



FNIGC | CGIPN

First Nations Information Governance Centre

10th ANNUAL REPORT to MEMBERS

2019–2020





FNIGC | CGIPN

Celebrating 10 years













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MESSAGE FROM FNIGC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2019–2020 fiscal period was a time of expansion and evolution for the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), as we made significant gains towards fulfilling our Vision that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view.

During the year ending March 31, 2020, FNIGC and its Regional Partners were busy with a slate of important activities, which included:

-  data collection for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey, which was designed to gather much-needed information on labour and employment in First Nations communities;
-  the signing of a 10-year Common Funding Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that provides a greater sense of security and allows FNIGC to carry out more effective long-term planning;
-  the completion of an updated suite of financial policies, which better reflect FNIGC by-laws and industry best practices;
-  the advancement of a best-in-class Information Management policy;
-  initiating the development of a relaunch of FNIGC.ca;
-  the launch of a design process to create a new corporate logo to mark FNIGC's 10th anniversary;
-  the preparation and publication of *A First Nations Data Governance Strategy*, which was submitted to Indigenous Services Canada on March 31, 2020; and
-  record enrolments in *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course, which saw nearly 1,000 registrants.

And these are just a few highlights of FNIGC's achievements made during the past fiscal year. For more, please review our 2019–2020 Annual Report, where you will learn more about our Vision and Mission and how they guide our ongoing projects and initiatives.

We would also like to acknowledge the development, late in the fiscal year, of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the many restrictions that were put in place by various levels of government across the country as a result. These developments had a significant impact on organizations such as ours and our partners', but due to careful planning and organizational preparedness, FNIGC was able to respond quickly following the March 11, 2020 announcement by the World Health Organization that we were facing a global pandemic.

Within days, FNIGC staff had shifted to remote working conditions and mitigation efforts were underway to ensure a smooth transition and the responsible continuation of our many funded initiatives. We ended the year assured by key funders that our work was deemed essential to the health and well-being of First Nations people and we solidified preparations to be in the best position to respond to this new challenge.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge the diligence and commitment of the staff at FNIGC and our Regional Partners, who over the past year have helped this remarkable organization grow in exciting and hopeful directions.

Bonnie Healy
Chair (2017-2020), FNIGC Board of Directors



REPORT FROM FNIGC'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Now in its 10th year as a First Nations non-profit corporation, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) remains committed to supporting the aspirations and needs of First Nation people from coast to coast to coast.

Operating on a mandate from the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs-in-Assembly (Resolution #48/2009) and governed by a national Board of Directors, FNIGC was established as a federally incorporated non-profit on April 22, 2010.

Since then, FNIGC has grown from a small organization focused primarily on working in collaboration with partners in ten regions across the country to deliver national surveys, into a dynamic, multi-faceted organization with the bold vision to see every First Nation achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view. To advance this work, we adhere to free, prior and informed consent, respect nation-to-nation relationships, and recognize the distinct customs of nations.

To this end, over the 2019-2020 fiscal year FNIGC continued its important work to design and implement national surveys with our Regional Partners, including the long-standing First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) and the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey. We also engaged in many additional research activities and continued to deliver, evaluate, and further develop our OCAP® and information governance education and training efforts.

Further, we delivered *A First Nations Data Governance Strategy*, a report that contained Canada's first national strategy to advance First Nations data sovereignty.

As our Chair when we delivered the report on March 31, 2020, Bonnie Healy said, "This strategy builds on more than two decades of internationally recognized work and is a response to the longstanding calls for First Nations' authority and control over our own information." In part a response to a 2016 Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution that called for funding for regional data governance champions and the development of a national data governance strategy, and funded through Budget 2018, this strategy proposes "a way forward, led by our Nations."

FNIGC was also proud to announce the recipients of the 2019 FNIGC National Student Bursary, which is awarded each year to outstanding First Nations students who are enrolled in a post-secondary health, social sciences, or applied sciences program or are studying issues related to First Nations data sovereignty. This year we were fortunate to be able to announce four recipients from across the country, each of whom received \$2,500 and free registration to FNIGC's online course *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*.

This annual report provides an overview of this work, and much more, undertaken between April 2019 and March 2020. My colleagues and I are very proud to have been a part of this work and to be able to share this annual report with you.

We also send our very best wishes to our friends and colleagues across the country, and to the global community at large. We wish you good health and happiness as we all do our part to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jonathan Dewar, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, FNIGC

Operational Budget

FNIGC's Operational Budget is developed annually and presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The 2019–2020 Operating Budget identified revenues received and revenues deferred, and communicated the budget requirements for staff salaries, operations, projects, and regional transfers for program delivery.









Developed in consultation with FNIGC's management team, the 2019–2020 Budget considered actual and historical cost expenditures, reductions or increases in expenditures, and regional program transfers against all revenue sources.

Within the budget development process, FNIGC revisited the funding level of the restricted reserve fund in alignment with FNIGC's financial policy. As a result of this exercise, the reserve fund was confirmed to be set at an appropriate level. FNIGC remains committed to regular reviews of the restricted fund to ensure the organization is appropriately prepared to address any future risks or contingencies.

FNIGC's revenues are primarily derived through contractual agreements with the federal government for national survey processes which are supported by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). In August 2019, FNIGC signed a 10-year Common Funding Agreement (CFA) with ISC that will run through fiscal year 2028–2029.

This new CFA replaces all previous funding agreements for programs funded via grants and contributions and provides a greater sense of stability for FNIGC, allowing the Board and FNIGC management to better prepare and plan. In addition, the new funding agreement allows FNIGC to better align and simplify its reporting requirements, funding flexibilities, and include funding from other Crown entities.

FNIGC continues to enter into multi-year contribution agreements (CAs) with our Regional Partners for the delivery of various programs through activities such as:

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

FNIGC remains committed to responsibly modifying and improving its CAs with the goal of enhanced accountability and the provision of reporting templates, tools, and schedules to support regional coordination of activities with clear milestones, deliverables, and streamlined processes.



