



# REMEMBRANCE

A YEAR TO HONOUR THE CHILDREN



IMPACT REPORT  
2021/22



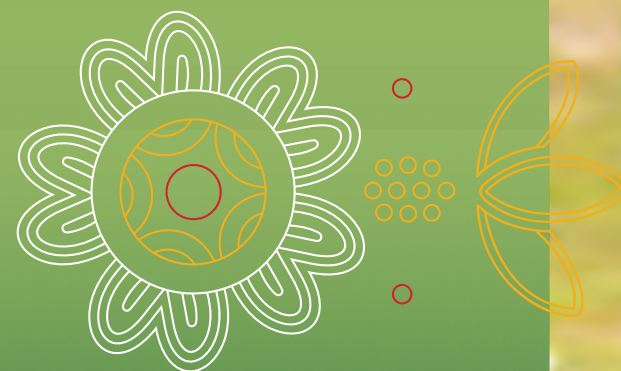






“ Over the last year our children woke up Canada, as the unmarked graves laid bare the undeniable truth of the residential schools and the colonial project. We remembered our children, all while facing the second year of a global pandemic. But after two difficult years that tested our resilience, my hope is that the year ahead is one of renewal and healing. Let’s come together with renewed energy to resist colonial oppression, challenge the systems and structures that disadvantage our people, and do the work we need to do to create a better future for our children. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS





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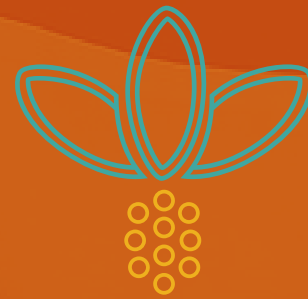
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# GRAND CHIEF'S WELCOME



## Boozhoo, Aniin, and Wash-Tay

*Welcome to the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) impact report and to a look at the work we accomplished together in 2021/2022. It is my honour to serve the Anishinaabe and Dakota Chiefs, and to represent the 34 Nations and more than 81,500 citizens as your Grand Chief.*

*I want to acknowledge our ancestors, and the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in our lives and communities who protect and preserve our knowledge and cultures. Many of our Elders and Knowledge Keepers are Survivors of the residential schools and day schools, and this annual report is dedicated to you and to the children who did not return home. You are in our hearts, and thanks to your courage and resistance, we are here today.*

*I would like to recognize the leadership of the Chiefs' Executive Committee and the Chiefs' Finance and Personnel Committee, including Chief Larry Barker, Chief Norman Bone, Chief Derrick Henderson, Chief Glenn Hudson, Chief Cornell McLean, and Chief Trevor Prince. Your wisdom continues to guide me to lead our rapidly growing organization.*

*As a Grand Chief and a father, I also want to hold up our youth and our Youth Council. We work for you and for the seven generations that follow, to right the wrongs of the past and create a better world where you can flourish, grow, and prosper in safety, protected and strengthened by our beautiful culture and languages. This is the vision that inspires me and that of our leadership and all our staff at SCO.*

## Honouring Survivors and Remembering the Children

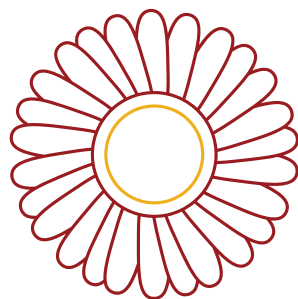
In the last days of May 2021, the children woke up Canada. We expressed shock, sadness, and solidarity with our First Nation relatives across Turtle Island, after learning of the discovery of the remains of 215 children on a former residential school site in Kamloops, British Columbia. The discovery was further evidence of a genocide, and we came together in grief to relive one of the darkest periods in our collective history.

I travelled to Kamloops to meet the courageous Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and share our support. I visited Cowessess First Nation to do the same, after learning of the devastating discovery of 715 unmarked graves at the residential school on their territory. On July 1<sup>st</sup> in Winnipeg, SCO co-hosted

an event with the Treaty One Chiefs and other Indigenous organizations called "No Pride in Genocide." It featured a peaceful walk between the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and the Peguis First Nation Urban Reserve in Winnipeg, and it was incredible to see First Nations coming together and to welcome so many allies at the walk.

The discovery of the children at Kamloops, and then Cowessess, and all those that followed stirred up past anguish in our territory. We have called for criminal investigations into all residential school sites and believe they should be treated as crime scenes. One of the many injustices demanding our attention is in Brandon where a campground and RV park sits on the graves of our children. The Turtle Crossing Campground is





situated on the site of the unmarked graves of more than 54 children from at least 12 First Nations who died at Brandon Residential School. SCO continues to explore all options to address the consequences of the sale by Brandon City Council of a known residential school cemetery, and we are working with all parties connected to the unmarked graves to right this egregious wrong, and so many others.

In September of 2021, in advance of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we launched a month of reflection, commemoration, and solidarity to honour and remember those who were subjected to the residential school system. An Orange Heart multimedia campaign could be seen on billboards, bus board, transit shelters, and lawn signs throughout southern Manitoba. The SCO Chiefs-in-Summit passed an important resolution calling for more long-term permanent funding for healing programs and other supports for Survivors. In the last year, the healing programs supported more than 40,000 Survivors and their families in Manitoba. The federal funding, which stems from the Indian Residential School Settlement agreement, has been at risk and on short-term extensions for several years.

In December, we took another step to end the painful legacy of the residential schools by demonstrating that every child truly matters. We want all little ones to feel the magic and fun of the holiday season, and so we brought joy to thousands of children in nine southern Nations with the arrival of Orange Santa!

## Continuing to Protect Our People

First Nation leaders across southern Manitoba continue to show phenomenal leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Chiefs took life-saving measures, and many made the difficult decision to lock down their communities for periods of time. However, by May 2021, due to the failed leadership of the Pallister government, Manitoba had the highest rates of COVID-19 in North America.

The health care crisis and chronic staffing shortages, exacerbated by poor decisions such as the closing of emergency departments by the provincial government, turned the struggling health care system into something worse. Due to a shortage of intensive care beds in Manitoba, patients had to be transferred out of the province, and one of our relatives, Krystal Mousseau, a member of Ebb and

Flow First Nation and a mother of two, tragically died during an attempted medical transfer. A Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation citizen, Lillian Vanasse, also tragically died and her death in an Alberta hospital is now the subject of a public fatal inquiry. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of Krystal and Lillian as they grieve.

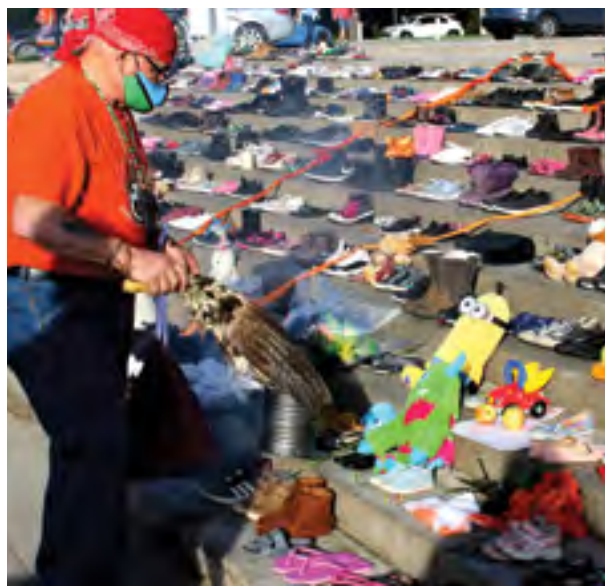
By March 31, 2022, more than 35,948 First Nation citizens living in Manitoba had contracted COVID-19, many ended up in the hospital and in the ICU, and more than 347 of our people had died. We mourn the loss of every one of our relatives, and know their families and communities miss them every day. We honour their lives and I offer the biggest thanks and deepest gratitude to our First Nation nurses and health care professionals who cared for our loved ones and offered comfort to our families during times of great loss. Your grace and fortitude have touched us all.

Collectively, we bore witness this last year to the deadly reality of what centuries of colonization and systemic racism have done to our people and our communities. The pandemic exposed the inequities of the colonial state that have oppressed First Nations for generations. SCO is calling on all levels of government to commit to closing the gaps faced by First Nation people and ending economic apartheid, infrastructure deficits, increased poverty, systemic racism, violence, and some of the worst health outcomes in Canada. We are demanding change and control of our own future.

Since the pandemic began, SCO has advocated for additional funding for First Nations, and in the second year of the pandemic we provided almost \$3 million directly to southern First Nations. I am proud to say that SCO staff stepped up to protect our people this year in many ways, including by fighting to access and then successfully distributing thousands of rapid antigen tests, much-needed protective equipment, and medical and cleaning supplies. These measures saved lives.

## Fighting for Indigenous and Inherent Rights

When it comes to protecting our lands, water, and inherent, Treaty and Indigenous rights, we will not compromise, and so we spoke out this year on many issues. We advocated for an immediate upgrade to Vital Statistics software, so that the births of our children can be registered using their chosen







traditional names as is our right. We also called for a halt to a provincial Crown Lands Auction.

First Nations were promised land more than a century ago when treaties were signed with the British Crown, and in 1997 the province signed the Manitoba Framework Agreement on Treaty Land Entitlement that called for more than a million acres of land to be transferred. A quarter of a century later, only half of that quota has been met.

This year, we released the results of our devastating survey report on racism in policing, which you will see on the following pages, and we spoke out on a number of deaths in custody, including that of William Ahmo, a member of Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation, and James Flatfoot of Pine Creek First Nation. A Headingley jail guard has now been charged in William's death, and our prayers go out to the families of William and James.

### Celebrating Our Progress!

We took time to celebrate the progress we made together this year, including highlights you will see on the following pages, such as the Spirit Ride and Flag Raising at Winnipeg City Hall, and the success of our socially distanced fourth annual SCO / Southern Chiefs' Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) golf tournament.



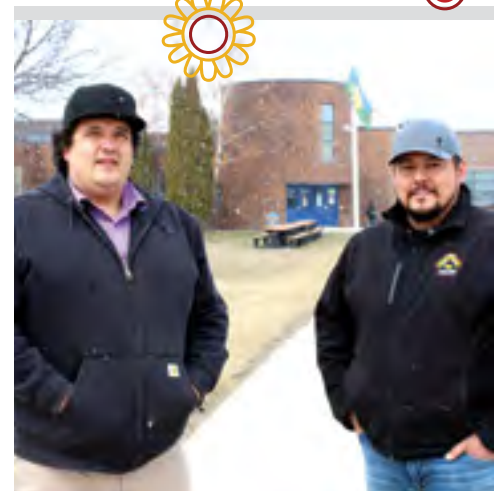
Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and through a partnership with Indspire, our tournament raised \$100,000 in annual and endowed scholarships. The funds are being awarded to students from SCO-member Nations and this year we established a new scholarship at Brandon University in honour of the Survivors of residential schools and their descendants.

Our achievements are significant and growing, including the launch of new programs such as the Status Card Registry Office and Mobile Crisis Response Team, the expansion of the Jordan's Principle Program into the Winnipeg School Division, and progress in all program areas. The highlights are detailed in the pages that follow.

I would like to thank Joy Cramer, our Chief Executive Officer, our management team, and each and every one of our staff for their dedication in serving the southern First Nation Chiefs and communities.

The last year has demanded much from us. The children lost to the residential schools are never far from our minds. We have suffered losses and COVID-19 has changed us all. But the best way to honour all that we and our families have endured is to work together to build the future our ancestors dreamed of and the good life our people deserve.

**Ogema-Makwa**  
**Grand Chief Jerry Daniels**







IN MEMORIAM –  
DAKOTA PLAINS WAHPETON OYATE  
CHIEF ORVILLE SMOKE

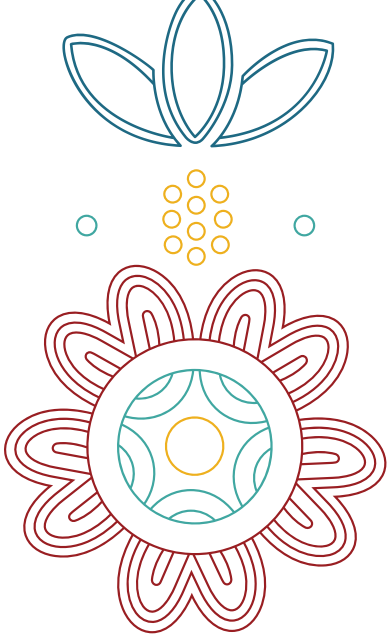
The Southern Chiefs' Organization remembers the legacy of the late Oyate Chief Orville Charles Smoke, who passed away October 5, 2021 at the age of 74 in Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation.

"Tokanshi h'de najin" (He Who Stands Making a Noise) was born in Portage la Prairie on July 12, 1947, the second youngest child of Chaske and Tiyo Smoke nee Myran. He was a proud father, grandfather, husband, friend, and relative to many extended family members.

Chief Smoke attended Portage la Prairie Residential School and vocational college in Winnipeg in his early years. He believed in a strong work ethic and was a skilled mechanic, plumber, welder, preacher, poet, and artist. He worked tirelessly for his Dakota Nation in various capacities in his early years including as Band Councillor. Then in 1994 he was selected by his people through Dakota hereditary custom to become Chief and served this role for 27 years until his passing. He accepted this important role with humility, strength, courage, vision, creativity, passion, and motivation. He worked diligently and thoughtfully to improve the quality of life for his people in all areas and will be remembered as an advocate, strong in his Dakota way of life and values, and as a kindhearted, caring man who was always available to help and listen to those in need.

