Message from Chairman

Chief Murray Clearsky, Chair
DOTC Council of Chiefs

DOTC Annual General Meeting took place on October 25, 2011 hosted by Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation. I am honoured to have been elected to serve as Chair of DOTC Council of Chiefs. In addition, Chief David Meeches and Chief Irvin McVor were elected as Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer respectively. We express our appreciation to Chief Ken Chalmers who has worked tirelessly and provided leadership to the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council. As incoming Chair, I want to build upon the work that has been undertaken by Chief Chalmers to ensure that Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council continues to remain innovative and meet the needs of its member First Nations.

A necessary requirement for all the work we do as leaders and administrators is effective communication. It is important that the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council is able to communicate and receive input for its activities and outcomes. All contributions and efforts—big and small—are important for the overall workings of the Tribal Council.

Congratulations are in order to Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation on the occasion of the Grand Opening of the Dakota Police Services Detachment in the community. Police presence within the community is crucial if our members are to feel safe and secure.

We also congratulate Swan Lake First Nation for being selected as a finalist for the Institute of Public Administration of Canada/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award for 2011. The award recognises initiatives in public policy and management to improve the community.

The reader is by now aware, effective April 1, 2012, the planned withdrawal by three First Nations as members of DOTC—Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Dakota Plains Wahpeton First Nation and Sioux Valley First Nation—will place the Tribal Council at cross-roads. I am however confident that a changed DOTC, given its history of innovativeness and leadership over the past 39 years, it will continue stronger along this trajectory.

To end, on behalf of DOTC Council of Chiefs, Administration and Finance and, the Programs, I want to wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. To the staff at DOTC, we appreciate the commitment and dedication with which you work on behalf of DOTC and its member First Nations.

We all look forward to working and serving you in 2012. Happy New Year!

Message from the CEO

Robert Daniels, CEO
Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council

I am pleased to provide some major highlights of activities undertaken by DOTC Administration during September-December 2011. These are in addition to normal and routine administrative responsibilities falling under the main areas of the executive, finance and operations.

Within the Administration, DOTC Policies have now been updated and been adopted by the Council of Chiefs at the most recent Annual General Meeting at Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation on October 25, 2011. Proposals related to the next LEAF workshop and Folklorama 2012 have been completed and submitted.

Our work on building awareness and enhancing participation in the political process continues. As with the Federal Elections earlier this year, we put out a special-issue of the DOTC Newsletter on “Manitoba Votes”. Copies were distributed in DOTC communities. The newsletter was also the subject of an informed and commendable article by the Winnipeg Free Press. I am pleased to inform this special-issue has been well-received by the larger membership within DOTC member First Nations.

We hope over time continued efforts will result in our members exercising their right to vote at all levels—Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Schools. This is no longer a matter of choice but one of necessity. All levels of government have an impact on our lives!

In appreciation of the efforts of the volunteers in delivering a successful “DOTC First Nations Pavilion”, a voluntary appreciation dinner was held on 27 September 2011 at the University of Winnipeg. Approximately, 35 participants attended. Again, our initiative of “marketing through culture and education” has the overall objective of showcasing the talents of those belonging to First Nations and other Aboriginal groupings. It is also about building bridges to the mainstream. On a related note, at Manito Ahbee this year in November, we distributed in about 4 hours, 480 copies of the DOTC First Nations Pavilion Magazine.

DOTC was invited as Guests to the banquet of the “Winnipeg Heart International Conference”. I was joined by the Director of Operations and Director of Dakota Ojibway Health Services. I want to thank Dr. Pawan Singal, Director/Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, St. Boniface Research Centre, for the invitation. We visualise a great potential by way of collaboration and partnership.

I continue to serve as alternate/delegate from DOTC to the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council—a body that has been established by the Mayor and Council of Brandon. For DOTC, our goal is to ensure that the dialogue is one of developing partnerships in pursuit of community, economic development and training/employment opportunities that brings about mutual benefits for our members.

In closing, along with the Chair/DOTC Council of Chiefs, I too wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To our staff, a big thank you for the effort and work you undertake for DOTC.

We look forward to working with all in 2012!
Matt Simeoni  
Vice President  
Aboriginal Markets  
Manitoba, Saskatchewan & NW Ontario

In addition to his current role as Vice President, Commercial Markets, Northwestern Ontario, Matt is now pleased to assume leadership responsibilities managing RBC’s team of Aboriginal Banking specialists across this region.

