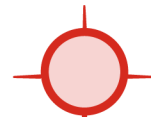




Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# FIRST NATIONS AUTHORITY & CONTROL OVER HEALTH



## Failing System

First Nations identify need for control of health care as current system continues to fail our people\*

*\*Scott McKay Bain Health Panel Report, 1989 and Declaration of Health & Public Health Emergency, 2016*



## Chiefs Endorsement

Chiefs-in-Assembly approve Position Statement & Strategy with direction to hold Special Chiefs & Elders Meeting



## Position Statement & 5-Point Strategy

Joint CCOH/SLFNHA Board Meetings held in 2023 with regional partners to develop the **Position Statement on Control and Authority over the Health System and 5-Point Strategy**



## Proposed Process

To achieve the aim of the strategy, CCOH proposes the following process:

- Nation-Driven Decision Making
- System Planning and Negotiations
- Rights-Based Approach



## Next Steps

- Chiefs & Elders Meeting for further direction on process
- Approval of Process at SLFNHA AGM
- Position Paper Developed
- Kanawenemitisoowin: Community Engagement



# Organizational Timeline

1988-1993

- Sandy Lake First Nation **Hunger Strike**
- **Scott McKay Bain**
  - Community Engagement
  - Health Panel & Report
- **Community Direction** to develop a Health Authority (SLFNHA was developed)
- **SLFNHA Incorporated**

1994-1999

- **Nodin Mental Health Services**
- **Client Services**
  - Hostel Opened
  - Transportation Service
- **4 Party Agreement**
  - Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Sioux Lookout, Canada, and Ontario
  - Bi-lateral agreement leads to amalgamation of federal and provincial hospitals

2000-2005

- **SLFNHA Capacity Building**
- **Health Services Expanded**
  - Tuberculosis, Prenatal, Developmental Services, Community Development, Telemedicine
- **Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH)** receives mandate
- **Participatory Research Project (PRP)**

2006-2011

- **Anishinabe Health Plan**
- **Strategic Planning, Governance & Management Review**
- **Physician Services**
  - Sioux Lookout Regional Physician Services Inc. (SLRPSI)
  - Northern Clinic
- **Client Services**
  - Jeremiah McKay
  - Kabayshevekamik
- **Health Services & Program Growth**
  - Northern Clinic
  - Research Team

2012-2017

- SLFNHA celebrates **25 years**
- SLFNHA Resolution 15-23 Call for **Declaration of Public Health Emergency**
- **Declaration of Health and Public Health Emergency** – Code Blue (Issued by NAN and CCOH – Feb 2016)
- **Public Health Model** Approaches to Community Wellbeing program implemented
- **Health Services & Program Growth**
  - Primary Care Teams
  - Community Health Workers Diabetes Project
  - Developmental Services Expansion (Jordan's Principle)

2018-2023

- SLFNHA/NAN partnership on **Health Transformation**
- Resolution #23-07 Adoption of Position Statement on **First Nations Authority and Control over Health** for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations
- **Strategic Policy, Planning & Quality Team** development
- **AHP Review**
- **SLFNHA Management Review**
- **Client Services**
  - Hostel Expansion (Hostels 2 & 3)
- **Programs & Services** - Anishinabewaadiziwin Program, Privacy Program, Health Information Management, Quality Assurance, Meno Weecheeeway Patient Navigators, Community Health Hubs
- **Specialist Physician Services**



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# First Nations Authority & Control Over Health

## Approved Strategy\*

## Proposed Process

### 5-Point Strategy

### 3 Streams of Work (based on 5-Point Strategy)      Goals      Outcome

- 1 Nation-Driven Decision Making Processes
- 2 Systems Planning through Multi-Lateral Negotiations
- 3 Identification of the Role of Devolution/ Transfer
- 4 Assert our Traditional Governance & Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights.
- 5 Legal Strategy to address discrimination in the health care system.