**Rest in Peace.**

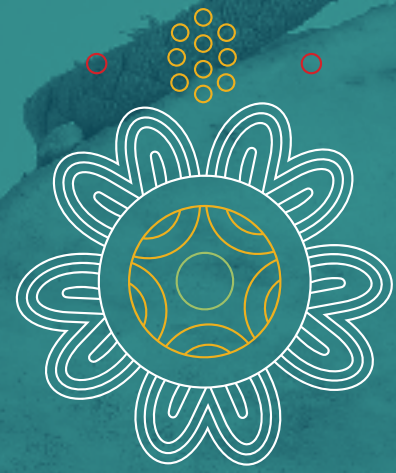
MEMBER  
FIRST NATIONS  
AND CHIEFS



FIRST NATION	CHIEF
Berens River	Norman McKay
Birdtail Sioux	Lindsay Bunn Jr.
Black River	Sheldon Kent
Bloodvein	Derek Cook
Brokenhead	Deborah Smith
Buffalo Point	Andrea Camp
Canupawakpa	Lola Thunderchild
Dakota Plains	Donny Smoke
Dakota Tipi	Eric Pashe
Dauphin River	Lawrence Letander
Ebb and Flow	Wayne Desjarlais
Gambler	David Ledoux
Hollow Water	Larry Barker
Keeseekoowenin	Norman Bone
Kinonjeoshtegon	Rod Travers
Lake Manitoba	Cornell McLean
Lake St. Martin	Adrian Sinclair

FIRST NATION	CHIEF
Little Grand Rapids	Oliver Owen
Little Saskatchewan	Hector Shorting
Long Plain	Dennis Meeches
O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi	Kerwin Chaboyer
Pauingassi	Roddy Owens
Peguis	Glenn Hudson
Pinaymootang	Kurvis Anderson
Pine Creek	Derek Nepinak
Poplar River	Vera Mitchell
Rolling River	Wilfred McKay
Roseau River	Craig Alexander
Sagkeeng	Derrick Henderson
Sandy Bay	Trevor Prince
Skownan	Cameron Catcheway
Swan Lake	Jason Daniels
Tootinaowaziibeeng	Barry McKay
Waywayseecappo	Murray Clearsky





# CHIEFS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CHIEFS' FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**Miigwetch and Pidamiye to the Chiefs for your service!**

**" We are collectively tackling very high level and difficult issues, and by listening to each other and working together, we will bring progress and solutions to our communities and continue the work to create positive outcomes for the people we represent. "**

— GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS



**Chief Norman Bone**  
Chiefs' Executive and Finance Committees



**Chief Larry Barker**  
Chiefs' Executive and Finance Committees



**Chief Derrick Henderson**  
Chiefs' Executive and Finance Committees



**Chief Glenn Hudson**  
Chiefs' Executive Committee



**Chief Trevor Prince**  
Chiefs' Executive and Finance Committees



**Cornell McLean**  
Chiefs' Finance Committee



# YOUTH COUNCIL

## A Message from Youth Chief Diandre Thomas-Hart



I would like to acknowledge that we do this work on behalf of the young people in the territory that is now southern Manitoba, and that we will continue to work hard for youth in our communities. It is important and vital as my new role as SCO Youth Chief that we work to create opportunities for young people to step into their leadership skills and build confidence in the knowledge and abilities they already have. Young people have beautiful gifts and talents, and we want to uplift them by saying we promote you, and we want to empower you.

This year has been steadily busy with the SCO Youth Council under new leadership. There was

much done in the past year, and still so much to be planned for the next year. As a Council, we are working hard to uplift and advocate for the youth voice to ensure there is proper representation at every table we sit at.

We are doing so much administration and reconstruction of our constitution as well as focusing on applying for funding so that we can do more for the young people we represent. We would love to see our Council be a lead in Indigenous youth engagement and programming, even more than what we have already accomplished this past year.

*Ekosi, Miigwetch, Pidamiye,*  
Youth Chief Diandre Thomas-Hart



## SCO Youth Council 2021-22



**YOUTH CHIEF**  
**Diandre Thomas-Hart,**  
Peguis First Nation

**YOUTH CHIEF**  
**Carson Robinson,**  
Sagkeeng Anicinabe  
First Nation

**Interlake Reserve**  
**Tribal Council:**

**Sienna Gould,**  
Pinaymootang First Nation

**Peter Traverse,**  
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation

**West Region Tribal Council:**

**Lyle Gabriel,**  
Skownan First Nation

**Dakota Ojibway**  
**Tribal Council:**

**Emilie McKinney,**  
Swan Lake First Nation

**Southeast Resource**  
**Development Council:**

**Rhea Bird-Courchene,**  
Black River First Nation

**Xavier Kent,**  
Brokenhead First Nation

**Independent Nations:**

**Tyra Fountain,**  
Sagkeeng Anicinabe  
First Nation

**Noah Robinson,**  
Sagkeeng Anicinabe  
First Nation

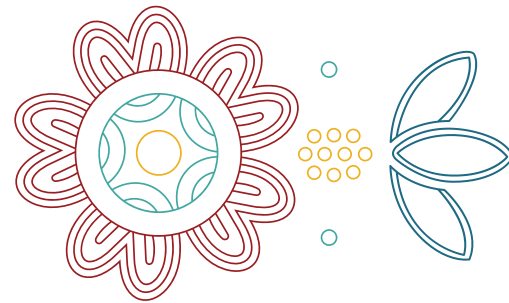


## Achievements

- Attended Chiefs-In-Summit meetings and gatherings including with SCO's Child and Family Services and Health Transformation departments
- Helped to re-establish the Southern First Nations Network of Care Braids of Life Youth Committee
- Organized and attended monthly council meetings and subcommittees, and developed social media updates and workplans
- Met with political leadership including NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh
- Organized a Winter Solstice 2021 Giveaway event to help support youth during COVID using funds received from We Matter #IndigenousRise COVID Fund
- Led a Youth Leadership Series February to March 2022, in partnership with the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc., to train and certify more than 100 Indigenous Youth in areas of career development including: Board Management and Development, Writing Proposals and Grants and Professional Communication, Law-Making, and Facilitator Training (Train the Trainer)
- Donated \$4000 to the Sagkeeng Hawks Girls Team to travel and attend the Fred Sasakamoose "Chief Thunderstick" National Hockey Championship in Saskatoon, SK
- Attended Vision Quest 2022 in Winnipeg, MB and met with Jody Wilson-Raybould former Liberal Minister of Justice, and Mo Brings Plenty from hit show 'Yellowstone'
- Supported SCO Summer Youth Internship 2022
- Planning SCO's Youth Got Talent, an online showcase celebrating and promoting Indigenous Youth Excellence for June 2022

If you are interested in learning more or connecting with us and to stay updated, please like and follow our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram: Southern Chiefs' Organization Youth Council or @scoyouthcouncil





# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I am pleased to report on the work of the Southern Chiefs' Organization over the 2021/2022 fiscal year where despite the pandemic, we continued to grow to better serve our communities and citizens. Thanks to the vision of Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, the guidance of our Chiefs' Executive Committee, Chiefs' Financial and Personnel Committee, and our Chiefs-in-Summit, this year we saw new programs and increases in both human and financial resources.

As we faced the second year of a global pandemic, we secured funding to address COVID-19 and assist with immediate and urgent community needs. In addition to advocating for additional funding to flow directly to southern First Nations, we provided almost \$3 million to our Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations to support off-reserve citizens.

With the hard work of our dedicated staff, we launched our Status Card Registry Office in November and our Mobile Crisis Response Team two months later in February. Both are incredibly busy

and doing critically important work. We expanded the SCO Jordan's Principle Program beyond the Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) Centre, to Winnipeg School Division (WSD), with more growth on the way to meet the health, educational, and social needs of our children, youth, and families throughout the south. We are so appreciative of the partnerships with SSCY Centre and WSD.

As you will read on the pages to follow, our community-based Health Transformation, Child and Family Services, Justice and Rights, and Environment departments continue to evolve, led by Elders and Knowledge Keepers and our Chiefs and community members. Our staff are now working from even more southern First Nations as well as from our head office on Swan Lake First Nation in Headingley and our renovated sub-office on Dublin Avenue in Winnipeg, and we have plans to open a second sub-office in Brandon.

Health Transformation continues to be a key priority as we work to close the 11 year and growing gap in life expectancy between First Nation citizens and all others in what is now Manitoba. Led by the Chiefs' Health Action Table and guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers, this year the team continued its deep engagement with member Nations, focusing on data governance, legislation, and education and outreach, developing a robust mental health and wellness strategy, and examining ways to address anti-Indigenous racism within the existing health care system among other priorities.

Our Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigator had an extremely busy year, helping an ever-increasing number of southern First Nation families work through complex systems to access their benefits. As a result we served 101% more citizens than the previous year, connecting them to mental health supports and traditional healing, prescription drugs, dental and vision care, medical supplies and transportation, and successfully appealing denials.

SCO continued to advocate for First Nation victims of the justice system throughout the year, supporting families and calling on provincial and federal governments to address police violence and the disproportionate number of First Nation victims. In July, SCO joined students and families in celebrating the graduation of the first cohort of the Restorative Justice Certificate Program at Assiniboine Community College, which was developed in partnership with SCO's Justice Program. There were 18 graduates in the inaugural class who completed much of the 18-month program online due to the pandemic. The graduates will further strengthen our capacity to administer justice rooted in Anishinaabe and Dakota traditions and worldviews.

We celebrated a third year of our comprehensive Water Testing program to address water quality and access issues in our territory, and the Environment team continues to work on the development of a Water Authority which will greatly assist in exercising jurisdiction and protecting our sacred waters.

Several Chiefs' Summits were held throughout the year, and our October Summit concluded with a firm commitment to explore more avenues to assume full control and autonomy over Child and Family Services and end the disproportionate apprehension of our children. The attending

Chiefs approved a number of other critical resolutions including one calling for a national response to the Sixties Scoop to address the lack of supports for Survivors and their families.

In 2021, SCO conducted critical surveys with our citizens and released detailed reports, one on the devastating experiences of racism in policing, and the other on southern missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people (MMIWG2S+) priorities to end the epidemic of violence against women, girls, two-spirit and gender-diverse people.

We also launched the first small business directory of authenticated southern First Nation businesses. Through economic development we are emerging from more than 150 years of systemic economic apartheid and this forms a significant part of our mandate. These are businesses that all Manitobans should support!

SCO partnered with First Nation organizations and others to launch the Protect Our People MB campaign and encourage vaccine confidence and uptake among First Nation youth throughout the province. This contributed to some of the highest vaccination rates in the country in many of our communities! Our communications team also developed a new web site that is more mobile phone friendly, and rebranded so that we are more identifiable to community members.

Behind the scenes our finance and human resources departments improved policies and processes, as we welcomed additional team members to SCO. A huge thank you to all of our staff who commit to making change each and every day.

As we look ahead to transformative new projects and program growth, including a Nation ReBuilding program and supports for Survivors and intergenerational Survivors of the residential and day schools, MMIWG2S+, Sixties Scoop, and the child welfare system, we will continue to draw strength from our Ancestors, teachings, traditions, and each other. I look forward to another year of impact and service to our Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations and peoples.

**Chi-Miigwetch and Pidamiye!**  
**Joy Cramer**  
**Chief Executive Officer**





# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE



As we faced the second year of a global pandemic, we witnessed the devastating reality of centuries of colonization and systemic racism. Despite First Nation leaders across southern Manitoba showing phenomenal leadership, by March 31, 2022, more than 347 of our people had died, thousands ended up in the hospital, and almost 36,000 First Nation citizens in Manitoba had contracted COVID-19.

The pandemic exposed the inequities of the colonial state, and the unacceptable 11 year and growing gap in life expectancy between First Nation citizens and all others living in Manitoba. Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) is calling on all levels of government to commit to closing the gaps faced by First Nation people and we are demanding change and control of our future.

To mitigate some of the economic harms of COVID-19, we secured almost \$3 million in funding to assist with immediate and urgent community needs, in addition to advocating for additional funding to flow directly to southern First Nations. In May we launched an Indigenous liaison project at the vaccine supersites in Winnipeg (RBC and Leila), Brandon, Dauphin, Selkirk, Gimli, Steinbach, and Morden. We hired and trained more than 30 staff to ensure that our people felt comfortable and had a positive experience wherever they chose to be vaccinated.

SCO also actively participated as a member of the many regional and national COVID-19 tables throughout the pandemic, to advocate, resource, and keep southern First Nations leadership, health care staff, and citizens informed. Those tables included the Provincial Vaccine Implementation Task Force which informed, planned, and executed the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations across Manitoba, as well as the many vaccine-related logistics and operational planning and communication tables. SCO was also able to source, purchase, and distribute essential supplies to assist southern First Nations in the fight against COVID-19.



### Lifesaving Supply Distribution Program

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the health and wellbeing of First Nations people in our communities and urban centres. In response to the urgency of the pandemic and the delay on the part of governments to respond with essential supplies such as medical grade masks and rapid antigen tests, SCO stepped up to assist member communities in any way possible.

### First Nation On-Reserve Distribution

SCO purchased and distributed COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests, high quality N-95 and KN-95 equivalent masks, Tylenol, Advil, and Pedialyte to our member Nations. Purchasing and distribution began in December 2021 and continued into March 2022 in three main rounds of distribution.

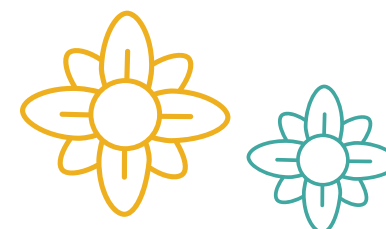
### The totals distributed to date:

- Rapid Antigen Tests: 26,700
- Adult and Children's Masks: 53,210

SCO also distributed 514 bottles of infant Tylenol, 207 bottles of children's chewable fever reducer (Tylenol and Advil), 376 bottles of Adult Tylenol, 629 bottles of Adult Advil and 592 bottles of Pedialyte to SCO member Nations. In response to requests a limited number of Clorox bleach cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer was also purchased and offered to our citizens.

Supplies were allocated using a population-based formula for the larger quantities of tests and masks, with top ups for remote fly-in communities as per direction from the Chiefs' Executive Committee.

The majority of the supplies were picked up by SCO Health Transformation staff who work in the communities, and all costs were covered by SCO. Supplies were flown to remote communities and ensured temperature was maintained for the Rapid Antigen tests.







“ There’s no question as we move through the second year of the pandemic, that it has presented an enormous challenge to the physical and mental well-being for all of our peoples. By coming together and caring for one another, I can say with confidence that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and that we will emerge from this latest existential threat to our health, stronger and more united than ever before. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS



### Urban Distribution

An urban COVID-19 supply distribution program was launched in February 2022. SCO Pathfinder staff created kits for families, couples, and individuals.

- Family kits (for households of 3+) contain 20 Rapid Antigen tests and 20 masks
- Couples kits contain 10 Rapid Antigen tests and 10 masks
- Single kits contain three Rapid Antigen tests and five masks

The kits were initially offered in Winnipeg on an appointment basis. Urban members were asked to call the SCO main line or email a special account [Urban.CovidSupply@scoinc.mb.ca](mailto:Urban.CovidSupply@scoinc.mb.ca) and this service was posted on SCO social media pages.

