

NOVEMBER

2013



## 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

## BOARD MEETING

**Dec. 12, 2013: 10:00 AM**  
Travelodge Hotel,  
Saskatoon

## OFFICE CLOSURE

**Dec. 23, 2013—Jan. 5, 2014.**  
The Institute will be closed over  
Christmas holidays. We will  
re-open on Monday, January 6,  
2014.

**We wish everyone a safe and  
happy holiday season!**

# 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.*

## CUSTOMARY STANDARDS OF CARE

The Customary Standards of Care Manual for Saskatchewan First Nations Group Home, Assessment and Stabilization, Therapeutic and Treatment Programs was developed and completed by a working group including representation from First Nations Group Homes, First Nations Child & Family Services Agencies and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services in September 2009. The Standards were approved by Resolution (Reference No. 1758) at the FSIN Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2011.

A letter of equivalency was received on October 30, 2013 from the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Social Services recognizing these standards and the hard work put in by all people involved.

## NEW INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE — SDM CONSULTANT

Laura Hicks has accepted the position of SDM Consultant and will begin working at the Institute on Monday, December 9.

Laura's responsibilities will be to assist Agencies with developing implementation plans of the Structured Decision Making Model modules, along with providing training and support in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Please help us in welcoming Laura to the team!

## RESEARCH & POLICY UPDATE

The FNGH Working group has completed the initial review of the Customary Standards of Care. The Institute will now complete the suggested edits and meet again with the group in January to discuss the vetting process.

The FNGH working group identified eight core competencies in June 2013 for training front line workers, supervisors and managers. The Institute is working with MSS and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies to develop the curriculum. The pilot delivery is scheduled for March-April 2014.

The Culturally Relevant Practice study conversations are complete. Thanks to everyone who participated. The data will be rolled up and a report will be ready at the end of January 2014.

Thank you to Elder A. J. Felix for hosting a ceremony for the Research Advisory Committee and the Institute.

Thank you to the Elders and working groups who work with the Institute research and policy projects. Your commitment and experiences are critical to our success.

## TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For information & to register for training contact: [dean.weenie@firstnationsfamilyinstitute.ca](mailto:dean.weenie@firstnationsfamilyinstitute.ca)

Customary Standards of Care Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 3, 2013</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:00pm</li><li>• OTC Board Room, Saskatoon</li></ul>
HR Working Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 4, 2013</li><li>• 10:00am – 4:00pm</li><li>• Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon</li></ul>
FNCFS/MSS Supervisors Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• December 11, 2013</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:00pm</li><li>• Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon</li></ul>
FNGH Core Competencies Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 7, 2014</li><li>• 10:00am – 4:30pm</li><li>• OTC Board Room, Saskatoon</li></ul>
Yorkton CARF Accreditation Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 14, 15 &amp; 16, 2014</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:00pm daily <i>*closed session</i></li><li>• Home Inn &amp; Suites, Yorkton</li></ul>
FNFCFS/MSS Central Networking Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 21, 2014</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:30pm</li><li>• Tropical Inn, North Battleford</li></ul>
FNFCFS/MSS South Networking Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 23, 2014</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:30pm</li><li>• Delta Hotel, Regina</li></ul>
FNFCFS/MSS North Networking Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 30, 2014</li><li>• 9:00am – 4:30pm</li><li>• PA Golf &amp; Curling Club, Prince Albert</li></ul>

### MEMBER SURVEY

The Institute will be hiring a person to assist in obtaining feedback from agencies to help us prioritize our services and obtain feedback on our current activities. Surveys will occur at the 2014 Networking Meetings. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

### ATHABASCA DENESULINE GROUP HOME

Athabasca Denesuline will be opening up their Group Home on January 9, 2014. Congratulations to the Agency staff and their stakeholders for all of their hard work and efforts to help keep children close to home.