



FNHA AND THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION REPORT

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION RECOMMENDATIONS



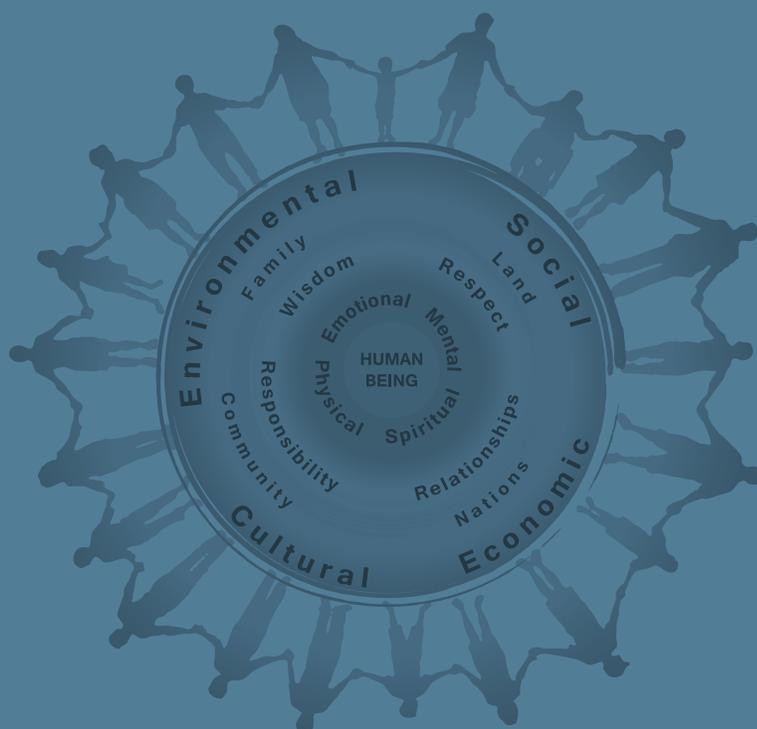
First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

WHAT IS FNHA DOING TO SUPPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT?

First Nations have a long history of health and wellness, sustaining vibrant Nations since time immemorial. This was forcibly interrupted by colonization. Government policies of assimilation, including the Indian Act, residential schools, and Indian hospitals, were designed to forcibly separate families, eliminate cultures, and disempower communities. As a legal commitment under the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada was mandated to reveal the complex truth and legacy of the residential school system and preserve survivors' stories. The TRC concluded that all Canadians have a responsibility to advance reconciliation through understanding and action to address the ongoing impacts of colonization.

As a first-of-its-kind First Nations health organization in BC, the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) is involved with and supports the broader national reconciliation process on a daily basis, as we work with First Nations communities as well as our partners at Health Canada and throughout BC. Here we provide an overview of FNHA's alignment with the spirit of the TRC report and our role in advancing the Calls to Action.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report's overarching themes, such as respect, relationships, and cultural safety are well-embodied in the work of the FNHA, as is the TRC's definition of reconciliation as "an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships." The FNHA is committed to working with our tripartite partners and communities to promote cultural safety and humility across the health system and address the ongoing legacies of colonization in the spirit of reconciliation.



FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

TRC RECOMMENDATIONS AND FNHA HOLISTIC VIEW OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In many areas, FNHA's work goes above and beyond the seven health-specific Calls to Action made by the TRC, indicating our broader wellness-based approach since assuming the responsibilities formerly handled by Health Canada. Overleaf are some of the FNHA activities, programs and partnerships related to the TRC Calls to Action.

HOW IS FNHA IMPLEMENTING THE 94 ACTIONS?

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JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

- FNHA develops policy and program approaches to support the implementation of Jordan's Principle in BC, including through the tripartite partnership with Canada and BC and implementation of the new federal Child First Initiative in the BC context.

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CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PARENTING AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

- FNHA funds early childhood development programs that support healthy pregnancies, parenting and child development.
- FNHA has joint initiatives with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to support First Nations families to have access to culturally appropriate doula services.
- FNHA partners with key federal, provincial, and First Nations organizations to coordinate efforts for the early years.

