



# 2017-2018 Annual Report

## Chiefs-in-Summit

Ebb and Flow First Nation

September 25 & 26, 2018



# Welcoming REMARKS



## AANIIN, TANSI, WASH'TAY, HELLO

Boozhoo, Aniin, welcome to the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) Annual Chiefs in Summit 2018.

Today celebrates another milestone towards a transformational shift in the enhancement of First Nations. This year has been nothing short of hard work and challenges. At the Southern Chiefs' Organization, we have been shifting our approach on how we conduct business that respects the sovereignty of our member First Nations. It has been an honour to deliver new and innovative opportunities, inspired by the resiliency of our communities.

We are in an era of reconciliation, one in which Canada promotes in building a nation to nation relationship with First Nations based on mutual respect, partnership and recognition of rights. Reconciliation is about respect, honesty, and being truthful, it is about working together with all levels of government, and building partnerships. We have made many successful new and renewed relationships and partnerships with municipal, provincial and federal levels of government since my appointment as Grand Chief. We continue to emphasize collaborative efforts to build capacity and the necessary means to

address low employment rates, housing shortages, reducing the apprehension of children, shared managements of resources, and innovative strategies for future generations to come. Ultimately, the process of rebuilding relations means having mechanisms to create new laws in acknowledgment of First Nations sovereignty in our ancestral lands.

I have based my leadership on humility, accountability, transparency, prosperity and sustainability. Maintaining a southern focus and a community driven approach has been the forefront of my efforts and as a protector of the land, I will continue to identify tangible solutions to address the Anishinaabe and Dakota Peoples quality of life.

I owe the success of my role as Grand Chief and the good work of the SCO staff to leadership -our efforts could not have been possible without your support and direction. It is a great honour to stand with the Chiefs to ensure that the mandate of SCO to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance First Nations peoples' inherent rights, languages, customs, and traditions through the application and implementation of the spirit and intent of the Treaty making process.

Ogema Makwa

Jerry Daniels, *Grand Chief*



*Message from the*  
**DIRECTOR** OF OPERATIONS

 Jolene Mercer

Aaniin. The Southern Chiefs' Organization has continued to grow and evolve and we have made many changes over the past year including staffing, policies and have developed new partnerships. The changes to our policies and procedures have addressed the recommendations that were received through a Finance Policy and Internal Control review that was conducted by Deloitte in February of 2016. We believe all of this is a positive step forward in providing southern focused advocacy to our member nations.

This annual report will highlight the work that was completed over the past year. As we move forward, we are mindful of our responsibility to our leadership and our community members in working towards improving quality of life at the community level. We have improved relationships, revived partnerships and created new opportunities with that goal in mind.

We are confident that the coming year will be one of new ideas and new initiatives. We are in the process of conducting a review of past SCO resolutions. The purpose of this is to ensure those resolutions have been implemented, determine if they are still valid and identify work that still needs to happen.

I look forward to working with our communities in the upcoming year.

Miigwetch!





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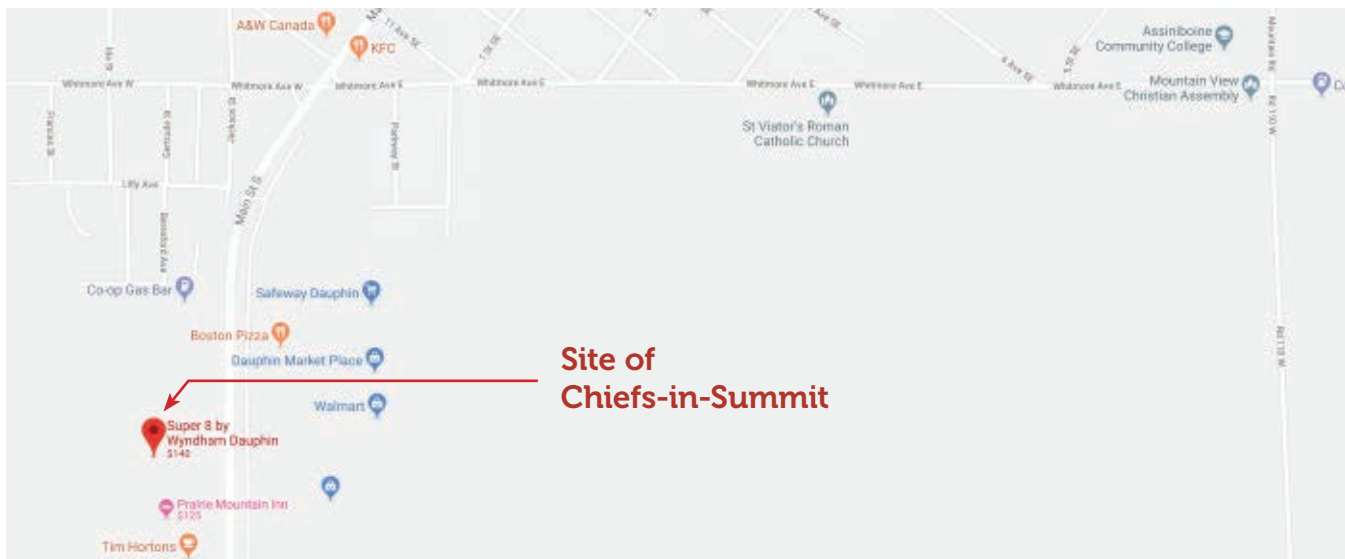


# Chiefs-in-Summit LOCATION MAP



## Guest Rooms – Super 8 by Wyndham Dauphin

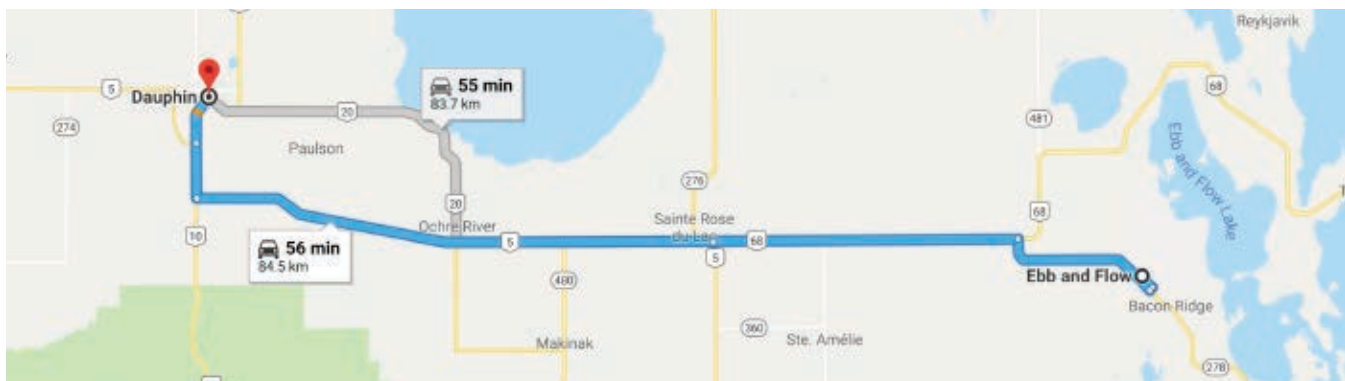
1457 Main St S, Dauphin, MB R7N 3B3



## Dauphin to Ebb & Flow First Nation

Main Street South. Turn East on MB-5 to MB-63. Turn South on MB-278.

