ERP service providers who will provide faster, reliable and knowledgeable service. We also enjoy less service fee costs.



Alex Lafrance

Lastly, we hired a Finance and Payroll Assistant who joined FNIGC team on May 9, 2016. Alex LaFrance, who hails from Akwesasne, has been a tremendous asset to our organization, and we welcome him to the team.



SURVEY MANAGEMENT

The Survey Management team is responsible for overseeing and administering all aspects of FNIGC's ongoing survey projects. This involves supporting the work of FNIGC's 10 Regional Partner organizations to develop survey instruments, coordinate survey implementation, evaluate survey processes and disseminate results. The Survey Management team is also involved in communication and engagement activities with Federal Government departments and subject matter experts that contribute to survey development and dissemination activities. In addition, given the central role that Survey Management plays at FNIGC, we frequently work with other internal teams (including Methodology and Statistics, Research and Information Management, and Communications) as part of a larger effort to leverage our collective expertise to produce the highest quality information and knowledge products.

Staffing

On August 29, 2016 FNIGC welcomed **Arron Service** as its Senior Manager of Survey Management. Arron's experience includes 15 years in health care research and evaluation including expertise in qualitative and quantitative research approaches, survey methods, statistics, data management and protection. He completed his PhD in Applied Psychology at Southern Illinois University in 2006 and has since held positions at McMaster University Department of Psychiatry, the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, the David Thompson Health Region in Alberta, the Conference Board of Canada and most recently with Ontario's Community Health Centres.



Arron joined a well-established team that includes **Katie Wood**, Program Manager, **Kyla Marcoux**, Program Manager and **Lorraine Cheechoo**, Program Assistant, who have substantial experience working on FNIGC survey projects such as the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey, First Nations Regional Health Survey and the First Nations Community Survey.

Surveys

First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey

On July 12, 2016, *Now is the Time: Our Data, Our Stories, Our Future, National Report of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey*, the final report of the FNREEES (or REEES), was published. The

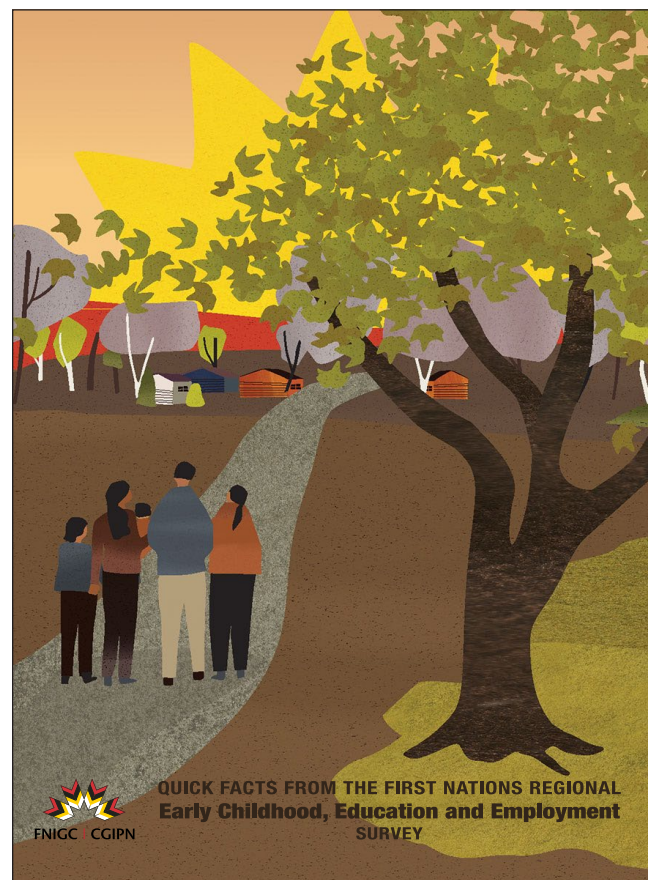
108-page report was the culmination of a landmark five-year survey process conducted by FNIGC and provides unprecedented and exceptional insight into a wide range of early childhood, education and employment factors affecting life on First Nations reserve and Northern communities.

The most technically complex survey in FNIGC's history, the REEES report shows strong associations between the importance First Nations people place on language, culture and family, and the educational, employment, health, and well-being outcomes in their communities. With a focus on early childhood, education and employment, the report provides a critical first look into these important issues and has expanded our knowledge of the issues, strengths, resiliency and conditions of First Nations people living on reserve and in northern First Nations communities in Canada.

The report's key findings included:

- The majority of First Nations parents placed a high value on learning a First Nations language, with 88 percent saying it was either “somewhat” or “very” important that their children learned one.
- The majority, or 70 percent, of First Nations youth who reported having “excellent” First Nations language skills also reported high levels of life balance (a composite of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being), compared to 45 percent of those who said they had “poor” First Nations language skills.
- Nearly 60 percent of First Nations children had at least one grandparent or great-grandparent who had attended an Indian Residential School.

In addition to the national report, FNIGC produced supplementary Communications products designed with First Nations communities and leadership in mind. These include Quick Facts from the FNREEES, a pocket-sized booklet for First Nations leaders, and a series of six illustrated fact sheets. These were distributed at the AFN's 37th Annual General Assembly in July 2016 and mailed out to all of the communities who participated in the survey.



But the REEES Report and its related publications are 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. We would like to thank the First Nations Communities and members who took the time to participate in the FNREEES.

For more results from the REEES report, go to **www.FNIGC.ca**.

