

2016 - 17



**ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS  
OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS SECRETARIAT**

**HEALTH RESEARCH AND COORDINATION  
2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Completed By:**

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## Executive Summary

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC) is a policy research organization that analyzes and develops culturally relevant alternatives to federal policies that impact on the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu and Passamaquoddy communities and people.

APC's work continues to focus on the important needs of the communities for funding and basic services to meet the growing health needs in every community.

This report will outline the following work completed under health research and coordination services:

- Health Partnership Meeting Cycle;
- Health Directors' Meetings;
- Health Conference;
- MMAYC activities;
- Nursing Policies;
- Other Health Policy Activities; and
- Overall management of the APC Health Staff.

This annual report will demonstrate the progress completed from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

## Work Plan Activities

<b>Objective #1: Administer the Atlantic First Nations Health Partnership (Health Partnership)</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Coordinate the logistics for all Health Partnership Meetings, its committees, and other working groups.	<p>PUBLIC HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three regularly scheduled PHPC Committee meetings;</li> <li>• Four PHPC Sub-committees (Healthy Child Development, Healthy Living, Communicable Disease Control, and Primary Care) solicited ideas from Health Directors and proposed funding initiatives to the Committee;</li> <li>• Provided guidance and oversight around FNIHB-INAC (AANDC) Emergency Planning;</li> </ul>	Director of Health, Health Policy Analyst, Mental Wellness Project Manager, NIHB Navigator, First Nations Control Models Project Manager, and Health Partnership Coordinator	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafted guidelines for FNIHB staff to increase the cultural safety of sessions they plan;</li> <li>• Began tracking PHPC work as it pertains to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action;</li> <li>• Investigated and presented on the interface between mental wellness and chronic disease;</li> <li>• Participated in committee engagement on the “Making the Link” tool for assisting in community-level strategic planning;</li> <li>• The 6<sup>th</sup> First Nations and Inuit Health status report was published with help and engagement of the PHPC committee and the region’s Health Directors;</li> <li>• Provided guidance and direction on the implementation of the Child-First Initiative (Jordan’s Principle) funding;</li> <li>• Began the development of a new Strategic Action Plan for the new Chiefs’ priority on Health – Chronic Disease Prevention and Management;</li> <li>• Received updates on the Home and Community Care 10-Year plan;</li> <li>• Continued to maintain an inventory of healthy child development training programs that may be culturally safe for potential implementation in the region;</li> <li>• Received updates on Emergency Management;</li> <li>• Received updates on Communicable Disease Control;</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received updates on Early Learning and Child Care Framework;</li> <li>• Received updates on the impact of climate Change on Human Health; and</li> <li>• Provided guidance on the collection of Data and development of indicators for the FNIHB Atlantic Health Status report.</li> </ul> <p>MENTAL WELLNESS COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three regularly scheduled Mental Wellness Committee meetings.</li> <li>• One additional Mental Wellness teleconference meeting in January, 2017 to discuss proposals for Mental Wellness Team funding;</li> <li>• Four new working groups (Capacity and Training, Treatment Accountability and Governance, Treatment Services Diversification and Enhancement, and Mental Health and Addictions Medical Transportation) met several times;</li> <li>• Provided guidance and oversight in regards to the Wolastoqewiyik (Tobique) Healing Lodge demonstration project noting early results of service transformation and advising on future direction and evaluation;</li> <li>• Received updates on services from all Atlantic-region First Nations Treatment Centres;</li> <li>• Continued to provide guidance and direction to the joint AFN-NIHB National Review;</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to provide guidance and direction on the projects to support victims of family violence;</li> <li>• Continued to work towards implementation of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Action Plan by further developing progress measures;</li> <li>• Administered Capacity and Training funds (Recommended FNIHB contract directly with the Thunderbird Partnership);</li> <li>• Received presentations on FNIHB Atlantic progress and preliminary plans regarding the TRC Calls to Action;</li> <li>• Received presentation on Harm Reduction;</li> <li>• Received presentation on the interface between chronic disease and mental health;</li> <li>• Provided feedback on a community discussion tool linking community health planning to the Atlantic Chiefs' Priorities in Health;</li> <li>• Coordinated the distribution of funding for new mental wellness teams in the Atlantic region (via RFP process);</li> <li>• Provided oversight, guidance, and feedback to those proposed Mental Wellness Team projects when necessary; and</li> <li>• Provided guidance on the collection of Data and development of indicators for the FNIHB Atlantic Health Status report.</li> </ul> <p>NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to coordinate Atlantic-Region feedback for the</li> </ul>		
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	<p>Joint AFN-NIHB National Review;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to provide guidance and direction on the projects to support victims of family violence;</li> <li>• Provided guidance on the collection of Data and development of indicators for the FNIHB Atlantic Health Status report;</li> <li>• Received presentation on Harm Reduction;</li> <li>• Continued to advance/Implement the Elder Care Strategic Action Plan;</li> <li>• Advised on issues related to the use of dental therapists in communities;</li> <li>• Began work investigating the available resources for First Nations interpreters/liaisons in provincial hospitals;</li> <li>• Received presentations and provided feedback/guidance on new Jordan's Principle funding;</li> <li>• Received presentation on FNIHB Benzodiazepine Prescribing Project;</li> <li>• Led the development of the community discussion tool linking community health planning to the Atlantic Chiefs' Priorities in Health; and</li> <li>• Began investigation into unclaimed eyewear for First Nations clients.