

# Governance Stream Summary

Gathering Wisdom for a Shared  
Journey VI

October 24, 2013

## Background

- At this summer's Regional Caucus sessions, leadership identified the need to engage in open strategic dialogue on key issues like the social determinants of health and reciprocal accountability.
- Day 1: Chiefs' Strategy Session Plenary and Regional Dialogues
- Day 2: Ceremony words of witness and presentations on FNHA structure
- Day 3: Governance Stream breakouts

## Purpose

- To summarize key themes of discussion that have taken place in the governance stream over the past several days
- Does not include:
  - Discussions from the other 70 health-related breakout sessions that took place during the forum (including sessions with the FNHA VPs)

## Day 1: Chiefs Strategy Session

- Support expressed for the work
- Reach agreement amongst ourselves on how we work together
- Governance
  - Proposal on FNHA membership
  - Accountability
  - Reporting
  - Process for providing input and guidance
- Communications and engagement
- Planning and Evaluation → Transformation

## Day 1: Interior Regional Dialogue

- Development and implementation of community and Nation health plans
- Strengthen linkage between technical advice and political leadership
- Clarity needed regarding the role of the FNHC and process for FNHC to advocate or advance regional issues
- Interior leadership needs to develop a process for making regional decisions and collectively identifying priorities common to the Nations
- Importance of prevention strategies, including by incorporating our culture and traditional medicines

## Day 1: Fraser Regional Dialogue

- Excitement regarding the implementation work in the region (planning and Regional Table)
- Share best practices across regions (regional governance, decision-making, conflict resolution)
- Priorities/Issues:
  - Mental Wellness and Substance Use
  - Addressing Lateral Violence
  - Physical Activity (particularly for youth)
  - Prevention and education / health literacy
  - Social determinants – justice and youth
- Strategic-level communications targeted for leadership

## Day 1: Northern Regional Dialogue

- Issues/Priorities
  - Mental Wellness and Substance Use
  - Traditional medicine
  - Discharge planning
  - Primary care in First Nations communities
  - Residential schools survivors' support
  - Maternal & child health (midwifery, doula, etc.)
  - Ehealth
- Communications
- Health benefits (medical transportation, resolve operational transfer issues, pursue economic opportunities)
- Regional Health & Wellness Plan supported

## Day 1: Vancouver Coastal Regional Dialogue

- Support strong communication within region at all levels
  - Leaders to bring updates from these meetings to communities
  - Orientation for new Chiefs and health leaders
  - Manage expectations regarding the transfer – high expectations of immediate change, not two years from now
  - Community engagement, building on work to date of hubs
  - Do not just limit communications to digital and social media
- Regional governance
  - Processes should utilize/build on current structures (tribal councils etc.)
  - Clarify roles and responsibilities
  - Clarify process for bringing forward issues and discussion points
- Development of cultural competency framework

## Day 1: Vancouver Island Regional Dialogue

- Team building and working through issues in a constructive way
- Need clarity on the process for issues to be raised from local, to regional, to provincial level – i.e. resolutions, petitions.
- Solutions-oriented.
- Health priorities (remote and isolated communities, mobile services and health benefit program improvements)
- Communications (use simple, easy to understand language, and improve communications at regional and sub-regional level using regional capacity and regional governance processes)
- Social determinants (support collaboration to address cross sector issues)
- Governance (multiple perspectives on issue of FNHA membership, strengthen sub-regional and regional supports, and seek clarity on the process to work through issues, propose solutions and make decisions).
- Vancouver Island Terms of Reference Review

## FNHDA Discussion on SDOH

- During regional breakouts and table work in the afternoon plenary there was a consistency in the messaging and emerging themes:
  - Health Directors are well positioned to inform the development of an SDOH strategy
  - Fundamentally SDOH is about knowledge and skills that contribute to individual empowerment
  - Cultural identity is a common element throughout even while it is expressed in diverse ways
  - It requires engaging with both expected sectors and pressing issues (i.e. home and away from home)
  - Health Directors well positioned to determine how to connect the different silos at the community and align resources (e.g. health, environmental health, housing, etc.)
  - Tools and supports are needed including building from the lessons learned and standards set by BC First Nations
  - The strategy will require a clear definition of SDOH
  - Timing of changes has to be sustainable
  - There is a continued need for system change within the federal and provincial governments (e.g. budgeting cycles, policy and program flexibilities, bringing other departments/ministries into the conversation)

## Data Governance

- Initiative very broad – much broader than the role of the FNHC and FNHA (but certain elements relevant to the mandates of the FNHC and FNHA)
- Data critical at community level to inform quality improvement
- Reporting generates raw data at a community level, but many communities do not have the capacity to conduct analysis
- Capacity development is key – investing in training and information management systems

## Reciprocal Accountability

- Require clarity about the processes and mechanisms for working through issues
- Require clarity about the distinct roles of the FNHA, FNHDA and FNHC when bringing issues forward – defining what issues belong at what table – and how matters flow from local, to regional, to provincial levels
- Work is required to support clarity on regional governance processes – how First Nations work together in regions to identify solutions, make decisions, provide advice to other regions, etc.
- Disclosure of remuneration of Boards and Councils

## Social Determinants of Health

- Support collaboration and ground-up approaches, building on strengths of the structures we have in place (i.e. Tribal organizations, Regional Caucuses, community and Regional Health & Wellness Plans, etc.)
- Support Nation building with an emphasis on connecting people to the land and traditional teachings
- Continued communication to ensure everyone is informed and involved – collectively prepare to take next steps when ready
- Strike a balance between health priority issues and broader social determinants opportunities