Additional revenues are generated through service contracts for data access and services through FNIGC's First Nations Data Centre (FNDC). The FNDC processes special projects with federal departments, researchers, students, and others, which are managed through contracts developed specifically for the FNDC and related to general tabulations, custom tabulations, data services, and others. These contracts safeguard and protect data and ensure that the First Nations principles of OCAP® are respected at every step in the process.

Further revenue is also generated by FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course.

Financial Audit

At last year's AGM, the Members of the Corporation directed FNIGC to seek a new auditor for the fiscal year 2019-2020. A Request for Proposals was developed, which resulted in a number of firms being identified, followed by an evaluation process that concluded with the selection of MNP as the successful firm.







Due to the development of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic late in the fiscal year, FNIGC developed an adjusted audit plan that was completed in coordination with MNP. On August 26, 2020, the Auditor presented the *2020 Audit Findings* and the audited *Financial Statements* for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2020, to FNIGC's Board of Directors.

The Auditor reported a clean audit, with no significant findings. Subsequently, the Auditor's report was accepted by the Board of Directors, as presented.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of FNIGC's *2020 Financial Statements*, please email your request (to the attention of FNIGC's Board of Directors) to info@fnigc.ca.

Board Meetings

FNIGC's Board of Directors held six meetings during the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

-  June 4-5, 2019 (Ottawa)
-  July 22, 2019 (Fredericton, NB)
-  October 8-9, 2019 (Ottawa, ON)
-  December 10-11, 2019 (Ottawa, ON)
-  March 19, 2020 (virtual)
-  March 24-25, 2020 (virtual)



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

In 2019 FNIGC created a new position: Director, Finance and Administration. This role was filled by **Jonathan Plante** on October 4, 2019. The balance of the Finance and Administration team for fiscal year 2019–2020 was made up of **Colette Kataquapit** (Finance Manager) and **Alex LaFrance** (Finance and Payroll Assistant). The team is pleased to report on its activities during the 2019–2020 fiscal year.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Finance and Administration team reviewed the complete suite of financial policies to ensure it respects best practices and FNIGC's by-laws. The team will continue to work closely with the CEO, the Finance and Audit Committee, the Operational Policy Verification Committee, and the Board of Directors to further develop appropriate and responsible financial policies and procedures.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Karen Yundt continues to occupy the part-time role of Human Resources (HR) Advisor, wherein she provides support to the Finance and Administration team in delivering HR services internally. In addition, she provides direct advice to the CEO on HR policies, procedures, and the broader HR requirements of FNIGC.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

During the fiscal period, significant work was undertaken in the area of Information Management (IM). A full assessment of all the key elements required for a best-in-class IM program was conducted, followed by a comprehensive report that outlined areas of improvement, as well as a number of recommendations to support the organization's IM efforts. We look forward to continuing this work in the fiscal 2020–2021 year.

Working with our Information Technology (IT) service provider, Grade A, a number of improvements were made to the IT environment. We continue to work with our service provider to ensure that FNIGC continues to advance the evolution of the IT tools required to both secure our environment as well as increase the degree of internal and external collaboration.



RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Research and Information is a new consolidated team led by **Albert Armieri**, who during the first half of 2019–2020 served as the Senior Manager of two separate teams: Research & Information Management and Survey Management. In September 2019, Albert was promoted to Director, Research and Information, a new role that has him overseeing a larger unit of 14 employees that includes the Survey and Research & Information teams.

Reporting directly to the CEO, Albert oversees a team that is responsible for much of FNIGC's core foundational work. This includes our national First Nations community surveys, our research publications, feasibility studies, and the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC). The team also serves an advisory role on a number of important initiatives with our federal partners, including the Data Linkages effort from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

Albert is supported by Senior Statistician **Dr. Fei Xu** (previously Senior Statistical Analyst) and Program Officer **Lyndsy Gracie** (previously Projects Assistant).

SURVEY MANAGEMENT

In 2019–2020, the Survey Management team consisted of **Kyla Marcoux** (Survey Manager) and **Katie Wood** (Survey Manager). Under the direction of the Director, Research and Information, the team oversees all aspects of the organization's national surveys, working in close collaboration with our Regional Partners across the country. This work includes the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) and the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey.

In September 2019, FNIGC hired three new employees to address the increasing demands of its national survey work: **Dr. April Liu** (Statistical Data Analyst), **Dr. James Allen** (Research Analyst), and **Micere Thuku** (Research Analyst). They joined **Xinyu Qiao** (Statistical Data Analyst) and **Krysia Walczak** (Research Analyst). In addition, the Survey team itself was restructured to better meet the demands of the work. For more details, see the Board of Directors, Members, Staff section of this report on Page 25.

The First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey

During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the FNLED survey was in its data collection phase. The team and FNIGC's partners experienced some technical challenges and respondent survey fatigue, the latter of which has been a challenge historically. As a result, the original deadline for data collection was extended beyond March 2020 to allow for better response rates.

To further help accelerate response rates, the Survey team created an online version of the FNLED survey and created an incentive program for FNLED Fieldworkers to help speed-up collection in the regions. While these efforts were showing results in the early part of 2020, the announcement on March 11, 2020, by the World Health Organization (WHO) that COVID-19 was a global pandemic effectively halted data collection activities in the regions.



In response to the WHO announcement, most First Nations communities implemented a series of emergency measures, which included travel restrictions and the closure of communities to outside visitors. Such measures prevented FNLED Fieldworkers from collecting data.






The health and safety of all individuals involved in FNIGC's survey process is always our foremost priority. As a result, we have deferred decisions on how to proceed to each Region, and are following our respective partners' leads with respect to pandemic response and the corresponding impacts on our survey work.

For the time being, FNIGC's Survey team continues to monitor data collection on FNLED, working with regions to explore alternative strategies where feasible.