First Nations Regional Health Survey

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

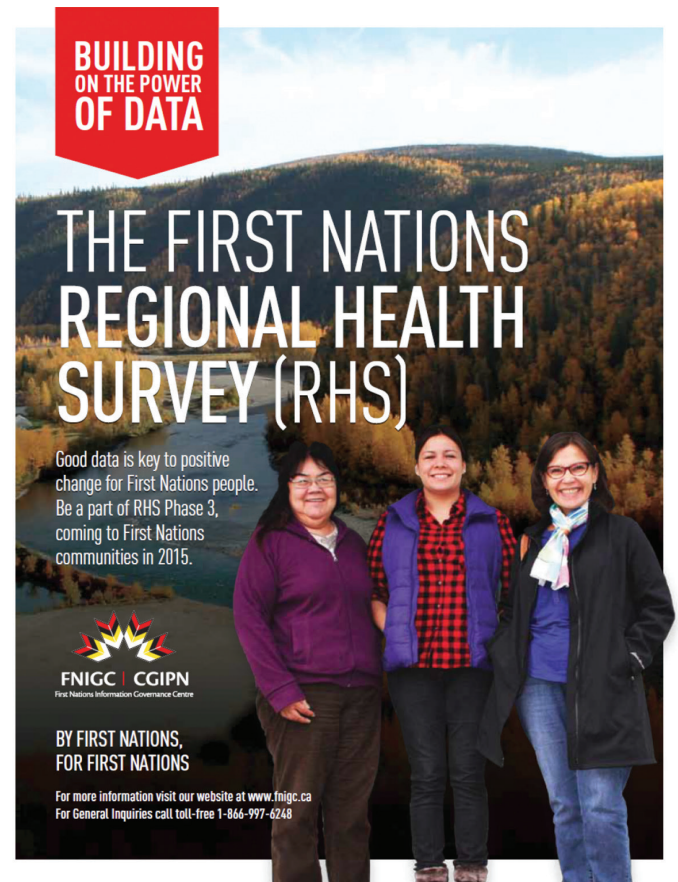
National data collection for RHS Phase 3 wrapped up in January 2017. We are happy to report, working in coordination with FNIGC's Methodology and Statistics team, that our national response rate was 78 percent of our target sample – that's the highest FNIGC has ever achieved for a survey.

This achievement is made all the most impressive when you consider the many challenges our Regional Partners and their fieldworkers faced in gathering this important data: they offered extra incentives to their fieldworkers, arranged mobile teams to assist in data collection, actively engaged with communities and successfully ramped up collection in the last few months to ensure our national and regional goals would be met. We acknowledge the hard work and ingenuity of our partners in the regions and the key role they play in our success as an organization.

The Power of Data stories continues to be a great way to show how communities are using the previous RHS data as a planning tool in program and policy work. It has been encouraging to hear the interest being expressed by communities with respect to the support the data will provide to their planning processes.

First Nations Community Survey

Founded in 2005, the First Nations Community Survey (FNCS) is a unique initiative of the FNIGC and provides valuable insight into important characteristics of First Nations communities along 12 themes (i.e., external environment, shelter and infrastructure, housing, food and nutrition, employment and economic development, early childhood development, education, justice and safety, health services, social services, First nations identity and First Nations governance).





Understanding the First Nations community context is essential to provide a more holistic portrait of the various systemic issues facing First Nations communities and provide First Nations people the ability to examine the relationships between community level factors and individual health and well-being. Furthermore, this information could be useful to communities, tribal councils, regionally or nationally as a resource for community planning and development as well as tracking change over time.

As of June 2017, 205 First Nation communities had participated in the FNCS with data collection continuing until the end of March 2018. 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 and pencil approach. Additional concerns centred on the 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.

We will be conducting an evaluation of our Community Survey processes over the next year where we will be exploring and addressing these kinds of concerns from our partners with the aim to improve processes in the future.

As we know, knowledge is the key to progress and quality information is vital to empowering First Nations communities. Good, culturally relevant data helps communities evaluate their own progress and develop a better understanding of the relationship between community infrastructure and individual well-being.

First Nations Household Mould Project

The Electronic Community Self-Assessment Tool (e-CSAT) is an AFN-led initiative that aims to better understand the full extent and causes of mould problems in homes located in First Nations communities across Canada. Working in conjunction with First Nations communities, FNIGC

and with support from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the AFN kicked off the e-CSAT project in July 2016 as a pilot project. The pilot saw community based First Nations Housing Technicians use the electronic, tablet-based e-CSAT program to assess mould conditions in randomly selected First Nations homes in communities across Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The pilot of the assessment tool was intended to assist the AFN determine if the e-CSAT data collection tool, technology and process for collection was working, and to help identify opportunities for improvement. It was not intended to capture, make assumptions, or report on the presence of mould in First Nations homes across Canada. Both the AFN and FNIGC submitted reports to CMHC with recommendations for future use of the assessment tool. The AFN will use the information gathered from the pilot to develop a proposal to inform a larger, national roll-out of the e-CSAT tool to more First Nations communities across the country.

First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey

The First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLEDS), the newest FNIGC survey project, is currently under development and is intended to capture labour market information (LMI) and factors associated with employment in First Nations communities. The FNLEDS represents a continuation of previous work done by FNIGC and its Regional Partners and builds on the work of the RHS and REEES.

The FNLEDS will provide quality, credible information on economic well-being to ultimately improve skill development and employment opportunities for First Nations people living on-reserve and in northern communities. This survey will have a thematic focus on employment, labour, jobs, skills and development involving First Nations youth (15-17 years) and adults (18- to 65-years of age). Once completed, data from the FNLEDS can be used by:

- First Nations communities: LMI can inform local labour market trends, especially related to areas of growing employment opportunities, to inform training programs or academic upgrading.
- individuals making career choices: the most relevant LMI is about available occupational options, training and educational opportunities, the current labour market environment, and future trends;
- job seekers: LMI may be about job opportunities, skill level requirements, working conditions, prevailing wage rates, and effective job search strategies;
- employers: LMI can guide compensation strategies, recruitment efforts, training practices, investment and location decisions, and collective bargaining; and
- educators: LMI can be useful when forecasting student demand, developing curricula, and planning course offerings.

As we move forward in examining labour and employment in First Nations communities across Canada, we can gain powerful knowledge on employment and labour conditions that exist for First Nations and move toward an evidence-based approach to informing policy, funding decisions and empowering real change. After all, this is why we undertake the survey work – and why First Nations people take the time to respond to our surveys.



PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnerships and Capacity Development unit was established in 2016 as a way to maintain and consolidate FNIGC's existing relationships with its many partners, while at the same time fostering and cultivating new development opportunities with the intention of facilitating the development of a strong Research Growth Pathway. In 2016 – 2017 the section was headed by Senior Manager **Addie Pryce**.

The key responsibilities of the Partnerships and Capacity Development unit are to build on FNIGC's strong working relationships with its Regional Partners, member organizations, and federal partners in an effort to further open communication, trust and the spirit of collaboration. It is also responsible for the design and implementation of comprehensive plans for developing internal and external alliances.

Partnerships

In addition to meeting regularly with our key federal partners, Health Canada and INAC, FNIGC has also engaged with various public and private organizations over the past 12 months in an effort to explore potential new working relationships. These include: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Statistics Canada, Employment Skills and Development Canada (ESDC), the Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC) and Status of Women Canada (SWC).



In 2016 SSHRC, the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research, extended an invite to FNIGC to be considered for a seat on their governing council. After careful consideration, FNIGC respectfully declined the offer but will continue to explore possible opportunities with SSHRC in the future.

