

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING

First Nations Authority and Control over Health



Host: **Migisi Sahgaigan**

Support: **Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority**

**JUNE 25 & 26, 2024 • 9:00AM -4:30PM  
• MIGISI SAHGAIGAN SCHOOL •**

**42 School Rd, Migisi Sahgaigan, ON P0V 3H0**

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING

First Nations Authority and Control over Health



## MEETING INFO

### GUEST WIFI

**Migisi Teachers**

**Password: 23mig122**

### CHARGING STATION

**Located in Meeting Room**

### TRAVEL/CHEQUE INFO

**Registration located at entrance**

### YURT TOURS

**Daily at: 12 PM - 1 PM**

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Snacks, tea, coffee, water all day in meeting room

Lunch & Dinner served in Dining Tent

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<b>MENU DAY 1</b>	<b>12pm-1pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Wild Rice soup (Chicken, Beef, or Hamburger), Sandwiches, Bannock Burgers, Desserts
<b>*Dietary requests will be labelled</b>	<b>4pm-5pm</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	Fish Fry - Walleye, Fried Potatoes, Beans, Bannock, Wild rice Casserole, Coleslaw, Macaroni Salad, Pasta Salad, Chicken, Desserts
<b>MENU DAY 2</b>	<b>12pm-1pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Stew (Chicken, Beef, Meatball) Indian Tacos Deluxe Bannock with preserves, Salad, Desserts

SUPPORTED BY  
SIOUX LOOKOUT FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY



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Eagle Lake  
First Nation



# MIGISI SAHGAIGAN



Chief Bernadette  
Wabange

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority acknowledges that it meeting on the traditional territory of Migisi Sahgaigan, signatory to Treaty #3.

Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) is located in the heart of the Canadian Shield in Northwestern Ontario. The members of Eagle Lake belong to the great Ojibway Nation of the Great Lakes, stretching to Manitoba, Minnesota and beyond. The community is led by Chief and Council – Chief Bernadette Wabange, Councillor Trisha Kavanaugh, Councillor Lloyd Napish, and Councillor Sheldon Adams.

The members of Migisi Sahgaigan are descendants of signatories of Treaty #3 that was signed October 1873. Eagle Lake has a rich history of participating within the regional economy and has actively participated in economic pursuits in the fields of forestry, mining and social activities. The First Nation is vibrant, strong in culture and is committed to enhancing family and social strengths.

As we gather for this important meeting we extend our deepest gratitude to the Migisi Sahgaigan Chief & Council, respected Elders, drum group, and community members including including the Eagle Lake Chiefs hockey team, school staff, and catering staff for their warm hospitality and contributions that enhance our gathering. Your support and participation made our work together seamless and enriched our experiences.

**KITCHI-MIIGWETCH**



## ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ELDERS

We extend our gratitude to the First Nations Elders whose wisdom guides our paths and enriches our understanding. As we gather here, it is with a profound sense of appreciation for the Elders who have not only preserved but also passed down the traditions and knowledge that shape our communities.

The role of Elders are the keepers of our knowledge and our history, the advisors in our present day. Through their teachings, they provide us with the tools necessary to face challenges with courage and integrity. Their voices are not just echoes of the past but are vital, living streams of knowledge that continue to influence every aspect of our cultural and community life.

As we listen with open hearts and engage in dialogue and learning sessions throughout this meeting, let us remember to reflect on the teachings and principles shared by our Elders. Their insights are not merely lessons; they are gifts that urge us to cultivate respect, understanding, and cooperation among all community members.

We thank each Elder for their dedication and commitment to fostering strength and resilience within our nations. It is an honour to observe and witness the sharing of vital information and we pledge to carry forward the legacy of your wisdom with honor and integrity.

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING



## MESSAGE FROM CCOH CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the Sioux Lookout area Chiefs Council on Health (CCOH), we are pleased to welcome Elders, Chiefs, and Health Directors to this very important meeting. As provincial and federal health systems continue to fail our people, we must move forward in exercising our Treaty and Inherent Rights to Health. We are determined to move forward under a coordinated and united strategy to design a health care system based on First Nations authority and control.

The goals of this meeting are to seek guidance and direction from Chiefs and Elders on the following:

- Further develop the CCOH strategy on First Nations Authority and Control over Health
  - Mandated by SLFNHA *Resolution 23-07 Adoption of Position Statement on First Nations Authority and Control Over Health*
- Learning and sharing experience in Health Transformation of different areas and groups.
- Seek feedback and direction on the CCOH Proposed Process.



