

**Responses to Jury Recommendations**  
**Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26**  
(*Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,*  
*Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse*)

**NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION**

**Introduction**

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (“NAN”) remembers the seven youth, their families, and their communities on this, the third anniversary of the Seven Youth Inquest (the “Inquest”) verdict as we continue with the implementation of recommendations intended to prevent any further loss of our children.

The following progress report will provide an update on the Inquest recommendations that were directed to NAN. However, NAN’s involvement continues to extend beyond the scope of the recommendations listed below.

**Mandate & Approach**

NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed *Resolution 16/78: Implementation of the Seven Youth Inquest Recommendations* to formally express appreciation of the Inquest jury’s tireless work, and also to direct the NAN Executive Council to take all reasonable steps to advocate for implementation of the recommendations. To this end, the NAN Executive Council created two tables: 1) the Political Table, and 2) the Education Table.

The Political Table membership includes representatives from all parties named in the Inquest recommendations (the “Inquest Parties”). The Political Table serves as a forum to hold all Inquest Parties accountable for their role in implementing the recommendations. To date, NAN has organized five (5) meetings of this table, and it will continue to coordinate further meetings in order to ensure a coordinated and transparent response to the Inquest recommendations.

The Education Table, made up of representatives from the First Nation parties to the Inquest (the “First Nation Inquest Partners”), Indigenous Services Canada (“ISC”), and provincial representatives, focuses on education-specific recommendations. To date, NAN has organized four (4) meetings of this table. The work undertaken at this table is further divided into four (4) task teams focused on areas of: a) infrastructure b) programs, services and funding; c) student well being; and d) legal and policy issues. To date, NAN has organized two (2) meetings of the task teams which identified actions to move the work of implementation forward. The task teams are comprised of Education Table members, as well as other parties who can contribute to the implementation of recommendations in a meaningful way. Task Team meetings have been structured as intensive two-day meetings, dedicated to reviewing workplans, action items and next

steps. They are opportunities to review implementation work that has been ongoing throughout the year in order to move the work of implementation forward.

### **Process Improvement Efforts**

During the past year, NAN took steps to examine the process of the Political Table with a view to enhancing meeting effectiveness and expediting implementation of recommendations. At this stage, almost two (2) years had passed since the jury delivered its recommendations, which was followed by NAN's immediate call for a process to implement those recommendations through a Political Table and Education Table.

NAN reached out to Inquest Parties, seeking feedback about their visions for these meetings. In particular, NAN asked Inquest Parties to provide suggestions for process-related improvements. It was important that NAN obtained input from regular attendees of these meetings. The responses received by NAN indicated that Inquest Parties were pleased to have an opportunity to provide input. It was felt this was an appropriate time to evaluate the process, having had the benefit of two (2) years' experience.

As a result of the constructive and important feedback received, NAN worked to reformat the Political Table meetings. The responses to NAN's outreach indicated a preference that the Political Table meetings be structured to be more interactive, with increased opportunities to ask questions and raise issues for discussion. NAN also heard that Inquest Parties wanted meetings to encourage communication between Political Table members, with greater opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

After gathering information from the Inquest Parties, NAN worked to develop a new meeting format that would meet the needs identified above. The two (2) meetings that followed the informal process review were considerably more interactive and led to follow-up meetings which focused on addressing certain impasses raised by Inquest Parties at the Political Table. NAN will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these meetings and work to implement feedback from partner organizations.

Improvements continue to be seen regarding the consistency of representatives participating at the various implementation tables. Previous inconsistencies led to incomplete communication and information-sharing, which resulted in the duplication of work. Representatives who sit at tables and meetings are now, for the most part, consistent. This consistency makes it much easier to engage in the required work and has resulted in greater productivity in moving implementation efforts forward.

### **Community-Level Recommendations**

An ongoing issue, which NAN identified in last year's Report, is the fact that there is no process in place that is specifically designed to hold parties accountable that have been assigned responsibility for First Nation community-level recommendations, or on-reserve recommendations. Many of the on-reserve recommendations call for comprehensive and holistic changes to ensure the educational success of a First Nations child from early

years, through adolescence, to early adulthood in a school system on-reserve or off-reserve. These recommendations also call for changes to complex and longstanding issues, such as improving a child's living conditions and the environment in which he/she grows and learns.

At the last two (2) Political Table meetings, the First Nation Inquest Partners worked to raise awareness of the lack of movement they have seen with respect to community-level recommendations, including the need to ensure funding and resources are provided to conduct comprehensive assessments of all students prior to leaving their home communities. Recommendations relating to the need to improve consistency and resources to support mental health and wellness, including programs on-reserve, remains an ongoing issue as well.

Community-level recommendations are some of the most challenging to implement, but they are truly a matter of life or death for young NAN members in the North. At this stage, it is important that the relevant Inquest Parties commit to ensuring recommendations relating to on-reserve issues are given increased attention. This includes a commitment from the governments of Canada and Ontario to fund activities and action items resulting from the Task Teams, as many of the education-specific recommendations are to address changes at the community level. One of the main challenges in this work is obtaining the proper funding and human resources to be able to conduct the assessments or studies required to implement these recommendations, and any other work, to begin to accurately determine the needs of communities.

## **Funding Concerns**

Funding-related issues are ongoing, including the fact that there is currently no long-term commitment from either level of government for Inquest Coordination. NAN has also heard from many First Nation Inquest Partners that timing is often an obstacle when it comes to funding. Surplus funding released too late in the fiscal year adds a layer of difficulty for already overextended organizations that lack human resources. NAN has heard that while First Nation Inquest Partners are often offered surplus funding at year-end, the timeframe to which that funding is tied is too short to plan and carry out work, given the limited human resources capacity of First Nation Inquest Partners.