For several months in 2016, FNIGC and ESDC engaged in discussions about the possibility of collaborating on a labour market survey pilot project in First Nations communities, but in the end we made the decision (supported by the Board of Directors) to pull out of the initiative as it did not align with our Strategic Directions.

In early 2017, SWC reached out to FNIGC to discuss the prospect of working on a future wellness project focusing on First Nations women. To date, the discussion has progressed well, though at this point the project would not roll out until 2018.

Capacity Development

The implementation of Regional Information Governance Centres (RIGCs) has been identified by FNIGC's Board of Directors as a priority and as such, is one of our core strategic directions. Discussions around the development of RIGCs began in 2015, with several federal departments expressing interest in supporting their growth.



Jodi Bruhn

In the summer of 2015 an environmental scan was completed and input was solicited from our Regional Partners in an effort to discover what roles and functions the RIGCs would be required to fill. Following this review, the Board prepared a more comprehensive look at the possible structures, mandates, finances, and infrastructure requirements that would be necessary to move this development ahead.

In 2016, FNIGC contracted **Jodi Bruhn** (of Stratéjuste) to engage with the regions and gather feedback that could be used in a formal proposal for RIGC funding. The proposal was submitted to INAC, where it was positively received.

Buoyed by this, in March 2017 Ms. Bruhn and FNIGC met in Gatineau, Quebec with representatives from our Regional Partner organizations to consult as part of the RIGC assessment stage. Based on the feedback gathered from this fruitful meeting, FNIGC resolved to re-submit the RIGC proposal to our federal funders with a renewed focus on a regionally based approach, as opposed to a nationally based approach.

FNIGC will continue to meet with interested Regional Partners throughout 2017 to evaluate their specific needs in terms of RIGC implementation.

FNIGC Project Assessment Tool

As the preceding information makes clear, as FNIGC's reputation as the premier source of information about First Nations reserve communities has grown in recent years we have found ourselves approached by an ever-expanding range of potential new partners. While the renewed interest is appreciated, FNIGC has limited resources to devote to new initiatives.

Because of this, in 2016 the Partnerships and Capacity Development unit created a Project Assessment Tool designed to formally evaluate new opportunities and determine whether or not we should move forward. Prior to establishing any new relationships, an internal committee is struck within FNIGC to run the new opportunity through the tool to determine if it is of benefit to the organization. The assessment tool takes into consideration several factors, including:

- FNIGC's Mission and Vision
- FNIGC's Guiding Principles of Partnership
- The First Nations principles of OCAP®
- Goals and Objectives
- Timelines
- Benefits to First Nations communities
- Risk to First Nations communities
- Political implications
- Links to the TRC Calls to Action
- Links to existing AFN Resolutions
- Return on Investment for FNIGC
- Adequate funding
- Internal capacity

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

A new addition to FNIGC, the Research and Information Management team was created in the summer of 2016 and is dedicated specifically to the program development, knowledge exchange and relationship management required to build and maintain a repository of quality research material. Incorporating the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC), this new team focusses on ensuring the relevance and utility of data and information within FNIGC while ensuring and maintaining the organization's high standards for data privacy are maintained.

Led by its Senior Manager, **Albert Armieri**, the Research and Information team consists of Projects Assistant **Lyndsy Gracie**, Statistical Data Analyst **Courtney Humeny**, Research and Development Program Manager **Alana Roscoe** and FNDC Program Manager **Maria Santos**.

The 2016-2017 fiscal year was a particularly ambitious one for the Research and Information Management team. Building upon the priorities identified through 2015's Collaborative Review of Research Priorities and Potential Partners, we developed a three-year Strategic Research Plan the purpose of which is to provide a roadmap for FNIGC's national-level research and to help identify potential research partners.

Recognizing that conventional western approaches to research are predominately deficit-based, FNIGC's new Research Plan is rooted in a resiliency framework, which promotes a strengths-based approach to research. As such, the Research Plan identifies 13 areas of research priority with a focus on culture, language and traditional knowledge that spans throughout. See the image on this page for a visualization of this plan.



In the past 12 months FNIGC has been busy working on a number of collaborative research projects which have been informed and guided by our new Strategic Plan.

Youth Resilience and Protective Factors Associated with Smoking in First Nations Communities

With support from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), FNIGC prepared a special report aimed at to better understanding smoking behaviours among First Nations youth, with a focus on resiliency and protective factors. Using data from the RHS Phase 2, the report undertook a balanced analysis of the risk and protective factors associated with youth smoking in First Nations communities, in an attempt to better understand why the majority of First Nations youth refrain from smoking.

The report explored the role of culture and language, social supports, physical activity, and gender in association with smoking prevalence. FNIGC is currently undertaking further research in this area in a second report combining supplementary data from the FNREEES with a qualitative focus on community programs.

The findings from these two reports will be used to inform the development of a series of infographics intended to be used by smoking-cessation programs in First Nations communities.

Special Report to Better Understand Childcare in First Nations Communities

Given that childcare provides an important opportunity for children to engage in their First Nations traditional language and culture, it is important to explore how these factors positively associate with greater pro-social behaviors later in life. FNIGC prepared a special report that examined the factors associated with child care utilization in First Nations communities and the relationship between First Nations-specific child care and later life outcomes.

Funded by ESDC, in coordination with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the report looks at a number of relevant indicators utilizing national-level data from the FNREEES. Work is currently underway to make the report findings more accessible to First Nations communities by creating a condensed plain-language report.

Correlates of Educational Success among First Nations Youth

This report, which was supported with funding from INAC, examined the factors associated with school success for students aged 12-17 in First Nations communities by examining the relationship between individual, family, school, and community factors and student outcomes. Leveraging the rich FNREEES dataset, the report was able to develop a multi-dimensional examination of First Nations students, looking at the individual, family, peer, school and community factors that contribute to school success.

The report also includes a comprehensive descriptive analysis of school success indicators and a multivariate analysis of individual, family, school, community, and cultural characteristics associated with school success. Plans are underway to develop a companion report that will summarize and contextualize key findings of this research.

Aging and Frailty in First Nations Communities

Using data from the RHS Phase 2, this study is the first published overview of aging in a nationally representative sample of seniors living in First Nations communities. It is also the first application of a validated Frailty Index which helps describe aging experiences in First Nations communities. The findings are a key step in documenting the experiences of older First Nations people at a national level from a First Nations perspective. They also highlight the key need for supportive health services and effective chronic disease management at younger ages in First Nations communities. This report will be published in the Canadian Journal of Aging later in 2017.