Approximately 53 minutes.



# Chiefs-in-Summit AGENDA



## Day One September 25, 2018 Draft Agenda

7:00 am	<b>Pipe Ceremony, Elder ...</b>
7:30 am	<b>Bus from Dauphin Super 8 to Ebb and Flow</b>
8:00 am	<b>Registration</b>
8:30 am	<b>Opening Ceremonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Ceremony, TBD</li> <li>• Drum Group, Medicine Rock Singers</li> <li>• Opening Prayer, TBD</li> </ul>
9:00 am	<b>Opening of Summit</b> , Tim Catcheway, Chairperson and Youth Chief
9:15 am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Wayne Desjarlais, Ebb and Flow First Nation</li> <li>• Grand Chief Arlen Dumas, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs TBD</li> <li>• Regional Chief Kevin Hart, Assembly of First Nations TBD</li> </ul>
9:30 am	<b>Anishinaabe and Dakota Nation Address</b> Grand Chief Jerry Daniels
10:00 am	<b>Rules &amp; Procedures of SCO Summit</b> <b>Review and Discuss Agenda</b>
10:30 am	<b>Health Break</b>
10:45 am	<b>Annual Report</b> Jolene Mercer, Director of Operations
11:00 am	<b>Financial Audit and Update</b> Motion Required Kathleen Stone, Financial Controller
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm	<b>Night Hunting</b> Rob Olson, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development
1:30 pm	<b>Indigenous Laws</b> Diane Redsky and David Neuman
2:30 pm	<b>Child and Family Services</b> Resolution Required Natalie Daniels, Child and Family Services Liaison
3:00 pm	<b>Health Break</b>
3:15 pm	<b>Remarks</b> Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations
3:45 pm	<b>Transfer of Justice Services</b> Resolution Required Chantell Barker, Community Justice Development Coordinator
4:30 pm	<b>Adjournment</b>

## Day Two September 26, 2018 Draft Agenda

8:00 am	<b>Registration</b> • Breakfast
9:00 am	<b>Tim Catcheway</b> , Chairperson • Recap of Day One • Review and Discuss Day Two Agenda
9:15 am	<b>Indigenous Services Canada</b> Winona Embuldeniya
9:30 am	<b>Southern Network of Care</b> Update and Discussion Tara Petti, CEO
10:00 am	<b>Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations</b> Jerry Fontaine
10:30 am	<b>Health Break</b>
10:45 am	<b>Open Discussion on Governance and the Unity Accord</b>
11:10 am	<b>First Peoples Development Inc.</b> Update Joan Harris-Warren
11:30 am	<b>Health</b> Resolution Required Joni Wilson, Health Research & Engagement Liaison Dean Parisian, Senior Health Policy Analyst
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm	<b>Membership/Citizenship</b> Burke Ratte
1:30 pm	<b>Continuing the Conversation – CFS Engagement</b> Scott Amos A/Regional Program Manager, Children and Families - Programs and Partnerships, Manitoba Region, Indigenous Services Canada
2:00 pm	<b>CFS Engagement</b>
2:30 pm	<b>Health Break</b>
2:45 pm	<b>Clear Sky Connections Presentation</b> Lisa Clarke, Chief Executive Officer
3:30 pm	<b>Other Business</b>
4:00 pm	<b>Closing Ceremonies</b> • Closing Prayer Drum Group, Medicine Rock Singers



# *Member* **COMMUNITIES AND CHIEFS**



<b>Berens River</b>	Hartley Everett	<b>Little Grand Rapids</b>	Raymond Keeper
<b>Birdtail Sioux</b>	Ken Chalmers	<b>Little Saskatchewan</b>	Hector Shorting
<b>Black River</b>	Sheldon Kent	<b>Long Plain</b>	Dennis Meeches
<b>Bloodvein</b>	Roland Hamilton	<b>O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi</b>	Eugene Eastman
<b>Brokenhead</b>	Debbie Smith	<b>Pauingassi</b>	Michael Owens
<b>Buffalo Point</b>	Andrea Camp	<b>Peguis</b>	Glenn Hudson
<b>Canupawakpa</b>	Viola Eastman	<b>Pinaymootang</b>	Garnet Woodhouse
<b>Dakota Plains</b>	Orville Smoke	<b>Pine Creek</b>	Karen Lynn Batson
<b>Dakota Tipi</b>	Eric Pashe	<b>Poplar River</b>	Vera Mitchell
<b>Dauphin River</b>	John Stagg	<b>Rolling River</b>	Michael McKay
<b>Ebb and Flow</b>	Wayne Desjarlais	<b>Roseau River</b>	Craig Alexander
<b>Gamblers</b>	David Ledoux	<b>Sagkeeng</b>	Derrick Henderson
<b>Hollow Water</b>	Larry Barker	<b>Sandy Bay</b>	Lance Roulette
<b>Keeseekoowenin</b>	Norman Bone	<b>Skownan</b>	Cameron Catcheway
<b>Kinonjeoshtegon</b>	Dave Traverse	<b>Swan Lake</b>	Francine Meeches
<b>Lake Manitoba</b>	Cornell McLean	<b>Tootinaowaziibeeng</b>	Barry McKay
<b>Lake St. Martin</b>	Adrian Sinclair	<b>Waywayseecappo</b>	Murray Clearsky

# Report from the GRAND CHIEF'S OFFICE



## Economic Development Opportunities and Partnership

By way of resolution at the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit held on September 28, 2017 in Sagkeeng First Nation, SCO incorporated the Southern Chiefs Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC). SCEDC is a legal separate entity that will assist SCO's member First Nations to identify specific economic development opportunities to help generate their own source revenue to help improve the quality of life for its citizens.

To build partnerships, the SCEDC entered into separate Joint-Venture Agreements with Working Warriors (WW), a national skills inventory and data base of Indigenous workforce, and Running Deer Resources (RDR), an Indigenous engagement specialist. Not only will this collaboration provide economic and employment opportunities, but efficiency for businesses to engage with and have access to skilled Indigenous workforce.

With various projects taking place within the private sector, the partnerships with WW and RDR will provide a network and diversified workforce to illuminate new and innovative ideas and solutions to improve business standards. Collaborative partnerships strengthens Indigenous and non-Indigenous connections by developing a respectful and mutually-beneficial opportunities within a competitive framework.



**As it stands, Manitoba has  
the fastest and youngest  
demographic within Canada.**



On a larger scale, the SCEDC approach will create ample opportunities for First Nations to participate as full equal partners in private enterprises within their traditional territories. As it stands, Manitoba has the fastest and youngest demographic within Canada. There has never been a more appropriate time to ensure that our youth have an equal and prosperous future.

