

FNIGC CGIPN First Nations Information Governance Centre

Le Centre de gouvernance de l'information des Premières Nations

8th Annual Report to Members 2017 - 2018

Presented at FNIGC'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 23, 2018 | Vancouver, British Columbia

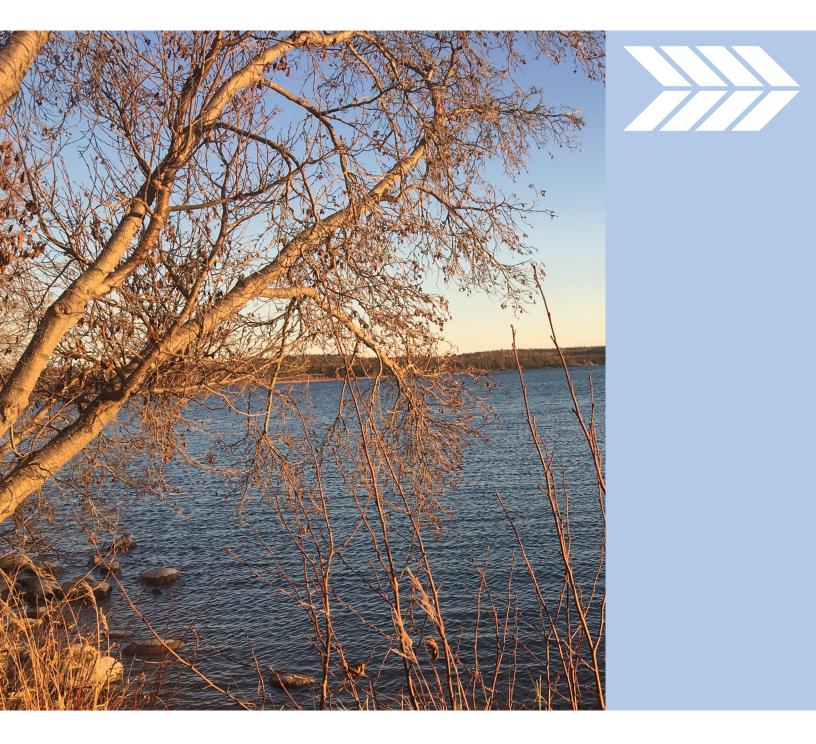


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MESSAGE FROM FNIGC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The past year has been a period of renewal and rejuvenation for the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), as we aim to fulfill our new vision that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct worldview.

For the past year FNIGC and its Regional Partners have been busy with a slate of important activities, which include: the release of a major national report of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS) Phase 3; finalizing data collection for the First Nations Community Survey; and completing the development of the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLED). The FNLED will collect much-needed data on labour and employment in First Nations communities in 2018 and 2019.

We've also seen a number of exciting developments for FNIGC, such as the launch of the FNIGC Research Series; the publication of a report on the legacy of Indian Residential Schools compiled to support mental wellness programs and services for Indian Residential School Survivors and their families; the development of a new online library system for FNIGC's website; and the submission of a successful proposal to the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) for the next phase of the RHS.

We invite you to review our annual report so that you can learn more about our renewed Nationbased vision that works to inform all of our ongoing projects and initiatives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to acknowledge the staff at FNIGC and our Regional Partners, who together have made this unique organization what it is today.

Bonnie Healy, Chair, FNIGC Board of Directors

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Report from FNIGC's Executive Director

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Presently in our 8th year, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) is proud to continue to support the aspirations and needs of First Nation people living on reserve and in Northern communities across Canada. as Nations work to achieve data sovereignty in alignment with their distinct worldview. Ever since we were incorporated as a small, First Nationsmandated, non-profit organization in 2010, FNIGC has helped to assert First Nations' data sovereignty and has supported the development of information governance and management systems at the community level through regional and national partnerships, and by adhering to free, prior, and informed consent, respecting nation-to-nation relationships, and recognizing the distinct customs of Nations.

Over the 2017–2018 fiscal year, FNIGC experienced significant changes and many new and exciting developments.

This Annual Report is intended to provide an overview of the work we have undertaken between April 2017 and March 2018, including our many achievements and accomplishments—as well as some of the challenges we have overcome. We consider this as an ongoing illustration of the pride we take in upholding, embodying, and advancing the First Nations principles of OCAP® and First Nations information governance.

Over the past year FNIGC has been extremely busy with a number of key activities. These include:

- hosting delegates representing our Regional Partners and many other interested parties at "20 Years of First Nations Data: The Path to RHS Phase 3," a two-day, national data release conference in March 2018;
- the publication and release of the National

Report of the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3: Volume 1;

- the release of the following reports and publications: "First Nations Youth Smoking Factors Associated with Resilience;" "Aging and Frailty in First Nations Communities;" and "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 Action;"
- the ongoing development of the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) Survey;
- the ongoing management of the First Nations Data Centre;
- the administration and delivery of The Fundamentals of OCAP[®] online training program, in collaboration with Algonquin College (with over 500 registrants over the past year); and
- continued outreach and delivery of workshops, training, and presentations to First Nations communities, organizations, universities, colleges, government institutions, and health organizations.