Strength-Based Approaches to Research and the Development of Positive Mental Wellness Indicators
FNIGC has begun work on a foundational document that will deconstruct the concept of strength-based research in an indigenous context. The report will gather and synthesize information on the broader principles, definitions, and manifestations of strength-based approaches to research from

existing relevant literature, as well as directly from FNIGC Regional Partner organizations themselves. As well, as an extension on the concept of strength-based research and in consideration of the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework, the proposed document will consider best practices and current models for the development of positive mental-wellness indicators, in consultation with FNIGC's Regional Partners.

Responding to the Legacy of the IRS System and Historical Trauma: Past Approaches and Current Needs

In 2016 FNIGC worked with Dr. Amy Bombay of Dalhousie University to prepare a comprehensive environmental scan and literature review regarding the intergenerational impacts of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system. This initiative was prompted by a call from leadership and communities for ongoing mental wellness programming to address intergenerational trauma rooted in the IRS experience. The report, entitled *Responding to the Legacy of the Indian Residential School System and Historical Trauma: Past Approaches and Current Needs*, provides a robust overview of past approaches to, as well as current needs for, healing from the pervasive effects of IRS. Creating an Evidence Base to Support Renewed Funding for Strengthened Mental Wellness Programs and Services

At the core of FNIGC's mandate is to collect and use data in a way that is most beneficial for First Nations individuals and communities. The data that FNIGC have collected related to First Nations' experiences of Indian Residential Schools could potentially be used to make a powerful case for strengthening mental wellness programs and services for IRS survivors and their families.

On February 8 2017, FNIGC facilitated a one-day discussion session in its Ottawa offices with a panel of experts, to provide guidance in creating an evidence base to support federal funding for strengthened mental wellness support programs and services. A key consideration throughout was whether—and how—current data could be used to:

- 1) Substantiate the ongoing need to support funding,
- 2) Demonstrate the impact of current support programs on the health and wellness of First Nations, and
- 3) Inform the design and delivery of future programs.

A report from that session is currently being prepared and will incorporate information from the *Responding to the Legacy of the IRS System and Historical Trauma: Past Approaches and Current Needs* report into a broader document titled *Assessing the current needs for continued healing among Indigenous peoples in Canada: Responding to the legacy of the Indian residential school system and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Actions*.

The following is a list of the session participants:

- **Chief Wilton Littlechild, PhD**
Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- **Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, O.B.C.**
Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada
- **Claudette Commanda**
FNIGC Elder & Executive Director of First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres

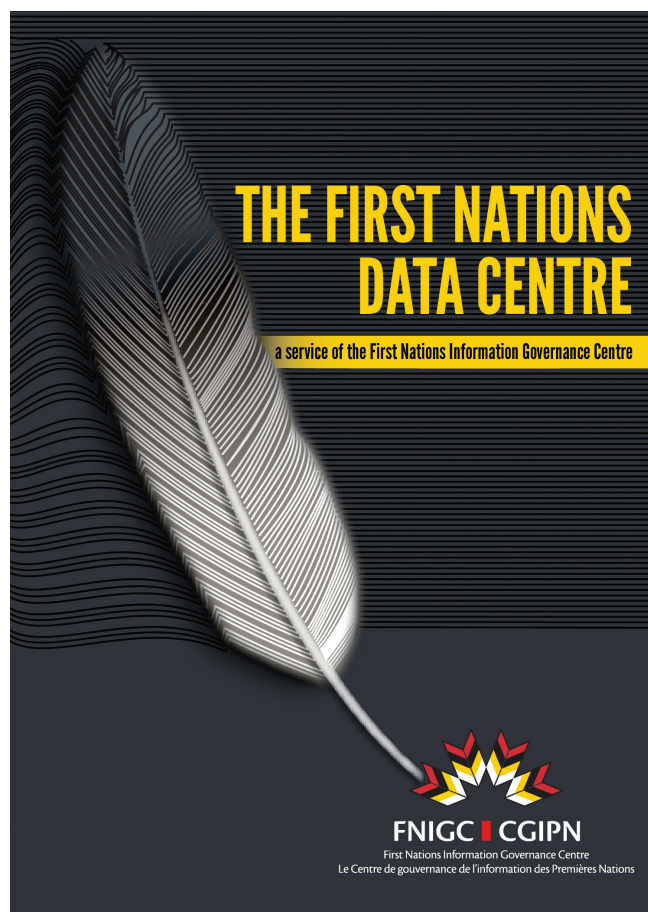
- **Dr. Amy Bombay**
Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
Dalhousie University
- **Dr. Diana Lewis**
FNIGC Board Member & Lecturer, Department of
Sociology and Social Anthropology
Dalhousie University
- **Ingrid Isaac**
Resolution Health Support Worker
Resolution Health Support Worker Program
Council of Yukon First Nations
- **Aideen Nabigon**
Director General for Settlement Agreement Policy
and Partnerships
INAC
- **Dr. Robert Shepherd**
School of Public Policy & Administration
Carleton University

PHAC Health Inequalities Report

As the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Health Inequalities Report approaches its final stages of preparation, FNIGC will be involved with its final review. Over the past year, FNIGC has contributed sections within different chapters of the report pertaining to First Nations reserve communities. FNIGC has participated as a member of the Technical Working Group and the Knowledge Mobilisation Working Group in the Pan-Canadian Health Inequalities Reporting Initiative since 2015.

First Nations Data Centre

Established in 2015, the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC) has expanded its client base significantly which is an important indicator of how much FNIGC data is being used. During 2016-2017, the FNDC hosted seven researchers in its Ottawa office. Approximately three requests for data came through the Data Request Tool and there were four customized table requests completed for federal agencies (Health Canada and INAC). There were also three collaborative studies that were conducted at the FNDC.



In 2016, a brochure for the FNDC was developed to promote the use of the Data Centre which came in handy during the more than a half-dozen presentations that were made about the FNDC over the past 12 months.

Since the centre operates at a cost recovery basis, an increase in access requires more support. As a result, in 2017 FNIGC hired a new Statistical Data Analyst to assist at the Data Centre.

