



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Northern Regional Table Communique



On 28 November, 2003 the Northern Regional Table, with all three sub regions represented by elected political and technical members met to discuss and make long term decisions that will ultimately benefit First Nations citizens in the North. Participants updated the table with significant health related items from each area to be discussed further with Northern Health for action plans to be put in place to mitigate shortfalls and to increase efficiencies in First Nations Health care.

The Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan was discussed for improvement to the plan itself, including the information concepts to be broken down to useable and understandable pieces in plain language. It was acknowledged that the Hub Coordinators are working to get Community input on the plan at this time.

The Mental Wellness and Substance Use Forum on 07 and 08 January 2014 is shaping up to be an exciting event, considering that we have requested direct feedback from Northern communities on the “10 Year Plan” released in the Spring of 2013. There was an expressed need to provide space for Child Advocacy Centres, Ministry for Child and Family Development, and Child and Youth Mental Health to make presentations at the forum.

Northern Community Engagement options have been discussed in depth over the last few months, and the time had come to take the available information and make the best possible decision on behalf of the communities that had elected representatives to the table. Three options had previously been recommended to the table from community, and by a majority vote, the Northern Regional Table voted to have all community engagement staff and resources become the responsibility of the FNHA and are managed regionally under a Regional Director. This change will not take place until 01 APRIL 2014, but preparatory work for the change in responsibility needs to start prior to the end of December, 2013

The Regional Director provided an update including the location of the Regional Office, which will be established with Judy Sandford at the Northern Nursing Office by December. There will be a posting for an Executive Assistant and a Regional Health Liaison for the North East and North Central, which is expected to be active by mid-December. There has been a Northern Team phone list developed for distribution to community so they know who to call in the north.

The Regional Director Workplan is being approved and calls for very aggressive work to be completed on a comprehensive communications plan, Regional issue tracking plan, improving the partnership with Northern Health, and ensuring the community engagement strategy moves forward as per directions from the community.

The next full Northern Caucus meeting will take place in Prince George in March 2014, and is tentatively slated for four days, with time set aside for First Nations Health Directors Association, Northern First Nations Child and Family Services Council, and First Nations Health Authority. Dates and venues are being negotiated.