



FNIGC | CGIPN

First Nations Information Governance Centre

12th Annual **REPORT to MEMBERS**

2021 - 2022

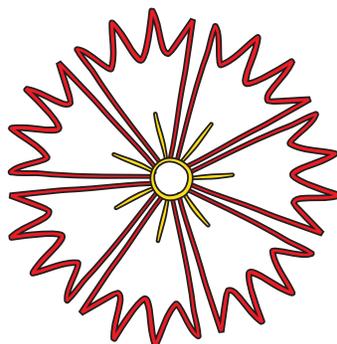


The images on the cover and in the report feature/were inspired by Anishinaabe and Métis beading patterns.



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MESSAGE FROM FNIGC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2021–2022 fiscal period marked the second year of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which posed a series of unique and ongoing challenges around the planet.

In response, the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) continued to support its First Nations partners across the country through the adoption of new software, technologies, and tools that facilitated safe and productive remote working conditions in communities.

As the pandemic lockdowns persisted, FNIGC maintained its focus on the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being of its employees, encouraging discussions about mental health, urging staff to limit their screen time, introducing additional mental health days, and circulating information about the organization's Employee Assistance Program.

As a whole, the 12-month period (April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022) was complex and challenging at times, but it served as a showcase for FNIGC's capacity to adapt to uncertain and unpredictable times.

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

-  the announcement in *Budget 2021* of more than \$73 million (\$51 million of which was allocated to FNIGC) to support the development and implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS) (Page 16);
-  the negotiation of an information sharing agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support the sharing of COVID-19 data from First Nation communities on a weekly basis (Page 12);
-  programming of the survey questionnaires for The First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS) Phase 4 (See Page 10);
-  completion of all deliverables for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey, including an aggregate report exploring key FNLED themes and indicators (Page 9);
-  commencement of regional engagement work on the Regional Social Survey (RSS), the latest in the series of First Nations on-reserve surveys that focus on themes not covered by the health-focused RHS (Page 9);
-  the announcement of the 11th annual FNIGC National Student Bursary recipients, each of whom received \$2,500 and free registration to FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course (Page 18);
-  the publication of a special paper on research information management in *Sagesse: Journal of Canadian Records and Information Management* (Page 11);
-  securing funding under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Agreement to augment capacity and infrastructure needs at the regional and national level (Page 12); and
-  historically high enrollments in FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online training course (Page 11).

This is just an overview of the impressive achievements that FNIGC made during the past fiscal year. For more, please review our 2020–2021 annual report, where you will learn 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 commitment in the face of a historically challenging year, and for helping further the vision of FNIGC.

Leona Star
Chairperson, Board of Directors



REPORT FROM FNIGC'S ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

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

In the two decades since its founding, FNIGC has grown from a small organization focused on advancing its important First Nations health and well-being survey work, to a robust multi-faceted national organization whose Vision is to see every First Nation achieve data sovereignty in alignment with its distinct world view. In advancing this Vision, FNIGC adheres to free, prior and informed consent, respects nation-to-nation relationships, and recognizes the distinct customs of nations.

During the 2021–2022 fiscal period FNIGC continued its foundational survey work with our Regional Partners, including completing all deliverables for the First Nations Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey, finalizing the questionnaires for the First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS) Phase 4, and launching regional engagement work for the Regional Social Survey (RSS).

We also extended our work in response to the global pandemic with the signing of a landmark information sharing agreement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that enables FNIGC access to First Nations COVID-19 data in support of pursuing a national COVID-19 dataset. Moreover, FNIGC successfully acquired funding under the COVID-19 Safe Restart Agreement to boost infrastructure and capacity at the regional and national level.

Despite the ongoing pandemic lockdowns seen during 2021–2022, interest in the First Nations Principles of OCAP® remained strong – in fact interest was stronger than ever. The year saw historically high demand for our OCAP® Education and Training efforts, with record registration numbers for *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course and record demand for our OCAP® workshops and presentations.

FNIGC also explored a wide range of research activities, including the publication of a special paper on research information management in *Sagesse: Journal of Canadian Records and Information Management*.

In addition, we were proud to announce the recipients of the 11th annual FNIGC National Student Bursary, which is awarded each year to outstanding First Nations students who are enrolled in a postsecondary health, social sciences, or applied sciences program or are studying issues related to First Nations data sovereignty. For the third year in a row, we were pleased 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 all of our work undertaken between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2021, which included work we did as a First Nations organization to directly support First Nations people and communities (see "Our Impact," on Page 17).