## Roquette, Centre Port Canada & Canadian National Railway

With the success of our partnership with WW, the SCEDC was able to obtain the labouring contract for a global leader in innovation and largest plant-based food company in the world, Roquette. Roquette was announced as a notable investment of more than 400 million to build a brand new pea-protein manufacturing site in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

On September 28, 2017, Grand Chief joined by Premier Brian Pallister and local authorities, celebrated the ground breaking of Roquette and its new pea-protein plant manufacturing site, marking the official start of the construction with production to begin in 2019.

Similarly, the SCEDC and WW secured partnership with Centre Port Canada and announced the formation of a joint venture with efforts focused on developing and maintaining strategic partnerships to create employment and training opportunities for Indigenous workers. To honour the working relationship between the organizations, the SCEDC Logo Unveiling Ceremony was celebrated on February 8, 2018 with one of its first companies, Canadian National Railway (CN), exploring opportunities to advance its hiring goals thought the SCEDC.

## Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region

SCO co-hosted roundtable breakfasts meetings with the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region (PMCR). This first of its kind event brought together SCO Chiefs, Mayors and Reeves to create partnerships and foster relationship, in an effort to dismantle long-standing barriers and to create space for economic development ventures and other initiatives between First Nations and municipalities.

On May 8 and 9, 2018, the SCO hosted the Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations Business, Partnership and Additions to Reserve Forum. The forum was an opportunity for First Nations, Mayors and Reeves of municipalities to develop a common understanding, to share best practices and lessons learned, and to establish a mutually beneficial partnership in this region.

Moving forward, the Grand Chief will continue to work closely with businesses and leadership to create new and innovative opportunities. In addition, advocate for long-term economic development investments tailored to the interest of SCO communities.

## Flood Protection and Water Management

For centuries, First Nations have depended on water for transportation, sustenance, ceremonial, cultural and healing practices, however, the deteriorating conditions of Lake Winnipeg due to pollution, toxic blooms of algae and invasive species are harming our ancestral lands. The rising levels of pollution are impacting the quality of water in our communities for safe drinking and healthy living. Furthermore, the impurities of our waters are effecting the lives of commercial and traditional fishers.



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To best exemplify Grand Chief's commitment to the protection and management of our waters, SCO welcomed a partnership with the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). Together, they are focusing all efforts to breathing life back into the waters, including Lake Winnipeg.

Kick starting the interest of First Nations on this collective approach, SCO in partnership with the RRBC co-hosted the Manitoba Indigenous Engagement: Spirit of Water on January 23, 2018 at the Fort Garry Hotel. This networking enterprise facilitated a sincere interest in working together with scientists, stakeholders, and leadership from all levels of government, including representatives from the United States of America – a unique and novel gathering – to create conditions conducive to a higher standard of living for Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens.

Concluding this significant gathering was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SCO and the RRBC. Agreeing to work collaboratively together, both parties acknowledged all communities within the basin must work collectively to address the concerns around flood mitigation, LiDAR coverage, data and decision making technical tools, drought preparedness, water quality, water supply, water management, marsh renewal, wildlife enhancement, recreation and soil quality.

## Supportive Leadership Model Southern Focus, Community Driven

Part of the Grand Chief's advocacy efforts have been in the form of community visits with leadership with twenty-two out of the thirty-four SCO communities thus far.

From the outset of SCO's involvement in the efforts, including the work of leadership and community service providers, the Grand Chief is committed to schedule regular community visits. He is committed to hearing directly the issues, concerns and priorities of SCO's members, as well as to equally facilitate adequate services and ongoing personalized support.

The Grand Chief will continue to fulfill his obligations to advocate, raise awareness and assist to deliver high quality service and programming to SCO's member First Nations.



## Pow Wow

Highlighting the preservation of First Nations languages, customs and traditions, the Grand Chief was in attendance in the majority of the Pow Wows held throughout summer, providing cultural and healing support through singing and dancing.

The Grand Chief hopes to inspire the youth to immerse themselves in culture and tradition. He hopes to connect and re-connect the strong relationship between Elders and the young to ensure traditional knowledge is passed on to the next generation. He encourages the youth to learn and embrace their identities – as Anishinaabe and Dakota.

## AFN Canada MOU – Bilateral Meeting

On December 6, 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of his Cabinet announced engagement with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis Nation to discuss shared priorities and monitor progress based on the establishment of new permanent bilateral mechanisms. Following the announcement, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Canada on Joint Priorities was signed on June 12, 201. This commitment to have regular, ongoing engagement between First Nations and Canada ensures that the federal government's progress is consistent with First Nations priorities.

The MOU will help guide Canada and the AFN to establish options to advance shared priorities, assess progress towards those priorities, and promote lasting and meaningful reconciliation based on a nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and First Nations.

Understanding the significance of SCO's role in the implementation of changes in legislative and policy framework with First Nations and Canada, the Grand Chief traveled to Ottawa to attend the first bilateral meeting held on November 20, 2017 to ensure that the concerns and challenges voiced by leadership influence the priorities identified by AFN and Canada.

## Youth Chief and Council

SCO congratulates, Ashley Danielsa member of Swan Lake First Nation and Toryan McCorrister, a member of Peguis First Nation, as the elected Youth Chiefs for the Southern Chiefs Organization! We congratulate them as they embark on their path of success and trail blazers in the community. The Youth Chiefs' will contribute to the decision making process at the SCO Chiefs-in-Summit with one vote, making history as being the first youth vote across Turtle Island.

The SCO Youth Chief and Council is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to develop strong communication, organization and leadership skills to become positive role models. The addition of the Youth Chief and Council is key component to the work of SCO, representing young people from across southern Manitoba to advocate for common issues and contribute to change. Further, the Council will provide a collective voice to serve as a means of progress and inclusion of their vision towards a prosperous and positive future.


## Live Different

At the Chiefs-in-Summit on September 28, 2017, SCO Chiefs passed a resolution to support Live Different. This youth empowerment charity with a message of value, purpose, and compassion, traveled to SCO's member communities on their Southern First Nations Indigenous Youth Empowerment Tour, a two day motivational presentations, sharing circles, empowerment workshops, and concert driven by the youth for the youth.



**This youth empowerment  
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compassion...**





To kick off Live Different's first show in SCO territory, the Grand Chief traveled to Ebb and Flow First Nation to offer strength and support for youth development and empowerment – illuminating the importance of leadership and youth support through guidance and mentorship.

The Grand Chief will continue to ensure that children and families in the SCO region receive adequate programs and services. This includes space and opportunities to address the needs of a healthy and affluent environment for young leaders to grow and embrace their fullest potential.

## **Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

The Grand Chief continues to play a regional advocacy role in support of survivors of violence and with the families of the Manitoba's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women And Girls (MMIWG). An independent entity has been mandated to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQ individuals in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors.

To bring forth the underlying issues and concerns of Indigenous women and girls and MMIWG, SCO has engaged in a number of meetings with the province to begin dialogue and explore potential partnerships to address safety, security, and prosperity for all women and girls.