Issues surrounding the timeframe between the time of funding approval to the time when funding is received presents a challenge to long-term planning and establishing funding needs for the work required. These funding issues have led to the compromise of, or the incompleteness of, work plan activities and have often resulted in surplus funds which cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year (but are critically required).

Inquest Parties, particularly NAN and its First Nation Inquest Partners, have repeatedly advocated for more predictable funding to better carry out the work necessary to implement the recommendations.

## **OIPRD Report**

The recommendations and issues raised in testimony during the Inquest require all parties to acknowledge their ongoing responsibility to First Nation youth in Thunder Bay. Even at this stage, some parties continue to deny that there is a safety and racism crisis in Thunder Bay, despite further losses of life and reports of racism.

In December 2018, the OIPRD released its report, *Broken Trust: Indigenous People and the Thunder Bay Police Service* (the "OIPRD Report"). In November 2016 the Ontario Independent Police Review Director (the "OIPRD") announced a systemic review of the TBPS' practices for policing Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, the comprehensive review focused on policies, practices and attitudes regarding missing person and death investigations. There was indication in the OIPRD Report that in the cases marked for reinvestigation, four of those cases related to the youth whose deaths were the subject of the Seven Youth Inquest. The OIPRD Report referenced the Inquest recommendations, and the fact that questions were raised in the course of the Inquest regarding the quality of the TBPS' investigations.

In the months that followed the release of the OIPRD Report, NAN advocated for the implementation of the recommendations therein, and specifically asked TBPS representatives for information as to when the four (4) cases would be reopened. NAN also committed to working to support the families of the four (4) youth when those investigations are reopened.

At the June 2019 TBPS Board meeting, the TBPS Chief Sylvie Hauth confirmed that of the nine (9) cases identified by the OIPRD to be reviewed, four (4) of those cases include Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Kyle Morrisseau and Jordan Wabasse. NAN learned that it had been decided that the cases would be reviewed by an independent, multi-disciplinary, and multi-agency team to determine the investigative steps moving forward. NAN also learned that the TBPS planned a three-tiered oversight framework to manage and conduct the investigations, including an Executive Governance Committee. Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of NAN will participate as a member of this committee. The Grand Chief has stated that the first step should be to meet with all committee members as soon as possible to develop the approach to this very important work, including development of a clear mandate, terms of reference and identification of required resources.

## **Families of the Inquest**

Of the 145 Jury recommendations, there is not one recommendation to provide for healing and ongoing support for the families represented in the Inquest for the deaths of Seven First Nations Youth, also known as the Seven Youth Inquest. These concerns were also raised by the First Nation Inquest Partners at the recent Political Table meetings.

The reinvestigations by the Thunder Bay Police Service will further affect the families of four (4) of the youth. To be clear however, any implementation activity that has involved

working directly with the families, was undertaken by NAN and its partners with the utmost respect and sensitivity for the families.

## **Conclusion**

There have been many improvements since the first annual report. The improvements mainly benefit the educational organizations and schools who are the direct beneficiaries of changes in policy, and access to new services and funding that was not available or accessible before the jury recommendations. At the technical level, individuals are becoming more and more invested in the work being accomplished and this is crucial for moving the implementation process forward.

NAN continues to be involved in other activities directly or indirectly related to Inquest recommendations in addition to the education-specific recommendations being addressed by the Education Table and Task Teams. Some of these include:

- **Recommendation 32**: This recommendation was assigned to Canada and Ontario and requires both levels of government to provide resources to establish a working group composed of First Nation education experts. These experts are tasked with providing their expertise by conducting specific assessments regarding the education achievement gap in NAN territory to determine what resources would be required to close this achievement gap. NAN has retained a consultant to review the education gap within NAN territory, and a preliminary report has been completed. More work is required for the consultant to gather the full scope of information required, and the NAN Education department will continue to work with the consultant as the assessments continue. Further conversations will be initiated with the federal government once all information has been compiled and reviewed.
- **Recommendation 112**: This recommendation was assigned to the City of Thunder Bay. A working group was recently created to discuss the issue of racially motivated crimes affecting Indigenous people in Thunder Bay.
- **Recommendation 115**: This recommendation was assigned to the City of Thunder Bay, the TBPS, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC. Work is nearing completion for the implementation of recommendations arising from the Watercourse and River Safety Audit and the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Assessment with the City of Thunder Bay and others. In September 2018, the Nibii-Mamawechitiwin Youth Water Gathering brought together students from Dennis Cromarty Franklin High School and Matawa Education Centre in an event to formally recognize the significance of water and land resources to the Indigenous community.

NAN understands that at the broader level, more work is required with respect to health and education outcomes in First Nation communities. NAN further understands that partnerships are also key, and their creation or enhancement has helped the First Nation Inquest parties to effect positive change in the services that youth and students are accessing in the City of Thunder Bay and in northwestern Ontario. Partnerships are essential to make the entire process productive, as well as the level of commitment from

the people who work directly on the implementation of the Jury recommendations. NAN remains committed to ensuring that the jury recommendations are implemented and will continue to work collaboratively with all Inquest parties and partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO NAN:

#s: 5, 7, 21, 33, 35, 36, 40, 44, 47, 49, 50, 61, 76, 77, 81, 87, 90, 91, 94, 114, 116, 137, 143 through 145

