

Community Engagement Coordinator – Sub-Regional Caucus Report

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Engagement Area: Tahltan

Communities Served: Iskut, Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek

Sub-Region: Northwest



PRIMARY CARE

Tahltan Mobile Support Team

We are pleased to announce Kirsty Casey has accepted the new position of Team Leader, Mobile Support Team in Dease Lake. Kirsty is originally from Williams Lake. She graduated from Thompson Rivers University with a Bachelor of Social Work in 2010. Over the past 3 years, Kirsty worked as Mental Health & Addictions Clinician in Quesnel before moving to Dease Lake. Kirsty is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology Program through Yorkville University.

We are continuing to recruit through Northern Health's website, we have one position left to fill and our Mobile Support Team will be complete! Our team so far consist of Doug Palmentar and Kirsty Casey.

Optometry Services

Getting regularly visiting optometry up to Tahltan traditional territory is a multi-year partnership journey with local FNHA and NH health leaders. In the Spring of 2017 Dr. Jared Bjarnason with his team from Suter Brooke Optometry travelled to Dease Lake to do a 4 day clinic, during this visit he saw a total of 104 patients. This was coordinated with CEC, Northern Health & Health Benefits. The visits will be coordinated for every six months.

North Raven Dental

Dental services continue in the Stikine; visits are quarterly a year.

Crisis Response

Objectives

- Develop Emergency Response Teams
- Develop & implement community care teams

- Develop crisis response teams – train front line workers
- Ensure adequate funding and staffing for Emergency Response services.
- Provide our own EMT “first responder” services for emergency situations.
- Establish local medivac heli pad locations in Iskut and Telegraph Creek
- Update community pandemic plans

Meetings have been planned with Tahltan Health Leads and the Crisis Response Coordinator and discussions will begin September 2017. Dease Lake/Tahltan Health will host ASIST and Safe Talk Training September 11, 12 & 13, training a total of 30 front-line workers including SD 87 staff from the three communities. Thank you to Christine Ball.

Summer 2017 Outcomes

Land based cultural revitalization (supporting): food security; Tahltan medicine plan program; land-based culture camps; Tahltan food and diets; language programs; activities and fitness programs; ceremonies (i.e., dancing, songs, drumming, sewing); HeadStart and parenting programs; Elder programs; and healing workshops.

On Aboriginal Day, the Dease Lake Community had the Grand Opening of their *Tahltan Tanning House* dedicated to Penny Louie, a Tahltan/Kaska Elder. Telegraph Creek will open a Tahltan Tanning House as well.

July 15th there was the launching of the *Tahltan Traditional Medicine Book*. This book was published and developed by Tahltan Health. Regional funding assisted in the printing. Throughout the summer there was a Fish Camp for community and Literacy Camp for school aged kids that ran from July 10-21 in Glenora, Telegraph Creek.

Iskut Valley Health also ran a Literacy Camp from July 24-August 4 for kids.

Tahltan Blueberry Camp ran in August for 2 weeks.

Iskut Valley Health will be hosting Men’s Camp and a Women’s Wellness Gathering in September 2017.

Outcomes

- Develop Crisis intervention teams 2017/2018
- Address the current situation of Air Medivac and work together with NH, FNHA & Regional District
- Ensure that TeleHealth is fully functioning in all three communities and explore the options of live care
- Continue working together on the MSTs and participate in an evaluation
- Develop a nursing strategy for fall 2017
- Explore options for providing nursing services across all communities.