

FNIGC | CGIPN

First Nations Information Governance Centre

11th Annual **REPORT to MEMBERS** 2020-2021





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MESSAGE FROM FNIGC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS









The 2020–2021 fiscal year was an unprecedented and life-altering one for all of us, and it brought with it a myriad of operational challenges for organizations of all sizes.

Fortunately, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) was quick to adapt to the restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, initiating a smooth transition from its traditional physical office spaces to accommodate a safe remote-work environment for all staff. FNIGC's effort to ensure both its Board of Directors and staff were able to adapt to remote working conditions included new software, technologies, and tools that facilitated an effective and productive virtual office environment.

As the lockdown continued, FNIGC prioritized the mental and spiritual well-being of FNIGC employees, encouraging staff to take time away from their screens, connecting them with the organization's Employee Assistance Program, and also introducing additional mental health days.

Overall, the 12-month shift to remote work was not without its challenges, but in the end FNIGC managed to strike a healthy balance between productivity and staff well-being.

During the year ending March 31, 2021, FNIGC and its Regional Partners worked on a number of important data sovereignty activities, including:

-  preparation for data collection for the First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 4;
-  the release of a special paper intended to support COVID-19 emergency preparedness efforts in First Nations reserve and Northern communities;
-  development of a strategic plan for the First Nations Data Centre;
-  record enrollments in FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online training course;
-  creation of the First Nations Principles of OCAP® workshop, a four-hour virtual session that provides participants with an opportunity to further explore OCAP®;
-  the launch of the new FNIGC.ca website;
-  establishment of new Information Management (IM) procedures, supporting guidelines, training, and the introduction of a new IM repository platform (SharePoint); and
-  development of pre-implementation activities as outlined in *A First Nations Data Governance Strategy*.

And these are just a few highlights of FNIGC's achievements during the past fiscal year. For more, please review our 2020–2021 Annual Report, where you will learn more about our Vision and Mission and how they guide our ongoing projects and initiatives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the staff at FNIGC and our Regional Partners for their hard work and dedication in the face of a historically challenging 12 months, and for helping further the vision of FNIGC in new and exciting ways.

Leona Star

Chairperson, FNIGC Board of Directors



REPORT FROM FNIGC'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Now in its second decade of existence, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) remains committed to championing the needs and aspirations of First Nation people from coast to coast.

Established as a federally incorporated non-profit in 2010, FNIGC operates under a mandate from the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs-in-Assembly (Resolution #48/2009) and is governed by a national Board of Directors.

Since 2010, FNIGC has evolved into a dynamic, innovative organization with a Vision to see every First Nation achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view. In advancing this Vision, we adhere to free, prior and informed consent, respect nation-to-nation relationships, and recognize the distinct customs of nations.

To these ends, during the 2020–2021 fiscal year FNIGC continued its important work to design and implement national surveys with our Regional Partners, including completing work on the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey, and preparing for data collection for the foundational First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) Phase 4. We also engaged in many research activities and continued to deliver, evaluate, and further develop our OCAP® and information governance education and training efforts, including boosting registrations in *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*, our popular online course.

The past year also saw FNIGC respond to the global pandemic with the publication of a special paper intended to support COVID-19 emergency preparedness efforts in First Nations reserve and Northern communities. We also received funding for two initiatives designed to provide support to our Regional Partners; one is intended to explore the governance and stewardship of the national COVID-19 case tracking data within Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and the other to increase the capacity and infrastructure of our Regional Partners so that they can better govern and steward First Nations COVID-19 data.

FNIGC has also been working with the AFN's COVID-19 Data Working Group to develop a position paper intended to build support for the First Nations Data Governance Strategy. This included a series of virtual regional engagement sessions designed to discuss their unique challenges, limitations, successes, and lessons learned with respect to access, stewardship, and governance of COVID-19 data.

In addition, FNIGC was also proud to announce the recipients of the 10th annual 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. For the second year in a row, we were fortunate to be able to announce four recipients from across the country, each of whom received \$2,500 and free registration to *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*.

This annual report provides an overview of this work, and much more, undertaken between April 2020 and March 2021. In addition, this year we have introduced a new section devoted to reporting on the work we have done as a First Nations organization to directly support First Nations people and communities (see "Our Impact," on Page 27).



My colleagues and I are very proud to have been a part of this work and to be able to share this progress 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 emerge from the shadow of 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 2020–2021 Budget identified revenues received and revenues deferred, and communicated the budget requirements for staff salaries, operations, projects, and regional transfers for program delivery. Unlike previous years, the budget was presented and approved by the Board of Directors under newly implemented pandemic measures.

Developed in consultation with FNIGC's management team, the 2020–2021 Budget considered historical and committed cost expenditures, anticipated adjustments in expenditures, and regional program transfers against all revenue sources.

In order to ensure FNIGC is operating in accordance with existing policies, an analysis of the funding level of the restricted reserve fund is revisited on an annual basis. In the previous fiscal year, the reserve fund was confirmed to be set at an appropriate level. This is all in keeping with FNIGC's commitment to remain in a ready state to respond to any future scenarios that introduce 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). FNIGC and ISC remain committed to continually exploring and evolving our financial relationship.

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.

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

On July 27, 2021, MNP (FNIGC's auditing firm) presented their 2021 Audit Findings and the audited Financial Statements for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2021, to FNIGC's Board of Directors. MNP reported a clean audit, with no significant findings. Subsequently, the Auditor's report was accepted by the Board of Directors as presented and was submitted to our Members at FNIGC's Annual General Meeting on September 7, 2021.

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 met six times (all virtually) during the 2020–2021 fiscal year:

-  June 9, 2020
-  August 26, 2020
-  September 24, 2020
-  October 14, 2020
-  December 8, 2020
-  March 9, 2020



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal year 2020–2021 saw some personnel changes within the Finance and Administration team. **Bianca Martin** moved from the role of Administrative Assistant to Corporate Services Coordinator in April 2020, **Cathy Desabrais** joined the team as the Finance Manager in October 2020, and in February 2021 **Tania Dube** joined the team as a Financial Analyst. **Jonathan Plante**, Director, and **Alex LaFrance**, Finance & Payroll Assistant, made up the balance of the Finance and Administration team.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES





The Finance and Administration team completed its review of the complete suite of financial policies, which was subsequently reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Following this, the team set about reviewing and updating financial processes to ensure alignment with the new suite of policies.