Staffing Update

This past fiscal year was one of transition and growth. Upon Gail Mc Donald's retirement in March 2017, FNIGC was fortunate to be able to call upon staff to provide support in acting-Executive Director capacities, as its Board of Directors planned to hire a new permanent Executive Director. We thank staff member Albert Armieri (and former staff members Jerry Lanouette and Addie Pryce) for providing support during this transitionary time. In November 2017, FNIGC welcomed Dr. Jonathan Dewar as our new Executive Director.



Dr. Jonathan Dewar

Jonathan came to us after a short stint with the Reconciliation Secretariat at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Previously, he had served as Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and Special Advisor to the President at Algoma University, as Director of Research at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and as a Director at the National Aboriginal Health Organization.

Jonathan is of mixed heritage, descended from Huron-Wendat, French-, and Scottish-Canadian grandparents with an academic background in Indigenous arts and literatures and Indigenous Studies, and holds a PhD focused on healing and reconciliation from the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University. He also holds an appointment as Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University.

In addition to retaining the core component of our dedicated, skilled, and talented staff team, we also proudly welcomed some new staff to our FNIGC family.

Our FNIGC current staff team includes:

Administration Team

- Jonathan Dewar, Executive Director
- Janet Restoule, Executive and Operations Assistant
- Colette Kataquapit, Finance Manager
- Alex LaFrance, Finance & Payroll Assistant
- Brad Mackay, Manager, Communications
- Claudia Meness, Administrative Assistant

Research and Information Management

- Albert Armieri, Senior Manager
- Amy Nahwegahbow, Senior Research Advisor
- Lyndsy Gracie, Projects Assistant
- Alana Roscoe, Program Manager
- Maria Santos, Program Manager, First Nations Data Centre
- Alex DeGagné, Summer Student

Methodology and Statistics Team

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

Survey Management Team

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

OCAP® and Information Governance

• Aaron Franks, Senior Manager

Partnerships and Capacity

Jonathon Swanson, Senior Manager

We also said goodbye to some colleagues in 2017-2018. We thank them for their service and continue to wish them well:

- Jerry Lanouette
- Addie Pryce
- Chrystal Desilets
- Courtney Humeny

Operational Budget

FNIGC's Operational Budget is reviewed annually and presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The 2018 – 2019 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 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 key objectives of FNIGC's Strategic Plan.

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

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

On March 31, 2018, funding for the FNRHS Phase 3 ended, and we were notified that our proposal for FNRHS Phase 4 funding was successful. Year Two funding for the FNLED Survey flowed in 2017-2018 and continues into Year Three in 2018-2019. FNLED will run through to 2021. FNIGC enters into multi-year contribution agreements with our Regional 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 FNIGC with the goal of enhanced accountability and the provision of reporting templates, tools, and schedules to support regional coordination of activities with clear milestones and deliverables and streamlined processes.

As we continue to espouse and practice "BY FIRST NATIONS – FOR FIRST NATIONS," we are committed to improving each survey process, and to take cues from the lessons learned from previous survey processes by embracing new technologies and methodologies where appropriate.

As we remain self-reliant, additional revenues for FNIGC are generated through service contracts for data access and data services offered through the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC). The centre also processes special projects with federal departments, academics, students, and others, which are managed through contracts developed specifically for the FNDC, and are related to general tabulations, custom tabulations, data services, and others. These contracts are stringent and safeguard and protect FNIGC data and ensure that OCAP® is respected at every step in the process. Revenue is also generated by charging for The Fundamentals of OCAP[®] online training program, which supports FNIGC's efforts to educate and inform many different audiences on the First Nations Principles of OCAP[®].

Facilities Management, Operations, and Staff Supports

FNIGC is pleased to announce that it occupied two new spaces in 2017-2018: the Akwesasne Office (Head Office) moved to 341 Island Road, Unit D, and the Ottawa Office moved to 180 Elgin Street, Suite 1200.

FNIGC continues to support workplace wellness, which includes enhancing workplace ergonomics and prevention for our employees. This entails providing 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 regular 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 lunch in the park, etc. It's a great time for all.

Financial Audit

FNIGC's Financial Audit Report for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2018 was successfully completed on schedule. The draft Audit Report was presented and approved by the FNIGC Board of Directors on June 6, 2018, 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, 2018, in Vancouver, British Columbia. 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.

If you are interested in a copy of the audit report please send an email to the attention of the Board of Directors to info@fnigc.ca.

Board Meetings and Accountability

FNIGC's Board of Directors held seven meetings in 2017 – 2018:

- June 5-6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting (Ottawa, ON)
- July 24-25, 2017 Strategic Planning Session & Board of Directors Meeting (Regina, SK)
- September 19-20 Board of Directors Meeting (Ottawa, ON)
- October 17, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting (Teleconference)
- December 5-6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting (Ottawa, ON)
- February 20-21, 2018 Governance Retreat (Wendake, QC)
- March 20-21, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting (Ottawa, ON)

FNIGC National Student Bursary

Each year FNIGC allocates funding to support First Nations students enrolled in a postsecondary program focused on information governance, information technology, data management, or epidemiology. The recipients of last year's bursary were **Karlee Johnson** of Eskasoni First Nation and **Stephanie McConkey**, a member of Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation.



