

Every year, youth from remote First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario leave their families and communities to reside in larger urban centres like Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout in order to pursue a high school education that is not available to them in their home communities. The Seven First Nations Youth Inquest, which was held at the Thunder Bay Courthouse from October 5th, 2015 to June 28th, 2016, examined the circumstances of seven youth from these communities who died between the years 2000-2011 while attending school in Thunder Bay. The Inquest closely examined various issues including, but not limited to, the social determinants of health, the communities where the youth came from, the historical education system that has been available, and the current needs of the students.

On June 28th, 2016 the Jury released 145 Recommendations which were directed to a number of different parties, including: Canada (Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada), The City of Thunder Bay, Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (“DFCHS”), Health Canada, Keewatinook Okimakanak (“KO”), Liquor Control Board of Ontario (“LCBO”), Matawa Learning Centre (“MLC”), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (“NAN”), Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (“NAPS”), Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (“NNEC”), The Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation), P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay, and the Thunder Bay Police Service (“TBPS”). NNEC and DFCHS collectively received 25 specific recommendations.

In the year since the release of the recommendations a significant commitment of time towards collaboration between many of the parties has been made to not only address their own recommendations, but to help assist other parties towards the implementation of recommendations. We believe that this speaks to the importance and determination that the parties have committed to ensuring that the obstacles to implementing these recommendations are addressed. NNEC is committed to continuing with these collaborative efforts to find solutions to implement the recommendations so that the highest level of student safety is achieved.

All but one of the students who died tragically were attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School at the time of their passing, including: Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper, Kyle Morriveau, Paul Panacheese, and Curran Strang. As a result, NNEC has been tasked with the implementation of 24 recommendations, while DFCHS has been tasked with the implementation of 16 recommendations as a result of the Inquest. The immediate implementation of these recommendations is paramount to NNEC and DFCHS, as the safety and well-being of our students is our primary concern. To this end, we have assigned an Inquest Coordinator whose purpose is to work with NNEC senior level staff, named partners, and other organizations to oversee the prompt and proper implementation of each of these recommendations.

As will be made evident in the following report, NNEC and DFCHS have gone to great lengths to implement the recommendations to improve the safety of students who attend NNEC administered high schools. It should be noted that this document should be regarded as a joint report on the recommendations assigned to both NNEC and DFCHS, since NNEC is the organization that oversees and manages any activity that is undertaken at DFCHS. It should also be noted that there is only one recommendation where NNEC is not listed alongside DFCHS (#116).

While there has been some progress achieved since the release of the 145 Inquest Recommendations last June, there continues to be major obstacles that NNEC faces which significantly hinder our efforts to fully implement our assigned recommendations. Some of the obstacles include, but are not limited to:

- NNEC still does not receive sufficient, ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding. The funding that NNEC receives is still year to year and largely proposal based. NNEC continues to struggle financially to deliver high quality educational programming and other crucial supports to our youth.
- There appears to be a reluctance by certain branches of Government to change many critical policies relating to First Nation's education.
- DFCHS still faces the same infrastructure problems that were discussed in the evidence at the Inquest. If anything, these infrastructure problems have only become a greater concern and an increasing challenge to NNEC operations. We can no longer get parts for the old boiler in the school, there are still issues concerning asbestos, the outdoor lighting is obsolete, there is an area on the school property where PCB's are an issue, and regrettably, we have been informed by the Superior Secondary Schools Athletic Association ("SSSAA") that our gymnasium can no longer host SSSAA championship events for volleyball and basketball as both gymnasiums are not large enough and pose safety concerns.
- NNEC still does not have a Student Living Centre to accommodate the students who have to come from their communities to reside in The City of Thunder Bay. This continues to be a safety issue as NNEC has to rely upon boarding homes to supervise and accommodate students afterhours.

NNEC has been requested by Canada to provide a work plan to address the Inquest Recommendations. Having undertaken a thorough review of the 145 Inquest Recommendations, NNEC drafted and submitted a work plan which identified the immediate, short-term, and long-term actions that will need to be undertaken in order to assist NNEC with the implementation of our respective recommendations. NNEC has not received a formal response to our proposed work plan to date but we remain optimistic that we will receive a positive response in the very near future.