HUMAN RESOURCES

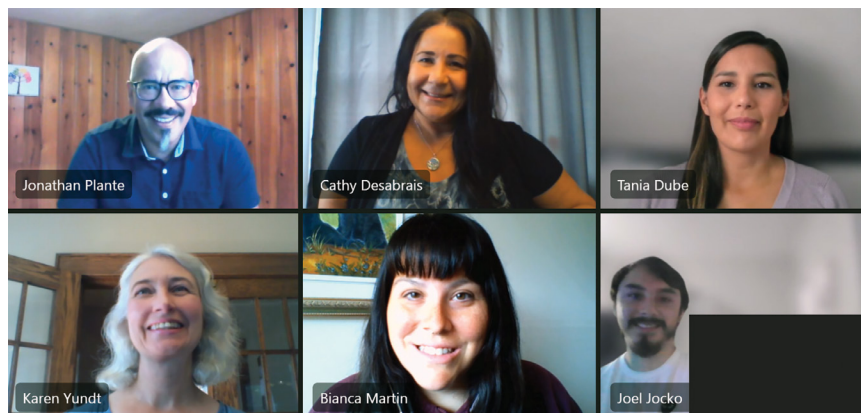
In her role as part-time Human Resources Advisor, **Karen Yundt** provides support to the Finance and Administration team in delivering HR services internally. This year Karen was instrumental in supporting FNIGC as it moved to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included updating our HR policies to support the organization as it evolved during these trying times.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FNIGC continued the work that was commenced during the previous fiscal year. This included the creation and implementation of an Information Management (IM) plan that addressed the elements of the previously completed assessment work. Among the achievements this year were:

-  the establishment of new IM procedures,
-  supporting guidelines,
-  training, and
-  the introduction of a new IM repository platform, SharePoint.

Significant work was also undertaken in the area of Information Technology (IT). With the support of our external IT service provider, we conducted a comprehensive assessment of the key elements required for a best-in-class IT environment. This was followed by a comprehensive report that outlined areas of improvement, as well as recommendations to enable the organization's response to COVID-19 and its future needs.



Top: Jonathan Plante, Cathy Desabrais, Tania Dube. **Bottom:** Karen Yundt, Bianca Martin, Joel Jocko.



RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

In 2020–2021, the work of the Research and Information unit was overseen by its Director, **Albert Armieri**. Reporting directly to the CEO, Albert manages a unit that is responsible for much of FNIGC's core foundational work. This includes our national surveys, research publications, feasibility studies, and the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC).

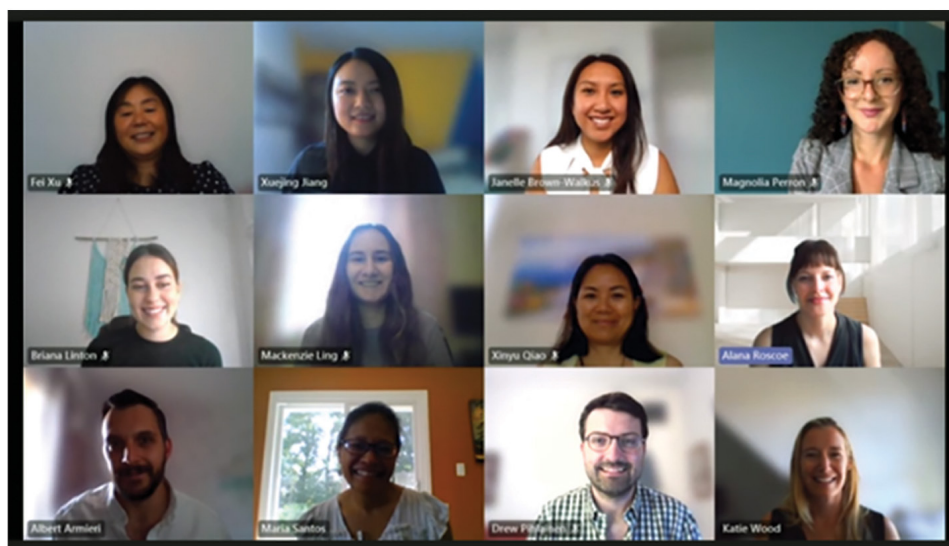
This year the team also served an advisory role on several important initiatives with our federal partners, including the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities efforts](#) from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). Albert is supported by Senior Statistician **Dr. Fei Xu** and Program Officer **Lyndsy Gracie**.

SURVEY MANAGEMENT

In 2020–2021, the Survey Management team consisted of **Katie Wood** (Survey Manager) and **Kyla Marcoux** (Survey Manager). **Amy Nahwegahbow** (Senior Research Advisor) and **Alana Roscoe** (Program Manager, Research and Development) also supported the Survey team this year given the increased workload, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the direction of the Director of Research and Information, the team oversees all aspects of FNIGC'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.

The Survey Management team included **Xinyu Qiao** (Statistical Data Analyst), **Dr. April Liu** (Statistical Data Analyst), **Micere Thuku** (Research Analyst), and **Dr. James Allen** (Research Analyst). In March 2021, FNIGC hired **Janelle Brown-Walkus** as a Statistical Data Analyst to assist with the increasing demands of its national survey work.



Top: Fei Xiu, Xuejing Jiang, Janelle Brown-Walkus, Magnolia Perron. **Middle:** Briana Linton, Mackenzie Ling, Xinyu Qiao, Alana Roscoe. **Bottom:** Albert Armieri, Maria Santos, Drew Pihlainen, Katie Wood.



The First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey

During the 2020–2021 fiscal year, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the FNLED data collection process were significant. While efforts were made to sustain data collection using modified strategies, ultimately a nationally representative dataset was not viable.

However, a number of regions were able to collect sufficient data to support regional analysis and reporting. With the support of ISC, our Regional Partners, and our national Board of Directors, FNIGC is currently working on several products that will use the FNLED data. This will include a FNLED aggregate roll-up report based on five regional datasets.

Additionally, FNIGC has developed a national strategy to support regional Knowledge Translation (KT) and dissemination efforts. This strategy describes a process and identifies potential KT products to be developed in collaboration with interested Regional Partners. This strategy intends to be responsive to regional information priorities and provide an opportunity for FNIGC and our Regional Partners to work together in innovative ways to showcase the power of data.

Lastly, FNIGC is utilizing the feedback from the COVID-19 regional impact assessments to evaluate the FNLED process, including engagement, staffing, methodology, and field collection methods. A full-cycle narrative report is in progress and will speak to key elements of the evaluation.

The First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 4

The RHS Phase 4 is the latest iteration of our long-running and foundational survey initiative. The global pandemic impacted the RHS Phase 4 timelines, development, and deployment, however FNIGC and our Regional Partners continued to move forward with preparing for data collection.

National virtual forums were held with Regional Partners throughout the year to address various topics related to the preparation for RHS 4, including addressing sensitive questions and modes of collection. Additionally, Regional Advisory Committee meetings were conducted remotely, and an interactive online feedback tool was used to gather regional feedback.

FNIGC also worked with our Regional Partners to strategically evaluate existing survey processes and develop adaptive approaches to support survey deployment during the COVID-19 pandemic, and after. Alternative methodologies, as well as ongoing infrastructure and capacity needs, were considered. It is envisioned that a mobilization plan, agile and unique to regional needs, will be co-created, tested, and implemented.

FNIGC Research Ethics Review Function

In preparation for the upcoming RHS Phase 4, in 2020–2021 FNIGC initiated a review of its Research Ethics Review Function (RERF) and other research projects. This includes our survey research with human participants in First Nations communities, and where appropriate, requests for data from the First Nations Data Centre.

