



# DEVOTION

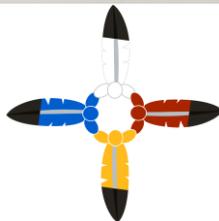
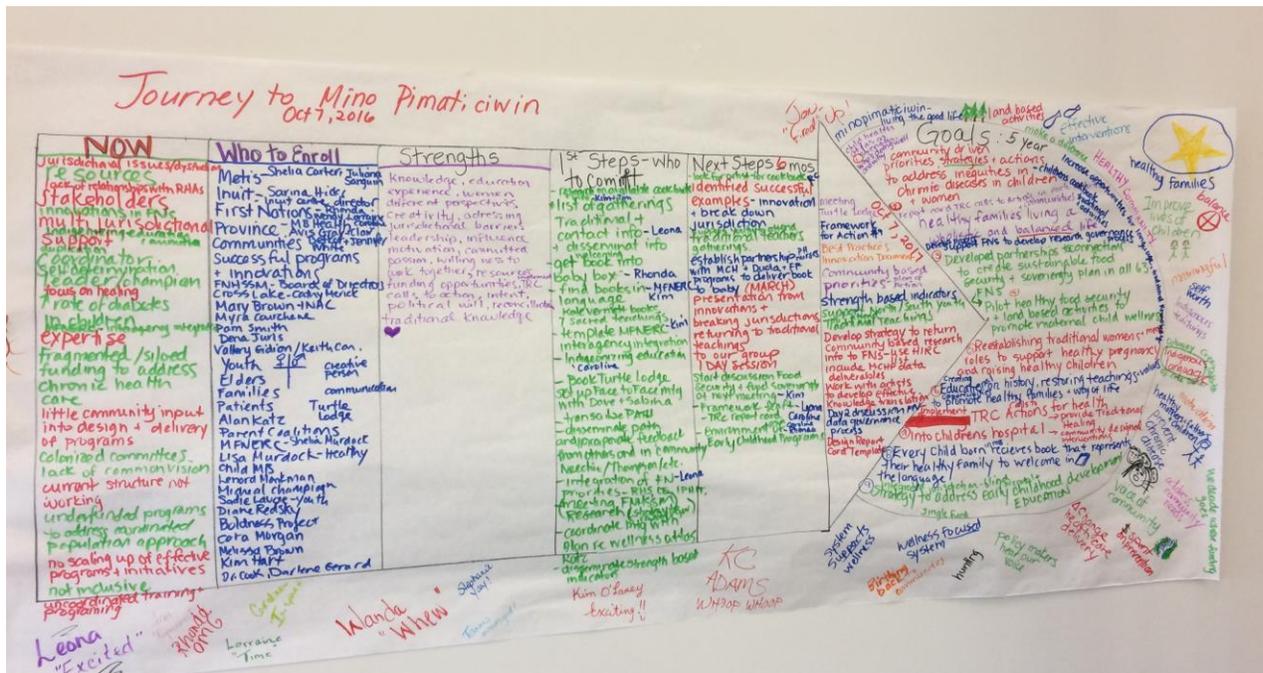
Developmental Origins of Chronic Diseases in Children Network



## PATH Exercise Report

On behalf of the Developmental Origins of Chronic Diseases in Children Network of Manitoba (DEVOTION)

[www.devotionnetwork.com](http://www.devotionnetwork.com)



Nanaandawewigamig  
First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba



Research  
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In October 2016 a number of First Nations people and allies who support First Nations self-determination in the area of research and wellness were identified to participate in a PATH (Planning Alternatives for Tomorrows Hope) process based on their experience, leadership or role in any of the one or more of the following areas: Diabetes; Food/Nutrition; Early Childhood; Community Engagement; Art; Education; Policy; Funding; Research and Data. The partners who attended helped guide us in a larger study for Maternal Child Health and Wellness. The intent of the PATH process was to help bring many of us together who are currently working in the area of MCH and Wellness and help set priorities at the Provincial level for MCH from a First Nations (FN) lens.

The following eight priority areas were identified during the first year:

*i. Create a Manitoba Child Health Atlas with a focus on First Nations (similar to the First Nations Atlas)*

The research team at Nanaadawewigamig is currently seeking additional funding to undertake an in-depth analysis of regional component of Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (REEES), where we can begin analysis on the REEES data from strength based and culturally rooted perspective based on indicators of wellbeing from a Manitoba First Nations (MFN) lens. Once analysis is completed we can use the results to provide evidence to support ECD that is reflective of what Pimatiziwin, “Living a good life”, means in the context of Manitoba First Nations indicators of well-being.