Recommendation #6

Description of Recommendation:

In order to commemorate the lives of Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Paul Panacheese, Robyn Harper, Reggie Bushie, Kyle Morrissette and Jordan Wabasse, and in consultation with their families, memorial scholarships should be awarded to students in high school who excel at the talents in which the seven youths were gifted.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NAN Leadership has stressed that they want to undergo proper protocol in approaching the remaining parents of the deceased so that it is not seen as invasive. Further talks with NAN Community Wellness will ensure that proper protocol is adhered to.
- NNEC in partnership with NAN has engaged the Panacheese family to initiate the conversation around the type of scholarship that would best honour the life of the late Paul Panacheese.
- NAN is waiting on the release of further funding from Canada and Ontario to cover the costs of travel and accommodations so that each respective party can begin/continue to consult the families of the deceased in the comfort of their home communities.
- NNEC is waiting on a formal commitment from Canada and Ontario towards an annual allotment of funding for each of the respective memorial scholarships.

Recommendation #7

Description of Recommendation:

In moving forward with any initiatives that respond to the Inquest Recommendations, the parties should be guided by the following statements:

- i. All of the Treaty Partners, including Indigenous communities and governments, Canada and Ontario, must respect the treaty rights of others and work together towards fulfilling treaty obligations;
- ii. First Nations governments exercise inherent control over their education systems;
- iii. First Nation communities seek to have greater responsibility to govern their own spiritual, cultural, social, and economic affairs;
- iv. Without the improvement of conditions in First Nations reserve communities, a gap in education outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will remain;
- v. Canada should support individual First Nations communities as they develop local solutions to the effects of colonial policy; and
- vi. In order to ensure timely delivery of publicly funded services to First Nations children, where jurisdictional divisions or disputes within or between governments threaten to delay or impede the provision of services, Jordan's Principle should apply

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC continues to adhere by the guiding principles (i.-vi.) stated in Section II under Recommendation #7 in moving forward with Inquest Recommendations.

Recommendation #49

Description of Recommendation:

In order to provide students from First Nations communities in NAN Territory and their families with firsthand information regarding the community supports and opportunities that are available when they attend school in Thunder Bay, consult with other community partners to encourage and facilitate visits by those community partners to the NAN communities to speak and engage with students prior to their move to Thunder Bay.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC travels to the First Nations communities that we serve each year to provide first-hand information regarding community supports and opportunities that are available to students while they are in Thunder Bay.
- NNEC has requested additional funding that is ongoing, predictable, and reliable through the work plan submitted to Canada in order to bring additional professionals to these communities to help inform students, parents, and communities about the additional supports available to them in Thunder Bay.

Recommendation #51

Description of Recommendation:

Canada, NNEC and MLC should form a working group to establish a mutually beneficial relationship in regards to sharing resources in one central facility in Thunder Bay.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, NNEC, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

2 (Under Consideration)

Actions Towards Implementation:

NNEC is prepared to participate in a working group with Canada and MLC to further discuss the potential for opportunities for sharing resources; though NNEC prefers to pursue our own Student Living Centre pursuant to recommendation #59.

Recommendation #60

Description of Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay should work with NNEC to ensure that any zoning and by-law issues that may arise for the construction of facilities can be avoided or resolved.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC and The City of Thunder Bay

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC has begun preliminary discussions with The City of Thunder Bay with regards to matters relating to by-laws and zoning.

Recommendation #64

Description of Recommendation:

In order to improve education outcomes of First Nations youth who attend secondary school in Thunder Bay and to develop important values, in consultation with NNEC, KO, DFCHS, Pelican Falls First Nations High School (“PFFNHS”) and MLC, provide on-going, predictable and reliable funding to ensure that there is an appropriate staff complement and programs to address the cultural needs of DFCHS, PFFNHS and MLC students starting for the 2016-2017 school year, including:

- i. Appropriate ratio of education assistants to students;
- ii. Appropriate number of Elders (male and female) to be available during school hours;
- iii. Dedicated space for the Elders to spend time with students and resources for the activities that they wish to engage in with the students;
- iv. Curriculum development that supports language, culture and traditional activities;
- v. Regular professional development for teachers with respect to how to incorporate traditional language, culture and activities in day-to-day teaching;
- vi. Additional staff member or members required for each school whose sole role is to take the lead in teaching traditional skills, culture and land based learning;
- vii. Funding for land-based learning; and
- viii. Funding to facilitate the development and implementation of Ojibway/Cree immersion programming

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

3 (Unresolved Issues)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Regrettably, NNEC is still forced to pursue proposal based funding to address the highly important cultural needs of students that attend NNEC schools.
- Whereas this recommendation suggests that this commence for the 2016-2017 school year, NNEC is still advocating for ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding to cover the costs of these needs.