The RERF is guided by key foundational documents that encompass the First Nations principles of OCAP® and other widely recognized and established standards, principles, and protocols for health-related research involving human participants. The *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* and the *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* are also included as key foundational documents.



RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Under the direction of the Director of Research and Information, in 2020–2021 the Research team consisted of **Amy Nahwegahbow** (Senior Research Advisor), **Maria Santos** (Manager, First Nation Data Centre), **Alana Roscoe** (Program Manager, Research and Development), and **Claudia Meness** (Junior Research Officer). In addition, two First Nations students joined the Research team: **Magnolia Perron**, who recently completed a Master's degree in Indigenous Nationhood at the University of Victoria, and **Miranda Lesperance**, a PhD student in Social and Behavioural Public Health Science at the University of Toronto. Miranda came to FNIGC thanks to a Mitacs Accelerate proposal that was initiated by Dr. Janet Smylie.

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 Resolution #76/2018 which requested FNIGC to:

to produce a paper on the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal study of First Nations child development and well-being based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE Study) which accounts for structural inequalities and cultural and linguistic needs of First Nations children and youth.

Further, the AFN called on Canada to provide funding for the feasibility study and commit to long-term investments for a multi-year longitudinal study of First Nations child development and well-being.

Responding to the AFN Resolution, FNIGC conducted a feasibility study on First Nations child and youth development and well-being. The overall purpose was to provide a well-informed analysis to determine whether this research is achievable and relevant to community priorities, as well as determine the interest of First Nations to conduct, be involved with, or participate in a longitudinal study.

The work of this feasibility study involved a number of interrelated activities, including an analysis of the results from a literature review; engagement with recognized subject matter experts and regional partners organizations; and an integration of lessons learned from FNIGC's experience with longitudinal surveys.

The resulting report provided 17 recommendations organized under four subject areas. They were derived from the study's findings, including the literature review and the key findings from regional engagement sessions and subject matter expert interviews. These recommendations provide important considerations for moving forward with the planning, development, and engagement for a longitudinal study of First Nations children and youth.

Data Linkages

In March 2018, ISC and CIRNAC provided funding to FNIGC to study data linkages, broadly, and to observe joint efforts between ISC and CIRNAC and Statistics Canada (SC) 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.



In 2020–2021, FNIGC attended these meetings on a quarterly basis as an observer. This role has provided FNIGC with an opportunity to further our understandings and capacities concerning data linkages broadly. Moreover, it has allowed for critical consideration of data linkage research, and the LIRD specifically, in the context of First Nations data governance and OCAP®.

FNIGC is finalizing a research paper on data linkages with an examination of the implications of data linkages for First Nations from legal, ethical, and privacy perspectives. Several technical experts (including Regional Partners, Board of Directors, and legal counsel) have engaged on this effort. To this end, FNIGC is currently awaiting additional information from the federal government to complete this paper. Lessons learned from this process will also support ongoing work under the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

AFN On-Reserve Housing and Related Infrastructure Needs Study

During the 2020–2021 fiscal period, FNIGC continued to work with the AFN on their study that examines the current housing and related infrastructure needs of First Nations people living on-reserve. In October 2020, FNIGC signed a contribution agreement with the AFN to conduct an updated technical report to describe the state of housing and related infrastructure in First Nation communities in the eight participating regions.

Exploratory Gender-Based Violence Feasibility Study

Based on the feasibility study on gender-based violence (GBV) undertaken by FNIGC in 2019–2020, Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) expressed an interest in moving forward with next steps to address important GBV issues through national-level research efforts.

FNIGC has prepared a proposal to WAGE for exploratory work on developing and administering a comprehensive national survey on GBV among First Nations people. Through engagement with interested Regional Partners, this multi-year proposal will explore a potential methodology, design, data collection mechanisms, ethical protocols, associated costs, and infrastructure needed to support a potential First Nations-led GBV research strategy and survey. It will include the convening of a group of regional and national technical and subject matter experts to consider the above elements. WAGE has dedicated \$600,000 next fiscal towards this work with an opportunity for future additional funding.

Examining the Relationship Between Cannabis and Mental Wellness in First Nations

In September 2020, the Mental Health Commission of Canada approved funding to FNIGC for a two-year project that will address knowledge gaps in the relationship between cannabis and mental health in First Nations communities. The project also aims to build research capacity among people with lived experience of cannabis use and mental health problems and illnesses, as well as priority populations.

The research will explore the association between cannabis use and mental wellness in First Nations communities through a combination of descriptive statistical analysis of FNIGC national survey data with qualitative engagements to produce context and insights surrounding the data, based on lived experiences and first-hand knowledge in First Nations communities. Within these parameters an Advisory Group, formed in partnership with the AFN, will guide key research decisions and participate in the qualitative engagements as Knowledge Holders and subject matter experts. Qualitative engagements are scheduled to take place in fall 2021, and the final report is scheduled for completion in September 2022.



Family Models of Care in Early Childhood: Examining the First Nations Child and Family Determinants of Health

In partnership with the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH), FNIGC is undertaking work to address First Nations early childhood care and development. The project will further the existing research and analysis completed on the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES) and facilitate evidence-informed decision-making in First Nations child and family health programs and services at the community level. It will also contribute to the overall knowledge base and dialogue on First Nations employment and social development issues for the benefit of First Nations communities and all Canadians.









Although FNIGC and NCCIH have proposed a multi-year project, including qualitative and quantitative components, current available funding under the ESDC Strategic Engagement and Research Program will only support an initial stage of the project.

As a first step, FNIGC is leading work on a literature review that focuses on the health and well-being of First Nations children and their families. Informed by the results of the literature review, a data analysis plan will be co-developed that includes relevant indicators to be derived from data for children 0 to 5 years of age from the FNREEES dataset.

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) has indicated willingness to fund the entirety of the project in the coming fiscal year. FNIGC and NCCIH are currently finalizing a memorandum of collaboration in support of this partnership.

RESEARCH REPORTS

The following reports were completed during the 2020–2021 fiscal period:

-  [*Factors Associated with School Outcomes among First Nations Youth*](#)
-  [*First Nations Youth Smoking: Factors Associated with Resilience*](#)
-  [*Strengths-Based Approaches to Indigenous Research and the Development of Well-Being Indicators*](#)
-  [*Social and Economic Well-Being: A First Nations Gender-Balanced Analysis*](#)
-  [*First Nations Perspectives on Poverty: “It’s not in our culture to be poor”*](#)
-  [*A Strengths-Based Profile of Aging in First Nations Communities*](#)
-  Literature Review on Gender-Based Violence Research Among First Nations
-  Exploring Gender-based Violence (GBV) Research in First Nations communities in Canada: Literature Review and Promising Practices

Factors Associated with School Outcomes among First Nations Youth

This report, with analyses led by **Dr. Martin Cooke**, examined the factors associated with school outcomes for students aged 12-17 in First Nations communities by examining the relationship between individual, family, school, and community factors, and student outcomes.



