

Memorandum of Understanding

BETWEEN

Whati Community Government, the Tłı̨chǫ Government

AND

Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency (Mental Health, Mezi Community School, Behchokò
Child and Family Services, Whati Health Center), Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(Collectively the “Parties”)

A Regional Engagement Process and Partnership to develop a shared plan to target the
root social causes leading to harm of society and individuals themselves.



1. PREAMBLE

Whati is a traditional First Nation's community of approximately 500 people located in the Tłı̨ch̨q Region of the Northwest Territories. The community is self-governed and is part of the Tlı̨cho Region.

The Tłı̨ch̨q Government is the governing authority within Tłı̨ch̨q Lands. The Tłı̨ch̨q Government has the power to pass and enforce its own laws, delegate its powers and authority, and establish structure of the Tłı̨ch̨q Government and its internal management.

Not unlike many communities across Canada, there are many social issues. These issues become more apparent because of the isolation and limited amount of resources to assist with mental health concerns and addictions. This in turn has contributed to a higher rate of crime and recidivism rates.

In addition to these concerns, it is anticipated that an all season road will be built within the next 2 to 4 years. This all season road will connect Whati with Highway 3, providing access to Yellowknife and other smaller communities on the Highway. This is an exciting time with many economic opportunities anticipated.

The all season road will bring many economic opportunities for the community. However there could also be some negative impacts that include an increased access to alcohol and drugs. In order to combat these issues, the Community government, in partnership with the Parties, have developed a plan to proactively combat issues that lead to alcohol and drug abuse, which in turn may lead to criminal activity.

Through consultation with members of the interagency group who were born and raised in the Tłı̨ch̨q region, it has been agreed that some of the root causes of these addictions can be traced back to residential schooling and intergenerational impacts. This contributed to some, a loss of parenting skills and a temptation to abuse alcohol and drugs to combat the pain of domestic and sexual violence.

The Parties agree to work together to develop and implement a plan to provide courses to members of the community on the following:

- 1.1. Family Violence;
- 1.2. Parenting;
- 1.3. Alcohol Addictions.

The courses will be put in place to assist persons from Whati and the surrounding area who have been convicted of serious offences. The purpose is to reduce criminal activity through diversionary measures, education and the building of life skills to promote

lasting change in the community and its people. It is anticipated that a significant portion of the initial individuals attending will be ordered through probation services.

The course will also be available to any member of the community who would like to attend and receive the help offered by these courses. The courses will be taught in English and Tłjchq as needed.

It is intended by the Parties that this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will remain in place for the completion of the Pilot Project on June 30, 2018. It is recognized that this MOU may evolve into a more formal agreement leading to the permanent implementation of the offered programs to be run by the Community Government.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to affirm a common understanding and shared commitment of the Parties to:

- 2.1.** Define the roles that the Parties will play in the development and implementation of the Pilot Project;
- 2.2.** Set out the expectations of each Party to ensure a successful implementation;
- 2.3.** Review the progress of the project monthly. A report will be prepared by the TCSA Social Worker with input from the parties and provided back to the Community Government on the progress of the project;
- 2.4.** Obtain feedback from participants in the form of questionnaires (to be developed) to determine what is working and what can be improved upon.

The goal is to offer programs that are not available in the community to assist with issues surrounding mental health well-being and address the root causes of addictions and generational violence. This Pilot Project is meant to provide a solution to the lack of resources to combat social issues in isolated communities.

Upon the successful completion of the 1 year Pilot Project it is anticipated that the programs will transition into a permanent position in the community of Whati and expand to the rest of the Tłjchq region.

3. PROGRAMS OFFERED

3.1. Parenting Classes: This program is being developed specifically for the Tłıchq people. It will be taught by qualified Tłıchq people and will address root issues such as Residential School, Healing and the effects of lack of parenting received by the participants. The program will focus on providing skills to the participants to help them raise their own children as well as understand why they need to provide helpful parenting skills. Holistic healing will be included as needed.

3.2. Family Violence: A “New Day Program”, with support from the GNWT, will assist with the needs of the Tłıchq people in Whatı. The program aims to target those who have been involved in family violence in an attempt to reduce the recidivism rates. Holistic healing will be included as needed.