On behalf of my colleagues, I am happy to share this important progress with First Nations people and the communities they live in. The work contained here was completed during uncertain and unparalleled times and credit should be given to FNIGC staff and our Regional Partners across the country who persevered despite the challenges they were faced with.

Albert Armieri,
Acting Chief Executive Officer, FNIGC



Operational Budget

As per FNIGC policy, the annual Operational Budget is developed and presented to the Board of Directors for approval prior to commencement of the fiscal year. The 2021–2022 Budget provides the financial roadmap for the organization that accounts for all projected expenditures such as staff salaries, operations, projects and regional transfers for program delivery.

The 2021–2022 Budget considered historical and committed cost expenditures, anticipated adjustments in operating expenditures, and regional program transfers against all revenue sources. For the first time, increased analysis was undertaken this year to account for and manage the ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fiscal year, FNIGC received additional funding from ISC which was intended to help augment the response capacity for FNIGC and its partners to COVID-19.

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). This year, additional opportunities with other funders, which included government and non-government agencies, are reflected in the operating financials of FNIGC.

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. This year, the OCAP® course generated revenues in excess of any previous period. (Read more about the OCAP® course on Page 15.)

Financial Audit

On August 18, 2022, MNP (FNIGC’s auditing firm) presented the 2021–2022 Audit Findings and the audited Financial Statements for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2022 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 20, 2022.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of FNIGC’s 2022 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 seven times during the 2021–2022 fiscal year:

 June 14, 2021

 July 27, 2021

 September 8, 2021



-  October 19, 2021
-  December 1, 2021
-  February 15, 2022
-  March 29, 2022

CORPORATE SERVICES

In January 2022, FNIGC created a new directorate named Corporate Services as part of an effort to address growth within the organization and to better consolidate its corporate activities. The new Corporate Services directorate combined the Finance and Administration (Finance, Human resources, and Information Management & Information Technology teams) and Communications units and is focused on advancing its various portfolios with a focus on enabling the various programs to successfully deliver on their mandates.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

In 2021–2022, the Finance team was comprised of **Jonathan Plante**, Director, **Cathy Desabrais** (Finance Manager), **Tania Dube**, Financial Analyst, **Alex LaFrance**, Finance & Payroll Assistant, and **Adam Rutledge**, who joined FNIGC as a Financial Analyst. (Cathy Desabrais left the unit in March 2022.)

The unit completed a follow up review of FNIGC’s financial policy suite which was reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The team has since set about reviewing and updating existing financial processes to ensure they adhere with the new policies.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In her part-time role as Human Resources Advisor, **Karen Yundt** provides support to the various program managers. Karen played a crucial role in supporting the organization as it continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Karen has been very much focused on supporting the recruitment efforts to support the growth of the FNIGC to meet an ever- expanding program portfolio.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

During 2020–2021 FNIGC’s Information Management (IM) and Information Technology (IT) unit was made up of **Meghan Perry**, Senior Manager. This year the unit continued their work on the creation and implementation of an IM and IT plan. Among their achievements this year were:

-  the analysis and augmentation of FNIGC’s IT infrastructure,
-  the delivery of necessary guidelines, policies and training, and
-  the evaluation of the external environment and the development of mitigation plans.

Overall, fundamental work was undertaken to prepare the technical environment for FNIGC’s anticipated growth over the next few years. Given the cycles of change in the external environment, we made strategic investments which enhanced the user experience and FNIGC’s IT capacity.



COMMUNICATIONS

During the 2020–2021 fiscal year, FNIGC’s Communications unit was comprised of **Brad Mackay** (Manager, Communications), **Sarah Harney** (Communications Officer), and **Lorraine Cheechoo** (Programs Assistant). Lorraine also supported the OCAP® & Information Governance and Partnerships & Capacity units.

Communications supports and oversees the organization’s corporate Communications activities, which include media relations, promotion, outreach, and internal and external communications efforts, which entails FNIGC’s website, annual reports, presentations, and FNIGC’s social media. Since its launch in 2013, FNIGC’s website (FNIGC.ca) has been the primary source of information about the organization, with user traffic increasing each year. In 2021–2022 the website received a total of 186,618 pageviews, more than double the total seen during the previous fiscal period, marking a historic high.

Peak daily traffic happened on November 17, 2021 (3,085 pageviews), which coincides with the announcement of the application process for the 2021 FNIGC National Student Bursary.