<b>Nation-Driven Decision Making Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Decision-Making and Consensus Building Process</li> <li>• Kanawenimitisoowin Engagement Process</li> <li>• Clear roles and responsibilities between supporting organizations</li> </ul>
<b>System Planning &amp; Trilateral Negotiations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports for community health plans and grassroots engagement.</li> <li>• Regional Health Framework (Action Plan) Based on Community Priorities</li> <li>• Community-driven Trilateral Negotiations to fill regional health gaps.</li> </ul>
<b>Rights-Based Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal &amp; Advocacy Strategy developed to protect rights, address discrimination, and assert Traditional Governance</li> </ul>

**First Nations Authority & Control Over Health**

\*Chiefs-in-Assembly approve Resolution 23-07: Position Statement on First Nations Authority & Control over Health



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# First Nations Authority & Control Over Health

## Position Statement on First Nations Authority and Control over Health for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations

The current health care system, which operates under colonial structures and policies, continues to fall us as we administer a foreign system that is inconsistent with Anishinabe ways. The Chiefs Council of Health (CCOH) and SLFNHA Board are hereby putting Ontario and Canada on notice that we will no longer accept processes that are founded on a program-by-program basis, whereby the governments offload their responsibility while maintaining the power and control over our people and organizations. These processes must be replaced with processes that take a whole system approach and that bring authority back to First Nations people through meaningful participation. This will include a clear transition plan to ensure current progress in various program areas is not disrupted and will not interfere with existing processes.

### Recommendation 1

The SLFNHA Board and CCOH recommend that SLFNHA further develop a position paper based on the above position statement to be presented to both levels of government. It is further recommended that SLFNHA work with their First Nations partners to come to a mutual understanding on the big picture and to come together to build the foundation.

This will include further development of a strategy with the following elements:

- 1) Nation Driven Decision-Making Processes
- 2) Systems Planning I through Multi-Lateral Negotiations
- 3) Identification of the Role of Devolution/Transfer
- 4) Assert our Traditional Governance and Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights
- 5) Legal Strategy to Address Discrimination in the health care system.

This strategy will then be presented to the SLNHA Chiefs in Assembly at an upcoming Special Chiefs Assembly.

### Recommendation 2

The SLFNHA Board and CCOH recommend that engagement be done in collaboration with Tribal Councils and communities to make sure that it builds upon existing work and processes. This will include clear communication and partnerships to identify clear roles of all partners to move forward on a united path including an oversight process. This will recognize traditional governance and be inclusive of all rights holders, on and off reserve.



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Resolution #23-07

**Adoption of Position Statement on First Nations Authority and Control over Health for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations**

**WHEREAS**, the current health care system, which operates under colonial structures and policies, continues to fail us as we administer a foreign system that is inconsistent with Anishinabe ways; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 15-23 *Call for the Declaration of a Public Health Emergency* directed the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) to advocate for a declaration of emergency to be issued and for a process to address the numerous health issues listed in resolution 15-23; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 16-09 *SLFNHA and CCOH Participation in NAN Health Transformation Process* acknowledged the role of SLFNHA and the Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) as a health planning authority with extensive knowledge of how health services are delivered and with a comprehensive understanding of the health issues in communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 16-09 further directs that the SLFNHA and the CCOH participate with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in “the alignment process that will gather decision-makers to move health transformation forward in a deliberate, planned and measurable way” and the CCOH participate with NAN at the Joint Action Table and any other high-level decision-making tables; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 22-28 *Prioritization of Community Based Health Services and Review of Anishinabe Health Plan* calls for a significant shift in the organization of the health care system to ensure that resources are close to home and that a review of the Anishinabe Health Plan be conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, SLFNHA has hosted two special meetings in 2023 of the SLFNHA Board of Directors, the CCOH and Tribal Councils to develop a pathway forward for transforming the regional health care system. The participants developed a Draft Position Statement and recommendations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs in Assembly adopt the *Position Statement on First Nations Authority and Control over Health for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations* which states that SLFNHA Board and CCOH will put both levels of government “on notice that we will no longer accept processes that are founded on a program-by-program basis, whereby the governments off-load their responsibility while maintaining power and control over our people and organizations” and that these processes must be replaced with a whole system approach that brings authority back to First Nations people.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs in Assembly adopt the recommendations in the Position Statement and direct SLFNHA to host a special Chiefs and Elders meeting on Health Transformation to further develop a full position paper and strategy to be presented to the Chiefs in Assembly at a future date.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs in Assembly direct SLFNHA to further engage with First Nations partners, including NAN and Tribal Councils to develop a coordinated and aligned approach to achieve a transformed regional health system for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Moved by: Proxy Brenda Fox, Mishkeegogamang First Nation  
Seconded by: Chief Annemarie Beardy, Wawakapewin First Nation

Decision: **CARRIED**

SLFNHA Board Chair:   
Howard Meshake