Recommendation #65

Description of Recommendation:

All intake forms, behaviour contracts, report cards and any other documentation that is given to the parents regarding their children should be provided to them in their preferred language.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC has requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding for document translation into Indigenous languages in the work plan that was submitted to Canada. Once funding is secured, NNEC will move forward with this recommendation.
- This will be a substantial undertaking as any required documentation will need to be translated into Ojibwae, Cree, and Ojicree annually.

Recommendation #71

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure that any special needs or supports required for First Nations students are identified and addressed while attending secondary school in Thunder Bay, ensure that funding and resources are in place upon arrival of students in Thunder Bay to identify:

- i. Special education needs;
- ii. Substance and/or alcohol abuse issues;
- iii. Mental health issues; and
- iv. Any other supports required, including gaps in academic achievements that require additional supports or additional time for achieving necessary credit for graduation

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

3 (Unresolved issues)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- While NNEC does what it can to ensure that students with special needs (educational, physical, mental, or otherwise) are properly supported while they are attending our schools, a major lack of funding makes it very challenging. NNEC is looking to expand the current program to be more comprehensive.
- In the work plan that was submitted to Canada, NNEC has requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding for assistance from a Child Psychiatrist, a Registered Psychologist, Clinical Psychological Services, a Nurse Practitioner, as well as funding to help cover the costs associated with student treatment and rehabilitation programs. These services will help NNEC best support our youth when they leave their communities for school.

Recommendation #73

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure that students receive orientation at the time of their arrival as well as ongoing support as they transition to life in Thunder Bay, in addition to the current orientation sessions conducted by DFCHS, MLC, the City of Thunder Bay and other community partners, new students should be partnered with peer mentors who have experience in Thunder Bay and are willing to assist with day-to-day issues that may arise, including:

- i. Resisting negative peer pressure;
- ii. Reporting incidents of racism;
- iii. Encouraging students to attend school and apply themselves to their studies;
- iv. Reporting concerns regarding boarding homes;
- v. Promoting healthy lifestyles; and
- vi. Organizing activities to reduce risk factors

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC is in the process of creating a Peer Mentor program that will be effective for the 2017-2018 School Year, so that older more experienced students can help younger students transition to life away from home in a large urban centre. The program will help deter new students from high-risk behaviour, and will encourage new students to resist negative peer pressure, help to understand how to deal with potential incidents of racism, encourage students to attend school and be successful in their studies, report any concerns regarding boarding home accommodations, and help to encourage new students to pursue a healthy active lifestyle.

- NNEC has requested funding that is ongoing, predictable, and reliable through the work plan that was submitted to Canada to help cover some of the costs that will be incurred due to this program.

Recommendation #81

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure the safety of all First Nation students while going to school on-reserve or off-reserve, conduct annual training of all staff and boarding parents associated with First Nation schools with respect to:

- i. Recognition, management and care of intoxicated students;
- ii. Crisis intervention;
- iii. Suicide prevention; and
- iv. First aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Implementation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC staff currently receive First Aid training, On-Call training, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (A.S.I.S.T.), though we are pursuing funding for further training to ensure that our staff and boarding home parents are best equipped to ensure the safety of our First Nations students while they are away from their communities for school.
- NNEC has requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding through the work plan that was submitted to Canada which will help cover the costs of annual staff (when appropriate) and boarding home parent training in areas including but not limited to: intoxicated students, crisis intervention, first aid, and suicide prevention training.