An urban distribution event was held in Brandon on February 23 and 24, 2022. An additional distribution was held in partnership with the Ask Auntie Program (Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation) in March 2022.

### Combined Winnipeg and Brandon Urban Distribution Totals:

- Rapid Antigen Tests: 3756
- Masks: 4720

200 Single kits were also provided for a Southern First Nations Network of Care conference.

“ It’s been abundantly clear from the data that First Nation people and communities have the most critical need when it comes to accessing vaccines, rapid antigen tests, and other essential supplies. We have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to inequitable access to health care, and the implications of colonization, racism, and the infrastructure deficit. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS

### Future Status

A limited numbers of tests and masks are available through the SCO Winnipeg office. Anyone attending appointments at SCO are also offered supplies.



**PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OUR PEOPLE.**

@PROTECTOURPEOPLEMB

**WILLIAM PRINCE**  
@WILLIAMPRINCE

THE VACCINE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU. THIS INCLUDES THE ELDERLY AND THOSE WHO ARE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED WITHIN THE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY. VACCINATION IS THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.

Photo Credit: Joey Smith

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE BY ALL COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED BY:

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS FAST, FREE AND SAFE.  
**PROTECTOURPEOPLEMB.CA**

**PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OUR PEOPLE.**

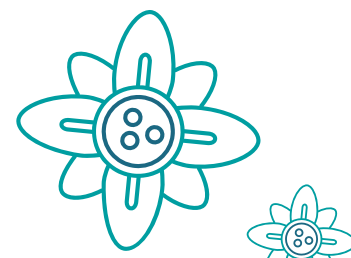
@PROTECTOURPEOPLEMB

**SHERRY MCKAY**  
@SHERRYMCKAY

GETTING VACCINATED IS A PART OF BEING PROACTIVE FOR ME. IF I CAN TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF MY LOVED ONES, I'M DOING IT.

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE BY ALL COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED BY:

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# HONOURING THE CHILDREN AND SURVIVORS

2021 was the year Canada was forced to finally confront the legacy of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system. As mass graves were discovered at the sites of former residential schools across the country, Canadians could no longer hide from the truth: Canada committed genocide against First Nation people through the IRS system.

People from across Turtle Island came together to grieve and honour the stolen children. They demanded justice and for the perpetrators to be held accountable.

In September, SCO launched a month long Every Child Matters campaign of reflection, commemoration, and solidarity, and for the first time Canada designated September 30<sup>th</sup> as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

In December, Orange Santa visited southern First Nations with presents and treats for more than 2,700 children! Most of all, they received the gift of love and belonging.

**NATIONAL INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CRISIS LINE 1-866-925-4419**





# RACISM CONTINUES TO BE THE OTHER PANDEMIC

Prominent examples of racism in Canadian policing against First Nation people have come to light in recent years. From the overrepresentation of First Nation peoples in all levels of the justice system, to the exponentially increased likelihood of being fatally shot by the police, racism against First Nation peoples is evident. The police shooting of J.J. Harper and the murder of Helen Betty Osborne sparked the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in Manitoba. More than 20 years later, the shooting deaths of Eisha Hudson, Chantel Moore, and Rodney Levi in just two months in 2020 have become synonymous with systemic racism, violence, discrimination, and injustice. In Manitoba, the statistics are damning. Policing disparities between First Nations and others living in Manitoba is wide and widening. Statistics reveal that more than 60% of people who died in police encounters in Winnipeg from 2000-2017 were Indigenous.

In order to better understand the extent of racism in Manitoba's police services and its impacts on southern First Nations, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) launched the SCO First Nation Experiences of Racism in Policing Survey in 2021, which was open to all First Nation citizens in Manitoba.

More than 700 responses were received, and the survey report provides a snapshot

of the experiences of First Nation people in Manitoba's policing system. It demonstrates how racism among police services in Manitoba is experienced, showing a pattern of prejudice, mistrust, intimidation, and even violence.

The vast majority of respondents, over 88%, agreed with the statement: **"Racism is a problem in policing in Manitoba."** This assessment comes mainly from personal experience, with over 90% of respondents reporting to have had at least one personal experience with police in Manitoba. One respondent reported that **"If your skin color is brown you have no chance ...your[sic] guilty until proven innocent. They will even fight to prove you did it when you have proof, you weren't anywhere near the area."**

More than 70% of respondents report experiencing racism firsthand, and more than 81% report that a family member has also experienced racism when dealing with police. One respondent shared that when they reported to police that their sister had been missing for a week, one of the attending officers said, **"she's probably just on a bender or maybe she's sleeping it off somewhere."**

More than 66% of respondents reported that they have actively avoided seeking help from police in Manitoba due to experiences of racism. Many shared that they have been treated as though they were the criminal, when in reality they were the victim of a crime and looking for help from the police.



**" We have faced systemic racism for centuries now. It's time for it to end. Indigenous lives matter, and we cannot take one more phone call or one more announcement of our people suffering or dying at the hands of the so-called justice system. "**

— GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS

When it came to use of force, the vast majority of respondents, more than 75%, either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that police in Manitoba use force appropriately. Many shared stories of excessive use of force against them or a loved one. A respondent shared that **"One officer choked me to the point where my feet were off the ground and I couldn't breathe during the choking the other officer punched me in the stomach to where again I gasped I couldn't breathe I did try to run away as I was scared [because] of what they did to me,"** and another that **"Winnipeg police beat my daughter almost broke her nose stomped her feet (and) left my daughter hurt."**

Although many respondents left comments that expressed pessimism that racism could be eradicated from Manitoba's policing system, many also suggested certain actions that should be taken in the process of dismantling racism. The main suggestions were:

- Increase First Nation representation in the police force
- Implement mandatory training/education on mental health and First Nation histories, traditions, and cultures
- Defund the police and invest in social wellness and community-based initiatives
- Increase screening requirements for police recruits
- Establish community-based and community-led policing initiatives

Racism has real world outcomes. First Nation people in Manitoba have a life expectancy that is on average eleven years shorter than non-First Nation people and that gap is growing.

Racism is built on incorrect beliefs that one race or group of people is better or worse than another. Systemic racism refers to the ways that white supremacy is reflected and upheld by the systems in our society. All these systems are built with an already ingrained bias, a racist and discriminatory lens that doesn't provide or allow for equal or fair opportunities for racialized peoples to succeed.

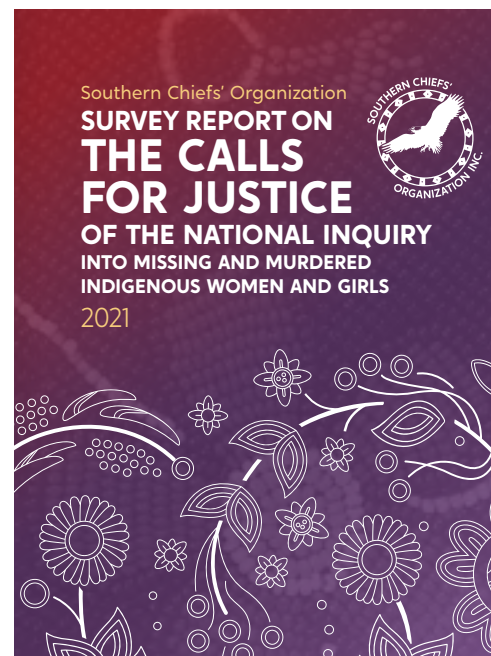
In a settler colonial state like Canada, the systems that were put in place at the creation of the country benefited colonists and disadvantaged First Nation peoples. Much of our society today continues to reinforce this power dynamic.

**It is time for change.**

Police services in Manitoba should be a place of safety, protection, and justice — for everyone.



# LISTENING TO MMIWG2S+ FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS



On October 4, 2021, the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), SCO released the powerful results of the Survey Report on the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The survey was launched on May 5, 2021, the National Day of Awareness of MMIWG, to identify southern First Nations' priorities around the National Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice.

**"Firstly, I want to share my deepest sympathies and condolences to all victims of MMIWG2S+ and their loved ones. We are tired of waiting for colonial governments and institutions to**

**take action. At SCO, we pressed forward, surveying southern First Nation citizens to better understand what they want and need in terms of action to end the national epidemic of violence against our women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The results, while heartbreaking, are illuminating and give us the direction we need to advocate for change and to seek justice for the victims and their families."** - Grand Chief Jerry Daniels

The survey was open to all SCO community members and one of the first questions was about respondents' relationship to the issue of MMIWG2S+. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents, over 79%, answered that they were related to, or a friend of, a missing or murdered Indigenous woman, girl, or person. These numbers demonstrate how close this issue is to many survey participants.

Respondents shared why the issue of MMIWG2S+ is important to them, and their personal experiences came through in the comments:

**"I have two daughters and now two granddaughters that I constantly worry about, I have a friend whose daughter has been missing for a little over a year now [...], another friend who's sister was murdered by her partner, I could go on and on. Society needs to start shifting their views of women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people, and stop treating us like we are disposable, we are equal and need to be treated as such!"** (Pine Creek First Nation)

**"(It is important) Because it is indicative of systemic racism and a crisis for our women. If these were white and mainstream women, the systemic response would be very different."** (Sandy Bay First Nation)

Survey respondents were asked to identify priorities for implementing the 231 Calls for Justice. The top priorities include:

- Programs and services that restore, reclaim, and revitalize culture
- Funding for First Nation-led health and wellness services including mental health, addictions, and trauma services
- Cultural safety and anti-racism training for all who participate in the criminal justice system
- Review of policing policies and practice to ensure culturally appropriate, non-biased, non-racist services
- Mental health, addictions, and trauma services for incarcerated people
- Decolonized, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive media developed and directed by First Nations
- Support for First Nation families and communities to keep children in their homes and communities as opposed to the child welfare system
- Increased services for host communities of extractive development projects
- First Nation-led shelters, safe spaces, transition houses, second-stage housing, and services
- Funding for First Nation organizations for programs, education, and awareness campaigns to prevent and combat violence
- Speaking out against violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people
- Education on the historical and current laws, policies, practices, and genocide against First Nation peoples

At the request of Survivors and their families, SCO has created booklets of the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice. If you would like a booklet, they are available at no cost at our Winnipeg sub-office at 1572 Dublin Avenue during office hours. If you need a copy mailed to you, please email [reception@scoinc.mb.ca](mailto:reception@scoinc.mb.ca) or give our office a call at 204-946-1869 or toll free at 1-866-876-9701.

Less than half of the respondents reported seeing any progress on any of the actions to be taken since the release of the Calls for Justice in 2019.

**"Indigenous women matter. That we need to be seen, heard, and equally treated as non-Indigenous women. That we need protection from predators, killers, and rapists. That our lives matter. That our existence depends on uplifting and empowering Indigenous women and their families."** (Pinaymootang First Nation)

**"I've had days where I couldn't find my sister and had no idea where to start looking. The police were no help, they came and tried to aggravate me and my mom. They made themselves out to be the victims, they started going off about 'Defund the police' when nobody brought it up but them."** (Black River First Nation)

The survey report will be used to strengthen advocacy on behalf of First Nation women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people, including as input to Canada's National Action Plan. It is important work that community members endorse and support, and as one participant expressed: **"Keep pushing and fighting hard for our rights and for the voiceless"** (Pinaymootang First Nation).



**MMIWG2S+ CRISIS LINE 1-844-413-6649**



# SPIRIT RIDE AND FLAG RAISING



The Dakota Nations came together on September 15, 2021, with the Treaty One Nations and the Metis Nation for a Spirit Ride to Winnipeg City Hall.

The white buffalo calf on the new flag of the Dakota Nations symbolizes sacred new beginnings, as Treaty One's flag reminds us that the Treaty will remain as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the water flows.

The flag raising was a visible statement of solidarity, respect, and reconciliation.

“ Too often, the Dakota people are not recognized when it comes to land acknowledgements. I know this small step will not make up for the decades of ignorance and exclusion, however, it is a start. In the spirit of the Dakota people I represent, I say pidamiye and miigwetch, Winnipeg, for your recognition and support of Dakota peoples. ”

— GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS





# FOURTH ANNUAL SCO/SCEDC GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

\$100,000 raised  
for students!

“ Every day I see the phenomenal potential of our youth, and education is an important pathway to closing many systemic gaps and creating meaningful and lasting positive change for our people and their communities. By coming together for our annual golf tournament we help bring southern First Nation students one step closer to achieving their academic dreams. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS



**Miigwetch and Pidamiye to our Sponsors:**

**Silver Sponsors:** Interlake Reserves Tribal Council and Saulteaux Tribal Nation, Sagkeeng Anicinabe First Nation, Evident IT, and SkyAlyne

**Cart Sponsor:** Tipi Insurance Partners

**Putting Sponsor:** Assiniboine Community College





# HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

## Continued Growing and Learning

Over the past year, the Health Transformation Department of Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) has seen tremendous growth and has increased its team to include a Public Education and Outreach unit, as well as a new Project Coordinator to respond to this growth. Health Transformation has secured legal counsel who have been instrumental in addressing the governance and legislative aspects of the work we are undertaking to bring more control, improved local access, traditionally informed and, ultimately, better health outcomes for First Nation people in the 34 SCO member Nations.

## Health Transformation Anti-Racism Strategy

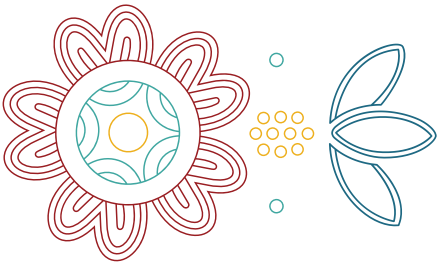
Community consultation continues to inform our process and we know that combating anti-Indigenous racism in the health care system must remain a priority. Part of this work includes reviewing existing cases and inquiries, building an anti-racism strategy, providing learning sessions on "Two-Eyed Seeing," and adopting this Mi'kmaq teaching as a core characteristic of our work. Additionally, we have proposed and sought funding for developing our advocacy efforts, including an Ombudsperson role with the SCO Health Transformation team.

## Mental Health Strategy

As an additional response to community identified needs over this past year, SCO Health Transformation is prioritizing mental health through the development of a Mental Health Strategy. This strategy will focus on community-based service needs and regional capacity and will find alignment with the Manitoba 5-year Mental Health Strategy.

