



**Operations & Support Subcommittee Ad hoc Meeting
February 28, 2022, via Zoom**

Co-Chairs: Frankie Berland, FNIHB Bonnie Healy Treaty 7/BFC (acting for Tyler) Tyler White, Treaty 7/BFC (joined 2:45pm)	HCoM: Erin Solway, Secretariat Debra Loyie, Admin Assistant (recorder)
Members: Anne Bird, Treaty 6, YTC (acting) Patsy Campbell, Treaty 8	Tessy Big Plume, Treaty 7/SNTT (acting) Dion Napio, Treaty 8 (acting)
Liaisons:	Presenters: Karen Phillip, Alberta Health Nathalie Lachance, FNIHB
Observers: Tina Apsassin, CT6FN	Regrets: Colleen McDonald, Treaty 6/ECN

- 1. Call to order/Opening Prayer** **1:45pm/Patsy Campbell**
2. Introductions **Subcommittee**
3. Review of Agenda **Co-chairs**
- Treaty 8 concern that Alberta Health at table without non-signatories' present
 - Correction noted: AFNIGC

2022-02-28: #1 Motion the Operations & Support Subcommittee moves to approve and accept the agenda as presented. Moved by Patsy Campbell, Treaty 8. Seconded by Bonnie Healy, Treaty 7 (BFC). All in favour; motion carried.

4. Anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination funding

Karen Phillip of Indigenous Health, Alberta Health provided the Subcommittee a deck titled *Indigenous Racism in Health Care in Alberta*.

Subcommittee comments and feedback:

- Offence taken in the slide deck on the word 'Stories' – it may be deemed fictional.
 - Karen noted and would change the wording in the presentation
- Clarification on Indigenous data and First Nation data. Suggestion to use the word 'Non-First Nation' when taking about groups that are not identified as First Nation.]
- Concern expressed that the source of data had not been cited appropriately. There has been health trends developed in partnership with AFNIGC. AFNIGC has been mandated by the AoTC in 2013
 - Karen stated that information is for internal use.
- Concern expressed on presenting data to the Subcommittee that includes 'Metis' and 'Indigenous' approach.
- Concern on provincial jurisdictional issues, inquired as to when collaboration would be done with the bordering provinces.
 - Response: Internal scans, not meant to be complete. Next step is to work with communities in a more fulsome way. To obtain the engagement approvals, work needs to be done internally to make the case.
 - AB Health is doing their due diligence to act now. AB has a problem; they think it is time to come to the communities, Nations and Metis leaders to have those conversations. Waiting for the internal approval to initiate engagement.



- Work with the protocol tables, Chiefs at each of the treaty level, Nations with MOUs and FN Health Directors. Work with Nations and HCoM, can be allies on moving forward.
- Suggestion to add Alberta to the indicator PowerPoint slide.
 - Response: Need to engage with the communities and look at work identified at health advisory table, protocol health sub-tables and MOU Health sub-tables. Issues that they are all concerned about and start addressing and start to work on. Should be the first thing to ensure that AB Health and Health services provided in this province are welcoming to First Nation people, no matter where they live in the province. We are aware that this is not the case.
- Co-chair requested clarity that once the province is at the engagement phase, Alberta Health would then engage the First Nation leadership?
 - Response: Absolutely. They need to have this as indigenous led
- Concern expressed on provincial jurisdiction, these are ordinarily brought to the Nation's first, then the Nations decide on what they want to do. It looks like a trilateral, tripartite approach.
 - Still looking at it internally.
- Inquired on what body are they seeking approval from?
 - Response: Government of AB. In the final steps of obtaining approval. Will then start contacting Chiefs and First Nations to start having those conversations if they choose to have them. Aware of issues and challenges and working to find ways to get through barriers to help bring the right people to the table. Including the FN health director's advisory into policy making process.
 - Looking at opportunities within the next year to rebuild trust in the healthcare services.
- November gathering with Trish Mercredi, inquired on when that document will be distributed?
 - The document will go through the internal process into the Minister's office.
- Fundamental step of engagement of the Chiefs is missing. Chiefs are our decision makers on the Nation level. They do not have any input with the concerns are, having the courtesy of letting the Chiefs know what the plans are. Inform them about process of what is about to happen, make sure they know exactly what is going on from the onset. This would ensure that AB Health would have a mandate moving forward.
 - There is nothing being implemented. Internal processes that are required to be followed within AB Health.
- Just as the government bodies need internal protocols, First Nations need to acquire approval/blessing from leadership to move forward to enter conversations. It is in Alberta's best interest to communicate to the Chiefs sooner than later, so that anything that comes down when working with First Nations. Not Metis, not Inuit, the Subcommittee subject matter is specific to First Nations.
 - Karen will take concerns and reflect in the report back to AB Health.
- The Blackfoot Confederacy signed off workplan with Ministry a week prior. IN that workplan it is to work in partnership, indicated to be mindful of agreements that are in place and to respect partnerships.
- Subcommittee accepted that the information presented is for information purposes only. The Subcommittee comments and feedback would be noted and recognized by the province.
- Requested to note that this item needs to be brought back the Chiefs. So that the Chiefs know that the technicians are on their side of process and mandate's they have given them.
- Bonnie Healthy identified the *AoTC Resolution from June 2013* indicating that the data linkage without FN knowledge. Ministry of AB Health Surveillance that data linkage and identifiers are not to be conducted without First Nation relationship.

