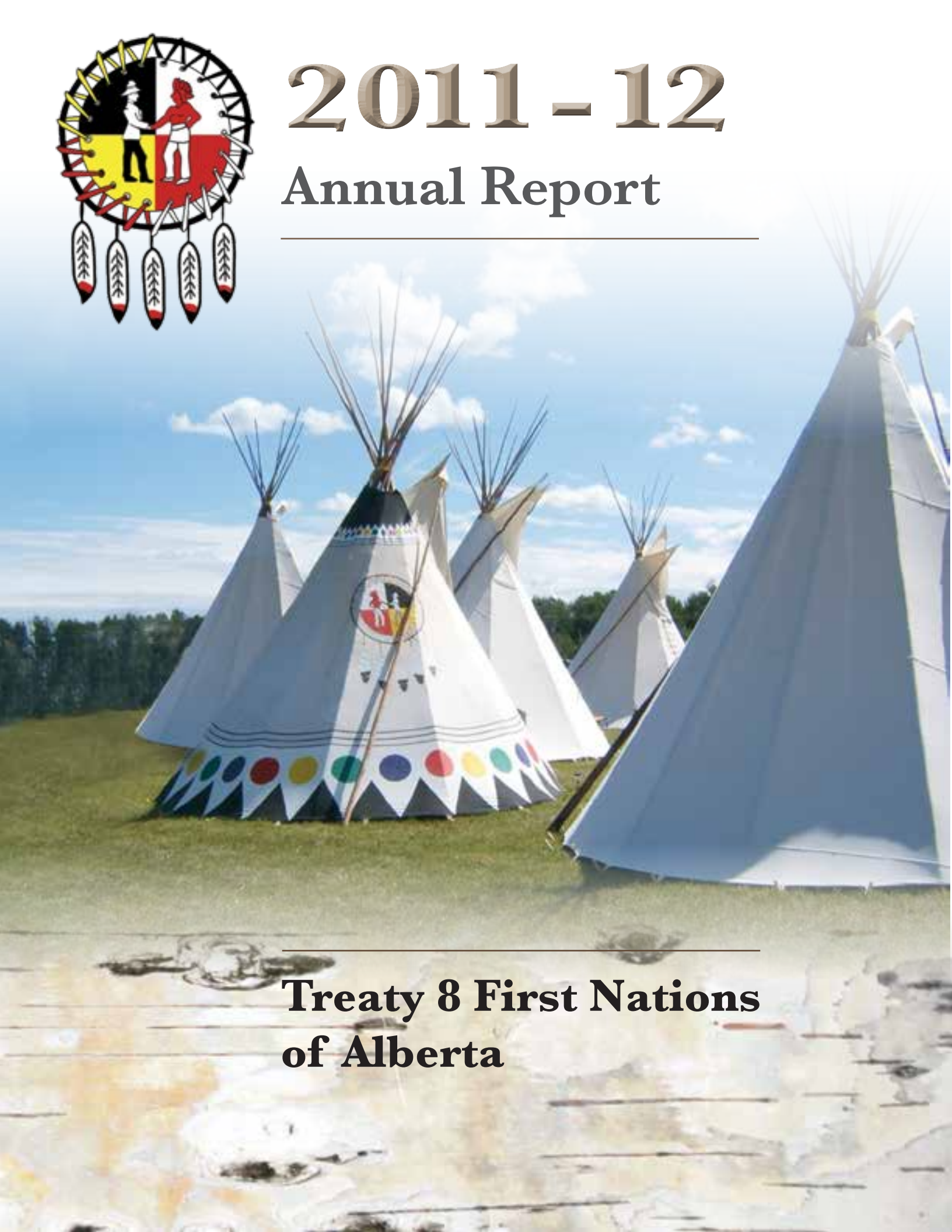
2011 - 12

Annual Report



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

24 First Nations in Treaty No. 8
(Alberta)

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Beaver First Nation

Bigstone First Nation

Chipewyan Prairie First Nation

Dene Tha' First Nation

Driftpile First Nation

Duncan's First Nation

Fort McKay First Nation

Fort McMurray First Nation

Horse Lake First Nation

Kapawe'no First Nation

Little Red River Cree First Nation

Loon River First Nation

Lubicon Lake First Nation

Mikisew Cree First Nation

Peerless Trout First Nation

Sawridge First Nation

Sturgeon Lake First Nation

Smith's Landing First Nation

Sucker Creek First Nation

Swan River First Nation

Tallcree Tribal Government

Whitefish Lake First Nation

Woodland First Nation

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Message from The Grand Chief

Grand Chief Richard Kappo

To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow.

Elders, Fellow Chiefs, Council members and the People of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment, hard work and perseverance that the administration and leadership has demonstrated in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

On behalf of the T8FNA Executive Board I am pleased to present this 2011-2012 Annual Report, the 34 pages will capture an insight into each departments activities, events and successes.

I must admit that the role as Grand Chief is one that requires a lot of sacrifice and commitment and responsibility. Immediately after last year's T8FNA Election is has been a whirlwind of activities, events and meetings.

Over the year we have had several senior official meetings with Minister Duncan's (INAC) office as well with George Arcand, Regional Director General. We discussed new and pending legislation Bill C-10, Bill C-3, Bill –S-2, Education, Environment-Economic, Child Welfare and Health.

We have had our scheduled Assemblies of Treaty Chiefs and two special assemblies in my term. We also attended AFN Special Chiefs Assemblies as well the annual AGM. We presented Alberta Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Position papers at the Crown First Nations Gathering also to HRH Prince of Wales (Charles).

This year we had a federal election where a majority Progressive Conservative (PC) Government took power. There was also a Provincial Election where a majority Progressive Conservative Government remains in power today.

Our work with the Government of Alberta continues in areas such as the Protocol Agreement, Education MOU, Environment, Children and Family Services to mention a few.

In closing let's not forget our ancestors whose spirits we call upon, let's not forget our recently departed and cherish those with us whether they are sick, homeless, lost, in care, incarcerated or taken from their families.

Thank you for all of the support offered to me during my term as your Grand Chief as mentioned in my opening statement this role requires a lot of sacrifice, commitment and responsibility. You also carry these responsibilities and can continue by giving your support to the incoming Grand Chief and Deputy Chief.

In friendship

Richard Kappo

Grand Chief Kappo

Message from The Chief Operating Officer

Joseph Jobin

Elders, Chiefs, Youth, Employees and all members of Treaty No. 8, I am pleased to introduce our 2011 – 2012 Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta (T8FNA) Annual Report. T8FNA is always happy to take every opportunity to report on our activities and this year, we once again have a great deal of info to share.

The Elders and T8FNA Executive Board have provided a strong and positive contribution to the ability to focus on our Treaty and Aboriginal rights. The Elders and Executive Board gave their time, guidance and direction to T8FNA while at the same time, serving their people and communities and fulfilling their duties and obligations. The Elders have shown their support in a strong way; T8FNA is appreciative and grateful for their valuable information, insight, and particularly their prayers that we know not only helps and protect us but also to motivate us in the very important work that we do.

The employees of T8 are outstanding group of individuals through difficult and busy times; they have shown they are dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced in a variety of ways that complement not only each other but T8FNA as a whole. The staff is definitely to be commended for their continuing efforts to perform their duties and responsibilities without hesitation and with motivation.

T8FNA extends its thanks to all those who have contributed to our operations and success in the past and have nothing but best wishes for them in their future endeavors!

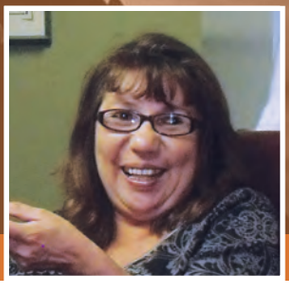
Financially, as reported by the Auditors, we maintained strong operating results with an unqualified audit and no deficit. This puts T8FNA in a strong position to maintain operations and continue to advocate for lasting recognition of our Treaty Rights.

There continues to be numerous issues arising at a very fast pace and from all directions, particularly with the Government of Alberta. We are, however, confident with the Elders, Chiefs and the Executive Board's support and direction, we will continue on the right path. Working together can only make us more effective, and help us to reach our goal of success for all our people and communities in Treaty 8 territory!

2011 – 2012 has been another year for changes and adjustments for T8FNA and although faced with challenging and difficult circumstances during the year, T8FNA continues to ensure that the circumstances are dealt with as smoothly and efficiently as possible. It is the intention of T8FNA to remain true to the vision and intent of Treaty No. 8 and they are put at the forefront of all T8 initiatives.

Event PHOTOS

Intergovernmental Initiatives
INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP (IAWG)



Darlene Plamondon, *Director of Intergovernmental Relations & Administration*

I am pleased to present a summary of activities for the 2011-2012 fiscal year under the umbrella of Intergovernmental Relations.

