

# Haida Gwaii Community Engagement Area Communique



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

Fall 2015

Waneeta Richardson, Community Engagement Coordinator,  
Haida Gwaii Community Engagement Area

## INTRODUCTION

The First Nations Health Authority engagement area of Haida Gwaii is made up of the two Haida Communities of Old Massett and Skidegate. The Community Engagement Coordinator, Waneeta Richardson, represents each community.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

After the last caucus we began moving the following initiatives forward:

- **The Haida Gwaii Midwifery Model**

This has moved to the contract negotiation stage with the two midwives. Once the contracts are signed midwifery services will be available in both Old Massett and Skidegate. After the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) was informed that funding had been secured to cover the cost of the two midwives, they were willing to grant hospital privileges to the second midwife.

- **Unity Run/Walk**

With the support of the Health Leads Committee, Old Massett and Skidegate Health Centers held their annual Unity Run/Walk in Tlell. Each year, the number of participants participating in the walk increases and many community members are inspired to incorporate fitness to their lives.

- **Baby Welcoming**

Old Massett Haida Health Center held a baby welcoming feast in May with all of the families to honor their new babies, wearing the new regalia family members had made for them. The evening was a huge success filled with pride and gratitude for the new souls who joined the community.





- **Community Engagement**

Skidegate Health Center held a community engagement session seeking input into identifying a location, design and features the community would like to see incorporated into the proposed new Wellness Center.

- **Information Sharing Luncheon**

Information previously collected through Community Engagement with the community of Old Massett was shared at a luncheon hosted by the Adult Day Program. This was an opportunity for the community to hear what each other's concerns are regarding health care delivery to the community.

- **Family Day**

Old Massett held a Family Day at the end of July inviting community members for a barbecue and offering face painting and fun activities for all.

- **Planning**

Haida Health Center from Old Massett held their annual planning retreat for staff and travelled out of community to the meeting space at Hiellen campgrounds. They spent the day planning for the fall and engaging in team building activities. They also identified any training that staff felt would benefit them in their jobs.

- **Engaging 55+ Community Members**

- Skidegate Health Center conducted a community engagement luncheon with community members 55 years and older. The purpose was to identify the type of programs and services community members would like to engage in to support their wellness.



## **WORKPLANS**

After conducting meetings with the Health Leads from Old Massett and Skidegate last winter and spring, priorities were identified that would be addressed in the coming year. With the recommendations from these discussions with the health directors, a work plan was developed. The work plan is organic and changes as different needs are identified but there are main areas that need addressing.

The Midwifery Model on Haida Gwaii is a joint priority between Old Massett and Skidegate and will be ready to launch sometime this fall. This has been a collaborative effort with many partners coming together to address the challenges of bringing the Midwifery Model into being.

Old Massett's Top Three Priorities are:

- To create a strong mental health team and address the mental health issues in the community with an emphasis on suicide prevention.
- Build capacity in the nursing and home care team.
- Conduct a patient travel analysis to identify the gaps in service.

Skidegate's Top Three Priorities are:

- To transform into a Wellness Model of Care and expand the Complimentary Alternative Medicine (CAM) Program – Traditional Wellness Coordinator & Life Skills Worker
- Funding to hire a full time dietician
- We need a psychiatrist with a specialty in trauma to work with the Mental Wellness Team.

Both communities are actively working to address these priorities. Through the engagement process, the communities' voice is being heard.

## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES**

Community members have reached out through phone calls and dropping by the office. From addressing the continuous bumping off of medications on the commercial airline flight from Vancouver to Massett, to assisting families in trauma through the suicides that have rocked our communities in the last year, people are beginning to understand that they can call on the CEC for assistance.

By providing input into the Old Massett Haida Health Center staff planning retreat to assisting at community engagement sessions put on by the Skidegate Health Center, the CEC has plenty of opportunities to interact with community members.

## **AHICS**

As a member of the North West AHIC, which includes all of the northern coastal communities, we are able to share 'best practices' with colleagues in the health field. This practice of knowledge sharing strengthens our existing programs and gives us ideas for new programs. Another positive to being part of the AHIC is we get to participate in projects which are great for team building between FNHA and Northern Health. The Patient Journey Mapping is a good example of the work communities, FNHA and Northern Health are working on together to bring forward solutions to issues faced by community members when they are accessing health care.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Waneeta Richardson  
Community Engagement Coordinator – Haida Gwaii  
[Waneeta.Richardson@fnha.ca](mailto:Waneeta.Richardson@fnha.ca)