**Chief Clifford Bull &  
Chief Donny Morris**  
CCOH Co-Chairs



## CCOH BACKGROUND

### CCOH 5 Point Strategy on First Nations Authority and Control Over Health

1. Nation Driven Decision-Making processes
2. Systems Planning through multi-lateral negotiations
3. Identification of the role of transfer/devolution
4. Assert our Traditional Governance and Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights
5. Legal Strategy to Address Discrimination in the health care system.

### CCOH Members

- Chief Donny Morris - Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA)
- Chief Clifford Bull - Lac Seul First Nation Representative
- Chief Eddie Mamakwa - Shibogama FN Council Representative
- Chief Lorraine Crane - Windigo First Nations Council Representative
- Chief Delores Kakegamic - Independent First Nation Representative (Sandy Lake)
- Chief Merle Loon - Independent First Nations (Mishkeegogamang)
- Chief Lois James - Keewaytinook Okimakanak
- Vacant - Treaty #3 Communities Representative
- Vacant - Matawa First Nations Council
- Elder – Hammond Lac Seul

## MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

As a Board of Directors, we are committed to work in partnership with the CCOH to strengthen First Nations governance and processes. We are pleased to support the CCOH in further developing their strategy and exploring ways in which the regional health care and SLFNHA can be strengthened to better support community-based health systems.

The colonial funding and policy restrictions that are in place impact SLFNHA's ability to fully respond to community needs and priorities, but we will not waver in our commitment to support communities. The SLFNHA Board is working in partnership with the CCOH to develop a pathway forward based on community direction towards a community based health care system based on First Nations sovereignty.



**Howard Meshake**  
Board Chair

### Board Members

- Howard Meshake - Shibogama First Nations Council
- Samuel McKay - Independent First Nations Alliance
- Michelle Kakegamic - Keewaytinook Okimakanak
- Allan Jethro Tait - Windigo First Nations Council
- Tanya Bottle - Mishkeegogang First Nation
- Cynthia Fiddler - Sandy Lake First Nation
- Vacant - Matawa First Nations Council
- Vacant - Ex-Officio
- Elders: Thomas Spade Elder, Male - Vacant Elder, Female

