



Health Board Update – Darlene Carifelle Health Board Coordinator

The Health Board continues to work diligently in strengthening partnerships, increasing the profile of the Metis Settlements, and addressing health related issues that were identified in the Community Based Health assessment on the Metis Settlements completed February 2017.

To date various grant funded projects have been executed to begin the process of addressing priority areas identified in the assessment, the health boards vision is that in the near future our Settlements will have funding to run sustainable programs to address youth programming, mental health and addictions, senior services, etc.,

Partnership with Alberta Health Services:

Over the past few years, the health board was working on the possibility of having Mobile Health Clinics provide service to the Settlements, and to look at having consistent, sustainable primary care services within each unfortunately due to the COVID Pandemic, this initiative was put on hold. This was one avenue to utilize to bring in more services to each Settlement, as a means to address the health disparities, gaps and barriers to accessing primary health care services for the 8 Metis Settlements.

As of November 4,2021, the Health board and Alberta Health Services have begun discussion on this initiative again, ultimate goal would be to achieve.

- increased access to and continuity of health care services
- culturally safe care and reduce known systematic barriers such as geographical remoteness
- multidisciplinary model of care such as Mobile Healthcare closer to home
- integrated technological advance care
- partnering together to effectively and efficiently use resources.

Although we attempted to meet shortly after the initial meeting, this was not possible due to a variety of reason, elections etc. therefore in discussion with Alberta Health a decision was made that they would connect with each of the Settlements individually to discuss their concerns, recommendations about primary care services; they would compile such information and bring back a summary of what they heard to the April 21,2022 meeting.

April 21,2022 meeting was to continue discussions about primary health care services and how can we move forward to obtaining services required.

Mental Health and Addictions: Lack of resources as it relates to Mental Health and Addictions has remained a top priority and have been voicing the lack of services to Alberta Health and Health Canada.

We have pitched the idea of establishing an Addictions and Mental Health Program with Health Canada and to the province. This concept would see Mental Health and Addictions in each community similar to what the First Nations have.

The Health Board participated in the Metis Leaders Conference on Alberta's Patient Complaint Process: hosted by ADM Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Assistant Deputy Minister. – November 29, 2021.

Purpose: to hear about the experience of Metis patients with Alberta's patient complaint and concerns process and understand how the complaint process could be improved to restore Metis patients trust in the health care they receive.

April 21 -22, 2022 – a 2-day primary care planning workshop was held with Alberta Health Services – to identify priority primary health care needs based on a collective understanding of the needs in the eight Metis Settlements and plan to work together towards action-oriented solutions.

June 17, 2022- Metis Settlements Primary Care Initiative – Update from AHS

August 26, 2022 – Health board had a one-day planning workshop with Alberta Health to address the critical need for our members to access primary health care to improve they're over all health.

Involving the MSHB from the start of Alberta's Health primary health care policy development will ensure that a strong case is built to remove some of the known barriers and lead to improved outcomes.

On a go forward basis Alberta Health intends to.

- work with Metis Settlements to identify needs and propose potential policy solutions
- Explore existing best and promising practices currently used to deliver primary health care services to Metis patients and their families, which could be considered for expansion if a community considers it relevant for them.
- Identify examples of culturally safe approaches to enhance Metis patient access and attachment to primary health care
- incorporate academic and community research into analysis and recommend policy options.

August 26, 2022 – One day planning session with MSHN and the Health Quality Council of Alberta to discuss Metis and Emergency Medical Services – Minister of Health, Honorable Jason

Copping wanted input to learn from those who plan, deliver and receive EMS care to make recommendations to inform the delivery of EMS services across Alberta.

November 10,2022 – Alberta Health – Modernizing Alberta’s Primary Health Care System (MAPS) which is an initiative that was announced by Minister Jason Copping on September 23,2022. We were fortunate that our Health Board Chair Kathy Lepine was appointed to sit on a panel committee “Modernizing Alberta’s Primary Health Care System” “Indigenous Primary Health Care Advisory Panel.”

To date this panel has

- identified Indigenous primary health care principles and themes
 - Submitted letter to Minister December 2022 on early opportunity recommendations
 - Conducted a number of key informant interviews and various groups have completed written submissions
 - Engaged with various Indigenous Groups
 - Continued to inform communities on the status of the MAPS initiative.
- Early opportunities include the following:

- First Nations and Metis Settlements Health Care Bus Transportation
- Indigenous Navigator Program
- Telus Mobile Health Care Clinic
- Metis Settlements Integrated Primary Care and community care demonstration project
- Indigenous Home Care Pilot Project
- Indigenous Primary Care Innovation Grant Fund

One of the initiatives that will be implemented shortly is the Emergency Medical Response training course promotion and marketing which was initially scheduled to commence in March/ April, but due to unforeseen circumstances had to be rescheduled.

Health Board Strategic Planning: the health board had a strategic planning session on March 2 - 3 ,2023 and in process of establishing a Health Board Society.