For the first time, the most frequently visited page on FNIGC.ca in 2021–2022 was the First Nations Principles of OCAP® page, with 35,853 pageviews (or 19% of total visits). FNIGC.ca’s homepage was the second most-visited page with 18,004 pageviews (10% of total views).

Year to year, a key driver of FNIGC.ca’s growth has been our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. 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.

As part of Communications ongoing efforts to expand FNIGC’s audience, the team completed work on a Knowledge Translation strategy and began the recruitment process for a Knowledge Translation Officer who will be dedicated to ensuring FNIGC’s survey data reaches First Nations audiences in a relatable way and accessible formats.

Page Title ?	Pageviews ? ↓
	186,618 % of Total: 100.00% (186,618)
1. The First Nations Principles of OCAP® - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	35,853 (19.21%)
2. Home - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	18,004 (9.65%)
3. Take the Course - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	12,438 (6.66%)
4. The First Nations Principles of OCAP® The First Nations Information Governance Centre	8,273 (4.43%)
5. Page not found - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	7,615 (4.08%)
6. FNIGC DATA ONLINE FNIGC Data Online	6,893 (3.69%)
7. Welcome to FNIGC Data Online FNIGC Data Online	6,025 (3.23%)
8. Apply now for the 2021 FNIGC National Student Bursary - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	5,975 (3.20%)
9. Online Library - The First Nations Information Governance Centre	5,068 (2.72%)
10. Home The First Nations Information Governance Centre	4,631 (2.48%)



RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

In 2021–2022, 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, which includes our national surveys, research publications, feasibility studies, and the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC).

In January 2022 as part of an effort to address growth within FNIGC, the research component of the OCAP® and Information Governance unit joined Research and Information unit. The name OCAP® and Information Governance moved with it. (The remainder of the OCAP® and Information Governance unit was renamed Education and Training. For more on this unit see Page 15.)

SURVEY MANAGEMENT

In 2021–2022, FNIGC's Survey Management unit consisted of **Katie Wood** (Senior Manager, Survey Initiatives), **Kyla Marcoux** (Survey Manager), **Xinyu Qiao** (Statistical Data Analyst), **Micere Thuku** (Research Analyst), **James Allen** (Research Analyst) and **Janelle Brown-Walkus** (Statistical Data Analyst).

Amy Nahwegahbow (Senior Research Advisor) and **Alana Roscoe** (Program Manager, Research & Information) supported the Survey Team while Kyla was on maternity leave through January 2022. In June 2021, **Xuejing Jiang** (Statistical Data Analyst) joined the unit to address the increasing demands of its national survey work.

Under the direction of the Director, Research and Information, the Survey unit 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 Labour and Employment Development (FNLED) survey, the Regional Social Survey (RSS), and First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS, or RHS).

The First Nations Labour and Employment Development Survey

While the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the data collection process for the FNLED survey during 2021–2022, FNIGC was able to complete and submit all of its FNLED deliverables to ISC. The final product was an aggregate report exploring key FNLED themes and indicators from those regions who collected sufficient data to support analyses and reporting.

FNIGC also submitted an FNLED evaluative narrative report detailing the impact of COVID-19 on the process and lessons learned. FNIGC will continue to work with Regional Partners to support regional knowledge translation and dissemination efforts where requested.

The First Nations Regional Social Survey

With the completion of all FNLED survey activities, the survey team's focus shifted to planning for the latest phase of the Regional Social Survey (RSS).

The Regional Social Survey (RSS) is funded under the federal Surveys on Indigenous Peoples (SIPS) program, which similarly funded both the FNREES and the FNLED survey. For this reason, the RSS is considered the third phase under the SIPS program.



The RSS is the latest in the series of First Nations on-reserve surveys that focus on themes not covered by the health-focused RHS. This new national survey will focus on the well-being of First Nations children and their families living in reserve and Northern communities.

During the 2021–2022 fiscal year, FNIGC worked to formalize Regional Partner engagement in this latest survey iteration, as well as develop social and economic thematic domains and indicators to measure the well-being of children and their families. As part of the content development process, FNIGC is collaborating with Regional Partners and subject matter experts to determine themes and indicators of importance.

The First Nations Regional Health Survey

During the past fiscal year, the Survey team also advanced work on RHS Phase 4, the latest iteration of FNIGC’s foundational survey initiative which is now in its third decade. Throughout the year the team held virtual forums with Regional Partners which served to address topics related to preparing for RHS 4, including how to address sensitive questions and modes of collection. Additionally, remote Regional Advisory Committee Meetings were conducted, and an interactive online feedback tool was utilized to seek feedback from the regions.

