



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## FNHA Board of Directors Appointed

*April 10, 2014*

### Background

At Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey V, BC First Nations, by a historic level of consensus, adopted Resolution 2012-01. This Resolution provided further direction to strengthen the role of the regions in the First Nations health governance structure, including the addition of five regionally representative board members.

### Recruitment and Selection Process

Over the past 18 months the First Nations Health Council, in their role as members of the First Nations Health Authority led an exhaustive recruitment process to populate the FNHA Board of Directors. Criteria established by BC leadership through [Navigating the Currents of Change](#) and the BC First Nations Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance was applied to all candidates. FNHA members assessed overall candidate suitability and appointed a highly skilled and competent Board. The new FNHA Board as a whole reflects a diversity of skills and experience and is well positioned to meet the need of all BC First Nations.

### Your new Board of Directors

The First Nations Health Council, in the role as members of the FNHA, is pleased to announce the appointment of the FNHA board of directors. Appointments include: Marion Colleen Erickson, Nathan Matthew, Helen Joe, Madeleine Dion Stout, Dr. Elizabeth Whynot, Jim Morrison, and Board officers Lydia Hwitsum (Chair), Pierre Leduc (Vice-Chair), and Jason Calla (Secretary Treasurer). As per [Navigating the Currents of Change](#) the terms of the members are staggered to ensure smooth transitions, appropriate orientation, continuity, and corporate memory.

The term for members Marion Colleen Erickson, Nathan Matthew, Lydia Hwitsum, Helen Joe, Jason Calla commenced April 1, 2014 and expire on March 31, 2017. The terms for Madeleine Dion-Stout, Dr. Elizabeth Whynot, Jim Morrison, and Pierre Leduc (Vice-Chair) were renewed and will expire on March 31, 2016.

## Meet our Board

### **Lydia Hwitsum - Board Chair**

Lydia Hwitsum graduated from University of Victoria's Law School in 1997, has a Certificate in the Administration of Aboriginal Government, a Diploma in Public Sector Management at the University of Victoria, and extensive training in Conflict Resolution. Lydia has held a number of prominent leadership positions, including Chief of Cowichan Tribes, Task Group member of the First Nations Summit, BC Region elected representative on the Assembly of First Nations National Women's Council, and former Chair of the First Nations Health Council. She also has served on a number of Boards, including at the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, the Land Title and Survey Authority, and the Tele'ethw Aboriginal Capital Corporation. Lydia has served on the FNHA Board of Directors since 2012, most recently as Chair.

### **Pierre Leduc - Vice-Chair**

Pierre's experience in the health care industry spans three continents and more than 37 years, with the last 14 years in British Columbia. For the past decade he has served on the board of directors of Providence Health Care. He has over 25 years of senior management leadership experience in the health care industry and over 20 years of experience on public, private, and not-for-profit governance boards as well as having extensive experience managing budgets of \$10 million to over \$500 million.

### **Jason Calla- Secretary-Treasurer**

Jason is a member of the Squamish Nation. He has extensive experience working with First Nations communities and organizations, including community development plans, economic strategies and impact assessments, fiscal and tax advisory, and community consultation and outreach for First Nation governments and organizations. His educational background includes: London School of Economics and Political Science, London, England — M.Sc. (Econ), Regional and Urban Planning Studies; and, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC — Bachelor of Commerce (Urban Land Economics). Jason has served on the FNHA Board of Directors since 2012.

### **Nathan Matthew**

Nathan Matthew is a member of the Simpcw First Nation and brings over thirty-eight years of experience in First Nations leadership positions to the FNHA. Mr. Matthew has a broad and diverse set of community development skills including program negotiation, strategic planning, program management and assessment and governance. The majority of Nathan's professional experience has been in First Nations education.

Mr. Matthew has served in numerous leadership positions including 20 years on the Simpcw First Nation Council and 18 years as Chief. Nathan also served two terms as the Chairperson of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and has been a member of several First Nations boards serving the diverse needs of First Nations in British Columbia. Over the course of his diverse career, Nathan has leveraged his negotiation, management and community development skills as a residential school administrator, principal of a First Nations school, negotiator for First Nations Schools and the executive director of Aboriginal education at Thompson Rivers University into positive change for First Nations communities.

**Marion Colleen Erickson**

Former two-term Chief of Saik'uz First Nation, Marion Colleen Erickson is a recognized community leader and veteran member of the RCMP. Colleen brings a wealth of negotiation, financial administration, mediation and leadership skills to the FNHA board. Her past Board roles include within local government, Elder society, business, and numerous school district appointments. She currently teaches part-time at the local college, mostly in Aboriginal Studies (ABST). A Dakelh grandmother (Ut'soo) from the Nak'azdli community and member of the Lasilyu (Frog) Clan, Colleen is committed to improving First Nations health and wellness. Colleen brings a Master's degree in Education focused on traditional philosophies of Carrier teachings and extensive cultural and traditional knowledge to the FNHA board. Colleen is an active community member who participates in the balhats (potlatch) system, and she believes that cultural identity is the foundation of health and wellness.

**Helen Joe**

Helen Joe is Sto:lo, a member of the Tzeachten Band, and widely celebrated as a Cultural and Spiritual Advisor. A firm believer that culture is medicine, Helen applies her extensive knowledge of cultural teachings to both personal and professional work. Helen brings over 20 years justice experience to the FNHA, including service on the BC Parole Board and a three year term as chair. Helen has also worked extensively with victims and inmates directly and lead justice policy reform. A speaker and teacher of the Halq'emeylem language and long-time leader of Longhouse gatherings, Helen is committed to advancing First Nations ways of being and knowing as essential to health and well-being.

**Madeleine Dion Stout**

Through her numerous accomplishments as a nurse, teacher, and philosopher, Ms. Dion Stout is a leader in the health development of Aboriginal people. Ms. Dion Stout's family provided her with a strong head start on the Kehewin First Nation. After graduating as a registered nurse in 1968, she returned to school to complete a Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction. She then completed her MA in International Affairs. Madeleine Kētēskwew Dion Stout was honoured with an honorary doctorate from the University of British Columbia. As well, the Canadian Nurses Association chose her for the Centennial Award that was given to 100 outstanding nurses in 2008. In 2010, she received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in Health. Ms. Dion Stout was appointed by Prime Minister Jean Chretien as a member of the National Forum on Health. Recently, she was appointed Vice-Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. She also serves on several non-governmental boards and committees.

**Jim Morrison**

Jim Morrison offers a wide range of skills and experiences in organizational development and review, training, policy development, strategic planning, facilitation, and program evaluation. He has been a management consultant for 20 years, working mainly with BC First Nations organizations, and has previously held management and policy positions with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and other organizations. He has degrees from UBC (B.Ed) and SFU (MBA), and serves as an adjunct professor at SFU in resource and environmental management.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.fnha.ca>.