REC. #	ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSE	OCC RESPONSE CODE
5	<p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN continues to work with NNEC and Indigenous Services Canada ("ISC") for a new school facility and student living centre for Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay, and for upgrades and renovations for Pelican Falls First Nations High School and Pelican Falls Centre in Sioux Lookout. NAN is also working to support NNEC in its feasibility study process. This work is also related to Recommendation 59.</p> <p>NAN provided political support to Matawa to address the need for supported living arrangements for Matawa students. Specifically, NAN assisted in facilitating meetings with then-Minister Philpott, and actively advocated between meetings directly with the minister and ministerial staff. In April 2019, the federal government announced that it would invest more than \$16 million in upgrades to the Matawa Education and Care Centre. These upgrades include a student residence, as well as new classrooms and a gymnasium.</p> <p>NAN will lead the Ontario-wide Boarding Home Review. More information on this review is included in NAN's response to Recommendations 76 and 77 found later in this report.</p> <p>KO has raised awareness of the lack of housing for mental health professionals and others who are retained or hired to work with students in the Sioux Lookout area. In response, NAN coordinated a meeting to bring together KO, NNEC, ISC, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout to begin exploratory discussions regarding the housing capacity issues in Sioux Lookout. This meeting served as a forum to identify how the lack of housing in the Sioux Lookout area is impacting KO and NNEC. For</p>	8

	<p>example, while KO and NNEC can access a certain level of funding to hire staff, there is no housing available for additional staff, if they were to be hired. The housing issues in Sioux Lookout includes a lack of student boarding homes, which is disadvantageous for potential students who would like to attend high school in Sioux Lookout. NNEC stated that Sioux Lookout is the preferred choice for NAN First Nations students from northwestern Ontario who want to attend a high school off-reserve. Next steps discussed by the group include determining how to go forward in addressing housing in Sioux Lookout to help the First Nation Inquest parties provide housing or accommodations for students and staff, and to further ensure that no student is denied access due to lack of adequate resources.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has created a working group to discuss the content of the proposed regulations that would be attached to the new legislation (sections 185 and 188) in the <i>Ontario Education Act</i>. NAN Education has been a member of this working group and has attended all meetings to collect information and to ensure the best interests of all schools within NAN territory are considered. This new Reciprocal Education Approach (“REA”) will help to ensure that student fees are charged as per set regulations and will also ensure that First Nation students are not denied a place in a publicly-funded school.</p> <p>NAN will continue to provide coordination support and advocacy to KO, MLC, and NNEC, upon request, as they work to secure the programs, services, and space for their students attending school off-reserve.</p>	
7	<p>Recommendation was accepted and completed insofar as both the content and intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN continues to be guided by the document “A Declaration of Nishnawbe Aski (The People and the Land)”, and further affirms its inherent rights and jurisdiction on its territory.</p> <p>The spirit behind these principles of interpretation were incorporated into the Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation (the</p>	8

“Charter”) in the NAN Territory Joint Action Table with NAN, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Canada – signed May 2017 and June 2017. NAN Chiefs formally reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter at the Chiefs Assembly on May 7, 2019 in passing *Resolution 19/10: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination*.

Reconciliation: Principles of Interpretation

- i) Working with our Treaty Partners (Canada and Ontario) is an ongoing process towards fulfilling obligations and recognition of rights in Treaty No. 9.

In April 2018, NAN signed a Treaty Relationship Agreement with Ontario which provides a foundation for more meaningful discussions on priority issues, including education. With the change in provincial government, NAN has been working to build relationships at the provincial level in order to continue having meaningful discussions. For example, NAN took the initiative to host a Parliamentary Reception in May 2019 at Queen’s Park in Toronto while NAN Chiefs were in Toronto for the NAN Chiefs Spring Assembly. This provided an excellent opportunity for Chiefs and delegates to engage directly with members of Cabinet and other government representatives, as well as individual members from other political parties.

- ii) NAN and Canada signed a Framework Agreement in 1999, in which the parties committed to the negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) with respect to Education Jurisdiction (elementary and secondary).

In an historic event, an Education Jurisdiction Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was signed by NAN and Canada in December 2018, for participating NAN communities. NAN continues to negotiate with Canada to further the education jurisdiction process towards a Final Agreement, through monthly negotiation meetings. The Final Agreement will lead to self-determination in the area of education for NAN First Nations; they will

exercise their inherent jurisdiction by delivering education through a system that is designed and run by the First Nations themselves. This will bring these First Nations out from the *Indian Act* provisions on education, putting First Nations in control of their own education systems, with the ability to pass their own laws pertaining to education and related educational resources.

NAN Education held a series of education jurisdiction regional meetings with community educators and has since followed that up with an Education Summit meeting in May 2019, with community educators and leadership. At the summit, participation was also open to Tribal Councils and Education Organizations in the information sharing event, regarding FN education jurisdiction.

- iii) NAN First Nations seek to have greater responsibility to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social, and economic affairs.

NAN represents the legitimate, socioeconomic and political aspirations of its First Nation members of Northern Ontario to all levels of government in order to allow local self-determination while establishing spiritual, cultural, social and economic independence.

- iv) NAN continues to advocate to raise Treaty Partners' awareness of the need for improved conditions in NAN First Nations in areas of housing, water, health, mental health, social issues, as well as the need to close the gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

On behalf of the government of Canada, NAN has obtained a consultant to review of the educational gap analysis within NAN territory (see recommendation 32, as mentioned on page 6). A preliminary report has been completed however a closer review of the report and further discussion will be required to determine what resources are required to close the educational gap. Additional

