

# Indigenous Health

NORTHERN HEALTH UPDATES

FALL 2018

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## New 5-year partnership grant with UNBC and announced

We are pleased to announce that Northern Health is one of the partners on a successful Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) proposal entitled, Increasing First Nations Employment Participation and the Responsiveness to Indigenous Well-Being within BC's Northern Health Authority: A Decolonizing Humanities-Based Approach. Dr. Margo Greenwood, VP of Indigenous Health and Academic Lead at the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, along with Dr. Sarah de Leeuw will lead this 2-year project, which aims to Indigenous and diversify the health care workforce within the Northern Health Authority. The grant will also act as the foundation for a wider research project in northern BC with a similar focus of increasing Indigenous employees in the healthcare sector and being more inclusive of Indigenous

worldviews. Specifically, Greenwood and de Leeuw are focused on understanding how the employment environment within the health sector can better attract and be more advantageous for First Nations, how to increase non-Indigenous health care workers' understandings of the unique sociocultural of Indigenous peoples, and how creative research tools might provide more successful means of gathering stories and reaching conclusions about making healthcare sectors more culturally safe for Indigenous peoples and ways of knowing.

## Indigenous authors recommend books all Canadians should read

Are you in search of a new book to read? In a recent episode on CBC's Unreserved, host Rosanna Deerchild spoke to various Indigenous authors asking what books they would recommend for all Canadians to read. Authors including Lee Maracle, Alicia Elliott, Daniel Heath Justice, Theodore Van Alst, and Gregory Younging were among the authors

## Highlights

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providing recommendations of various books. Of the books, *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline was suggested, and was also a contender of Canada Reads 2018. Other recommendations included: *The Break* by Katherena Vermette, *Jonny Appleseed* by Joshua Whitehead, *A Really Good Brown Girl* by Marilyn Dumont, *Heart Berries* by Terese Marie Mailhot, *This Wound is a World* by Billy-Ray Belcourt, *Mongrels* by Stephen Graham Jones, and *The Fourth World: An Indian Reality* by

George Manuel. For the complete article and for more stories like this one, [go online to CBC Unreserved](#).

## UBC opens residential school history centre to share survivors' stories and educate students, public

A new centre to honour residential school survivors has opened on the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver. [The Residential School History and Dialogue Centre](#) officially opened April 9th and will include archival photos, maps and personal accounts of residential school survivors. The centre will contain interactive audio and visual materials collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and will be a place where former residential school students and survivors, and their families, friends and communities to access personal and community records and other materials collected by the TRC. The centre will also offer Canadians an educational opportunity to learn about the history of the residential school system. In addition, the centre will provide space for young Indigenous people to learn about this history, and how they may be impacted by the collective trauma of the residential school experience. Linc Kesler, director of the First Nations House of Learning at UBC noted the importance of the centre in “break[ing] the historical pattern of the public being left unaware of the abuses committed at residential schools.” In tandem with the opening of the centre, UBCs president delivered an apology on behalf of the University for the part the institution played in supporting

the operation of residential schools. The centre will act as the West Coast branch of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission based in Manitoba.

## Student Awards

The Northern First Nations Health Partnership Student Award was released in August 2018 for Indigenous students studying in health related fields at four Northern BC post-secondary institutions. Awards in the amount of \$1000 were distributed to:

- Coast Mountain College (formerly Northwest Community College)
- Northern Lights Community College
- College of New Caledonia
- University of Northern British Columbia

In total, fourteen students will be sponsored with the funding provided by the Northern Health Authority and the First Nations Health Authority on behalf of the Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee (NFNHPC), several of which have already been distributed. A total of 43 awards have been distributed since 2016.

“Words cannot convey the thanks I have for the financial contribution presented. Thank you again for the financial support and helping me strive to achieve my academic goals. I look forward to completion of the program and hope to make a difference.” UNBC, Social Work Student

“The support your scholarship provides will enable me to continue pursuing my academic

and personal growth as a nurse in training. It is very noble of you to give back to the health community in such a selfless way.” UNBC Nursing Student

## Wellness Grants

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and Northern Health (NH) are offering Wellness Grants for a maximum of \$5,000 to support First Nations communities working to improve the health and well-being of First Nations in Northern BC. A call for applications was released on Thursday, October 11th with a submission deadline of Thursday November 22nd.

Contact the Indigenous Health department for more information: [Indigenous.Health@northernhealth.ca](mailto:Indigenous.Health@northernhealth.ca)

## Spotlight on your health

### World Suicide Prevention Day - September 10th

Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death overall and the second among youth aged 24 and younger, and each year there are 4,400 deaths by suicide in Canada. [World Suicide Prevention Day](#) is an opportunity for everyone to raise awareness and understanding about suicide, and highlight prevention activities.

## FNHA Webinars

FNHAs Indigenous Wellness Team has released a recording of their recent [webinar](#) focusing on the latest developments in the Opioid Public Health Emergency and how Indigenous communities can work together to respond.

## Upcoming events

View our [online events calendar](#) for all upcoming events.

[Creating a New Legacy – Aboriginal Mental Health & Wellness Conference](#), October 23-24, Brandon, MB

[BCACCS Annual Provincial Training Conference](#) November 1-3, Richmond, BC

[Northern BC Research and Quality Conference](#) November 6-8, Prince George, BC

[IDC Brown Bag Lunch Series](#) A joint initiative between Northern Health and UNBC to promote health research in the North. October 25, November 22, Prince George, BC

## Resources

 [First Nations Health Authority \(FNHA\) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) Report](#). This brief document outlines the First Nations Health Authority’s (FNHA) commitment to the recommendations as laid out

within the Truth and Reconciliation Report and an assertion that the overarching themes in the TRC are embedded within the work of the FNHA.



[The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2017 - Designing Healthy Living](#).

This report covers the importance of our “built environments” and how they are the foundation for our health and behaviours. The focus is on physical activity, healthy diets, mental wellness, and the ways in which the built environment can impact our health.




[Canadian Public Health Association \(CPHA\) - Jordan's Principle and Public Health Position Statement](#). The

Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) released their position statement in support of Jordan's Principle through this document. The CPHA is calling on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to fully implement Jordan's Principle in a move to end inter-jurisdictional

disputes over health and social services provided to First Nations' children.

 [The Assembly of First Nations \(AFN\) - The First Nations Health Transformation Agenda](#).

With the intention to provide policy options and highlight innovative practices in the spirit of transforming health systems. Discussion on reconciliation and health, Jordan's Principle, Cultural awareness and humility in the healthcare system, and information on health infrastructure and support can be found in the report.

 [Children and Their Vision: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know](#). This

updated booklet contains accessible information about why establishing comprehensive eye care early in life is important for a child's long term development.

“Awet dzin dilhdza’.	The days are getting longer.
“Utsiyan ‘unt’oh.	This is grandfather.
‘Anditdzin najas.	It is snowing today.
A, soo’ust’oh.	Yes, I am fine.
Beooltun-i udunudzai	The freezer is open.
‘Chalhtsul ‘unt’oh.	This is a baby.