Comprehensive Resource and Information Management System for Indigenous Nations

CRIMSIN®, an Accountability Tool for Self-Governing Nations

First Nations Measuring Investment in Community Wellness

Gwen Phillips, Ktunaxa Nation
Context: the Current Environment

• Most First Nations have over 40 years experience managing programs on behalf of federal and provincial government departments/agencies, with limited capacity to address actual need, or measure outcomes.

• At any given time, First Nations are delivering services from up to 20 different agencies, each with different reporting requirements, data systems and specific program outcomes, creating an unbearable administrative burden.

• Resources from government tend to be program-driven with a focus on external accountability, whereas First Nations’ services tend to be family-oriented and holistic with accountability to community wellness a priority.

• Self-government is an objective for many First Nations.
Self-Governance

Traditional Values & Principles

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The Shared Vision

We have, as First Nations, a desire to work together to explore solutions to our common challenges. We wish to work in partnership with others who share our vision…

Healthy, self-determining and vibrant BC First Nations children, families and communities.

First Nations Health Council Vision
Common Interests...

- Reduce current reporting burden on First Nations and improve compliance with reporting requirements.
- Coordinate/integrate programs, services and resources from all levels of government to maximize benefit and improve outcomes.
- Consolidate data for greater administrative efficiency and better informed planning.
- Conduct quantitative and qualitative analysis of investment using growth/outcome indicators that are respectful of regional/cultural differences and unique individual (FASD) community needs.
- Collect aggregate data for analysis and reporting (FNSI, Budget/Treasury Board submissions).

Common Interests
Strategic Investments...

Intergovernmental Investment

Early Childhood Development, Education, Justice …

Environmental Health, Economic Development, Housing, …

Social Development, Employment, Child & Family Services…

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Investment in People and Places (not programs)
FN have too many proposals to write and contracts to manage, (with poor infrastructure).

Every First Nation has identified a different IM ‘need’: land management, education, housing, social development, traditional knowledge, documents management...

Government has traditionally operated in ‘silos’, planning, managing and reporting independently, however FN “traditionally” manage horizontally.

FN have unique needs (TKL); varying uses for data, internally and externally.

Varying levels of technology, expertise and capacity.

There are too many different platforms and systems in use.

There are limited resources from any one source.

Ever changing environment; emerging/declining programs.

Self-government; data ownership and privacy issues.
Information Management Solution: CRIMSIN

- Coordinate all types of data from all sources, internal and external (land related to people, related to culture, related to the economy).
- Develop an information management system that will ‘speak’ to existing data systems that are managed externally.
- Follow the philosophy of population health and holistic living; data integration.
- Flexible and dynamic.
- Fill gaps in existing data/information.
- Built in phases, with each data link represented as a petal; petals can ‘shed’ and ‘grow’ as needed.
- Prepare for self-government.
- Report on Outcomes; individual, family, community, Nation levels.
CRIMSIN

Citizen

Wildlife
Forestry
Water
Mining
Traditional Place Names
Language
Stories
Inventory
Citizenship
Human Resources
Education
Health
Early Child Development
Business
Industry
Taxation

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Integration of Information Data Storehouse – An Analogy

- **Value**
- **Effective Date**
- **Expiration Date**
- **Entry Date**
- **Entered By**
- **Unit of Measure**
- **Source**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Value</th>
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<td>June 10 / 70</td>
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<td>November 9 / 76</td>
<td>R. Smith</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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"Storage Bin" (Data Item)

- **"Aisles" (Folders)**
- **Expansion**

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The Long Term

Continually Growing Spectrum of Data Uses
(Examples)

Administrative Needs
- Data Analysis
- Evaluation & Reporting
- Integrated Planning
- Fiscal Forecasts
- Treaty Negotiations
- Healthy Community
- Forestry / Land Use Planning
- Self-Governance
- Other

Developmental Needs

First Nations Input:
- Policy
- Management
- Administration
- Local Indicators

Integrated Data Storehouse

Structured Data
- INAC Registry
- FNIHIS
- School Records
- Land Records
- Genealogical Records
- Cultural Involvement

Continually Growing Spectrum of Data Sources
(Examples)

Unstructured Data
- Community Surveys
- Oral History
- Other

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CRIMSIN
Comprehensive Resource and Information Management System Development Criteria

- Use industry standard technology:
  - J2EE application server.
  - Oracle Data Base (for data storage, security, reliability).
  - Standard XML format for all data input and data exchange.
- Store only one value for each piece of information.
- Focus on the functions supporting a “Person View” of data rather than a “Program View”.
- First Nation data flows with four different systems as the starting point (federal and provincial health & education) but fully expandable.
- Security built in at many levels.
- Managed at community level.
Benefits and Outcomes

• Provide the useful ‘on the ground’ tool for all First Nations (irregardless of their current level of administrative capacity or level of self-governance) which will greatly improve program administration, data collection and information management thus increasing efficiencies and accountability as governments.

• Investment directly in capacity of First Nations governments by providing “tools of governance”; effectively managing *transition* to self-governance.

• Expands as First Nation/Federal/Provincial government identify new requirements for system without major re-investment.

• Provide First Nations initiated and managed tool for collection of data for compilation of statistics Nation-wide; First Nations Statistical Institute viable.

• No need to modify existing government systems to accommodate this new, First Nations managed system.
Next Steps

• Identify all Partners and define their interests.

• Develop Project Charter, Business Plan and Agreements.

• Define operational requirements for system; chart *relationships* and prioritize development.

• Establish policy framework.

• Develop consent and data sharing agreements...

• Build, test, deploy…
Our Desired Outcome

Strong, healthy citizens and communities, speaking our languages and celebrating who we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our lands and resources as self-sufficient, self-governing Nations.