The First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 4

In April 2019, FNIGC hosted a national gathering in Ottawa to launch the development of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS) Phase 4, the latest iteration of our long-running and foundational survey initiative. The group, which included more than 40 Data Analysts and Fieldworkers from the regions and FNIGC employees, worked collaboratively to develop a development timeline and brainstormed on what materials would be needed to support Regional Advisory Committees in content development engagement sessions. As a result, FNIGC prepared a comprehensive suite of tools that were then shared with our Regional Partners.

In addition, FNIGC's Survey team received and compiled RHS Phase 4 content recommendations from many different stakeholders, including:

-  Regional Member Organizations,
-  Regional Advisory Committees,
-  several National Indigenous Organizations (NIO),
-  contractors, and
-  federal stakeholders.

This feedback was incorporated into the RHS Phase 4 survey, along with conclusions made as part of FNIGC's internal technical review of RHS Phase 3.

In November 2019, FNIGC's Survey team hosted a Regional Data Analyst gathering in Ottawa to review the RHS Phase 4 feedback and discuss the methodological and analytical implications, as well as survey construction and skip logic. In January 2020, the Survey team sent a revised draft of RHS Phase 4 to Regional Partners for a second round of feedback. An interactive online tool was also created to assist in these meetings.

As a result of the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, RHS Phase 4 Regional Advisory Committee Meetings in many regions have been postponed. Survey timelines will need to be reassessed in coordination with the evolving pandemic response nationally, regionally, and locally.



RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The Research team, under the Direction of the Director, Research and Information, was comprised of **Amy Nahwegahbow** (Senior Research Advisor), **Maria Santos** (Program Manager, First Nation Data Centre), **Alana Roscoe** (Program Manager, Research and Development), **Peigi Wilson** (Research Officer), and **Claudia Meness** (Junior Research Officer).

Feasibility Study for a Longitudinal Study on First Nations Child and Youth Development and Well-being

In December 2018, the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a Resolution (#33/2018) that called on FNIGC to produce a paper on the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal study of First Nations' child development and well-being. FNIGC received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for this work.

The study consists of a literature review including exploration of Canadian and international examples of childhood longitudinal surveys, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) surveys, and First Nations' culturally-relevant survey designs. This work will inform a report on the feasibility of a longitudinal study.

In 2019, FNIGC interviewed a number of subject matter experts to inform the feasibility study, and launched a series of engagement sessions with Regional Partners and subject matter experts to further inform the report. Initial engagement sessions were held in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with ensuing sessions with our Regional Partners having to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

A contract was issued to The Firelight Group (an Indigenous-led consultancy) to assist with the engagement portion of the feasibility study. FNIGC is continuing work on scheduling remote engagement sessions with remaining Regional Partners to ensure all voices are heard.

Data Linkages

In March 2018, ISC and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) provided funding to FNIGC to study the issue of data linkages, broadly, and to observe joint efforts between ISC, CIRNAC, and Statistics Canada on the Longitudinal Indian Register Database (LIRD) initiative, which links the Indian Status Registry at ISC with tax information held by the Canada Revenue Agency.

This observer role provided FNIGC with an opportunity to further our understandings and capacities concerning data linkages. It has allowed for critical consideration of data linkage research, and the LIRD specifically, in the context of First Nations data governance and OCAP®.

We are continuing to finalize the resulting research paper. Knowledge gained from this process will support ongoing work under the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS). In March 2020, FNIGC submitted an activity report on the data linkages effort to ISC.

AFN On-Reserve Housing and Related Infrastructure Needs Project

During the 2019-2020 fiscal period, FNIGC continued its ongoing work with the AFN on their survey that examines the current housing and related infrastructure needs of First Nations people living on-reserve. Over the course of the year, FNIGC contributed its expertise and provided technical services in the development of a nationally representative sampling strategy.



In December 2019, AFN and FNIGC formalized a Memorandum of Agreement to facilitate FNIGC's warehousing of the Housing and Related Infrastructure (HRI) data including secured storage of the data collected, as well as the maintenance of privacy and security measures for the benefit of the AFN.





In January 2020, FNIGC developed and presented a Data Analysis Plan to the AFN Joint Working Group including relevant housing indicators for consideration. Following the approval of the Data Analysis Plan, FNIGC drafted a technical report to describe the state of housing and related infrastructure in First Nation communities in the seven participating regions.

In March 2020, FNIGC co-presented with AFN at their National Housing Forum in Toronto.

Gender-Based Violence Feasibility Study

Since February 2019, FNIGC has been working on a feasibility study to determine the key issues, relevance, and interest of First Nations to conduct or participate in gender-based violence (GBV) research. FNIGC has been working on this project with The Firelight Group, an Indigenous-led consultancy working under contract with FNIGC.

To date, a literature review has been completed to assess the existing knowledge gaps on GBV among First Nations communities, as well as existing GBV research and data collection efforts within a First Nations context. The literature review examined:

-  best practices and challenges;
-  risks and benefits;
-  effective methods; and,
-  culturally-appropriate approaches for conducting GBV research in communities.

The literature review served to inform and guide a critical phase of the feasibility study which involved regionally-driven engagement sessions to gather the perspectives of First Nations leaders, Knowledge Holders, youth, Elders, women's groups, and other stakeholders. In light of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Women and Gender Equality Canada has agreed to an extension for the deliverables on this project.

First Nations Perspectives on Poverty Paper

A draft of FNIGC's First Nations Perspectives on Poverty report, which was funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), was completed in February 2020. The writer of the report, **Dr. Darrel Maniowabi** (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory), collected and analyzed qualitative data from a series of interviews and surveys with knowledge holders and subject-matter experts on the topic of poverty and richness in First Nations communities.

These engagement sessions and the resulting analyses were informed by a review of the existing research and recommendations on the understanding and measurement of poverty from a First Nations' perspective, as well as ethnographic and linguistic sources. Analyzing the information gathered from all sources, Dr. Maniowabi



developed a conceptual framework for the determinants of First Nations poverty, expressed through key components such as culture, housing, family, and others.