	<p>consultation may be necessary to obtain all of the required information. Further conversations will be initiated with the government of Canada once all information has been compiled and properly reviewed.</p> <p>NAN continues to work to ensure that First Nation students have the same opportunities and success as other students in Ontario and Canada;</p> <p>v) NAN supports its member First Nations as they develop local solutions to the effects of colonial policy. This includes intergenerational trauma stemming from colonization and assimilation, legislative and government policy impacts, the Indian Residential School System, and the Sixties Scoop, etc.</p> <p>The Choose Life Program is a life-saving, life-changing program that NAN has strongly advocated for, and has also been actively involved in providing coordination support. The Choose Life Program provides a simplified process for communities to apply for Jordan’s Principle mental health services funding, which would address the needs of First Nation children at risk of suicide.</p> <p>The Choose Life Program was initially a “pilot program”. NAN advocated to make the Choose Life Program a permanent program, and received confirmation in March 2019 that Choose Life received a three-year extension, as opposed to the one-year extension that was previously given. This new three-year extension will allow NAN to engage in longer-term planning and will allow Choose Life Coordinators more time to implement projects that are saving the lives of children and youth in NAN First Nations.</p> <p>NAN continues to advocate on behalf of its member First Nations in the application of Jordan’s Principle in order to ensure access to and the timely delivery of publicly funded services for children.</p>	
21	Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.	1A

	<p>A two-year work plan was developed to engage youth in the creation of a youth leadership training program. NAN will be conducting further engagements with youth or youth leaders and councils before completing the leadership training manual. The plan will include collecting data on youth leaders and youth councils in the NAN territory. Work is ongoing and the goal for 2019-2020 is to conduct 10 community-based leadership training sessions for youth councils.</p> <p>The youth leadership training program will be implemented in 2019-2020 to interested communities with existing or new youth councils. Further funding will be requested beyond 2019-2020 until all potential youth councils are trained.</p>	
33	<p>Recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>NAN has held a series of education jurisdiction regional meetings with community educators and has since followed that up with an Education Summit meeting in May 2019, regarding FN education jurisdiction.</p> <p>In early 2019 changes were approved surrounding the language outlined in sections 185 and 188 of the Ontario <i>Education Act</i>. The new legislation sets out the framework for a Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) and authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) to make new regulations under the <i>Education Act</i> to support the implementation of REA. This new legislation is to come into effect on the earlier of either September 1/19 or a date named by proclamation of the LGIC.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has created a working group to discuss the content of some proposed regulations that would be attached to the new legislation. NAN Education has been a member of this working group and has attended all meetings to collect information and to ensure the best interests of all schools within NAN territory are considered. This new REA process will help to ensure that student fees are charged as per set regulations when students transfer from the community to a publicly funded school.</p>	1

	Information and updates regarding the status of the education jurisdiction negotiations has been provided regularly at Chiefs' Assemblies.	
35	<p>Recommendation remains rejected and an alternative approach will be implemented.</p> <p>NAN is unable to implement the recommendation in a way that would be effective in establishing an equivalence in health outcomes and services. Parity remains extremely difficult to discuss and address, much less measure, due to the impact of jurisdictional issues and their effect on access to health care.</p> <p>On July 24, 2017, Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler met with then Federal Minister of Health, Jane Philpott and then Ontario Minister of Health, Eric Hoskins to sign the Charter of Relationship Principles (the "Charter").</p> <p>In February 2017, the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 17/21: <i>Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in NAN Territory</i> that states the status quo is not acceptable. A new system is required to replace the current colonial health system to improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations in the NAN territory.</p> <p>In May 2019, the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 19/10: <i>Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination</i> to formally state NAN's position that the <i>People's Health Care Act, 2019</i> fails to acknowledge the TRC Calls to Action, particularly those Calls dealing with health and the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury – Seven Youth recommendations, particularly recommendations dealing with health and mental health.</p> <p>The work for the 2018-2019 fiscal year focused on creating the guiding principles and pillars for a unique NAN Health Transformation Process. Five pillars have been created:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Participation,</li> <li>2. Immediate Needs,</li> <li>3. Fiscal Review &amp; Funding Models,</li> <li>4. Policy &amp; Legislative Review; and</li> <li>5. Reclamation of Indigenous Laws.</li> </ol>	4

	<p>The work completed under the NAN Health Transformation process will increase and enhance opportunities to address jurisdiction and service issues and create opportunities to form sustainable NAN specific approaches to improving health care for members of NAN First Nations, regardless of their residence.</p> <p>NAN will continue to work under the Charter of Relationship Principles with the Federal and Provincial partners in honouring their commitment to the NAN Health Transformation process.</p>	
36	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>The NAN Mental Health Interdepartmental group (also known as the Payakatisowin Pimiwicihitowin Mamow Ashitamakwonan) was created in 2017 to address three (3) NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly resolutions, which includes Resolution 17/04: <i>NAN-Wide Life Promotion Strategy</i>.</p> <p>NAN has worked to identify the best way to implement Recommendation 36 and Resolution 17/04 without duplicating other work in progress, recreating a process already undertaken, or overstepping existing activity at the community or tribal council level.</p> <p>NAN had also developed a work plan to consult with youth and Elders from ten (10) NAN communities, which remains unfunded. The data collected would help to inform the draft Life Promotion Strategy that was developed. Plans will proceed to conduct consultation and seek feedback in summer 2019, and to identify the next steps in implementing the Life Promotion Strategy.</p> <p>In the absence of a suicide prevention strategy or similar NAN-wide action plan on suicide prevention, NAN has taken other proactive actions to prevent more young lives from being lost due to suicide, and to address the needs of First Nations children at risk of suicide.</p> <p>In January 2017, Jolynn Winter and Chantell Fox were two 12-year old girls from Wapekeka First Nation who died by suicide; the girls were also part of a youth suicide pact. In response to the situation in Wapekeka, NAN</p>	1A

