

NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND WELLNESS PLANNING COMMITTEE



The Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Planning Committee- September 14, 2012

On September 14th 2012, the Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Planning Committee (the Committee) held its inaugural meeting. The objective of the session was to develop the interpersonal, cross-cultural and structural working relationships between the First Nations Health Council (FNHC), Northern Health Authority (NHA) and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). The overall purpose of the Committee is to implement the relationship outlined in the Northern Partnership Accord and collaboratively develop a *Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan*. The session was facilitated by Harold Tarbell with opening remarks and a welcome to the territory from Lheidli T'enneh Elder, Violet Bazoki.

Cathy Ulrich (NHA), Warner Adam (FNHC), and Lloy Wylie (FNHA), provided an overview of each organizations structure and approach to First Nations Health to educate one another and gain a better understanding of each operational health system. Cathy Ulrich highlighted the challenges of having the largest geographical area with the smallest population, and the greatest number of year-round transient workers of all of the Regional Health Authorities in BC. Warner Adam provided an overview of the scope of FNHC, FNHA, and First Nations Health Directors Association both provincially and as they relate to the Northern Region. This included the activities and expected outcomes of the Northern Regional Table. Lloy Wylie provided an overview of the transition and transformation of First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) roles and responsibilities as the FNHA moves forward with the directions provided by First Nations leadership.

In an effort to bring the Northern Partnership Accord into action, the group tabled two documents: A Draft Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Planning *Committee's Terms of Reference*, and the Draft Northern Health Authority: *Taking Action: First Nations and Aboriginal Health Services Plan*, both of which require review and input from all committee members by October 31, 2012. Dr. Margo Greenwood provided an outline of the overarching plan and strategic directions. Discussion ensued as to how the Draft NH: *Taking Action: First Nations and Aboriginal Services Plan* and the *Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan* can inform and support each other.

Elder Agnes Snow, Director of Aboriginal Health for the Northern Health Authority, provided closing remarks and ended the gathering with a traditional song.

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The Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Planning Committee agreed to the following meeting schedule in Prince George for the coming year: January 10, 2013, May 9, 2013, and September 13, 2013 with preparation Teleconference and/or Video Conferences as deemed necessary by the team.

The overall consensus from the inaugural meeting was one of a joint commitment to improve First Nations Health outcomes in the North and the sense of a new beginning for improved collaboration and health service delivery by all organizations in the region.