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP (IAWG):

The IAWG is composed of appointed representatives from the three Treaty areas who are employed in Service Delivery programs such as; HRD, Social Development, Education and Health. The Representatives from Treaty 8 are Connie Giroux Snelling, HRD/Social Development Director and Penny Laboucan, KTC HRD Director. Representatives from Alberta Human Services and INAC also sit on this committee.

The IAWG meets every two months to address common issues related to Skills Development, Training and Labour market participation. INAC funds this working group under the "Active Measures" component. We are funded on a year-to-year basis with no commitment to continue funding beyond March 31st of each fiscal year.

In January 2012 the IAWG held a strategic planning workshop to focus on the multi-barrier concerns. A long term "Employment Development Strategy" proposal was developed. A brief summary of the proposal was presented to the Treaty 8 Chiefs on March 16th and was unanimously supported for submission to Minister John Duncan. The proposal was hand delivered to Minister Duncan by the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 Grand Chiefs on March 17th, 2012. We have received verbal confirmation that the Minister is in support of the Proposal and will be sending a formal response to the Grand Chiefs.

THE PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- identify and support effective and efficient delivery of client based services in the First Nation communities.
- ensure First Nations communities and key partners exchange information and have knowledge about success stories, programs and services, partnership opportunities and funding to increase active labour market participation and training.
- actively support current and potential front line staff to develop the knowledge skills and abilities needed to deliver effective and comprehensive programs and services.
- undertake research and analysis on key issues and impacts so that First Nations leadership, communities and delivery agents can proactively and effectively influence policy, program design and program implementation.

On January 15th & 16th, 2012 Treaty 8 IAWG co-hosted a Job-Career Fair with Oteenow at the Ramada Inn and Conference Centre in Edmonton. 44 registrations from Industry, hospitality, training institutions and First Nation owned businesses. There were other companies that wished to participate however due to limitations of booth space we could not accommodate them all.

The MC introduced several key speakers at the main stage throughout the two days. Ovide Mercredi, a very prominent leader and Spokesman for the Treaties 1-11 Movement made a positive and encouraging speech to the audience on economic and employment opportunities. Other speakers included Treaty 8 Grand Chief Richard Kappo – Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Chief James Ahnassay, Dene Tha First Nation and Treaty 8 Chief Operating Officer, Joseph Jobin.

In March 2012, the Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 IAWG Directors were invited to attend the annual INAC Active Measures conference and present on multi-barrier clients.

SOME OF THE KEY AREAS ADDRESSED IN THE PRESENTATION ARE:

- Addressing the multi-barrier clients is a process that needs collaboration and support from all program areas.
- Federal & Provincial policies need to be amended to provide additional needed resources for the multi-barrier clients.
- UN Declaration Article 19 “States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.”
- First Nation people object to the policies enforced by government without any input or consultation with the First Nation peoples.
- Changes to the existing system need to be made. The current policies do not met the needs of our people.
- Many existing programs and services are becoming more results based and outcome driven, with these results often being linked to a dollar value or cost
- The funding guidelines/policies are albeit necessary for gaging success but often create additional financial barriers that are not in the control of service providers.
- Policies impact and limit access to services needed by multi-barrier clients, resulting in a failure to meet clients needs adequately
- The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs 2012 Winter session, a resolution was unanimously passed by the Chiefs to address Learner Benefits Notice of Assessments.
- First Nations have identified the need to address the Social Policy Manual policies that do not work for the First Nations.
- First Nations have expressed the desire to develop their own policies.

CHILD, FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Over the course of the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 fiscal years, the Government of Alberta worked with the Treaty 6, 7 & 8 PTO’s to draft a proposed Tripartite MOU on Child & Family Services. INAC was formally invited to participate in these discussions during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The Treaty 6, 7 & 8 Chiefs were updated on the activities during this time and in August 2011 a special Assembly of Treaty 8 Chiefs meeting was held to address the proposed MOU on CFYS. At that meeting the Chiefs in Assembly voiced their concerns that the project was moving too fast and the communities were not engaged nor consulted on this very important issue.

The Chiefs in Assembly agreed that more work and communication needed to happen before considering a Tripartite MOU on CFYS. The PTO's informed the Province and the Federal government about the concerns expressed by the Alberta Chiefs.

The Delegated First Nation Agency (DFNA) directors met with the Treaty 8 Chiefs on March 16th to provide them with an update and recommendations to go forward on addressing the outstanding concerns on Child, Family & Youth Services. The following are some of the recommendations tabled with the Treaty 8 Chiefs in Assembly:

- Band Designate to be a full-time paid position
- Foster parents must acknowledge foster homes are short term placements and case workers responsible to find First Nation family members willing to care for the First Nation Children
- A Treaty 8 representative needs to be appointed to the Administrative Review & Appeal panel
- An off-reserve office established to case manage off reserve First Nation Children in-care
- Develop a business plan for an off-reserve office based on best practices of the DFNA's
- Band Council Resolutions to be included with Private Guardianship applications & orders
- Cultural plans to be developed along with Private Guardianship applications
- Band Designate to be responsible for off-reserve parent consent forms

In January 2012, the Federal and Provincial government approved Work plans and budgets for the 3 Treaty areas to conduct community information gathering sessions on CFYS. The recommendations brought forward from the Community sessions reiterate what the DFNA Directors are saying:

- Making the Band Designate position a paid full time position
- Identify children in care from the Treaty 8 First Nations who are currently residing in other Provinces.
- Explore the Child & Family Services legislative Acts and policies and provide a summary of their involvement with First Nations communities.
- Potential to develop a First Nations Child & Family services Act
- DFNA case workers should be Registered Social Workers
- An off-reserve office established to ensure children in-care have kinship or community care
- Repatriation of Children in-care

The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta extends their thank you and appreciation to the Treaty 8 DFNA's Directors for their support, expertise and recommendations to improve services for children in-care.

Treaty Relations

Coordinator Gwen Muskwa

"We must look back in order to go forward" [1]

"For Treaty 8 First Nations people, our Treaty is more than a parchment document. It represents an invoked part of the Creator, a spirit called to come and live among the newcomers and First Nations people, to guide all through uncertain times and to keep us warm when the cold winds of ignorance threaten to isolate us from the rest of the human community. The intended residence of this spirit is not in the paper itself; rather it is to live among the people that are bound to each other by their spoken and written word.

The spirit of Treaty 8 is about the peace and friendship and those are perhaps the greatest gifts that one people can share with another. And that is why First Nations people have struggled diligently for one hundred years to ensure that the Aboriginal knowledge of Treaty 8 is brought to bear.

The lack of will by the Canadian governing systems to listen to our Elders and leaders has made the last one hundred years of treaty a hard and dark time. The Treaty's spirit has been tethered and held in curiosity. Yet we persist and wish to press forward to benefit from the strength of that spirit that has yet to be fully realized." [2]

The above quote comes from the book "Vision Quest – Oti nekan" that was developed for the 100 year commemoration of Treaty No. 8 in 1999. One hundred and thirteen years later we continue our struggle with the Government of Canada to honor the true spirit and intent of our Treaty. It is our Elders who have this knowledge, traditions, language and oral history of our Treaty and we need to listen to them to honor all they have done and to follow in their footsteps. Like the title of this page states "we must look back in order to go forward" we must go back to our traditional systems of governance, culture and language. The Elders have provided and continue to provide their recommendations and knowledge to us, it is now up to us to use this knowledge and continue to move forward.

"LET'S PUT OUR MINDS TOGETHER TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OUR CHILDREN"
Chief Sitting Bull

TREATY 8 ELDERS

We are truly blessed to have had so many great Elders who served on the Treaty 8 Elders Council but it sad that we have lost so many of them recently. We will continue our fight in their honor and look at one day implementing the "true spirit and intent" of Treaty No. 8.

JJ Isadore

Punchy Whitehead

Gabe Meneen

The **Elders Focus Group** continue to meet quarterly however this year we only met three times as our budget was cut significantly. We met in June 2011, September 2011 and March 2012. The Elders continue to provide their input on the various issues facing our First Nations and on the work that we do here at Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. We have started to catalogue and categorize their concerns so we can bring those concerns and recommendations forward to the Executive Board and Assembly of Treaty 8 Chiefs. We have shared with the Elders the recent bylaw and strategic plan that was developed by the Chiefs and Executive Board which has a renewed focus on Treaty.

[1] Vision Quest, Treaty 8 Centennial Commemoration, page 25
[2] Vision Quest, Treaty 8 Centennial Commemoration page 25, by Don Lewis Lee Cardinal

The **Treaty 8 Elder's Advisory Council** met in July 2011 at the "Honouring our Treaty" gathering in Fort Chipewyan. The gathering was a success again and this year it was a bit more challenging as Fort Chipewyan is a fly-in community, so we had to ensure flights for participants were looked after, arranging barges to get all the supplies and billeting rooms within the community. A special thank you to all the community members who opened up their homes to the Chiefs, Elders and membership and made them feel so welcome.