	<p>worked with Health Canada to create a Choose Life Working Group and the Choose Life Pilot Project. Choose Life is part of Jordan’s Principle, a child-first initiative, which also led to a fast-track funding process to ensure youth have the proper supports in times of crisis.</p> <p>During the three years of the Choose Life Pilot Project, over 22,000 children and youth have benefited from the programs, services and funding provided to NAN communities and First Nation organizations or agencies. The First Nation Inquest Partners – KO, MLC and NNEC – have had their students benefit greatly from Choose Life by accessing mental health professionals or services, as well as address student well-being through land-based programming and other cultural activities.</p> <p>As mentioned previously in this report, NAN was a vocal advocate of the need for Choose Life to be made a permanent program and succeeded in obtaining a three-year extension of the program. Changes continue to be made to improve funding arrangements in order to allow the continuation of programs and services.</p>	
40	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with regional First Nation health authorities/agencies on how they can assist in developing health promotion materials on the consequences of alcohol and substance misuse. Digital materials will include videos and apps. NAN will advocate for funding from its government partners including the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. Short term plans include conducting outreach via radio to the adult population in NAN territory to raise awareness about the consequences of second party purchasers or second party purchases for underage youth.</p>	1A
44	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>In order to obtain the information required as outlined in the recommendation, the “Off-Reserve High School Options Information Survey” was created and sent out to NAN area high schools in early 2018. While a few of the surveys were returned to NAN, most were not. Two (2) follow-up requests for information were sent out with no</p>	1A

	<p>response received. As a result, it was determined that a new approach would be needed to meet the requirements of this recommendation.</p> <p>A closer review of the recommendation was done and also for the information required for the Comprehensive Information Package. Upon consideration of the level of information required, it was determined that this document would be <i>extremely</i> lengthy and would have to be a living document – that is, it would have to be updated and reprinted each year as staff, program offerings, available supports and other information changed at various high schools and within communities. It was also noted that the sheer size of the document might make it too daunting for many students and their families to properly review. Through this discussion, it was determined that the use of technology would be a better and more effective use of time and resources, as many high schools already have the information required posted online in school/program information booklets. NAN staff have started the process of compiling web information for all of the secondary schools within NAN territory. It is intended that searchable lists will be created so that parents/students can search based on their particular interest (e.g. search via sport, extracurricular activity or specialty program, support services, etc.) to determine which schools offer that particular activity/program/service.</p> <p>Work will continue until a comprehensive online searchable document has been created. This document is meant to be a living document, to be updated annually for information and website addresses.</p>	
47	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>NAN is currently in the process of planning a meeting in August 2019 with NAN community education counsellors, local area school boards, education partnerships program liaisons, and off-reserve First Nation secondary schools. The focus of the meeting discussion will be the transition of students from their communities to off-reserve schools thereby attempting to determine the feasibility of expanding the Education Counsellor’s role to include secondary school students.</p>	1A

	<p>Pursuant to section iii) of recommendation 47, a portion of this meeting will be used to discuss the purpose and importance of comprehensive assessments for students prior to leaving their communities. As a result, the meeting will also attempt to address the communities' <u>ability to obtain</u> comprehensive assessments (physical, mental, educational) prior to the student leaving the community (recommendation 46). It is expected that additional advocacy may be required to obtain the resources (both monetary and qualified personnel) for communities to be able to meet this recommendation as qualified assessors may not be available in remote communities.</p>	
49	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is completed.</p> <p>The Community Visit Protocol Guide was completed. It will be brought to the NAN Education Committee for final review before printing. Review at the Education Committee level will allow committee members to provide comments or suggest revisions prior to the printing of the document. It is expected that the document will be ready for printing for the commencement of the 2019/20 school year.</p>	1
50	<p>Recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>The 'Youth Voices Survey' and the creation of a youth council or a youth leadership position in the community was brought to the attention of the NAN Chiefs at the Emergency Special Chiefs Assembly in July 2017.</p> <p>NAN is also developing a leadership training program, which will help youth in the NAN communities to create a youth council or a youth leadership position. This is part of the implementation work in Recommendation 21.</p>	1
61	<p>Recommendation was rejected due to flaws and remains rejected due to flaws.</p> <p>It remains NAN's position that there is no duplication of services provided by NNEC and KO on the Secondary Student Support Programs. It is not NAN's role to question the off-reserve education organizations on how</p>	4A

	<p>to effectively provide services for their students attending DFCHS.</p> <p>NNEC and KO are separate from one another and each organization knows how to best serve its students. Both NNEC and KO are responsible for ensuring efficiencies are gained in the coordination of activities and shared resources.</p>	
76	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada (“ISC”) has requested that NAN conduct the Boarding Home Review on its behalf as most of the boarding homes in Ontario are located within NAN territory.</p> <p>A Boarding Home Review Steering Committee will be established by the NAN Education Committee at their next meeting date (June 2019), and meetings of the Steering Committee are expected to start by September 2019. A draft Terms of Reference has been created to assist the Steering Committee in commencing its activity. Through regular meetings of the committee, a final report of the Steering Committee is expected to be provided to the NAN Education Committee no later than May 2020.</p>	1A
77	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has requested that NAN conduct the Boarding Home Review on their behalf as most of the boarding homes in Ontario are located within NAN territory.</p> <p>A Boarding Home Review Steering Committee will be established by the NAN Education Committee at their next meeting date (June 2019), and meetings of the Steering Committee are expected to start by September 2019. A draft Terms of Reference has been created to assist the Steering Committee in getting started. Through regular meetings of the committee, a final report of the Steering Committee is expected to be provided to the NAN Education Committee no later than May 2020.</p>	1A
81	<p>Recommendation was accepted and is in progress.</p>	1A