Leveraging FNREEES data, the report developed a multi-dimensional examination of First Nations students looking at the individual, family, peer, school, and community factors that contribute to school performance. The report also includes a comprehensive descriptive analysis of school outcome indicators and a multivariate analysis of individual, family, school, community, and cultural characteristics associated with school success.

First Nations Youth Smoking: Factors Associated with Resilience

Building on FNIGC's 2016 report which explored RHS Phase 2 data on First Nations youth resilience and smoking, **Dr. Colleen Ann Dell** and **Dr. Laura Wright** led this subsequent report, which used data from the FNREEES to examine additional factors associated with resilience to smoking amongst First Nations youth living in First Nations communities. The paper 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 data analysis and recommendations to be informed by community-based Knowledge. In November 2020, an abbreviated manuscript based on this report, submitted by Dr. Dell and Dr. Wright, was published in the *International Indigenous Policy Journal*.

Strengths-Based Approaches to Indigenous Research and the Development of Well-Being Indicators

With the aim of deconstructing the concept of strengths-based research in an Indigenous context, this report gathered and synthesized information on the broader principles, definitions, and manifestations of strengths-based approaches to research. Data sources include existing relevant academic and grey literature, as well as in-depth interviews with FNIGC Regional Partner organizations and national Indigenous organizations. The report examines and applies this data to consider best practices and current models for the development of positive mental wellness indicators.

Social and Economic Well-Being: 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. The research uses quantitative descriptive analysis of data from the RHS Phase 3, complemented with qualitative engagements to bolster and inform the interpretation of findings.

Based on guidance from research consultancy 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, well-being, 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.

First Nations Perspectives on Poverty: "It's not in our culture to be poor"

This research, funded by ESDC, was led by **Dr. Darrel Maniwabi** (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory). An initial literature 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 literature



sources, informed the qualitative data collection method and analysis. Qualitative engagement involved a series of interviews and surveys with Knowledge Holders and subject matter experts on the topic of poverty and richness in First Nations communities.

Analyzing the information gathered from all sources, Dr. Manitowabi 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.

A Strengths-Based Profile of Aging in First Nations Communities









Dr. Jennifer Walker (Six Nations of the Grand River) and her research team led 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 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 holistic 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.

Feasibility Study for Research on Gender-Based Violence Among First Nations

This feasibility study, funded by WAGE, explored considerations and opportunities for developing and carrying out a nation-wide study on GBV among First Nations. The study took place between January 2019 to October 2020 and focused on assessing the key issues, relevance, and interest of First Nations to conduct, or participate in, GBV research across Canada.

The study follows the completion of a literature review entitled *Exploring Gender-Based Violence Research in First Nations Communities in Canada*, which examined First Nations-specific GBV research in Canada. The feasibility report includes 34 research recommendations for conducting relevant, culturally safe GBV research among First Nations. The recommendations pull together the overarching themes heard from across the country through regional engagement sessions and key informant interviews with subject matter experts. They cover subjects such as:

-  conceptualizing GBV in a First Nations context,
-  priority research topics for First Nations-specific GBV research,
-  designing culturally safe research frameworks and strengths-based approaches,
-  participant selection,
-  data collection methods,
-  research setting and logistics,
-  administration,
-  ethics,



- participant safety and provision of aftercare support, and
- collaboration and reciprocity.

The feasibility study resulted in the completion of two research papers, mentioned above:

- Literature Review on Gender-Based Violence Research Among First Nations, and
- Exploring Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Research in First Nations communities in Canada: Literature Review and Promising Practices

COVID-19 RESPONSE

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, FNIGC published a special paper intended to support emergency preparedness efforts in First Nations reserve and Northern communities. Published in May 2020, *RHS Statistics for Shaping a Response to COVID-19 in First Nations Communities*, includes a national analysis based on results from the RHS Phase 3 intended to be used by First Nations to advocate for additional resources to prepare for COVID-19. Soon after, an options paper was developed to examine the various activities in which FNIGC could provide support to our Regional Partners. As a result, two separate proposals were prepared and funded by ISC.

In the first, FNIGC proposed to explore the governance and stewardship of the national COVID-19 case tracking data currently residing within ISC. As part of this process, FNIGC worked with ISC and Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) on three items:

- the Application for Disclosure through Section 8(2j) of the *Privacy Act*;
- the terms and conditions of the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA); and
- the implementation of measures within the technical environment and the user access controls to ensure FNIGC's compliance to security and privacy requirements as per the ISA.

Upon signing an ISA, FNIGC will then turn towards supporting regions that are interested in stewarding their respective COVID-19 case data from ISC.

Since ISC data mainly represents COVID-19 cases among First Nations living on-reserve, FNIGC also explored access to data held at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), recognizing the limitations of the self-reporting identity variable in their dataset. In the end, this approach was not practical since the data collected by the provinces and territories would require separate agreements with each jurisdiction.










With appropriate infrastructure, capacity, and relationships, our Regional Partners should be able to govern and steward their information from the provinces or territories, as envisioned within the First Nations Data Governance Strategy. If the information is collected uniformly across regions, the data can be rolled up to a national dataset. However, not all regions have established relationships with the provincial/territorial health authorities.

Regions with previous working relationships with provincial/territorial health authorities or third-party health data stewards were able to access record-level or aggregate information during the pandemic. Furthermore, regions that can identify First Nations living on- or off-reserve within the health data



repositories (through data linkage to the Indian Registry or self-reporting) were able to access more comprehensive COVID-19 information about their citizens or communities.

The objective of the second proposal funded by ISC is to increase the infrastructure and capacity of our Regional Partners so that they can better govern and steward First Nations COVID-19 data. Although not limited to these examples, use of such funding could be put towards:

-  analytical reporting,
-  Knowledge Translation,
-  human resources or consultants,
-  software and technology,
-  IT infrastructure,
-  the development of policies and procedures,
-  governance structures,
-  data sharing agreements, and
-  relationship building and engagements.

FNIGC has also been collaborating with the AFN COVID-19 Data Working Group to develop an AFN position paper titled “Confronting COVID-19 with First Nations Health Data.” This paper is intended, in part, to build support for the First Nations Data Governance Strategy by providing First Nations perspectives on the current state of Canada’s public health surveillance system and the consequent challenges with First Nations COVID-19 data.

Feedback on an early draft of the paper highlighted the importance of ensuring that regional contexts and experiences with health data sharing during the COVID-19 pandemic were well-reflected. To this end, FNIGC engaged with interested regions to discuss their unique challenges, limitations, successes, and lessons learned with respect to access, stewardship, and governance of COVID-19 data. FNIGC also took this opportunity to discuss with the regions further supports needed for capacity and infrastructure. To date, 10 sessions have been completed in seven regions.

Throughout the 2020–2021 year, FNIGC has been actively participating in various COVID-19 data working groups which meet through Dr. Janet Smiley’s research project, Rapid Implementation of a Shared COVID-19 Tracking and Response Platform for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Populations in Canada. These monthly and bi-monthly meetings have been informative for sharing best practices, lessons learned, and challenges with regards to COVID-19 data.








