

Carrier Lakes Engagement Area Communique

Rhoda Hallgren, North East Community
Engagement Coordinator

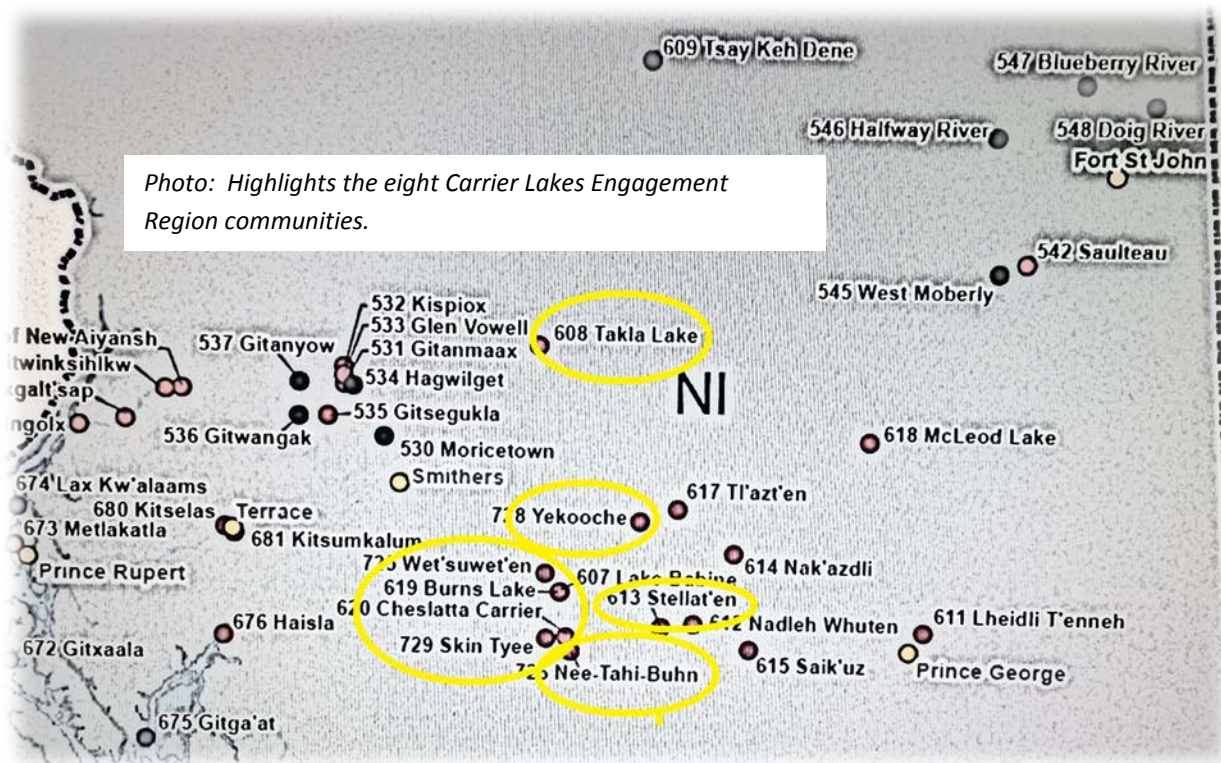


Introduction Carrier Lakes Region

The Carrier Lakes engagement area is within the Northern Central Interior region and is inclusive of the following eight First Nations communities:

- Burns Lake Band
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Nee Tahi Buhn Band
- Skin Tye First Nation
- Stelat'en First Nation
- Takla Lake First Nation
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation
- Yekooche First Nation

The eight Carrier Lakes communities are also under the umbrella of health transfer with Carrier Sekani Family Services along with two communities within the Carrier Lakes South region, Nadleh' Whuten First Nation & Saik'uz First Nation.



Community Engagement Coordinator



Rhoda Hallgren (*photographed on the left enjoying Nuwus*) has been employed as the FNHA Community Engagement Coordinator for the Carrier Lakes Region since January 2015.