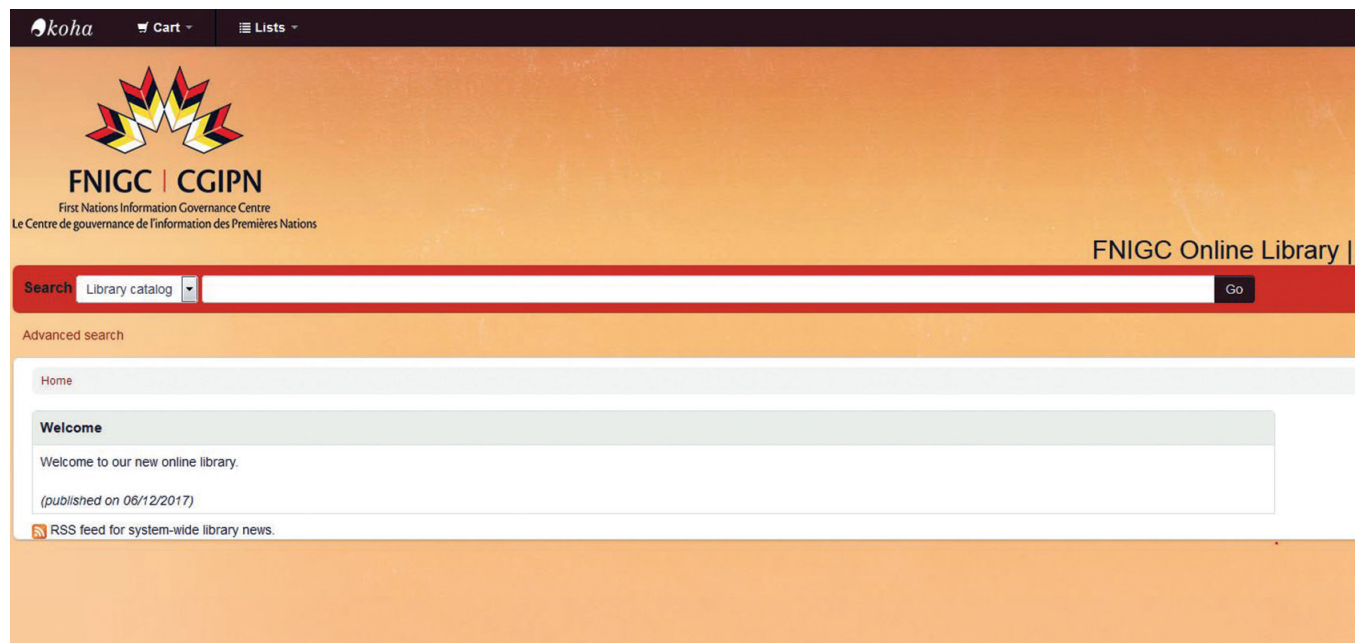
Privacy and Data Security

FNIGC has continued to advance its privacy and security program. To this end, the policies and standard operating procedures drafted in 2015-2016 are being finalized with the goal of implementation across all of FNIGC departments later this year.

As FNIGC's role as a repository for First Nations information continues to grow, it is vital that 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.

KOHA Integrated Library System

In collaboration with FNIGC's Communications section, the team has developed an Integrated Library System and searchable database for the FNIGC website. This system will allow improved access to papers and reports published by FNIGC and is slated to go live in December 2017.



OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

The First Nations principles of OCAP®

The First Nations principles of OCAP® is at the core of everything we do at FNIGC and has become a foundational piece of research within FNIGC, our First Nations community members, citizens and organizations. Within its nearly 20 years of existence, many have made it the cornerstone of any research done with our communities, citizens and organizations.

As such, much of our ongoing efforts go into presenting, explaining and providing educational presentations on exactly what are the First Nations principles of OCAP® especially when dealing with the Canadian mainstream and partnering government institutions. This is why in 2016 we established OCAP® and Information Governance section led by Senior Manager **Jerry Lanouette**.

While much effort goes into educating and promoting the First Nations principles of OCAP®, we cannot even come close to the extent of the requests from others, which is FNIGC launched the Fundamentals of OCAP®, an online training course, in early 2016. Since then, we have had over 500 registrants take the course, and project that there will be another 400 take the course during this upcoming year.

As we have had many requests to also make this course available in French by not only our Quebec partners, but also many government employees, we have spent the past year translating the course, testing the modules and final testing out the online product. With that being said, we will launch the French version of the Les “Fondamentaux des principes de PCAP” in time for the August 2017 intake registration of the online training course.

We continue to receive many requests for training around OCAP®, but we found the most effective way right now is to promote the online training course for expediency. The full course includes is seven modules, each module takes about 40 minutes in length and is self-paced. The course is a pass fail and can be retaken as many times as you need.



METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICS

The Methodology and Statistics team is made up of Senior Manager **Fei Xu** and Statistical Data Analysts **Xinyu Qiao**, **Krysia Walczak** and **Fan Zhang**, and is primarily concerned with creating sampling strategies, methodologies and providing data analysis. In addition to this core work, the Methodology and Statistics team offers statistical support across FNIGC on an organizational level. In short, this team plays a core role in what FNIGC is known for: ensuring quality data about First Nations communities. It achieves this in a number of ways.

First, it is instrumental in the development of nationally and regionally representative sampling strategies (the key to gathering scientifically reliable data) by providing robust sampling methodologies. Second, the team provides the analysis and cleaning that is behind the creation of FNIGC's national data sets, which are used by government agencies, researchers, and First Nations communities, as well as their regional data sets, which are used by our 10 Regional Partner organizations.

On top of this, Methodology and Statistics supports ongoing data management activities by: creating weekly reports on survey data collection for the RHS, REEES, First Nations Community Survey, the e-SCAT pilot, and other FNIGC survey initiatives; responds to interdepartmental requests from within FNIGC for data; and facilitates data collection, data management, and data analysis with our Regional Partners organizations.

For the 2016-2017 fiscal year the Methodology and Statistics team has marked a number of noteworthy achievements.

It provided FNIGC's Regional Partners with cleaned and weighted datasets and data dictionaries for the RHS Phase 3. For this third phase of the survey, we are pleased to announce that we achieved 78 percent of our national sampling target (82 percent for the child portion of the survey, 67 percent for youth, and 82 percent for adult), all in less than 15 months. This is an achievement that FNIGC and its Regional Partners should take a moment to celebrate!

It provided accurate and updated information regarding sampling strategies for the upcoming FNLEDS in a timely manner for FNIGC's Executive Director and Management team. It also generated various sampling strategies and sample allocations by regions and by communities in different scenarios to help support executive decision-making.

As well, It monitored and supported RHS 3 data collection, paying specific attention to the progress of BCR collection and offering in-the-field technical support and methodologic advice for FNIGC's Regional Partners.

The team supported the e-CSAT pilot initiative by creating weekly data collection reports, providing data cleaning, and supporting the Survey Management team's proposal for Stage 2 funding.

It provided internal support and consultation to all of FNIGC's teams, whether it was methodological and statistical support with syntax and data issues to the Research and Information Management team, assisting the Survey Management team with weekly report on the progress of data collection progress for the RHS Phase 3, or supporting Communication with information and feedback on the relaunch of the FNIGC Data Online tool.