FNIGC was also invited to present on its COVID-19 work at a number of virtual forums, including the First Nations Health Managers Association Virtual Town Hall, the NCCIH Virtual Series, the Canadian Health Information Forum, and the Value-based Health Care Conference.

FIRST NATIONS DATA CENTRE

In 2020–2021, the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC) was managed by **Maria Santos** (Manager, First Nation Data Centre). In March 2021, **Drew Pihlainen** joined the FNDC team as a Research Analyst.



Early in the fiscal year, a strategic plan for the FNDC was developed with actions corresponding to the following objectives:

-  to provide data users with a modernized, well-designed facility, supported by the appropriate policies and procedures,
-  to generate wide-spread awareness of the FNDC and promote respectful and actionable use of its microdata,
-  to ensure microdata, and the pathways to access, are well-understood, accommodating and most importantly, governed by First Nations,
-  to provide capacity development and training opportunities to First Nations students interested in working with data,
-  to network with other data-centric entities to leverage resources (e.g. finance, human resources, technology, methodology, etc.),
-  to collaborate with end-users to maximize relevance of research through the identification of research priorities and appropriate dissemination strategies, and
-  to identify unique funding opportunities to support ongoing and aspirational capital costs.

Working closely with FNIGC's Communications and Information Management & Information Technology teams, the FNDC has looked to improve access for users.

Over the past year, the FNDC also contributed feedback critical to the redesign of FNIGC's website. The FNDC team also made important updates to the data request tool and uploaded charts and tables from the National Report of the *First Nations Regional Health Survey Phase 3: Volume Two* to FNIGC's Data Online Tool.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FNDC has begun examining alternate options for accessing data at the data centre to avoid travel to Ottawa.

As a member of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) Research Advisory Committee, FNIGC has contributed to the CRDCN Strategic Research Roadmap and looks forward to co-learning opportunities.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 2020–2021, three research projects were undertaken in the FNDC.

The first was a project led by Dr. Melanie O'Gorman which examined the relationship between access to clean water and the physical and mental health of people living in First Nation communities. The project concluded in 2020–2021 with the publication of her article [*"Mental and physical health impacts of water/sanitation infrastructure in First Nations communities in Canada: An analysis of the Regional Health Survey."*](#) in the journal *World Development*.



Dr. O’Gorman’s findings showed an association between water and sanitation infrastructure and the health and well-being of First Nations individuals living on reserve in Canada, with access to an indoor water supply being associated with an 80% reduction in the odds of reporting depression. In addition, in-home sanitation is associated with a reduction in depression, gastrointestinal illnesses, and kidney problems. Such findings indicate that large health benefits can be achieved through increased infrastructure investment in First Nations communities across Canada. Existing houses should also be retrofitted to ensure all homes have access to running water and sanitation.

The second research project was “Social Stressors, Community Belonging, and Culture-related Protective Factors among Youth and Adults in First Nations Communities: Links with Psychological Distress,” led by Dr. Amy Bombay’s PhD student, Jocelyn Paul. Her completed thesis has been prepared from the findings of this research, which explores the pathways by which various social and cultural factors were related to psychological distress in First Nations youth and adults living on-reserve in Canada.

Among youth, strong community belonging protected against high levels of distress associated with bullying and cyberbullying. Among First Nations adults, strong community belonging protected against high distress levels associated with racism. However, agreement with the statement of the importance of Traditional spirituality increased psychological distress levels associated with physical aggression. These results highlight the importance of certain culture-related variables as key factors associated with the well-being of First Nations living in communities across Canada.

The third project was “Mapping Data Sources Measuring Immunization-related Factors in Indigenous Populations in Canada,” a manuscript written by PHAC that FNIGC contributed to which was submitted to the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The purpose of this paper was to identify and discuss five data sources measuring immunization and vaccine preventable disease burden for Indigenous populations in Canada, one of which is FNIGC’s First Nations Regional Health Survey (Phases 2 and 3, Child and Youth Surveys). Three customized requests for tables were completed for ISC for corporate reporting purposes and senior management queries, related to home health care and health care access.



OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

FNIGC's OCAP® and Information Governance unit is responsible for the organization's education, training, applied research, and policy analysis efforts to increase knowledge and understanding of the First Nations Principles of OCAP® and First Nations Data Sovereignty. In 2020–2021, the OCAP® unit was comprised of two overlapping teams: Education and Training, which was represented by **Dr. Aaron Franks** (Senior Advisor) and **Kristine Neglia** (Manager, OCAP® and Information Governance), and Research, which was represented by **Peigi Wilson** (Research Manager) and **Melissa Dane** (Research Officer). Programs Assistant **Lorraine Cheechoo** provided program administration support to the OCAP® unit on a part-time basis.



The OCAP® and Information Governance team with backgrounds of places they'd like to travel to one day.
Top: Lorraine Cheechoo, Peigi Wilson. **Bottom:** Aaron Franks, Melissa Dane, Kristine Neglia.

OCAP® EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020–2021 the OCAP® Education and Training team successfully facilitated virtual education and training initiatives, and managed to meet an increase in demand for these learning opportunities.

For the second consecutive year, FNIGC's online training course *The Fundamentals of OCAP®*, saw record enrolment. In 2020–2021, 1,468 learners registered for the online course, which represents a 47% increase over the previous fiscal year. Of note, in February 2021 FNIGC saw what is believed to be the largest monthly intake, with 280 learners enrolled for the course. To date, of those learners, 999 have successfully completed the course and received a statement of achievement.

Led by the Education and Training team, the OCAP® unit also initiated a major revision of *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course. Following a request for proposal process, Algonquin College Corporate Training was selected as the successful candidate for the course revision project, and the two teams worked through the rest of the fiscal year to develop and initiate the course revision.

Like many others, the pandemic forced the OCAP® and Information Governance unit to adapt to a new way of working. A positive outcome of this was the development of the First Nations principles of OCAP® workshop, a four-hour virtual session that provides participants with an interactive opportunity to further



explore OCAP® concepts with FNIGC team members. Using historical and contemporary examples, the workshop explores OCAP®, data sovereignty, and research and data management issues, while offering participants the opportunity to consider how the OCAP® principles can be asserted or respected within their current work.

Over 2020–2021, the OCAP® and Information Governance unit facilitated eight of these new workshops for more than 160 participants. The workshop has typically been facilitated over the course of two days to accommodate participant schedules and to decrease screen fatigue.




The team also presented on the First Nation principles of OCAP® and data sovereignty at 16 virtual conferences and panel discussions to a combined total of 1,372 individuals. Further, the unit began work on a discussion paper in preparation for a feasibility study on the concept of OCAP® certification.

OCAP® RESEARCH

New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization Study

During the 2020–2021 year, the OCAP® unit's Research team was engaged in a study that looked at the implications of academic research and research data management on First Nations data sovereignty. In part, this work is a response to the creation of the New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization (NDRIO) in March 2020 by the federal government. The NDRIO is intended to support Canada in developing new data management infrastructure to hold research data, mostly in digital open data warehouses.