</li> </ul> <p>HEALTH PARTNERSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three regularly scheduled Health Partnership meetings;</li> <li>• One Special meeting in June, 2016 to discuss new Mental Wellness Team Funding;</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Special Meeting in August 2016 to discuss renewing the Chiefs' Priorities on Health/"Leading the Change" recommendations;</li> <li>• One Special Teleconference in September, 2016 to discuss new developments in Jordan's Principle funding;</li> <li>• One special working group meeting in November, 2016 to draft a plan to appropriately implement Jordan's Principle funding in the Atlantic Region;</li> <li>• Received regular reports on the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI), Bilateral Committees, and the Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF);</li> <li>• Received regular reports from the Health Directors Co-Chairs;</li> <li>• Received regular reports from the three Committees Co-Chairs;</li> <li>• Received regular updates on the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC);</li> <li>• Received regular financial updates on project funding from FNIHB;</li> <li>• The Health Partnership recommended approval for \$603,907 in Mental Wellness discretionary funding for FY 2017-18;</li> <li>• The Health Partnership directed FNIHB on the allocation of \$1,000,000 for Mental Wellness Team funding for FY- 2017-18 and \$850,000 for 2018-19;</li> <li>• The Health Partnership recommended approval for \$1,554,000 in PHPC projects ;</li> </ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued work on “Leading the Change” change management;</li> <li>• Developed new priorities on Health for the Atlantic Chiefs;</li> <li>• Maintained guidance and oversight for the First Nations Control Models Working Group;</li> <li>• Maintained guidance and oversight for the four approved projects to support victims of family violence;</li> <li>• Developed a model with extensive community guidance to allocate Jordan’s Principle funding in the Atlantic region;</li> <li>• Created a cultural safety tool checklist for training administered by FNIHB or APC;</li> <li>• Received a presentation on the developing standards for drinking water and waste water management on reserve, working closely with the APC Housing and Infrastructure department;</li> <li>• Received a presentation on innovative approaches to health care by Miawpukek First Nation;</li> <li>• Received a presentation on the Aboriginal Children’s Hurt and Healing project (Dalhousie &amp; IWK); and</li> <li>• Gave an introductory presentation to the Nova Scotia Health Authority; received a similar one from the Health Authority, and began a working relationship with provincial health providers.</li> </ul> <p>SUPPORT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized three Health Partnership Co-Chairs agenda planning sessions (one meeting</li> </ul>		
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	<p>in advance of each Health Partnership meeting);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized three First Nations Caucus agenda planning sessions (one meeting in advance of each Health Partnership meeting);</li> <li>• Organized three Community Coordination Group meetings to delegate tasks that cross the boundaries of one particular committee into another (one meeting after each cycle); and</li> <li>• Organized three Health Partnership Policy Group meetings to address policy concerns in Health Partnership operation (one meeting after each cycle).</li> </ul> <p>FIRST NATIONS CONTROL MODELS PROJECT WORKING GROUP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held nine working group meetings;</li> <li>• Discussion paper on Control Models was submitted and reviewed by working group members;</li> <li>• Hired full-time project manager;</li> <li>• Planned five sub-regional pre-engagement sessions to begin conversation on the types of control models that may be possible in order to successfully devolve FNIHB programs and services to First Nations control in Atlantic Regions;</li> <li>• Hosted three of five sub-regional pre-engagement sessions across Atlantic Region: NS, PEI and NB; and</li> <li>• Submitted interim proposal for 2017-18 fiscal year.</li> </ul>		
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<p>2. Complete Health Partnership Policy Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided policy support for the Health Partnership and its committees and working groups;</li> <li>• Hired Mental Wellness Learning Coordinator to lead the development of a multi-year, competency-based, regional training plan (informed by community);</li> <li>• Twenty-nine NIHB Medical Transportation recommendations, valuing regional insights (developed by working group members and approved by Health Partnership) were sent to inform the national joint review process;</li> <li>• Contract secured to develop training and capacity assessment tool;</li> <li>• Culture as a Foundation training was offered in Moncton, NB on November 7 and 8, 2016, and in Dartmouth, NS on November 9 and 10, 2016. This training supports the ongoing knowledge and skill development of service providers and community in addressing addictions and mental health issues;</li> <li>• Understanding Opioid Addiction and Treatment was offered in Dartmouth, NS on November 21 and 22, 2016 and Moncton, NB on November 24 and 25, 2016. This training program focused on the study of opioids, cultural considerations in a harm reduction approach, the risks associated with an abstinence based and harm reduction approach and the causes, symptoms and</li> </ul>	<p>Director of Health and Mental Wellness Project Manager</p>	<p>April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017</p>
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	<p>prevention of drug overdose using Naloxone; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using Trauma-Informed Approaches in Our Work: From Understanding to Practice was offered in four locations: February 7 to 9, 2017 in Membertou, NS; February 28 to March 2, 2017 in Millbrook, NS; March 7 to 9, 2017 in Charlottetown, PE, and March 21-23, 2017 in Moncton, NB. This two and a half training was designed to develop an understanding of core competencies and skills specific to trauma informed practice.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 2: Conduct three Atlantic Health Director meetings.</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p>1. Complete three Atlantic Health Director meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three meetings were held in Moncton, NB;</li> <li>APC organized all the logistical arrangements including venue rental, catering, development of the agendas, meeting packages, and completed minutes (July 5 and 6, 2016; October 26 and 27, 2016; and February 8 and 9, 2017);</li> <li>The Health Directors received regular updates on the Health Partnership and its committees and provided feedback for the Health Partnership Committees;</li> <li>The Health Directors received regular updates on the Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Action Plan and the development of its implementation phase;</li> <li>The Health Directors received regular updates on the APC Health Department, including all</li> </ul>	<p>Director of Health, Health Policy Analyst, NIHB Navigator, Health Partnership Coordinator &amp; Health Admin Assistant</p>	<p>April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017</p>