## **Tina Fontaine and Colten Boushie**

In honor of Tina Fontaine, the spirit of Colten Boushie, and the survivors and families affected by violence, abuse, and systemic cultural discrimination, Grand Chief joined with other leadership and community members from across the province for the "Love for Tina" walk that took place on February 23, 2018. This event organized by the community from the Provincial Law Courts Building to the Oodena Circle at the Forks brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, leadership and advocates to walk in support of one another and raise awareness of the injustice felt across Canada after both Tina's and Colten's disappointing verdicts in trial.

To illustrate SCO's commitment to create greater awareness, the Grand Chief has reached out to meet with officials with the federal government's Department of Justice and the Province of Manitoba to voice concerns regarding MMIWG, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, and to address concerns about the over-representation of Indigenous people incarcerated in Manitoba in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report Calls to Action.

## **Bring Our Children Home**

In January 2017, we met with Minister Fielding's office to lobby for customary care at the request of Sandy Bay First Nation. Our approach was focused on best practices and scanning the region on what was working. SCO's Chiefs then supported the notion of customary care in our communities and the October 2017 announcement from the Province of Manitoba. SCO Executive agreed to support the legislation until the establishment of the Anishinaabe and Dakota Law in our region.

In October 2017, the Province of Manitoba announced its plan to reform the child welfare system which includes changes to both The Child and Family Services Act and The Authorities Act. A legislative review committee will be formed to develop recommendations on these significant legislative changes.

On January 10th & 11th, 2018, SCO hosted a Special Summit on CFS which brought leadership and those working in child welfare together for the first time for joint deliberations. These deliberations emphasized the critical nature of the Indigenous concept of family to ensure healthy child development that involves: a strong sense of purpose, belonging, and cultural identity.

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## Hunting and Food Sovereignty

On February 6, 2018, Grand Chief's office met with Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sustainable Development, to discuss spot lighting and steps moving forward on a potential joint wildlife and habitat management regime. Further, on February 27, 2018, the Grand Chief's office submitted a proposal to the Ministers office to be able bring First Nations together to discuss the proposed legislation and alternative solutions. Unfortunately, the proposal was denied due to the government's strict deadline to introduce the proposed bill by spring 2018.

The Grand Chiefs office will continue to advocate on the protection of the inherent and treaty rights of First Nations. The government's current approach to move legislation quickly without fully consulting and engaging First Nations in a meaningful way, will be challenged through this office.

## MMTP Monitoring

Some First Nation leaders expressed concerns with Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project (MMTP) proposal and development of Enbridge Pipeline's Line 3 Replacement Project through their ancestral and traditional lands. SCO continues to support First Nations in advocating for the protection of lands and traditional territories while at the same time, respecting the decision making authority of leadership in our communities.

## Education

At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the Grand Chief visited teachers and students of the Indigenous Bilingual Program at Ecole Riverbend Community School to acknowledge their efforts in the preservation of the Anishinaabe language. This is a step towards revitalizing our First Nation languages and ensuring our children and grandchildren are able to carry the knowledge through communication.

On October 10 & 11, 2017, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) co-hosted a Leadership Dialogue Forum on Education Transformation. It was an opportunity for leaders to engage with senior government officials on the latest developments and the way forward with respect to the education programming

for First Nations. Directions and feedbacks will be sought from leadership and education representatives on four main education areas: governance and jurisdiction, funding, language and culture, and education standards.

## Infrastructure and Roads

While there has been movement towards building a road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, construction has been delayed until the Province of Manitoba prioritizes funding towards restarting it again. The Eastside Road Initiative was to provide improved, safe and more reliable transportation service for the remote and isolated communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The all-season road would have provided reliable year round access to Hollow Water, Bloodvein, and Berens River First Nation. Unfortunately, due to the change in the provincial government, the East Side Road Initiative is dissolved with only a road reaching Bloodvein First Nation.

The Grand Chief and the leadership of Berens River First Nation met with the federal and provincial Minister of Infrastructure to advocate for the rebuilding of the east side road. The federal government is committed to cost-sharing the project with the province, but the east side road is not one of the provincial government priorities at this time. The Grand Chief is still committed to put pressure on the province to ensure First Nations in that region have the same access and opportunities as other communities across this province.

## Moving Forward

SCO will continue to work diligently to support the work of its member Nations as requested. There has been a number of success and accomplishments in numerous areas, since my tenure as the Grand Chief, over a year ago. I am committed to ensure that remains SCO a reliable and reputable organization, able to help enhance community and economic development.

As we move forward to another year, I am optimistic to the days ahead for the Southern Chiefs Organization that is guided by the vision of our First Nations. I know there will be challenges and obstacles ahead, but with collective support and direction, I believe we can become a strong organization to help enhance the livelihood of our people and nations.



# Child and FAMILY SERVICES



## Introduction

Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) resumed the Leadership and Responsibility of Southern First Nation Network of Care from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) which came into effect on January 28, 2009 through the Certified Resolution process (JAN-09.23). On November 8, 2015, SCO became the official designated organization to identify and appoint board members to the Southern First Nation Network of Care and Section. As a result, section 6(3) of the Manitoba Child and Family Services Authorities Act had been amended to assert, "The board of directors of the Southern Authority is to be appointed by the Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc."

In the 2017-18 fiscal year, collaboration with stakeholders the government of Manitoba, Indigenous Services of Canada (ISC), MKO, SFNNC, and FNCFS agency directors and frontline workers, helped ensure positive relationships and communication. Working with the southern FNCFS agencies, First Nation leadership and all relevant levels of government on issues that covered southern FNCFS, cultural and traditional ways, as well as families that are involved with the Jordan's Principle was carried out to help ensure that First Nation children, youth, and families involved with the FNCFS (both on and off reserve) receive the help and support that is needed.



## Key Issues & Challenges

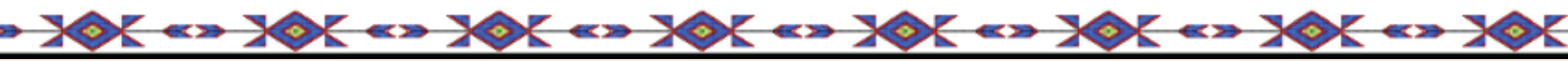
The work of the SCO CFS Liaison ensures that there is the continuation of progress, actively making positive connections, which in turn, improves relationships between the stakeholders, First Nations leadership, families, the CFS agencies and the communities. New intakes are always welcomed by telephone, email, walk-ins, and by third party referrals. Of these, client inquiries included (but not limited to):

- Circumstances surrounding apprehension
- Unrealistic demands made on the parent/s to get their child(ren) back home
- Parent/s not understanding the issues that may have been a contributing factor for the CFS agency to become involved
- Interpret the CFS style of communication for the parent/s to understand
- Assisting with access to the child(ren) in care for all family members
- Help access resources that CFS workers don't have the time to do
- Assisting with family reunification
- Identifying resources that are best suited for each family's unique situation

Some families do require support with the various resources that they are involved with such as Social Assistance, Victim Services, Addiction Treatment/detox centres, shelters (due to domestic violence or homelessness), various community physical and mental health resources as well as other many other organizations and service providers that the family needs.