FNIGC agreed to participate in three groups that have been tasked with:

-  developing a strategic plan and funding arrangements for the first three years of NDRIO,
-  supporting the development of templates for data management planning in Tri-Agency funded work, and
-  considering ways and means to ensure sensitive data sets, like First Nations data, are treated appropriately.

As an initial step, a short paper on First Nations data sovereignty and the unique needs and circumstances of First Nations was prepared and submitted to NDRIO as part of their engagement strategy.

Privacy Act and Access to Information Act

The federal government is currently reviewing the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. The OCAP® Research team used this as an opportunity to conduct a thorough legal and policy review of the two pieces of legislation, and their interaction with the *Statistics Act* and the *Libraries and Archives Act*. Results from the subsequent issue paper were shared verbally with officials from the Department of Justice, the Treasury Board Secretariat, and the Federal Office of the Privacy Commissioner. Short guides to the four pieces of legislation identified above were also prepared.

National Action Plan on Open Government

The federal government is also wrapping up the implementation of the *2018-2020 National Action Plan on Open Government* and developing a new one to take its place. A review of the fourth plan was conducted,



with a particular focus on Section 9, Reconciliation and Open Government, and an issue paper was prepared on the implications to First Nations data sovereignty. Discussions were held with officials from the Treasury Board Secretariat to verbally share the results of our analysis, seek further information on the results of the 2018–2020 Action Plan, and learn more about plans for the next Action Plan.

Indian Act Legislation

The OCAP® Research team conducted a review of *An Act to amend the Indian Act in response to the Superior Court of Quebec decision in Descheneaux c. Canada*, along with research provided to date on the size of potential additions to the Indian Registry. FNIGC will continue to keep a watching brief on this issue as the collaborative process wraps up its work.

Intellectual Property Rights Regime

A discussion paper on the challenges of the intellectual property rights regime to First Nations data sovereignty has been drafted. FNIGC is seeking resources to continue this work.

Wəlastəkwey Case Study

Emily Carr University of Art and Design offered FNIGC student time to conduct research on an issue of data sovereignty. The student provided research and wrote a short case study examining the copyright of Wəlastəkwey stories by a non-Indigenous scholar.

Other Work

The OCAP® Research team also provided commentary on data governance policy documents in the governmental, non-governmental, and non-profit sectors, to advance respect for the OCAP® principles and First Nations data sovereignty. These included draft policies from the Office of the Chief Science Advisor on open science, the Data Governance Standards Collaborative hosted by the Standards Council of Canada, and the Common Approach to Impact Measurement project at Carleton University.

Finally, the OCAP® and Information Governance Unit met with two dozen individuals and organizations that reached out for information on the First Nations principles of OCAP®. The unit provided thoughts and suggestions on everything ranging from intellectual property rights, OCAP® and the cloud, research data management, and open science.

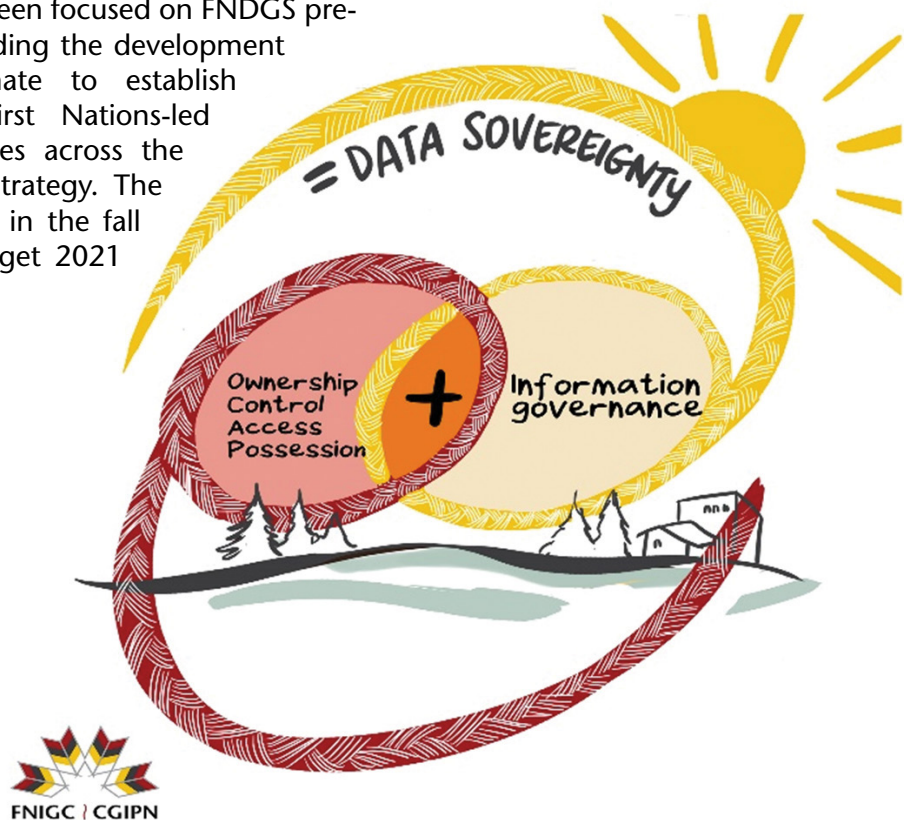


PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY

A FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

FNIGC's Partnerships and Capacity unit reported in last year's Annual Report that a major milestone had been achieved with the submission of *A First Nations Data Governance Strategy* (FNDGS) to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) at the end of March 2020. We introduced the Strategy as a path to achieving First Nations data sovereignty, the cornerstone of nation re-building. Like all governments in the world, First Nations governments require data to do their jobs: to make informed plans and decisions, to protect their citizens and the lands and waters in their territories, and to govern effectively while advancing their self-determination goals.

The 2020–2021 fiscal year has been focused on FNDGS pre-implementation activities, including the development of a preliminary cost estimate to establish the proposed network of First Nations-led Information Governance Centres across the country as articulated in the Strategy. The estimate was submitted to ISC in the fall of 2020 in anticipation of Budget 2021 investments.



First Nations will have sovereignty over their data only once both these concepts – the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession and the practices of good governance – are solidly in place, fully functioning and fully empowered.



COMMUNICATIONS

During the 2020–2021 fiscal year, FNIGC’s Communications unit was comprised of **Brad Mackay** (Manager, Communications), **Haley Lewis** (Communications Officer), and **Lorraine Cheechoo** (Programs Assistant), who also served as support for the OCAP® & Information Governance and Partnerships & Capacity units. In March 2021, **Sarah Harney** was hired to fill the Communications Officer position left vacant by Haley in February 2021.

As Manager, Brad reports directly to the CEO and oversees the organization’s corporate Communications activities, which include 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).

