

Sharing Knowledge of Health Transformation

by:

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Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

Land Acknowledgement

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territory of Lac Seul First Nation, signatory to Treaty #3 and Fort William First Nation, signatory to Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

We acknowledge we are gathered today on the ancestral lands of Migisi Sahgaigan signatory to Treaty #3.

Acknowledgement of Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Community Voices

The Health Transformation process has involved many people at many levels. Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community leadership and expertise have contributed to the body of knowledge which forms the history of health transformation. This history belongs to the people.

History of Health Transformation

- SLFNHA Resolution 15-23 *Call for Declaration of Public Health Emergency*
- SLFNHA November 2015 Collaborative Planning Session to address Public Health Emergency (SLFNHA, Board, Chiefs Council on Health (CCOH), NAN, FNIHB, Meno Ya Win)
 - Direction to host summit and draft the Charter of Relationship Principles.
- SLFNHA Health Transformation Summit (Feb 2016)
- Declaration of Health and Public Health Emergency – Code Blue (Issued by NAN and CCOH – Feb 2016)

SLFNHA-NAN Partnership

NAN Charter of Relationship Principles

- SLFNHA and NAN worked in partnership to draft and negotiate the *Charter of Relationship Principles on Health Transformation for NAN Territory (2017)*

Ongoing Negotiations

- SLFNHA Resolution 16-09 *SLFNHA CCOH Participation in NAN Health Transformation Process:*
 - Recognition of SLFNHA and CCOH in initiating the NAN Health Transformation process, and directed SLFNHA and CCOH to participate with NAN in the “alignment process that will gather decision-maker to move health transformation forward in a deliberate, planned and measurable way”.
 - CCOH to participate with NAN at the Joint Action Table and any other high-level decision-making tables.

Kanawenimitisowin Summit – June 2022

SUMMIT STATEMENT

Coordinated Engagement Process with Clear Communication

- Clear **communication** and **coordination** of various processes is essential to ensure the full understanding and **participation** of **all community members**. This process will be guided by **Elders** to oversee the process and pass on their **knowledge**. We will move forward while being mindful of **our history** and **previous leaders**. The process must have a **spiritual connection**. The process will have **Anishinabe** engagement approaches. **Youth** will be involved throughout the process.
- We direct all organizations involved in Health Transformation initiatives to coordinate and develop a united community engagement process.



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Reflections on Negotiations based on the NAN
Charter of Relationship Principles

Health Transformation 5 Pillars

- The original NAN Health Transformation process was guided by the 5 Pillars:
 - Community Participation
 - Fiscal Review and Funding Model(s)
 - Reclamation of Indigenous Laws
 - Immediate Needs
 - Policy and Legislative Review

Wholistic Health Framework

- Development of a NAN-wide health entity (referred to as a NAN Health Commission – later named *Pamihitowin*)
- Draft Concept of the functions, legal structure and governance model(s) was developed.

Engagement and Partnerships

- Partnerships Accords national organizations were developed.
- Health Transformation Advocates

Immediate Needs Initiatives

- NAN Paramedic Services (Paramedic Task Force)
- Hospital Without Borders (community-based hospital services model for Sioux Lookout area First Nations)

Immediate Needs Process

- 1) Person-specific issues
- 2) Barriers to safe and effective care
- 3) Advocacy and strategy development across sectors
- 4) Community priorities
- 5) Regional priorities

Wechedowin Document

- A Framework for negotiations
- A “bridge” document that established the goals, objectives and scope of the discussions so that each partner can use the agreement to conclude a final agreement.
- A negotiation process that respected regional differences and circumstances – created a mechanism for First Nations and their respective organizations to negotiate their own priorities.



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Reflections on gathering directions and teachings
from Elders and Knowledge Keepers



Words from Our Elders

Beginning September 3, 2021, Jerry Sawanis regularly met with members from the NAN Elders Advisory Council in a series of focused discussions. The purpose of these meetings were to discuss a potential Anishnawbe word to replace the existing health commission title. However, a larger discussion ensued.

In these meetings, Elders discussed the concept of helping one another as a traditional practice within communities and family units.

Words from Our Elders

“When Creator first put us on Turtle Island, he gave us *pamihitowin*, to help one another.”

Jerry Sawanis (*December 13, 2021*)

“A real honor to be a part of the conversation, that term came from five ladies in Sandy Lake who started that service.”

Elder Teri Fiddler (*December 13, 2021*)

“The word *pamihitowin* is clear and significant to the traditional view of helping and taking care of each other. ”

Elder Ananias Spence (*December 13, 2021*)

Words from Our Elders

“Over time we have come to realize that our youngest brother has not been looking after us the way that he had promised, not in the way that Creator once took care of us. This is where we are now, we must do something and take back our traditional practices of health and our health care system. When we spoke of looking for a name to call this system, we thought of two women from Sandy Lake, Mydah Meekis and Esther Linklater. As powerful leading women in their community they seen that we needed to go back to the teachings. The system that they spoke of and the teachings they spoke of it is the concept of Pamihitowin. This is what they called the system that Creator originally gave to us.”

– Jerry Sawanis



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Meegwetch