Our commitment to improved mental health outcomes for citizens of the SCO member Nations means that our community-based Community Health Transformation Liaison (CHTL) staff have been reassigned on a flexible, as-needed basis during the continuing COVID-19 crisis. Over this past year, as a result of successive waves of COVID variants resulting in further lockdowns, deaths, illness, and employment insecurity, health teams have responded to and escalated multiple mental health crisis situations. Mental health priorities identified by community members include:

- Alcohol and drug addiction programs/facilities
- Mental Health and Wellness programs
- Increased Mental Health Human Resources (i.e., therapists, addictions treatment counsellors)
- Mental Health infrastructure



## Health Legislation Engagement

Health Transformation at SCO has been diligently committed to working with the 34 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations to receive input from individuals, families, and communities on what policies and processes First Nation citizens wish to see incorporated and what aspects of this new vision will require legislative reform.

While key priorities have been shared around First Nations' expectations, in-depth discussions of Canada's proposed health legislation reform and engagement process have yet to occur. Nonetheless, planning and working with Canada and Manitoba on formalizing a relationship on health, a joint

announcement, and an Agreement-in-Principle were major focuses of the Health Transformation team this past year and work on this continues.

Although COVID-19 impacted the Health Transformation process by slowing it down, the Integrated Vaccine Operations Centre developed best practice around trilateral relationships and demonstrated to Canada and Manitoba that trilateral planning is more effective. A Relationship Protocol has been developed and next steps include the drafting of a letter of intent that will lead to the creation of a joint agreement-in-principle.

## Health Transformation Leadership: Chiefs' Health Action Table and Health Directors

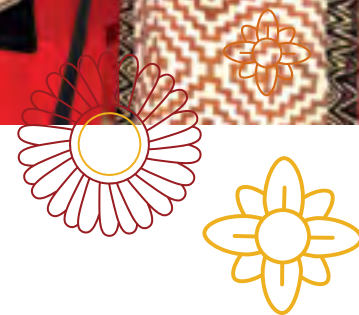
The Chiefs' Health Action Table (CHAT) has expanded its membership. CHAT is now comprised of the following members: new chair Chief Derek Cook (Bloodvein), Chief Sheldon Kent (Black River), Chief Eric Pashe (Dakota Tipi), Chief Cornell McLean (Lake Manitoba), Chief Cameron Catcheway (Skownan), Chief Oliver Owen (Little Grand Rapids), Chief Craig Alexander (Roseau River), and Chief Donny Smoke (Dakota Plains). CHAT has been instrumental in leading and providing guidance on all aspects of Health Transformation, particularly with regard to navigating provincial relationships in the trilateral

planning process and the development of a relationship protocol document highlighting the obligations of the government to our communities.

The working relationship between SCO Health Transformation and health directors has also strengthened over the past year, and as the provincial and federal relationships and agreements are being produced, the input and voices of our health directors into the provincial system has been another major focus of the work. Given that many communities do not have access to primary health care and have been left to operate a

patchwork of federal programs and services, no one knows the situation "on the ground" better than our health directors. As the Health Transformation work moves closer to the development of a new health care system, SCO recognizes that more control over legislation and regulations requires advocacy by those who have the knowledge, experience, and the authority to deliver health services at the community level and we have proudly been facilitating the development of a Health Director's Association.





## Information in a Good Way

The need to create enhanced data governance guidelines for the development of a health care system has been brought to the center of the SCO Health Transformation process. A framework of guidelines on the collection, storage, and access of southern First Nations' research/survey data within the process adopted individually, within communities, ensures that data collected with the consent of our communities remains in, or is quickly returned to, their possession. This past year, a resolution — Information in a Good Way — was adopted on September 24, 2021, by Chiefs-in-Summit. The adoption of Information in a Good Way represents SCO's pledge to our communities that no data-driven work will occur without their express consent and input. Guiding this work is

the Data and Evaluation sub-committee, which is made up of Health Directors, community leaders, SCO staff, Knowledge Keepers, and health/social services professionals. We are working with good people to design a health data system with Information in a Good Way at its heart.

This resolution has already borne fruit. Through the adoption of Microsoft Onedrive/Sharepoint application at SCO, CHTLs have access to community-specific file folders on SCO servers which hold any information SCO Health Transformation has collected from their Nations. Surveys, reports, even written correspondence can be found in these folders and can now be re-deployed by communities in any way they deem appropriate.

## Community Health Transformation Evaluation and Training

SCO Health Transformation is committed to a robust program of evaluation in all aspects of the process, but how do we ensure that our measures and outcomes are viewed through the prism of Indigenous knowledge and values? From September 27-29, 2021, CHAT, Health Transformation staff, CHTLs, and sub-committee members attended a series of seminars led by internationally renowned trainer Andrea L.K. Johnston to learn the Waawiyeyaa Evaluation tool. Focused on the use of personal narrative to recognize barriers, identify opportunities, and celebrate outcomes, Waawiyeyaa is a key component of the SCO Health Transformation evaluation process. During our fall training, staff identified a need to strengthen CHTL's digital tools and provided expert-led training on social media engagement, effective email, and an introduction to OneDrive/Sharepoint.

CHTLs and SCO staff gathered in-person in Gimli on March 8 and 9, 2022, for the Health Transformation Annual Evaluation and Training in which we delved once again into Waawiyeyaa. While it was clear to see the impact of the pandemic on the progress of community engagement carried out by CHTLs this year, this evaluation also highlighted the areas of strengths and opportunities for growth, including peer mentorship and networking. These are all signals of a positive direction towards continued Nation-building and strengthening of inter-community relationships.

A further highlight of this session was a peer-led session introducing the Mi'kmaq concept of "Two-Eyed Seeing" to CHTLs and explaining its crucial role as a navigation aide within our process. Our newly hired Public Education staff were also on hand to speak to best practice and extend their support to communities through their CHTLs.





## Nurturing our Knowledge and Resources Through Consultation

At the heart of SCO Health Transformation is a community-led engagement initiative and guiding the process are our advisory tables — the Elders and Knowledge Keepers Committee, the Health Transformation Advisory Circle, and the Gender-Based Violence Advisory Circle — all of which are comprised of community members, health experts, health directors, and our Elders and Knowledge Keepers. These advisory tables are essential to our work, assisting and providing direction. The Gender-based Advisory Circle has recently completed a gender-based violence literature review which will be informing the gendered lens that will help define our health entity in the southern First Nations, responding to gender-based violence and the creation of a safe space for the 2SLGBTQ+ community, gender-based violence Survivors, and their families. As well, Health Transformation has started the process of establishing a 2Spirit Council to ensure that all voices from the community are heard and to help guide the process. A 2SLGBTQ+ focus group was held in February 2022 led by Waawaate Fobister, to start the discussion on the development of a 2Spirit Council. As well, to ensure the voices of our veterans are heard, a veterans' focus group was also held the same month. Our Elders and Knowledge Keepers Committee has been working together with Health Transformation's public education and outreach team to develop the branding and identity of the in-development health care system, lending their ancestral wisdom and knowledge to the process. Our Health Transformation Advisory Circle has been vital in the drafting and publication of the Public Health and Primary Health Care position paper, which contains recommendations for the development and implementation of a transformed system in our communities.

## Emerging Health Human Resources Strategy

SCO Health Transformation has heard clearly that a key component of better health in community is having community members providing the care. This process began in earnest this year as we joined forces with the key tables on curriculum development and training in the region. We now meet regularly with senior management of Ongomiizwin, the Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing at the University of Manitoba. We participate in meetings of the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint, to ensure that all its 16 members, including the seven post-secondary institutions in the province, are aware of our proposals and plans. Additionally, a separate table has been struck with Red River College Polytechnic to look at the creation of new programs aimed at First Nations' learners seeking the specific skills a new First Nations' led health system will require.

## Wider Community Engagement

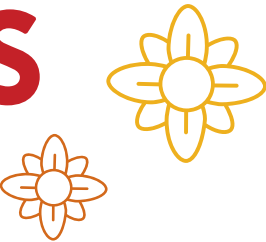
With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, the end of the year saw a return to more interpersonal interactions and a resumption of a hybrid-styled, virtual, and face-to-face community engagement. This allowed us to host a Youth Media lab workshop for our ongoing youth engagement series, as well as a public speaking facilitation session for our CHTLs, and we look forward to more engagement this coming year.

**"[Our] vision for the Southern First Nation Health Care System would be taking back control of our health system. Meaning training our own people so that we can take care of ourselves in every area possible for health care. We also need to have our own infrastructure. Let's bring the Nations together to create an equitable, safe, accessible, trusted, and sustainable Indigenous approach to care."**

— COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT



# NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS NAVIGATOR



The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator at the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) continues to support and advocate for Status First Nation citizens and their families in order to remove barriers and increase access to NIHB.

## The SCO NIHB Navigator:

- Serves as first point of contact for communities, organizations, and individuals to facilitate access to the NIHB program and provides support for NIHB denials and appeals
- Collaborates with NIHB Regional Office on programs, projects, and initiatives intended to improve awareness and access to the NIHB Program and better integration of health services
- Implements approaches to improve awareness and understanding of the NIHB Program
- Promotes an understanding of the Navigator's role and responsibilities to SCO member Nations, health care providers, and agencies
- Maintains a network of contacts to strengthen relationships with stakeholders, health care providers, and partners
- Liaises with First Nation and Inuit federal/provincial and territorial health services, professional organizations, and health care providers to assist eligible clients to navigate the NIHB Program on related benefits access
- Identifies training requirements and opportunities for improving access to health services and health outcomes



As a member of the Northwest and East Collaboration boards, the SCO NIHB Navigator meets quarterly with regional First Nation health directors and nurses and tribal councils. The Navigator also regularly meets with regional health authority directors, First Nations Inuit Health Branch staff, and emergency medical services directors to discuss current issues, challenges and possible solutions, and pilot projects being rolled out within the health regions. Monthly meetings are held with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and FNIHB to address ongoing medical transportation challenges and to work strategically to address future medical transportation challenges between regions.

The NIHB Navigator is an active member of the National NIHB Navigators Group. Currently, the group meets quarterly to discuss changes within the NIHB program. Navigators across Canada collaborate and share ideas to solve unique client issues within the program.

## Key Issues and Challenges

Through an intake process that includes telephone, email, third-party referrals, and social media contacts, key issues and challenges identified by clients include:

- Billing irregularities between provincial health benefits and non-insured health benefits
- Procedural deficiencies with providers resulting in overpayment by clients or approved benefits not being covered for eligible recipients
- Lack of awareness by many First Nation citizens of the appeal process through NIHB
- Navigation difficulties with the appeal process that places the health of clients at risk
- Low medical transportation coverage rates and limited point of care locations
- Communication challenges around pharmacy inclusion and exclusion updates
- Challenges accessing Indian Status registration in a timely manner, as well as being able to register children for Status and obtaining new Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) cards
- Ensuring First Nation communities and individuals are aware of the mental health resources available under the NIHB program
- Improving the Jordan's Principle intake process and ensuring all requirements are met for families
- Sharing resources and collaborating with existing agencies
- Advocating to providers like pharmacists about the benefits for clients and educating providers on the products clients are entitled to such as vitamins and pain relievers





The NIHB Navigator received a total of 775 contacts. Of these contacts, some interactions resulted in multiple types of requests for assistance. This chart reflects the total number of inquiries associated with 775 client contacts requesting services advocacy and support. The chart captures 1288 different requests in the areas of medical supplies, medical transportation, pharmacy, mental health and Traditional Healers, dental, vision, Jordan's Principle, and other categories.



NIHB Navigator Statistics



Medical supplies (118)	9%
Medical transportation (98)	8%
Pharmacy (210)	16%
Mental health & Traditional Healers (238)	19%
Dental (179)	14%
Vision (156)	12%
Jordan's Principle (17)	1%
Other: General Info, Treaty Cards, Provider List (272)	21%

NIHB Navigator Accomplishments

In response to highly complex cases and increasing demand, the SCO NIHB Navigator has expanded to include in-person advocacy supports. In one case, a client required assistance with a safe discharge plan. The client was not being heard and their needs were not being met by the health system, so the Navigator attended family meetings in person at the hospital with the family and patient. This ensured the patient was heard and understood and it also served to establish mutual understanding on the part of the providers and patient. The outcome was positive and both parties were happy and in agreement with the next steps.

Twenty-seven First Nations and multiple service organizations have reached out for assistance from the NIHB Navigator. There has also been a noted increase of in-person foot traffic for NIHB inquiries as a direct result of the launch of the Status Card Program at SCO.

The SCO NIHB Navigator's web page has been updated to build more public knowledge, increasing education and awareness about the NIHB program. Additions include instructions on the procedure to apply for medical transportation if living

off reserve in rural locations. Updated mental and dental health provider lists have been compiled and added, enabling easier access to practitioners. Hard copies of NIHB promotional and informational materials were also provided once again to SCO member Nations to increase knowledge of the program.

Once COVID-19 restrictions eased, the Navigator was able to attend and meet with different health teams, including Mount Carmel's Mothering Project staff and families and the Dakota Ojibway health team for Jordan's Principle. The Navigator also attended the SCO Chiefs' Health Summit in Dakota Ojibway First Nation.

Over the past year, the Navigator was also able to support increased advocacy efforts with FNIHB and ISC by providing relevant data on the barriers clients face when seeking support from the NIHB program, including the lack of services in Winnipeg for dialysis patients and Elders who require weekly transportation to essential health services. This information was also used as evidence and led to a modest increase in medical transportation rates.

Moving Forward

As the endemic stage of the COVID-19 pandemic approaches and society begins to adapt to a new normal, the NIHB Navigator at SCO will increase attendance in communities and at events. Good health and wellness for First Nations people is an inherent right. The Navigator's role is vital to continue advocacy and education for clients and providers about the services and benefits First Nations are entitled to as part of the Treaty-making process.

The reality is that many First Nations people face challenges, racism, and barriers when navigating complex systems and accessing supports through the NIHB program. Through this important work, the NIHB Navigator at SCO will continue to advocate, address, and flag gaps in services, improve awareness of the NIHB benefit, and participate in national and local tables intended to improve the overall health and wellbeing of First Nation peoples.





# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE



Jordan's Principle is named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Jordan was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities and stayed in the hospital from birth. When he was two years old, doctors said he could move to a special home for his medical needs. However, the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who should pay for his home-based care. As a result, Jordan never got to spend even one night at home, and he passed away at the age of five in the hospital.

In 2007, the House of Commons passed Jordan's Principle, a commitment to ensure First Nation children would get the products, services, and

supports they need, when they need them. It covers a wide range of health, social, and educational needs. Jordan's Principle is a legal requirement resulting from Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings that aims to eliminate service inequities and delays for First Nation children. Jordan's Principle states that any public service ordinarily available to all other children must be made available to First Nation children without delay or denial.

At Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), we try to honour Jordan everyday as we do this important work in his memory.

## Program Description

The SCO Jordan's Principle launched with a Coordinator working at the Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) Centre. SSCY is an initiative that brings together many of the services in Manitoba for children and youth with disabilities and special needs. SSCY is an alliance of service providers, government departments, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

The Coordinator serves all First Nation children and their families accessing SSCY, assisting families in the following ways:

- Serving as a culturally appropriate point of contact for children and their families
- Providing navigation to appropriate programs, departments, and/or agencies, including access to First Nation Elders
- Attending medical appointments and/or case conferencing with families on request
- Providing culturally safe drop-in and/or meeting space for First Nation families
- Collaborating with appropriate service providers and/or programs, both within SSCY, as well as externally, including:
  - First Nation community-based Jordan's Principle Case Managers
  - Tribal Council Service Coordinators
  - Provincial Children's disAbility Services
  - Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
  - Others
- Maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the *Personal Health Information Act* (PHIA) standards to ensure personal information is kept private, safe, and secure
- In collaboration with SCO's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator, assisting families with medical transportation, vision, dental services, prescription drugs, and medical supplies, when requested.
- Providing information on eligible Jordan's Principle and NIHB supports and services, and how to address denials and appeals.

## Statistics – Clients served and Identified Areas

From program launch in June 2021 to March 2022, the Jordan's Principle Coordinator at SSCY provided assistance to 274 First Nation families to obtain the services or supports they required. Impacts of the ongoing pandemic and the Omicron variant resulted in less in-person contact with children and caregivers, however, the Coordinator was able to attend 18 in-facility clinical appointments as requested by families. Ten direct funding requests were successfully approved for families experiencing gaps and delays when accessing supports. These funding requests included coverage of specialized medical equipment, educational supports, private speech and language therapy, and private physio and occupational therapy.

Throughout the year, the Jordan's Principle Coordinator received numerous internal and external requests for information or education about Jordan's Principle and the type of supports the Coordinator could provide. There were also more in-depth inquiries from caregivers or health care providers seeking advice.

### June 2021 – March 2022

Request Type	Number of Contacts
Jordan's Principle referrals/supports	<b>274</b>
Program information	<b>70</b>
Navigation/resources	<b>50</b>
Clinical appointments	<b>18</b>
Other	<b>89</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>501</b>

“ First Nation children still carry the burden of intergenerational trauma resulting from the residential and day school systems, and we know they also continue to face barriers to accessing education, health care, and social services due to systemic racism. The new Jordan's Principle program and our coordinator at SSCY Centre will focus on ensuring First Nation students have equitable access to the full scope of services needed to ensure they achieve the best possible educational outcomes alongside their non-First Nation peers. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS



Every Child Matters – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Event 2021







Every Child Matters – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Event 2021

### Program accomplishments

The Jordan's Principle Coordinator at SSCY is part of the community. Through education and awareness-building activities, staff and partners have improved their understanding of Jordan's Principle and how to better serve First Nation children.

Community events that have taken place at SSCY as a direct result of the Coordinator's role include:

- An Orange Shirt/Every Child Matters event co-coordinated with the Rehabilitation Centre for Children Family in support of the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The event included a host drum and Elder Mary Wilson from SSCY who emceed the event open to all client children, their families, and SSCY staff. SCO was pleased to help distribute orange t-shirts for attendees and shared in providing the barbeque feast. The event ended with a circle prayer for all attendees for the children and families affected by the Indian Residential School system.

- Another event initiated and organized by the Jordan's Principle Coordinator was held on October 22nd, 2021, to celebrate the birthday and legacy of Jordan River Anderson. A birthday cake and gifts were handed out to families at SSCY. A memorial information package was also provided to highlight and honour the life of Jordan.

These successful events will continue annually and set the stage for further knowledge sharing at SSCY. Meetings are underway to design events for First Nation children and families, and for staff to learn and have more First Nation cultural awareness. Some of the ideas presented include an Indigenous Day celebration, mini Pow Wow, solstice and equinox ceremonies, and more cultural awareness training.

In December of 2021, the Jordan's Principle Coordinator assisted in creating a colouring book that included artwork by artist Jackie Traverse for Jordan's Principle children and families. Content included the Seven Grandfather Teachings and additional artwork to highlight First Nation imagery and teachings.



Jordan River Anderson Birthday Celebration – Remembrance 2021

### Key Challenges

Challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic further impacted the complex nature of navigating systems for children and their families. Networking and visiting programs within Winnipeg proved difficult. The shift to virtual appointments and meetings made it harder to develop a personal connection with clients and service providers. This also eliminated the option of drop-in visits. SSCY had many protocols in place during the Omicron variant surge. Fewer families were coming in for appointments and staff were encouraged to work remotely when possible.

Key issues and challenges observed for families were discussed with the Jordan's Principle team, including emergency services and transportation. Other service providers commented on how complex and confusing it could be to help their clients navigate the Jordan's Principle system.

### Goals and Partnerships

In 2021-2022, SCO announced new partnerships with the Winnipeg School Division and the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg to provide on-site Jordan's Principle coordination to better meet the needs of First Nation families. As the SCO Jordan's Principle Coordinators become well-established, SCO believes the coordinator role will become an essential service and a way to create a more equitable system of supports for First Nation children and youth.

Efforts continue to offer high quality supports, advocacy, and identification of needs and priorities for citizens of our SCO member Nations. As well, partnerships continue to be established with key stakeholders for the betterment of First Nation people in our territory.



# MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples are assuming greater control and self-determination over their health and wellness and in 2021, SCO launched its Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) to deliver a culturally responsive and trauma-informed mental health and wellness program that meet the needs of southern First Nation citizens.

Providing mental health and wellness services is a key part of SCO's strategic direction that aligns with the broader goal of health transformation, highlighted by an historic Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 18, 2020.

The MCRT consists of 11 members with a diverse range of knowledge and skills that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and holistic response for southern Manitoba First Nations experiencing crisis incidents. This diversity includes a cumulative 165+ years' experience in delivering mental health supports from team members with backgrounds in psychiatric nursing, counselling, and therapy, including those who are Anishinaabemowin speakers.

Mental Health concerns have been compounded in the recent years by the stress of the pandemic, and there is a need for services without barriers to address the underlying trauma and how that trauma is expressed. SCO recognizes the critical importance of incorporating First Nations values, worldview, and wellness into health polices, programs, and services.

### Goals and Objectives:

#### The objectives of the SCO MCRT include:

- Increase capacity for emergency responses to social crisis within the southern First Nations
- Provide rapid response services throughout southern First Nations to address complex and evolving challenges that require timely and flexible treatment responses

Strengthen coordination between inter-jurisdictional organizations to provide effective and rapid responses to community crisis.

Since its launch, the SCO MCRT has seen a consistent and demonstrated need in requests for services. These services include but are not limited to:

### Prevention Services

- Telephone consultation and support
- Liaison and referral to community resources
- Safe talk
- Mental health education, preventative strategies, and coping
- Grief and loss
- Suicide prevention

### Crisis Response Services

- Critical incident stress debriefing
- Post-suicide response/aftercare
- Mental health and psychosocial assessment and consultation
- Short term one-on-one counselling and follow-up
- Individual assessments

### Peer Organizations

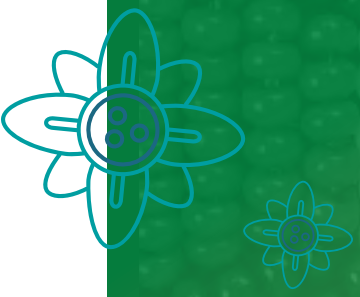
The SCO MCRT is committed to providing quality support services to our SCO member Nations. To that end, the MCRT works in collaboration and partnership with all service providers who may also provide supports to the southern First Nations. These partnerships and collaborations result in enhanced service coverage, as well as strengthened inter-agency relationships.

### The Future

Recognizing the need to remain nimble in order to consistently meet the needs of our Nations, the SCO MCRT is continually searching for ways to enhance our services and provide even greater supports in response to crisis incidents. To that end, the MCRT is working toward providing presentations and informational sessions for communities. These presentations will focus on a wide array of mental health concerns, including loss and grief, suicide, depression, anxiety, addictions, and harm reduction. In addition to presentations, the MCRT will work closely with the much-anticipated SCO Survivors Healing Supports Program. The MCRT is also working to expand our services to include off-reserve supports to our members who live away from their home Nations.

**" It cannot be overstated just how important a step the Mobile Crisis Response Team is when it comes to responding to emergencies and then supporting our people in their healing. This will go a long way in filling a systemic gap we have had to endure for far too long, when it comes to accessing appropriate mental health and wellness services. "**

**– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS**





# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Child and Family Services Program continues to dedicate its focus on the Child and Family Services Jurisdiction Development Initiative: Waakaabit – working within the circle to make good decisions for our children, families, and communities.

The Chiefs of the southern First Nation are committed to improving outcomes for the thousands of children and families involved in the child welfare system through responsive and empowering First Nation Family Laws, as the care, security, wellness, and protection of children and families are a crucial part of any society's structures. A revitalization of our Nations' laws will transform the experiences of our children, families, and communities as they have guided our care for our children since time immemorial.

Three levels of jurisdiction operate in the area of child welfare: First Nation, federal, and provincial/territorial. The federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* creates a process for the Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations to pass their own laws and establishes common national standards for all provincial and territorial child welfare providers. In delivering child welfare services, a child and family services agency or authority must now show the efforts made to:

- keep a family together
- preserve a child's relationships with their family, community, and culture
- actively involve the child's community in planning for their care

“ First Nations are best placed to transform child welfare services in Manitoba. Despite the chronic underfunding of our agenda, southern First Nation leadership has been able to guide our child welfare agencies as they make essential and culturally appropriate changes to the ways in which our families and communities are served. This should be the goal, and we must ensure that First Nations' rights and jurisdiction over child welfare are upheld to protect our children and our families. ”

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS



The Waakaabit initiative at the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) provides the framework for comprehensive child and family services transformation under four streams of development to best position our southern Nations, leadership, and families to restore our jurisdiction of our children through:

**Individual capacity building** – Child and Family Services System Navigation

**Community capacity building** – Individual First Nation Community Engagement and Resource Development Pilot Project

**Child and Family Service system transformation** – Development of standards, policy, practice model and definitions to reflect southern First Nations' cultural systems, values, and jurisdiction of caring

**Governance** – Draft a First Nation Family Law template to support restorative laws based on communities' culture, tradition and values

As part of Child and Family system transformation, SCO supported the Southern First Nations Network of Care to advance the creation of policies and standards to support community-based jurisdiction for caring and service delivery practices based on the southern Nations' traditions and values. In October 2021, the Chiefs-In-Summit passed several resolutions to further strengthen our ability to provide child and family services grounded in our Nations' cultural systems, including:

- Establishing a Kookum and Kungsi's Council to serve as the Authority's Board of Directors
- Develop and implement a southern First Nations-specific planning process for youth transitioning into young adulthood
- Create foster home licensing standards for communities as well as urban and rural areas that are responsive to community conditions and prioritize health, language, and safety of our children
- Publicly demand the return of all funding from government and other authorities for southern Nations' children in care, when children are transferred to southern child welfare agencies

To support the move forward while work continues on directives and policies to support implementation of these important resolutions, the appointment of new members to the Network's Board of Directors is following the intent of the Kookum and Kungsi's Council with grandmothers who represent the diversity of our Nations.

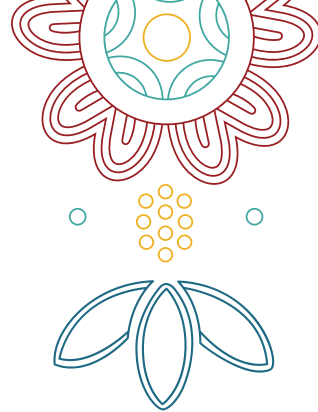
To progress work in capacity building and governance under new family laws, a community engagement pilot project was launched with 10 southern First Nations, guided by community identified Wisdom Keepers and with project oversight by the SCO Chiefs' Standing Committee on Child Welfare, to provide distinct support in developing First Nation Family laws based on each communities' capacity, vision, and need for support and assistance. At the core of this initiative is gathering knowledge about traditional and historical ways of parenting and family life to ensure this is clearly reflected in laws and regulations to safeguard community-based delivery of child welfare services.

## Participating Nations are:

- Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
- Dakota Plains Wahpeton Oyate
- Dakota Tipi First Nation
- Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation
- Lake St. Martin First Nation
- Lake Manitoba First Nation
- Long Plain First Nation
- Pinaymootang First Nation
- Pine Creek First Nation
- Roseau River Anishinaabe Nation



Community Engagement Liaisons are identified by community leadership and employed and funded by SCO. The primary role is to support the family law development process, and ensure it is grounded by consultation initiated and validated at the community level facilitated around a common path to collect information to answer critical governance and service questions. The outcome of this work is to support Nations to be in a position to establish coordination agreements and implement their jurisdiction for their children and youth.



Community Engagement Path to First Nation Family Laws Recognition – Pilot Support.



Key Issues and Challenges

SCO Community Engagement Liaisons were invited by leadership to gather information about the skills, knowledge, and resources available to help develop and implement First Nation Family Laws that honour each community's and family's culture, tradition, and values. The continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions made it difficult to collect oral histories that are best shared through in-person events, which caused delays with the community-based consultation process. Despite this, as well as spring flooding challenges, staff continued their work in innovative ways and elevated community concerns about the pandemic's ongoing negative impact on the child welfare system, including:

- family visits being stopped or reduced in frequency
- delays in reunification planning and processes
- reductions to services and programs
- increasingly unclear communication between families, communities, and agencies
- more mental health concerns at all levels and for all parties
- securing greater Community Engagement Liaison representation beyond the pilot communities

The interruption in completing consultation activities resulted in a setback of the design of a Family Law template based on community feedback, and essential for establishing community-based First Nation Governing Bodies. This is important work as negotiating coordination agreements to confirm clear jurisdiction over child and family services is dependent on a strong legal framework that ensures the required authority and funding.

Linkage to First Nations

Creating and maintaining an open dialogue with the 10 pilot communities and encouraging more communities to be supported by a Community Engagement Liaison has been a priority over the last year. Building positive working relationships, networking, understanding First Nation history, family, and community dynamics, and encouraging participation is essential to creating a sense of security for our families and communities to be able to embrace the transformation of the child and family services system.

Status of Activities

Over the past year, the Community Engagement Liaison Team has been active in the following:

- Knowledge Keepers – 10 meetings
- Community Collaterals– 216 meetings
- Community Engagement Liaisons – 301 interviews conducted
- Community Work Plans – 8 developed
- Leadership (individual and group formats) – 276 meetings

The learnings and information from these activities will be consolidated in a report for the southern Chiefs leadership and will guide next steps and questions to be the focus on the next consultation phase of the community engagement team.

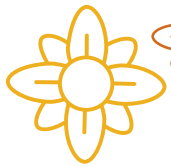
- Comprehensive** – All in
- Incremental** - Oversight for some areas with ability to increase legal responsibility
- Guiding** - Defining how the Federal Act is applied

Key Accomplishments

A number of accomplishments coming out of the engagement activities will support ongoing work in developing community-based laws and ongoing consultation to confirm the laws are meeting the intended outcomes. These include:

- Creating the Child and Family Services checklist tool for our parents/ grandparents to use to determine if they are on the right path with their agency
- Networking with other organizations to secure additional and continued support for our families
- Collecting information on community challenges and priorities to support drafting a family law template based on community readiness
- Teaching clients how to use platforms such as ZOOM to maintain community-based communications and when working with our families

Building on these accomplishments, drafting a family law template and creating supporting tools are now possible. This will include choices about the types or extent of child welfare jurisdiction and the flexibility to allow continued growth and development. This will offer support at the community-level to lead the vision and goals to making good decisions for our children, families, and communities.





# JUSTICE AND RIGHTS



The First Nations Justice Program (FNJP) is a community-based program that provides restorative justice and mediation services with professionalism, respect, and dedication to the wellbeing of our communities and our citizens.

Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) has six Community Justice Workers (CJW) and a Community Justice Development Coordinator (CJDC) delivering the restorative justice program. Those communities include Brokenhead, Pinaymootang, Pine Creek, Sagkeeng, Sandy Bay, and Waywayseecappo. The program receives pre- and post-diversions from the Crown Attorney, RCMP, Manitoba First Nations Police Services, Winnipeg Police Services, Chief and Council, and self-referrals. The program aims to assist communities in assuming greater responsibility for the administration of justice within their Nations that is based on healing and restoration of relationships.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CJWs, along with 15 other First Nation students, successfully completed the Restorative Justice Certificate Program through Assiniboine Community College and graduated in July 2021. In addition to receiving their certificates, each student was gifted a sacred eagle feather.
- SCO participated in the Manitoba Restorative Justice Branch's Restorative Justice Week Virtual Conference in November 2021. The CJDC sat on the Intimate Partner Violence Responsivity panel and discussed SCO's holistic approach and programming for clients who have been charged with domestic violence offences.
- SCO was invited to speak at the Crown Conference and present an overview of our community program services and restorative justice framework in December 2021.
- The CJDC and the CJWs met virtually with Crown Attorneys to discuss the importance of First Nation restorative justice and

how our partnership can be renewed and strengthened in order for our citizens to have more access to holistic and cultural programming outside of the criminal justice system.

- The CJWs attended a winter retreat at the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, Manitoba, in March 2022 that focused on self-care and mental wellness. One of the activities included a painting workshop with Anishinaabe artist Jackie Traverse.

**|| One of our mandates at SCO is to create a supportive form of justice delivery for our people, by incorporating traditional systems of governance and law such as our Restorative Justice Program. We need to move beyond the colonial justice system and if we do that, we will reduce the overrepresentation of First Nation citizens within the mainstream criminal justice system and save lives. ||**

– GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS

## Status of Activities

The CJDC and the CJWs have worked in various capacities throughout the year in partnership with stakeholders such as Crown Attorneys, RCMP, Manitoba First Nations Police Service, Elders, Community Justice Committees, and other community service providers. The pandemic continued to create challenges and barriers to in-person meetings as gathering restrictions fluctuated in each Nation.

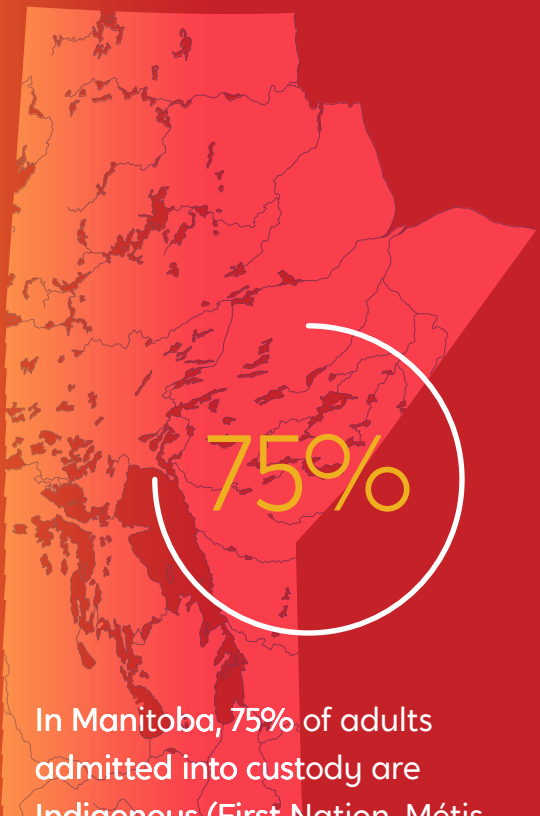
The CJWs continued to meet with clients virtually and in-person when allowed. The CJWs provided individualized programming to their clients where possible. The CJWs also continue to assist their communities during this difficult time.

## Anticipated Highlights

New program enhancements and partnerships will be rolling out in 2022/2023 that will focus on community mental health and wellness for both offender and victim, while also working to create more inclusive services for 2SLGBTQ+ citizens.

The Restorative Justice Digital Wellness Program will be added to our list of programming and will be available for our clients to complete at their own pace. Created to address the pandemic gathering restrictions and provide clients an at-home programming option, the five videos will focus on cultural teachings, overcoming trauma, holistic health and healing, and the importance of community-based restorative justice within our communities.

As we look to the year ahead, the new diversion program through the SCO Youth Empowerment Program is expected to be completed by the summer and the CJWs will be trained to facilitate this program for young people toward the end of the year.



In Manitoba, 75% of adults admitted into custody are Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit). Over the last 10 years, there has been a 60% increase in the incarceration of Indigenous men and a 139% increase in the incarceration of Indigenous women. Manitoba has the highest number of incarcerated Indigenous women and the highest youth incarceration rates in Canada.

## THIS MUST CHANGE.





# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) aims to address the over-incarceration of First Nation youth as Manitoba has the highest youth incarceration rate in Canada. More than three years ago, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO), in partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation and the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, came together to begin to develop YEP, a First Nation designed and delivered diversion program for youth who are involved with SCO's Restorative Justice Program. It will also serve as a crime prevention tool for urban and First Nation schools, organizations, and communities by providing healthy alternative spaces and programming for youth as well as opportunities that uplift our young people.

YEP will be used as an alternative measures condition to assist youth in initiating their healing journey and becoming healthy, self-empowered individuals. Traditional knowledge, such as the medicine wheel, will be utilized as a teaching tool to assist in holistic healing that will empower youth to become positive, self-determining individuals and role models within their peer groups.

YEP includes a personalized workbook for youth to fill out during the program, and a corresponding Youth Empowerment Video series, that will help guide youth on their personalized healing journey. It is designed to address root causes and build a plan towards self-identified goals. YEP will help identify those goals and provide a network of support to help youth take steps towards achieving meaningful success in their lives and keep them away from the criminal justice system.

Throughout the development of the program, there have been contributions from community members, leadership, people with lived experience in the justice system, including students and legal experts from different organizations across Manitoba. Feedback on the program came from the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, Manitoba First Nations Police Services, Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, SCO Youth

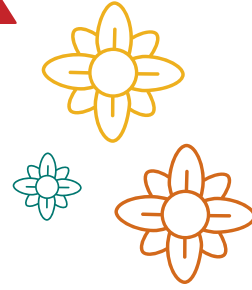
Council, Just TV, RCMP – Indigenous Policing Unit, Brandon Police Service, and the Winnipeg Police Service – Indigenous Policing Unit. It was important to get the insight and feedback from all of these sources to be able to provide a holistic program that will connect with young people and also provide a pathway towards long-term changes in their lives and communities.

SCO's Community Justice Workers (CJW) will deliver the diversion program in the SCO member communities in which they serve to help guide youth on their healing path. The CJWs and SCO staff will facilitate workshops and development sessions on reserve and in urban centres to provide healthy alternative spaces where youth can learn and engage.

After years of development and delays due to the pandemic, SCO is pleased to announce that YEP will launch in the Winter of 2023. The CJWs will be trained on how to deliver and navigate the stages of the program, and by next year we hope to have testimonials from youth who have successfully completed the program and avoided being in conflict with the justice and court systems. We hope YEP will be an example of First Nation restorative justice in action.



# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



The Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) Environment Department continued its growth and evolution in 2021. Water and the environment are identified by SCO member Nations as one of the areas of largest concern that impacts daily life. Protecting our water and the environment from the effects of development and developing a system that respects and includes First Nations culture and values are identified by SCO member communities as high priorities, and SCO is undertaking a number of initiatives in pursuit of these goals.

## Pursuit of the Development of an Indigenous Owned and Operated Water Authority

The SCO continues to develop a First Nations-owned and -operated water utility that will deliver drinking water and wastewater services to SCO member Nations. The Environment Department continues to engage southern First Nation Chiefs and Councils, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and technical staff on community priorities related to water service delivery and watershed management.

## Water Authority Goals for 2022

A series of gatherings are planned for 2022 where SCO member Nations, Chiefs and Councils, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, and youth will meet at various southern locations to discuss and develop the guiding principles for the future Water Authority.

The continued goal is to develop a strong robust organization that will allow for member Nations to plan, build, operate, and maintain their water treatment facilities while incorporating First Nation culture at a foundational level. The Water Authority will remove the liability of these operations from communities and federal institutions from the decision-making process.

## Surface Water Quality Testing Program

SCO's Environment Department continues to monitor our Nations' surface water sources to ensure cleanliness and potability through the spring, summer, and fall months. To further enhance the water quality testing program and assist in our scientific research and data collection, SCO field staff undertook water sampling training provided by a firm specializing in environmental sampling. SCO staff also met with staff from the International Institute of Sustainable Development to help inform the evolution of SCO's water testing program.

SCO has developed specific monitoring plans in partnership with each participating community. These plans were developed in consultation with community members and, in some cases, to target specific areas of concern.

SCO's Water Quality testers reached 25 communities in 2021 and performed more than 150 different tests on water sources that affect SCO Nations. SCO is now testing more than 100 water quality parameters using a combination of water sampling for lab analysis and in-situ water testing using a ProDSS water quality multiparameter meter.

## Database to Protect Natural Water Sources

The results of SCO's in field water quality data collection will continue to contribute to a database of water-testing results from SCO communities that will be owned, controlled, and accessible to those Nations. All data was collected under Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) principles and belongs to the Anishinaabe and Dakota communities where it originated. SCO staff are co-developing a database with a First Nation research organization and the end product will allow for water quality and other data to be displayed spatially on maps for communities to use in environmental planning efforts. Southern First Nations will have access to their community's data in a protected database that they will own.

SCO member Nations will be able to use the database results to inform the decision-making process around water and its usage in their own region. Not having full information on water quality, combined with the exclusion of First Nations from the decision-making process, has led to harmful nutrient increases. This creates unhealthy ecosystems that affect our drinking water, algae bloom growth, reduced oxygen, and toxicity that is harmful to aquatic life. The long-term goal of this project is to improve the quality of First Nation water sources by informing leaders, strengthening partnerships, and promoting collaborative water governance in the region.

## Canada Water Agency

The federal government declared its intention to form a new federal department solely dedicated to water issues — the proposed name of the department is the Canada Water Agency. As part of agency formation, the government asked for input into agency development from Indigenous communities and organizations.

SCO submitted a proposal to the proponents of the Canada Water Agency (CWA) that would compel the development of the CWA to acknowledge and respect Indigenous water rights as a core foundation of the agency. The goal of SCO's insertion into agency development is to ensure the policy objectives and goals of the proposed agency support First Nation rights to self-determination as well as ensuring recognition and acknowledgement of Indigenous inherent, Aboriginal, and Treaty water rights and roles in water management and governance.

SCO has begun the development of a rights-based position paper that will help to inform and clearly articulate SCO's member communities and their people's inherent rights to water. This work began in 2021 and continues into 2022.







## Lake Manitoba Outlet Channels

SCO's Environment staff are working with two Nations, Black River and Bloodvein, to assist with preparing and submitting commentary and concerns to the federal government's Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) on the proposed Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel project being contemplated by Manitoba's provincial government.

The focus of the SCO and community submissions to the IAAC is not tied solely to the technical and engineering aspects of the proposed project. SCO and community are ensuring that the IAAC, as the federal approval agency, is holding the project proponent accountable for project impacts to Inherent and Treaty rights and ensuring that the project proponent, the Province of Manitoba, is fulfilling its obligations under the Section 35 Duty to Consult obligations. SCO continues meeting with Bloodvein and Black River First Nations to ensure concerns are being heard and, more importantly, addressed appropriately.

## Red River Basin Commission

In the fall of 2021, SCO's Environment Department filled a vacant position on the International Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Board. The re-establishment of SCO on the RRBC Board allows for direct input and involvement in water management issues within the Red River Basin, where a large number of SCO member Nations are located and many community members live and work.

SCO, along with the RRBC, undertook extensive work on developing a report titled *One Basin, One Governance*. This report explores Anishinaabeg Nibi Onaakonigewinaanan – water rights for Indigenous Peoples as it relates to water governance in the Lake Winnipeg Basin. It is clearly established in the report that First Nation voices are not part of any decision-making process when it comes to the governance of water in Manitoba.

The report is based on research conducted by the RRBC and SCO through a series of meetings with Indigenous and government leaders. Information in this report has come from listening and understanding the relationship that First Nation leaders, Elders, and women have with the Creator, Mother Earth, and our sacred water. Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, SCO, and members of several First Nations had direct, meaningful input into this report, which was released in 2022.

## International Joint Commission Work

The International Joint Commission (IJC), an organization guided by the Boundary Waters Treaty, was signed by Canada and the United States in 1909. The Treaty provides general principles for preventing and resolving disputes over waters shared between the two countries and for settling other transboundary issues. The IJC has two subcommittees dedicated to water governance – the International Red River Watershed Board (IRRWB), and the International Souris River Board (ISRB).

In 2021, an IRRWB sub-committee instructed the IRRWB Outreach Committee to engage First Nation members of the IRRWB in the development of a series of gatherings and workshops that would discuss and inform the IRRWB on First Nation perspectives related to water management, legal constructs, worldviews, and priorities for partnerships and engagements. SCO was selected as the organization to lead and coordinate these gatherings. SCO has been involved in a series of with both the IRRBC and IJC in preparation for a gathering in 2023 that will be dedicated to First Nations perspectives and views on the sacred importance of water and will involve the participation of First Nations within the Red River Basin.

## Two Path Management

The SCO, Grand Council Treaty 3, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development continue to partner with local communities on a community-driven research project that focuses on watershed management planning in the Lake Winnipeg River Basin. The Two Path Management project aims to understand how First Nations view watershed management in the region and explore how Traditional Knowledge can work together with Western knowledge to inform management practices. The pandemic prevented in-person meetings in 2021, however, SCO has engaged communities and community members in 2022 to restart the conversation.





# STATUS CARD REGISTRY OFFICE



In late November of 2021, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) launched the Status Card Program. Recognizing significant barriers and gaps in service when accessing Secure Certificates of Indian Status (SCIS) cards, the program was developed to assist Status First Nation citizens in renewing or replacing this vital piece of identification. As a Status First Nation citizen, the SCIS card is key to accessing benefits negotiated by our ancestors, such as the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB).

SCO is authorized as a Trusted Source by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to act on behalf of the clients and staff members can assist through the status card renewal or replacement process.

## SCO Staff assist by:

- Reviewing and assisting with applications to ensure they are complete and that all the required documentation is attached.
- Taking client pictures using the SCIS photo app and digitally signing as a guarantor and Trusted Source.
- Providing guidance on acceptable forms of valid identification to clients.
- Submitting completed applications for processing.

As part of this service, SCO provides photocopying and mailing services by appointment at SCO's Winnipeg sub-office.

**// Navigating the federal government's processes for status cards can be challenging and it involves paperwork that can be complex. SCO is pleased to offer this new service for our southern First Nation citizens who are not able to easily visit their home communities, to help them renew, replace, or apply for their status cards and access the benefits negotiated by our ancestors. //**

— GRAND CHIEF JERRY DANIELS

## Statistics – Clients served and Identified Areas

### November 2021 - March 31, 2022

In the first four months of the SCIS program, SCO was contacted 1044 times for assistance and information on the application process.

SCO was pleased to be able to help initiate 357 applications and submitted 178 completed applications to ISC during the initial phase of the program.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Omicron variant wave of December 2021 and January 2022 impacted the number of in-person appointments staff were able to complete. In-person bookings resumed in late February and through March 2022.

**357**

Applications  
in Process

(Includes multiple  
client requests during  
each call/email)

**609**

Call Backs

(Includes multiple client  
requests during each call/email)

**178**

Completed Applications

(Applications submitted  
to ISC)

**1044**

Client Contacts

(phone and email)

## Program Accomplishments

Demand for service to assist First Nation citizens access the SCIS card remains substantial. The Status Card Program fills an identified gap in service and reduces the lengthy wait times First Nation citizens face throughout the SCIS application process when trying to book in person assistance through ISC's Manitoba Regional Office. SCO will assist any First Nation citizen through the application process, and we have helped clients from as far away as British Columbia with information and assistance in applying for and renewing or replacing their SCIS cards.

There have been marked improvements made to streamline the appointment process offering timely and attentive service through SCO. The appointment booking system has been refined, client standards have been established, and volume has increased significantly since the program's launch. With the use of the SCIS mobile photo application, barriers for clients who cannot afford passport photos have been eliminated. SCO offers refreshments and a comfortable environment when clients attend appointments at the Winnipeg sub-office.

A permanent Status Card Registry Officer was hired to oversee the growth and development of the Status Card Program in the spring of 2022. The addition of this position has resulted in the ability to ensure program continuity and increased quality standards for the service. The Officer oversees staff, handles complex files, and liaises with other agencies and ISC on a regular basis. The addition of the position has solidified the Status Card Program and supported its expansion to include event pop ups, mobile ID clinics, and partnerships with community organizations which have started for the 2022/2023 year.

## Key Challenges in Advocacy and Program Implementaton

New appointments are received by telephone, email, and third-party referrals. The Status Card program is advertised through SCO's social media feeds, website, and by word of mouth. Demand for this service has remained significant since the launch of the program and continues to grow. What initially started as a renewal and replacement program is now evolving to accept applications for new Registrations on the Indian Register.

There is a demonstrated need to reduce the barriers, red tape, and wait times associated with accessing registration under the Indian Act for entitled First Nation citizens. Status and the SCIS card is key to accessing programming through Jordan's Principle, the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, education supports, and many other Treaty rights. This demand and the rapid growth of the program at SCO has presented some challenges as funding for the program is limited, impacting program staffing levels, program resources like postage, office supplies, equipment for mobile clinics, and the space available to host large families for in-person appointments.

Other challenges encountered by the Status Card Program include supporting clients who do not have the required identification and wait times for essential documents such as birth certificates and health cards from provincial agencies. The pandemic has also impacted this program as in most cases it requires in-person service.

## Goals and upcoming projects

Through increased staffing and enhanced public education and awareness of the program and process for applications, the Status Card Program will increase its service in 2022/2023. This will be achieved through social media campaigns, direct First Nation community outreach, urban centre pop up events, and attending events such as Vision Quest. Printed program materials will also be developed, along with a more refined tracking and client information system. SCO has also recently worked with ISC to expand the Status Card Program to accept new registrations as of spring 2022.

Engagement with First Nation clients, urban service organizations, and communities are also a priority for the upcoming year to better understand the services currently offered in SCO member First Nations and how SCO can help to address gaps and complement existing services.

To further maximize the reach of the Status Card Program, SCO intends to pursue cohesive partnerships with Indigenous serving organizations in urban centres and expand urban pop ups to include locations outside Winnipeg like Brandon and Dauphin. This will also include developing working relationships with Child and Family Services (CFS) agencies to serve children in care.





# Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.

## Consolidated Financial Statements

March 31, 2022

**MNP**

### Management's Responsibility

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To the Members of Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.:

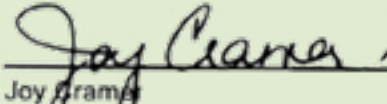
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting policies and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the consolidated financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

The Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc. Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Finance Committee fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external auditors. The Finance Committee is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the Finance Committee, on behalf of the Members, to audit the consolidated financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Finance Committee and management to discuss their audit findings.

August 3, 2022

  
Zhenyu Wu, Chief Financial Officer  
Joy Cramer



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.:

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc. (the "Organization"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022 and the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2022 and the results of its consolidated operations and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matter

The Organization prepares two sets of financial statements. One is prepared on a consolidated basis and the other is prepared on a non-consolidated basis, as explained in the accompanying notes in each set of financial statements. This Independent Auditor's Report refers only to the consolidated financial statements as explained in the *Opinion* paragraph above.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of the auditor's report.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance or conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the annual report, if we conclude that there is material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of Management for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Organization to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

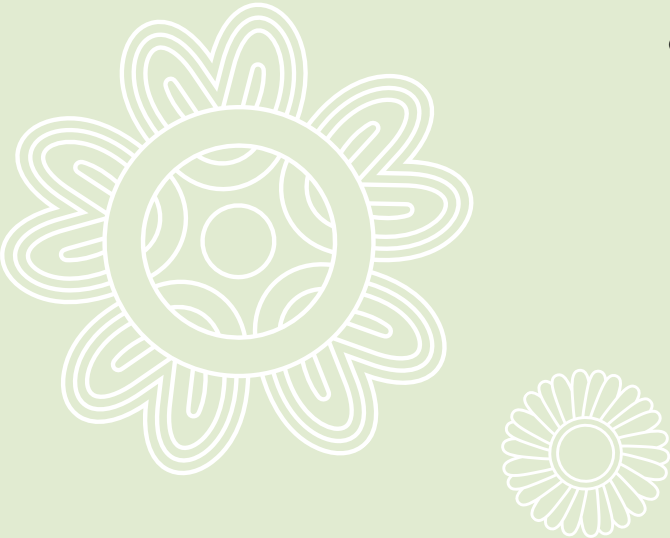
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

August 3, 2022



Chartered Professional Accountants





**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position**  
*As at March 31, 2022*

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	10,470,558	7,678,075
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	835,058	1,437,458
Investment (Note 4)	350,000	-
Prepaid expenses and deposits	63,004	56,504
	<b>11,718,620</b>	<b>9,172,037</b>
Restricted cash (Note 5)	2,140,955	-
Capital assets (Note 6)	13,306	143,030
Due from Agencies (Note 7)	3,576,071	4,999,590
	<b>17,448,952</b>	<b>14,314,657</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 8)	1,311,074	799,956
Deferred contributions (Note 9)	9,187,139	6,863,880
Due to Government of Canada (Note 10)	110,789	110,789
	<b>10,609,002</b>	<b>7,774,625</b>
Due to Province of Manitoba (Note 7)	5,717,026	5,717,026
	<b>16,326,028</b>	<b>13,491,651</b>
<b>Contingencies (Note 11)</b>		
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,109,618	679,976
Invested in capital assets	13,306	143,030
	<b>1,122,924</b>	<b>823,006</b>
	<b>17,448,952</b>	<b>14,314,657</b>

Approved on behalf of the Finance Committee

  
 Committee member

  
 Committee member

  
 Committee member

  
 Committee member

  
 Committee member

  
 Committee member

**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statement of Operations**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Province of Manitoba (Note 12)	168,721,730	167,555,541
Government of Canada (Note 13)	12,397,937	7,420,309
Other (Note 14)	2,005,131	1,745,123
	<b>183,124,798</b>	<b>176,720,973</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Community programming and support services (Note 15)	9,608,475	5,155,540
Payments to Member First Nations (Note 16)	4,047,648	2,551,096
Family services administration	4,242,138	3,527,269
Family services education and training	405,306	665,179
Family services agency funding	163,440,800	162,183,373
Family services programming	950,889	1,176,637
Amortization	129,724	46,675
	<b>182,824,980</b>	<b>175,305,769</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses before other items</b>	<b>299,818</b>	<b>1,415,204</b>
<b>Other items</b>		
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	(1,090,965)
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>299,818</b>	<b>324,239</b>



**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Invested in capital assets</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
Net assets, beginning of year	679,976	143,030	823,006	498,767
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	429,642	(129,724)	299,918	324,239
Net assets, end of year	1,109,618	13,306	1,122,924	823,006



**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
<b>Cash provided by (used for) the following activities</b>		
<b>Operating</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses	299,918	324,239
Amortization	129,724	46,675
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	1,090,965
	429,642	1,461,879
Changes in working capital accounts		
Due from agencies	1,423,519	717,436
Accounts receivable	602,400	994,883
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(6,500)	93,167
Accounts payable and accruals	511,118	(1,103,636)
Deferred contributions	2,323,259	2,787,053
	5,283,438	4,950,782
<b>Investing</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	-	(108,982)
Purchase of investment	(350,000)	
Transfer to restricted cash	(2,140,955)	-
	(2,490,955)	(108,982)
<b>Financing</b>		
Repayment of capital lease	-	(77,583)
<b>Increase in cash resources</b>	<b>2,792,483</b>	<b>4,764,217</b>
<b>Cash resources, beginning of year</b>	<b>7,678,075</b>	<b>2,913,858</b>
<b>Cash resources, end of year</b>	<b>10,470,558</b>	<b>7,678,075</b>





1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc. (the "Organization") was established in March 1999, is located in the Province of Manitoba, and provides various services to its 34 Members (34 southern First Nations) which are represented by the Chiefs of those 34 First Nations. The Organization is a not-for-profit organization incorporated without share capital. The Organization is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of The Income Tax Act. In order to maintain its status as a registered not for profit organization under The Income Tax Act, the Organization must meet certain requirements specified within The Income Tax Act. It is the opinion of management that these requirements have been met.

2. Significant accounting policies

These consolidated financial statements are the representations of management, prepared in accordance with Canadian not for profit accounting standards and include the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of accounting

The Organization controls Southern First Nations Network of Care ("SFNNC") by virtue of the Executive Committee's ability to appoint the Board of Directors of SFNNC. These consolidated financial statements include the balances and transactions of SFNNC.

The First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority was incorporated on November 24, 2003 under the Province of Manitoba through The Child and Family Services Authority Act, S.M. 2002, c. 35 excerpt section 20; the Act came into force by proclamation on November 24, 2003. On November 15, 2015, the legal name was changed to Southern First Nations Network of Care ("SFNNC"). SFNNC was established as a not-for-profit organization with the responsibility for administering and providing for the delivery of a system of child and family services to First Nations people who are members of the southern First Nations and other persons who are identified with those southern First Nations. SFNNC is a non-profit organization and as such is exempt from income taxes under The Income Tax Act.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably determined.

Amortization is provided using the straight-line method at the following rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives:

Computers		3 years
Furniture		3 years
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease	3 years

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

When the Organization determines that a long-lived asset no longer has any long-term service potential to the Organization, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the consolidated statement of operations. Write-downs are not reversed.

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Revenue recognition

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Other revenue is recognized when services have been provided and collectability is reasonably assured.

Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable and due from agencies are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets. Deferred revenue is based on management's analysis of the extent to which qualifying expenses have been incurred with respect to restricted contributions.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenues and expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Employee future benefits

The Organization's employee future benefit programs consist of defined contribution pension plan. The Organization contributions to the defined contribution plan are expensed as incurred. Employer expense for the year is \$566,493 (2021 - \$470,325).

Contributed materials

Contributions of materials and services are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the consolidated statement of operations when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Leases

A lease that transfers substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership is classified as a capital lease. At the inception of a capital lease, an asset and a payment obligation are recorded at an amount equal to the lesser of the present value of the minimum lease payments and the property's fair market value. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and rental payments are expensed as incurred.





2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Financial instruments

The Organization recognizes financial instruments when the Organization becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Organization may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Organization has made such an election during the year.

The Organization subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. With the exception of financial liabilities indexed to a measure of the Organization's performance or value of its equity and those instruments designated at fair value, all other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Related party financial instruments

The Organization initially measures the following financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments") at fair value:

- Investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market
- Debt instruments quoted in an active market
- Debt instruments when the inputs significant to the determination of its fair value are observable (directly or indirectly)
- Derivative contracts.

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, dividend, variable and contingent payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received

At initial recognition, the Organization may elect to subsequently measure related party debt instruments that are quoted in active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value.

The Organization subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Financial instruments that were initially measured at cost and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by, delivery of unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured using the cost method less any reduction for impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

2. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Financial asset impairment

The Organization assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Organization groups assets for impairment testing when available information is not sufficient to permit identification of each individually impaired financial asset in the group; there are numerous assets affected by the same factors; no asset is individually significant, etc. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty; whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; etc. in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Organization determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

With the exception of related party debt instruments and related party equity instruments initially measured at cost, the Organization reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

For related party debt instruments initially measured at cost, the Organization reduces the carrying amount of the asset (or group of assets), to the highest of: the undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by holding the asset, or group of similar assets, excluding the interest and dividend payments of the instrument; the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

For related party equity instruments initially measured at cost, the Organization reduces the carrying amount of the asset (or group of assets), to the amount that could be realized by selling the asset(s) at the statement of financial position date.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess of revenue over expenses.

The Organization reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess of revenue over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

3. Accounts receivable

	2022	2021
Accounts receivable	676,159	1,221,003
GST receivable	32,681	20,199
Due from Southern Chiefs Economic Development Corporation	150,637	220,675
	859,477	1,461,877
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(24,419)	(24,419)
	835,058	1,437,458

The Organization is related to the Southern Chiefs Economic Development Corporation due to having a similiar composition of governance.

4. Investment

The investment is a Guaranteed Investment Certificate, bearing interest at 0.55%, maturing July 2022.

5. Restricted cash

Restricted cash consists of funds received from Agencies in repayment of working capital advances; held in a separate account since it relates to amounts Due to the Province of Manitoba.





**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

**6. Capital assets**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated amortization</b>	<b>2022 Net book value</b>
Computers	324,716	324,716	-
Furniture	323,924	310,618	13,306
Leasehold improvements	48,955	48,955	-
	<b>697,595</b>	<b>684,289</b>	<b>13,306</b>

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated amortization</b>	<b>2021 Net book value</b>
Computers	347,696	239,972	107,724
Furniture	323,925	297,312	26,613
Leasehold improvements	48,955	40,262	8,693
	<b>720,576</b>	<b>577,546</b>	<b>143,030</b>

**7. Due from Agencies and Due to Province of Manitoba**

The Province of Manitoba advanced the Organization a working capital advance in the amount of \$5,717,026 (2021 - \$5,717,026), which in turn was advanced by the Organization to child and family services agencies (the "Agencies"). Due to the introduction of *single envelope funding*, some Agencies have started paying off their advances. The amounts due from the Agencies and due to the Province of Manitoba have no fixed terms of repayment and are non-interest bearing.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Animikii-Ozoseon Child and Family Services	1,137,111	1,204,000
Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services	689,610	689,610
Intertribal Child and Family Services	-	121,030
Peguis Child and Family Services	221,820	221,820
Sandy Bay Child and Family Services	158,700	158,700
Southeast Child and Family Services	1,368,830	1,368,830
West Region Child and Family Services	-	1,235,600
	<b>3,576,071</b>	<b>4,999,590</b>

**8. Accounts payable and accruals**

Included in accounts payable and accruals is \$65,000 (2021 - \$52,400) which relates to payments to Member First Nations of the Organization.

Also included in accounts payable and accruals is government remittances payable of \$22,086 (2021 - \$46,993).

**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

**9. Deferred contributions**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Government of Canada	6,764,072	5,078,509
Province of Manitoba	1,630,752	1,653,732
Other	792,315	131,639
	<b>9,187,139</b>	<b>6,863,880</b>

**10. Due to Government of Canada**

The Organization has recorded an amount repayable to the Government of Canada because the Government of Canada has required repayment of restricted contributions.

In each case, the Government of Canada has either:

- Deemed certain expenses of the Organization to be ineligible uses of funding provided, or
- Has recognized particular restricted contributions as unspent during a particular allowable time period.

The amounts due to the Government of Canada are non-interest bearing and terms of repayment have not been established.

**11. Contingencies**

The Organization is subject to funding recoveries according to their agreements with federal and provincial government departments. At year-end, it was not yet determined to what extent any funding amounts related to the year ending March 31, 2022 might be recovered by these departments.

The Organization has been named as a defendant in five claims. These claims remain at an early stage, and as litigation is subject to many uncertainties, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits or to estimate the loss, if any, which may result. No accrual has been made related to these claims.

**12. Province of Manitoba**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Revenue authorized for the fiscal year	170,166,515	167,666,591
Revenue deferred in prior year	185,967	74,917
Revenue deferred to subsequent year	(1,630,752)	(185,967)
	<b>168,721,730</b>	<b>167,555,541</b>





**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

**13. Government of Canada**

	2022	2021
<b>Revenue recognized in accordance with funding agreements</b>		
Indigenous Services Canada	13,513,483	9,734,466
Justice Canada	370,712	244,545
Environment Canada	149,794	2,428
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	145,837	-
	<b>14,179,826</b>	9,981,439
<b>Revenue deferred in prior year</b>		
Indigenous Services Canada	4,915,558	2,132,398
Status of Women Canada	-	124,562
Environmental Assessment	66,625	164,093
	<b>4,982,183</b>	2,421,053
<b>Revenue deferred to subsequent year</b>		
Indigenous Services Canada	(6,656,035)	(4,915,558)
Environmental Assessment	(8,675)	(66,625)
Justice Canada	(99,362)	-
	<b>(6,764,072)</b>	(4,982,183)
	<b>12,397,937</b>	7,420,309

**14. Other revenue**

	2022	2021
Funding provided during the year	2,669,858	1,798,085
Revenue deferred in prior year	127,588	74,626
Revenue deferred in subsequent year	(792,315)	(127,588)
	<b>2,005,131</b>	1,745,123

**15. Community programming and support services**

	2022	2021
Promotion	239,089	318,606
Professional fees	782,780	628,906
Travel, meetings and honoraria	1,112,184	468,268
Salaries and benefits	5,462,602	3,113,860
Other	2,011,820	625,900
	<b>9,608,475</b>	5,155,540

**Southern Chiefs' Organization Inc.**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**  
*For the year ended March 31, 2022*

**16. Payments to Member First Nations**

	2022	2021
Health Transformation Initiative	1,311,880	891,959
Community engagement survey on Child and Family Services law development	5,000	85,000
COVID-19	2,730,768	1,574,137
	<b>4,047,648</b>	2,551,096

**17. Commitments**

The Organization has entered into various lease agreements with estimated minimum annual payments as follows:

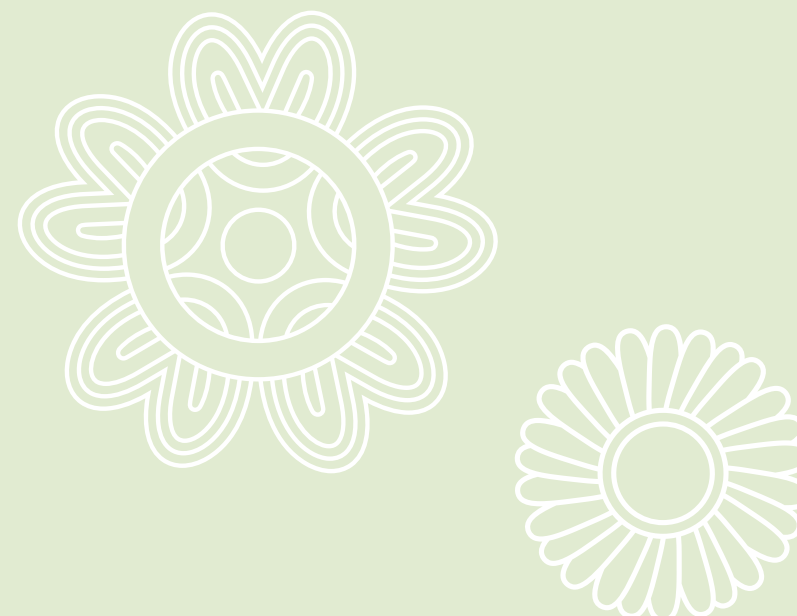
2023	56,072
2024	8,884

**18. Economic dependence**

The Organization receives a significant portion of its revenue from the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The Organization's ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon the continued financial commitments of the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba.

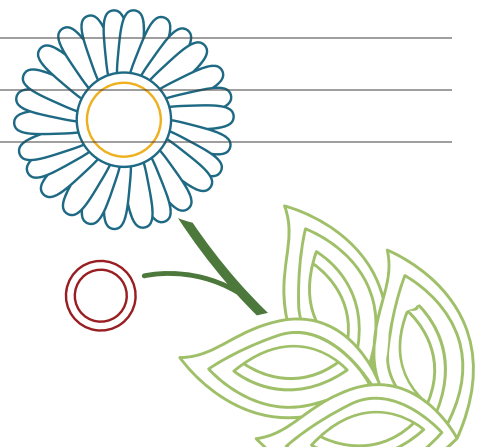

**19. Financial instruments**

The Organization, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

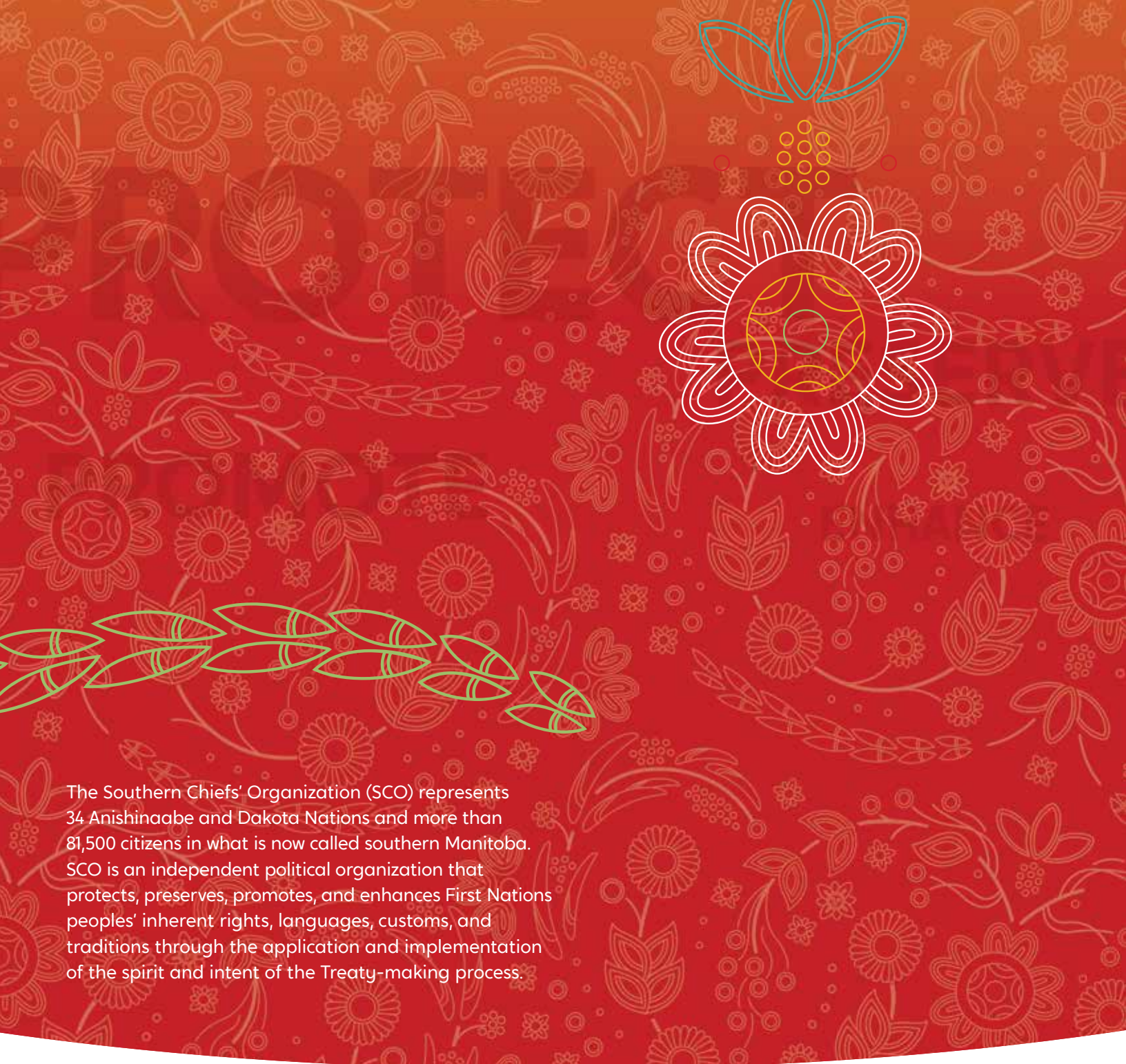




## NOTES







The Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) represents 34 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations and more than 81,500 citizens in what is now called southern Manitoba. SCO is an independent political organization that protects, preserves, promotes, and enhances First Nations peoples' inherent rights, languages, customs, and traditions through the application and implementation of the spirit and intent of the Treaty-making process.



**Southern Chiefs'  
Organization Inc.**

**PHONE:** 204-946-1869  
**FAX:** 204-946-1871  
**TOLL FREE:** 1-866-876-9701  
receptionist@scoinc.mb.ca

**SCOINC.MB.CA**



**ON-RESERVE HEAD OFFICE**

Swan Lake First Nation  
200-200 Alpine Way  
Headingley, MB R4H 0B7

**WINNIPEG SUB-OFFICE**

1572 Dublin Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0L4

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