Matt's responsibilities include working closely with the Aboriginal community to provide access to financial services and solutions, as well as employment opportunities, training and education, procurement, and capital, community and social development. The Aboriginal Banking team continues to specialize in providing expert advice and solutions to Aboriginal clients, Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal-owned businesses.

Matt joined RBC in 1999 and has since held positions of increasing responsibility in various roles in Western Canada and Northwestern Ontario. He continues to have responsibility for the overall management of RBC's Commercial Markets team throughout Northwestern Ontario.

A graduate of Lakehead University and born and raised in Thunder Bay, Matt and his family proudly call Northwestern Ontario home. Matt values the lifestyle and opportunities this great part of Canada offers, and the relationships and commitment to community that are so strong throughout the area.

Matt looks forward to fostering relationships and forging new connections with Aboriginal and First Nations communities across this geography. If you would like more information or would like to learn how Matt and his team can assist you, please contact him at 807-684-8303 or matt.simeoni@rbc.com.
Greetings from the Fire Prevention program!

Fire Prevention Program is currently negotiating with INAC for an increase in funding so that the information can be taken to the schools and become a permanent part of their curriculums. A proactive intervention at the school level should help in heightening awareness about the need to exercise caution to minimize occurrences of fire. It is not just the economic cost but, the costs endured by individuals, families and the community is devastating.

We have been performing fire inspections in Sandy Bay, Sioux Valley, Roseau River, Dakota Plains and Brandon. Any communities requiring inspections can contact me at 204-871-5253.

We are also working on a fire prevention extinguisher course in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. In both instances- it involved the housing departments, employment & training and, Chief & Councils.

Fire Prevention Program is also in talks with Waywayseecappo Fire Department along and its Chief & Council in regards to providing Level-1 firefighting training.

Christmas is coming up so here are a few reminders to fire preventive this year.

- Make sure your tree watered regularly
- Do not overload outlets at anytime
- Make sure extension cords are in proper working order
- Don’t have your trees to close to any heat sources such as baseboards etc.

I am wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season

Thanks

Stacy Pratt, Fire Prevention Officer, 1-204-871-5253.

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School Maintenance Training Program (SMTP)

During the past quarter, as required by the School Maintenance Training Program (SMTP), the staff completed the first round of visits to the 56 schools located in 48 First Nation communities across Manitoba. These visits consist of meeting with the maintenance worker and/or supervisor and checking the minor deficiencies that they have listed on their Maintenance Management Plans (MMP).

The SMTP is also being utilized more frequently to assist other stakeholders to address issues and concerns within the education facilities. These stakeholders include Co-Managers, Third Party Managers and Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre (MFNERC). For example, fire safety has moved to the forefront as has concerns about quality of air (HVAC). Fire-drills must be held in the schools and the fire extinguishers must be tested on a yearly basis.

The SMTP Technicians have observed a positive change in how the school maintenance personnel are now addressing minor deficiencies as they arise. This comes with establishing a routine and by following a checklist to list problem areas, discuss them with the Education Director and action the problem. This is preventive maintenance.

SMTP Technicians are now starting the second round of visits. These visits will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. There are still some schools in the Interlake that are closed. These will be followed up on in the next quarter as one First Nation may be relocated. To date there are two new schools which are located in the north, The Pas and St. Theresa Point.

Maurice Myran, Program Manager
1-204-856-5589

School Maintenance Training Program

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DOTC Council of Chiefs &
DOTC Staff

Wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas Holidays

Please note our offices will be closed on
December 16, 2011 (Friday), 3:00 pm
& reopen on January 2, 2012, 8:30 am

Fire Prevention Safety Program

Greetings from the Fire Prevention program!

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Thanks

Stacy Pratt, Fire Prevention Officer, 1-204-871-5253.
DOHS held a joint Health Forum with West Region Tribal Council on October 18 & 19th, 2011 in Brandon, Manitoba to revisit and revise health priorities, issues and areas of concern within our Tribal Council area. 3 people from each community along with an Elder were invited to attend this event. On Day 1 there were 62 participants while on Day 2 there were 42 participants. Listed below are main issues identified at the Health Forum:

- **Holistic Health**
  - Personal care facilities, Independent Living and In-home care for our Elders
  - Information Management & Technology: Statistics, usage & access
  - Political Tribal Organizations to visit communities and share information.