This framework is intended to provide a foundation for further work towards developing precise indicators and methods to assess and measure First Nations poverty. The final report is expected to be published by FNIGC in summer 2020.

A Strengths-Based Profile of Aging for First Nations Seniors Living in Community

In November 2019 **Dr. Jennifer Walker** (Six Nations of the Grand River) and her research team completed the draft report of this comprehensive exploration of health, wellness, and social determinants of health among seniors in First Nations communities.

The quantitative data was drawn from RHS Phase 3 and the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education, and Employment Survey (FNREEES) and includes dozens of tables showing findings for First Nations seniors on a wide variety of indicators by age and gender, and associations between these indicators and wellness outcomes.

These are complemented by a qualitative component that analyzes interviews with knowledge holders and subject matter experts on healthy aging in First Nations communities. The interviews were structured around generating context, insights, and recommendations surrounding the statistical findings, to ensure they are meaningful to individuals in First Nations communities.

Following a strengths-based approach, the analyses and interpretation examine many wholistic health and social determinant indicators beyond those which typically deteriorate with age, along with historical context and influences. A robust discussion incorporating qualitative and quantitative findings demonstrates how they inform one another to generate this comprehensive profile. The final report will be published by FNIGC in summer 2020.

Progression to Social and Economic Wellness: A First Nations Gender-Balanced Analysis

Funded by ISC, this report employs a First Nations gender-balanced analysis to explore a variety of well-being factors among women, men, and Two-Spirited individuals in on-reserve and northern First Nations communities. Research consultancy Tamara Kwe was contracted to collect qualitative data via interviews and to write the non-quantitative portions of the report, while FNIGC conducted all statistical analyses and basic interpretation.

Based on guidance from Tamara Kwe and the literature review they drafted for the report, indicators from four overarching focus areas were selected for descriptive analysis using the RHS Phase 3 dataset. These focus areas include: demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, wellbeing, health-care access, and First Nations language and culture. Tamara Kwe discussed preliminary statistical findings on these topics with a selection of knowledge holders and subject matter experts on gender issues in First Nations communities, with the goal of discussing how they reflect lived experiences and how they might be appropriately contextualized in First Nations communities.

Findings and insights from the literature review, RHS data, and interviews are discussed in relation to one another to provide a fulsome analysis. The final report will be published by FNIGC in summer 2020.

FIRST NATIONS DATA CENTRE

In 2019-2020, two research projects were underway at FNIGC's First Nations Data Centre. The first, "Identifying Predictors and Mediators of First Nations Health and Wellness: A Focus on Historical Trauma and Contemporary Community Stressors," was led by **Dr. Robyn McQuaid** and **Dr. Amy Bombay**. The researchers presented their initial findings to the Board in December 2019, followed by presentations at a number of forums. The titles of these presentations included:

- Intergenerational Trauma and Resilience: Understanding Contemporary Health and Wellness Disparities among Indigenous Peoples in Canada,
- Understanding First Nations Youth Mental Health and Wellness: Examining Community Stressors and Cultural Factors,
- Effects of Bullying Victimization on Alcohol Use and Binge Drinking in First Nation Youth; Is Cultural Connectedness a Protective Factor?, and
- Social Stressors, Cultural Factors, and Psychological Distress Among First Nations Adults and Youth Living On-Reserve in Canada.

The second research project, led by **Dr. Melanie O'Gorman**, examined the relationship between access to clean water and the physical and mental health of people living in First Nation communities. To date, this analysis has not been conducted and evidence of this relationship is essential for policy makers to understand the need for improved water and sanitation infrastructure.

The main objective of this research is to disseminate the statistical findings to First Nations who are advocating for improved water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as to policy makers who make decisions on funding for such infrastructure.

This research began in partnership with First Nations communities, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs via the project "The Most Precious Gift: The Right to Clean Drinking Water in First Nations Communities."

Initial findings, which were presented by Dr. O'Gorman to FNIGC staff, were well-received.



OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

The 2019–2020 period was a year of growth for the OCAP® and Information Governance unit, which saw ongoing development of our OCAP® education and training offerings and an increase in our ability to monitor and impact developments in data and information governance that are of interest to First Nations. This growth was reflected in the hiring of new employees **Kristine Neglia** (Officer, OCAP® and Information Governance) and **Melissa Dane** (Research Officer), who support **Dr. Aaron Franks** (Senior Manager, OCAP® and Information Governance). Aaron, who reports directly to the CEO, has led our expansion efforts since 2018.






The focus of the OCAP® team in 2019-2020 was to increase enrolment in *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*, our online course; evaluate our education, training, and outreach efforts; offer OCAP® support to partners and proponents across the country (when requested and if feasible); and support FNIGC's collaborative efforts on the design of a First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Our primary education offering continues to be the online course *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*, delivered through Algonquin College Corporate Training. This year saw record enrollments in the course, with a total of 996 unique learners registered, marking a 17% increase over the previous year. Of those learners, 257 completed our online survey, of which 94% said that the course was good or very good, and 96% said they would recommend the course to others.

In addition to the course, the OCAP® and Information Governance team provided an unprecedented number of presentations and workshops. Those for First Nations organizations are provided on a cost recovery basis, while those for government and academic research sectors are provided for a fee. Requests for in-person OCAP® presentations are filtered through the regional-focused “decision tree.”

Presentations and workshops included:

-  “Raising Our Voices Together, Strengthening First Nations’ Control of Data in New Brunswick” partnership, New Brunswick Health Council and New Brunswick First Nations; Fredericton, NB, April 11-12, 2019.
-  Association of Native Child and Family Services Associations of Ontario (ANCFSAO) and an Indigenous Information System, Toronto, Sept 9-10, 2019.
-  University College of the North and Opaskwayak Cree Nation, The Pas, Thompson, and OCN, September 16-20, 2019.