Recommendation #83

Description of Recommendation:

In order to increase awareness regarding risks related to alcohol, substance and solvent use and ensure consistent mandatory education of First Nations students attending school in Thunder Bay, in consultation with local community partners, including the Centres for Addiction and Mental Health, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Dilico ensure that students are provided with regular, appropriate, accurate, up-to-date information relating to:

- i. The health and social issues associated with alcohol, substance and solvent use;
- ii. The legal consequences of underage drinking;
- iii. The resources available in the community to address issues relating to alcohol, substance and solvent use;
- iv. Current misconceptions relating to “accepted” drinking practices (ie: drinking homebrew vs spirits); and
- v. The importance of assisting and staying with intoxicated peers and reporting any concerns to boarding parents, on-call workers, and other support workers

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- DFCHS currently has a partnership with Dilico that enables two of their “Youth Outreach Workers” to run an after school program to provide support, educate, and increase the awareness among students about the consequences of high risk behaviour. This program also facilitates activities at the school to keep our youth engaged and conversely away from high risk behaviour. Each semester students are also involved in the “Prevent Alcohol & Risk-related Trauma in Youth” (P.A.R.T.Y.) program at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, which helps to act as a strong deterrent of high-risk behaviour.

- Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) also works with DFCHS to provide after school programming to increase awareness of high-risk behaviour among the youth while offering other after school alternatives for youth to engage in, though this programming is more intermittent.
- NNEC is continuing to pursue and build additional partnerships to provide additional services to keep our youth safe.

Recommendation #84

Description of Recommendation:

In order to allow students to continue their education in Thunder Bay while dealing with substance or alcohol issues, in consultation with local community partners, NNEC, KO and MLC should continue to develop harm reduction programs to address alcohol and substance use by students at their schools. The development of such programs should consider including a day program (if necessary) or a course option for students at the school. Canada should sufficiently fund NNEC, KO and MLC for these activities.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

3 (Unresolved issues)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC has requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding to develop a Harm Reduction Strategic Plan through the work plan that was submitted to Canada. After this funding is secured, NNEC will draft and finalize this framework in consultation with community partners in order to help develop individual student care plans to address any alcohol or substance abuse issues that students may be faced with.

Recommendation #85

Description of Recommendation:

In order to assist First Nations students in Thunder Bay with alcohol/substance use and addiction problems, in consultation with community partners, including the Centres for Addiction and Mental Health, Dilico, and St. Joseph's Care Group, explore alternatives to sending students back to their home communities, including treatment programs that would allow students to pursue their studies in Thunder Bay.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC currently explores whatever alternatives are available to allow students to receive the assistance they need which will still enable them to pursue their studies rather than be sent home to their communities.
- Once NNEC is able to secure ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding to develop a Harm Reduction Strategic Plan for students that suffer from alcohol and/or substance abuse issues, NNEC will be more apt to explore additional alternatives to sending these students home due to their health and safety issues.
- Ongoing conversations with important community partners such as the Centres for Addiction and Mental Health, Dilico, and St. Josephs Care Group continue to be pivotal to the development of this framework and consequent treatment programs.

Recommendation #86

Description of Recommendation:

In order to increase awareness of DFCHS and MLC students regarding the risks associated with the purchase of alcohol through second party purchasers (“runners”), consider incorporating the Crimestoppers video made by DFCHS students into the orientation session held upon the arrival of new students in Thunder Bay each September. If the Crimestoppers video is not incorporated, include information in the orientation regarding the risks associated with the purchase of alcohol through second party purchasers.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- At the start of the 2017-2018 school year, DFCHS will implement the usage of the DFCHS Crimestopper’s Video each semester during student orientation to showcase the risks students face when coming into contact with second party purchasers of alcohol (runners). Further discussion around these risks will continue after viewing.

Recommendation #87

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure continuity of care and increased prospect (where desired) of a return to Thunder Bay for those students who are sent back due to health and safety concerns, make all efforts to ensure that community supports, including a continuing education, health and mental health plan, are in place prior to sending a student back to his or her home community. Canada and Ontario should ensure that there is sufficient funding and resources in place for these support programs.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

3 (Unresolved issues)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Once NNEC is able to acquire ongoing, predictable and reliable resources from Canada to support the development of a Harm Reduction Strategic Plan, leading to the further development of Student Care Plans, NNEC will be better able to ensure that the proper supports are in place for students that are heading back to their home communities.
- NNEC offers education plans through our WAHSA Distance Education program for high-risk students that are sent home before the end of the semester.