COMMUNICATIONS

From year to year, FNIGC expands its scope of work in an effort to better support First Nations communities, and the past fiscal year was certainly no different. Our Communications unit is a core part of these ongoing efforts, as it offers vital support to the organization as a whole and to FNIGC's Regional Partners as well. At the forefront of these efforts is **Brad Mackay**, Manager of Communications.

In his role, Brad manages all aspects of internal and external communication activities and its programs including (but not limited to) strategic planning, reports, publications, FNIGC's website, and social media. In addition to maintaining a high-standard of written communication and production design for FNIGC's publications (printed and online), Communications is also responsible for writing and producing a wide variety of materials which, collectively, serve to support and strengthen FNIGC's Strategic Objectives. These efforts include: press releases, website content, marketing copy, social media messages, brochures, pamphlets, annual reports, presentations, workshops, staff newsletter, job postings and editing/consulting services.

As well, in the 2016-2017 year Communications has expanded its responsibilities to include Knowledge Exchange with the redesign and relaunch of FNIGC Data Online (our popular online data tool). It is also currently overseeing the implementation of a network of 10 Regional data tools which offer similar service as the national tool but populated with regional-level data.

What follows is an overview of FNIGC's Communications activities for 2016-2017.

FNIGC.ca

FNIGC.ca was launched in 2013, and following a significant redesign in 2014 it has been the heart of our Communications efforts. As the go-to source of information about our survey work, data-based reports and publications, press releases, news, media information, online training, knowledge translation, social media, videos and job postings, the website offers an easy-to-use and modern way to access FNIGC's various assets. And this approach seems to be resulting in increased engagement with users our visitors, who are coming to our site in record numbers.

Web traffic

Traffic to FNIGC.ca has shown a steady and significant upward trend over the past few years, and has nearly doubled since 2015. Over the 2016-2017 fiscal year FNIGC's website received a total of **81,736 page views** for an average of **6,811 monthly views**, an encouraging spike from the previous fiscal period which saw **64,431 page views** and **5,369 views a month**.

Page	Pageviews
	81,736 % of Total: 100.00% (81,736)
1. /	14,701 (17.99%)
2. /ocap.html	11,628 (14.23%)
3. /resources.html	3,491 (4.27%)
4. /our-work/regional-health-survey/about-rhs.html	3,403 (4.16%)
5. /online	2,718 (3.33%)
6. /training/fundamentals-ocap.html	2,522 (3.09%)
7. /fndc	2,332 (2.85%)
8. /news/new-report-offers-unprecedented-look-realities-family-school-and-work-life-first-nations	2,113 (2.59%)
9. /about-fnigc/contact-us.html	1,962 (2.40%)
10. /news/be-part-first-nations-community-survey.html	1,869 (2.29%)

Top 10 page visits to FNIGC.ca via Google Analytics

The metrics also show that **visitors to FNIGC.ca have nearly doubled since 2014-2015** (the year when we started benchmarking traffic) when we had 41,510 annual views and 3,459 monthly views. This represents consistent, record growth for FNIGC.ca, with an average overall increase in traffic of at least 50 percent year-to-year which exceeds industry-standard growth rates of 10 to 20 percent. Monthly website traffic peaked in March 2017 with nearly 10,000 page views while daily traffic peaked on January 30, 2017 with 715 page views.

The average session duration during the 2016–2017 fiscal year was nearly two minutes and 19 seconds (2:19), a slight dip from 2:57 the previous year.

The most frequently visited page on FNIGC's website remains our homepage, **FNIGC.ca**, but the percentage of users has decreased; from nearly 25 percent or (15,471 page views) last year to 18 percent (14,701) this year. The second most visited page was **FNIGC.ca/OCAP** with 14 percent of total page views, **FNIGC.ca/resources** (our reports and downloads page) in third with 4.3 percent, **FNIGC.ca/our-work/rhs** (our RHS page) in fourth with 4.2 percent and **FNIGC.ca/online** (FNIGC Data Online) in fifth with 3.3 percent.

Other pages of note include the First Nations Community Survey landing page, which appeared in the Top 10 for the first time, likely as a result of our successful Facebook outreach campaign. As well, the First Nations Data Centre page leapt from #10 to #7, more than doubling its number of page views from 930 last year to 2,332 this year. For a complete breakdown of the Top 10 pages on FNIGC.ca, see the nearby chart.

Downloads

FNIGC's reports for the First Nations Regional Health Survey remain the top download on FNIGC.ca, being accessed a total of nearly 2,000 times in the past 12 months, while reports related to the FNREEES national report were downloaded 1,500 times. Stories from the "Power of Data" series were accessed 2,100 times.

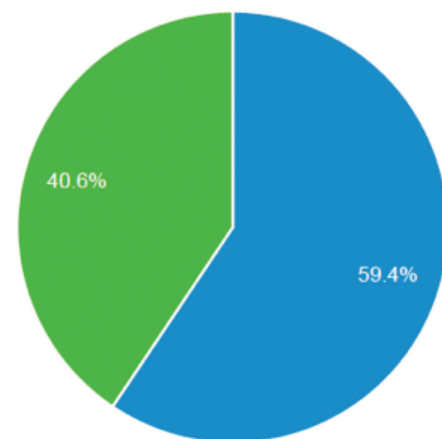
Audience

There were more than 65,000 unique users (visitors who visited more than one page or were return visitors) of FNIGC.ca between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, a noteworthy jump from 43,500 in 2015-2016.

On average, the large majority (90 percent) of FNIGC.ca's visitors were from within Canada, with the United States in second place at 3.8 percent—a number that is unchanged from past years. The large majority of our users (89 percent) remain English-speakers, with nearly 4.2 percent being French speakers, essentially unchanged from past years.

1 in 5 (20 percent) of FNIGC.ca visitors accessed the site from a computer based in Ottawa (a drop from 1 in 4 the previous year), with 10 percent accessing it from Toronto, and 6 percent accessing us from Gatineau, 4 percent from Vancouver and 4 percent from Montreal.

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



For the first time new users to the site outnumbered returning users: new visitors represented 59 percent of users, compared to 41 percent returning users. This is a significant swing from last year, when new users represented 44 percent of traffic to FNIGC.ca compared to returning users (56 percent), and is a sign that we are expanding our audience significantly.

In addition, nearly half (46 percent) of visitors accessed our site from a mobile device, the majority (62 percent) did so on an Apple iPhone or iPad. This indicates an increase from last year, when 32 percent were on mobile devices, and is a trend that will influence how we produce our online content. In addition, FNIGC.ca's "bounce rate" (the percentage of visitors who leave a website after looking at just one page) was 57 percent; a slight increase from 52 percent in 2015–2016.

Social Media

The cornerstone of much of FNIGC's online growth in recent years has been our social media presence, which is driven by Communications. The past year has seen our social media profile expand and grow on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Twitter

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year FNIGC's Twitter page (Twitter.com/FNIGC) received more than 124,000 impressions (the number of times a user saw one of our tweets), which marks a **60-percent increase** from the previous year (78,400 impressions). We also gained 212 new followers (a total of 1,512) and are part of 55 First Nations Twitter lists (up from 42 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.

Facebook

FNIGC's Facebook page (Facebook.com/FNIGC) has also seen encouraging growth in the last 12 months. Our total number of "Likes" from Facebook users increased to 1,757 from 1,164 the previous year, and 425 two years ago. In general, though the numbers seem similar, Communications has found that Facebook offers the most value when it comes to reaching our key audience of First Nations people and communities. Anecdotally, we know that Facebook is a popular tool in many First Nations communities and that many people who use it are actively involved in issues affecting their communities, which makes it an ideal platform for outreach.



YouTube

Our YouTube channel (YouTube.com/FNIGC) has shown dramatic growth. In just 12 months it received 12,487 views, a 300% increase from last year (which saw 4,607 views). A likely cause for this spike is the popularity of specific videos, including the First Nations Community Survey, “FNIGC: Data by First Nations” and the series of five Fieldworker Training Videos which were posted last year for our Regional Partners.

LinkedIn

Over the past year we’ve made a concerted effort to make the most of our LinkedIn page (LinkedIn.com/FNIGC), and the work has paid dividends. We currently have a network of 922 people on the professional networking site, which we have used to promote major releases and job postings. WE anticipate the site to continue to be of practical use in the months ahead.

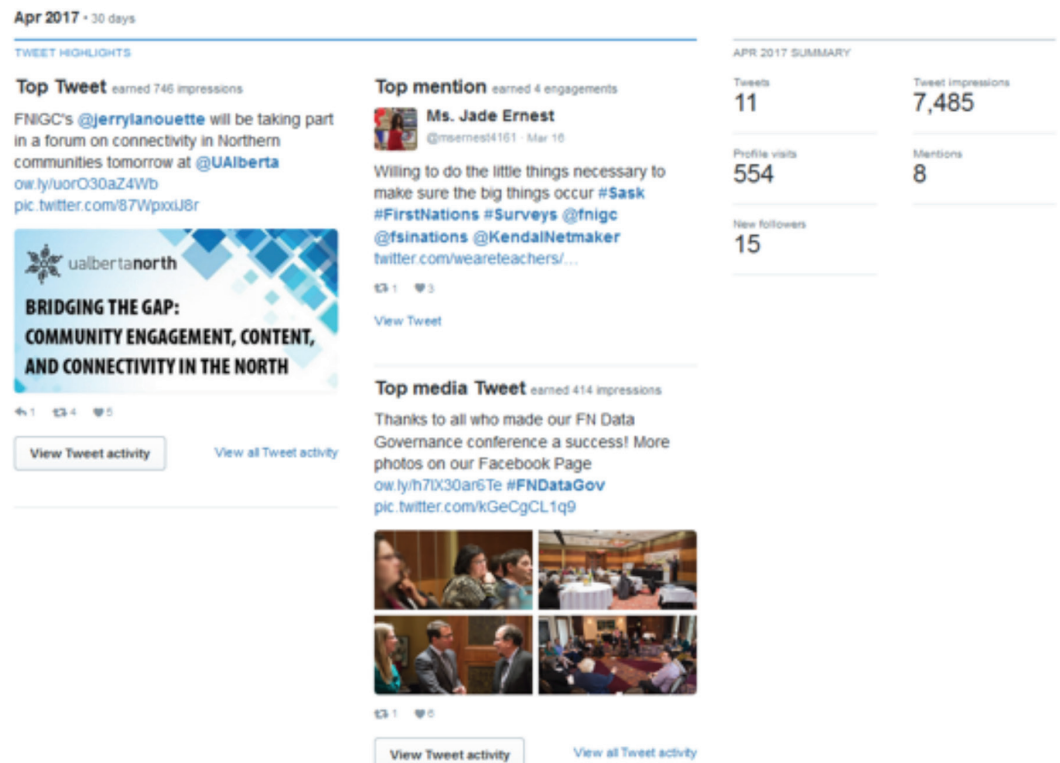
FNIGC’s social media profile has flourished in the past year, thanks to a long-term Communications strategy that engages people based on their interest in First Nations social, culture, and academic issues. This enhanced profile has yielded tangible results, as we have now established ourselves as a credible voice in the First Nations social media community. This supports FNIGC’s global strategic goals in real and concrete ways that should not be dismissed.

RHS Phase 3

With data collection for the third phase of FNIGC’s landmark RHS process wrapping up in January 2017, Communications held a series of meetings with the Survey Management and Methodology and Statistics teams to discuss a plan for the year-long reporting period. It was decided that the RHS Phase 3 national report, which is scheduled to be released in early 2018, will try and focus on trends identified over the three iterations of the survey. It was also decided that all of the published data from the RHS 3 report will be made available on the FNIGC Data Online tool concurrent to the report’s release.

Communications will also leverage its relationship with NationTalk to help enhance our media outreach in advance of the RHS report release.

We also continued the popular Power of Data series of articles, published two more: one from the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake in Quebec and one from Saik’uz First Nation, in BC’s interior. These stories have proven to be a valuable tool for our Regional Partners, who use them to help explain the role that quality data can play in planning and policy in First Nations communities.



Communications also maintained the RHS: In the Field blog, which was created to highlight positive results in the survey process across the country.

REEES

In July 12, 2016 FNIGC published the final national report for the REEES, *Now is the Time: Our Data, Our Stories, Our Future, National Report of the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey*. The report was the result of a months-long process of writing, editing and design and contains a wide range of information about early childhood, education and employment factors affecting life on First Nations reserve and Northern communities.

The publication of the report was supported by a media release, social media promotion and additional publications including a Quick Facts booklet for leadership and a series of Fact Sheets designed for First Nations communities in mind.

First Nations Community Survey

Picking up from last year's marketing push for the First Nations Community Survey (which included videos and brochures), in February 2017 Communications created a Facebook marketing campaign designed to raise awareness of the survey within First Nations communities. As part of the final push to complete the Community Survey, the social media campaign ran for two weeks and was targeted at First Nations Facebook users.