FNIGC worked with Regional Partners to strategically evaluate existing survey processes and develop adaptive approaches to support deployment during and post-pandemic. Alternative methodologies, as well as ongoing infrastructure and capacity needs, were considered. To this end, a mobilization plan that will be agile and unique to regional needs, is being developed, tested and implemented.

In December 2021, a Research Ethics Committee (REC) convened to review RHS 4 materials, provide recommendations and support for the process. The REC agreed that FNIGC and Regional Partner organizations support First Nations data sovereignty and the OCAP® principles. They also indicated that FNIGC’s unique collaborative approach to administering and developing RHS Phase 4, including regional partnerships, will ensure that data on the health and well-being of First Nations can be collected, used, and presented in a manner that is meaningful to First Nations peoples and communities.

The three core national surveys that comprise RHS Phase 4 were programmed for Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and Computer Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) and are in the final stages of internal testing.

The ongoing and uncertain realities of COVID-19 has impacted the timely deployment of RHS Phase 4 in communities. With support from ISC, FNIGC has explored flexibility in timelines and is working with regions to develop innovative and creative strategies to support deployment during and post-pandemic. FNIGC recognizes the many competing priorities of regions and communities and, as such, is working with regions to ensure community readiness.

In support of this, FNIGC procured personal protective equipment (i.e., medical masks, KN-95 masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) for the regions in an effort to help to support safe regional deployment.



RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES

OCAP® and Information Governance

In 2021–2022, the OCAP® and Information Governance research team was made up of **Peigi Wilson**, Research Manager, and **Melissa Dane**, Research Officer. Together, they investigated a wide array of research topics which included the impact of open data, cloud-based computing, intellectual property rights, metadata, data linkage and research information management on First Nations data sovereignty.

The team also continued a review of federal legislation and its impacts on First Nations data sovereignty, which included the *Access to Information Act*, *Privacy Act*, and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. The results of these reviews are being used as the basis for a series of issue and discussion papers on these topics.

Further, our article on research information management (“[Respecting First Nations Data Sovereignty in Records and Information Management](#)”) was published in *Sagesse: Journal of Canadian Records and Information Management*, a publication of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators. In fiscal year 2021–2022 the team continued to engage with the New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization (which in September 2021 was renamed the Digital Research Alliance of Canada) in the development of their strategic plan, and discussions at various working groups.

We were also approached by more than 30 individuals and organizations with questions about how OCAP® and Information Governance related to issues ranging from consent forms to block chain technology.

The team also received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to undertake a small project on intellectual property rights. This work includes the preparation of a discussion paper on conflicting world views about intellectual property, and a paper on orphan works and artists’ resale rights. In March 2022, our initial findings were presented at the 5th Annual IP Data and Research Conference organized by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office and the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Exploring First Nations Data Sovereignty Considerations for Distinctions-based Indigenous Health Legislation

This project will explore issues that First Nations face when trying to exercise data sovereignty. Specifically, it will examine key health and privacy legislation in Canada to better understand how they impact First Nations ability to access and use to their own health data. For example, First Nations personal information, including health information and the *Indian Registry*, is protected under the *Privacy Act* making it challenging for First Nations to access the information they need to make informed decisions. Furthermore, the *Access to Information Act* (ATIP) which allows the public to access records within the control of the government raises numerous ethical and OCAP® related concerns for First Nations.

The FNIGC was funded to undertake an environmental scan that focuses on the challenges of collecting, accessing and using First Nations health data, as well as issues surrounding data governance, within the context of today’s health and privacy legislation in Canada. The findings from the review will allow for discussions on potential considerations when co-developing distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation. Furthermore, the highlighted issues with the current legislation will be used to inform the government’s national “What We Heard” report.



Examining the Relationship Between Cannabis and Mental Wellness in First Nations

All quantitative and qualitative data for the project has been collected and analyzed, with their methods and results drafted for the full final report. The remaining report section drafts are underway, and the full report draft will be shared with the Advisory Group, other engagement participants, and project partners at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) for review and feedback prior to finalization and publication in fall 2022.

Reciprocal Knowledge sharing activities for the project, in the form of research capacity-building opportunities offered by FNIGC, have been completed with Advisory Group members.