Communication with FNCFS agencies, First Nation leadership and all relevant levels of government on issues that covered CFS, child welfare reform, cultural and traditional education, Jordan's Principle were carried out throughout the year to help the First Nation families involved with the FNCFS both on and off reserve. Collaboration with stakeholders AMC, MKO, SFNNC, FNCFS agency directors helps to ensure positive relationship building and communication with SCO.

The SCO CFS liaison continues to strengthen the relationships between SFNNC First Nation Child and Family Services agency staff. There are improved



communications and guidance between the agency case managers and the children, youth and families we work with. More work to be done on the frontline from the moment of apprehension to the time for reunification. Many of the barriers set in place by the FNCFS agencies have been mitigated however, this stems from the old practice of apprehension rather than prevention supports for the families. Children and families need to be a priority as families experience great losses as a result of children coming into the child welfare system.



**One of the key challenges that was identified is the fractured relationships and communications within the First Nations communities, leadership and the CFS agencies.**



One of the key challenges that was identified is the fractured relationships and communications within the First Nations communities, leadership and the CFS agencies. A small handful of First Nations communities have strong relationships with their First Nations leadership. One goal would be to see all of the Indigenous communities, leadership, Elders, and community members to work honourably together and to continue to develop ways and to provide cultural and traditional programming for children youth and families and make it a priority to bring children back home.

Another concern is that there needs to be more community outreach on the role of the SCO CFS Liaison. This is a strategy that will need to be worked on as we focus to improve ways to develop relationships and communication with CFS agencies and service providers.

## **Linkage to First Nation Communities**

The SCO Restorative Justice Coordinator and the SCO CFS Liaison have come together to create awareness in the First Nations communities where there are Restorative Justice Workers. This helps aid in the type of services that are available to First Nations membership involved with the Manitoba Justice system.

The CFS Liaison has been able to assist children, youth and families involved with the Southern First Nations Network of Care's FN CFS agencies and communities. The CFS Liaison has met with various urban organizations and service providers to discuss culturally appropriate programming and staff was encouraged to connect with the First Nations communities and Elders.

## **Status of Activities**

Acted as a liaison between the parent/s and the child and family services agencies that are beneficial to the parents and the First Nations Child and Family Services agencies.

- Provided presentations for CFS agencies, university students and other service providers to be aware of the new role of the CFS Liaison.
- Acted as a navigator for children, youth, parent/s, families in dealing with apprehension issues
- Helping parents understand why the CFS agency became involved helps the family to identify issues that can be traced back to the effects of intergenerational trauma.
- Ensured that child welfare agencies accommodate reasonable requests by parents or other caregivers and children and youth for participation of an individual they identify as a support in their dealing with the child welfare system
- Having a neutral support person helped improve the social worker/client relationships.
- Parents have a better understanding of the child welfare system in Manitoba
- Worked with families to support and help address barriers respecting child and family services matters at the community, agency and government levels.

- Advocated on behalf of children and youth on safety and policy concerns brought to SCO
- Met with CFS agencies and community programs to identify area of concern and to help improve on their supports and services that are provided to the family
- Assisted the parent/s, guardians, and extended family members on plans to bring their children home
- Identified barriers that led to accomplish agency case plan expectations
- Worked with all relevant government departments, First Nation organizations and northern First Nations to research, analyze, monitor and propose strategies for development and implementation with respect to child and family services matters.
- Meeting with various service providers and CFS agencies to identify best practices that involve family reunification.
- Worked with and between the department and First Nations agencies to facilitate resolutions and problem solving at the regional and provincial levels of child and family services issues
- Attended the Manitoba CFS tripartite table, the Regional Advisory Committee, to identify areas that need attention such as; the need for a new funding model, claw back of the CSA dollars both levels of governments funding issues.
- Actively worked to strengthen the communication and relationship with the Southern First Nations Network of Care and the Southern Chiefs' Organization.
- Ensured all communications and information from the SFNNC was provided to the SCO
- Created presentations to inform community members and service providers about expanded mandate and role of the liaison for children and youth and families
- Provided service provider information and supports for families that are transitioning from First Nation communities to Winnipeg
- Ensured child welfare agencies accommodated reasonable requests by parents or other caregivers and children and youth for participation of an individual they identify as a support in their dealings with the child welfare system
- Developed awareness presentations for parent/s, guardians, extended family of their rights regarding CFS and understanding the child welfare system
- Created open dialog with FN CFS frontline workers about the importance of helping families and guiding them through the child welfare system.
- Assist the parent/s, guardians, and other family members on plans to bring their children home. To date there have been a total of 57 families requesting support with 14 children reunified.
- Identifying issues and barriers that prevent children and families from achieving positive life outcomes have helped the families on their healing journeys.
- Assisted grandparents and other family members to have access to the children that are in care. The Grandparents act is seen as a barrier to some as it has fees involved and the process is not clear.
- Strengthened communication and relationship between the SCO and the SFNNC
- SCO's Special CFS Summit brought together leaders, elders, experts and front line workers to identify specific, tangible, and community driven solutions to reform the current child welfare system in Manitoba. The goals of developing our own First Nations Laws and bringing forward and building on our own ways will help to change how families are supported. Together we actively participated in discussions on Customary Care, Subsidized guardianship, Social Impact Bonds and New Born Apprehensions.



## Key Accomplishments

- Provided advocacy for children and families in the Manitoba Child & Family Services system
- Advocated on behalf of children and youth on safety and policy concerns brought to SCO
- Acted as a liaison between the children, parent/s and the child and family agency



# Department of JUSTICE

## Introduction

Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) established its Department of Justice in 2001. The mission of SCO's Department of Justice is to reassert full First Nation control and jurisdiction over criminal law and the administration of justice including the implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy. The First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS) is a community based program that provides restorative justice and mediation services with a dedication to the wellness and healing of our communities. SCO seeks to reclaim traditional Indigenous practices of justice for our clients.

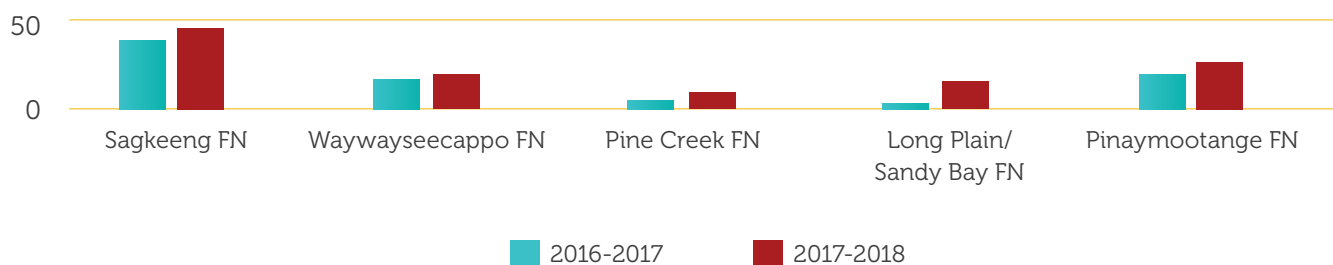
The First Nations Justice Strategy aims to reclaim balance, crime prevention, empowerment, and healing for all individuals involved, including their families and the community. Currently, SCO has 5 Community Justice Workers and a Community Justice Development Coordinator (CJDC) promoting and implementing Restorative Justice practices in the communities. The communities include Long Plain, Sagkeeng, Pinaymootang, Pine Creek, Waywayseecappo, and Sandy Bay First Nation. The program receives pre and post diversions from Crown Prosecutors, First Nation

Police Services, and RCMP, Chief and Council, and self-referrals. This assists the communities in assuming greater responsibility for the administration of justice within their communities that is based on the healing and restoration of relationships.