Rhoda is the eldest daughter of the late Larry & Sophie Disher; she is a member of the Lake Babine Nation. Rhoda was raised in the Woyenne community located within the township of Burns Lake, BC and she is a member of the Likhc'ibu clan (bear clan).

During the past nine months, Rhoda has completed the required FNHA training and she has participated and provided assistance at FNHA events. She has also spent time becoming familiar with the Carrier Lakes communities including facilitating community engagement sessions. During the engagement sessions community members provide feedback and input, open brainstorming style, on health care issues, concerns and priority areas focusing on Primary Care, Mental Wellness & Substance Use, and Transportation. Community members in attendance also provided input into training requests as well as input for First Nations Wellness initiatives.

Rhoda has completed the following five community engagement sessions:

- Wet'suwet'en First Nation community engagement was held in the evening on May 20, 2015 at Necigeh Beyigh which is their beautiful new community hall adjacent to their health department and across the road from their new administration office. There were a total of 14 WFN members present at this session and the delicious catered dinner was provided by Wesley Louie of Yinka Dene Catering.



*WFN door prize winners:
Danielle Wall & Elder
Audrey Tom*

- Takla Lake First Nation community engagement was held in the evening on June 2, 2015 at their Bah'lats House which is located across the road from their community health centre in picturesque Takla Landing. There were 14 TLFN members present at this session and the catered dinner was provided by community member, Lucy West, assisted by CHR – Cathy West. The dinner provided was comprised of traditional and western dishes and it was delicious!



*Pictured above:
From left to right: TLFN Health Centre staff
Sophie West & Cathy West, Rhoda Hallgren,
FNHA CEC*



*Pictured above:
Takla Landing community – photo taken during
boat ride with community RCMP on Takla Lake*

- Yekooche First Nation community engagement session was held in the afternoon of June 4, 2015 at their spacious new health centre. There were a total of 13 YFN members present at this session and, due to the meeting taking place between 2 pm and 4:30 pm, FNHA staff (Renata Meconse and I) purchased food trays from the deli within the community of Nak'azdli First Nation prior to driving to the YFN community.



*Pictured left: Rhoda Hallgren, FNHA CEC
facilitating community engagement
session in YFN*

- Stelat'en First Nation community engagement session was held in the evening of August 5, 2015 at their community hall which is just down the road from their remarkable community garden. There were a total of 27 members present at this session and the amazing catered dinner was provided by community member, Betty Ann Heron.



*Pictured above:
Chief Archie Patrick opening the
session with a prayer*



*Pictured above:
SFN members enjoying dinner*

- Cheslatta Carrier Nation community engagement session was held in the evening of August 25, 2015 within their community band office board room which is in the same vicinity as their Chief Louie Paddle Company and their community garden. There were a total of 10 CCN members present and the tasty catered dinner was organized and brought in by interim CHR, Leah Leween.



*Pictured above:
CCN members enjoying dinner amidst hearty conversation*



Additional feedback was obtained from members of the Carrier Lakes communities through a Community Engagement feedback form filled out and returned to the FNHA booth at the Carrier Sekani Family Services Conference held in July 2015.

Rhoda is working with the CHR's of the remaining three communities to schedule their community sessions in the near future.

Workplans

The Carrier Lakes communities have contributed valuable information on the following health care priorities during the community engagement sessions:

- Primary Care
- Mental Wellness & Substance Use
- Medical Transportation
- Training
- First Nations Wellness Initiatives

Rhoda has completed the report based on all of the community engagement sessions where input was collected from those community members in attendance (the report will require revisions due to outstanding sessions to be completed). During a meeting with Mabel Louie, CSFS Director of Health Services, Rhoda was asked to work at scheduling another community session where community members have the ability to determine which areas to focus on within their priority fields. Once these sessions are completed, Rhoda, in partnership with Carrier Sekani Family Services, can develop a work plan that incorporates the communities' identified needs for better health outcomes.