We would like to thank both Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Mikisew Cree Nation for hosting this event and to Chief Allan Adam and Chief Steve Courtorielle for making us feel so welcome in their community. We would like to acknowledge and thank Margaret Whiteknife who did a great job coordinating the gathering on the First Nation's behalf.

Honouring our Treaty 2011 hosted by Mikisew Cree Nation and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation July 2011 – Grand Entry

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

This year we were fortunate to have visited many of our First Nation communities with the Children's Agenda and Education team to provide an update on Treaty Discussions and proposed Alberta Treaty Commission. We believe that membership needs to be informed and engaged in the work we do at the office, after all it is they who ultimately gives various mandates to their leadership and that we can help facilitate and advocate on those various issues impacting them in their communities.

Little Red River Cree Nation: Welcome Sign

Getting ready to board the plane to Fox Lake, AB. Elders Coordinator: Dustin Twin. Children's Agenda staff: Lynn Muskwa & Raelynn Lamouche

TREATY COMMISSION

We continue our work on exploring the possibility of the Alberta Treaty Commission. We held a Special AOTC March 14-15th, 2012 at the Ramada Inn. At the request of the Chiefs, we asked INAC to put funding in place to have citizen engagements directly with the First Nations to inform them of the Treaty Commission and to gather their input. The team will be going to your community in the summer of 2012 to seek your input and recommendation on the Treaty Commission.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the Elders, their prayers, wisdom and knowledge that assist us in all the work we do at the Treaty 8 office!

"As long as the sun shines,
the grass grows,
and waters flow."

ELDERS

Livelihood

Message from Chief of Livelihood – Chief Leon Chalifoux, Swan River First Nation:

The Livelihood department consisting of Consultation, Environment, Land Management and Resource Development continues its role in providing coordination, facilitation and advocacy services and functions on 'livelihood' related issues. With the collective direction of the Chiefs Livelihood Committee and the assistance of the Consultation Technical team (list attached), the Livelihood department continues to ensure all related information is shared with the member First Nations and to promote a unified and collective voice that will be heard locally, regionally and nationally.

Chief James Ahnassay

Chief Leon Chalifoux

Joseph Jobin is the Chief Operating Officer for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

On June, 2011 Kevin Ahkimnachie was hired as the Land Management & Resource Development Manager and is currently the interim Director of Livelihood until such time the Land & Resource Manager is filled.

As of August 2011, Nora Alook accepted a position with the Health Department as the Co-Management Liaison. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Nora for the many years she had invested in the Livelihood Department and to wish her the very best in her new position with Health. Upon Nora's departure, Freida Cardinal was hired as the Executive Assistant for the Livelihood department.

SOME OF THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS LAST YEAR;

- Conducting a successful rally on September 26th, 2011. (Over 600+ in attendance)
- Working with First Nations in building a case for litigation for Public Lands Administration Regulation (PLAR)
- Regional Session on Land, Water and Treaty Rights in November 2011.
- Initiating working relationships with University of Calgary and University of Alberta.

RALLY

On September 26, 2011 Chiefs, Councils, First Nation Members and supporters of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights gathered at the Alberta Provincial Legislature to protest against the Provincial Acts, Regulations and Policies that may infringe our Treaty rights. Treaty # 6, # 7 and # 8 Chiefs spoke on the protection and sacredness of the Treaty and what it means for the federal government to uphold its fiduciary obligations. Aboriginal Affairs Critic, Linda Duncan, (NDP) M.P., Brian Mason, (NDP) M.L.A. and AFNs' National Chief Shaun A-in-Chut Atleo were in attendance.

CONSULTATION

The Government of Alberta's review process has included over a year of gathering input from industry, municipalities and First Nations. The First Nation PTOs have submitted Consultation Position Papers sharing

their views on First Nations consultation. The process included Sub-table meetings in 2011 and the First Nations asked for more time to discuss the policy with the Government of Alberta; the Government refused. The 2012 election pushed the release date for the Consultation Policy further. A new Aboriginal Relations Ministry was created and Robin Campbell was named the Aboriginal Relations Minister. Government of Alberta will send out draft Consultation Policy to Alberta First Nations for review when it is released. First Nations will have 30 days to review and provide feedback.

LIVELIHOOD REGIONAL SESSION

In November 2011, the Livelihood department held its Regional Session in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Topics were on Land, Water and Treaty rights. The following were presenters at the Session:

Roseanne Kyle, JFK (Janes Freedman Kyle) Law Firm, presented on PLAR (Public Lands Administration Regulation); Alberta claims PLAR is needed to manage access to and use of public lands in Alberta.

Clayton Leonard, MLT Law Firm, presented on First Nation's Water Rights and the Duty to Consult and Accommodate

Bruce Gladue, Alberta Government's Energy Resource Conservation Board (ERCB), presented on the functions of ERCB and how they engage with First Nations and elaborated on Directive 56 (consultation methods).

Treaty 8 Tribal Association BC Chiefs presented on Site C Dam and expressed concern over the cumulative effects, loss of traditional way of life, animal scarcity, Treaty rights and identified the next steps. Chiefs Liz Logan, Roland Willson, Lynette Tsakoza and other Treaty 8 Tribal Association technicians presented on Site C Dam.

University of Calgary's Dr. David Lertzman and Conroy Sewepagaham presented on environment and consultation process.

Overall, the Regional Session was a success.

BILL S-8 is the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act; the Bill was introduced in the Senate on February 29th, 2012. The Government of Canada, the Provinces and First Nations will be working together to draft water legislation for the First Nation reserves in the future. Bill S-8 contains a clause stating "Government of Canada will incorporate Provincial and Territorial water regulations, acts and laws on the First Nation communities." The Bill was read in the House of Commons on June 19th, 2012 for first reading.

SITE C Treaty 8 Tribal Association has been in communication with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta on the proposed Site C project since the fall 2011. There have been numerous teleconference calls and one presentation on Site C project in November 2011 at Grande Prairie, Alberta. The Treaty 8 Tribal Association has been opposing the project since early 1980's and continue their fight. To date, the federal government has confirmed that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) and the Fisheries Act will apply to the Site C Power Project on the Peace River. Treaty 8 Tribal Association is opposed that CEAA and Fisheries Act should apply to Site C.

Regulatory Enhancement Project (REP) is a proposed amalgamation of ERCB, Alberta Environment and SRD as one regulator. There have been a few advances on REP since last year. The Policy Management Office has been established. It is anticipated that they will be fully operational by the end of 2012. Executive Advisor expects the introduction of legislation later this year to support the establishment of the integrated single regulator. Policy Management Office will also be responsible for the public engagement component and the risk and performance management components of REP.

Lucilia Pereira has recently been appointed as the Executive Advisor to the Chief Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the Regulatory Enhancement Project.

Public Land Administration Regulation (PLAR) was enacted August 25, 2011; the Regulation came into effect September 12, 2011:

- Government of Alberta's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were posted on Sustainable Resources Development (SRD) website on September 21st, 2011 (revised SOPs were again posted on March 21, 2012 on SRD's website)
- Roseanne Kyle, Janes Freedman Kyle Law and Clayton Leonard, MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman, were retained to do a judicial review. Costs were estimated at $250,000. Judicial review will focus on infringement of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights as a number of the provisions in the proposed Regulation would infringe Treaty Rights.
- Adequate consultation in relation to the Regulation has not occurred with First Nations to date.
- The Judicial Review was filed on Friday, January 20th, 2012.
- The Judicial Review hearing was slated for June 19, 2012. JFK and MLT Law Firms have not issued any media releases about this lawsuit. Further information will be forthcoming.

BOREAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Caribou

- Caribou action planning – methodology for development and implementation complementary to Canadian Boreal forest Agreement (CBFA)
- Advance integrated caribou conservation

Protected areas

- Support development and implementation of protected areas and develop methodological framework that delivers assessment, identification and implementation of protected areas
- Increase protected areas to 50%

Water and wetlands

- Work to advance provincial wetland policy and integrated caribou conservation efforts.
- Improve trans-boundary ecosystem-based water management

Other

- Advancing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Aboriginal engagement and co-management
- Advancing a sound framework for conservation and environmental management in areas affected by oil and gas development with stakeholders in the region defining what the key pieces of that framework would be.