In addition, FNIGC was also successful in securing funds from the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to develop Knowledge Translation products based on the project findings, in alignment with recommendations generated through the project's qualitative engagements. This work is expected to be completed in December 2022.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, FNIGC began exploring the stewardship of national First Nations COVID-19 case data residing within ISC. This work continued during the 2021–2022 fiscal period, including the negotiation of an information sharing agreement with ISC. Starting in January 2022, FNIGC has been in receipt of COVID-19 data on a weekly basis from ISC and has since been busy assessing the quality of the dataset in order to identify how it can best assist regions, especially those without COVID-19 data.

As part of a paper FNIGC was working on with the AFN about Canada's public health surveillance system, FNIGC completed 10 engagement sessions with seven Regional Partners which explored the challenges, limitations, successes, and lessons learned with respect to access, stewardship and governance of COVID-19 data.

The AFN paper was also intended to highlight the need for data and information governance and bolster support for the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS). The summaries were reviewed by the regions and included as an Annex to the AFN position paper "Lost in the Numbers: Learning about First Nations Health Data from the Covid-19 Pandemic."

During these engagement sessions, FNIGC discussed with the regions the needed supports for capacity and infrastructure. Identified needs were developed into regional proposals to access additional funds that were earmarked for augmenting regional infrastructure and capacity towards the governance and stewardship of First Nations COVID-19 data. Although not limited to these examples, identified needs included analytical reporting/knowledge translation; human resources or consultants; software, technology or IT infrastructure; the development of policies and procedures, governance structures, or data sharing agreements; or relationship building and engagements.

FNIGC received nine regional proposals for capacity and infrastructure projects which are currently underway.

In the summer of 2021, FNIGC was invited by Health Canada to consider accessing funds from the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) for current and prospective COVID-19 data-related undertakings.



The objectives under the Data Management stream include:

-  closing pressing COVID-19 data and equity gaps;
-  increasing access to timely, robust data and interoperability at a local; provincial/territorial, and national level;
-  modernizing health information systems; and
-  advancing the adoption of common data and technical standards to streamline data collection, use and sharing.

FNIGC is using these funds to enhance capacity and infrastructure to support the fourth and current phase of the First Nations Regional Health Survey (RHS 4). More specifically, this funding will help mitigate increased complexity and burden associated with the pandemic, ultimately supporting the safe collection of important COVID-19, health, and wellness data. Funding can support but is not limited to enhanced person-level capacity to support coordination efforts as a result of the pandemic; securing necessary technologies to support remote data collection and management; mental wellness supports to support collection teams and respondents; and increased training needs.

In addition to RHS 4, FNIGC will be using SRA funds to support ongoing and additional COVID-19 data capacity and infrastructure work with its First Nations partners. Areas of continued work can include relationship-building with rights holders and data providers; data policies, standards, methods, and tools; data collection; research and analysis; and data dissemination. To date, six regional proposals have been received and are currently underway.

THE FIRST NATIONS DATA CENTRE

During 2021–2022, the First Nations Data Centre (FNDC) team was comprised of **Maria Santos** (Manager) and **Drew Pihlainen** (Research Analyst), who continued to explore ways to improve on and expand on the FNDC's user experience.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, FNIGC implemented new means of accessing data at FNDC that do not require travelling to our Ottawa office, including revised policies, procedures and agreements. These efforts were continued through 2021–2022.

The FNDC team also evaluated and improved on processes associated with data access, including revised tools for reviewing data requests and increased the frequency of meetings of the internal data access review committee to quarterly to help streamline the data request process.

Further, the team designed a user survey meant to be filled out by data centre users in an effort to identify further improvements to processes and procedures.

In addition to our ongoing improvements to the FNDC, FNIGC is a standing member of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) Research Advisory Committee. As part of this responsibility, FNIGC contributed to the [CRDCN Strategic Research Roadmap 2021-2024](#) which was published in May 2021. It has also identified several opportunities for capacity development.



In addition, the FNDC team has responded to numerous data requests related to the Assembly of First Nations' Housing and Infrastructure survey. This initiative has demonstrated FNIGC's capacity for warehousing and analyzing data that exists externally to FNIGC, which could serve to inform regional capacity and infrastructure efforts as a result of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

FNDC RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 2021–2022, all research projects using the FNDC were done remotely via researchers sharing their syntax for the FNIGC analyst to run. In doing so, the FNIGC analyst works closely with the researchers on their projects.

