

Indigenous Health

NORTHERN HEALTH UPDATES

SUMMER 2018

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Northern Health Response to Wildfires

British Columbia saw another summer of intense wildfire activity, with many northern communities among those given evacuation alerts and orders. Northern Health set up various Emergency Operations Centres this summer to support system-wide needs, and coordinate and support responses to wildfire-related issues, especially in the Omineca, Lakes and Cariboo districts where there was elevated wildfire activity. Prince George saw upwards of 2,000 people register at the CN Centre - the site of the Emergency Operations this summer - with Northern Health providing nursing and mental health supports for evacuees. The First Nations Health Authority was also on site at the CN Centre, offering mental health and nursing supports, traditional healers, and evacuation navigation.

Local photographer featured in Lancet series

A local photographer in Prince George recently completed a photo essay for the Lancet series on successes and challenges in the Canadian healthcare system. Philomena Hughes was asked by the world renowned medical journal to capture stories of Indigenous healthcare providers in Canada, including Elders, researchers, students, administrators and health care professionals. Most of the portraits taken were based in Prince George or in northern BC. The portraits included many familiar faces in Prince George, including staff from Central Interior Native Health Society, professors from the University of Northern BC, and local physicians included Todd Alec and Nadine Caron. Hughes worked closely with each person who was featured in a portrait, and noted how this project has given her an appreciation of the role

Highlights

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traditional practices play in healthcare in the north, such as smudging. The Lancet series included contributors from across Canada, including Dr. Margo Greenwood, VP of Indigenous Health at Northern Health. The [photo series can be accessed online](#).

NFB Launches Indigenous Cinema website as part of three-year Indigenous Action Plan

The National Film Board of Canada recently launched 'Indigenous Cinema' – a website with free access to over 200 films by Indigenous

directors. The collection will include **short and full length feature films** produced from 1968-2017. This comes as part of a three-year Indigenous Action Plan from the National Film Board of Canada in response to recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada around Indigenous creators' concerns over systemic inequities existing in the Canadian production industry. The **Action Plan** includes “achieving representational parity in the NFB workforce by 2025; an immediate commitment to ensuring 15 percent of production spending is on Indigenous-directed projects; and a commitment to working with Indigenous partners to develop protocols/guidelines for the production and distribution of works on Indigenous content/themes as well as protocols for access to and reuse of archives” (National Film Board of Canada, 2017).

Spotlight on your health

September is World Alzheimer's Month and Menopause Awareness Month

Two 2018 reports from the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCA) share important information about these two health topics.



Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in Indigenous populations in Canada: Prevalence and Risk Factors



Menopause and Indigenous women in Canada: The State of Current Research

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. [Learn More...](#)

Orange Shirt Day is September 30th #EveryChildMatters



Orange Shirt Day commemorates the legacy of the residential school system, the trauma Indigenous children faced in this system, and the ongoing intergenerational harm caused to Indigenous families and communities in Canada. The name “Orange Shirt” came from residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad, whose new orange shirt was taken from her upon arriving to St. Joseph

Mission residential school in 1973. Orange Shirt day is an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals, families and communities across Canada to come together in the spirit of reconciliation. For more information, resources and ideas, and to take part in the upcoming day, [visit the official website](#).

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.

22nd BCAAPOP Conference – Exploring Mental Health: Well-being for Infants, Parents and Support Workers
October 4-6, Vancouver, BC

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

In 2017, Dr. Sarah de Leeuw wrote a series of monthly cover stories for Canadian Family Physician (CFP). Dr. Sarah de



Leeuw captures several narratives around health care and understanding of the medical

system in Canada in this captivating series of eleven cover stories that celebrate what we know, what we don't know, and some of the amazing things happening in health care today.

First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report. This brief



document outlines the First Nations Health Authority's (FNHA)

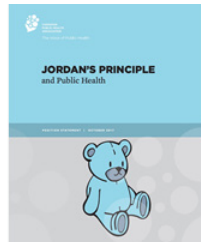
commitment to the recommendations as laid out within the Truth and

Featured Indigenous language: Hlgaagilda Xaayda Kil

Spoken in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii this dialect is being actively taught through the Skidegate Haida Language House.

To learn more about Hlgaagilda Xaayda Kil language and to hear recordings of words, phrases, stories and songs, visit the [First Voices portal](#).

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



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.

awaay dang dii k'uuga ga.	Mother I love you
'Waasii hla daaw.	That go get. = Go get that.
'Wadxanaay gaaw hll isdyaang.	I am going to the store.
kaajii ts'iigwii, giyuu dii sdaahl.	I want a haircut.
gaan, giyuu dii sdaahl.	I want berries
kahl t'inu, giyuu dii sdaahl.	I want ice cream.