The Communications unit also provides support as needed to FNIGC’s other internal units (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 Mackay, Lorraine Cheechoo, Sarah Harney

The unit 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 assists with trade shows, promotional items, and other administrative and travel needs of the unit.

FNIGC.CA

New-Look for FNIGC.ca

Since its launch in 2013, FNIGC’s website (FNIGC.ca) has been the primary source of information about the organization, our First Nations survey initiatives, and our First Nations data sovereignty work, with site traffic and user engagement increasing steadily year to year. As with all sites, over time the site inevitably began to show its age.

So, in early 2020 we began an effort to rethink, redesign, and relaunch FNIGC.ca. Working with Spruce Creative, an Indigenous co-owned creative agency based in Ottawa, FNIGC embarked on a collaborative, culturally relevant creative process focused on serving the needs of our First Nations audience.

On December 14, 2020, we publicly launched the new FNIGC.ca, which features a fresh new design, a new content management system (WordPress) that is easier to use, more secure, and more stable, and numerous new features, including an interactive timeline which traces FNIGC’s roots back to 1994. In support of our commitment to First Nations communities, the site is also built to respond to low-bandwidth internet connections with a streamlined version that is easier to load.



Website Traffic

Since the site's initial launch in 2013, user traffic to the site has increased each year, with user numbers more than doubling since 2015.



Over the 2020–2021 period, FNIGC's website received a total of 90,711 page views, a 31% decrease from the 132,137 page views during the previous fiscal period. Given that this drop-off happened on the exact date when we launched the website, we believe this was a result of our new cookies policy which requires visitors to the site to accept or decline cookies. If they choose to decline, our analytics tool is disabled which might explain the dip shown in our reports. We have corrected this feature in an effort to get a better picture of our true user numbers.

One-day traffic peaked on October 15, 2020 (1,135 page views), which coincided with our announcement of a request for proposals

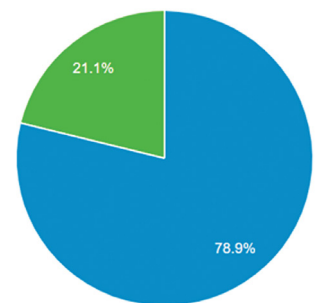
to revise FNIGC's The Fundamentals of OCAP® course. A close second for one-day page views took place on June 18, 2020 (1,046 page views), which coincided with the posting of A First Nations Data Strategy on our website.

FNIGC.ca's bounce rate (the percentage of visitors who leave the website after looking at just one page) improved significantly from 56% last year to 37% this year, a 36% improvement.

The majority (87%) of visitors to FNIGC.ca came from within Canada, with the United States in second place at 6%. The majority of our users (89%) are English speakers, with less than 4% being French speakers, a slight decrease from last year.

For the fifth year in a row, new users to the site outpaced returning users, with new visitors representing 79% of users, compared to 21% 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 new audience.

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



Pages

As in past years, the most frequently visited page on FNIGC.ca in 2020–2021 was our homepage, with more than 18,347 page views (a slight increase from 17,236 the previous year), followed by FNIGC.ca/OCAP, our FAQ page for OCAP® with 8,713 visits, followed by The Fundamentals of OCAP® online course, with 8,273.



The landing page for the FNIGC Data Online tool was the fifth most-visited page, with 5,117 views.

For a full list of FNIGC's Top 10 Page visits, see the chart on Page 26.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Each year, the key driver of FNIGC.ca's growth has been our social media presence, represented by Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. This growth is the result of a commitment to daily (Monday-Friday) posts which are written with an eye for news and stories that are relevant to First Nations audiences.

In an effort to continue this 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 2020–2021 fiscal year, FNIGC's Twitter account (twitter.com/FNIGC) received 297,404 impressions (the number of times Twitter users see a tweet) which represents a 45% increase from 204,800 impressions the previous year.

Page ?	Pageviews ? ↓	Unique Pageviews ?
	90,711 % of Total: 100.00% (90,711)	72,397 % of Total: 100.00% (72,397)
1. /index.php	18,347 (20.23%)	16,322 (22.55%)
2. /ocap	8,713 (9.61%)	7,167 (9.90%)
3. /training/fundamentals-ocap.html	8,273 (9.12%)	6,544 (9.04%)
4. /	6,317 (6.96%)	4,803 (6.63%)
5. /dataonline/	5,117 (5.64%)	3,318 (4.58%)
6. /fndc	2,029 (2.24%)	1,496 (2.07%)
7. /first-nations-regional-health-survey.html	1,933 (2.13%)	1,378 (1.90%)
8. /news/introducing-first-nations-data-governance-strategy.html	1,932 (2.13%)	1,558 (2.15%)
9. /about-fnigc/contact-us.html	1,703 (1.88%)	1,514 (2.09%)
10. /fr	1,345 (1.48%)	1,074 (1.48%)

May 2020 - 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 5,332 impressions

Ireland has donated approx. \$500K to a GoFundMe page supporting Navajo & Hopi Nations affected by COVID-19. The move was inspired by the Choctaw Nation who sent \$170 to Ireland in 1847 for famine relief. ow.ly/u68S50zzU9C #Indigenous @NaomiOhReally @YazzieSays pic.twitter.com/xDMLPhIEdF



View Tweet activity

View all Tweet activity

Top Follower followed by 24.2K people



Lenard Monkman

Top mention earned 101 engagements

The First Nations Health Managers Association @FNHMA - 4 May 2020
Join us for our Weekly Virtual Town Hall Thursday May 7, 2020 at 1:00pm EDT!

Tune into to hear from our panel of speakers from:

@IPACIndigenous
@CINANurses
@fnigc

The live stream is available on the FNHMA and the APTN News Facebook pages, as well as ihtoday.ca
pic.twitter.com/d3MfzHwXLD

INFORMATION SESSION & Q+A
EVERY THURSDAY | 1:00 EDT
WATCH LIVE ON WWW.IHTODAY.CA/TOWNHALL
This week features speakers from:
Dr. Nel Weeman, President,
Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada
Lee Bill, President, Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association
Bonnie Healy, Chair, First Nations Information Governance Centre
Hosted and Moderated by Marion Crowe, CEO,
First Nations Health Managers Association

View Tweet

MAY 2020 SUMMARY

Tweets	28	Tweet impressions	27.6K
Profile visits	320	Mentions	26
New followers	34		

Our Twitter followers list grew to 2,604 (up from 2,356 last year) which represents a 10% increase. In addition, FNIGC obtained officially "verified" status on Twitter in January 2021.

FNIGC's Facebook page has also witnessed growth in the past 12 months. Our total number of Followers increased to 3,153 (up from 3,070 last year).



Over the past year on LinkedIn our network was 1,764 Connections, a decrease from 2,799 one year previous. This is an expected outcome which resulted from the consolidation of FNIGC's business and personal pages on LinkedIn, and one that will be remedied in the coming months.

TRADE SHOWS AND EVENTS

Due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, FNIGC did not attend any trade shows or events during 2020–2021 year.