FNIGC Student Bursary recipients Karlee Johnson and Stephanie McConkey

The recipients of the 2018-2019 FNIGC National Student Bursary will be announced in the fall of 2018.

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 with the arrival of a new Executive Director in November 2017 the Board planned a number of activities with his support, including a Governance Retreat as part of a Governance Review conducted by external expert consultants (led by Wayne K. Spear, of Spear Communications, and his associates). This work took place alongside a comprehensive Organizational Review, a Financial Review, and a Human Resources Review (which is ongoing).

In June of 2018, the Board approved new Vision and Mission statements and identified four new Core Strategic Objectives, which will anchor the new FNIGC Strategic Plan (to be finalized in summer 2018).

Vision:

The First Nations Information Governance Centre envisions that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct worldview.

Mission:

We assert First Nations' data sovereignty and support the development of information governance and management systems at the community level through regional and national partnerships. We adhere to free, prior and informed consent, respect nation-to-nation relationships, and recognize the distinct customs of nations.

FNIGC's current Core Strategic Objectives are:

- 1. Our approach is Community-driven and Nationbased
- 2. Our data are inclusive, meaningful, and relevant to First Nations
- 3. Our tools are effective, adaptable, and accessible
- 4. Our partnerships connect regions to strengthen data sovereignty

FINANCE

FNIGC's Finance team is made up of **Colette Kataquapit** (Finance Manager) and **Alex LaFrance** (Finance and Payroll Assistant), who are pleased to report on its activities during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Combined, Colette and Alex have over 20 years of accounting experience. They continue to provide ongoing professional support, improving the processes and functions of the Finance unit, and have pursued professional development courses and workshops.

Investments

The \$2-million in investments purchased in 2017 continue to generate interest income on a monthly basis. The interest income earned is put toward FNIGC's general fund in order to achieve its organizational goals and objectives.

Electronic Funds Transfers

As previously reported, FNIGC purchased a software called Orchid EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) that was installed in our accounting system, Sage 300 ERP. Since establishing the EFT software, our regular vendors and Regional Partners have been enjoying the faster direct deposit of funds in order to meet their cash flow requirements. We have also seen savings from a move away from a reliance on couriering cheques and now experience shorter downtime, compared to the manual cheque process.

Software

We recently upgraded our Sage 300 ERP 2014 to the 2018 version. In order to achieve this, we also upgraded our server to meet the requirements of the new version. Also, FNIGC has an annual subscription with Sage Canada for software assurance, upgrade alerts, and technical support in order to be more efficient and get the most from the investment return.

Professional Associations

FNIGC has corporate memberships to AFOA Canada and Canadian Payroll Association, which provide a wealth of resources and network opportunities for the benefit of the Finance team and FNIGC as a whole.

New Head Office

In November 2017, FNIGC's Head Office, which houses the Finance team, moved to 341 Island Road, Unit D, Akwesasne, Ontario. The cost of the move was minimal (approximately \$2,700, which includes movers, security monitoring, Bell hookup, internet, cabling, server network, and other miscellaneous services).

Financial Review

The Finance team, alongside the Executive Director and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors, worked closely with consultant Terry Goodtrack, MPA, B. Admin., CPA, CGA, D. DIR, who conducted the FNIGC Financial Review and the team looks forward to assisting the Executive Director and the Board of Directors in implementing the recommendations in 2018-2019.

SURVEY MANAGEMENT

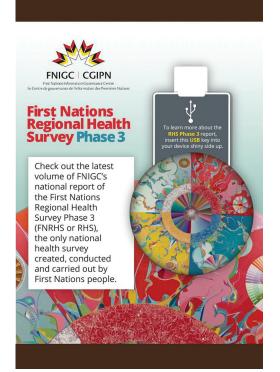
FNIGC's Survey Management team is responsible for overseeing all aspects of FNIGC's national survey projects in collaboration with its Regional Partner organizations. This involves coordinating survey implementation, developing survey instruments, disseminating survey results and evaluating survey processes.

The Survey Team is made up of Senior Manager, **Dr. Arron Service**, Program Manager for Survey Management **Kyla Marcoux**, Program Manager for Research and Development **Katie Wood** and Projects Assistant **Lorraine Cheechoo**.

Over the 2017- 2018 year, the team has wrapped up the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3 (RHS Phase 3), overseen the development of the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLED), and concluded a successful proposal for RHS Phase 4, the next stage of FNIGC's foundational survey process.

As part of these efforts, the Survey Management team organized three national gatherings and took part in regional conversations focussed on: lessons learned, FNLED survey development, and community engagement.

First Nations Regional Health Survey



The RHS Phase 3, which finished data collection in January 2017, collected a wealth of information regarding the health

and well-being of First Nations people living on reserve and Northern communities. This information forms the basis for the two-volume National Report of the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3, which taken together contains 12 chapters across key survey themes.

The first volume of the report was released in March 2018 on the second day of FNIGC's "20 years of First Nations Data: The Path to RHS Phase 3" conference in Ottawa, which was attended by more than 100 community members, as well as Regional Partners, researchers, and government stakeholders. The second volume of the report is scheduled to be released at the 39th AFN Annual General Assembly, July 24 to 28, 2018.