	<p>In 2018-2019, training sessions for mental health first aid or ASIST were conducted in various communities. Mental health first aid sessions were held in Sandy Lake First Nation (November 2018), Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (December 2018) and Eabametoong First Nation (January 2019) for adults who interact with youth. ASIST training sessions were conducted in Kirkland Lake and with Matawa First Nations Management (May 2018), Thunder Bay (June 2018), and Lac Seul First Nation (August 2018).</p> <p>Regular ongoing training was provided to boarding home parents for mental health first aid, suicide prevention, and self-therapy. A mental health first aid training session was held for boarding parents in Sioux Lookout in October 2018. Additional training regarding gender identity is planned for the end of August 2019. Training has and will continue to occur in Thunder Bay, Dryden, and Timmins for area boarding home parents as additional training opportunities are offered.</p> <p>NAN is currently planning a meeting involving education representatives from all of NAN area education organizations which is to be held in August 2019. At this meeting, time will be set aside for discussion as to how the communities have been dealing with the requirement to provide annual training to staff and boarding home parents. Through this discussion, we intend to determine whether further supports are required, and whether additional advocacy is required by NAN to assist the communities in obtaining additional supports.</p> <p>A more comprehensive plan needs to be determined on how to achieve harm reduction at the community level. NAN First Nations communities do receive First Aid and CPR training by various providers so there are people in the community who have first aid certification as well as certifications in suicide prevention or crisis intervention.</p>	
87	<p>Recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>NAN Education is in the process of planning a meeting involving education representatives from all of NAN area education organizations in August 2019. At this meeting, discussions will also cover how the communities have</p>	1A

	<p>been addressing the continuity of care issue when students transfer between on and off-reserve schools. This discussion is expected to determine what barriers may still be preventing continuity of care and a smooth transition for students so that a plan can be made to overcome these barriers.</p>	
90	<p>The recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>KO and NNEC created a youth representative position on their board of directors. MLC pursued an alternative option for youth representation within the Matawa First Nations Management organization.</p>	1
91	<p>The recommendation is accepted and is either completed, in progress, or does not apply depending on subsection.</p> <p>NAN continued to participate in the working group created to implement the recommendation and is committed to working in partnership on an ongoing basis beyond the implementation of the recommendation.</p> <p><u>Missing Person Investigations and Searches:</u></p> <p>i) Discussions continued regarding best practices on missing persons and searches to help the organizations develop a set of policies and procedures that will work for them in the event of a missing student. More detail is included in subsections vii) and viii) for NAN's policies and procedures.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>ii) On June 26, 2018 NAN participated in the Open House and Media Launch of the "Am I Missing?" public awareness campaign to draw attention to the importance of reporting missing persons to police without delay. The event included a short video and post cards. The working group members relaunched the "Am I Missing?" public awareness campaign on June 24, 2019 by promoting the video on working group members' social media sites. A third launch will occur on September 10, 2019, and it will include a media release and distribution of</p>	<p>i) 1</p> <p>ii) 1</p>