Action Item 4.1: Secretariat to pull June 2013 AoTC Resolution for record on subject matter

- Karen Phillip departed the zoom meeting at 2:32pm



5. Anti-Indigenous Racism Funding Alberta Region 2021/22

Nathalie Lachance, FNIHB

Provided Subcommittee Members deck titled *Anti-Indigenous Racism Funding Alberta Region 2021/22*

- Seeking Subcommittee recommendation on how to utilize \$712,000 have streams to consider
- Nursing Patient Advocate Funding (\$537,000) To support advocates for Indigenous patients and help them navigate hospital complaints and Health ombudsman reporting processes. Indigenous patient advocates could offer a variety of services such as provide knowledge and expertise in resolving complaints, work on early resolutions with Indigenous patients who may have had a negative healthcare experience in community care service, and guide and advocate for Indigenous patients through formal complaints processes.
- Cultural Safety Partnership Fund (\$150,000) To address anti-Indigenous racism in health systems by supporting community and regional-level Indigenous-led cultural safety initiatives, which strengthen cultural safety and address systemic barriers in health and with other service providers (police, justice, social services).
- Federal Leadership Fund (\$25,000) To support regional roundtables on anti-Indigenous racism.
- Funding had been secured about a month ago.

Subcommittee comments/concerns

- Patsy Campbell shared information comes to Technicians first without Chief's knowledge, causing fighting over funding
- Bonnie Healy shared Operations & Support Subcommittee Resolution was actioned by HCoM Chiefs to strengthen resolution wording (TRC, UNDRIP), plus Funding Formula Working Group needs to be brought back to table better approaches with National to do evidence needs based approach have data can work on funding formula. That motion is to address these inequities of funding.
- Patsy Campbell inquired where funding streams come from. She is not prepared to provide a response today, due to slide deck being provided on short notice and expressed the need to have information be provided in advance. Need to identify Treaty 8 priorities. Unfair for technicians to approve processes on short notice, did not have time to discuss with other health technicians.
- Dion Napio stated they would need information first, needs to be fair to Nations to reach out. Not prepared to make decision today.
- Bonnie Healy suggested to look at current and future First Nation initiatives within the province i.e., Doula training.
- Tessy Big Plume shared they were working on cultural competency training funded by grants, agreed that funding could assist other initiatives.
- Dion Napio indicated that it appeared that FNIHB is taking the approach of 'managing' verses 'co-management'
- FN Co-chair, Tyler White, joined the meeting at 2:45pm, was made aware of Subcommittee feedback and comments; shared need to respect reservations by Subcommittee members; must forward and articulate concern and comments to HCoM Committee.
- Patsy Campbell reiterated for Treaty 8 behalf, she would not state a position, assured that these allocations did not fall on the region yesterday. Requested principle of transparency exercised from the Region should share with technicians to prepare for decisions and to be respectful of each other.
- Dion Napio indicated that information needs to be presented in a way that they could weigh decisions and understand why those decisions were being made, and to respect the co-management agreement that the Chiefs have made.
- Co-chair indicated the comments and concerns that have been shared would be recorded and that they would be put forward for HCoM consideration, in the context of them made aware of what was discussed and identify concerns which have been brought to the Subcommittee table



- Patsy Campbell indicated that it is important to report to HCoM the status of the Resolution wording and the Funding Formula working group.
- Treaty 7 not ready to make decision (BFC)

Action Item 5.1: Secretariat would summarize the Subcommittee concerns/points for Co-chairs to bring forward to HCoM Committee Special meeting March 2, 2022.

6. AFNIGC

Nathalie Lachance FNIHB

- Nathalie Lachance provided for information purposes only on the status of AFNIGC funding for FY 2022/2023, the Subcommittee would need to provide AFNIGC six months' notice before changing funding levels. AFNIGC has funding in place until March 31st.
- Subcommittee had the discussion around this table had made a presentation to HCoM which tasked Subcommittee more work last fall, they have not been able to go work on it. Connecting with Subcommittee that at this point, to let them know that they would need to pursue funding for next fiscal year due to not being able to meet the 6-month timeframe. Moving forward, looking at providing AFNIGC the Health Surveillance funding for FY 2022/33. This would allow the Subcommittee to do the work that they were directed to by the HCoM Committee.
- Patsy recalled Subcommittee meeting approx. one year ago and having a lengthy discussion about AFNIGC and the proposed motion.
- There was a discussion of an e-motion, but e-motion had not passed. HCoM Committee directed to do more homework, work has not been done; putting FNIHB in position to commit to continue funding AFNIGC
- Question: Ottawa FNIGC office funding to rollout strategic plan; inquired on how it would fit in with strategy not sure what the relationship is between Ottawa and FNIGC. Response: Unsure
- Bonnie requested Nathalie to pull up federal budget FNIGC federal strategy dollars for HCoM and noted that Patsy mentioned to bring forward to HCoM as to reason why they need to continue funding.
- Dion indicated they brought the topic of AFNIGC forward to Treaty 8 Health Chiefs in terms of providing a one-year transition period so that Treaty 8 could institute their own processes.
- Recommended that they bring the topic of AFNIGC to the to the HCoM Chiefs.
- G4 indicated that they withdrew from AFNIGC and that they would obtain their own data
- Co-chairs agreed and acknowledged the Subcommittee comments and concerns need to be respected and brought to the HCoM Committee Chiefs

Action Item 6.1: Secretariat to doodle poll Subcommittee for feedback and Co-chairs meeting after the March 2, 2022, HCoM Committee meeting.

7. Adjourn

3:26pm

Closing prayer by Patsy Campbell