## Key Issues & Challenges

- An increase 260% growth rate of incarcerated women since 2006;
- Indigenous people are overrepresented with 74% of incarcerated people in Manitoba;
- Lack of Collaboration and consultation from the Provincial Government;
- No funding increase;
- Ongoing deaths of Indigenous people in the Correctional Centres;
- Ongoing proposals being submitted but being denied by funders;
- Abuse of authority by the RCMP towards Indigenous people.

## Referrals



## Status of Activities

This past year was successful in filling in the vacancies. As a result, we had an increase in our referral numbers by 40% with a 94% success rate. SCO Justice implemented a Holistic social needs assessment and Medicine Wheel case plan that address the root causes and assists bringing the individual back into balance and harmony with oneself and their community. The Community Justice Worker completes the Holistic social needs assessment with the client, provides the Holistic Social Needs Assessment and Healing plan to the Justice committee who then supports and implements the plan with the client.

The Department of Justice works in partnership with various stakeholders including Winnipeg Police Services, RCMP, First Nation Police Services, assigned Crown Attorneys,



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Elders Council, Chief and Councils, and the community Justice Committees. SCO departments including the Violence Prevention Program in project specific tasks, training, and supporting communities. SCO has representation that currently sits on the Winnipeg Police Board's Indigenous Advisory Council on Policing and Crime Prevention and on the Manitoba Restorative Justice Association. The Community Justice Development Coordinator continues to establish positive working relationships with stakeholders in order to increase the number of pre and post diversions. To date, the CJDC has met with Manitoba First Nation Police Services, RCMP, the Province of Manitoba, John Howard Society, MKO, and MMF.

## Key Accomplishments

- Participated on a panel at the United Nations on the Mass Incarceration of Indigenous and Rural Women in Canada;
- Was a guest on APTN's Nation to Nation to discuss the over representation of Indigenous people incarcerated in Manitoba;
- A Healing Focused partnership with First Nation Police Services;
- In respect for Restorative Justice Week, SCO held an event called "Holistic Healing";
- Organized A "With Love from Mom" Christmas Campaign;
- Guest speaker at the First Nation Police Canadian Police Board Conference;
- Presented at the John Howard Society National Conference on our programs;
- Received Federal funding for the Community Healing Program;
- Received private funding the create the Youth Empowerment Program DVD Series;
- All staff received training and a certificate in Mediation.





# Health RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT



## Introduction

The lead priority of this program is to ensure engagement and productivity with the Southern First Nation communities and respective Health staff, whether it is in support through advocating for their individual health program needs, or collectively moving forward with new initiatives in the transformation of health care service delivery. The program is designed to let the grassroots take the lead and drive change from within. Developing a communication system and hosting networking meetings for our leaders in health is one means of delivering better opportunities for collaborative action.

Working in accordance to the Political Unity Accord on Health, the Health Research & Engagement program provides for consultation with the SCO communities to obtain input and guidance on First Nations health issues, thus ensuring that First Nations health perspectives are heard and considered when developing solution-based models for increasing positive health outcomes for our citizens.



## Key Issues & Challenges

With "Health" being an umbrella title over numerous subtexts of health (e.g. Physical, Social, Environmental, Emotional, Spiritual, & Intellectual/Mental), the following are a sample of topics that were worked on over the 2017/18 year, including some of the challenges noted:

- **Health Transformation** – Due to restructuring of the Provincial health care system, as well as a Federal merger of FNIHB & INAC (creation of Department of Indigenous Services Canada), the HREL attended meetings with the First Nations Health & Social Secretariat (FNHSSM), Health Directors, and the Provincial & Federal health departments to discuss what the impacts would be to First Nations.
- **Mental Health/Addictions/Suicide** – Illicit methamphetamine and opioid use remained to be a rapidly growing trend across Manitoba, not sparing touching the lives of our First Nations people. This was demonstrated by the State of Emergency declared on the Drug Crisis by Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council in September of 2017. Sadly and despite best efforts, some southern First Nations also faced the effects of suicide within their communities, as well as members struggling with mental health issues. Proper funding and access to mental health services continue to be challenges for First Nation communities province-wide.
- **Data Collection & Connectivity** – When it comes to health data, Manitoba First Nations do not have a central health database system that ALL have equal access to, or that abides by the OCAP principles. This creates difficulties with consistent data entry, sharing of information, standard reporting, etc. Additionally, many communities have limited access to internet connectivity, which creates further barriers.
- **Diabetes** – Within our First Nation population, diabetes contributes to 70% of non-traumatic lower limb amputations and is a leading cause of vision loss. Cases of diabetes is estimated to increase by 37% over the next 10 years. To turn such statistics around, southern communities require better access to diabetes prevention resources, timely & adequate interventions for patients, primary/clinician services at the community level, and further supports for healthy living (determinants of health).
- **Jordan's Principle** – With communities receiving Jordan's Principle funding for the first time, some starting-out challenges faced were: acquiring resources and specialized training opportunities; advocacy for inclusion of Mental Health and Infrastructure into the funding; regional decisions surrounding Service Providers, and adapting to continuous changes in relation to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings.

## Linkage to First Nation Communities

Throughout the 2017/18 fiscal year, the new Health Research & Engagement Liaison worked to establish connections with the southern communities of the SCO region. The HREL maintained regular correspondence with Health Directors, technicians and Jordan's Principle staff through phone conversations, by email, in-person meetings, and via social media. For networking purposes and participation in information sessions, the HREL travelled to the following communities:

- Brokenhead
- Dakota Tipi
- Keeseekoowenin
- Lake St. Martin
- O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi
- Peguis
- Sagkeeng
- Skownan

By invitation of the Tribal Councils and FNHSSM, additional health engagements took place in Winnipeg, Dauphin, Long Plain, Yorkton, and the Swan Lake office in Headingley. A regional Health Directors Gathering was hosted by Southern Chiefs' Organization prior to the conclusion of the fiscal year, bringing together many southern Health Directors to provide updates and discuss various health topics.

Along with creating relationships with the colleagues in health, the HREL spoke with many community members and Jordan's Principle families regarding health issues that affect them, with the goal to help break down barriers and find long-term solutions.

## Status of Activities

SCO's HREL continues to work diligently on the areas of Health identified by communities as being priority issues, whether individually or as a collective. While majority of areas are systemic or policy-related matters that take time to resolve through advocacy and collaboration (such as Non-Insured Health Benefits), some matters found resolution more willingly (E.g. Resources for local Jordan's Principle programs).



