

Lake Babine Nation Communique

Fall 2015



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from the Lake Babine Nation Communities of Woyenne, Tachet, Fort Babine, Old Fort and Donalds Landing.

Lake Babine has a population of approximately 2400 and of those, approximately 1500 reside on one of the five inhabited reserves around Babine Lake.

The Community Engagement Coordinator for Lake Babine's five communities is Cindy MacDonald, a member of Lake Babine Nation and resident of the Woyenne Community.



View of Beautiful Babine Lake from Tachet

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lake Babine Nation has experienced a lot of turn over throughout this summer. We have bid farewell to our Health Director, Michelle Brown and our Health Council Portfolio, Priscilla Crouse. I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and dedication to our Nation and in the Health Department and wish them both well in their future endeavours.

The Lake Babine Nation election took place in July and we have welcomed six new councillors and three councillors have returned from the last term. Chief Wilf Adam has also returned for his third consecutive term. I had an opportunity to present to them during their Chief & Council Orientation. The presentation included an introduction to me and some information on how FNHA got here and the Health Priorities as identified by the community members this year. I also gathered input from them regarding Health Priorities in their communities and answered some questions they had.

As noted, we have also seen Michelle Brown move on to a new path in Edmonton where she can be closer to her father. And to fill her shoes, we have Faith Brown as Interim Health Director. Faith has been working tirelessly with the Health programs to maintain the delivery of services and has been doing a great job. We look forward to scheduling our Health Wellness Committee Meeting during the third week of September to begin work on the Priorities set by our communities for the 2015-16 year.

The Lake Babine Nation community of Tachet was honored to be a part of the Tele-Health Promotional Video Project in August. Daisy Charlie welcomed FNHA Tele-Health Staff, FNHA Interviewer and a contracted film crew to the beautiful community of Tachet. The community was welcoming and hospitable as always. It was a beautiful day that the crew were able to witness the members practicing their annual fish harvest. We thank Tachet for allowing us to follow them throughout a day in their lives in their beautiful community. We are excitedly awaiting the completion of the video to show



Jordie taking a load off to visit with some Tachet Members and make a new furry friend.



our LBN pride.

Wellness Team Meeting scheduled and met to discuss the fall programming for our communities although this had to be rescheduled for mid-September as there was a death of one of our members and some delegates could not attend. We will be using the Community Engagement Feedback gathered in February 2015 to move forward with developing and scheduling Wellness programs and services for all LBN communities.

We had a Mental



Tachet Member Ruby Shaw connecting with Dr. John Pawlovich via Tele-Health.



Preparing the Tachet Movie Stars for what to expect from the day of filming

WORKPLANS

Our 2015-16 workplan includes working on areas such as:

- Improving access to physical fitness and nutrition programs in our remote communities – LBN is looking at hiring a CHR for Tachet and Fort Babine to begin work on improving access for these communities and discussing the possibility of venues to house equipment and a community kitchen.
- Gather information on Midwifery in remote communities in the North – The CEC is in the beginning stages of speaking with other CECs to find out how the midwifery initiative is working in other remote communities. Once that information is compiled the CEC will report back to LBN and LBN will decide if they would like to pursue this initiative for the Tachet Community.
- Traditional Wellness Approach – this initiative has been discussed immensely and LBN has a good idea of the direction they are heading with this although there has been some barriers that have caused some delays but once the nation can move forward we are confident the program will be amazing.
- Create a strong suicide prevention plan – Mental Wellness team meetings are scheduled to discuss and begin developing a plan using the Hope, Help & Healing tool from the Suicide PIP Training hosted by FNHDA in April 2015.
- Animal Control in Tachet – The CEC has been in contact with the BCSPCA to inquire about a sample by-law. There is some work already being rolled out by the Lakes Animal Friendship Society and we look forward to working with their team to support one another for the safety of our people and animals alike in Tachet.

- First Responders training for Tachet & Fort Babine – LBN is looking forward to our members attending the First Responders Training being offered in collaboration with the Red Cross and FNHA in November 2015. We will need to keep this an ongoing discussion as further engagement is required on how the First Responders will be supported once they return from the training.
- There are a number of other priorities our communities have identified but these are the areas we are looking at working on this year.

AHICS

The Lakes Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee will be reviewing drafts of the resources we have been developing to assist our members and doctors in building a better relationship so that we may see better health outcomes for our members accessing services with Northern Health in the Lakes.

The Lakes AHIC was only re-established in June 2014, so we are looking forward to sharing the progress we have made in our first year at the All AHIC Gathering on September 22-23, 2015.

There are a couple CECs that attend the North West East AHIC, although I have not yet been able to attend a meeting because being in a different sub-region has caused some conflicts with the scheduling of this AHIC meeting and North Central Sub Regional Caucus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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