	<p>ongoing projects housed at APC and APC staffing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Directors were engaged to assist with the development of updated Chiefs' priorities on health;</li> <li>• The Health Directors were engaged on how best to distribute new Mental Wellness funding;</li> <li>• The Health Directors were engaged on how best to distribute new Jordan's Principle funding;</li> <li>• The Health Directors were engaged on how best to allocate training funds for this fiscal year;</li> <li>• The Health Directors were engaged on the development of the Community Discussion Tool to help link community planning with the Chiefs' Priorities on Health;</li> <li>• The Health Directors have continued to develop a new TOR;</li> <li>• The Health Directors retain two co-chairs to chair the Health Directors meetings and observe Health Partnership meetings.</li> <li>• Approximately 47 attendees participated in the Health Directors meeting on July 5 – 6, 2016;</li> <li>• Approximately 42 attendees were at the October 26 and 27, 2016 meeting;</li> <li>• Approximately 39 attendees were at the February 8-9, 2017 meeting;</li> <li>• The Health Directors received special presentations on NNADAP and NYSAP reporting requirements, First Nations Control Models, the AFN-NIHB</li> </ul>		
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	<p>review, The FNIHB Home and Community Care 10-year plan, the projects to support victims of Family Violence, Harm Reduction, FNIHB's Benzodiazepine project, and the Climate Change Health Adaptation Program;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Director meetings result in greater participation of the Health Directors in the Health Partnership structure; greater input into the project-development and planning process, greater awareness of FNIHB policy and planning decisions; increased feedback on upcoming decisions by FNIHB, and increased understanding of the role of the APC Health Directors; and</li> <li>• All meeting agendas, minutes, and other meeting materials are available upon request.</li> </ul>		
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**Objective 3: Organize and host an annual regional health conference**