As part of FNIGC's commitment to knowledge translation and dissemination, the majority of charts and figures included in the RHS Phase 3 report will be uploaded to FNIGC Data Online, our free-to-use online data access tool (www.fnigc.ca/dataonline). In addition, both volumes of the report will be made available on a custom-made "webkey," which will be distributed at FNIGC's booth at the AFN AGA Circle of Trade.

The Survey team would like to acknowledge the hard work and ingenuity of our Regional Partners in making the RHS Phase 3 process a success. We would also like to acknowledge the time and effort of the nearly 24,000 community members from more than 250 First Nations communities who took part in the survey.

In spring 2017, FNIGC received a request from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) to submit a proposal for RHS Phase 4. Working with a Regional Working Group, the Survey team developed a proposal that reflected a number of community concerns, including ensuring that the budget reflected actual costs incurred by our Regional Partners. The final proposal was submitted on October 13th, 2017, with a request for an additional \$9 million. We are happy to report the proposal was accepted and signed by all parties on May 15, 2018. Data collection for RHS Phase 4 is scheduled to take place in 2020-2021.

First Nations Community Survey

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

Data collection for the FNCS concluded in March 2018, with 231 First Nation communities participating. FNIGC's Regional Partners have reported having varying experiences with the FNCS data collection process. Although the survey was launched with an online administration focus, some Regions 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 the FNCS processes over the next year where we will be exploring and addressing these kinds of concerns from our partners with the aim to improve how we do things in the future.

First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey

FNIGC's newest survey initiative, the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLED) is intended to capture labour market information and factors associated with employment in First Nations communities. The FNLED builds on the foundational work of the RHS and the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREES).

During the last fiscal year, FNIGC has been working with our partners on a regionally-led survey development process. This included a June 2017 gathering in Ottawa to discuss the survey timeline and the survey development process. Survey development timelines were agreed to and a process for involvement of regional advisory committees was identified.

Another gathering was held in October 2017 in Toronto with representatives from our Regional Partners and some Regional Advisory Committee members to discuss their priorities and feedback on what the survey instrument should include. These rich discussions assisted in identifying priority areas and reinforced the need for the instrument to capture the diversity of beliefs and opinions from individuals living in First Nations communities.

In addition, in partnership with our regional member organizations FNIGC has begun working with two new regional organizations for the FNLED, our partner the Ktunaxa Nation Council (in British Columbia) and contractor Innovation 7 (Ontario). We are excited to engage these new partners for this new survey effort, and welcome their interest in building evidence toward a greater understanding of issues surrounding labour and employment in our communities.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnerships and Capacity Development unit was established to support the Executive Director in maintaining FNIGC's existing relationships with its many partners, while also fostering and cultivating new development opportunities. From April to July 2017 this section was headed by Senior Manager **Addie Pryce**. In August 2017 the position was assumed by Senior Manager **Jonathon Swanson**.

The key responsibilities of Partnerships and Capacity Development 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.

Regional Information Governance Centres

Over the course of the 2017-2018 year, several drafts of FNIGC's Regional Information Governance Centre (RIGC) proposal were prepared. This RIGC proposal was designed to complement Regional RIGC proposals from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, the final drafts of which were submitted in November 2017. The Federal 2018 Budget included \$2.5 million over three years to support the First Nations Information Governance Centre's design of a national data governance strategy and coordination of efforts to establish regional data governance centres.

Internal Capacity Development

In 2017, cultural competency training was established as a requirement for all FNIGC staff, through the San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training online program. As of March 31, 2018, the majority if staff had completed this training.

Status of Women Canada

Discussions were held with Status of Women Canada regarding national level dialogue around approaches to study gender-based violence. Discussions are ongoing.

UNICEF

UNICEF engaged FNIGC in a discussion on children's health research and expressed interest in receiving information on OCAP® for the benefit of other Indigenous peoples internationally. Discussions are ongoing on how to inform UNICEF researchers of the significance of Indigenous-developed and led protocols on working with Indigenous data.

Trade Shows/Conferences

Partnerships and Capacity Development has been given ongoing responsibility for organizing FNIGC presence at the various trade shows and conferences that FNIGC participates in. With the support of FNIGC's Communications unit, Partnerships and Capacity Development have participated in several events, including the First Nations Health Transformation Summit and the First Nations Health Managers Association conference.

Portage Working Group

FNIGC has been asked to sit on the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' Portage Ethical Treatment of Sensitive Data Working Group in a technical advisory capacity.

In particular reference to the work of OCAP[®], the group aims to "[Explore] the social obligation to communities where data is collected, whether that be individuals, families, or whole societies (e.g. Indigenous communities, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, etc.)." Other technical advisors on the committee are drawn from the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards, Tri-Agency Funders, the Panel on Responsible Conduct of Research, the Panel on Research Ethics, the Institutional Research Ethics Boards, and Research Data Canada. FNIGC currently chairs the sub-group on Indigenous Data.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Research and Information Management team ensures that FNIGC's high standards for data privacy are maintained and respected, while also advancing the relevance and utility of data within the organization.