University of Calgary (HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS)

Treaty 8 Livelihood department, Dr. Lertzman and Conroy Sewepagaham have confirmed and agreed to a partnership in June 2012. The start of a partnership with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta unofficially began in November 2011. The Treaty 8 First Nations Livelihood Department and University of Calgary will plan and undertake a study; the primary focus in the proposal for a study was to develop tools for communicating cumulative effects on traditional lands and for the development and delivery of educational training materials to help people understand the petroleum industry and how it works. A report will be shared at the end of 2012.

University of Alberta (INDIGENOUS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND GLOBAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES)

Dr. Makere Stewart Harawira and Angelica Maria Quesada have been working with Treaty 8 First Nations on some initiatives in the past and new working relationships are being established namely in environmental protection, conservation, water and lands issues that affect First Nations. Treaty 8 Livelihood department along

with Dr. Makere Stewart Harawira will gear towards future collaborative work that will benefit both Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and the University of Alberta. Treaty Land Use – Discussions began on April 18, 2012 in Grande Prairie, AB. Collaborating to achieve an agreement would be the main objective while overcoming the many issues in relation to First Nations Territory overlaps. Most recent TLU discussions took place on July 5th, 2012 in Bushe River, Alberta. The consecutive TLU meetings for the Treaty Land Use discussions are to be held in Athabasca Tribal Council area and Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council and in Keetaskeenow Tribal Council area this summer, fall and winter.

Treaty Land Use (TLU) Discussions began on April 18, 2012 in Grande Prairie, AB. Collaborating to achieve an agreement is the main objective while working towards overcoming many issues in relation to overlapping of First Nations' Territories. Most recent TLU discussions occurred at Bushe River, AB on July 5th, 2012. The consecutive TLU meetings for the Treaty Land Use discussions will be held in Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC), Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council (LSLIRC) and in Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC) this summer, fall and winter.

Jasper Park – ***Healing and Reconciliation: The Jasper Aboriginal Forum***

In 1907, when Jasper National Park was first established, there were several hundred indigenous people living in the park. Park legislation and management, based on European ideas of conservation and tourism, did not consider indigenous perspectives and traditions. Early park managers considered many traditional activities, like hunting, gathering and burning, at best inconsistent with national park goals and, at worst, unlawful. Métis and descendants of fur traders had little choice but to leave. First Nations people who considered the area part of their traditional territory: Cree, Stoney, Shuswap, Iroquois, Ojibwa were forcibly removed from the park.

The social and ecological consequences of this alienation resonate to this day. Fast forward one hundred years and Parks Canada is trying to mend broken relationships with First Nations and reverse the effects of the loss of knowledge, culture and connection. Therefore Parks Canada's approach to protected areas management is increasingly inclusive of the Aboriginal peoples whose traditional territories are involved. New national parks and historic sites have been created in collaboration with Aboriginal communities who requested that these lands be set aside for protection.

Chief of Livelihood	Chief Leon Chalifoux, Swan River First Nation
Deputy Chief of Livelihood	Chief James Ahnassay, Dene Tha' First Nation
Chiefs Livelihood Committee	Chief Arthur Noskey, Loon River Cree Nation
Chiefs Livelihood Committee	Chief Richard Kappo, Sturgeon Lake First Nation
Chiefs Livelihood Committee	Chief Steve Courtoreille, Mikisew Cree First Nation
Consultation Technical Team	Steve Kulmatycki, Western Cree Tribal Council
Consultation Technical Team	Jim Webb, North Peace Tribal Council
Consultation Technical Team	Roy Vermillion, Athabasca Tribal Council
Consultation Technical Team	Clayton Auger, Bigstone Cree Nation
Consultation Technical Team	Allen Willier, Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council
Consultation Technical Team	Al Rollins, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council
Director of Livelihood	Joseph Jobin, T8FNA
Land Management & Resource Development Manager	Kevin Ahkimnachie, T8FNA
Executive Assistant	Freida Cardinal, T8FNA

Education

Dale Awasis, *Education Director*

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Education Commission was initiated in 2004 to establish a strong educational system that will provide for life-long learning of First Nations students in the Treaty 8 First Nations communities. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is continuing to establish a strong educational system for First Nations students through the New Paths initiatives and other Federal Programs. To carry out the directives of the Commission the Office of the Director of Education was established. It is through this Office the 2012-2013 New Paths work plan and budget was developed to administer the ongoing educational initiatives identified for this year.

1. Student transportation has been identified as an issue with many identified concerns from the First Nations communities. The plan is to set up a committee that will consist of identified representatives from the communities and AANDC. The mandate of the committee will be to identify the concerns and issues on student transportation as they exist in Treaty 8 territory and to develop recommendations to address the issues and concerns.
2. The Commission and the Education Office are involved in many education initiatives on regional, provincial and national levels. As the Chiefs are the identified leaders of their respective First Nations it is important to keep them abreast on all aspects of the education unit and its development. It has been a challenge to keep every Chief in the territory informed to an extent each is making informed decisions, especially on matters needing their authorization and directive. The Commission has recommended hosting an Assembly of Treaty 8 Chiefs forum to provide updates, reports and get directives on on-goings initiatives and activities of the Education Commission and the Education Unit.
3. The Education Commission and the Education unit have both identified a need to create a mechanism to establish an education authority. This authority would oversee the development of an education system for the Treaty 8 First Nations as per its mandate and due to the increased role in the delivery of second level services, such as the literacy, numeracy and special education aspects, there is now a necessity to explore governance models for education delivery within Treaty 8. The RMO model has been identified that might work as it brings the AANDC requirements and First Nations aspirations in line with each other. This year exploratory work on the RMO structure will be conducted to determine if this would meet the needs of the Treaty 8 organization and its participating member Nations.
4. Due to the recent New Path reduced allocations to the Treaty 8 education unit over the last couple of years certain activities were eliminated from the past work plans. It is felt these activities were important as they directly impacted the communities, schools, staff and students within the Treaty 8 territory in a positive way. This work plan provides some support for the Traditional Indian Games and Traditional Science Fair.

FIRST NATIONS STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM (FNSSP)

Treaty 8 was successful in its submission to the National First Nations Student Success Program. This means second level services in Literacy, Numeracy, Student Retention, and School-Student Success Planning are now available to the eleven (11) of the participating schools identified in the proposal. The other six (6) in the territory were also successful in their submission and will be providing equivalent services to their respective Nations. These specialists will operate directly out of a location in the Treaty 8 territory so as to be accessible and close to the communities they will be working with.

The FNSSP also includes the development of a standard centralized Student Information System (SIS). Each of the participating schools will eventually be using the Power School SIS in their schools. This year, five of the 11 schools will be connected to Power School. The remainder will be connected to the system in the second year of the FNSSP. Currently, Treaty 8 schools are connected to the Dossier Special Education module. This year 11 of the participating schools will be licensed to use the Dossier Education Management System (EMS) module. The

Dossier EMS will enable all the schools to input their data into one centralized location. This collected data can be used to create aggregated reports that are needed to justify and support programming and proposals.

"Promise, Education as a Treaty Right" (Video produced portraying education in Treaty 8)

The video "Promise, Education as a Treaty Right" was nominated Best Documentary Under 30 Minutes by the Alberta Motion Pictures Industry Association. This video was produced by BearPaw Communications and endorsed by the Education Commission as a supplement to the National Panel on Education presentation made by Treaty 8. This documentary was presented at both the Regional and National Roundtable discussions held by the Panel.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Special Education refers to the meeting of individual learning needs of First Nations Students who have mild, moderate, severe disabilities, or gifted/talented abilities. First Nations values embrace the belief that all children can learn and reach their full potential in an environment conducive to meeting their learning needs. For First Nations with special needs, learning environments must be based on the philosophy of holistic (mind, body, emotion, and spirit) learning and include language/culture and parent/community involvement. Promotion of education that respects individual First Nations learning styles as identified on Individual Education Programming (IEP) will include educational policy responsive to the needs of First Nations children, effective teaching strategies, appropriate school-based/cultural resources, and specified services and programming in order to maximize individual learning opportunities. *(Treaty 8 Education)*

TREATY 8 SPECIAL EDUCATION MANDATE

The Treaty 8 Special Education Regional Management Organization, in partnership with their respective communities and departments will establish a Special Education Framework and policy that will prepare students for life-long learning, special needs programming incorporating First Nation language and culture creating an excellent holistic Special Education curriculum. Treaty 8 Special Education will collaborate with interdepartmental agencies and advocate for First Nation learners.

TREATY 8 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Special Education funding will support both direct and indirect services using an Intervention Based approach. Under this approach, teachers/specialists with the appropriate training are able to use and interpret assessment instruments to develop Individualized Program Plans and the necessary intervention programs to address the students' immediate needs while awaiting formal assessments. This approach permits the flexibility to utilize intervention strategies more quickly.

Most of INAC's resources will continue to be allocated to First Nation schools using the Intervention Based Approach. Some resources will be reserved for those students diagnosed with Extra-Ordinary/Profound needs. Students with Extra-Ordinary/Profound needs will be funded using the new Assessment Based Approach.