- Giiwednong Health Link and electronic medical records. Little Current, ON, October 24, 2019.
- FNHSSM and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), Community Archivists Training Event, Thompson, MB, January 9-12, 2020; and
- FNHA (with FNIGC Survey staff); OCAP® and RHS and First Nations Client Files, Vancouver, BC, January 29-30, 2020.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

In addition to OCAP® presentations and workshops, the OCAP® and Information Governance team fielded many requests for information on OCAP® from agencies and individuals engaging with First Nations. In 2019–2020 these included:

- the YWCA,
- the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI),
- the Indigenous Fire Marshalls Association,
- the Association of Canadian Archivists, and
- numerous academic and other researchers.

Information requests also came from federal entities including the Offices of the Privacy Commissioner and the Chief Science Advisor.

The OCAP® and Information Governance team treats these enquiries as a way to build our applied knowledge on complex questions of privacy, intellectual property, data governance, and other issues.

The team also seeks external resources and partnerships to advance OCAP®, information governance, and data sovereignty. This past year, these efforts included:

- Applying for funding from Justice Canada to study and support First Nations advancing their cultural laws in areas of community privacy and intellectual property ownership;
- Participating in an ESDC-funded Common Approach research project out of Carleton University to study the development of reporting indicators that serve community-led standards of success;
- Working with the Portage network at the Canadian Association of Research Libraries in the area of research data management and monitoring the strategies being rolled out by research institutions that will impact First Nations;
- Participating in the Canada Data Curation Forum at McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, October 18-19, 2019; and
- Drafting an issue paper on data curation and OCAP® to inform an internal learning session for all FNIGC staff.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The OCAP® and Information Governance team assisted in the development of the FNDGS and looks forward to advancing its core pillars and principles which support First Nations' data sovereignty. The team also drew inspiration and learnings from the all-staff Operational Planning Session in September 2019 and held its own strategic planning day in February 2020.

This year the OCAP® and Information Governance team laid the groundwork for important future developments. They began work with the University of British Columbia's Indigenous Research Support Initiative, an education project with research students that will eventually become a pilot learning module on OCAP® and data sovereignty for researchers. The team is also in the middle of a Learnings and Recommendations report on *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course, and a learner needs assessment to further inform the evolution of the course.



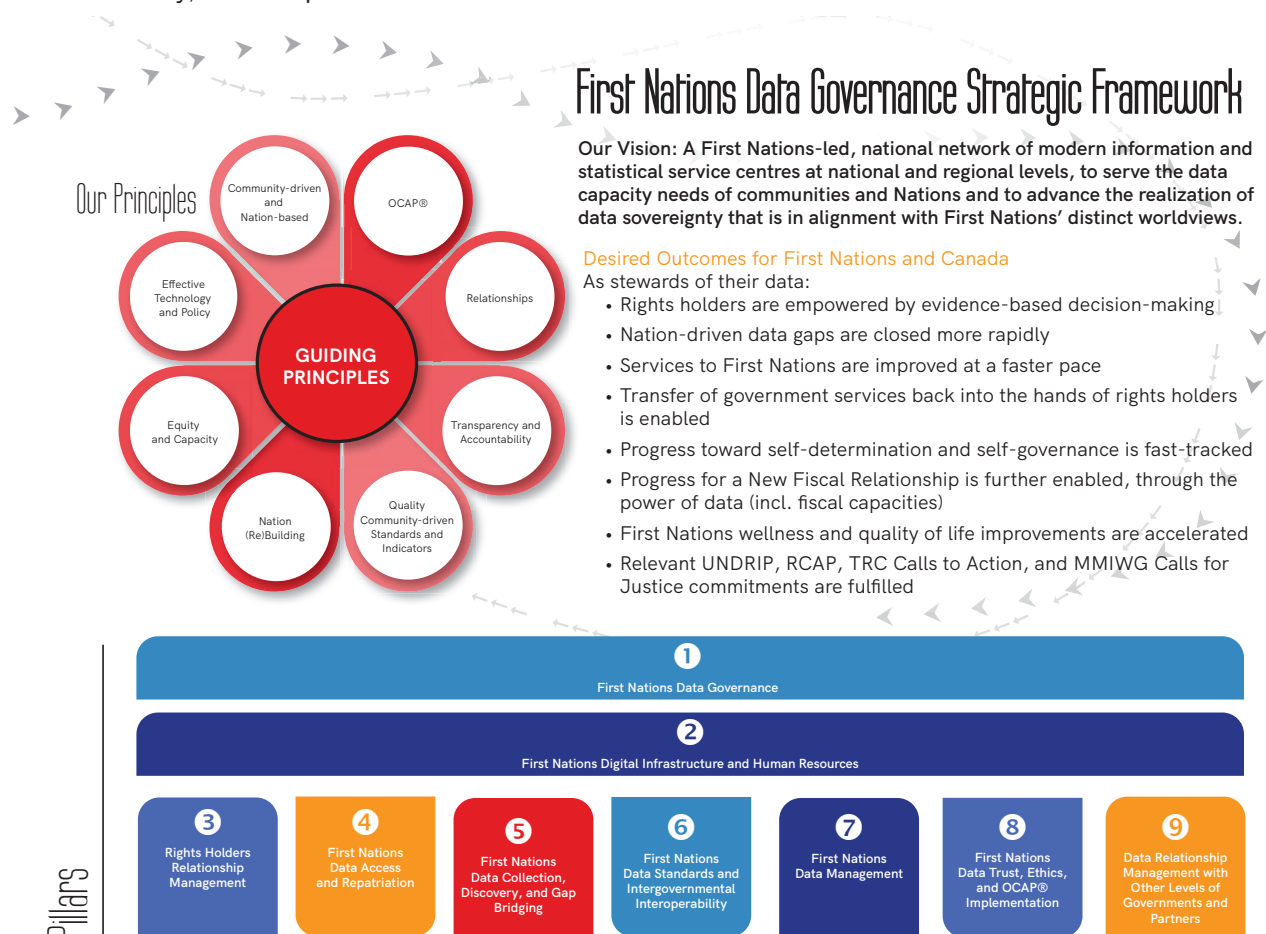
PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY

The position of Senior Advisor, Partnerships and Capacity, was created to serve in a consultative role and to act as a primary advisor to FNIGC's CEO, while strengthening relationships with regional and key partners and building capacity within and across FNIGC's network. **Erin Corston** joined FNIGC in this role in September 2019.