Child Welfare Initiative: Lisa Weber was tasked from the Health Board to prepare an application for capacity funding from Indigenous Services Canada relating to the development of Child and family services specific to Metis Settlements.

- On June 29,2022 application for capacity funding was submitted however to date we have not had a response.

Fetal Alcohol Disorder (FASD File)

- A new 3-year business plan was submitted on January 27,2023 and we have received funding to continue offering FASD services to our Settlements, utilizing the following 3 FASD Networks:
Lakeland Centre for FASD (provides services to Kikino, Buffalo Lake, Elizabeth and Fishing Lake)
Northwest Peace FASD Society (provides services to Peavine, East Prairie and Gift Lake) and
Northwest Regional FASD Society (provides services to Paddle Prairie.

Metis Specific Mental Wellness Funding:

-Federal Budget 2021 included an allocation for Metis Specific mental wellness in recognition of the unique circumstances and needs of Metis. This is a beginning of establishing a working relationship with MSGC and ISC-FNIB’s Mental Wellness Division.

-They confirmed that MSGC can receive an allocation of \$150,000 for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal year for overall total of \$300,000, however would require a proposal to be submitted asap.

-Submitted a proposal on April 6,2022 -Reclaiming Our Identity-Building Resilient Youth, as the funding is only \$150,000 it would be difficult to look at offering Mental Wellness supports to each Settlements, therefore submission was built on utilizing this funding for the Youth/Elder Cultural Camp.

Funding of \$300,000 was approved and this funding was utilized supporting our Cultural Camp in 2022- 2003 for \$150,000 and the other \$150,000 is allocated for the 2023-2024 youth camp.

Other Grant Funded Initiatives:

Various grant funded projects have been executed to begin the process of addressing priority areas identified in the assessment, the health boards vision is that in the near future our Settlements will have funding to run sustainable programs to address youth programming, mental health and addictions, senior services, etc.,

All grant submissions are a result of attempting to address community members identified priorities for Programs and Services and most of funding received is filtered to each of the Settlements.

Crisis Response Training: Over the years we have observed the need to have our frontline line workers/membership trained to be able to provide immediate supports to their community until such time as outside resources can be brought in. We have been successful in negotiating a one-time funding arrangement from Health Canada to complete a Pilot Project “**the creation**

of a Crisis Response Teams for the 8 Settlements. This funding will be utilized for training to build capacity at the community level.

Training to date:

- 18 community members completed a comprehensive 1-week Grief and Loss training.
- April 22 -28th. 12 community members completed the Trauma Recovery Certification Course – this is a comprehensive 7-day training that gives participants advance trauma knowledge and skills to work in areas of: Childhood Abuse; Lateral Violence; Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse and Residential School trauma.
- 24 community members received ASSIST training.

Engagement Indigenous Health Legislation: -

This initiative was to inform and gather input from our community members as to their perspectives on how the **Metis Settlements General Council can pursue better health outcomes and health benefits for Metis Settlement members**; to be submitted for consideration into the proposed New Health Legislation; and how the delivery of health services can be transformed to increase Indigenous led health service delivery.

Background:

Since the *Daniels Decision in 2016*, MSGC has pushed the federal government to ensure Metis peoples have access to federally supported health programs, something Metis have been excluded from for generations. Through our work with the Federal government this is now possible. Since September of 2020, the Government of Canada has proposed that it would co-develop Indigenous Health Legislation with partners, including the MSGC. This historic opportunity is beginning now with the passage of Budget 2021. Since there is no existing Federal Indigenous Health legislation this process will take some time, but MSGC is committed to ensuring better health outcomes and health benefits for our people. This is the best way to achieve permanent, long-term, health solutions for generations to come. In response to the federal government’s invitation for our participation, the MSGC Health Board submitted a proposal to partner with Canada on behalf of our communities to begin initial engagement with membership to determine our priority health concerns to be included in federal legislation, which include, but are not limited to: *Non-Insured Health Benefits, access to supported Indigenous health practices, fiscal supports for in-community health care, etc.*

The timeframe to complete this community engagement was short, however we were able to complete the engagement and submit our initial our report by the end of November.

Next Phase of this initiative: We are now in the Co-development phase of this initiative, and we received capacity dollars of \$150,000 to complete – submission of report for this phase was submitted end of March 2023.

Health Surveillance Analyst Interns/Training/work opportunity- 2 interns (Jennifer Blackman-Elizabeth and Chelsea Gauchier- Peavine)

Funding was secured to continue with this initiative for April 1,2022 to March 31,2025.

Goal of this initiative is that the Metis Settlements will one day have their own database to house Metis Settlement specific health data. Currently there is no Metis Settlements specific health data gathered.