Recommendation #90

Description of Recommendation:

In order for First Nations youth to have a voice regarding decisions relating to their education off-reserve, and to ensure that there is accountability in decisions made regarding their education and well-being, NNEC, KO, and MLC, with the support of Canada and NAN, should consider creating a special seat on their Boards of Directors for a youth representative who is a student or former student of DFCHS or MLC under the age of 25. Canada should provide the funding for any costs associated with this position.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

2 (Under consideration)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- While NNEC youth currently participate in crucial decisions regarding their education and well-being while they are off-reserve for school, the creation of a special seat for a youth representative on NNEC's Board of Directors will be under review at the next Annual General Meeting.

Recommendation #91

Description of Recommendation:

In order to ensure timely reporting of missing students and consistent practice among institutions when students are reported missing or during sudden death investigations, the City of Thunder Bay; TBPS; NAN; NAPS; NNEC; DFCHS; KO; and MLC should establish a working group to discuss best practices applicable to their respective roles pertaining to students from remote First Nations communities attending secondary school in Thunder Bay (“Students”). The working group should consider:

- i. **The need to ensure timely reporting to police of all missing person matters that involve a Student:** The working group should review and revise current education authority policies and procedures in order to generate a consistent set of policies. In particular, the document entitled Missing Student Protocol Guide [Exhibit Number 133 at Tab 31] should be reviewed and revised with the benefit of information learned at the joint inquest to help generate a consistent set of policies and procedures. The revised set of policies and procedures, once agreed upon, should be disseminated to - and adopted by – NNEC, KO and MLC. The revised procedures should include language that directs education authority employees to file a missing person report with police as soon as any member of the education authority determines that a search needs to be undertaken for a student whose whereabouts are unknown;
- ii. **Public awareness:** The working group should discuss implementation of a public information campaign emphasizing the importance of reporting missing person matters to police without delay;
- iii. **Information Sheets:** The working group should discuss the preparation of information forms for all Students to be stored with education authorities. The working group should also review the steps necessary to obtain appropriate consent to disseminate these individual forms to police in the event that a missing person report is filed;
- iv. **Social Media Search:** The working group should consider how to utilize social media to assist in missing person searches and should designate roles and responsibilities for all parties accordingly;
- v. **Press Releases:** The working group should discuss approaches to press releases pertaining to any missing person matter that involves a Student. The working group should also discuss approaches to press releases in the event that a Student is found deceased. The working group should discuss the various circumstances that may influence when media releases should or should not go out. The working group should also discuss circumstances that may influence how a media release may need to be worded;

vi. **Best Practices for Interviews:** The working group should discuss best practices to facilitate interviews of young people in exigent, non-criminal, circumstances. The working group should also discuss best practices to facilitate interviews in exigent, non-criminal, matters with individuals of any age who may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable dealing with individuals in positions of authority;

vii. **Internal Search Plans:** The working group should ensure that appropriate participant institutions have an internal search plan that can be implemented if a Student goes missing. Without limiting the generality of what the internal plans may include:

- a. Internal search plans should identify pre-determined internal points of contact to act as information coordinators and liaisons to third parties in the event of a missing person search involving a visiting student;
- b. Internal search plans should set out a clear supervisory structure so that each institution is able to identify an individual(s) who will ensure that the internal search plan is properly executed;
- c. Internal search plans should set out how information will be provided to family members and will contain provisions that permit family members to identify third parties to act as their agents/advocates as they prefer. The plan should ensure that more than one individual can be designated by family members to receive information where necessary;
- d. Internal search plans should also set out how employees will share information externally with any other relevant institutions, political bodies or family members;
- e. All internal search plans should contemplate the possible arrival of community searchers and how to manage such volunteers. Internal search plans should explain best search practices for non-police searchers with particular emphasis on, among other things, evidence preservation;

viii. **Global Search Plans:** The working group should also ensure that each internal search plan dovetails into a larger global search plan that should be implemented by all participant institutions in the event that a Student goes missing:

- a. Global search plans should adopt pre-determined points of contact within each institution that are consistent with the internal search plans discussed above;
- b. Global search plans should include at least one Appendix that will contain a handout listing the best practices for community searchers discussed above. This document can be disseminated to community searchers as needed;

ix. **Missing person risk factors:** The working group should share expertise on risk factors that may need to be considered when assessing the risk level in a missing person matter that involves a Student. The working group should create a list of risk factors that should be considered by all parties. The revised risk factors should be shared among participants and, once agreed upon by all, imported into the forthcoming TBPS 2016 missing person procedure as well as all internal search plans;

x. The working group should also review the revised TBPS missing person questionnaire that arises under the 2016 missing person policy and should consider what revisions, if any, should be made based on: (i) the expertise obtained by education authorities arising out of their own search efforts and (ii) information contained in search forms prepared by other police services that may be available by way of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, including but not limited to, the Ontario Provincial Police;

xi. **Training:** The working group should fix deadlines for completion of staff training on all issues as follows:

a. Parties other than the TBPS should ensure that all staff are fully trained on revised procedures within 1-year from the completion of the working group deliverables; and

b. TBPS will ensure that all of its members are trained on the forthcoming revised 2016 missing person policy by December 31, 2016;

xii. The working group should prepare an anonymized training case scenario based on evidence canvassed at, and lessons learned from, the joint inquest. The case scenario should be used to assist in training TBPS officers, education authority staff and NAPS officers to participate in investigations relating to Students which may involve:

a. Civilian search teams;

b. Alcohol or substance use;

c. Reports made to police after the whereabouts of the subject individual have been unknown for a lengthy period of time;

d. Interviews involving young people who may be reluctant to speak to police officers fearing that they may get in trouble or may be betraying the confidence of their friends; or

e. Cultural and systemic barriers that may limit the fulsome disclosure of information to persons in positions of authority; and

xiii. The working group should identify an appropriate external consultant to be hired to assist the TBPS (and any other interested organizations) to revise current training modules to ensure that curriculum covers cultural issues that are relevant to members of the Indigenous community in and around Thunder Bay and:

a. TBPS will also present an annual report on training to the Police Services Board to provide the public with information on police training. This report will be made during the public session and will include, among other things, a summary of the number of officers who completed training courses in different policing areas and will include information about training curriculum related to Indigenous issues.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

NAN, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- On June 5th, members from the respective parties met and discussed and reviewed the terms of reference for this recommendation. Preliminary discussions around next steps and potential action items were also discussed at this time.
- On an internal level, NNEC has asked for funding to develop an Internal Search Plan document in the work plan that was submitted to Canada. This plan will help NNEC to set out a clear supervisory structure that will ensure that the search plan is properly executed. It will help to inform NNEC staff about proper communication with family members, how to handle confidential information, proper management of search party volunteers and will help to illustrate best practices while carrying out search parties; including but not limited to the preservation of evidence.
- NNEC has also requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funding from Canada to undertake any necessary training that will be required as a result of the creation of the Internal Search Plan document.

Recommendation #107

Description of Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay Aboriginal Liaison, NNEC, DFCHS, KO and MLC should work together -perhaps through designated contact people in the schools - to co-ordinate participation of DFCHS and MLC students in Thunder Bay recreation programs and City sponsored events that students may be interested in attending throughout the school year - for example, the use of skating rinks in the winter.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC is continuing to work with The City of Thunder Bay to get our students involved in recreation opportunities and City sponsored events that students may be interested in throughout the school year.

Recommendation #114

Description of Recommendation:

Consultations should occur between the City of Thunder Bay through the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, the TBPSB, Health Canada, the Ministries of Health and Long-term Care and Child and Youth Services, the Northwest Local Health Integration Network (“NWLHIN”), EMS, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (“TBRHSC”), NAN, NNEC, KO, Shibogama, Independent First Nations Alliance (“IFNA”) and MLC in order to develop of an alternative facility for intoxicated Youth, including remote First Nation students who cannot return home until their intoxication level has subsided. Such an alternative facility could include a shelter or detox unit, open to Youth who are 25 years or younger, with appropriately trained staff.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, NNEC, KO, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC is ready and willing to participate in any consultations concerning the development of an alternative facility for intoxicated youth.
- On our own initiative, NNEC has requested ongoing, predictable, and reliable funds through the work plan submitted to Canada to develop and implement a detox facility for students in Thunder Bay who are intoxicated or are suffering from acute mental health issues and/or suicidal ideation, or other crisis. The facility will provide a safe space where qualified staff will help to support students who are suffering from these conditions, which will mitigate potential harm to NNEC students, boarding parents, and parents during times of crisis.

