

JANUARY

2014



STAFF

Tischa Stefanowski,
Executive Director

Karen Chamakese,
Executive Assistant,
Finance Officer

Dean Weenie,
Training & Development
Coordinator

Shelley Thomas Prokop,
Policy Analyst

Laura Hicks,
SDM Consultant

OFFICE CLOSURE:

Monday, February 17, 2014
the office will be closed for
Family Day.

BOARD MEETING:

Thursday, March 6, 2014
starting at 10:00 am at the
Office of the Treaty
Commissioner Board Room
next door to the Institute
office.

Saskatchewan First Nations Family & Community Institute Inc.

VISION

Excellence in Child and Family Services based on First Nations Culture, Traditions, and Knowledge.

MISSION

The Institute will conduct research, deliver training and develop policies and best practice standards to support First Nations Child & Family Services Agencies in Saskatchewan.

SDM UPDATE

Laura is currently working with First Nations CFS Agencies on assessing needs and developing implementation plans for interested agencies on the SDM Model. She currently is working with the MSS Provincial Training Team and the MSS First Nations & Metis Unit for training and to learn more about the training delivered to the agencies. Touchwood and YTC CFS Agencies staff who have partially implemented SDM are offering great support in sharing their feedback and suggestions for other agency support. Thank you to Harvey Bitternose at Touchwood CFS and Myrna Whitehawk at YTC CFS for collaborating on ways to implement SDM for First Nations CFS Agencies.

Agencies that have expressed an interest in training and/or additional support include: Agency Chiefs, Athabasca, Qu'Appelle Beardy's & Okemasis, Kanawayimik, BTC, Meadow Lake, Ahtahkakoop, Peter Ballantyne, Montreal Lake and Nechapanuk. If you would like more information or schedule a consultation meeting feel free to contact Laura at: laura.hicks@firstnationsfamilyinstitute.ca or by phone at 306-373-2874 ext.224. Laura's earliest availability is April based on her existing schedule.

MEMBER SURVEY UPDATE

Dr. Raven Sinclair and her team were hired as external contractors to develop, administer and provide a report of the findings to assist the Institute staff and Board of Directors. This will help the Institute to prioritize research and policy areas of interest in which to focus on, as well as, identify professional development and training services as part of our on-going work plans and funding proposal submissions. The Member Survey was distributed at the three MSS/CFS Networking Forums (Central, South and North) this past January as well to the First Nations Group Home Managers Meeting. Administrative staff will have an opportunity to participate in the member survey at the February 12th HR Working Group Meeting in Saskatoon. If any agency staff are still interested in voicing an opinion and providing anonymous feedback to help the Institute plan future activities please contact Raven Sinclair at (306) 343-6676, (306) 260-4073, or ravsins@sasktel.net by the end of the day **Friday, February 14**. A report of the findings will be presented to the Institute Board for review at the March 6 Board Meeting.

MEMBER MEETING—March 5, 2014

The Institute is holding a member meeting for Agency Executive Directors to provide an update on Institute activities and seek feedback on 2014-15 initiatives and opportunities. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at Smiley's Buffet in Saskatoon. To register please contact Karen Chamakese at Chamakese@firstnationsfamilyinstitute.ca or at 306-373-2874 ext.221.

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For information & to register for training contact: dean.weenie@firstnationsfamilyinstitute.ca

HR Working Group Meeting #2

- February 12, 2014
- 9:30am – 4:00pm
- Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon

TCI Re-Certification

- February 20 & 21, 2014
- 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon

Transition Planning for Youth Meeting

- February 26, 2014
- 9:30am – 4:30pm
- Smiley's Buffet, Saskatoon (702 Circle Dr.)

Institute Member Meeting

- March 5, 2014
- 9:30am – 3:00pm
- Smiley's Buffet, Saskatoon (702 Circle Dr.)

FN Group Home & Network Meeting

- March 11, 2014
- 9:00am – 4:30pm
- Smiley's Buffet (702 Circle Dr. Saskatoon)

Research Advisory Committee Meeting

- March 13, 2014
- 12:30pm – 5:30pm
- Institute Board Room, Saskatoon



HR Policy Forum Meeting

Photo Left to Right:

Participants Virginia Ledoux Ahtahkakoop CFS, Cheryl Sanderson Ahtahkakoop CFS, and Bernice Aubichon from Meadow Lake CFS sit together brainstorming improvements to their HR policies and standards for their Agencies.

HR and Finance are two areas the Institute received project funding to support CFS Agencies in building upon existing operational capacities.