Reporting directly to and working closely with the CEO, Erin led the collaborative efforts to complete the final report on the work to design a First Nations Data Governance Strategy, which was funded as a result of federal Budget 2018.

The report, *A First Nations Data Governance Strategy*, was delivered to ISC on March 31, 2020, and articulates a common vision and eight guiding principles fundamental to achieving data sovereignty. These principles, complemented by insights, aspirations, and concrete operational requirements, have made it possible to sketch the foundations of this ambitious plan and set of goals. To achieve this, a set of nine pillars work as building blocks for change and priority areas of intervention (or action) where First Nations capacities need to be built.

The pillars are the “heart of the **Strategy**” and they define which data function and capacity should be built and why, and the paths that need to be taken to deliver.





The development of capacity within FNIGC's network of Regional Information Governance Centres (RIGCs) is at the core of FNIGC's mission and has been advanced through the implementation of the national survey program. Budget 2018 investments intended to "design a national data governance strategy and coordinate the establishment of RIGCs" were needed to truly move this important work forward. The report proposed bridge funding for 2020-2021 and the establishment of data champion functions within each of the 10 regions that make up FNIGC's network and at the national level in order to build the foundation for achieving data sovereignty.

Erin also oversees the management of the FNIGC National Student Bursary and internal and network capacity development initiatives. The latter included developing an internal report that came out of the September 2019 Operational Strategic Planning session.

FNIGC NATIONAL STUDENT BURSARY

FNIGC was pleased to announce the recipients of this year's FNIGC National Student Bursary. The bursary is awarded each year to outstanding First Nations students who are enrolled in a post-secondary health, social sciences, or applied sciences program or are studying issues related to First Nations data sovereignty. Recipients were chosen from almost 90 applicants and were selected by a committee established by the FNIGC Board of Directors. Each recipient received \$2,500 and free registration to FNIGC's online course, *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*. Thank you to Tracey P. Lauriault, Assistant Professor of Critical Media and Big Data in the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton University, and Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa for their generous donations this year.

This year's recipients are: **Shawna Louise McKenzie** (Anishnaabe Kwe from Chippewas of Rama First Nation and Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation), **Fiona Lizotte** (Syilx from Okanagan Nation), **Nicole Shingoose** (Saulteaux from Cote First Nation and Plains Cree from Moosomin First Nation), and **Étienne Lacasse-Vollant** (Innu from Uashat mak Mani-utenam First Nation), who are pictured below, left to right.





Shawna Louise McKenzie is completing her Honours BAsC in Media Film and Communication at Lakehead University, where she is exploring surveillance and big data. Shawna believes education has been a blessing and it has opened her eyes beyond the immediate and the mainstream media, to see beyond and research the history of social norms.

A third-year student at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus, **Fiona Lizotte** is studying science while working as a math and physics tutor for Indigenous students and volunteering her time as an assistant volleyball coach. After graduation, Fiona plans on pursuing a career specializing in Dentistry focusing on the unique needs of First Nation's people.

Nicole Shingoose is enrolled in the Medical Radiologic Technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. After completing her program, Nicole plans to work as an X-ray technologist and eventually further her education by studying Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Étienne Lacasse-Vollant is completing his second bachelor's degree in social work at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi and a master's degree at Université Laval. His research is focused on Indigenous spiritual practices and how they contribute to the healing of participants in the community of Uashat mak Malitotnam.





COMMUNICATIONS

During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the Communications team was comprised of **Brad Mackay** (Manager, Communications) and **Lorraine Cheechoo** (Programs Assistant), who also supported the OCAP® and Information Governance and Partnerships and Capacity teams. As Manager, Brad reports directly to the CEO and oversees the organization's corporate communications activities, which includes media relations (press releases, Qs and As, media lines, speaking notes), promotion and outreach (attendance at conferences and trade shows and the development of brochures, pamphlets, and other copy), and internal and external communications efforts (including FNIGC's website, annual reports, presentations, newsletters, and FNIGC's social media channels).

In March 2020, the Communications team completed a successful job competition to fill the role of Communications Officer, a new position designed to help bolster capacity in the team. The successful candidate, **Haley Lewis**, was slated to begin in May 2020.

The Communications team also provides support as needed to FNIGC's other internal teams (Research and Information, OCAP® and Information Governance, Finance and Administration, Partnerships and Capacity, and the Office of the Chief Executive Officer) in the development and dissemination of their products, including publications, reports, brochures, and FNIGC.ca content.

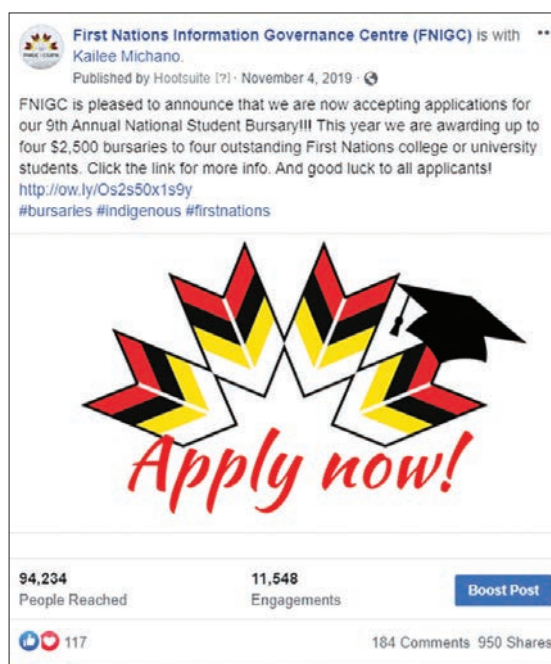
Brad also manages projects carried out by independent contractors (including website development and communications products) and FNIGC staff who are directed to assist in specific Communications-related activities or projects, including Lorraine, who maintained the organization's social media channels, postings to FNIGC's website, promotional items, and other administrative and travel needs of the team.