Recommendation #115

Description of Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NNEC, DFCHS, KO, IFNA, Shibogama and MLC should consult on the terms of reference for a safety audit of the river areas frequented by First Nation students and youth in the evenings. The consultation and resulting audit should be undertaken as soon as practicable. Subject to the findings of the audit, some possible responses to identified issues could include improved lighting, emergency button poles, under-bridge barricades, or increased police patrols.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Training and safety audits were conducted during a two day session (May 15-16) with Barry Horrobin (a professional in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, also known as “C.P.T.E.D.”) at the Thunder Bay Police Department, as well as in the community at the three river areas that were originally identified as high-risk.
- Participants from each group learned more about how the natural environment and other features can help or hinder criminal activity. A preliminary report is being expedited and is expected to be received by mid-June, which should lead to improvements in the community to increase visibility in these areas, reduce crime, and increase overall safety in the community of Thunder Bay.

Recommendation #116

Description of Recommendation:

In order to increase public awareness in the City of Thunder Bay regarding the issues raised during this Inquest, including the obstacles and challenges faced by First Nations students from remote communities who are residing in Thunder Bay, the City should work with First Nations expertise to develop a local and social media campaign as well as a public forum which highlights and addresses:

- i. The obstacles and challenges faced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- ii. The health and social issues often experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- iii. The subject of this Inquest through a discussion of the various roles and responsibilities of community partners and members of the community in assisting First Nations students in Thunder Bay;
- iv. The current misconceptions relating to First Nations students from remote communities who are residing in Thunder Bay;
- v. Racism experienced by First Nations students in Thunder Bay; and
- vi. Facilitates discussion regarding how to address and report racism towards First Nations students in Thunder Bay

Parties Named in Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, NAN, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/In Progress

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC has not yet been contacted by The City of Thunder Bay with regards to the implementation of this recommendation, though we look forward to collaboratively developing this campaign.

- Independently NNEC has requested funding through the work plan submitted to Canada in order to produce a video and other resources for a public awareness campaign. The video and other resources will help to illustrate the obstacles and challenges, health and social issues, misconceptions, and racism that students deal with while they are in the City of Thunder Bay for School.
- Funding will help to cover the costs of social media campaigns, promotional videos and potentially Dennis Franklin Cromarty's own Radio Station based out of the recording studio to advertise and educate the public on these matters.

Recommendation #117

Description of Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC should consult with community partners to arrange for speakers or skills instructors to attend the schools in order to make presentations on topics which are aimed to engage and provide information to the students.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

The City of Thunder Bay, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, and MLC

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- While NNEC already brings a wide array of guest speakers in for the benefit of our youth, we have requested additional funding that is ongoing, predictable, and reliable through the work plan submitted to Canada to cover the costs of additional guest speaking opportunities. We are hopeful that this funding will provide for additional visits from Elders, First Nations role models, and other important guests who will engage our youth, and teach them new skills and important leadership qualities.
- NNEC will consult with other community partners to arrange for local speakers or skills instructors to attend our schools to make presentations when it is possible.

Recommendation #143

Description of Recommendation:

All organizations that receive recommendations should prepare an annual report following up on the recommendations that:

- i. Indicates whether each recommendation is (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected;
- ii. Provides an explanation for any recommendations that are not accepted in whole or in part and indicates an alternative approach to achieve the same aim;
- iii. Indicates, for all recommendations that are accepted, whether implementation is (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete;
- iv. Provides a detailed update regarding the steps that have been taken and are planned with respect to the implementation of the accepted recommendations;
- v. Is sent by email to any person who requests to receive a copy; and
- vi. Is prepared each year for delivery at 10 a.m. on the anniversary date of the release of the inquest recommendations (until the party has provided an annual report indicating that all of the recommendations it received have either been rejected or implemented)

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- Information in this document is part of the annual report that will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Coroner and any other interested parties.

