



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



First Nations
Health Council

May 25, 2015

Northern First Nations Health Regional Table Communique

On May 11, 2015 the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), First Nations Health Council (FNHC), First Nations Health Directors Association (FNHDA) and the Northern Health Authority (NHA) Northern Regional Table (NRT) met to review and discuss progress in the area of First Nations health in the Northern Region. Participants reviewed initiatives underway with all three sub-regions represented by elected political and technical members.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COUNCIL (FNHC) UPDATE

FNHC Representatives, Warner Adam (North Central FNHC Representative) and Bev Lambert (North East FNHC Representative) were present at the NRT Meeting to provide updates on behalf of the FNHC. Both Bev and Warner updated the NRT on their FNHC working groups and other meetings they have recently attended. Much of their recent work has involved support for Gathering Wisdom For a Shared Journey VII that took place May 5-7, 2015. Updates were also provided on health promotion that FNHC continues to engage in, namely the progress and success of the [Beefy Chiefs 2.0 Step Up Challenge](#).

Warner was congratulated on his recent re-election as FNHC North Central Representative. The election for the position took place at the North Central Subregional Caucus in Prince George on April 29, 2015. Warner's new term will be for three years as per the Northern Regional Table (North Central appendix) Terms of Reference.

For more information about the role of the FNHC and to subscribe to FNHC news and information, please visit: www.fnhc.ca

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (FNHDA) UPDATE

FNHDA Representatives Patricia Hoard (North East), Lauren Brown (Northwest) and Vern Tom (North Central) were present and provided updates to the NRT on behalf of the FNHDA. Updates included meetings recently attended, support and participation at Gathering Wisdom. They also shared some of the work FNHDA is overseeing, some of which includes: Lateral Violence and enhancing communication between the FNHDA, FNHC and the FNHA, especially as work increases for all health partners.

They informed the NRT that the next FNHDA Board Meeting will take place in June in Haida Gwaii. The FNHDA Annual General Meeting will be held on the island September 15-17, 2015.

To learn more about the FNHDA and its role, please visit: www.fnhda.ca



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FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE

As Community Representatives of the Northern regions who participate at the NRT and Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee (NFNHPC), Aileen Prince (North Central), Julie Morrison (Northwest) and Colleen Totesuk (North East) were present to provide updates on their recent work, participation in First Nations health and share some of the highlights and emerging issues from communities.

Some of the emerging issues and highlights that were shared include:

- Need for cultural revitalization in North East
- Participation and support in applying for opportunities (grants, partnerships, etc.) needed
- Physician and nurse shortage in areas of the north - Recruitment and Retention issues
- Work taking place to address Lateral Violence in communities and that more is needed
- Panorama Privacy Training for nurses
- Nak'azdli has developed and is launching a Mental Health Program for school (K-12).
- Traditional Medicine work with Elders (linked with Pandemic Planning)
- Emergency Response Planning / Drilling / Implementation

The discussion continued with a roundtable of community concerns, news and information from all NRT members. Julie Morrison was also welcomed as the new Northwest Community Representative based on the election at the Northwest Subregional Caucus that took place April 22nd and 23rd, 2015 in Terrace. As per the Northern Regional Table (Northwest Appendix) Terms of Reference, her term is for two years. The NRT also thanked former Northwest Community Representative **Therese Hagen** for her contributions and support to the Northwest region, NRT and NFNHPC.

NORTH REGIONAL UPDATE

Nicole Cross, FNHA Northern Regional Director, provided updates to NRT members about the ongoing and growing work of the FNHA Northern Office. As part of the update, NRT members were informed of projects developed through joint planning with communities supported by community engagement coordinators, as well as regional level projects under development to address regional priorities.

As part of the discussion, the Northern Workplan was shared, this was reviewed and input was provided on further development. Regional training opportunities were also shared, including Emergency Response Training that is currently in the works with communities. This training will be provided through the Red Cross and will be completed by fall of 2015.

An overview was provided on work and priorities the regional office is moving forward. Regional Priorities of 2015/16 include: Primary Care, Mental Wellness Substance Use, First Nations Health Benefits, First Nations Wellness, and Industry and the Environment. An update was also provided regarding Telehealth and that FNHA is developing a strategy with communities to ensure they have support at any point of Telehealth development in their communities. For more information about Telehealth, please visit: www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/ehealth/telehealth



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NORTHERN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

An overview of the Draft Northern Investment Strategy was shared at the NRT. This draft strategy was developed through review of engagement feedback from the region, the Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan, a review of Funding Requests and consideration of guiding investment principles such as supporting equity and ensuring no community is left behind. As part of this review, it was shared that a report was completed on Community Engagement with input that was provided from Health Directors. Discussion on the interim funding formula (which takes into consideration factors such as remoteness, number of communities and population) highlighted the requirement to begin to look at including measuring need in future iterations of the funding methodology. Feedback from NRT members was provided and will be incorporated into improving the strategy. A strategic planning session with the NRT will be set up in July to look more closely at the workplan, investment strategy and invest processes.

PRIMARY CARE FUNDING PROCESS

As the final item for discussion at the NRT meeting, the topic of proposals submitted for NRT/Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee review and final [Joint Project Board](#) approval was discussed. A sharing of concerns and ways to improve process for funding proposals were put forward. It was recognized that the northern region wants to emphasize and support a non-competitive planning process as opposed to a competitive proposal process, however clear structure needs to be in place to address unsolicited proposals when they are received.

It was agreed that there are improvements to be made to the review process and that a planning session will take place in July to further review the northern workplan and investment strategy as well as ensure a clear and equitable process investments that support First Nations health is outlined.

About the Joint Project Board

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) established a Joint Project Board (JPB) on First Nations Health comprised of senior decision-makers from both organizations. The JPB is a mechanism to improve First Nations health and well-being through advancing strategic priorities, overcoming policy barriers, improving access to health services and supporting the integration of MoH and FNHA services and programs. Funding has been made available to initiate primary care projects that will be sustained in future years. The JPB is committed to selecting projects that address regional and/or local needs.

The next NRT meeting will take place in Prince George on September 2, 2015 preceding the [Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee Meeting](#) that will take place September 3, 2015. As part of the next meeting, there will be a review of the Northern Regional Table Terms of Reference in addition to action items from the May 11th NRT meeting.

To read more about the Northern Region and previous communiques, please visit:
www.fnha.ca/about/regions/north