

Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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Relationship Accord
between
Nishnawbe Aski Nation (“NAN”)
and
Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (“RNA”)
(Collectively “the Parties”)

WHEREAS, the Sioux Lookout Area Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs issued a Declaration of Health and Public Health Emergency on February 24, 2016 in order to call attention to the ongoing crises at the community level and across the health care system within NAN territory.

WHEREAS, NAN communities have issued and developed numerous declarations, recommendations, resolutions and studies providing specific and comprehensive solutions to the ongoing crises.

WHEREAS, First Nations in NAN territory are asserting their jurisdiction and control over health care through the development of the NAN Health Transformation process and NAN Health Commission with the goal of developing a new, responsive and system-wide approach to health care for NAN territory.

WHEREAS, the *Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Territory* expresses the commitments of NAN, the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to work in a renewed multilateral nation-to-nation relationship that is intended to result in immediate, medium, and long-term transformative changes to the existing health system at the NAN community level.

WHEREAS, the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) is committed to, and advocates for, healthy public policy, excellence in nursing practice and empowering nurses to actively influence and shape decisions that affect the profession and the public they serve.

WHEREAS, the RNAO believes health is a resource for everyday living and that health care is a universal human right. The RNAO further believes the leadership of every nurse advances individual and collective health. The RNAO respects human dignity and is committed to diversity, inclusivity, equity, social justice and democracy.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO jointly acknowledge and support the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO jointly acknowledge that capacity building, cultural awareness and cultural safety for First Nations peoples is essential to the success of Health Transformation and a new health system for NAN territory.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO commit to working together to actively involve NAN First Nations in the design and function of an effective system within NAN Territory in areas including practice guidelines, quality improvement and development tools, culturally specific training and awareness, practice support and strengthening communications.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO are guided by a common vision that is grounded in the objective of health equity, and the removal of barriers to safe and effective health care in NAN territory.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO jointly acknowledge that an equitable access to health services within a comprehensive NAN health system requires high quality infrastructure, data and equipment to meet the unique needs and operational conditions specific to NAN First Nations.

WHEREAS, The NAN Health Transformation process is a NAN community-led and community-driven process whereby NAN First Nations are engaged to ensure their voices are heard and incorporated into the development of a new NAN First Nations health system and community-centered programming.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO jointly acknowledge and respect NAN First Nations inherent rights, Aboriginal and Treaty rights and their protection under s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

WHEREAS, NAN and the RNAO jointly acknowledge and agree, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) that Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

- INTENT:**
1. The objective of this Relationship Accord is to guide the partnership between NAN and the RNAO, as NAN proceeds with the NAN Health Transformation process and the creation of a NAN Health Commission.
 2. NAN and RNAO intend to develop mutually supported initiatives within NAN territory to build capacity, and transform the experiences of First Nations people within the health system.
 3. The NAN Health Transformation process will be led by NAN First Nations.
 4. They will collaborate to bring meaningful change to health care in NAN territory, and will support NAN First Nations in reaching their objectives for improved health and health outcomes.
 5. This Relationship Accord is a relationship-strengthening document only, and it is not intended to create or alter legal obligations on the part of the RNAO or NAN.
- GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**
- A. The NAN vision and principles for Health Transformation, as outlined in the NAN Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in NAN Territory (Appendix “A”).
1. The principle of self-determination and respect for the traditions and languages of the people of NAN territory.
- THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE THAT:**
1. Support the capacity, skill building, leadership and training of nurses throughout the health system in NAN territory.
 2. Provide leadership and advocate for the improvement of health outcomes and health equity by identifying and addressing barriers to safe and effective care in NAN territory.
 3. Provide leadership and advocacy in building a foundational system, quality improvement and development tools, data collection and infrastructure that are based on person and family-centered innovation and the highest levels of safety and quality care.
 4. Support efforts to develop holistic approaches to addressing health, social, environmental and First Nations determinants of health and health inequity.
 5. Foster the development of relationships and partnerships with other entities in support of the mutual objectives articulated in this Relationship Accord.
 6. Support initiatives arising from relationship accords between NAN and other entities aimed at the improvement of health care services for NAN First Nations.
 7. Subject to applicable privacy laws including but not limited to Ontario’s Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 and Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Parties will work together to assist NAN First Nations to have access to health data related to their community and, to the extent permitted by such applicable law, the parties will work together to ensure that any existing or future data collection or sharing is compliant with the principles of Ownership, Access, Control and Possession (OCAP) whereby First Nations control data collection processes in their communities and own, protect and control how information about their peoples is used.
 8. iii. Inherent right to self-government referred to in section 35.1 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and the powers and jurisdictions set out in self-government agreements, and
 9. iv. Any rights or freedoms relating to the exercise or protection of their languages, cultures or traditions.

NON-DEROGATION

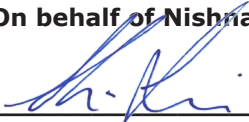
For greater certainty, except to the extent that is otherwise agreed by the First Nations concerned, none of the provisions referred to in this Relationship Accord abrogates or derogates from:

- a. The federal fiduciary responsibility for First Nations; oR
- b. The First Nations, treaty or other rights or freedoms that pertain to the First Nations of NAN, including:
 - i. Any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763,

- ii. Any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired,
- iii. Inherent right to self-government referred to in section 35.1 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and the powers and jurisdictions set out in self-government agreements, and
- iv. Any rights or freedoms relating to the exercise or protection of their languages, cultures or traditions.

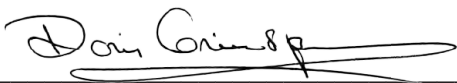
Signed this 24th day of March, 2021.

On behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

On behalf of Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario



Doris Grinspun, CEO