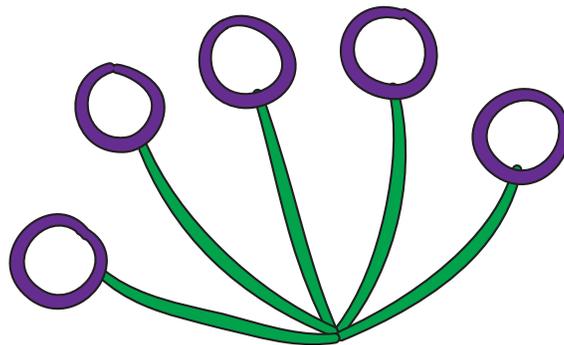
Drs. Robyn McQuaid and Amy Bombay continue their work on the intergenerational impact of Indian Residential School attendance and have a forthcoming publication that looks at residential school history, parent-child separations, and mental health which is in the final stages of review.

Lamia Akbar, a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto, conducted research as part of her Ph.D. thesis using RHS Phase 3 Adult and Youth data. Lamia's research objective is to investigate the relationship between cultural continuity factors and weight classification for First Nations youth and weight classification and Type 2 Diabetes in adults within Canada. Cultural factors that will be examined include traditional foods, activities, language use, and community involvement. The long-term goal is to advocate for the incorporation of cultural factors and Indigenous frameworks in health programs for First Nations peoples.

Dr. Herenia Lawrence (University of Toronto) is examining the association between cannabis use and oral health indicators using RHS Phase 3 Adult and Youth data. This project will explore the association between self-rated oral health (and other oral health indicators) and cannabis use, for both recreational and medicinal purposes.

Lamia Akbar and Dr. Herenia Lawrence's requests have both been approved by the Data Access Review Committee and are in the process of reviewing the data sharing agreement.

In addition, the FNDC's Data Access Review Committee approved a national data request from ISC to support the release of [General-Purpose Custom Tables](#) to support program evaluation and planning within their department. Specifically, a subset of food security variables was provided in order to support the ongoing evaluation of the Nutrition North program.





EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In January 2022, FNIGC created a stand-alone Education and Training unit in an effort to ensure consistent administration of its various training initiatives. Overseen by **Kristine Neglia**, Manager of Education and Training, this new unit is responsible for: FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course, our OCAP® workshops and presentations, the FNIGC National Student Bursary. Kristine's team includes **Bianca Martin**, Education Coordinator and **Lorraine Cheechoo**, who provides part-time program administration support.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF OCAP®

Public interest in The First Nations Principles of OCAP® remained strong throughout 2021–2022, which was reflected in historically high enrolment in FNIGC's *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course. Registrations to the OCAP® course increased by more than 76%, with 2,591 individuals enrolling during the past fiscal year, which marks the highest annual number in the history of the course. Of these registrants, 1,865 successfully completed the course and received Statements of Achievement.

Work on the revisions to *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* course continued during 2021–2022, with the Education and Training unit working with an Education Advisory Committee made up of First Nation subject matter experts. The Committee was charged with reviewing the current course content, identifying and providing input into updated content, and supporting the creative concept process.

FIRST NATIONS PRINCIPLES OF OCAP® WORKSHOPS

FNIGC also saw a record demand for OCAP® workshops and presentations. During the 2021–2022 year the Education and Training team facilitated 35 sessions, which included 20 presentations, 12 workshops, two Keynote speeches, and one panel discussion. More than 2,600 individuals combined attended the sessions, increasing their knowledge about OCAP® and data sovereignty.

Of the sessions, nearly half were with not-for-profit or non-government organizations, with the balance divided among universities, government departments, First Nations, First Nations organizations, and other types of organizations.

FNIGC NATIONAL STUDENT BURSARY

For 10 years, the FNIGC National Student Bursary has been awarded annually to exceptional First Nations students enrolled full-time in college or university. Recipients are chosen following a review of applications by a committee established by the FNIGC Board of Directors.

In 2021–2022 FNIGC was pleased to announce the recipients of the 11th annual bursary: Courtney Defriend, Tasha Shields, Keith Wood Brooks, and Latiya Northwest. Each received \$2,500 and free registration to *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online course. To learn more about this year's bursary winners go to the Our Impact section of the annual report on Page 17.



FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

The recruitment of two key positions at FNIGC to lead the implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS, or the Strategy) in the fall of 2021 has marked a critical first step to ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategy.

Erin Corston, Director, and **Gonzague Guéranger**, Special Advisor, are responsible for the coordination of 10 regional Data Champion Teams, who together, will deliver on results and outcomes as set by FNIGC's Board of Directors.