Supporting Communities

Rhoda has continuously supported the work of the community health leads/directors by providing information and links to upcoming training & funding opportunities via e-mail as well as providing assistance to register for FNHA events such as Gathering Wisdom back in May 2015.

During the month of June, Rhoda attended the following community events:

- Skin Tyee First Nation's Elder Abuse Awareness luncheon where she was able to introduce herself and describe her role with FNHA.
- Aboriginal Day celebration in Burns Lake on June 19, 2015 (date change due to June 21st conflicting with Father's Day). As in previous years, there was a large turnout for Aboriginal singing, dancing and other events. Unfortunately, a few of the much anticipated events,

such as the tug-of-war competition & the snow shoe race, were cancelled due to torrential rainfall.

For those of you who were wondering, Keith Macdonald won 1st place & Melva Abraham won 2nd place in the nuwus making competition and Keith Macdonald and Lana Cahoose won the potato dance competition.



Pictured top left: Sylvia Thomas, NeeTahi Buhn Band, entering the nuwus making contest.

Pictured top right: Chief Rene Skin, Skin Tyee First Nation, operating a loonie auction with proceeds going towards the Elder's trip.

Pictured middle left: Family picture of Chereen, Ron, Rhea & daughter enjoying Aboriginal day festivities.

Pictured middle right: Chief Corinna Leween & her granddaughter ready for the rain in their Cheslatta Carrier Nation rain gear.

Pictured bottom left: Many community members taking part in the potato dance competition.

Pictured bottom right: Elder Violet Charlie, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, dancing in procession to the main stage.



her booth. Community members were asked to provide some information regarding health priorities as well as maternal wisdom stories for the next Spirit magazine issue coming out this October. For their information and/or stories, they were entered into a prize draw to win a camping chair & a large mixing bowl along with canned soapberries.

Pictured left: CSFS Conference – FNHA door prize winner, Sandra Boucher

Rhoda does look forward to attending events in community such as wellness days, health and career fairs, traditional & cultural events, etc. Rhoda can be reached by e-mail at rhoda.hallgren@fnha.ca or by phone at 250-251-1546 if you would like to request her attendance at your community event.

Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee (AHIC)

As the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Carrier Lakes Region, Rhoda does participate in two Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees (AHIC). She attends the Omenica District AHIC meetings along with Miranda Louie who is the FNHA Carrier Lakes South CEC & the Lakes District AHIC along with Cindy Macdonald who is the FNHA Lake Babine Nation CEC.

Omenica AHIC

Omenica AHIC is comprised of Northern Health representatives who are working in and surrounding the townships of Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, & Fraser Lake as well as representatives from the following First Nations communities Saik'uz, Nak'azdli, Tachie, Binche, Nadleh Whuten, Stella't'en, Takla Lake, & Yekooche.

Rhoda attended the Omenica AHIC that was held on August 20, 2015 in the community of Nak'azdli First Nation. During this meeting the following items were discussed:

- The previous meeting minutes were reviewed to determine what action items have been addressed or resolved.

- Invitation to the St. John's Hospital to recognize and celebrate Dr. Sophie Thomas & Dr. Mary John for their lasting contributions and healing in our communities
- Northern Health HIV & Hepatitis C program update including discussion on best practices for providing HIV & Hep C education in First Nations communities
- Stellat'en First Nation promotion of wellness program description which outlines their Education through food and food security teachings including berry picking, hunting, and grocery trips to look and read food labels
- Discussion regarding mental health assessments and privacy when assessments are requested by Ministry of Child and Family Services
 - Northern Health clinicians do not share assessments with MCFD nor have they encountered requests of this nature
 - First Nations health centre staff must look out for the privacy of their patients as well as ensuring that the trust of the health staff is upheld at all times
- Brief presentation by Preston Guno describing his new role with the BC Cancer Agency working out of the Centre for the North in Prince George
 - E-mail: Preston.Guno@bccancer.bc.ca
- All AHIC Gathering invitation and discussion of events