	<p>the postcard (English, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Cree versions) and poster into NAN First Nations and in Thunder Bay. The third promotion may include interior bus cards on City of Thunder Bay transit buses or billboard. The message will be consistent with the “Am I Missing?” campaign.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>iii) The working group developed the student information template and consent form. The education organizations will use or adapt the templates if they choose.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>iv) The Thunder Bay Police Service developed the social media guide, <i>“Missing Persons &amp; Social Media: Limit misinformation &amp; protect the privacy of missing persons”</i>. In April 2018, the working group reviewed and provided input on the Guide. NAN also included information on how to utilize social media during a missing person search in the internal search plans.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>v) The working group did not discuss any approaches on press releases pertaining to missing persons, deceased persons or sudden death investigations. The Thunder Bay Police Service have indicated the service has a process in place for issuing releases. It should be noted that a response by the Thunder Bay Police Service to Recommendation 91 was included in the OIPRD report “Broken Trust” and that the Service in its submission of recommendations to the systemic review included they would “ensure media releases are handled as per provincial Major Case Management guidelines.”</p> <p>NAN adheres to established procedures for issuing press releases and engagement with the media, which may include press releases on missing persons or deceased persons depending on the circumstances.</p>	<p>iii) 1</p> <p>iv) 1</p> <p>v) 1</p>
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	<p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>vi) The working group did not discuss best practices on how to facilitate interviews of young people or individuals who may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable dealing with individuals in positions of authority. The Thunder Bay Police Service has stated there is an arrangement with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation (NALSC) but rarely use the services of NALSC. The Thunder Bay Police Service have also stated they work directly with the First Nation education organizations, band councils, and elders or with NAN. NAN has provided a supportive role during interviews for band members from NAN First Nations, if requested. NAN will continue to provide this support through its Crisis Response team.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>vii) In 2018, NAN developed its internal search plans.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An internal policy on how a search is initiated for a missing person who is a band member from a NAN First Nation.</li> <li>2. A search procedures manual for a missing person search in Thunder Bay.</li> </ol> <p>The internal search plans include NAN’s internal roles and responsibilities, predetermined points of contact including a liaison lead to support and work with families and third parties, setup of a command centre, roles and responsibilities during a search, deployment of a search, a clear supervisory structure, and how to manage community volunteer searchers. The internal search plans, will be reviewed from time to time and amended as necessary.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>viii) In 2018, NAN developed its global search plan, which clearly identifies the internal points of contact, e.g. contact name and contact information, and is consistent with the internal</p>	<p>vi) 1</p> <p>vii) 1</p> <p>viii) 1</p>
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	<p>policy. The handout on best practices for non-police community searchers (developed under Recommendation 94) is part of the search procedures manual.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>ix) Risk factors were identified by the working group during template development for the student information form and the missing persons questionnaire. NAN included risk factors in its internal policy and search procedures manual.</p> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>x) The working group developed a number of templates associated with a missing person search, which the education organizations will use or adapt if they choose.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A missing person questionnaire.</li> <li>2. A consent form for a parent or guardian to grant permission to an organization to collect, use and disclose a child's personal information for use in a missing person questionnaire.</li> <li>3. A missing persons poster.</li> <li>4. A consent form for the Thunder Bay Police Service to release information about a missing student to a school or education organization.</li> </ol> <p>This subsection remains completed.</p> <p>xi) Based on NAN's experience when searching for missing youth, it was determined that there needs to be a clear understanding of how a search is conducted and that searchers are properly trained. The TBPS has repeatedly indicated concerns regarding untrained volunteer community searchers. These concerns should be addressed through the handout on best practices for non-police community searchers. Until volunteer search training is determined, NAN is unable to complete the training of its staff on its internal policy and search procedures.</p>	<p>ix) 1</p> <p>x) 1</p> <p>xi) 1A</p>
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	<p>NAN began discussions in July 2017 with the Thunder Bay Police Service on Recommendation 94. NAN has continued to have discussions with the Thunder Bay Police and with Lakehead Search and Rescue regarding training for searchers. A plan is in place for NAN staff to receive basic search training from Lakehead Search and Rescue. NAN will also consider recruiting interested staff and community members from Thunder Bay to become trained volunteer searchers through Lakehead Search and Rescue and meet all requirements.</p> <p>The goal is to have properly trained search and rescue volunteers that NAN could call upon to take lead roles during a search for a missing person. NAN will also conduct a mock search or simulation of its internal search plans to ensure its staff understand their roles and responsibilities. The training will be completed by August 31, 2019.</p> <p>This subsection is in progress.</p> <p>xii) In February 2018, the Thunder Bay Police Service conducted classroom-based training on missing person investigations and missing person searches for the staff of the organizations who are part of the working group. The training included risk factors, scenarios, and a summary of how a grid search is conducted. Some of the working group members felt that a mock search training with a hands-on approach was needed to truly understand how to conduct a search.</p> <p>A plan is in place to repeat the classroom-based training on missing person investigations and missing person searches from Thunder Bay Police Service for NAN staff, in addition to the training identified in subsection xi). This will be completed by July 31, 2019.</p> <p>This subsection is in progress.</p> <p>xiii) This subsection did not apply to NAN.</p>	<p>xii) 1A</p> <p>xiii) 5</p>
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94	<p>The recommendation was accepted and remains completed.</p> <p>The handout on best practices for community searchers was jointly developed by NAN and the Thunder Bay Police Service, and it was translated into Cree, Ojibway, and Oji-Cree. The handout is part of NAN's search procedures manual.</p> <p>Ongoing activity includes compiling all versions – English, Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree – into one document with a title page and a table of contents. This completed version will be distributed to working group members for Recommendation 91, and distributed during a missing person search as necessary.</p> <p>Ongoing activity also includes the information and details included in Recommendation 91, subsection xi).</p>	1
114	<p>The recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>NAN continues to participate in the working group created for the recommendation. NAN does not provide direct service delivery to youth or students, but has an interest in ensuring any youth or student from a NAN First Nation has a safe space if they are unable to return home until their intoxication level has subsided.</p> <p>NAN has supported KO, MLC, NNEC and DFC in the creation of their Safe Sobering Site, which is located either within their facility or in a residence setting, in Thunder Bay. All three sites are fully operational, or very close to being operational. The organizations and schools have worked hard to make these sites available and to ensure the safety of their students.</p> <p>NAN attended KO's Safe Sobering Site Open House on April 11, 2019. The working group continues to work on creating a fourth site that will serve all youth in the City of Thunder Bay. A detox facility to serve youth is a service that is desperately needed, especially for youth under 18 years of age. NAN will continue to be part of the process to create alternative facilities for intoxicated youth, and to support and advocate for our First Nation Inquest partners.</p>	1A

	<p>NAN was successful in its application to host two treatment centres to address the gap in services for youth 12 to 18 years old, male and female, who seek treatment and healing. The Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Center (Ka-Na-Chi-Hih) will be the host of the new Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Centres. Ka-Na-Chi-Hih has been operating for over 20 years. It has strong governance to oversee the development of the treatment centres and to ensure that the focus of this initiative is the healing journey of NAN youth struggling with mental health and addictions issues.</p> <p>There are limited resources for youth to access residential treatment centres that specifically focus on mental health and addictions, and the programs that are available are not implemented or organized by First Nation communities. The site for the Sioux Lookout location has been secured and current activities for the site include renovations to meet the guidelines for Ministry licensing, and the hiring of positions. Onboarding will occur in the next few months. Policies and procedures and the treatment model continue to be worked on.</p> <p>The site for the Timmins location is being worked on and the development and implementation of the program will continue in 2019-2020.</p>	
116	<p>The recommendation is accepted and is in progress.</p> <p>i)-iii) Past obstacles and challenges include student transit within the City of Thunder Bay, and safety concerns after the deaths of Josiah Begg and Tammy Keeash. Correspondence was sent in November 2017 to the City of Thunder Bay regarding city transit policies and procedures or cultural training for city employees, but no response was received. However, in February 2019 at the Political Table, the City provided an update on its restructuring around cultural training for employees, and the creation of a new senior management position in Indigenous Reconciliation and Inclusion.</p>	<p>i) 1A ii) 1A iii) 1A</p>