The Research and Information Management team consists of Senior Manager **Albert Armieri**, Program Manager (First Nation Data Centre) **Maria Santos**, Research and Development Program Manager **Alana Roscoe**, Senior Research Advisor **Amy Nahwegahbow** and Projects Assistant **Lyndsy Gracie**.

For the team, the 2017-2018 year was spent finalizing a number of publications, wrapping up a range of key research initiatives and developing new proposals, updating our policies and procedures, and fulfilling research requests at the First Nation Data Centre.

PUBLICATIONS

First Nations Youth Smoking

Building on FNIGC's 2016 report which explored RHS Phase 2 data on youth resilience and smoking, the team commissioned a new report that used data from the FNREEES to examine additional factors associated with resilience to smoking amongst First Nations youth living in First Nations communities. That paper, "First Nations Youth Smoking Factors Associated with Resilience," also incorporated qualitative information derived through interviews with community tobacco initiative program managers, frontline workers, and subject-matter experts.

Embracing qualitative and quantitative data methods allowed for a more robust understanding of the risks and protective factors associated with First Nations youth smoking. Some of the findings were used to inform the development of a series of infographics intended to be used by First Nations tobacco-cessation programs.

An abbreviated manuscript based on this report is being submitted for publication in the International Indigenous Policy Journal in late 2018.

Aging and Frailty

The first published overview of aging in a nationally representative sample of seniors living in First Nations communities, "Aging and Frailty in First Nations Communities," was published in the November 2017 issue of the Canadian Journal of Aging. Leveraging data from the RHS Phase 2, this report documented the experiences of older First Nations people and highlighted the need for supportive health services and chronic disease management in First Nations communities. The report also marks the first application of a validated "frailty index" to describe aging experiences in First Nations communities. Further work in this area will be conducted over the next two years using the FNREEES and RHS Phase 3 datasets.

Indian Residential School

Completed in March 2018, 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 Action summarized the findings from a gathering of experts on Canada's Indian Residential School (IRS) system, which was organized by FNIGC in 2017.

The report (which relied on data from the RHS) found evidence that supported the need for ongoing funding to support mental wellness programs and services for IRS Survivors and their families. The report also demonstrated the impact of current support programs on the health and wellness of First Nations people and served to inform the design and delivery of future programs.

Strengths-Based Approaches to Research

In spring 2017, FNIGC began work on a foundational document that deconstructed the concept of strengths-based research in an Indigenous context. The report gathered and synthesized information on the broader principles, definitions, and manifestations of strengths-based approaches to research from existing relevant literature, as well as from in-depth interviews with FNIGC Regional Partner organizations and national Indigenous organizations.

In addition, the report examines this data to consider best practices and current models for the development of positive mental wellness indicators.

INITIATIVES

Community-Based Reporting Template Transformation

Over the past year, the Research and Information Management team provided technical expertise and support to efforts by the AFN and FNIHB to reimagine and transform the Community-Based Reporting Template (CBRT). The goals of this important joint-initiative were to:

- reduce the response burden on communities,
- better align the measurement needs of First Nations communities and FNIHB,
- improve question design (as a means of improving data quality),
- · reduce overlap with other data collection tools,
- better align the CBRT instrument with First Nations priorities,
- support community access and utilization of administrative and program data to support community planning and evaluation activities, and
- · ensure that First Nations data is protected and communities have access to it.

As part of this work, FNIGC engaged with First Nations communities for their input on how to improve the CBRT process and identify community data needs. In December 2017, FNIGC concluded its work on the CBRT transformation process following a presentation to the AFN and FNIHB and the preparation of a summary technical report.

National Aboriginal Diabetes Association

In 2017–2018 FNIGC collaborated with the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association (NADA) to undertake diabetes research that utilized RHS Phase 3 data. This collaboration is supported by a memorandum of understanding, derived from the Principles of Partnership, as well as a formal research agreement, which were developed over the past year. FNIGC and NADA are working towards a joint publication for March 2019.

With support from ESDC, FNIGC is working on two research initiatives that map onto priorities identified in the FNIGC Strategic Research Plan: one will examine health and wellness among First Nations seniors, while the other will explore poverty in a First Nations context. These projects will be conducted over a two-year period, and FNIGC will be seeking collaboration with interested Regional Partners.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

FNIGC Research Ethics Review Function

In preparation for the ethics review for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey (FNLED) the Research and Information Management team reviewed and revised the policies, procedures and tools used for FNIGC's Research Ethics Review Function. It also created an application form for the Research Ethics Review process.

Privacy and Data Security Framework

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 in 2018.

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.

FIRST NATIONS DATA CENTRE

Over the past year, two research projects have undergone review through the FNDC with anticipated start dates of fall 2018. The first is "Assessing the Influence of Remoteness on Food Security in First Nations Communities," conducted by Dr. Brady Deaton, Alexander Scholz, and Bethany Lipka. The second is "Identifying Predictors and Mediators of First Nations Health and Wellness: A Focus on Historical Trauma and Contemporary Community Stressors," conducted by Dr. Robyn McQuaid and Dr. Amy Bombay.

In an attempt to ensure that all research opportunities and data access requests receive appropriate and diligent review prior to proceeding with access to data, the Research Opportunities and Data Use Working Group (RODUWG) was formed. The RODUWG is also responsible for providing guidance in the development of FNIGC research proposals, identifying research opportunities that would benefit from regional and national collaboration, reviewing research opportunities in the context of OCAP[®] and First Nations ethics, and reviewing publications for which FNIGC is either an author or collaborator.

OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

The last year has been a time of transition for FNIGC's OCAP[®] and Information Governance unit. In November 2017 we saw the departure of **Jerry Lanouette** from his role of Senior Manager, OCAP[®] and Information Governance. Jerry was with FNIGC for nearly eight years, during which time he was a strong advocate for OCAP[®] and was instrumental in the development and promotion of the popular Fundamentals of OCAP[®] online course. In 2017, **Crystal Desilets** served as Manager for OCAP[®] and Information Governance, followed by **Jonathon Swanson**, who oversaw the division for several months until new Senior Manager **Dr. Aaron Franks** took up the post in May 2018.

Since then, Aaron has been working closely with FNIGC staff to manage the OCAP[®] course, evaluate its health and purpose, and develop and implement new forms of OCAP[®] awareness-raising, education, and training. He is also working to secure more resources for OCAP[®] and increase its relevance and profile, as well exploring options for OCAP[®] certification.

The First Nations principles of OCAP®

The First Nations principles of OCAP[®] are at the core of everything we do and have become a foundational resource for FNIGC, our First Nations partners, community members, citizens, and organizations. This is why FNIGC established a dedicated OCAP[®] and Information Governance unit in 2016. Much effort goes into presenting, explaining, and educating on the First Nations principles of OCAP[®], especially when dealing with the Canadian mainstream and partnering government institutions.

The Fundamentals of OCAP® and OCAP® Education

Since its launch in February 2016, nearly 1,200 people have registered to take the Fundamentals of OCAP® online training course. The course has an 80% completion rate, and950 students have received their course certificates for the seven module course. The French version of the course, "Les Fondamentaux des principes de PCAP®," was launched in August 2017. It was welcomed by many of our French partners in the Regions and continues to serve the needs of French-speaking registrants, particularly in the federal government.



In addition to the course, we receive many requests for OCAP® training presentations, though capacity remains an issue. Recently, Executive Director Jonathan Dewar, Senior Manager of Partnerships and Capacity Jonathon Swanson, Senior Research Advisor Amy Nahwegahbow, and Aaron have delivered OCAP® presentations to:

- Rural Research Institute, Brandon University (webinar)
- Ontario Bar Association's Privacy Law Summit (Toronto, ON)
- Access, Privacy, Security, and Records Management Conference, 2018 Ontario Connections (Markham, ON)
- FNIHB One Health; First Nations Health Managers (Saskatoon, SK)
- Carleton University Institute on the Ethics of Research With Indigenous People (CUIERIP 2018) (Ottawa, ON)
- Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH) (Ottawa, ON)
- Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) (Toronto, ON)
- Transport Canada, Ocean's Protection Plan (Ottawa, ON)

OCAP® evaluation and development

Aaron Franks is currently developing a "visioning paper" that will outline the current challenges facing OCAP®, suggest ways to increase its usefulness and utility to First Nations people and organizations, and propose ways to enhance its relevance in the government, academic, and private sectors. He is also developing a timeline for evaluating the OCAP® education program that includes consulting with FNIGC's regional partners, holding focus groups with First Nations and academic course users, and engaging experts in teaching, training, and certification processes.

METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICS

FNIGC's Methodology and Statistics team is in charge of creating survey methodologies and sampling strategies, and providing analysis of our survey data. In addition to this, the team provides key statistical support at an organizational level across FNIGC, serving to ensure the provision of high-quality data sets about First Nations communities on national and regional levels.

The Methodology and Statistics team is made up of Senior Manager **Dr. Fei Xu** and Statistical Data Analysts **Xinyu Qiao**, **Krysia Walczak** and **Fan Zhang**.

Over the 2017 – 2018 fiscal period the team provided cleaned datasets and data dictionaries to FNIGC Regional Partners without their own server. For Regional Partners with their own server, the team also provided syntax support for cleaning and creating standard indexes. This ensured data consistency and high quality data across all 10 regions.

In addition, the team fulfilled ad-hoc regional and national requests for RHS Phase 3 data analysis, producing tables and figures and verifying the interpretations of results to ensure the RHS Phase 3 national report was statistically sound. The department also responds to inter-departmental requests within FNIGC, and facilitates data collection in the field, subsequent data management, and data analysis.

Working in coordination with FNIGC's Communications team, the Methodology and Statistics team played a key role in creating, verifying and uploading more than 80 charts and figures from the RHS Phase 3 to FNIGC Data Online in time for the release on Volume One of the survey report.

In anticipation of the fall 2018 rollout of FNLED data collection, the Methodology and Statistics team developed sampling strategies for the survey by age-gender groups at the community level.