Lakes District AHIC

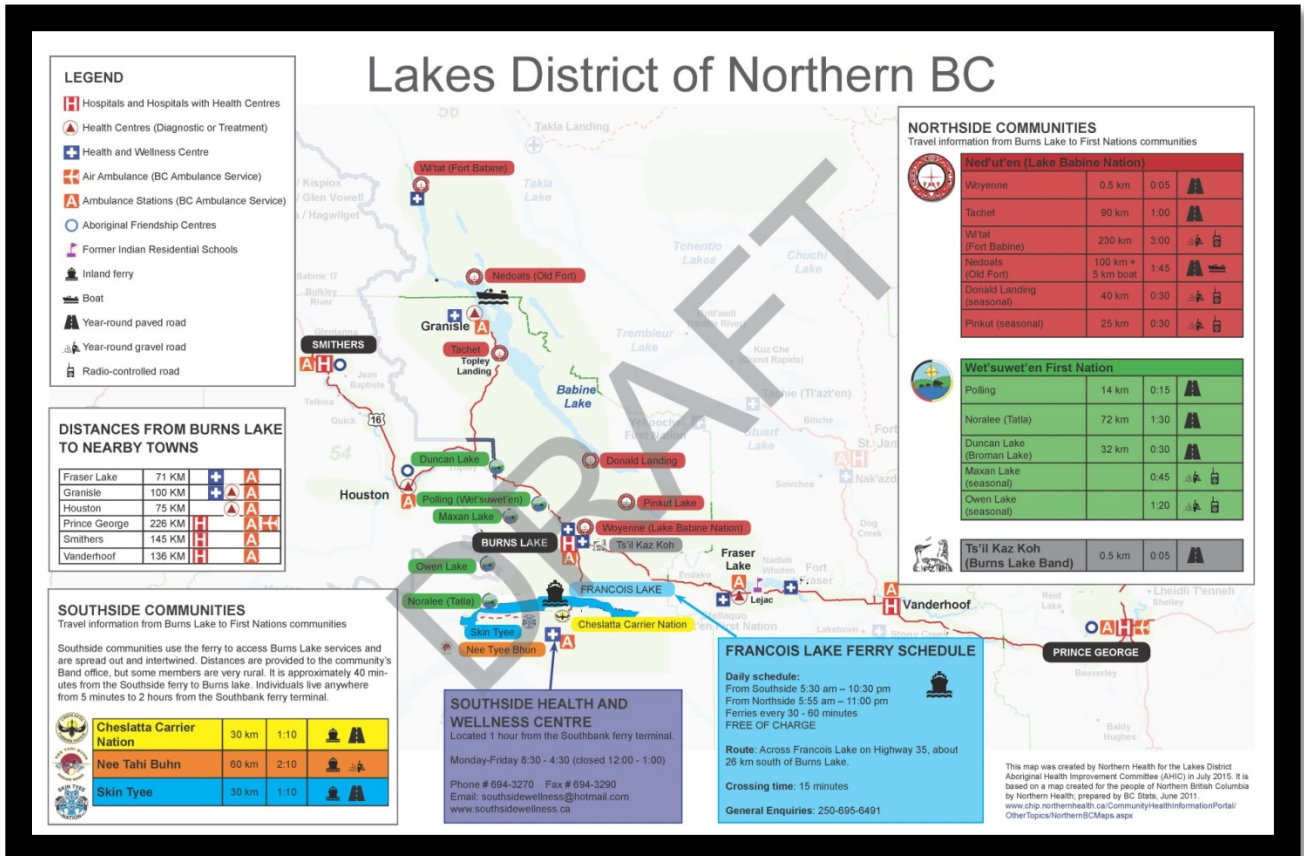
Lakes District AHIC is comprised of Northern Health representatives who are working in and surrounding the townships of Burns Lake & the Southside of Francois Lake as well as representatives from the following First Nations communities Lake Babine Nation, Burns Lake Band, Skin Tyee, Nee Tahi Buhn, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Wet'suwet'en.