The 2021–2022 year was a pivotal period, featuring an important announcement and further progress towards Phase 1 implementation of the FNDGS. On April 19, 2021 the federal government released *Budget 2021* which included \$73.5 million over three years to “continue development and implementation of a First Nations Data Governance Strategy,” \$51 million of which was earmarked for FNIGC and its partners to advance Phase 1 of the FNDGS. This commitment is recognition of the role Indigenous-led data strategies play in self-determination and how gaps in data capacity can be sustainably addressed.

Following the budget announcement, FNIGC and its partners engaged regions in the development of a multi-year implementation plan for Phase 1 to ensure the path forward would continue to be informed by First Nations rights holders.

An implementation plan has since been approved by FNIGC's Board of Directors detailing Phase 1 national objectives including a set of priority workstreams, core deliverables, accountability and risk mitigation frameworks, and equitable funding allocations across regions. The plan was submitted to ISC in March 2022 to inform the Treasury Board and Memorandum to Cabinet approval processes. Phase 1 work is expected to be completed within three to four years beginning fiscal in 2022–2023. For the first time, regions will have dedicated full-time resources to focus solely on building data governance capacities in support of their communities, governments, and service delivery organizations.

Funds from *Budget 2021* will be transferred to FNIGC's 10 Regional Partners, supporting one Data Champion Team in each region along with one at the national level.

The primary task for these Data Champion Teams in Phase 1 will be to engage and support communities and leadership in shaping and forming the foundations (or blueprints) towards the creation of fully functional regional information governance centres; ones that will be built in their own image to meet their unique needs.

The Strategy provides First Nations communities and leadership with an opportunity to build permanent capacities needed to own, govern, and leverage the power of their data, and to exercise their rights over their data and information.

The graphic on page 17 highlights the five priority workstreams have been identified for Phase 1 implementation at the regional level. Most streams build on previous ones, but several could advance concurrently.



Similar priority workstreams have been set by FNIGC’s Board of Directors to guide the work at the national level.

Consistent with the Phase 1 implementation plan at the national level, the national Data Champion Team will review FNIGC’s governance and By-law #1 to ensure it is commensurate with the organization’s expanded mandate and scope of responsibilities that would be expected with establishing a national network of information governance centres. The team will work with the appropriate committees of the Board and bring recommendations back to the full Board of Directors and to Members of the Corporation for approval.

OUR IMPACT

As a First Nations organization, FNIGC is committed to supporting the health and well-being of First Nations people and their families through our daily work and actions. This section of our Annual Report provides an overview of the social impact of our work during the 2021–2022 fiscal year. This includes fundraising for First Nations organizations, taking part in social awareness days, and supporting the next generation of First Nations leaders in their post-secondary studies.

50/50 DRAWS

Throughout the fiscal year, FNIGC staff held four 50/50 draws to raise money for organizations working to improve the lives of First Nations people across the country. This fiscal year, FNIGC staff raised \$600 to be donated to the following organizations:

-  [Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#)
-  [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
-  [Conayt Friendship Centre](#)
-  [Project George \(Moose Cree First Nation\)](#)



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30, 2021, marked the inaugural federal statutory holiday: the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In honour of the new holiday, FNIGC recognized this day as a paid holiday and officially closed its offices. Staff were encouraged to participate in community events, and take the day to honour Indian Residential School Survivors, reflect on their lasting impact, and spread awareness of reconciliation efforts.

FNIGC NATIONAL STUDENT BURSARY

This year we were pleased to announce the recipients of the 11th annual FNIGC National Student Bursary program. This year's recipients are Courtney Defriend, Tasha Shields, Keith Wood Brooks, and Latiya Northwest. 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 Education and Training team, 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 2021 Bursary Winners

Courtney Defriend (Ti'yugtunat) is Coast Salish from Stz'uminus First Nation on Vancouver Island and is also of European descent. Courtney lives on Snuneymuxw territory with her young daughter, husband, and three pets. With a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care and a Master of Arts in Leadership, Courtney applies a trauma-informed and systemic lens to her doctoral studies, which focuses on accessibility of health services for First Nations people. Courtney started her career in services with Indigenous children and families. After 13 years, she moved into working in community based health services with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). Her work in mental health alongside Vancouver Island First Nations communities has led her to her current work with the provincial research team within the FNHA. In addition to her work and school interests, Courtney is a published author and above all, enjoys family time.