FNIGC.ca

Since its launch in 2013, FNIGC's website (FNIGC.ca) has been the main source of information about the organization and our First Nations data sovereignty work. Traffic to the site has increased year-to-year, with user numbers more than doubling since 2015.

Over the 2019–2020 period, FNIGC's website received a total of **132,137** page views, a 19% increase over the **111,028** page views during the previous fiscal period, which was the highest ever in the history of FNIGC.ca.

One-day traffic peaked on November 4, 2019 (1,285 page views), which coincided with our announcement of applications being accepted for FNIGC's 2019 National Student Bursary.



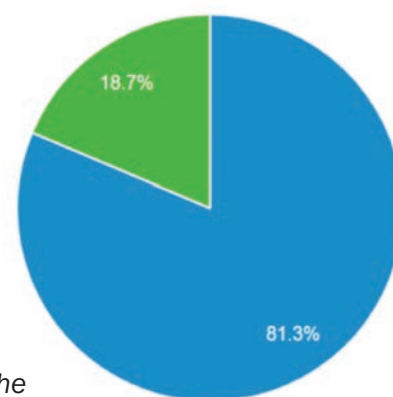


In addition, FNIGC.ca's bounce rate (the percentage of visitors who leave the website after looking at just one page) stayed steady at 56%, from 55%.

The majority (87%) of visitors to FNIGC.ca came from within Canada, with the United States in second place at 9%—a number that increased slightly from 6% last year. The majority of our users (94%) are English-speakers, with less than 4% being French speakers, a slight decrease from last year.

For the fourth year in a row, new users to the site outpaced returning users, with new visitors representing 81% of users, compared to 19% for returning users. This is a similar percentage to last year and a good indication that FNIGC's message of First Nations data sovereignty is reaching a newer, wider audience.

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



Pages

As in past years, the most frequently visited page on FNIGC.ca in 2019–2020 was our homepage, with more than 17,236 (a 15% increase from the previous year), followed by **FNIGC.ca/OCAP**, our FAQ page for OCAP®, with 12,897 visits (a 14% decrease from the previous year), followed by *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course, with **9,651**, which is a 25% increase from last year (7,270 visits).

Page	Pageviews
	132,137 % of Total: 100.00% (132,137)
1. /	17,236 (13.04%)
2. /ocap	12,897 (9.76%)
3. /training/fundamentals-ocap.html	9,651 (7.30%)
4. /fnigc-national-student-bursary.html	6,102 (4.62%)
5. /ocapr.html	5,686 (4.30%)
6. /dataonline/	4,001 (3.03%)
7. /about-fnigc/careers-fnigc.html	3,590 (2.72%)
8. /about-fnigc/contact-us.html	3,285 (2.49%)
9. /fndc	3,172 (2.40%)
10. /first-nations-regional-health-survey.html	2,982 (2.26%)

The landing page for the FNIGC National Student Bursary was the fourth most-visited page, with 6,102 views.

For a full list of FNIGC's Top 10 Page visits, see the chart on this page.

Social Media

The key driver of FNIGC's year-to-year online growth has been its social media presence, which is represented by Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. In an effort to continue this positive trend, Communications published daily posts on Twitter and Facebook in an effort to expand our influence and reputation online.

As a result, our social media profile continued to expand and broaden its audience, driving an increasing amount of traffic to our website. Facebook was the main source of referrals for FNIGC.ca, accounting for 64% of social traffic to the site. Twitter was next, with 27%, and LinkedIn was at 9%.



In the 2018–2019 fiscal year, FNIGC's **Twitter** account (twitter.com/FNIGC) received **204,800** impressions (the number of times Twitter users see one of our tweets), which represents a 27% increase from **150,570** impressions the previous year. Our Twitter followers list grew to **2,356** (up from **2,048** last year) which represents a 13% increase.

FNIGC's Facebook page has also witnessed growth in the past 12 months. Our total number of Followers increased to **3,070** (up from **2,431** last year).

In addition, over the past year we have continued to expand our professional reach on LinkedIn, with a network of **2,799** Connections, which is up from **2,460** one year ago.

TRADE SHOWS AND EVENTS

During the first full year of Communications overseeing FNIGC's corporate presence at trade shows and events, FNIGC attended five events, including two which resulted from invitations from our Regional Partners.

On July 24–25, 2019, FNIGC attended AFN's Annual General Meeting (AGA) Circle of Trade in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where we debuted a new banner and tablecloth alongside a range of new and unique promotional items that served to generate excitement about our booth and increase foot traffic.

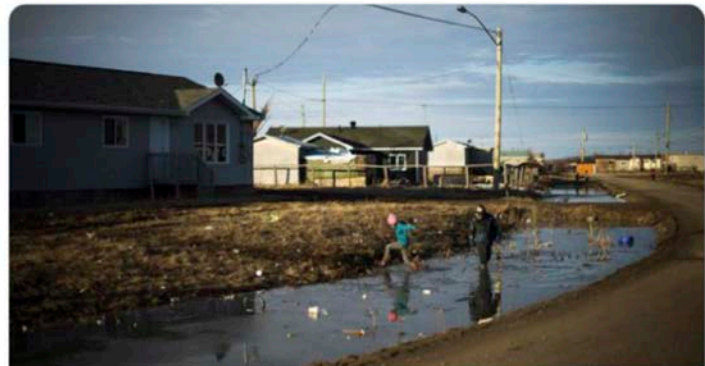
On September 24–25, 2019, FNIGC attended the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba's (FNHSSM) AGA in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation at the request of FNHSSM.

On December 3–5, 2019, FNIGC attended the Circle of Trade at AFN's Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, where our message of data sovereignty was well-received, as was information about the ongoing FNLED survey.