## Key Accomplishments

- Building of relationships with southern FN communities, Tribal Councils and other stakeholders
- Assisting with the implementation of Jordan's Principle & successful advocacy for Mental Health inclusion
- Renewed working relationship with First Nations Health & Social Secretariat
- Reestablishment of the Health Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with AMC & MKO, through the re-signing of the Political Unity Accord on Health
- Participation in such committees as, but not limited to: Manitoba First Nations Health Technicians Network; Provincial Suicide Prevention Network; Clear Sky Connections; and North American Indigenous Games Bid Committee.
- Active roles in Pinaymootang's Jordan's Principle Modules & Toolkit, the Provincial Mental Health & Addictions Strategic Plan, Pan-Canadian Diabetes Report, Auditor General's Report, CancerCare Manitoba's First Nations, Metis & Inuit Cancer Initiative, and Assembly of First Nations Accessibility Consultation
- Jordan's Principle Awareness Walk from Winnipeg Children's Hospital to Legislative Building





# *Non-Insured* HEALTH BENEFITS



## Introduction

Southern Chiefs Organization has been provided with grant funding through the First Nations Inuit Health Branch to staff a Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigator. The position provides continued support and advocacy to community members within the Southern Chiefs Organization catchment area of 34 First Nations.

Objectives of the program is to assist eligible First Nations clients who experience difficulty accessing the NIHB Program and related provincial/territorial programs and services. The Navigator also provides support to clients and communities in gaining a better understanding of the NIHB Program, existing health services and jurisdictions. The Navigator also gathers, collates and exchanges information on health access issues and identifies ways of improving health services for First Nations clients.



Assist clients who experience difficulty accessing the NIHB Program and related programs and services.



Program activities are as follows:

- Continue to serve as first point of contact for communities, organizations and individuals for the purpose of facilitating access to the NIHB Program and also provide support to address NIHB denials and appeals
- Continue to collaborate with NIHB regional office on programs/projects/initiatives that would improve awareness and access to the NIHB Program and better integration of health services
- Ongoing development in the communication strategy and implement approaches to improve awareness and understanding of the NIHB Program, including the new Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative
- Continue to maintain a network of contacts in order to strengthen relationships with stakeholders, health care service providers and provincial, federal and territorial partners.
- Continue to identify training needs and opportunities for improving access to health services and health outcomes



## Key Issues & Challenges

With the continuation of the NIHB Navigator position and outreach efforts made, client intakes fluctuate throughout the year. New intakes are received by telephone, email, walk-ins, third-party referrals, and via social media. Of these, client inquiries included (but not limited to):

- Assistance surrounding medical travel, lack of accommodations and lack of adequate meal provided for the various circumstances

- SCO Communities members unaware of the Appeal process.
- SCO members unaware of various cutbacks in NIHB
- Vision and dental coverage, denials and appeals
- Medical supplies, prescription coverage and process for application for drug exceptions
- Coverage for children's special needs through the NIHB's new Jordan's Principle program
- Information regarding diabetic care (i.e. Foot care, procedure coverage & test strips)
- Mental Health services and Traditional healing NIHB coverage
- Urban relocation supports for Dialysis Tx. (outside the perimeter of Winnipeg)
- Sharing and aligning resources with existing agencies
- Translation needs in Health Services centres (HSC St Boniface. Travel)

## Linkage to First Nation Communities

- Regular email updates with Health Directors and Tribal Councils on NIHB announcements and activities.
- Attend community-scheduled events when possible.

## Status of Activities

- Ongoing advocacy with family consults re: NIHB coverage and eligibilities

- Increased program awareness through social media and printed publications
- Strengthen the gathering of data for statistical and analytic purposes
- Increase familiarity with NIHB's new Jordan's Principle – Child First Initiative program & services



## Key Accomplishments

- Advocate for SCO FN family through Interdisciplinary consults re: NIHB coverage and eligibilities and Public Trustees
- Attended Anti-Racism Workshop – Dr. Lavallee – November 2017
- Advocate ongoing dental recommendations – address NIHB Navigators – January 2018
- Attended Hearing Voices Workshop – The Manitoba Schizophrenia Society – February 2018
- Attended Transforming Primary Health Care Symposium – February 2018
- Attended Addictions Presentation – AFM – February 2018
- SCO Health Directors Gathering – March 2018
- Review Draft Vision and Dental Implementation Plans – NIHB Navigators Table – March 2018
- FNHA Office and Seabird FN Health Centre Site visit – March 2018



# MINO-PIMATISIWIN



## Introduction

SCO works with victims of crime, Indigenous women, and grassroots leadership. The violence prevention and justice programs built partnerships to address problems for community. SCO is working with Elizabeth Fry Society on developing toolkits for women when they move to Winnipeg from their First Nation. Expertise exists on sharing circles, needs assessments, gap analysis, promoting system change, and supporting grassroots leadership. Our First Nations Justice Strategy (FNJS) offers expertise in working with offenders and victims.

SCO maintains Health programming through development, policy analysis, and evaluation. All programs use trauma-informed practices.



## Key Issues & Challenges

Southern Chiefs' Organization's Violence Prevention and Justice Programs have identified areas of vulnerability for Indigenous women in Manitoba. Working in partnership with Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, Indigenous women who have been in conflict with the law have been consulted with the work of these organizations on areas of violence prevention and safety, economic security, vulnerabilities and harm reduction. These women have outlined concerns for their safety and well-being to include equality of women and barriers for women exiting incarceration to access services, resources and economic security.

In identifying the various vulnerabilities of Indigenous women, it is critical to look at how intersectionality plays a role. Indigenous women not only face gender discrimination but also face racism creating systemic barriers in accessing resources and security. This contributes to victimization of women and contributes

to women being involved in criminal activity. These women have shared that they want a better life and way to prosper in society. However, having been in conflict with the law creates a whole new systemic barrier, where these women who already face discrimination become identified as even less than other Indigenous women and cannot find success within society due to various system barriers.



## These women have shared that they want a better life and way to prosper in society.



This landscape paves the way for additional vulnerabilities. These women often cannot find employment, cannot access identification, cannot access Employment Assistance and struggle to make ends meet. This poses a problem for women that have children in care as without financial security and housing cannot get children back. As a result, these women have reported they are then subject to exploitation, violence, addictions and can lead to further involvement with criminal activity. This cycle creates an identity for these women as the lowest in society, not having self-worth breaks the spirit. For Indigenous women who have been in conflict with the law, finding security following release from incarceration is a major concern for safety and security in society.



This project will work to break down system barriers for Indigenous women who have previously been in conflict with the law to secure economic sustainability and lifestyles where vulnerabilities are reduced for the safety of women. The focus of the project is economic security, safety and leadership capacity.