Rhoda attended three Lakes District AHIC meetings from May to September 2015. During these three meetings, those in attendance provided directional and design input for two separate projects.

Lakes District Map:



- Illustrated below the draft of a Lakes District area map which will be posted in the offices within the new hospital as well as the clinic areas. This map was designed to better serve the First Nations people in and around the Village of Burns Lake by providing insight into where people are from and what barriers are present when attempting to access health care services. Our vision is that this tool

will better prepare doctors, clinicians, nurses and other health professionals in their delivery of health services for patients as well as assist in discharge planning.



Patient Information Wallet Card:

- Illustrated below is the draft patient information wallet card which was designed to assist health care professionals in attaining patient health related information. The rationale in developing this tool was to better assist patients who have difficulty communicating in English or prefer to speak in their Native tongue. This tool was also developed to assist health professionals should a patient have any other difficulties with speech as well as to better prepare for discharge planning.

Patient Information Wallet Card	My doctor is: _____
My name is: _____	My emergency contact is: _____
I live in: _____	Alternate contact: _____
My home community is: _____	My Community Health Representative (CHR)
First Nation I belong to: _____	Name: _____
My first language is: _____	Phone #: _____
 	

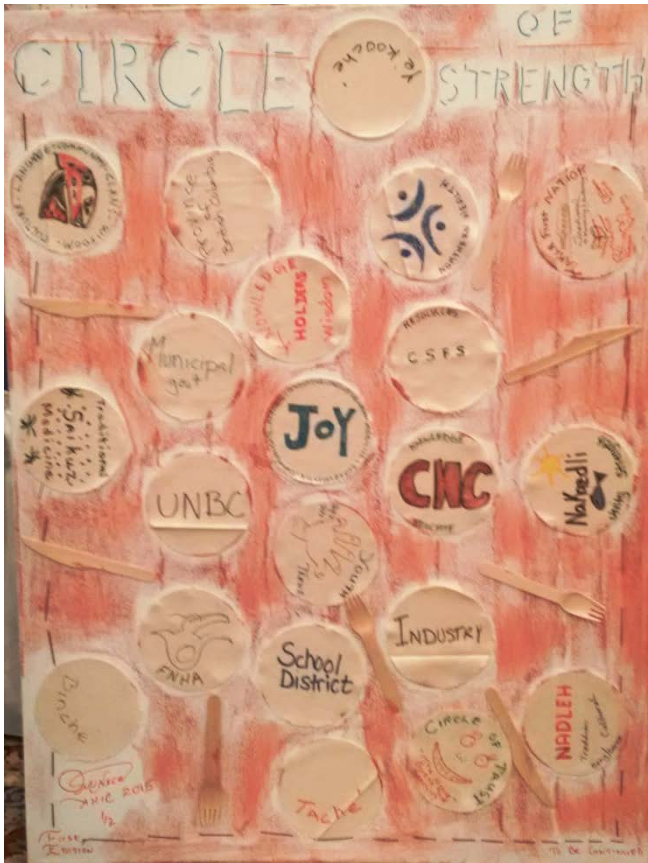
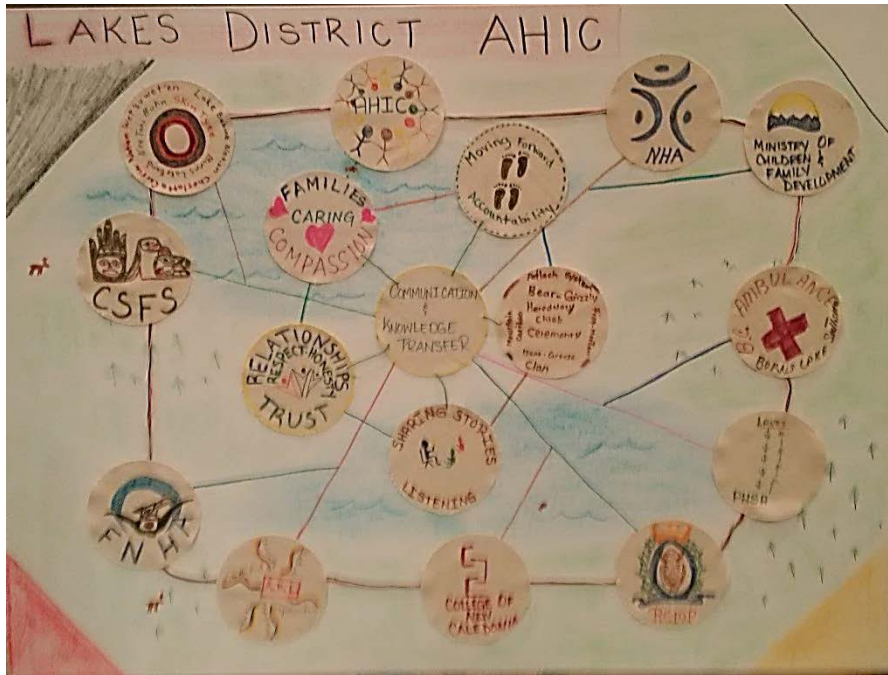
Outside of the card

Medical conditions I have:	Medications I take: _____
• Diabetes	_____
• Heart Disease	• Thyroid
• Cancer	• Arthritis
Other: _____	Allergies I have: _____
_____	_____
	Additional information: _____

Inside of the card

All AHIC Gathering

The All AHIC Gathering was held on September 22 & 23, 2015 at the Coast Inn of the North in Prince George, BC. The first day was a celebration of accomplishments and time dedicated to learning about the initiatives throughout the Northern regions. The second and final day was dedicated to team building and determining next steps and establishing feasible goals and an outlined plan on accomplishing those goals within the next year.



Team building exercise to map out partnerships based on a shared vision/goal.

Child & Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaboration

Rhoda attended a community information sharing session regarding Child & Youth Mental Health and Substance Use (CYMHSU) on August 19, 2015 in Fraser Lake, BC. During this session we watched a PowerPoint presentation outlining the goals and commitment of this collaboration. The goal of this collaboration is to increase the number of children and youth and their families receiving timely access to care by mapping out the resources that are available within regions.

Local action team start-up funding for this collaboration is available to March 2016. The funds are generally used to hire a project manager to coordinate the mapping process with the community participants.

There were a number of people in attendance from Burns Lake to Vanderhoof consisting mainly of those who work within the school districts. Additional information will be presented pending interest from the various regions.

To obtain additional information or to watch the PowerPoint presentation, please log onto www.sharedcarebc.ca or you may contact Valerie Tregillus at vtregillus@doctorsofbc.ca.

Awitzeh, ma'siyh.
(That is all, thank you)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FNHA NORTHERN REGIONAL TEAM



FNHA Northern Team from left to right:

Top Row: Brian Mairs, Northwest Regional Liaison; Renata Meconse, North Central/Eastern Regional Liaison & Findlay CEC; <Recently Resigned -Waneeta Richardson, CEC –Haida Gwaii> ; Verna Howard, CEC –Gitxsan/Wet’suwet’en ; Shannon Hall, CEC – True North(Kaska-Tlingit); Coco Miller, CEC –Coast Mountain; Cindy Macdonald, CEC – Lake Babine Nation; Sandra Garbitt, CEC - Northeast; Miranda Louie, CEC – Carrier Lakes South

Bottom Row: Rhoda Hallgren, CEC – Carrier Lakes; Bambi Tait, CEC – North Coast Tsimshian

Not Photographed: Nicole Cross, Regional Director; Jodi Payne, CEC – Tahltan; Jessica Mikolayczyk, Administrative Assistant