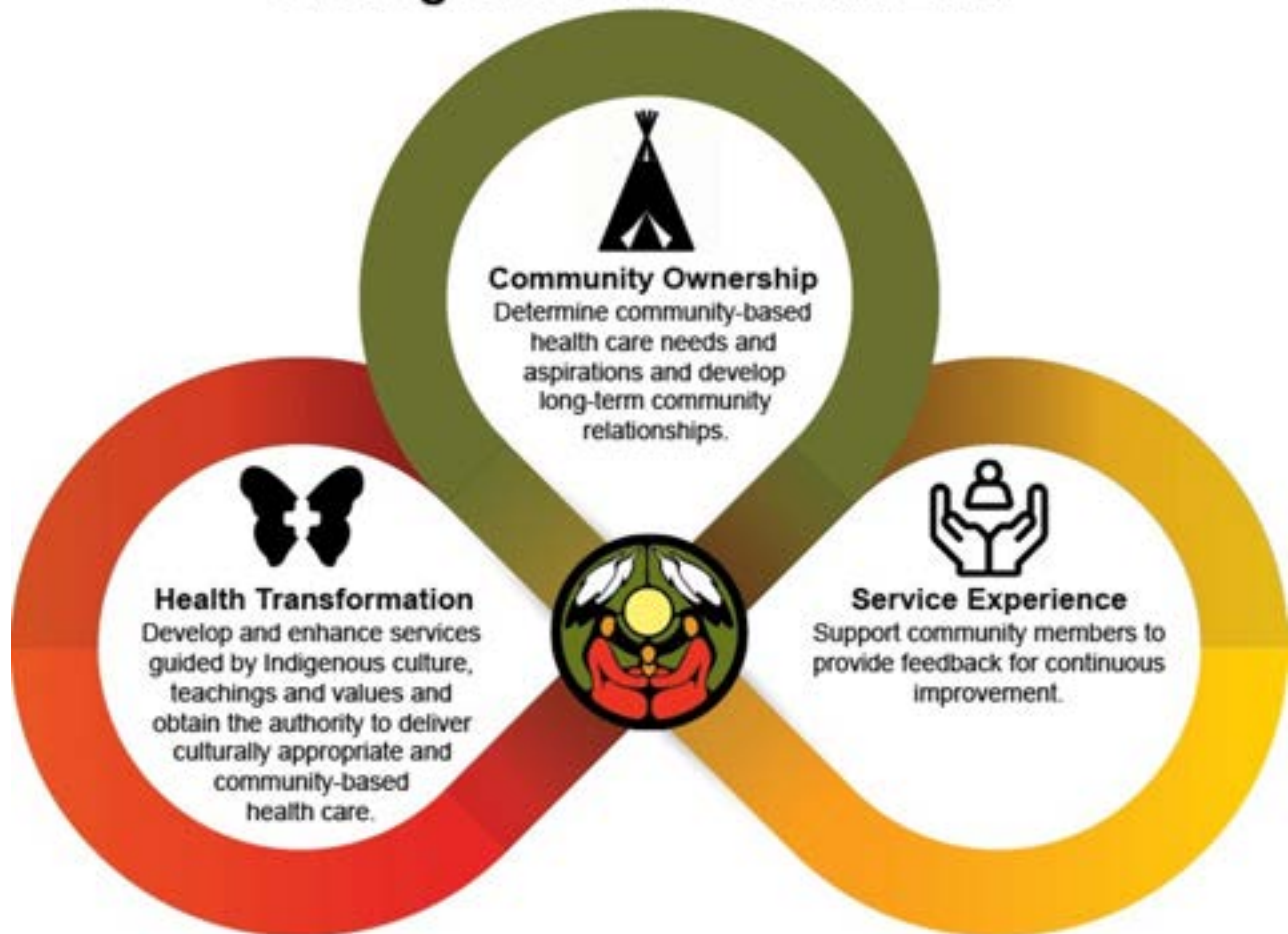


## MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

### 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

In 2021, the SLFNHA Board, CCOH and Tribal Council representatives developed our 5-year strategic plan which was approved by the Chiefs in Assembly in 2021 (*Resolution 21-16 - 2022-2027 Five Year Strategic Plan*). This is the road map that we have set forth for the organization in order to move toward our vision of “Resilient and healthy Nations supported on their path to wellness”.

### Strategic Directions 2022-2027



# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING

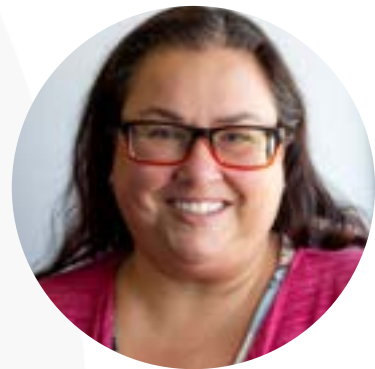


## MESSAGE FROM SLFNHA CEO & PRESIDENT

As SLFNHA CEO and President, I would like to thank you for participating in this important meeting and providing your feedback and direction on how we move forward together to achieve a health care system based on First Nations sovereignty.

At the direction of Resolution 23-07, SLFNHA organized this meeting to support the CCOH and the SLFNHA Board in their strategic work. With this direction, I am committed to implementing the strategic directions at all levels within SLFNHA and working with all partners to strengthen relationships. It is essential that we do so at the direction of the communities through a Nation Driven Decision-Making process.

This work will be supported by a new Strategic Policy, Planning & Quality (SPPQ) team. The SPPQ team will provide technical support to the CEO & President, Board of Directors, Chiefs Council on Health (CCOH) and the Sioux Lookout area Chiefs. The team will be introduced in a phased approach with a primary focus on Health Transformation, Engagement & Partnerships, Policy, Planning, Research, Data & Knowledge Exchange, and Quality Assurance (including Service Excellence).



**Sonia Isaac-Mann**

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING



## **FACILITATOR** **HAROLD TARBELL**

Harold Tarbell (Akwesasne Mohawk), Tarbell Facilitation Network (<http://tarbell.ca>) has successfully provided independent facilitation, strategic planning and conference moderation services over the last 20 years in order to support Indigenous peoples having a voice in decisions that affect them at the national, regional and local levels. His career includes serving as an elected Tribal Chief on the US/Southern portion of his home community, Chief of Staff to former National Chief Ovide Mercredi, and a Director of the federal government's Aboriginal labour market development program. He has facilitated numerous economic development and corporate relationship events and projects including serving as co-author of "The Anishinabek Nation Economy: Our Economic Blueprint. He currently serves as the Speaker and Co-Chair for the Assembly of First Nations annual and special Chiefs' Assemblies. He is a resident in Coast Salish Territory.



## MEETING OVERVIEW

The goal of this meeting is to obtain community feedback and direction to guide the CCOH in their strategic directions including:

- Position Paper on First Nations Authority and Control over Health.
- CCOH 5-Point Strategy
- CCOH Proposed Process

### Background

#### *Position Statement (2023)*

In 2023, two Special Joint Meetings were coordinated with participation of Elders, the SLFNHA Board, CCOH, and Tribal Councils. The focus of the meetings was to discuss Health Transformation and to help determine how to move forward in the region. From these discussions, elements of a strategy were put into a Draft Position Statement.

### **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 fail 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 off -load 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 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 SLFNHA 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.



## MEETING OVERVIEW

### CCOH 5 Point Strategy on First Nations Authority and Control Over Health

1. Nation Driven Decision-Making processes
2. Systems Planning through multi-lateral negotiations
3. Identification of the role of transfer/devolution
4. Assert our Traditional Governance and Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights
5. Legal Strategy to Address Discrimination in the health care system.

### Resolution 23-07

At the SLFNHA 2023 AGM, the Chiefs in Assembly Passed Resolution 23-07 adopting the Position Statement and the recommendation to host a Special Chiefs and Elders meeting on Health Transformation to further develop a full position paper and strategy.

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING



## 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 Beardsy, Wawakaewin First Nation

Decision: CARRIED

SLFNHA Board Chair:

  
Howard Meshake

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING



## CCOH PROPOSED PROCESS



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

### First Nations Authority & Control Over Health

#### Approved Strategy\*

##### 5-Point Strategy

- 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.

#### Proposed Process

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

##### Goals

##### Outcome

##### Nation-Driven Decision Making Process

- Regional Decision-Making and Consensus Building Process
- Kanawenimitsiisowin Engagement Process
- Clear roles and responsibilities between supporting organizations

##### System Planning & Trilateral Negotiations

- Supports for community health plans and grassroots engagement.
- Regional Health Framework (Action Plan) Based on Community Priorities
- Community-driven Trilateral Negotiations to fill regional health gaps.

##### Rights-Based Approach

- Legal & Advocacy Strategy developed to protect rights, address discrimination, and assert Traditional Governance

**First Nations  
Authority  
& Control  
Over Health**

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

# SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING



## CCOH PROPOSED PROCESS





## AGENDA - DAY 1

### OPENING CEREMONIES AND REMARKS

We will open the Special Chiefs and Elders Meeting in a good way and in accordance with our protocols. We are honoured and grateful to be hosted by Eagle Lake First Nation and to be welcomed with a drum and opening prayer. This will be followed by opening remarks from leadership and Elders who will set the stage for the important discussions and dialogue over the two days.

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Transformation of the health care system for First Nations has occurred at various levels and has involved many Indigenous leaders and experts along the way. Communities have directed and contributed to this work as they are the owners of the process. The sharing of knowledge and experiences as part of the history of health transformation will include the following presenters:

**Sol Mamakwa** – A member Kingfisher Lake First Nation. In 2016 in his role as SLFNHA Board Chair, Sol had a vision for Health Transformation and was instrumental in initiating the process. Once he became the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for the Kiiwetinoong riding, his advocacy for First Nations has been broadened to address barriers in all systems impacting First Nations. Sol will share his experiences and wisdom in advocating for First Nations sovereignty and decolonization of current systems.



Sol Mamakwa



## AGENDA - DAY 1

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

**Ovide Mercredi** – a National leader in his previous roles of National Chief, Chief of Misipawastik Cree Nation and National Spokesperson for Treaties 1 to 11. Ovide also held the position of NAN Health Transformation Lead and Negotiator from 2016-2021. Ovide currently serves as an advisor to SLFNHA to support transformation at a regional level and to support the CCOH in the development of their strategy. Ovide will share his experiences and expertise in political advocacy and negotiations.



Ovide  
Mercredi

**Mae Katt** – Mae has extensive clinical work experience in the NAN territory. She is a Nurse Practitioner who brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for health and wellness. Mae has worked as an advisor to both NAN and SLFNHA in the area of Health Transformation and nursing strategy development. Mae will share her experiences and the teachings she has received along way from Elders, Knowledge Keepers and the many health experts at the community level.



Mae Katt

### TRIBAL COUNCIL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION UPDATES

Each Tribal Council takes a unique approach to health transformation as they work closely with their communities. Tribal Councils will share what health transformation looks like for their communities, and the innovations and priorities that make up “health transformation in action.”