By the time it was done the campaign had reached more than 45,000 people, generated 524 reactions (Likes, Loves, etc.), 434 Shares and 114 comments — which makes it the most widely viewed post in FNIGC's history on social media. In the end, more than 2,000 people visited the First Nations Community Survey section of FNIGC.ca, which speaks to the level of engagement that First Nations Facebook users have when it comes to community issues.



Saik'uz First Nation

Where data is a long-standing tradition

SAIK'UZ FIRST NATION – Located deep in the heart of the British Columbia interior, about a 10-hour drive north of Vancouver, the small, secluded community of Saik'uz is proudly and unmistakably off-the-beaten path—but that doesn't mean it's a stranger to the power of data.

Just ask Stanley Thomas.

Having grown up in the tiny and tight-knit Carrier community of just over 1,000, Thomas (a former Saik'uz Chief) says that while the remote community of Saik'uz (pronounced Sai-cuz) might operate on a slower speed, data has always played a big role in its day-to-day routines.

"Data, to me, we've had it all our lives" he says "but it isn't always written down: it's in here" he adds, pointing to his temple.

As way of explanation, he describes how when he was a young man each day at his family home would involve the same post-dinner tradition.

"After we ate, my mom and dad would gather all of us kids, my brothers, my sisters and my cousins, together in the living room where our father would tell us stories that had been passed down to him." he says "They called it the Giving of Time. One night he'd start a story—a legend, usually—and the next night he'd ask us where he'd left off. If no one could answer him, then he knew we hadn't been listening and he'd start all over again."

"That's a lesson you don't forget" he says with a laugh "but it shows you how smart they were."

For many First Nations people, this is a funny (and likely familiar) story that speaks to the important role that oral storytelling plays in maintaining their culture and history. To Thomas, it's also an example of how Indigenous data (or traditional knowledge, by another name) is being passed on, via oral history, from one generation to the next.

"Our data is here, in our own way, it's in our heads" he says sitting in Saik'uz's school gym hung high with



Stanley Thomas

banners for its championship fastball team. "It's about who we are, and where we came from."

This echoes what many First Nations people—and increasingly more academics and scientists—have been saying for years: First Nations have been in the data gathering game for generations. The fact is that this can take many different shapes and sizes, whether it's the dissemination of knowledge through traditional storytelling, the collection of animal migration paths from the land, or community data collected by First Nations-led surveys.

That's exactly how the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) approaches its survey work, whether it's the upcoming First Nations Labour and Employment Survey (FNLEDS), the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES), or the recently completed First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS)—as part of an established tradition of First Nations data gathering used to inform the health and well-being of First Nations people.



First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC)
February 7 · 🌐

Have you taken part in the First Nations Community Survey yet? You have until March 31, 2017 to take part in this First Nations-driven survey that is designed to help you better understand how real-world factors — like a safe clean water system, a youth centre, or a First Nations-run school — can have positive impacts on the well-being of First Nations people and the communities they live in.

It's easy, online, and only takes about 15 minutes to complete! If you're interested in taking part, click on the link below for information on how you can get started! Click here to learn more: <http://fnigc.ca/.../be-part-first-nations-community-survey.ht...>



45,548 people reached [View Results](#)

445 Reactions · 38 Comments · 424 Shares

👍 Like 🗨 Comment ➦ Share 📄 Hootlet

👤 Gail Bear, Ely Hastings and 443 others Chronological

424 shares

Ja-Cee Sutherland What will survey do for my community?
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · February 7 at 3:38pm
[View previous replies](#)

First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC)
Zoomingwe, it's initiated by FNIGC, a FN-led, and run non-profit, and conducted by our regional partners. The results are intended to be

The First Nations principles of OCAP®

In 2016-2017, in response to a request from the Board of Directors, Communications wrote new content for FNIGC.ca that was designed to answer many of the questions that they had encountered about the First Nations principles of OCAP®. The questions range from “Who created OCAP®?” and “Why was OCAP® created?” to “How does OCAP® apply to First Nations?”, “How does OCAP® apply to researchers?” and “What does the ® symbol next to the OCAP name and logo mean?”. The new page was created in part, to help explain the registered trademark that FNIGC took out on the OCAP® name and logo, and why it did so.

We also created a new, updated OCAP® brochure, which leveraged some of this information. In May 2016, FNIGC also created a Facebook marketing campaign designed to increase awareness in the Fundamentals of OCAP® online course.

The Sunrise News

For the past four years, FNIGC’s internal newsletter The Sunrise News has served as an outlet for news and announcements for staff, Regional Partners, Board Members and Member Delegates. In 2016, we switched the schedule to quarterly (from bi-monthly) and welcomed aboard Lindsey Gracie to help in the production of the electronic newsletter.

FNIGC Data Online

In February 2017, FNIGC launched a new-and-improved version of one of its most popular online services, FNIGC Data Online. The updated version of the online knowledge translation tool introduced a range of new features, including: a mobile responsive interface, customizable charts and graphs, a more dynamic user experience, social media shareability, and twice as much data than before.

Led by FNIGC Communications in collaboration with Ottawa-based Answermen, the new Data Online tool (www.FNIGC.ca/dataonline) is the result of months of rethinking about the functionality of the previous tool and how information is currently accessed, used, and shared in today’s online environment. The result represents a reimagining of the original Data Online tool, which was launched in December 2013 as an easy, no-cost way for researchers, academics, policy-makers and students to access FNIGC’s significant data resources about First Nations reserve communities.



The new FNIGC Data Online, which houses more than 300 national-level charts and graphs, also gives FNIGC the important administrative ability to upload charts and graphs internally, instead of relying on external contractors. Currently, we are planning on timing the upload of all of the RHS Phase 3 published data to the Online tool in concert with the release of the RHS 3 report.

Regional Data Tools

In December 2016, Communications was tasked with overseeing the production and implementation of Data Online tools for our 10 Regional Partners. A major knowledge exchange initiative, the new Regional Data Tools will represent a virtual data network that will make regional-level data from the RHS and REEES widely available.

In concert with Answermen, each regional tool will use the framework of the national data tool as a model allowing for customization and French translation where applicable. We are currently working with Quebec, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Manitoba to launch this summer, with the balance projected for the end of 2017.

Conclusion

In summary, 2016–2017 represents a hectic and productive 12 months for FNIGC Communications. Despite its size, it has managed to expand FNIGC's reputation and profile, support the publication of major reports, and launch a major knowledge translation initiative. We look forward to continuing these key efforts in the year ahead.



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NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





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