- Continue to follow-up with Alberta Health on the status of the **Health Data Accord**
- The Metis Settlements would have ownership and control to their own Metis Settlement Specific Data and Alberta Health would do the collecting.
- Settlement Census – these ladies over seen the Metis Settlements General Council Settlement Census which was just completed end of September unfortunately a few Settlements were unable to complete enough questionnaires, which affects the overall data summary for the 8 Metis Settlements, opportunity was provided to the Settlements that had low participation rates.
- Along with Settlement Census we completed a voluntary Survey (119) on the affects that Covid has had on community member, initial assessment shows that **1 in 4 household sought negative coping methods (Drugs and Alcohol); 47% stated struggling financially and for the years 2020-2021 members that participated spent 65% of the last 2 years in Quarantine.**
- MSGC Records Management, Jennifer and Chelsea were trained to work on this, however due to lack of funding unsure if the new records management system will be continued.
- NOTE: now that COVID restrictions have been lifted these ladies will be going back to work/train with Alberta Health so their office time here will be lessened
- Currently taking Digital Story work training, through partnership with Cancer Care Alberta for various dates through February.

Addictions and Mental Health Navigator; Grant funded initiative with a Western and Eastern Addictions and Mental Health Navigator. **Funding** was secured to continue with this initiative for April 1,2023 to March 31,2026.

Objectives of grant:

- Establishment of culturally appropriate prevention and intervention programming aimed to reducing and preventing Drug and Alcohol use among MS members.
- Address lack of information and service gaps to improve access to services.
- Facilitate collaborative service planning, linkage and referral facilitation for any individual, family who requests assistance with mental health or substance concerns.
- Serve as information resource for community and/or service providers.

- Assist communities in public awareness campaigns “Raise our Voice against Stigma.”

Indigenous History, Languages and Cultures Program:

Final report for this initiative was submitted before end of March 2023

The objective of this grant was to review and assess how we can begin the process of revitalizing our language, history and culture by obtaining baseline data on number of fluent-semi fluent speakers and learners within our Settlements, what dialects are spoken and what is available for resources in our communities, what is being taught in our local schools, universities etc. as it relates to Metis People, this will be done by establishing a committee to provide guidance in the development of an overall strategic plan on how the Metis Settlements could revitalize our history, language and culture.

An Elders Committee was established to provide advice and guidance to this initiative and a lot of community engagements were held.

Promoting Resilient Youth – Cultural Camp – 2 years of funding have been secured for \$250,00 each year to hold a youth Cultural Camp.

Objectives of grant: Support Youth in developing a strong sense of cultural connection and identity, through connection to the land, elders and knowledge helpers; To date we have held 2 camps one in Gift Lake in 2020-2021 and one in Elizabeth 2022 -2023 which was held in August, our vision is to have funding to hold these each year, as they both have been very successful and had numerous requests to include more youth and elders. The plan is each year the Youth/Elders camp would rotate from East – West.

Indian Residential Schools – Resolution Health/cultural support program and Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:

Objective: to provide mental health, emotional and cultural support services to eligible former Indian Residential School students and their families through all phases of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreements.

Indian Day Schools- Federal Indian Day Schools Settlement Agreement- 5 levels of Claim ranging from 10,000 to \$200,000 – implementation for this Settlement commenced **January 13, 2020, and claim period ends July 13, 2022.**

The Federal Indian Day Schools Class Action: was launched in 2009 by Gary McLean and deals with forced attendance of Aboriginal Students at Indian Day Schools across Canada and seeks compensation for the damages and abuses suffered by Indian Day School students who were forced to attend Indian Day Schools and were excluded from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

The claims process for Federal Indian Day School is now closed.

Residential School Day Scholars: January 4, 2022 — The individual claims process in the Gottfriedson Indian Residential Schools Day Scholars Class Action settlement is now open. The deadline to submit a claim is **October 4, 2023.**

Each Day Scholar who attended an Indian Residential School during the day only (but did not sleep there overnight) is eligible to apply for a \$10,000 Day Scholar Compensation Payment.

Residential School Day Scholars or “Day Scholars are students who attended a Federal Residential School during the day only and did not sleep there overnight. This lawsuit is about loss of language culture and psychological harms suffered by Day Scholars and is not about physical or sexual abuse.

Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: (MMIWG)

Objective: Provide health and cultural supports services to survivors, family members and those affected by the issue of MMIWG and ensure integrated and coordinated care for survivors, family members and those affected by the issue.

- Conduct community outreach to inform members of available support services offered.
- Provide workshops.

To date the staff have gone to every Settlement to promote awareness and assist members with completing Claim forms, a directive was given to staff that this is a high priority as deadline is October 2023, the other directive that was given with a high priority is gathering of elder’s stories willing to share their experience while attending Residential Schools.

Ka-wapahtonaw – Feb. 22-23, 2023, we held a successful Elders/ youth conference with 10 elders/ 2 youth and a senior coordinator attending from each of the Settlements. The 2-day agenda conference included Residential School Stories; Revitalization of our Language, History and Culture; Consultation, MMIWG and entertainment.

Metis Settlements of Alberta

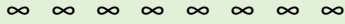
Ka-Wâpah-tonâw Elders Conference 2023



2022 Metis Settlement Culture Camp



Promoting Resilient Youth



Host: Elizabeth Metis Settlement