Students with Extra-Ordinary/Profound needs are those students with SEVERE Disabilities who require constant one-on-one assistance to complete regular tasks, as well as extensive additional supports, some of which can be found on the Monitoring Checklist. The intention is that only the most profoundly disabled students will be eligible for this funding.

TREATY 8 SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY

The Treaty 8 Special Education Policy will develop, deliver and evaluate Special Education programs and services for children with Special Needs so they will reach their full potential. The policy is compiled of four main components; accountability, assessment, Individual Education Plan, and Intervention. Within these main components are individual policies following a holistic view in education. The entire child, family, and community celebrate the life-long learning process. The policy is inclusive of language and culture and honors the need to revitalize, acquire, retain and maintain language through the implementation of language programs developed by Elders, education and cultural experts. The policy is an umbrella policy which is implemented in all First Nation schools, but is flexible to accommodate specific school policies. The Treaty 8 Special Education policy was passed and accepted by the Executive Board of Chiefs on October 27, 2006. The policy was published and distributed to all Treaty 8 First Nation schools in preparation for the 2007 / 2008 school year.

TREATY 8 SPECIAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The Special Education Framework ensures First Nation language and culture programming, individualized academic programming, and appropriate resources be provided in all First Nation schools. The framework is holistic and set within a life-long learning process. The scope of the framework is to improve the quality of Special Education programming to promote, maintain, and support a First Nation Comprehensive Education System. The Treaty 8 Special Education Framework was passed and accepted by the Executive Board of Chiefs on October 27, 2006. The validation of the Special Education Framework will result in Treaty 8 Special Education adhering to all concepts, values, and practices that constitute a way of viewing reality.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING

A Special Education Strategic Planning session was requested by the Treaty 8 Executive Board of Chiefs and was held in March 2007. The purpose of the session was to provide guidance and direction for Special Education. Special Education welcomed the idea of providing the strategic planning session and facilitated the session internally. A questionnaire was sent to all First Nation schools in order to collect and provide current information and data. The questionnaire provided information to begin analyzing special needs and identifying challenges within Treaty 8 First Nation schools. The questionnaires were tabulated and the analysis was presented to the Executive Board of Chiefs. Five actions plans were developed as a result of the strategic planning session. These action plans will promote success in the area of Special Education for Treaty 8 Alberta.

Action items:

1. Increase capacity in Special Education and decrease amount of money First Nation schools spend annually on assessments
2. Provide Special Education in-service training for Teacher Assistants, Special Needs Assistant
3. Secure funding and provide equal funding for Treaty 8 Special Education
4. Treaty 8 will educate communities to promote elimination of FASD
   a. An FASD community presentation was developed and approved by the Executive Board of Chiefs. The FASD presentation is available upon request by community or school
5. Provide access to a Treaty 8 web based IPP and school data base

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Special Education Terms of Reference was approved by Treaty 8 Executive Board of Chiefs October 2008. A motion was passed on October 27, 2006 stating “that the Executive Board of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta support the development of a Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Regional Management Organization (RMO)”.

Special Education is governed by the Education Commission. The scope of Special Education is to enhance the quality of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Special Education programming through the Treaty 8 Education Commission which promotes, maintains, and supports a comprehensive holistic education system.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESOURCE LENDING LIBRARY

Treaty 8 Special Education has developed a resource lending library for schools. The resource lending library includes various resources for loan to schools. The resources include: reference material, classroom resources, diagnostic Level B testing, Special Education, textbooks, videos, and parent and community. A bibliography of resources has been compiled and mailed to all schools for reference.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

A bi-monthly newsletter is published for schools. The newsletter is theme based, for example, Asthma. The newsletter will include specific information on Asthma, definition, causes, risks, Asthma and allergies, attacks, signs and symptoms, classroom strategies and a list of resources for teachers. The newsletter will also include upcoming events, a specific unit plan and an Education Projects Manager update.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER COMMUNITY AWARENESS PRESENTATION

This presentation is an action item from the Special Education Strategic Planning Session held in March 2007 with the Executive Board of Chiefs. The purpose of the presentation was to provide FASD awareness within Treaty 8 Alberta. A quarterly FASD newsletter is published to include statistics, articles and specific information on the spectrum of disorders. This newsletter is made available to all schools and communities.

TREATY 8 INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PLAN (IPP)

A Treaty 8 IPP was developed and approved by the Executive Board of Chiefs October 2008. The IPP is now implemented in all schools. The Treaty 8 IPP has been implemented in the dossier.

TREATY 8 REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST – HEATHER POLUK

Heather began at Treaty 8 April 30, 2012 on a part time basis. As Treaty 8 moves into the FNSSP, she will become a full time employee supplemented by the FNSSP. She is very eager to begin her visits to all schools. She is preparing a work plan and collecting school information for assessments required. Heather is available for consultation and is willing to provide training in IPP development, as well as provide classroom strategies.

What do school psychologists do? A school psychologist works to find the best solution for each child and situation using different strategies to address individual student needs. Psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

"Lets put our minds together to see what we can do for our children." - Chief Sitting Bull

BACKGROUND

The MOU on First Nations Education is the result of concentrated efforts by all parties, beginning in 2009 with resolutions passed by the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) identifying an Education Working group with representation by the three Treaty organizations. From this starting point, the Government of Alberta and the AoTC delivered a proposal to Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada Minister Chuck Strahl in June 2009 to develop a MOU. The Minister accepted the proposal and staff from all parties were assigned to begin discussions to develop an MOU.

MOU WORKING GROUP

A working group drafted the MOU over a period of six months with direction from their respective senior officials, and then presented the draft to all parties in November 2009. Recommended changes were incorporated and the final draft was approved on January 27, 2010. Since the signing of the MOU by elected leaders, an all-party MOU working group has developed an implementation framework to assist in fulfilling the commitments of the MOU. Implementation will be an ongoing process that will evolve to meet the changing dynamics of First Nations education in Alberta.

SUB-TABLES

The eight sub-tables were created by the MOU Working Group to assist with the delivery of the most comprehensive approach possible for implementation of the MOU on Education. Originally there were four (4) sub-tables namely Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre (IK&WC), Education Restructuring, Tuition/ Transitions and Data Protocol, these four came on-line in February, 2011. The Working Group needed more assistance to fore fill its mandate and the 9 commitments, as funding became available the four remaining sub-tables namely Teachers Recruitment and Retention, Special Education, Children in Care/ Children not in School, and Community Engagement came on-line.

Sub-table orientation session - November, 2011

An orientation was hosted in November 2011 and work began for the four remaining sub-tables in December 2011. All eight Sub-tables, consisting of representatives from all Parties, were established to complete tasks under the MOU and implementation framework, as directed by the MOU Working Group. There are approximately 111 people participating in the MOU process of which 74 (67 %) represent First Nations Educational interest. The following table is a list of all Treaty 8 representatives that participated on the sub-tables.

Treaty 8 sub-table members

Name	Sub-table	First Nation
Judy Kim (Point Person)	Tuition Agreements	Tallcree Tribal Government
Emily Calliou (Elder)	Tuition Agreements	Sucker Creek
Al Rollins (Point Person)	Education Restructuring	Kitaskinaw Tribal Council
David Yu	Education Restructuring	Little Red River Cree Nation
Pat Grey	Education Restructuring	Whitefish Lake
Gloria Cardinal	Data Sharing Protocol	Little Red River Cree Nation
Esther Giroux	Data Sharing Protocol	Treaty 8
Bert Alook	Data Sharing Protocol	Bigstone Cree Nation
Mayble Noskiye	Children in Care / Not in School	Loon River
Pauline Giroux	Children in Care / Not in School	Driftpile
Emily Cheecham (Elder)	Children in Care / Not in School	Fort McMurray
Gladys Cardinal	Teacher Recruitment	Bigstone Cree Nation
Cheryl Sheldon	Teacher Recruitment	Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council
Florestine Chowace (Elder)	Teacher Recruitment	Sturgeon Lake
Billy Joe Laboucan	Community and Parental Engagement	Kitaskinaw Tribal Council
Alice Martin	Community and Parental Engagement	Athabasca Tribal Council
Jerry Noskey	Community and Parental Engagement	Kitaskinaw Tribal Council
Fred Francis Willier (Elder)	Community and Parental Engagement	Sucker Creek
Eileen Lines (Point Person)	Special Education	Treaty 8
Lori Aliche	Special Education	Dene Tha’
Marie Goodale (Elder)	Special Education	Dene Tha’
Kathleen Laboucan	Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre	Woodland
Nora Yellowknee (Point Person)	Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre	Bigstone Cree Nation
Harry Lawrence	Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre	Duncan’s

CURRENT STATUS

All eight sub-tables are at various stages of completing their report’s, all reports will be complete by April 6, 2012. A brief update on the current status of the sub-tables has been presented by the MOU Coordinator. The report and update was accepted by the Chiefs in Assembly via Assembly of Treaty Chiefs motion # 2012-02-29/04M. Community Engagement session are underway and have taken place in Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and in Treaty 8 and continue to take place. Since October, 2011 Treaty 8 alone has hosted eighteen (18) First Nation community based sessions. A soft media campaign has been proposed including radio announcements, newsletter, volume 3 and DVD production.

NATIONAL PANEL

The Chiefs of Alberta participated in the National Panel discussion in the fall of 2011. On February 8, 2012, - following an extensive, nation-wide engagement process, the members of the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education have delivered their final report to the National Panel’s co-sponsors, Mr. Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

FIRST NATION, METIS, INUIT EDUCATION COUNCIL (FNMI)

The Minister of Education, in collaboration with the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and leaders of First Nations represented by the Grand Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8, together with the Presidents of the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Settlements General Council; have established a First Nation and Métis Educational Partnership that will help guide the future direction of FNMI Education in Alberta. This will be a true partnership, owned by the participant that will help to identify and complement the work we must all undertake within our own areas and organizations to reduce and ultimately eliminate the gap in educational achievement for FNMI learners.

EDUCATION PROJECTS REPORT

FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY REPORT:

Within this strategy there are four youth programs: Mentored and ICT Youth Work Experience, Career Promotion and Awareness, Science and Technology, and Student Summer Employment Opportunities.

YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

- Supports the provision of opportunities for mentored work experience
- Exposes youth to various career options
- Promotes the benefits of education as the key to labor market participation
- Student evaluations must be submitted for this program along with the final report

CAREER PROMOTION AND AWARENESS

- Cooperative Education supports provisions for mentored school-based work and study opportunities
- Career Planning
- Life and work skill development

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Promotes science and technology as an educational /career choice
- Encourages the enhancement of traditional knowledge (where applicable)

STUDENT AND SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Supports skills acquisition through provision of wage subsidies for short term work experience
- Assists secondary and post-secondary students to prepare for future entry into the labor market to access summer employment
- Student evaluations must be submitted along with the final report for this program

PROPOSAL AND REPORTING UPDATES:

All First Nations are expected to submit their proposals and reports on the proposal and reporting forms which are available on the AANDC website. All proposals and reports must be completed on the appropriate DCI (Data Collection Instrument) form and submitted electronically to Treaty 8. Treaty 8 will roll up all the reports and submit them to AANDC through the Education Information System.

INAC EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Opportunities Strategy - Summer Work Experience and Youth Evaluations due September 15, 2012

FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY - SKILLS LINK PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT

Which are: Career and Promotion, Science and Technology, and Mentored and ICT Youth Work Experience Program- Youth Evaluations must accompany the Mentored Work Experience portion of the Skills Link report. This report is due **March 31, 2013.**

1ST ANNUAL TRADITIONAL SCIENCE CELEBRATION

The First Annual Traditional Science Celebration was hosted by the Mihtatakaw Sipiy School at Driftpile First Nation March 21, 2012. There were 64 students from eight community schools in attendance. The students displayed their science projects at the gym. Some of the projects on display at the event were; The Northern Lights, Moose Hide , original smoked dry meat versus dehydrated meat, Natural Science, Native Medicine , Traditional Diapers, Making Mint Green Tea, Teepee Building, and Making Soap. The expected outcome was to have the teachers bring in a lesson plan to share with Treaty 8 who will begin the process of developing a Traditional Science Curriculum for Treaty 8 Schools. Bigstone Cree Nation will host the Second Annual Traditional Science Celebration in their community next year.

THE SECOND ANNUAL TREATY 8 TRADITIONAL NATIVE GAMES

Many children and adults are losing their abilities of keen observation and natural intuition. Thousands of old games of intuition and chance created situations to learn body language, and observation of the environment. Native life was rich in relationships, teamwork, art, music, and gaming. It was through the games that much education occurred. The Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik School on Bigstone Cree Nation initiated the games and hosted the First Annual Traditional Native Games. The Second Annual Traditional Native Games were held in June 2011 at Little Red River Cree Nation. The third Annual Traditional Native Games will be held at the Dene Tha School in Chateh, Alberta September 25-28, 2012.

Memorandum of Agreement between Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGA)

Treaty 8 and APEGA signed a MOA to work together to promote APEGA Aboriginal Program in the Treaty 8 professional learning communities, building program synergy. They will also work collaboratively to improve educational outcomes for Treaty 8 students, particularly targeting those with a high interest and ability in math and sciences. The parties agree that education for First Nation learners must recognize the value of both the traditional and western –based scientific methods and approaches employed in educational delivery. APEGA will sponsor opportunities in the Treaty 8 area such as the Traditional Science fair and Teacher Education Awards within Treaty 8 Schools. Treaty 8 and APEGA are involved in discussions regarding a scholarship fund for Treaty 8 students.

Education

Health

Lorraine Meneen, *Director of Health*

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A CONNECTION TO THE FIRST NATIONS LARGELY THROUGH THE HEALTH COMMISSION.

The commission continues to meet to discuss, share and address First Nations health issues and concerns. Our Health Commission consists of:

- Chief of Health: Chief Allan Adam
- Deputy Chief of Health: Chief Gordon T. Auger

Tribal Council and Independent Nation Health Directors:

- ATC: Patrick Mercredi
- BCN: Barry Phillips
- KTC: Kirsten Dupres
- LSLIRC: Marcella Schnurr
- NPTC: Lisa Clarke
- WCTC: Liette Snache
- Smith's Landing: vacant

Tribal Council and Independent Nation Elder Advisors:

- ATC: vacant
- BCN: Elder Mary Young
- KTC: Elder Joe Whitehead Sr.
- LSLIRC: Elder Doris Courtoreille
- NPTC: the late Elder Gabe Meneen
- WCTC: Elder Ruth Gladue
- Smith's Landing: vacant

THE HEALTH COMMISSION CONTINUES TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR DEPARTMENT.

The Health Commission members continue to bring community perspective/issues and knowledge regarding health needs and concerns of their member First Nations. We are thankful for their continued support, guidance and determination in working toward improving the health outcomes of their communities.

Some of the highlights of the past year include:

- Continued planning and work on building a Treaty 8 Comprehensive Health System
- Telehealth Business Plan in conjunction with AFNIGC
- Direct assistance with the Treaty 8 communities on health related issues
- Bringing together the Elders and Youth
- Elder's guidance in creating awareness and ensuring culture, tradition and knowledge is living.
- Monthly Health Commission Meetings
- CIET Project
- NIHB Denial Tracking Initiative
- Diabetes Prevention and Promotion
- Mental Health Awareness
- Prescription Drug Abuse awareness building program
- Communication plan building
- Participation at the Treaty Discussions Table
- Participation at the Children's Agenda JRFT Table
- Attendance at National Health Committees
- Participation in the Treaty 8 Science Celebration
- Development of a draft Hemodialysis Framework regarding units and staffing

ABORIGINAL HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES INITIATIVE (AHHRI)

The Alberta First Nations and Alberta Health Services Summer Internship pilot project was launched during the summer of 2011. This partnership was formed between First Nations in Alberta, Health Canada, Careers Next Generation, and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to create opportunities for youth to explore health careers through a six-week internship. In 2011, Bigstone Cree Nation and Tallcree First Nation both had summer placements.

The Aboriginal Health Careers Role Model Campaign was initiated during the 2011-2012 fiscal year and activities will continue into the next year. This partnership includes: Alberta First Nations, AHS, Careers Next Generation, and Health Canada. A media campaign that includes posters and video clips will be created. These resources will be used in attracting and educating Aboriginal Youth to enter into a health careers. The campaign will feature current Aboriginal health role models from across Alberta.

HEALTH CAREERS

The Treaty 8 Health Careers Program is dedicated to increasing Treaty 8 membership awareness of the many challenging and rewarding careers in the field of health care. It is the intent of our program to identify, cultivate, and support these potential health care workers from our communities, so they may access or pursue education and training, and come back to deliver health care services to our members.

In the last year a number of learning opportunities were available to Treaty 8 members including: Medical Receptionist, Early Childhood Development, Health Care Aid, Modern Management and English upgrading. These courses were free of charge for health staff working in First Nation health centers.

Promoting health careers in the First Nations schools was a priority in the last year. Sciences and Math are required to enter into a health career and these subject areas were highlighted in the presentations made to the schools at Loon River FN, Bigstone CN, Swan River FN, and Driftpile FN. Treaty 8 Health Careers will also put up an educational booth at career fairs, if requested.