- **Diabetes & Renal Health**
  - Stress factors, management, coping methods
  - Curriculum development for school on Diabetes/Chronic disease Education & Prevention.

- **Mental Health**
  - Complications with providing seamless health services
  - Communication process during crisis and after care, restoration of traditional values, issue of damaged family systems
  - Life skills at a younger age.

- **Health Promotion & Illness Prevention**
  - Child/Youth health screening, smoking cessation, drug & alcohol prevention
  - Education incentives for FN youth
  - Youth Health education/prevention/promotion and outreach at homes & schools.

It was great to see the participants actively communicate their health concerns. However, it was even better to hear the ideas and the voices give direction as to steps needed to address these issues! Thank you to all the participants, your voices were heard and taken to heart!

The NAYSPS/FASD Program held a safeTALK T4T (training for trainers) in June. We now have six safeTALK Trainers who can deliver suicide alertness for everyone workshops to target groups in their communities. More trained front-line workers from FN communities such as LPFN, WWFN, BTSFN, CDN, SVDN and DOHS will increase the recognition of suicide risk factors, warning signs, at-risk behaviors, high-risk groups within the First Nation population.

Secondly, the NAYSPS Program has submitted the Tribal Council Work plan for 2011/2012 whose overall objective is to increase the awareness and understanding of preventing suicide among the First Nation population (i.e. youth). In collaboration with DOHS, FNIH MB Region successfully advocated to Health Canada to receive additional resources outside of the fiscal contribution agreement. Additional funding will assist to reduce the risk factors associated with suicide; and increase protective (preventive) factors against suicide as an on-going outcome.

On behalf of Dakota Ojibway Health Services we wish you all a Wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy, Healthy New Year!

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**Dakota Ojibway Police Service (DOPS)**

The focus of this Quarterly submission is on staffing and personnel

The Police Service has recently made significant strides in addressing staffing and personnel issues. Our new recruits who graduated basic recruit class this past summer are learning the job in field and are doing well. Most of these new members are close to completion of their field training and having them able to work on their own will greatly assist in scheduling and delivery of service.

The secondment of St. Anne Police Department member continues to work well at Sioux Valley Detachment. Having this member has helped in providing coverage and we hope to extend the secondment for an additional six month period.

DOPS has recently hired an experienced officer who comes to us from the Winnipeg Police Service. Constable Jason Colon has previously worked with DOPS for approximately five years, prior to moving over to WPS. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in dealing with various street level issues involving drugs and gangs.

We have experienced some turnover of civilian staff at our Headquarters office. We have recently filled the Executive Secretary and Professional Standard Clerk/Receptionist positions. Ms. Karen Haines is the new Executive Assistant and brings extensive clerical and administrative support experience from both the Tribal Council and Community/Band level. Ms. Pat Duncan has previous experience with DOPS, as well as years of clerical experience and a background in CPIC operations.

DOPS is pleased to announce that funding has been approved for two new positions, one being a dedicated Criminal Investigator position and the other Crime Prevention/School Resource. This is a first for the Police Service and, will go a long way to build capacity and allow for a variety of experiences and development of capacity at the staff level.

The Criminal Investigator will be tasked within handling more serious incidents and those that are more complex and/or time consuming. This will provide us the opportunity and flexibility to address certain investigations in a timely manner and, work proactively with Detachment members on various project addressing community issues.

The Crime Prevention/School Resource member will provide a much needed uniformed police presence in the school. They will be tasked with Crime Prevention projects and providing presentations, as well as working with community programs towards creating a safer community.

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D.O. (Doug) Palson, Chief of Police, Dakota Ojibway Police Service, 1-204-856 5370
Greetings!

As you are aware at this time the housing authority is going through a transition. We are experiencing a glut in homes whose mortgages are maturing. Where mortgages have matured, these houses are no longer qualified to receive subsidies. This is not good news for the tenants renting these units as rents need to be increased to pay the bills. We are trying to accommodate the affected tenants by transferring them to subsidized houses whenever possible. But, the subsidized housing stock is depleting rapidly.

DOTCHAI is looking into converting a storage facility into a 35 unit apartment in Winnipeg. This will be a major undertaking that will involve extensive renovations. A tour was done to the building and we are now awaiting approval from Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC). The building is near the Health Sciences Centre and, it would be beneficial to people who may have health issues.

We are currently very busy with renovating 34 units in Brandon, Portage and Winnipeg. We have advertised the tender calls in the newspapers and have hired local contractors to start on the projects.

Hello, First Nation Member!  It is again reporting time on activities of programs in DOTC.

1. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) – We are experiencing some heated debates with CMHC at this time regarding RRAP qualifying items. We cannot seem to come to any understanding to what items in our Write-up qualifies for RRAP. The issue is on-going and is at this time on the agenda in every Tribal Council.

2. Section 95 – CMHC single family-dwelling Band Owned rental units are in progress in four DOTC affiliated Reserves.

3. Physical Condition Review (PCR) – Inspections for CMHC were done on PCRs complete with data entry to CMHC Ottawa.

4. Flood – A total of 65 flood inspections at Long Plain and 32 at Roseau River were completed.

5. DOTCHAI – Inspections are being done for DOTCHAI completed work write-ups are submitted to DOTCHAI on a weekly basis.

6. Band Units – Inspections are being done with completed work write-up for Band units on an on-going basis as requested by Band Housing Departments.

Jonathan Acoby is intern with the ORH Program working on GPS data collection for DOTC Band Housing units and buildings. He has completed work for two First nations, Roseau River and Long Plain. Swan Lake already has on GPS its housing and band buildings. Jonathan is currently undertaking the above work in Waywayseecappo First Nation. This activity will expand to all remaining First Nations in DOTC area.

Over all, between Nelson Nepinak, Inspector/Advisor for Dakota Plains, Long Plain, Sandy Bay, Roseau River and myself Inspector/Advisor for Waywayseecappo, Canupawakpa, Sioux Valley, Birdtail and Swan Lake, have been quite busy dealing with issues pertaining to housing in general.

Wishing each and everyone a Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

Hank Richard, Interim-Manager
1 204 856 5550

Val Whitford, Manager 1-204-988 5375

John Meechas, Manager 1-204-239 8652
Let’s Talk Business!

Interested in starting a business and don’t know where to start? Let’s Talk Business! We offer loans up to $150,000 for new and existing businesses. We also offer Micro Loans… no loan is too small! For these and other services provided by DOCF please visit our web-site: www.docfdc.mb.ca or call Toll Free: 1-866-988-5373.

Aboriginal Business Forum

On October 21, 2012, Aboriginal Business Forum was held at the Victoria Inn, Brandon. The forum consisted of a trade-show, workshops and panel presentations. DOCF participated in the trade show to promote the program and the services it offers. Information and resource material was provided to a number of DOTC members in attendance. As a result, we had a number of inquiries from individuals interested in starting a business.

Community Planning Workshops

On November 2, 2011 a Community Planning workshop was held at Waywayseecappo First Nation, with a total of 22 people participating which resulted in number of inquiries from individuals interested in starting a business. We are also working with Waywayseecappo and Long Plain First Nation to deliver the Community Development Program. This on-going project consists of: updating local community profiles; conducting an economic leakage study to determine the money that is spent outside the community; and identifying potential opportunities based on local priorities. On November 23, 2011 we will be delivering a Community Planning workshop at Long Plain First Nation. The goal of this project is to provide information that will assist the community planning process.

Aboriginal Business Planning Competition

The Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) is holding a business-plan competition for Aboriginal Entrepreneurs. The top two business-plans (rural and urban) categories will receive an award of $5,000 to be put towards business start-up or operational costs. Business-plans must be received by Friday, January 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. The winners will be announced at the 16th Annual Vision Quest Conference, May 15-17, 2012. For more information or to download an entry form please visit the website: www.absnmanitoba.com

Upcoming Events

The DOCF will be participating in the Trade Show at Winter Fest, January 27-29th, 2012, at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, Manitoba. If you would like information on starting a business please stop by our booth!

On behalf of the Board of Directors & Staff
Season’s Greetings & Happy New Year!

Kim Bullard, General Manager
1-204-988 5372

Bobbi Pompana, Executive Director
1-204-729 3653

As Christmas is drawing closer, DOCFS is preparing for the Christmas festivities. The annual DOCFS Christmas Gathering is scheduled for December 9, 2011 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon, Manitoba. This gathering is intended for all Staff, Local Child and Family Service Committee members, the DOCFS Board of Directors, Chiefs and Councils and their families. It is the one time of the year that we can show our appreciation to them and all that they do for us. This year will be a memorable event as we have one staff person (Bev Flett) and two local child and family service committee members (Grace Daniels and Edith Catcheway) who have been with DOCFS since the beginning. They have been involved with the Agency for 30 or more years. They will be recognized at this event for their commitment and contributions to DOCFS. Other staff and committee recognitions will be done at this event as well.

The Brandon, Portage La Prairie, and Winnipeg offices will also have large Christmas events scheduled. Each of our local offices will also have their events. To find out more about the event closest to you, you can call the sub offices for more information.

The planning continues for the newly mandated Family Enhancement Program. This program will enable children to remain within their families while the parent(s) receive assistance from the Agency. This is a prevention focused model. The funding has not been received from the Province as yet so there has been some delay in getting the program initiated. Staff have been identified in some locations and a few families are now receiving the service. As soon as all funding is received we will be initiating a series of community workshops for the local communities as well as the urban areas. The main thrust of the prevention program will be based upon parental and family responsibility for all our children.

DOCFS continues seek qualified First Nation staff and First Nation foster parents. If you are interested in becoming a staff person or a foster parent please call the Administration Office at Forest Hills (south of Carberry) 1-877-508-8289 or 1-204-834-2323 and you will be connected to the appropriate person.
Listed and discussed are the main activities for the period October-December 2011.

**University College of the North (UCN)**

UCN was the successful institution to deliver “First Nation Social Development Active Measures Diploma Program”- designed for Income Assistance Administrators. This course will commence in January 2012 at Canad Inn Polo Park in Winnipeg. DOTC has 5 seats available for the modular 4-year program. Primarily through respective post-secondary education programs, support from First Nations for the participants is required to cover tuition and travel, accommodation and, meals for 1 week a month.

**Community Active Measures Representatives**

In 2010-11, the Social Development Advisors Technical Group developed a youth initiative:

* The Community Active Measures Representatives: Youth Leadership in Action seeks to empower the youth through active measures in getting them to make a choice among education, training, work experience and employment, entrepreneurship, or living the traditional lifestyle on the lands. This initiative provided to all Manitoba First Nations a youth active measures tool kit.

* The initiative has continued during 2011-2012 fiscal year with two DOTC representatives. The two youth, Cheyenne Ironman and Darise Peters started on October 31, 2011 and their term will end March 31, 2012. The two have completed their orientation and will continue training in Cultural Economic Political Social (CEPS) programming. The two will eventually visit all DOTC First Nations to undertake active measures activities through the youth.

**Case Management Pilot Initiative**

Case Management workshops were convened in each tribal council area, and a southern First Nation conference was held to encourage better working relationship between all program staff and leaders in First Nation communities. It was also to assist Income Assistance program with linkages to Aboriginal Strategy in Employment and Training program and others that will help make the transition to active measures.

Trainees from Initiative will assist in implementing Case Management through workshops at DOTC member First Nations communities. DOTC Health program will facilitate this workshops.

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**Yellowquill College**

Season’s Greetings to all! As this is likely the last newsletter before the Christmas season, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

We are proud to announce that our first “French” diabetes program has been completed. A total of 13 students finished the program and graduated on September 28, 2011. The Yellowquill College Community Diabetes Prevention Worker program was translated into French and was successfully completed by the 13 students in the picture below. Congratulations to everyone that was involved in the program!

Another program, the Long Plain Mature Grade 12 program will be wrapping up at the end of January 2012. A graduation ceremony will be planned for the students who have successfully completed the program. A huge thank you goes to Long Plain First Nation for their support in bringing the program, and Yellowquill, to the community. The program has been a big success for those students wishing to further their education.

I have indicated before that we are preparing for a move this year. We are moving in December; our new address will be 480 Madison Street. It is very close to Polo Park and the building is currently under renovations. All students returning to classes after the Christmas break will be going to this location for their classes. Students enrolled in any of the modular programs will also be taking their classes at this location as the Border Street campus will be moving to Madison Street as well.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support and we hope to see you soon at our new location!!

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Tim Wasicuna, Director, Social Development
1-204-855 2921

Doreen Beauchamp, Director/Yellow Quill College
1-204-953-2800
Officers of DOTC Council of Chiefs

Chief David Meeches  
Vice Chair

Chief Murray Clearskey  
Chair

Chief Irvin Mcivor  
Secretary - Treasurer

DOPS Sandy Bay Detachment Grand Opening

Yellowquill College

Holly Aho

2nd year of the First Nations Child and Family Services Worker Diploma program was awarded one of 68 Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation Bursaries. She also received a National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Post-Secondary Education award this year.