	<p>In 2017 NAN brought together Inquest partners (the City, KO, MLC and NNEC) to discuss student transit passes, which resulted in the First Nation Secondary School Pass Pilot Program. Follow-up is due from the City of Thunder Bay on the status of the pilot project and the City's plans for its continuation.</p> <p>In 2017, the Student Safety Action Plan contained short-term measures and funding to address concerns around the safety of students attending high school in Thunder Bay. Key positions (e.g. the On-Call Workers) for KO, NNEC and MLC were either increased or became (new) funded positions as a result of the Action Plan. The partners have found these positions are very beneficial towards preventing social issues experienced by students and keeping students safe and alive. Concerns were raised at Political Table and Task Team meetings about the continuation of these important safety measures, and uncertainty around funding. A meeting is arranged in July 2019 to identify existing support and gaps for the 2019-2020 school year and NAN and the First Nation Inquest Partners plan to continue advocating for funding for these key positions.</p> <p>NAN will also be coordinating a meeting in July 2019 to address challenges faced by students at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC). Invited parties will include KO, MLC, NNEC and representatives from TBRHSC. Discussions will continue until the issues raised are resolved and practical solutions are found.</p> <p>NAN will continue to raise awareness to address any obstacles, challenges and issues that are raised by its First Nation Inquest partners, and work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders who have an interest. Student safety is of utmost importance while youth from the NAN territory attend high school off-reserve.</p> <p>iv)-vi) NAN continues to participate in the working group created for the recommendation. NAN provided a letter of support to the City of Thunder Bay in their</p>	<p>iv) 1A v) 1A vi) 1A</p>
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successful application for funding from Public Safety Canada for the Youth Inclusion Program (Program). The City has allocated some funds from the Program towards the social media campaign to partially address racism in Thunder Bay. A local company was hired by the City to create the social media campaign in partnership with NAN, KO, MLC, and NNNEC, and development of the campaign is ongoing. The City also plans to host a public forum as part of the Program. NAN will support and assist the City, if requested, as it develops its Program.

Even as efforts are ongoing to address racism experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay, two reports were released in December 2018: 1) the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) released its report “Broken Trust: Indigenous People and the Thunder Bay Police Service,” and 2) the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) released its report on the Thunder Bay Police Services Board. In the OIPRD report, the finding was that “systemic racism exists in TBPS at an institutional level.” In the OCPC report, the finding was that “the Board has failed to recognize and address the clear and indisputable pattern of violence and systemic racism against Indigenous people in Thunder Bay.”

One key recommendation from the OIPRD report was the reinvestigation of nine sudden death investigations. Four of the nine reinvestigations are investigations into the deaths of Curran Strang, Jethro Anderson, Kyle Morrisseau, and Jordan Wabasse. NAN has called for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports. NAN has also committed to work with and support the families of Curran, Jethro, Kyle and Jordan.

137	<p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>On May 7, 2019, NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 19/10: <i>Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Self-Determination</i>, to formally state NAN's position that the <i>People's Health Care Act 2019</i> fails to acknowledge the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, particularly those Calls dealing with health, and also fails to address the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury–Seven Youth Inquest recommendations, particularly those dealing with health and mental health.</p> <p>NAN has been advocating against the proposed new Ontario health care regime on the basis that it will not fix a broken system or the policies, service delivery and funding mechanisms that continue to fail our people.</p> <p>NAN is a party to the Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory (the Charter). This trilateral document is between the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and NAN on behalf of the First Nations in NAN Territory.</p> <p>This year, NAN Chiefs reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter. The Charter states,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action call for the Federal and Provincial governments to play a role in closing the gaps in quality of life and availability of health services between Indigenous Peoples and other Canadians.”</p> <p>One of the guiding principles under the approach to health planning outlined in the Charter is that “continuous evaluation is important for measuring progress and systematically assessing, evaluating and improving the structure, process and outcomes.” NAN's Health Transformation work continues to be guided by this important trilateral document.</p>	8
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143	<p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN prepared its annual reports on June 28, 2017, and June 28, 2018.</p> <p>NAN will submit its third annual report on June 28, 2019, and will continue to provide an annual report thereafter on each anniversary date until NAN indicates that all recommendations it received are rejected or implemented.</p> <p>NAN will send by email a copy of the annual report to any person who requests the report.</p>	8
144	<p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>At the Political Table held on June 22, 2017, in Thunder Bay, the organizations receiving recommendations agreed for NAN to post the annual reports on its website.</p> <p>The annual reports for June 28, 2017, and June 28, 2018, were posted to the website and can be found at:  <a href="http://www.nan.on.ca/article/seven-youth-inquest-progress-reports-on-inquest-recommendations-22459.asp">http://www.nan.on.ca/article/seven-youth-inquest-progress-reports-on-inquest-recommendations-22459.asp</a></p> <p>Annual reports will be posted on the NAN website until such time it is determined there are no more annual reports to be posted.</p>	8
145	<p>The recommendation is accepted and complete insofar as the content or intent of the recommendation is already in place.</p> <p>NAN revises its policies as necessary according to its internal policy revision procedures.</p>	8

## OCC Response Codes

Response Code	Response Legend
1	Recommendation <i>has</i> been implemented
1A	Recommendation <i>will</i> be implemented
1B	Alternate recommendation <i>has been</i> implemented
2	Under consideration
3	Unresolved issues
4	Rejected
4A	Rejected due to flaws
4B	Rejected due to lack of resources
5	Not applicable to agency assigned
6	No response
7	Unable to evaluate
8	Content or intent of recommendation is already in place

## List of Organizations Requested to Respond to Jury Recommendations

### **Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26**

*(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,  
Kyle Morrisseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)*

Canada (Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)

City of Thunder Bay

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (DFCHS)

Health Canada

Keewatinook Okimakanak (KO)

Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO)

Matawa Learning Centre (MLC)

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS)

Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC)

Office of the Chief Coroner

Ontario (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)

P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS)