

FNHA VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION UPDATE



VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION
First Nations Health Authority

VANCOUVER COASTAL REGION NEWS FROM THE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY



REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A Message from the Regional Director

I am pleased to provide you with this FNHA Vancouver Coastal Regional Newsletter. As we approach the New Year our team reflects on this past year and begins to look ahead. The work is guided by our strong Vancouver Coastal Caucus leadership, communities and partnership. We have made significant advancements on our Regional Health and Wellness priorities. The Regional Health and Wellness Plan continues to provide a clear path to transformation in our work.

Looking forward, the Vancouver Coastal Regional team will expand to include additional support. The expansion of the team will include a Regional Manager to provide senior level expertise and leadership to myself, the Regional Director. The new Regional Manager will also oversee the Community Engagement team, and a Project Developer, who will liaise with First Nations and health system partners through established regional processes in order to develop local, sub-regional and region-wide project plans and analysis.

The team is currently recruiting for a shared Regional Planner position between the Fraser Salish Region and the Vancouver Coastal Region. The Regional Planner position will support the development, analysis, communication and implementation of the FNHA strategic, operational, community and regional planning work.



I'd like to thank all the leaders and health champions that have contributed to our successes this past year. It is through your commitments to this work that we were able to bring forward the health concerns facing our communities today. We look forward to keeping Vancouver Coastal Communities updated on the ongoing developments.

In Health and Wellness,
Pamela Holte
Vancouver Coastal, Regional Director

Introducing the New Regional Manager

The FNHA is pleased to welcome Naomi Williams-Shackelly in her new role as Vancouver Coastal Regional Manager.

Naomi Williams-Shackelly is from the Cowichan Tribes with deep roots throughout Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal and the Tla'amin Nation. She brings over 25 years' experience in facilitating spaces for dialogue, education and information sharing. Naomi's professional career reflects a lifelong journey in First Nations Leadership and senior management positions with First Nations Communities and Aboriginal Organizations. With a background in Criminology, Aboriginal Trauma, Conflict Resolution, Leadership Councils, Naomi has successfully supported the Vancouver Coastal Region as a Community Engagement Coordinator since 2014.

Naomi is a natural leader and she will do very well in her new role as the Regional Manager, and the team is looking forward to working with her.

The Regional Manager position is the next step towards increasing support to the regions. Naomi will support the relationship between the FNHC, the FNHDA and the FNHA in the regions through timely information sharing. Naomi will also provide operational, engagement and technical support to regionally-appointed representatives and all regional entities.

REGIONAL NEWS

This update provides a summary of discussions held at the last Regional Table meeting. We strive to keep Chiefs and Health Leads better informed on the work happening in your region, and we welcome any suggestions for improvement.

National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) Review

The goal of this review is to achieve program enhancements and greater integration with Mental Wellness Substance Use programs and services. The initial review identified several areas for improvement. The next phase of the review is about bringing the results home to the region and connecting with local service providers.

Cassandra Puckett, Mental Wellness Advisor
Cassandra.Puckett@fnha.ca or 236-993-7740

"Inside/Out": FNHA's Respecting Tobacco Campaign

The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of the harms of second-hand smoke amongst parents and caregivers who smoke and to encourage a decision to keep their homes and cars smoke free. The campaign slogan is "Understanding Second-Hand Smoke. When Children Are Inside, Smoking Goes Out." The campaign will be launched in the VC Region soon, so please stay



Naomi Williams-Shackelly is Vancouver Coastal Region's new Regional Manager

Provincial Crisis Response

David Reid is the Manager of Emergency Management at FNHA as of March 2015. He supports First Nation communities in emergency response efforts and has updated information so people can easily access emergency response contacts and advisories. You will see notices from David or from the Regional Team on advisory efforts.

David Reid, Manager of Emergency Management

David.Reid@fnha.ca or 604-693-6982

First Nations Community Health Survey & Regional Health Survey

Two surveys are coming to your communities! The First Nations Regional Health Survey (FNRHS) and First Nations Community Survey (FNCS) and your community are invited to participate. The FNRHS, or RHS for short, collects information about on-Reserve and Northern First Nations communities. It is based on both Western and Indigenous understandings of health and well-being and is supported by the First Nations Health Council, Assembly of First Nations, and Chiefs and leaders across the country. The surveys are scheduled to begin in the winter of 2016. Participation in the survey is totally voluntary for all communities and individuals.

Communications and Regional Branding

The new Vancouver Coastal Region brand architecture will be launched at the November Caucus session!

REGIONAL JOINT PROJECT BOARD NEWS

This year has been one of learning, development and successes for the Joint Project Board (JPB). The partnership between the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) continues to grow stronger at all levels, as the Vancouver Coastal Regional Health Directors and FNHA are working together to bring JPB Projects from community to fruition. The JPB is a truly unique opportunity to support the identification and removal of policy barriers. These projects will align Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Community Health and Wellness goals for a more effective and efficient health service delivery with community.

Mental Wellness Substance Use (MWSU) Flagship Project

A service delivery team of MWSU Specialists will be implemented in Vancouver Coastal Region. The goal of this new team is to increase understanding of the complex mental wellness and substance use needs in each First Nation.

The new WSU Specialist Team will provide services to 200 new clients in addition to those clients already being supported by existing NNADAP/MWSU workers. The new team will work to reduce risk, especially suicide risk, as well as address other counselling needs.

Updates:

- Currently in Implementation stages: Community Assessment/ Knowledge Exchange
- Early planning for Recruitment: 1 FTE Psychiatric Nurse and 5.2 FTE Clinical Psychologists

Contacts:

FNHA Technical Lead: Cassandra Puckett, VCR Mental Wellness Advisor
VCH Technical Lead: Colleen McCain, Clinical Planner



David Reid, Manager of
Emergency Management

VANCOUVER COASTAL SUB-REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN SUB-REGION

Sunshine Coast News

Exciting opportunities lie ahead for Sunshine Coast Communities

Faced with the task of recruiting new Health Directors, both Sunshine Coast Nations continue to work together with one heart, one mind. With strong health leadership and dedicated supports from VCH, both Nations uphold their commitment to implementing the JPB program “Jeh Jeh-Circle of Complex Care”. As the Project Manager and the “Jeh Jeh” Steering Committee make formal offers for recruiting the complex care team, FNHA Vancouver Coastal team and VCH support the next stage of systemic integration and engagement sessions with First Nations Communities, local health services and physicians. The First Nations communities and their health partners are truly coming together, guided by the vision of improving the Sunshine Coast health and wellness landscape.

Sunshine Coast Joint Project Board News

‘We are Related’ (Jeh Jeh) Circle of Care Coast Communities

The Jeh Jeh Circle of Care is an innovative wrap-around model of care that utilizes a complex care management approach to support clients in communities with the highest care needs. Two new care manager positions will play the vital role of weaving current Tla’Amin and Sechelt Health Centre services, Vancouver Coastal Health services, family physicians, and specialists together to create a comprehensive circle of care for clients

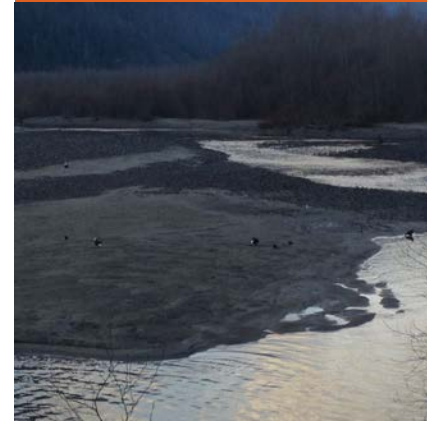
Updates:

- Local Project Manager hired: Lu Wuthrich
- Elder Coordinator and Youth Coordinator have been hired at Tla’Amin.
- Two Care Coordinator positions for Sechelt are in recruiting stages.
- Interviews have been scheduled for regulated/clinical positions.

Contact: FNHA Technical Lead: Sarah Lalonde, VCR Project Developer

Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam News

Squamish, Tseil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations were successful in their funding proposal to the Joint Project Board to expand primary care services on reserve. The communities are currently in the process of working with key health partners to undertake the first stages of the implementation planning process. The communities have also been working on addressing significant health challenges relating to mental wellness and substance use through the identification of service gaps, closer collaboration with FNHA, VCH and other health organizations, and in strengthening the cultural supports available to community members.



South Joint Project Board News

Working towards Urban On-Reserve Primary Care Clinics

Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations are working towards establishing on-reserve primary care clinics where clients can access a culturally-safe “medical home”. These clinics will be a place where a primary practitioner – a family physician and/or a nurse practitioner – works with a multidisciplinary team in one location to provide and coordinate clients’ health care services. Each of the on-reserve primary care clinics will have care teams that combine new and existing family physicians, a new medical office assistant (MOA), the existing nurse practitioners, a new social worker and a new registered nurse.

Updates:

- A Project Manager has been hired: Mara Andrews
- One-time facility improvement funds have been released to Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to ready their centers.
- Funds have been released for the Nations to hire Medical Office Assistants

Contact: FNHA Technical Lead: Sarah Lalonde, VCR Project Developer
Sarah.Lalonde@fnha.ca or 604.693.6587



CENTRAL COAST SUB-REGION

Feedback was gathered at the Central Coast Sub-Regional Caucus that took place in Bella Bella on October 15-16, 2015. There was engagement with the Nuxalk, Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv and Kitsoo health and political leads, discussing each community's health programs, their strengths, barriers and wish list.

The Joint Project Board has met and they are in the planning phase of creating stronger communication to address the gaps with service deliverable dollars, professional development and recruitment intentions for sustainable services for the Heiltsuk, Wuikinux, Kitsoo and Nuxalk health initiatives.

The Regional Director, Community Engagement Coordinator and Mental Wellness Advisor travelled out to Wuikinuxv and Kitsoo to discuss funding arrangements, service deliverables and the Community Knowledge Exchange. Nuxalk Nation is currently in preliminary engagement addressing suicide prevention with FNHA and VCH.



T'uy'tanat (Cease Wyss), Indigenous Plant Diva from Squamish Nation, explains how to use salmonberry leaves.

Central Coast Joint Project Board News

Increasing Capacity for Central Coast Integrated Home & Community Care Team (IHCC)

Plans are developing to provide IHCC teams on the Central Coast with additional capacity in the form of RNs, LPNs, Dietitians, OTs, Physiotherapists, and Speech Pathologists. Our goal is to create a fully sustainable and integrated VCH-First Nations IHCC team for the whole Central Coast. The project involves hiring additional nursing and/or personal care workers, contracting additional rehabilitation services and developing a clinical/program supervisor role.

Updates:

- Central Coast Nations gather for planning and implementation of project
- Implementation meetings scheduled in December 2015
- Project Funding released to Central Coast Nations:
 - Wuikinuxv – Personal Care Worker
 - Heiltsuk – Personal Care Worker, Registered Nurse
 - Kitsoo – Licensed Practical Nurse