Our partners at Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) have already also expressed an interest in undertaking analysis on a Children’s Health Atlas with a focus on First Nations from a strength based analysis based on MFNs indicators of wellbeing.

We have also entered into a partnership with the Winnipeg Boldness Project to begin the process of collecting information and data for the “Urban Indicators of Wellbeing” based on MFN Indicators of Wellbeing & Dakota Indicators of Wellness.

*ii. Address Jurisdictional Barriers that exist between Federal and Provincial Governments as it relates to First Nations Health*

Currently undertaking a scan to identify successful examples of innovation and breaking down jurisdictional barriers with the Provincial and Federal Governments.

*iii. Create report card on TRC calls to Action in each institution*

Currently undertaking a scan to identify other existing frameworks and identifying key partners currently working within other Institutions (University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, University of Brandon, etc).

***iv. Increase opportunities to participate in initiatives that focus on language, traditional knowledge and teachings***

Our research team is partnering with the University of Manitoba to host the Nibi (water) Gathering. Anishinaabe Elders will lead in sharing their knowledge about Anishinaabe nibi inaakonigewin (water law) at a four-day outdoor gathering on May 24-27, 2017. The event is open to everyone and will take place in a traditional teaching lodge (wiigwaam) at a sacred site in the Whiteshell region of Manitoba. Elders' knowledge will be shared with up to 200 people, including youth, law students, First Nation community members, Indigenous scholars, non-Indigenous scholars and other guests. In addition to the Anishinaabe Elders, many Anishinaabe speakers will travel to the gathering from other parts of Ontario and Michigan to share knowledge. Knowledge keepers from Hydro-electric impacted Indigenous communities from northern Manitoba will also be in attendance to share their experiences and knowledge. International Indigenous guests are planning to attend from Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Hawaii. The gathering will contribute to ensuring that individual and collective commitments to action are supported in the traditional learning, teaching and decision-making structure that is fostered through the teaching lodge. The Elders have indicated that their priority is to ensure youth knowledge, participation and empowerment.

***v. Develop a process that supports Manitoba First Nations in developing their own research governance processes***

A strategy is being created to effectively return community based research information to FNs based on the list of our own First Nations Research Ethics Board, the Health Information Research Governance Committee (HIRGC). The research team at Naanadawewigamig is currently undertaking a review of our existing Knowledge Translation strategies and tools to identify best practices in returning data and findings back to our partners. Our team is also conducting a scan within all Nanaadawewigamig projects and initiatives to identify common themes and priorities that have already been defined by MFNs. Once the list is created a 2-day workshop will be hosted to create a plan of action to push forward priority of MFNs in partnerships with Institutions, Governments and Partners.

***vi. Improve the utility of the RHS/REES datasets held within Manitoba First Nations Research Centre***

Information sharing agreements are currently being finalized with Manitoba Health and MCHP to begin linking the RHS dataset with Personal Health Identification Numbers (PHINs) to provide further context from First Nations lens to administrative data held within MCHP. Approvals of research projects will continue to be governed by the First Nations Ethics Board and the Health Information Research Governance Committee.

**vii. Develop partnerships and connections to create sustainable food security and sovereignty plan in all 63 FNs**

Currently supporting one of our partners in drafting a proposal to support a Coordinator position to take the lead in food security and sovereignty in a submission that focuses on Indigenous Traditional Foods.

**viii. Re-establishing traditional women's and men's roles to support healthy pregnancy and raising healthy children**

The Indigenous Doula Initiative is led by Indigenous Doulas and staff of Nanaadawewigamig. The intent of the Indigenous Doula Initiative is to create space to facilitate birthing for families. To begin the process the team wants to help encourage other women from communities to go back to their territories to ask, "what did our people do during childbirth, what were our medicines, our songs, our rights of passage?" In December 2016 the initiative brought together First Nations Grandmothers to help guide the Doula Initiative. An invitation was extended to women of the DEVOTION team, to attend and listen to the Grandmothers teachings and guidance at the Turtle Lodge. Recommendations from the grandmothers included bringing the doula training to other communities after the evaluation of the pilot initiative; Call to Action to understand life from an Indigenous perspective; ensuring the leadership and control stays with First Nations. One training has already occurred in January and the next training is taking place in March 2017.



The content of this report was provided by Leona Star, DEVOTION's Indigenous Program Director.