### FIRST NATIONS POLITICAL PARTNERS

NAN and Grand Council Treaty #3 have been invited to share their Health Transformation processes.

### LUNCH



## AGENDA - DAY 1

### SLFNHA HEALTH JOURNEY AND MOVING FORWARD

Despite the many colonial barriers that exist, SLFNHA has seen successes in transforming the health care system since its establishment in 1990. SLFNHA continues to be guided by its mission of transforming the health of Anishinabe people across Keewaytinook by providing community-led services with a strong voice for their community needs.

The SLFNHA Executive will provide an update on the many innovative and wholistic approaches to improving the regional health care system. To move forward together, it is essential that all partners are working together in a coordinated way to address common priorities and develop solutions at all levels. SLFNHA will provide an update on the regional partnership and engagement process.



**Sonia Isaac-Mann**  
Chief Executive Officer  
& President



**Janet Gordon**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Brian Calleja**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Monica Hemeon**  
Chief Administrative  
Officer

### OVERVIEW OF CCOH STRATEGY

The CCOH will provide a history and overview of their work as a Chiefs Council in relation to health transformation and First Nations health sovereignty. This will include an overview of the pathway to First Nations Authority and Control over Health and a Proposed Process based on Nation-Driven Decision Making (*see page 14 for Proposed Process*).

## AGENDA - DAY 1

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Systems Planning through Multi-Lateral Negotiations: The BC Experience - First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)**

**Richard Jock** is a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne and serves as the CEO of the FNHA. Richard has held various positions as a First Nations advocate in health and wellness over the last 25 years including for First Nations organizations and the federal government. Richard will share experiences and lessons learned from the FNHA health transformation process with a focus on systems planning and negotiations.



Richard Jock

#### **Assert our Traditional Governance and Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights**

**Samuel McKay** is a proud member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and currently serves as the SLFNHA Board Co-Chair. Samuel is a strong advocate for First Nation's rights and he was also a member of the KI-6, a group of 6 community members were were jailed for protecting and fighting for their lands. Samuel has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Dibenjikewin Onaakonikewin (KIDO). Samuel will provide a grassroots community perspective on asserting traditional governance.



Samuel McKay

**Sara Mainville** is a Partner at JFK Law LLP situated in Toronto, ON. She is a proud member of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3 and Couchiching First Nation. She has been called to the Ontario bar since 2005 and went to Queen's Law (LL.B) and UofT (LL.M).



Sara Mainville

## AGENDA - DAY 1

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Legal Strategy to Address Discrimination in the health care system**

Cindy Blackstock a Gitksan activist for child welfare and executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. Cindy will share her experience and work on the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal landmark human rights ruling which found Canada guilty of discriminating against First Nations children. Cindy will share the lessons learned in this area to inform discussions on addressing systemic racism in the health care system.



Cindy  
Blackstock

### QUESTION AND DISCUSSION PERIOD

#### **DINNER - FISH FRY**

Served by Eagle Lake Chief's Men's Hockey Team



## AGENDA - DAY 2

Day 2 will focus on hearing back from Chiefs and Elders and will be an opportunity to provide their thoughts and directions for moving forward. This will include getting feedback on:

- The proposed process for First Nations Authority and Control over Health
- Further development of the CCOH Strategy
- Development of a full position paper to be presented at SLFNHA 2024 AGM for approval before delivering to both levels of government.

### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

The morning will be organized into 5 breakout sessions based on each of the pillars of the CCOH-Strategy. This discussion will help to further develop the strategy and to inform the development of a full position paper.

### **LUNCH**

### **BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS**

Groups will report back on their discussions during the breakout sessions.

#### **CCOH 5 Point Strategy on First Nations Authority and Control Over Health**

- 1) Nation Driven Decision-Making processes
- 2) Systems Planning through multi-lateral negotiations
- 3) Identification of the role of transfer/devolution
- 4) Assert our Traditional Governance and Protect our Treaty and Inherent Rights
- 5) Legal Strategy to Address Discrimination in the health care system.

### **OPEN FORUM**

The open forum will be an opportunity to have strategic discussions on moving forward in a process for achieving First Nations sovereignty over health for the Sioux Lookout area First Nations. The objective is to reach consensus on moving together on a pathway forward which connects various processes and recognizes the strengths and achievements at all levels.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**





# **SPECIAL CHIEFS & ELDERS MEETING**

First Nations Authority and  
Control over Health