3.4. Alcohol Addiction Classes: Alcohol Addiction classes will be offered in the community to those who are seeking help as well as those who continuously commit criminal offences while under the influence of alcohol. Training and education will focus on the effects of alcohol use and abuse. Holistic healing will be included as needed.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Parties agree to uphold the Principles of healing, rehabilitation and positive re-integration back into the community and society.

- Community driven and Tłıchq based;
- Increase the accountability of the Parties to ensure adequate resources to heal those in need;
- Improve the services offered in the community;
- Create meaningful partnerships and successful collaborations;
- Function at a high level.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Community Government

- 5.1** Provide leadership on this project.

- 5.2 The program will report and take direction from the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO). The SAO will report and provide project updates to the Community Government of Whati and to the TCSA Director of Health and Social Services.
- 5.3 Provide office space to run the programs.
- 5.4 Will provide an employee to learn under a TCSA Social Worker to develop, implement, and take over the project on a full time basis after the one year pilot project had been completed.
- 5.5 Provide time and training opportunities as relevant to the identified employee as they are mentoring under the TCSA Social Worker.

Tijchq Government

- 5.6. Will provide classroom space as needed.
- 5.7. Commit funds for the advertisement of the program in the community.
- 5.8. Will assist with obtaining funding for a full or part time employee to run the program after the pilot project has been completed.
- 5.9. Provide other assistance as needed in the community to ensure this is a successful project.
- 5.10. Provide funding for child care of persons in need so that they may attend the programs as needed.

Tijchq Community Services Agency

- 5.11. Commit to allowing the social worker to attend in Whati two weeks a month, starting June 1, 2017 until May 31, 2018 for the purpose of developing, implementing, organizing, providing the programs and training a person to take over the program on a full time basis;
- 5.12. Pay for the salary of the social worker during the one year and all costs associated with the social worker attending Whati;

- 5.13. Will permit the Individual and Family Counsellor to assist with the project as needed, unless it conflicts with the employee's primary duties and goals.

Health Center

- 5.14. Will provide material for learning as needed;
- 5.15. Will provide a health worker to assist with training as required;
- 5.16. Continue to provide assistance and feedback on the progress and development of the program.

Mezi Community School

- 5.17. Provide classroom space if needed for training.
- 5.18. Commit to the training and education of students in relation to topics covered by this program as allowed under the NWT educator's policy.
- 5.19. Continue with positive relations lessons in calm, health, 4th R, School Community Builders.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

- 5.20. Will work with the justice system to ensure that appropriate persons are referred to the program;
- 5.21. Assist as needed with the continued development, implementation and evaluation of the Pilot project;
- 5.22. Commit to the community of Whati and the program by identifying and prioritizing community members in need of the programs being offered.

Aurora College

- 5.24. Offer guidance with the written portion of developing the lesson plans so that the program may be passed onto other organizations.

6. STRUCTURE AND PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Immediate Actions

The parties agree that the Project will be co-ordinated by the TCSA Social Worker. In turn the TCSA Social Worker will answer to the Senior Administrative Officer of the Community of Whati for the lifetime of the Pilot Project.

Monthly feedback in the form of a written report will be required to provide an update to the community and Chief and Counsel. A copy of all reporting, including meeting minutes pertaining to the projects will be given to the TCSA Director of Health and Social Services.

All parties agree to assist the TCSA Social Worker with the implementation and process. The parties will also provide input as to what is working and not working so that improvements can be made on an ongoing basis.

7. MEASURING PROGRESS


After completion of the offered programs, the clients will fill out a survey (to be developed) which will focus on how meaningful the treatment was to them. A follow-up survey will be completed after 6 months if possible.

Statistics gathered by the RCMP will be provided to show whether the crime rate in certain areas has been affected on a reportable basis.

Whati Community Government



Chief Afonz Nitsiza



Witness

Tłıchǫ Government



Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus



Witness

Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency



Kevin Armstrong



Witness

Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Inspector Peter Pilgrim



Witness

AURORA COLLEGE



Heather Nystrom



Witness