Tasha Shields lives in St. Thomas, Ontario, and is of First Nations (Oneida of the Thames) and European ancestry. Tasha completed her Bachelor of Arts in Community Health and a post-graduate certificate in Workplace Wellness and Health Promotion before entering the workforce. After working as a policy analyst at a provincial Indigenous organization, she returned to school, earning a Master's in Public Health (MPH) in 2013. Since completing her MPH she has worked on several complex Indigenous health research projects, inspiring her to work towards her next educational goal. She is now pursuing a doctoral degree in Public Health at the University of Waterloo. Tasha is passionate about supporting Indigenous businesses and artists.

Keith Wood Brooks is Cree from God's Lake Narrows, Manitoba. Currently he is finishing his Honour's degree in economics, specializing in econometrics at the University of Manitoba and plans on doing his Master's in Economics in fall 2022. He was inspired to study economics as a way to better understand the economic gap between First Nations and Canadians, and he plans to one day work in economic development. Growing up in an isolated First Nations community made him think deeply about why



economic inequality exists and why it persists today, especially for remote communities like his. Besides school, his time is mostly spent with his lovely eight-month-old daughter, working, and being active. He works out at the gym between three to six days a week depending on how busy he is. He also plays hockey on Sundays if he can.

Latiya Northwest is a *nehiyaw iskwew* (Cree woman) from Samson Cree Nation, Alberta. She is currently working towards a combined Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences and Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies program at the University of Alberta. While attending university, she sat on her community’s Nipîy (water) Committee that manages their own water affairs, as well as the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee at the university for the 2021–2022 year. While attending school, she works as a Plains Cree language teaching assistant for an introductory class at the university.

Since it was established more than a decade ago, FNIGC’s National Student Bursary program has awarded more than \$53,000 to 27 First Nations post-secondary students across Canada.



Top: Latiya Northwest, Keith Wood Brooks Bottom: Courtney Defriend, Tasha Shields



BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021-2022)

Leona Star, Chair (Manitoba)
Amber Potts, Co-Chair (Assembly of First Nations)
Gwen Phillips, Treasurer (British Columbia)
Mindy Denny, Secretary (Nova Scotia and Newfoundland)
Kristeen McTavish (Yukon)
Snookie Catholique (Northwest Territories)
Lea Bill (Alberta)
Martin Paul (Saskatchewan)
Carmen Jones (Ontario)
Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh (Quebec and Labrador)
Peter Birney (New Brunswick and PEI)
Claudette Commanda (Elder Advisor)
Jonathan Dewar (Chief Executive Officer)

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERS (2021-2022)

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

Albert Armieri, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Tania Budgell, Senior Executive Assistant
Aaron Franks, Senior Advisor, External Relation & Strategic Initiatives

CORPORATE SERVICES

Jonathan Plante, Director, Corporate Services
Karen Yundt, Human Resources Advisor

Brad Mackay, Manager, Communications
Briana Linton, Knowledge Translation Officer
Lorraine Cheechoo, Programs Assistant
Meghan Perry, Senior Manager, Information Management & Information Technology
Wes McGraw, Information Technology Analyst
Kota Jade, Information Management & Information Technology Student
Tania Dube, Acting Finance Manager & Financial Analyst
Alex LaFrance, Finance and Payroll Coordinator
Adam Rutledge, Financial Analyst
Kristine Neglia, Senior Manager, Education and Training
Bianca Martin, Education Coordinator

NATIONAL STRATEGY COORDINATION

Erin Corston, Director, National Strategy Coordination
Gonzague Guéranger, Special Advisor

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Albert Armieri, Director, Research & Information
Peigi Wilson, Research Manager, OCAP® & Information Governance
Melissa Dane, Research Officer (On Leave)
Amy Nahwegahbow, Senior Research Advisor
Claudia Meness, Junior Research Officer
Fei Xu, Senior Statistician
Lyndsy Gracie, Program Officer
Katie Wood, Survey Manager
Kyla Marcoux, Survey Manager
Xinyu Qiao, Statistical Data Analyst
Xuejing Jiang, Statistical Data Analyst
Katrina Brant, Administrative Assistant
Micere Thuku, Research Analyst
James Allen, Research Analyst
Joel Jocko, Junior Research Officer
Maria Santos, Senior Manager, Public Health Data Initiatives & First Nations Data Centre
Drew Pihlainen, Program Manager, First Nations Data Centre
Magnolia Perron, Junior Research Officer
Nadia Green, Research Student, Health Data Initiatives
Alana Roscoe, Program Manager, Research & Information



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