## Linkage to First Nation Communities

The geographical focus of the project include: i) The urban centre of the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba ii) the 32 First Nation communities who are members of SCO in Southern Manitoba: Berens River First Nation, Birdtail Sioux First Nation, Black River First Nation, Bloodvein First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway, Canupawakpa, Dakota Tipi First Nation, Dauphin River First Nation, Ebb and Flow First Nation, Gamblers First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation, Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation, Lake Manitoba First Nation, Lake St. Martin First Nation, Little Grand Rapids First

Nation, Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Long Plain First Nation, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation, Pauingassi First Nation, Peguis First Nation, Pinaymootang First Nation, Pine Creek Anishinabe Nation, Poplar River First Nation, Rolling River Anishinabe Nation, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Skownan First Nation, Swan Lake First Nation, Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve, and Waywayseecappo First Nation.

## Status of Activities

Currently focus groups are being initiated to gauge what community wants from Mino-Pimatiwisin Project.



## Key Accomplishments

Women leaders will participate in a pan-Canadian network, including participation in five, three-day national working meetings in locations across Canada over the course of the project.

- To date women leaders have travelled to Toronto and Halifax with the next meeting in Vancouver.





# Protecting OUR WOMEN



## Introduction

Southern Chiefs' Organization was granted funding through Status of Women Canada under their theme of "Working in Partnership to End Violence against Women and Girls" to create a safety plan for Indigenous women and girls moving to a residing in Winnipeg.

## Key Issues & Challenges

Indigenous peoples, especially youth, women and girls are at risk to being victim of exploitation, violence and crime. SCO has recognized the need to collaborate with the city to assist Indigenous women and girls to access these resources so that they can protect themselves from any harm. Currently, the 32 First Nation communities do not have a safety plan in place to assist their members moving to the city. Additionally, there is a lack of safety planning within the city for Indigenous women and girls to protect them from risks of violence and exploitation. We recognize that Indigenous women are 3 times more likely to be victims of violence, including spousal abuse, and being assaulted by a stranger or acquaintance.



There is a lack of  
safety planning within  
the city for Indigenous  
women



Safety and protection planning should begin with and at the community level with collaboration from various stakeholders. This will aid in healing, prevention and protection to end violence against Indigenous women.

Some of the challenges that were met during the project were:

- Gaining commitment from some Winnipeg stakeholders as project partners
- Inability to connect with some communities.

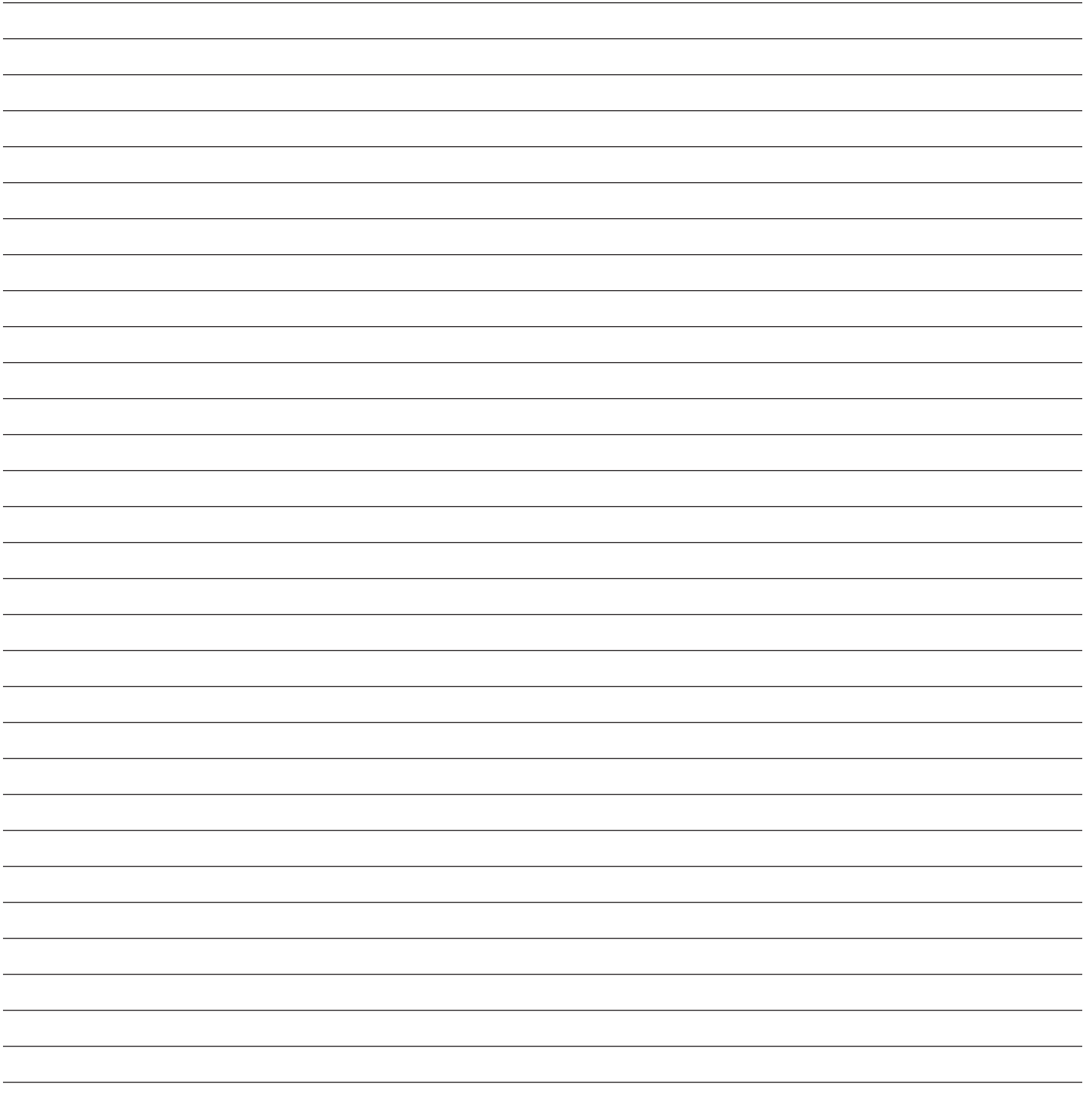
## Linkage to First Nation Communities

Working with the 32 First Nation members of SCO, we recognize that our peoples are moving to urban centres more frequently, even if on short term basis. The City of Winnipeg as the capital city, is often a place of destination with two universities, several community colleges and numerous high schools. Winnipeg has various services for vulnerable, and low-income families, as well as services for Indigenous peoples and women specifically. However, often these services and resources work in silos and can be a barrier for new-comer Indigenous peoples in Winnipeg.

## Key Accomplishments

2018 was the last year of the Protecting Our Women Project. With the release of the Protecting Our Women Safety Plan and Toolkit and evaluation being the last two activities to be completed.

- Accessing funding to provide more advocacy for victims of violence
- Accessing funding for an Administrative Assistant, delays the final output of toolkit





## *Mission Statement*

We, the Chiefs of the Southern First Nations of Manitoba, hereby agree to establish an independent political forum to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance First Nations peoples' inherent rights, languages, customs, and traditions through the application and implementation of the spirit and intent of the Treaty-making process.



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