OCAP® LOGO RENEWAL

In light of our successful rebrand of the FNIGC logo in April 2020, we decided to embark on a rebrand of our OCAP® logo as well. In December 2020 we engaged with marketing agency Forest Communications to develop some new ideas for the OCAP® logo, which has existed in its current form for nearly 20 years. The new look will represent a maturation of the existing logo and identity for OCAP® and will be incorporated into our existing website, future publications, promotional items, and other Communications products.

OUR IMPACT

As a First Nations organization, FNIGC is committed to supporting the data sovereignty aspirations of First Nations people and communities through our daily work. This new section of our Annual Report is an effort to recognize the social impact of our work, which during the 2020–2021 fiscal year includes: supporting the next generation of First Nations scholars, raising money for First Nations organizations, and taking part in social awareness days.

50/50 DRAWS

Throughout the year, FNIGC staff participated in five 50/50 draws to raise money for First Nations organizations doing important work and supporting communities in various ways across the country. Throughout the year, FNIGC staff raised over \$600 to be donated to the following organizations:



[First Nations Child & Family Caring Society](#)



[Orange Shirt Day](#)



[Minwaashin Lodge](#)



[The Natoaganeg Community Food Centre](#)



[Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#)

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day, which takes place annually on September 30, is a day to acknowledge the intergenerational harms of Canada's Indian Residential School system, and to honour Survivors as well as those who never made it home. This year FNIGC staff took part in Orange Shirt Day virtually by encouraging staff to wear their orange shirts and hosting a virtual lunch and learn.

FNIGC NATIONAL STUDENT BURSARY

This year we were pleased to announce the recipients of the 10th annual FNIGC National Student Bursary program. This year's recipients were: Chantai Minet, Mitchell Maracle, Destiny Bird, and Kate Dunn, each of whom received \$2,500 and free registration to the FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course.



Established in 2011 and overseen by FNIGC's Partnerships and Capacity unit, the FNIGC National Student Bursary is awarded each year to exceptional First Nations students enrolled in college or university studying in fields related to the advancement of First Nations data sovereignty. Recipients are chosen following a review of applications by a committee established by the FNIGC Board of Directors.

Meet the 2020 Bursary Winners:

Chantai Minet was raised in the Yukon Territory and identifies as someone with mixed ancestry: First Nations (Tlingit), European, and Asian. Chantai obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Calgary in 2014. She is currently a candidate in the Master of Science in Educational Psychology Program, specializing in Counselling Psychology at the University of Calgary. Chantai has an

expansive interest in culture expressed through her love of travelling and the creative arts. She has backpacked around the world, partnering with various philanthropic organizations to provide support to communities in need. Her current research with the University of Calgary explores contemporary Indigenous identity and well-being. In her spare time, she enjoys venturing to the mountains, yoga, and writing poetry. Amongst other things, she values healthy relationships, humility, kindness, and the courage of storytelling.

Mitchell Maracle is a member of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Tyendinaga Territory. He is currently completing an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a minor in General Science at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Mitchell was fortunate enough to return to postsecondary education to follow his passion in geology after previously working for the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun in the Yukon in mineral exploration. He hopes to further specialize and become involved with Indigenous communities across Canada regarding natural resources and geohazards on traditional lands.

Destiny Bird is a young and ambitious Indigenous woman from Treaty 6, Paul First Nation. She is completing her Master of Arts in Justice Studies at Royal Roads University, where she also completed an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies in 2019. Destiny has also completed a diploma in Correctional Services from MacEwan University. She is passionate about volunteering and helping people achieve their greatest potential. Her goal is to work within her field for a few years until she decides she is ready to take on an even greater educational goal, a PhD.

Kate Dunn is Anishinaabe of Mississauga First Nation in Ontario and is currently living in Calgary, Alberta. She has a background in nursing, a Master's degree in Public Health, and is pursuing a Doctorate in Social Sciences at Royal Roads University focusing on Indigenous Health. Her doctoral research focuses on Indigenous perspectives of health and wellness through Wisdom Seeking interviews with Indigenous Knowledge Holders that facilitate a respectful and culturally relevant approach to hepatitis C care and cure. Kate's goal is to give back by focusing her research and work on positive social impact through wellness and changing health disparities.



Top: Chantai Minet and Mitchell Maracle.
Bottom: Destiny Bird and Kate Dunn



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020-2021)

Leona Star, Chair (Manitoba)
Amber Potts, Co-Chair (Assembly of First Nations)
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Mindy Denny, Secretary (Nova Scotia and Newfoundland)
Alexis Hougen (Yukon)
Snookie Catholique (Northwest Territories)
Lea Bill (Alberta)
Vice- Chief Heather Bear (Saskatchewan)
Carmen Jones (Ontario)
Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh (Quebec and Labrador)
Peter Birney (New Brunswick and PEI)
Addie Pryce (Assembly of First Nations)
Claudette Commanda (Elder Advisor)
Jonathan Dewar (Chief Executive Officer)

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERS (2020-2021)

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island: First Nations Education Initiative Incorporated
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 Council

FNIGC STAFF (Current)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Brad Mackay, Manager, Communications
Sarah Harney, Communications Officer
Lorraine Cheechoo, Programs Assistant

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Jonathan Plante, Director, Finance and Administration
Alex LaFrance, Finance and Payroll Assistant
Bianca Martin, Corporate Services Coordinator
Karen Yundt, Human Resources Advisor
Cathy Desabrais, Finance Manager
Tania Dube, Financial Analyst
Joel Jocko, IM/IT Student

OCAP® AND INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

Kristine Neglia, Manager, OCAP® & Information Governance
Aaron Franks, Senior Advisor
Peigi Wilson, Research Manager, OCAP® & Information Governance
Melissa Dane, Research Officer

PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY

Erin Corston, Senior Advisor, Partnerships & Capacity
Pat Foster, Research Analyst

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Albert Armieri, Director, Research & Information
Alana Roscoe, Program Manager, Research & Development
Amy Nahwegahbow, Senior Research Advisor
Maria Santos, Manager, First Nations Data Centre
Fei Xu, Senior Statistician
Drew Pihlainen, Research Analyst
James Allen, Research Analyst
Katie Wood, Survey Manager
Kyla Marcoux, Survey Manager
Xinyu Qiao, Statistical Data Analyst
Xuejing Jiang, Statistical Data Analyst
Lyndsay Gracie, Program Officer
Micere Thuku, Research Analyst
Briana Linton, Student Research Assistant
Mackenzie Ling, Student Research Assistant
Magnolia Perron, Student Researcher
Claudia Meness, Junior Research Officer
Gavin Savoie, Technical Survey Student
Janelle Brown-Walkus, Statistical Data Analyst



FNIGC | CGIPN

HEAD OFFICE:

341 Island Road, Unit D
Akwasasne, ON K6H 5R7

OTTAWA OFFICE:

180 Elgin Street, Suite 1200
Ottawa, ON K2P 2K6
Fax: 613-231-7072
Tel: 613-733-1916
Toll Free: 866-997-6248

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