

Community Engagement Coordinator – Sub-Regional Caucus Report

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Engagement Area: Coastal Tsimshian

Communities Served: Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla

Sub-Region: Northwest



Successes

The Coast Tsimshian regional communities of Metlakatla, Lax Kw'alaams, Gitxaala & Gitga'at have been working hard this past 6 months to improve community health services. In addition to community-specific initiatives, we are working together to implement the Coast Tsimshian Primary Care Team; a multi-disciplinary team that will address gaps in primary care services for coastal First Nation communities. In terms of recent milestones, job postings have been approved with final recruitment planning underway. The ER room at the Prince Rupert Hospital has been equipped to provide Virtual Care for communities. In addition:

- Lax Kw'alaams has hired a new Health Director
- Gitga'at expands its successful Brighter Smiles Program this year and is pleased with newly gained nursing consistency
- Gitxaala and Metlakatla have joined together on the *Tsimshian Saltwater Wellness Journeys*- an on-the-land traditional wellness and harvesting experience for youth

Challenges include stabilizing leadership positions for continuity, one-option/limited service provision, and an ongoing need for creative dialogue focused on aligning funding with service requirements.

Community Priorities

The health priorities in the Coast Tsimshian engagement area are mostly unique to each community. Areas of alignment include:

1. Implementation of the Mobile Primary Care Team (improved access to health practitioners)
2. Integration of traditional wellness practices into health service delivery
3. Integration of local foods and nutrition
4. Medical transportation

Engagement Activities

May 16- All AHIC Gathering

May 24- Coast Tsimshian Priority Planning Meeting (all communities)

June 14- Traditional Nutrition Knowledge consultation in Prince Rupert

July 21- Cultural Safety Hospital Tour

September 19-29th - Mobile Primary Care Specialist Community Tour

Specialized supports in traditional on-the-land activities, funding proposals, health information access, health policy development, and contribution agreements.

AHIC- Information Shared and Gathered

Haida and Tsimshian cultural safety hospital tour (Prince Rupert complete, Haida Hospital Tours planned), Implementation of traditional language signage in Hospital, Priority-Action Planning

Next Steps

The Tsimshian communities of Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla have unique, but clearly defined visions for the advancement of the health of our people. Each community is moving forward autonomously while embracing our shared Tsimshian values and culture. The remainder of this year will focus on realizing each community's vision for health while working with one another and partners (FNHA, Northern Health) on specific shared touch-points, such as the Mobile Primary Care Team, On-the-Land Initiatives, and advancing cultural safety in primary care. We anticipate being an active voice in closing the gap in health care for all First Nations.