Recommendation #144

Description of Recommendation:

The organizations receiving recommendations should endeavour to agree on a process whereby the annual reports will be posted in a central location on the internet (e.g. on a website of one of the organizations). Acknowledging that the First Nations parties who receive recommendations have limited resources, those parties should prioritize actual actions responding to recommendations over reporting on those actions and should only be expected to provide annual reports if they have the resources to do so.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Pending

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1A (Recommendation *will* be implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC is in the process of consulting with the other named partners to determine which central location will be the most beneficial to post annual reports on the Inquest Recommendations of the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Recommendation #145

Description of Recommendation:

Organizations that accept recommendations should revise their current policies to reflect new tasks and procedures.

Parties Named in Recommendation:

Canada, Ontario, The City of Thunder Bay, TBPS, NAPS, NAN, NNEC, KO, DFCHS, MLC, LCBO, P.A.R.T.Y. Program of Thunder Bay and the Office of the Chief Coroner

Status of Recommendation:

Accepted/Complete

Ontario Chief Coroner Response Code:

1 (Recommendation *has* been implemented)

Actions Towards Implementation:

- NNEC has revised and will continue to revise our current policies to reflect new tasks and procedures as deemed appropriate due to accepted Inquest Recommendations.

**Responses to Jury Recommendations
Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26**

*(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,
Kyle Morriseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)*

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION #:

6, 7, 49, 51, 60, 64, 65, 71, 73, 81, 83 through 87, 90, 91, 107, 114,
115, 117, 143 through 145

****As a note to the reader, this document should be read in conjunction with the annual report published by NNEC pursuant to Recommendation 143.***

| REC. # | ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSE | O.C.C. RESPONSE CODE |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 7 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 49 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 51 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to the fact that it is still under consideration. | 2 |
| 60 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 64 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to unresolved issues. | 3 |
| 65 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to a lack of ongoing, reliable, and predictable | 1A |

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| | funding. Once funding is secured, NNEC will continue to work towards implementation of this recommendation. | |
| 71 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to a lack of ongoing, reliable, and predictable funding. Once funding is secured, NNEC will continue to work towards implementation of this recommendation. | 3 |
| 73 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 81 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 83 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 84 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to unresolved issues. | 3 |
| 85 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 86 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 87 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to unresolved issues. | 3 |
| 90 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to the fact that it is still under consideration. | 2 |
| 91 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to a lack of ongoing, reliable, and predictable funding. Once funding is secured, NNEC will continue to work towards implementation of this recommendation. | 1A |
| 107 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| | | |
| 114 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 115 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 117 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 143 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 144 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is contingent on agreement from each of the named parties on a central location that is regarded as mutually beneficial. | 1A |
| 145 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |

**Responses to Jury Recommendations
Seven First Nations Youths Inquest Q2016-26**

*(Jethro Anderson, Reggie Bushie, Robyn Harper,
Kyle Morriseau, Paul Panacheese, Curran Strang & Jordan Wabasse)*

DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY HIGH SCHOOL

RECOMMENDATION #:

7, 49, 73, 81, 83, 84, 87, 90, 91, 107, 115, 116, 117, 143 through
145

****As a note to the reader, this document should be read in conjunction with the annual report published by NNEC pursuant to Recommendation 143.***

| REC. # | ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSE | O.C.C. RESPONSE CODE |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 7 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 49 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 73 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 81 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 83 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 84 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to unresolved issues. | 3 |
| 87 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to unresolved issues. | 3 |

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 90 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to the fact that it is still under consideration. | 2 |
| 91 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is pending due to a lack of ongoing, reliable, and predictable funding. Once funding is secured, NNEC will continue to work towards implementation of this recommendation. | 1A |
| 107 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 115 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 116 | This recommendation has been accepted and is in progress towards implementation. | 1A |
| 117 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 143 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |
| 144 | This recommendation has been accepted though implementation is contingent on agreement from each of the named parties on a central location that is regarded as mutually beneficial. | 1A |
| 145 | This recommendation has been accepted and is complete. | 1 |