Activities	Results Achieved	Staff Responsible	Timeframe
<p>1. Organize and host an annual regional health conference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APC hosted its annual health conference from November 1 to 3, 2016 at Park Place Hotel &amp; Conference Centre at Ramada Plaza, located in Dartmouth, NS;</li> <li>• The theme of this year's conference is "Innovations in Health: Celebrating Our Success."</li> <li>• MC was Wendall Nicholas.</li> <li>• Opening Plenary on all three days to bring conference delegates together.</li> <li>• Fifteen concurrent sessions and active living opportunities at end of Day 2.</li> <li>• Lifetime service awards and recognition were given at the conference during an evening banquet;</li> </ul>	<p>Conference Coordinator and Conference Committee</p>	<p>April 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a trade show at the event and many other workshop presentations at the Health Conference;</li> <li>• Approximately 274 attendees.</li> <li>• A complete copy of the coordinators' report which includes all the presentation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Objective 4: Support the activities of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC).</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Host regular MMAYC meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new MMAYC council was elected at the MMAYC conference in August 2016;</li> <li>• The new council had a teleconference in November 2016 and met in-person January 2017. Meeting materials are available upon request.</li> </ul>	NIHB Navigator	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017
2. Assist MMAYC in carrying out the activities of MMAYC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NIHB Navigator provided logistical support to facilitate MMAYC activities.</li> <li>• In August 2016, MMAYC hosted a successful youth conference at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS. The theme of the conference was Health, Healing, and Reconciliation. At this conference, the youth discussed about MMAYC would look in 2020, participated in numerous workshops, and conducted their election.</li> <li>• Approximately 100 attendees participated;</li> <li>• A copy of the MMAYC coordinator's report which includes the strategic action plan is available upon request.</li> </ul>	NIHB Navigator	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017
3. Network with local First Nations youth councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMAYC extended an invitation to the Membertou Youth Council to attend an informal MMAYC gathering in January</li> </ul>	Director of Health	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

	2017 the night prior to the formal meeting.		
<b>Objective 5: Support of First Nations Nurses Policies</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Evaluation of Uptake and Usefulness of Nursing Policies in Atlantic First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract with Horizons was developed and signed;</li> <li>Horizons conducted interviews with communities re uptake and usefulness of nursing policies in Atlantic First Nation communities;</li> <li>Evaluation report sent to Health Canada as part of Chronic Disease annual report; and</li> <li>The evaluation available upon request.</li> </ul>	Health Policy Analyst/Director of Health	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017
<b>Objective 6: Conduct other health policy activities in conjunction with First Nations and/or FNIHB.</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Update Atlantic chiefs, health directors/technicians and other relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly newsletters completed. Health excerpts available upon request;</li> <li>Presentations to APC Executive;</li> <li>Briefing notes for APC chiefs and senior management;</li> <li>Four <u>Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News</u> articles: three introducing new staff and one on the Health Conference. Articles resulted in greater awareness of APC Health Staff;</li> <li>Distributed health policy documents via email to increase understanding and awareness of emerging and existing health issues;</li> <li>Liaised with Atlantic Chiefs, health directors/technicians and other relevant stakeholders to update them on emerging and existing issues as well gather feedback for Health Partnership and other coordinated health approaches for addressing Atlantic health policy issues; and</li> <li>Outcome: Increased understanding of Atlantic health</li> </ul>	Director of Health, Health Policy Analyst, NIHB Navigator and Health Administrative Assistant	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

	policy issues, increased awareness of potential solutions, and greater knowledge of health decisions made by FNIHB and/or the Health Partnership.		
2. Other policy support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in health policy tables such as NS Tripartite Health Committee and Dalhousie University.</li> </ul>	Director of Health and Mental Wellness Project Manager	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017
<b>Objective 7: Overall management of the APC Health Staff.</b>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results Achieved</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. Management of staff activities and evaluation of performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management of day to day activities of the health department completed by the Director of Health. Overall management of APC was completed by the Executive Director; and</li> <li>Annual performance evaluations were completed for all applicable staff.</li> </ul>	Director of Health	April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

For additional information or to request full meeting packages of meetings, please contact Jarvis Googoo via email at [jarvis.googoo@apcfn.ca](mailto:jarvis.googoo@apcfn.ca).