



**Mental Health & Addictions Subcommittee Adhoc Meeting
June 7, 2021**

Members:

Shannon Doubleday, FNIHB Co-chair
Terri-Lynn Fox, Treaty 7 (BFC)
Anne Bird, Treaty 6 YTC proxy for Marlene Arcand
Dr. Chris Sarin, FNIHB

Andy Alook, Treaty 8 FN Co-chair
Caroline Adam-Courtoreille, Treaty 8

Liaisons/Technicians:

Tessy Big Plume, SNTTC/G4 (for Kavita)
Laurie Belcourt, Treaty 8
Shailley Peacock, Treaty 6 (ECN)
Bethany Long, FNIHB

HCoM Secretariat:

Erin Solway, Coordinator
Debra Loyie, Assistant

Observers:

Chanz Thomas, FNIHB
Tina Aspassin, CT6FN
Tisha Bromley-Wadsworth, Treaty 7(BFC)
Chyloe Healy, Treaty 7 (BFC)

Regrets:

Marlene Arcand, Treaty 6 (YTC)
Bernadette Crowchild, Treaty 7 (SNTT)

1. Opening Prayer/Call to order

Co-chairs

- Caroline Adam-Courtoreille provided the opening prayer
- The Health Co-Management Mental Health & Addictions Subcommittee ad hoc meeting was called to order by at 12:07pm. There were 5 voting members in attendance of a total membership of 8

2. Purpose of meeting

Co-chairs

- Health Co-Management Committee meeting scheduled this week June 9 & 10, 2021.
- Since the finding of the remains of the 215 children who attended the residential schools were found, the Region has been working hard to request an increase to funding in Indian Residential School (IRS) for cultural supports for Alberta region. Recognizing the move of Federal and Provincial Government to fund the search of residential school properties if Nations were interested. Ensure there are mental health and cultural supports.
- Purpose of special meeting was to hear Subcommittee feedback/thoughts if they were able to secure additional IRS funding, mental health and cultural supports. Gather ideas on how funding would be used, what are current needs, pressures to invest dollars, feedback to be presented at the HCoM Committee table.

Roundtable Discussion

Tisha Bromley-Wadsworth comments: need community supports for (Blood Tribe) Bringing the Spirit Home, need more counselling dollars, need more beds in treatment centres, detox centres, would like more focus on treatment, detox, and addictions counselling and opioid related issues.

Anne Bird comments: what can be done to begin to heal, to be proud of who we are; need to support communities from Tribal Council point of view and community Directors will identify what gaps are. mental health services or training resources to guide programs already established; will need resources to address impacts from recent event (215 children remains found); build ownership around supports and healing, need to explore integration activities how to communicate what's available, develop inventory of resources linkages to utilize; establish Elders Advisory Committee with resources



to assist in healing process circulate Elders advice, integrate healing practice is key with Elders guidance, inquired as to how they are increasing the knowledge transfer between critical and cultural services? Additionally, addressing legacy of intergenerational impacts and residential trauma. **Suggestion:** Look at establishing mentors, would need to refer to culture and what needs to happen there to make it safe again and to begin to heal.

Terri-Lynn Fox comments: was trained counsellor in previous position; shared *Indian Residential Schools: Perspectives of Blackfoot Confederacy People*, government needs to ask how much do communities need, there is no price tag, issue is very real, volume of documents already written; shared will be identifying unmarked graves with Elders assistance and will call for many more support workers; need to own it and be funded by the Government; shared that she is a survivor of residential schools; reconciliation should have no price tag

Shannon offered to Subcommittee on the availability to meet one-on-one to guide work forward.

Chyloe Healy comments: acknowledge heavy discussion must remember collective trauma will take collective healing; and must respect that not all individuals will be ready to talk will need support when ready; family members will need support to deal with dramatic issues brought up by survivors, a lot of work previous done unsure how progressed asked if could provide more supports for what is established. Bridge information to be more accessible to community members or survivors to access; hearing the news is not surprising, know a lot of atrocities done. Need that opportunity that's community driven, each community has their own story of what happened through residential school uniqueness of experiences of impacts of residential schools

Tessy Big Plume comments: transfer of knowledge first steps implement plan; need more funds in the addictions and treatment centres not just adult but youth perspective as well, aftercare more supports at Nation level and include urban members; look to balance generational healing or breaking cycles; acknowledging survivors and have Elder's involvement, need their guidance

Tina Apsassin comments: our people will always find ways to support one another example through social media and ceremonies taken, don't have time to wait or must seek funding. Government has that responsibility if must take Chief's action for immediate movement a lot of people triggered by event taken place. **Suggestion:** strategy be enforced by HCoM Committee. It is the Governments responsibility; need to action this issue

Shailley Peacock comment: noticed indigenous trauma exasperated on social media news. A lot has taken a toll on people, a lot of people not empathetic to history there are cases of evidence, feels a lot still in denial of what survivors experienced. It did not end with residential schools, was only an end to a era, the trauma definitely persisted through every generation and still persists. Social media can show ignorant comments take a toll on people especially during pandemic and exploring social media is the only escape available; noticed remote reserves that cannot access internet service, providing adequate care is a concern

Caroline Adam-Courtoreille comment: Government needs to take responsibility for action taken, there is never enough funding to deal with trauma and impacts. Need funding and resources, need to look at immediate counselling for Communities; how will government provide adequate resources for Nations working on ground searches; have to consider Nation's funding impacted; going to require funding for counselling, funding for treatment, funding for gathering to bring people together, funding for supplies, funding for Elders guidance



Anne Bird comment: shared day school memory; important to tell the stories to the children, must ensure this will never happen again; history must be told

Andy Alook comment: is an intergenerational survivor, his community has two residential schools—people don't understand the trauma; need to support communities now and long term, federal and provincial all need to work together each have individual responsibility e.g., healing and forgiveness will take many years long-term commitment to ensure communities move forward; money won't fix all the problems but will help to begin the healing (seven generations)

Erin Solway comment: thanked the subcommittee for sharing their stories; grandparents went to residential school; father went to day school; funding for communities to go on healing paths

Debra Loyie comment: is a product of the 60s scoop era, similar affects being taken away from mother; sees the disconnection in family members, need to educate mainstream society what really happened

Chanz comment: Mother is a day school survivor; hard topic stands will all

3. Adjournment

2:54pm

Terri-Lynn Fox shared quote to end the meeting in a good way

DRAFT