COMMUNICATIONS

The 2017 – 2018 fiscal year marked an eventful 12 months for FNIGC's Communications section, as it continued to support the ongoing communications demands of the organization while endeavouring to address the various emerging needs of our Regional Partners as well.

FNIGC Communications is overseen by **Brad Mackay**, Manager of Communications. As part of his responsibilities, Brad manages all aspects of the organization's internal and external communication activities, which includes reports, publications, press releases, brochures, pamphlets, annual reports, presentations, newsletters, marketing copy, FNIGC's website, and FNIGC's social media channels.

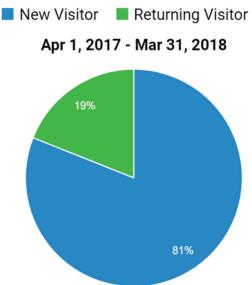
What follows is an overview of some of the highlights of FNIGC's Communications activities for 2017-2018.

FNIGC.CA

As the go-to source of information about FNIGC's survey work, reports, publications, press releases, news, online training, and job postings, FNIGC.ca is the default home for people looking to learn more about the organization. Since its launch five years ago, users of the site have increased steadily, year-to-year, with traffic more than doubling since 2015.

Over the 2017-2018 period all of the key metrics for the website increased – sometimes significantly. FNIGC's website received a total of **96,227 page views**, an 18% increase over the 81,736 page views during the previous fiscal year, and the highest in the history of the website. This increase was likely driven by a nearly 10% increase in new users (from 21,964 last year to 24,128 in 2017-2018) and a more than 10% spike in general users (from 22,390 last year to 24,671 this year).

Further, our users are staying longer on the site. The average duration of a session on the site increased about 6%, from 2.19 minutes last year to 2.28 minutes. FNIGC. ca's "bounce rate" (the percentage of visitors who leave a website after looking at just one page) decreased slightly this year, 57% to 56%.



On average, the large majority (89%) of FNIGC.ca's visitors came from within Canada, with the United States in second place at 6%—a number that is largely unchanged from past years. The large majority of our users (86%) remain English-speakers, with 3% being French speakers, also largely unchanged from past years.

For the second year in a row, new users to the site outnumbered returning users: new visitors represented 81% of users, compared to 41% returning users. This is a significant upswing from last year, when new users represented 59% of traffic to FNIGC.ca, compared to 41% for returning users.

Pages

The most frequently visited page on FNIGC's website was FNIGC.ca/OCAP with more than 13,000 visits (a 52% increase from the previous year), followed by our homepage, with 9,700 visits. The "About RHS" page was the third most-visited page (2,000 visits) and The Fundamentals of OCAP® online training was fourth, with 1,900 visits, a more than 135% increase from last year.

Downloads

FNIGC's reports for the First Nations Regional Health Survey remain the top downloaded items on the website being accessed a total of nearly 3,000 times in the past 12 months, while reports related to the FNREEES national report were downloaded nearly 1,000 times. Stories from the "Power of Data" series were downloaded more than 900 times.

Social Media

As mentioned above, the cornerstone of much of FNIGC's online growth in recent years has been our social media presence, which is driven by Communications. Over the past year, Communications has made a concerted effort to publish daily posts (on Twitter and Facebook) and engage with users regularly as a means of growing our influence.

As a result, our social media profile continued to expand and broaden its audience in the preceding 12 months, driving and increasing amount of traffic to our website. Facebook was the main source of referrals for FNIGC. ca, accounting for 68% of social traffic to the site. Twitter was next, with 23%, and LinkedIn was last at 8%. (YouTube was a distant fourth, with 3%.)

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year FNIGC's Twitter page received **158,793 impressions** (the number of times users see our tweets), up from 124,000 the previous year and nearly twice as much since 2016 (78,400



This new interactive map from @CBCIndigenous lets locate the more than 130 Indian Residential Schools that existed in Canada based on the year you were born and where you grew up. An incredible resource for Reconciliation. ow.ly/GM3F30kxVZt



impressions). We also gained 279 new followers, and are up to 1,791 (from 1,512 last year).

FNIGC's **Facebook** page has also witnessed growth in the last 12 months. Our total number of Likes from Facebook users increased to **1,964** (from **1,757**) while the total number of followers hit **2,000** for the first time.

Over the past year we've redoubled our efforts to expand our reach on LinkedIn. We currently have a network of **1,939 people**, which is more than double the amount from a year ago (922).

RHS Phase 3

With RHS Phase 3's five-year funding agreement ending on March 31 2018, one of FNIGC's key deliverables for the survey this fiscal year was a national report. Communications oversaw the production of the National Report of The First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3: Volume One, which included editing, design, layout, printing, and media distribution. The 170-page report was released on March 14, 2018, the second day of FNIGC's conference "20 years of First Nations Data: The Path to RHS Phase 3," held in downtown Ottawa, and generated media interest including an interview on CBC Radio with Executive Director Jonathan Dewar.

Communications also resolved that as part of FNIGC's commitment to knowledge exchange, the figures and charts from the RHS Phase 3 would be made available on FNIGC Data Online (our free, online data access tool) on the same day that the report was released. Communications worked closely with the Survey Management and Methodology and Statistics teams to ensure that the majority (more than 80) of the RHS Phase 3 figures and charts were available online, on the morning of March 14th.