Contact: FNHA Technical Lead: Sarah Lalonde, VCR Project Developer
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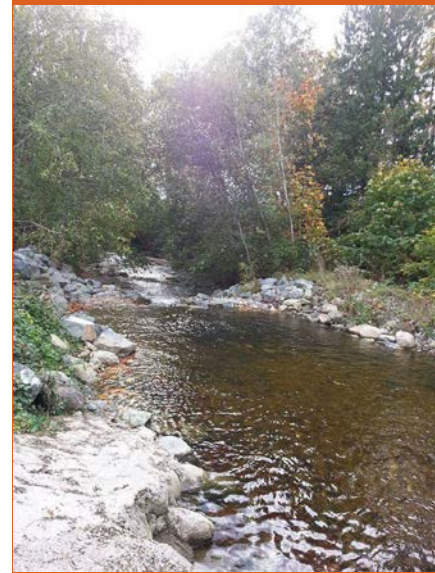
SOUTHERN ST'ATL'IMX SUB-REGION

On August 20, 2015 the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Health Council (FNHC) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), were welcomed by Samahquam, Xa'xtsa and Skatin as part of our Southern St'at'Imx Executive and Board trip. Community members told us about their health and wellness needs, priorities and challenges – as well as the good work being done by the Southern St'at'Imx.

The Lower St'at'Imx Wrap-Around Chronic Disease Management project has been approved by the Joint Project Board. A Project Manager has been hired and we are in the early implementation stage. There will be a focus on community members as they transition from home-to hospital-to home and ensuring they receive adequate and ongoing care.

We continue to work in partnership with VCH in the delivery of culturally-competent health programs and services with direction from the Southern St'at'Imx communities.

"I am continuously humbled by the hard work and dedication I witness from community leaders. I feel honored by the teachings they share and privileged to be able to support their work as their Community Engagement Coordinator." - Lesley Campbell, Community Engagement Coordinator, Southern St'at'Imx



Lower Stl'atl'imx Joint Project Board News

Partnering for a Lower Stl'atl'imx Wrap-Around Chronic Disease Management & Prevention Team

Stl'atl'imx Leadership have partnered together to develop the Lower Stl'atl'imx Wrap-Around Chronic Disease Management & Prevention Team project, with the vision of sharing common, needed positions such as health practitioners and a First Nations Transitions Coordinator. The existing chronic care health services can be very disjointed and navigating this system is incredibly challenging for vulnerable community members with complex care needs. The new Wrap-Around Chronic Disease Management & Prevention Team positions will connect with existing services in a coordinated way to provide a wraparound chronic care model for Stl'atl'imx community members.

Updates:

- Project Manager hired to oversee this project: Fran Hopkins
- Project Funding released to Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society for project management and two Elders Coordinators
- Work Planning and Project implementation underway

Contact: FNHA Technical Lead: Sarah Lalonde, VCR Project Developer

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MENTAL WELLNESS ADVISOR UPDATE

Since arriving in August 2015, Vancouver Coastal Mental Wellness Advisor (MWA) Cassandra Puckett has been providing expertise and leadership to the Regional Mental Wellness files, initiatives and projects for the Vancouver Coastal Region. As our Regional Mental Wellness Advisor, Cassandra provides input and guidance in the areas of mental health and coordination for supporting our communities during emergency or crisis situations. Also, her leadership with holistic planning and community development directly supports our regional vision of transforming the mental wellness services in the Vancouver Coastal communities.

Cassandra is the lead on the Mental Wellness Flagship Project (MWFP) and is capturing valuable feedback in the process of designing this project. In addition to the MWFP, Cassandra will be coordinating the review of Phase 2 of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) for the Vancouver Coastal Region.

Cassandra continues to provide excellent updates and respectful inclusiveness for ensuring the Vancouver Coastal Nations are truly driving the regionally-based work. This is an exciting time for the Vancouver Coastal Region and Cassandra is always available to support our Nations in Mental Wellness conversations.

"The beauty that resides in all of Creation lies within all of us. Wellness is the realization that our actions, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings have the ability to enhance our overall wellness. It has the ability to heal and transform our very being." – Cassandra Puckett, Mental Wellness Advisor, Vancouver Coastal Region.



Cassandra Puckett, Mental Wellness Advisor, Vancouver Coastal Region



YOUR VANCOUVER COASTAL REGIONAL TEAM

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