FNIGC
@fnigc

In these troubling times, an important reminder from John Borrows that due to overcrowding, elderly popl & access to health care, our Indigenous communities are historically among the most at-risk during an outbreak. Required reading. Pls RT.



Opinion: Indigenous communities are vulnerable in times of pandemic. We must ...
I hope that the recent federal announcement will seriously contend with the historic trauma, overcrowding and underlying health challenges faced by ...
theglobeandmail.com

12:23 PM · Mar 18, 2020 · [Hootsuite Inc.](#)

[View Tweet activity](#)

34 Retweets and comments **37** Likes

On February 5–6, 2020, FNIGC attended the Chiefs of Ontario Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario, following an invitation from our Director from Ontario. Over the two days, the FNIGC staff at the info booth talked with dozens of delegates and chiefs about FNIGC's Vision and Mission.

On February 13, FNIGC set up an information booth at Carleton University's Ojigkwanong Centre as part of an effort to hire summer students for 2020. Communications devised a strategy to promote the session at the university's Indigenous student centre, which included online outreach as well as a site-specific poster.

NEW-LOOK FNIGC.CA IN DEVELOPMENT

Following a successful Request for Proposal (RFP) process in January 2020, FNIGC selected an agency to help rethink, redesign, and relaunch our website, which is more than seven years old.

Spruce Creative, an Indigenous co-owned creative firm based in Ottawa, has helped a number of Indigenous non-profits create new websites. Spruce is committed to a collaborative, culturally-relevant creative process that is focused on serving the needs of our First Nations audience.

The development work coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and our launch date has been extended to Fall 2020.



Nelson Alisappi • 1st

Senior Policy Analyst at Assembly of First Nations

3m • 🌐

This is exactly what First Nations need to have a targeted response to a pandemic like C-19! Kudos to FNIGC for their dedication and expertise!



First Nations Information Governance Centre

FNIGC envisions that every First Nation will achieve data sovereignty in alignment ...

1h • 🌐

As the coronavirus global pandemic continues to affect people across Canada, concerns have been raised about the vulnerabilities faced by Indigenous communities due to pre-existing health, social, and economic conditions.

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, has stated that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities face a higher risk of "severe outcomes" from the novel coronavirus and COVID-19. These include health inequities, higher rates of underlying medical conditions, and challenges of living in remote and fly-in communities.

FNIGC has published a special paper that is intended to support coronavirus emergency preparedness efforts in First Nations reserve and Northern communities.

Available now on [FNIGC.ca](https://fnigc.ca), "RHS Statistics for Shaping a Response to COVID-19 in First Nations Communities," includes analysis of results from the the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3 (RHS) that can be used by First Nations to better prepare for potential outbreaks.

It's a valuable read for anyone on the front lines of the pandemic. Download for free at the link and please Share! <https://lnkd.in/gH9p9vU>

#covid19 #inthistgether #healthcareheroes #FNHMA #workfromhome #onthefrontlines



RHS Statistics for
SHAPING A RESPONSE TO COVID-19
in First Nations Communities





FNIGC LOGO RENEWAL

In February 2020, we engaged with First Nations marketing agency Forest Communications to produce a soft rebrand of FNIGC's logo to help mark the organization's 10th anniversary on April 22, 2020. Featuring richer colours, a refined font, and a finessed arrow design, the soft rebrand represents a maturation of the existing logo and identity.

The new logo will be incorporated into our existing website and social media channels, and will be incorporated into all future publications, promotional items, and other communications products.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019-2020)

Bonnie Healy, Chair (Alberta)
Snookie Catholique, Secretary (Northwest Territories)
Mindy Denny, Treasurer (Nova Scotia and Newfoundland)
Gwen Phillips (British Columbia)
Katherine Alexander (Yukon)
Vice-Chief **Heather Bear** (Saskatchewan)
Stephanie Sinclair/Leona Star (Manitoba)
Carmen Jones (Ontario)
Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh (Quebec and Labrador)
Peter Birney (New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island)
Addie Pryce, Co-chair (Assembly of First Nations)
Claudette Commanda, Elder Advisor

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERS (2019-2020)

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island: Union of New Brunswick Indians
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland: Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq
Quebec and Labrador: First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission
Manitoba: First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (Nanaandawewigamig)
Ontario: Chiefs of Ontario
Saskatchewan: Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations
Alberta: Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre
Northwest Territories: Dene Nation
Yukon: Council of Yukon First Nations
British Columbia: First Nations Health Authority



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FNIGC STAFF (Current)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Jonathan Dewar, PhD, Chief Executive Officer
Tania Budgell, Executive Assistant

COMMUNICATIONS

Brad Mackay, Manager, Communications
Haley Lewis, Communications Officer
Lorraine Cheechoo, Programs Assistant

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Jonathan Plante, Director, Finance and Administration
Alex Lafrance, Payroll Assistant
Bianca Martin, Corporate Services Coordinator
Karen Yundt, Human Resources Advisor

OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Aaron Franks, PhD, Senior Manager, OCAP® and Information Governance
Melissa Dane, Research Officer, OCAP® and Information Governance
Kristine Neglia, Manager, OCAP® and Information Governance

PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY

Erin Corston, Senior Advisor

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Albert Armieri, Director, Research and Information
Amy Nahwegahbow, Senior Research Advisor
Alana Roscoe, Program Manager, Research and Development (Acting Survey Manager)
Peigi Wilson, Research Officer
Claudia Meness, Junior Research Officer
Lyndsy Gracie, Program Officer
Katie Wood, Survey Manager
Micere Thuku, Research Analyst
Krysia Walczak, Research Analyst
James Allen, PhD, Research Analyst
Kyla Marcoux, Survey Manager (on leave)
April Liu, PhD, Statistical Data Analyst
Xinyu Qiao, Statistical Data Analyst
Fei Xu, PhD, Senior Statistician
Maria Santos, Manager, First Nations Data Centre





FNIGC | CGIPN

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