Further to this, this was the first FNIGC conference to be live-streamed, which allowed as many people as possible (including those in First Nations communities) to watch it and take part. Communications initiated and oversaw the streaming, which was broadcast via Facebook Live and available on our Facebook Page. The streaming proved very popular, with nearly 6,000 total views over two days and boasted impressive audience engagement numbers as well: more than 200 Shares, 128 comments, and 113 Likes.



BIGSTORE CREE NATION — If you drive north out of Edmontion, up paint the boundless timer's fields, owe the historic Athabases River and right to the and of Highway 813, you'll find yourself in Bigstone Cree Nation. Located in the heart of the Albertan of sands, about sour hours from the polynical capital, there's no againg that this beautiful and renote First Nations community is out-of-the-way-but that doesn't mean if of-the-gid.

Made up of a total of seven communities that house more than 3.00 resistents on about 210.00 hockars or pristine lake-rich Northern bonal forealt, this sprewing Woodhard Care community is horne to a weath of services and facilities. This includes its own hospital, health-care centre, horne care program and school, to hotels, mathematic, agree, a basich and a full-service holder, methe wan a nearby ogl o consta. At the centre of all this is Wibascen, the geographic and administrative heart of Bigdone's culter of communities. Though it's derived from the Cee word vegulaka, which means "where lagids" (in reference to a meetry rively Wabascen's name could just as easily be integred as "Amere at it lappens" award-mining elementary school, a filed of 20 habitaces whiche labe lay Bislowever Karnik (Bigdone's award-mining elementary school, a filed of 20 habitaces whiche (la larges) and and the low does and administrative (la larges) and the low does award-mining elementary school, a filed of 20 habitaces whiche (la larges) at all or any 200, who will all a density be introdies and the law does able on communities in the summarking Testing Hogion. Pho-Natoria, and a hard-working gitted in raw? 200, who

But according to Bigstone's long-serving Chief this wasn't always the case.

now look at us. we have nearly 200 employees, including dental technicians and registered nurses





ndy Alook pose in Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik School, Bigstone's Community School in Wabasca

who do house calls; we also have a lot of our own businesses. We provide everything to our members. So, yes, we've seen a lot of change over the years, but it didn't happen overright. Nobody offered us this: we had to fight for all of it."

we had bright for all of E-Tough Ts in over considered a model to neighbouring First Nationa, in the 1980 is twas a different story, Back then Bigstore was better-known for its high nates of orims and low rates of hashs, so much so that in the early 1990a goronical bureaucra call add Bigstone the sickest First Nation in Alberta'. Unfortunately, the label stock and became synonymous with news stories about the community.

It took time and determination, but Bigstone would eventually shake it off.

eventually assess is on. In 2010, a Health Canada report (#Isath) Determinants for First Nations in Albental) placed Bigstone at the top of its First Nations Community Well-Being Index (a UN quality-of-life measurement that takes into account education, labour force activity, income, and housing conditional with a score of 85 out of 100. The RHS also saw the continuation of FNIGC's popular **Power of Data** series, with the publication of an article that spotlighted the transformative effects of data in Bigstone Cree Nation. For the sixth in the series, we spent two days in the Northern Alberta First Nations community listening to its Chief, Directors of Health and Education, local residents, and an Elder and came away with an inspirational story about how this Cree community transformed itself from "the sickest First Nation in Alberta" into one of the healthiest in Alberta.

The Power of Data stories have proven popular to First Nations and other audiences, and have been used as a valuable Communications tool for Regional Partners looking to explain the important role that quality data plays in planning and policy.

As part of our efforts to support our partners in the regions, Communications gave a presentation about FNIGC and the Power of Data in Dettah, Northwest Territories during the Dene Nation's September 2017 leadership meeting.

The Sunrise News

For the past five 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 2017, we switched the schedule to quarterly and welcomed aboard **Lyndsy Gracie** to help in the production of the electronic newsletter.

FNIGC Online Library

Working with FNIGC's Research and Information Management team, Communications developed and designed a new online library system and searchable database for FNIGC.ca. Built on the KOHA Integrated Library System, a platform used by libraries around the world, the FNIGC Online Library will provide users easier access to dozens of publications, papers, and reports published by FNIGC over the years (and currently hosted on the site's "Downloads" section). The FNIGC Online Library is scheduled to launch in summer 2018.

Regional Data Tools

For the past year Communications has been supporting the roll-out of online data tools for FNIGC's Regional Partner organizations. Modelled on the FNIGC Data Online tool, which hosts more than 300 charts, graphs and figures from FNIGC's national survey reports, each regional data tool will host data from regional-level survey reports.

To date, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have completed development of their data tools with Ottawa-based software developers Answermen, who are waiting on final approvals before launching in summer 2018. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, and Yukon are currently in various stages of the development process.

FNIGC Style Guide

As part of its ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest professional standards of written communication, FNIGC's Communications has started work on an English Writing Style Guide that will inform all internal and external publications. The current draft, developed during the editing process on the RHS Phase 3 national report, will be expanded upon with a final publication date scheduled for fall 2018.

FNIGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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