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ACKNOWLEDGE ONGOING LEGACY OF COLONIZATION ON HEALTH AND RECOGNIZE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO HEALTH AS EXPRESSED IN RELEVANT LAWS AND TREATIES.

- The First Nations Health Governance Structure in BC enables First Nations to more fully participate in the design and delivery of health services.
- BC First Nations have given clear standards and instructions to the First Nations Health Governance Structure through the 7 Directives. In keeping with Directive 6, FNHA operates without prejudice to First Nations interests, which includes having no impact on Aboriginal Rights and Title and First Nations Treaty rights.

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MEASURE AND PUBLISH PROGRESS ON CLOSING THE GAPS IN HEALTH OUTCOMES BETWEEN ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES.

- The tripartite agreements established seven performance indicators to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. The BC Provincial Health Officer reports on these seven performance indicators in the *First Nations Health and Well-being: Interim Update*, as well as 64 health indicators reported in the *Pathways to Health and Healing Report*.
- The tripartite parties committed to establish wellness indicators—strengths-based measures of wellness grounded in the First Nations Perspective on Health and Wellness. Wellness indicators are under development following a series of engagements with First Nations communities across BC.

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ADDRESS THE DISTINCT HEALTH NEEDS OF THE MÉTIS, INUIT AND OFF-RESERVE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

- Tripartite agreements provide clarity that provincial programs and services are for all British Columbians, including First Nations at home and away from home (on- and off-reserve).
- FNHA partners with Regional Health Authorities on health services for First Nations and Aboriginal peoples in urban areas.
- FNHA partners with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres on approaches and services for health and wellness, available to all Aboriginal peoples in BC.
- FNHA funds open wellness grants (such as Aboriginal Day of Wellness Grants) and urban-based service projects.

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ABORIGINAL HEALING CENTRES THAT ADDRESS PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALING.

- FNHA has reviewed mental health and substance use programs, such as the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, and is working to expand addictions treatment centres into centres that support holistic healing, including for trauma.
- FNHA invests in culture-based healing at centres in First Nations communities.
- Traditional and First Nations healing is a key component of the FNHA Primary Health Care++ model and is being integrated into a large number of new primary health care and mental health service delivery projects.

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VALUE TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALING PRACTICES.

- Traditional wellness approaches are supported through new dedicated funding and a Traditional Wellness Strategic Framework, created with First Nations Elders and healers.
- To accompany the Framework, FNHA is developing a First Nations healing and wellness guidebook. The guidebook aims to support communities and projects to integrate traditional wellness into programming.

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ABORIGINAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMS

- FNHA promotes and supports the training of First Nations health professionals through funding for scholarships and strategic partnerships with leaders such as the First Nations Education Steering Committee.
- The San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training is a mandatory training for all FNHA staff.

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ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT AND CULTURAL SAFETY FOR ABORIGINAL OFFENDERS.

- FNHA partners on initiatives to improve health and quality of life during and after prison, such as the "Partners in Change" project.

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FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) PREVENTION AND JUSTICE REFORMS FOR OFFENDERS LIVING WITH FASD.

- FNHA supports FASD programs through funding of prevention programs, partnership with Community Living BC and strategic action in "A Path Forward" for preventing FASD and alternative justice for those living with FASD.
- Through Joint Project Board and regional envelope funding, regional FASD programs are being funded, including FASD assessments.

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CHIEF CORONERS AND PROVINCIAL VITAL STATISTICS AGENCIES TO PROVIDE DEATH RECORDS OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.

- The TRC, FNHA and PHO are investigating 4,900 child death records from 1870-1894 to provide some measure of closure to families who lost loved ones, as part of the reconciliation process.
- FNHA partners with the BC Coroners Service (BCCS) to enhance cultural safety in pathology practice and prevent future child injury and death.

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SPORTS POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND INITIATIVES ARE INCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

- The FNHA is a founding member of the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council, which delivers sport programs and services to Aboriginal people in BC and provides annual core funding.
- The FNHA issues a number of annual Day of Wellness granting processes which provide flexible resources to support communities to celebrate health and wellness through physical activity, respecting tobacco, healthy eating, and nurturing spirit.

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Reconciliation**
Commission of Canada

Commission de
vérité et
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du Canada