Each year the “Francis Meneen Health Warrior” and ”Francis Willier Health Warrior” Memorial Scholarships are awarded to Treaty 8 members that are pursuing health careers. This year the scholarships were awarded to Rosanne Mustus (Francis Meneen) and Cherie Willier (Francis Willier).

Shelly Gladue was the A/Health Careers Coordinator from June 2011 to April 2012.

HEALTH CO-MANAGEMENT

The Alberta First Nations/FNIHB Regional Health Co-Management Committee was structured to jointly access, analyze, plan, and manage the administration of the Alberta Region Envelope. A formal agreement to co-manage the regional envelope was signed on November 18, 1996 by Alberta Chiefs and the Minister of Health. The Terms of Reference were finalized in 1997.

The essence of co-management in health services is based upon a viable partnership between First Nations community representatives and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. The goal of this partnership is to develop strategies leading to community health programs of direct client benefit. At times, these strategies have focused on building infrastructure, while at other times; the focus has been on the development of health programs.

CO-MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES 2010 - 2015

1. Increase collaboration between partners
2. Positively change health outcomes
3. Improve collection, access and use of health data
4. Achieve strategic outcomes;
   - Improved immunization rates
   - Reduced rates of teenage pregnancies
   - Increased age of initiation to alcohol
   - Accredited Health Director training
   - Prevention of Child Abuse
   - Reduced incidence of gang-related activities and incidence of family violence
5. Recommitment to Co-Management principles

There are now seven (7) Co-Management subcommittees; each of the committees has two representatives from each Treaty area and two FNIHB members.

Each subcommittee shares decision making responsibility over specific programs:

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS: Dental, Medical Transportation, Pharmacy, Vision, Medical Supplies & Equipment, Communications Strategy and Denial Tracking working groups

CHILD & YOUTH: Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve, Maternal Health, Jordan's Principle and Prevention of Child Abuse Strategy

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS: Brighter Futures / Building Healthy Communities, NNADAP, NAYSPS, Drug Utilization Prevention Program, Holistic Wellness and Mental Health and Wellness Strategy

PREVENTION: Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Healthy Living, Injury Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, CHR Education, Food Security & Implementation

HEALTH PROTECTION: Environmental Public Health, Communicable Disease Control, BBP / STI Prevention, HOPE – HIV/STI/BBP

GOVERNANCE & CAPITAL: Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI), Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF), E-Health, Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre

FINANCE: This is a newly established subcommittee to provide information and analysis to the key stakeholders for the effective management of the Alberta Region Funding Envelope.

REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEES / SUBCOMMITTEES ARE:

Co-Management	Chief Allan Adam, Chief Gordon Auger
Governance & Capital (G&C)	Kirsten Dupres, Health Director, KTC Barry Phillips, CEO, BCN Health Commission
Finance	Marcella Schnurr, Health Director, LSLIRC Liette Snache, CEO, Western Cree Tribal Council
Non Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)	Michelle Voyageur, Non Insured Policy Analyst, T8 Barry Phillips, CEO, BCN Health Commission
Child and Youth (C&Y)	Ann Nipshank, Director of Children's Agenda, T8FNA Bernadette Sawan, Bigstone Cree Nation
Mental Health & Addictions (MHA)	Marilyn Willier, T8 Member, Sucker Creek First Nation Marcella Schnurr, Health Director, LSLIRC
Prevention	Liette Snache, CEO, Western Cree Tribal Council Wendy Ward, Health Director, Tallcree First Nation
Health Protection (HP)	Patrick Mercredi, Health Director, ATC Gloria Fraser, Health Director, Bigstone Cree Nation

Since August 2011, Nora Alook took on the Co-Management Liaison position.

The Health Department of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta wishes to acknowledge and express their gratitude to all the Reps who volunteered their time and effort from their extremely busy schedules to represent Treaty No. 8 communities and members at these tables. Bravo!

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB) POLICY ANALYST

The NIHB Policy Analyst is an advocacy position used to improve and maintain the level of service of the NIHB program affecting the members of Treaty No. 8. The role of the NIHB Policy Analyst is to actively review proposed policy changes. As well, the NIHB Policy Analyst maintains a seat on the Co-Management NIHB sub-committee ensuring that Treaty 8 has a voice in the discussions that occur regionally.

Issues with and changes to the NIHB program are discussed at the Co-Management NIHB sub-committee. In addition 3 priorities have been identified: communications, benefit tracking and exploring relationships. A communication plan was created and 2 communication pieces were the focus of this year. The first was a NIHB wallet card, which has the contact information for all of the NIHB Navigators in AB. The second was an insert with Alberta specific NIHB information, including NIHB Navigators contact information, which was inserted in the AFN/Health Canada NIHB handbook. Each First Nation should have received copies of the new handbook. The wallet cards and handbooks are being used to increase the awareness of the NIHB program and NIHB navigators in the region.

The policy analyst continues to represent Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta at the AFN NIHB caucus. It is through this caucus that regions are influencing NIHB policies and programs at the national level.

Michelle Voyageur is the current NIHB Policy Analyst and began working with the Health department in July 2010. She is currently the co-chair of the Co-Management NIHB sub-committee.

NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB) NAVIGATOR

The Treaty 8 Navigator position is a liaison and advocacy position to serve Treaty 8 members with NIHB issues, education and communications; it is new position and began in November 2011. Posters, brochures and business cards for the NIHB Navigator program have been distributed to all the Treaty 8 First Nations and more and more people are learning about this service.

Since beginning, the NIHB Navigator has assisted approximately 40 Treaty 8 members with their NIHB program questions and issues. Furthermore, the NIHB Navigator has been networking and educating services provider like: pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, etc to increase the awareness of this position and the NIHB program. The NIHB Navigator has visited pharmacies in Slave Lake, High Prairie, Fort McMurray and Edmonton to educate on the program and this position. Additionally, various agencies that service First Nations in Edmonton have been visited and educated on this new position.

Mavis Moberly was the NIHB Navigator from November 2011 to April 2012.

Having problems accessing NIHB?
Have you been denied a NIHB Benefit?
Need assistance appealing a NIHB Decision?
Want to know more about the NIHB Program?

Contact Treaty 8's NIHB Navigator
780.444.9366

HEALTH RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The Health Research Assistant is a contract position in partnership with CIET Canada. The role this of position is to help facilitate with evidence-based research processes, knowledge translation, and interventions Treaty 8 communities involved in the ACRA Project. This position reports to the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Health Director and CIET Canada Western Coordinator. It requires intimate knowledge of research methodologies as well as: data entry, validation, analyses, and reporting. In addition to working with other researchers, the Health Research Assistant must also: communicate with Health Directors, Community Based Researchers, Health Professionals and Health Representatives. Duties include raveling to communities, presenting, and facilitating the research process. A strong understanding of health is necessary as it pertains to First Nations communities and traditional western health-care practices. Jarett Wanihadie is the current Health Research Assistant and began working with the Health Department in October 2011.

Chief Adam, Health Commission

Children's Agenda

Ann Nipshank

The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Children's Agenda is back to full operation. We have received funding for 2 years beginning March 1, 2011 and ending March 31st, 2013. We have been working on finalizing the Children's Agenda Family Service Delivery Framework which consists of 6 volumes:

Creation of the Children's Agenda Framework

Volume I
Introduction and Background

Volume II
Implementation

Volume III
Organizational Structure

Volume IV
Programming

Volume V
Tool Kit

Volume VI
BLOCC

The Children's Agenda Family Service Delivery Framework is a group of volumes that is meant to be a First Nations guide to enhancing children, youth and Family programming at the community level. There were four major guidelines that were followed in the development of this framework.

• Community focused • Inclusive • Respectful of diversity • Flexible

The framework is flexible yet strong. How you implement and enhance it at your Nation will ensure it is distinctively yours which reflects the priorities and realities of your community. This framework is under development, as we continue to build and edit the framework we will have a fully developed copy that will be distributed to 24 First Nations communities of Treaty 8. Currently, the Children's Agenda is testing our framework at three test implementation sites, Sucker Creek First Nations, Loon River First Nations, and Bigstone Cree Nation. Each test site is testing programs that are unique to their First Nations.

CHILDREN'S AGENDA TEST IMPLEMENTATION SITES

Sucker Creek First Nation – The integration of cultural relevant programs include;

working on developing cultural programs such as traditional hand games, the making of traditional regalia, learning traditional Pow Wow dance, learning to make the drum and promoting cultural teachings. They are also working at enhancing early childhood learning by integrating cultural teachings into the Aboriginal Head Start Program and Day Care.

Loon River First Nation – is working on enhancing early childhood and development through the pre- and post-pregnancy, and prenatal and parenting classes. This site in particular is in collaboration with the Maternal Child Health Program. By working collaboratively they are able to reach many parents and caregivers. This program is aimed at providing the education and knowledge around raising children, through the stages of growth and development. The program will offer parenting skills and practices to give parents the skills and tools in all areas of child rearing.

Bigstone Cree Nation – integration of traditional parenting practices. Bigstone is developing the traditional parenting practice program. Traditional parenting is about looking back at how First Nations children were raised. It's about revitalizing traditional teachings, and bringing back traditional parenting practices through the Oral teachings that have been passed

down from generation to generation. This program will allow us to hear from the community members and cultural knowledge keepers share and teach child-rearing practices and value systems. This program is aimed for all community members. Several parenting workshops have been offered in the community thus far with the intent to offer more monthly workshops on a regular basis.

YOUTH COUNCILS

Each test site has a Youth Council. We have a Sucker Creek Youth Council, Loon River Youth Council, and Bigstone Cree Nation Eagle Cry Youth Council. One of the areas that we have worked hard on is to have the youth councils become a non-profit society. When a youth council becomes non-profit, they are able to apply and access Provincial and Federal funding. Each youth council has been working on applying for funding opportunities. The funding will help youth in developing their own programs they want for their youth in the community. The youth councils will also link up with Federal and Provincial skills development. We want the youth to obtain the required skills, education and employment so they can succeed on their short and long term goals. At this year's Honoring Our Treaty Gathering at Bigstone, all three youth councils will be honored and recognized for their hard work and dedication. The youth councils have been working on bringing in activities for their youth. The youth councils are open to partnerships with other community agencies in creating youth activities at the Nation level. Collaboration and partnerships are encouraged so that we can develop and sustain youth programming at the Nation level to meet the needs of all youth.

JURISDICTIONAL FRIENDLY REFERRAL TABLE

Our Jurisdictional Friendly Referral table is to create a MAP and a RESOURCE Manual to assist First Nations members and their communities to navigate through the health service delivery systems within the Edmonton Region. The Children's Agenda is in partnerships with Alberta health Services, Children's Stollery, INAC, Health Canada, and the Province of Alberta. At this table, we are working on developing a mapping process and a Resource manual by identifying the Health Services and resources available to everyone. We want our First Nations children and families to have better access to health services. The mapping process will identify points of access and the health services offered. As you are aware many of families have to leave the reserve to access specialized health services. Often they are limited to what they can access or not access. Certain jurisdictions sometimes prevent families from accessing specialized services, and or have to get approval for certain health concerns and needs. Therefore; this mapping process and resource manual will be used as a guide and assist families and communities. This mapping process will be integrated into the Children's Agenda Framework once it's completed.

CPAC, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our CPAC committee consists of the DFNA directors from the Treaty 8 Tribal Council areas, and program directors from the Nation level. Our CPAC members are dedicated in providing the Children's Agenda with support and guidance in the work that we are doing. The following members are;

K.T.C. Erica Jagodzinsky and Joyce Badger, W.C.T.C. Charline Cardinal and Steve Kulmatycki , N.P.T.C. , Lois Tomkins and Wilfred Hooka-Nooza. L.S.L.I.R.C, Debbie Lariviere-Willier, Marcella Shnurr and Elder Doris Courtorielle, A.T.C Victor Haineault and Patrick Mercredi, Little Red First Nations, Sharon Pelletier, Bigstone Cree Nation, Bernadette Sawan and DFNA Director.

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www.radf.ca

The Children's Agenda staff:

Lynn Muskwa, Communications Technician, Raelynn Lamouche, Technician, Ann Nipshank, Children's Agenda Director and special guest, Ovide Mercredi attending the Treaty 8 Elder's Council 2012

Treaty 8 Rights

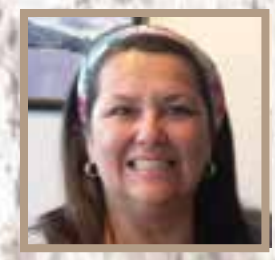
As Understood by the Elders of Treaty No. 8

1. Schools / Education
2. Doctors
3. Hospitals / Medicine
4. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering Rights Retained
5. Indians Retain Minerals
6. Sub-Surface Rights Retained
7. Land Acquired by Queen was only 6" Surface Rights
8. Exempt from Taxation
9. Land Purchased from Farming did not include Forests
10. Rations Provided
11. Policing
12. Legal Representation
13. Exempt from War Participation
14. No Indian Shall Hang by Rope
15. Right to Barter
16. Canvas for Tents
17. Bullets were Supplied
18. Cattle / Horse Provided
19. Farm and Haying Equipment
20. Gardening Tools / Seed
21. In case of hunger, all gates shall be opened

"As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow ..."

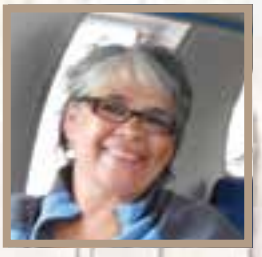
Treaty 8 Nations of Alberta

The Adminstrative Team



The Health Team

The Education Team



The Livelihood Team

Children's Agenda

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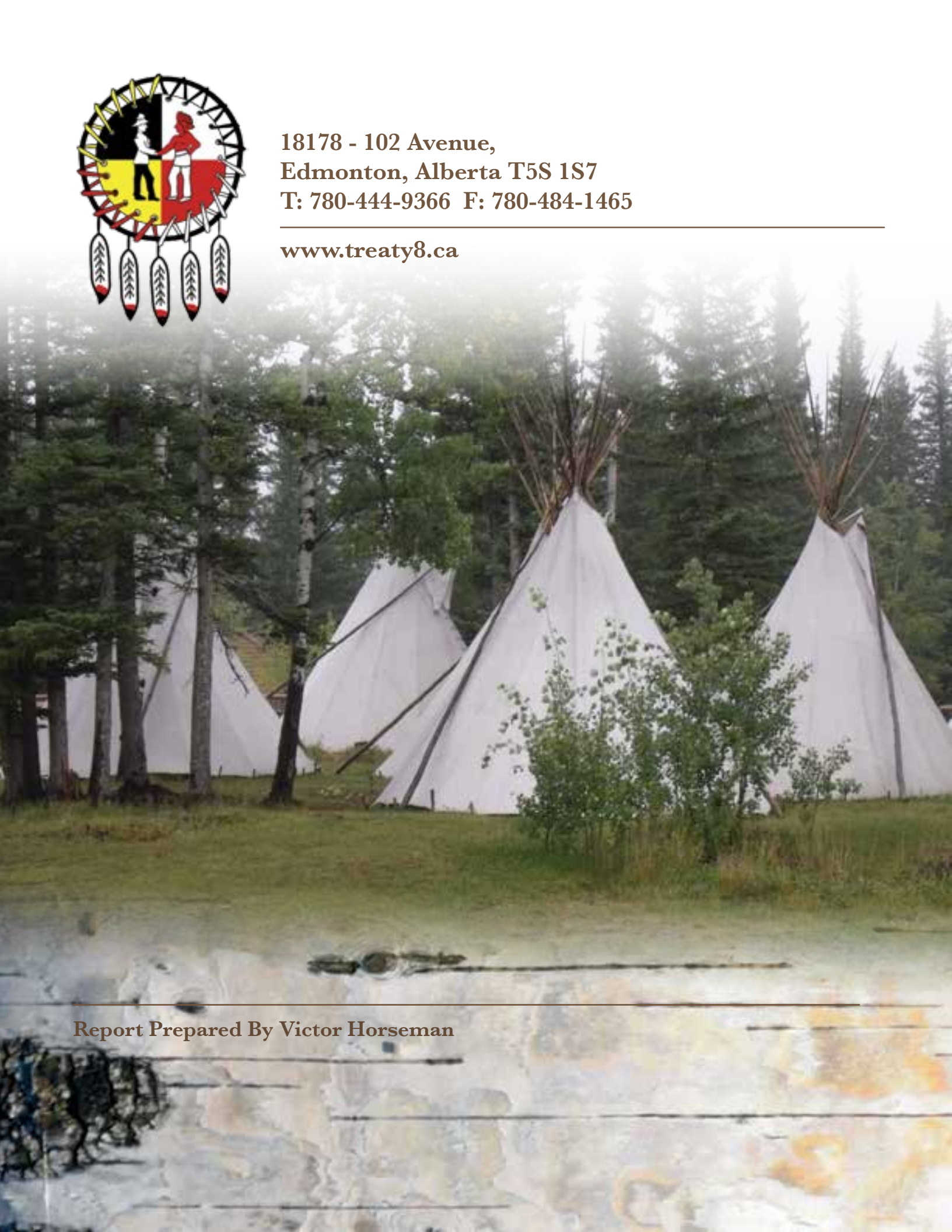

Report Prepared By Victor Horseman