

Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee Communique

June 17, 2014

On June 17, 2014, the Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee (NFNHPC) held its second meeting of the year. Since the last meeting in January 2014, work has continued in the North with a focus on utilizing strong partnerships to improve service to First Nations people and communities in Northern B.C.

Priority goals outlined by the *Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan* which received its final approval with consensus at the Northern Caucus session in April 2014 continues to guide the work of the NFNHPC. These 2014 priority goals include: cultural competency, primary health care, public and population health and mental wellness and substance use.

Highlights from the June 17, 2014 Northern First Nations Health Partnership Committee Meeting:

Working Groups - NFNHPC Working groups have moved forward in implementing the work and goals of the Northern First Nations Health and Wellness Plan. Participation involves individual NFNHPC committee members and partners in First Nation Health. Guidelines for the working groups were developed and presented to the Northern Regional Table in June prior to NFNHPC meeting, recommendations from the Regional Table were taken and respective revisions were made to the guidelines.

The first working group meetings have been held for Mental Health and Substance Use and Primary Care. FNHA Regional Director, Nicole Cross and Northern Health's Dr. Margo Greenwood lead these working groups in conjunction with their respective working group chairs, Michael McMillan and Kelly Gunn. Additional Working Group meetings will be held for: Cultural Competency and Public and Population Health prior to the next NFNHPC.

Asset Mapping and Evaluation Framework - Updates and discussions continued on work towards Asset Mapping and Evaluation Frameworks among partners of the NFNHPC. Development of these tools across the healthcare system/s will greatly assist in establishing knowledge of all service and resources that are available, what is being used and where there are gaps. These tools which are in development will enable Healthcare providers and communities to make informed referrals, better assist those who need care and to access it closest to home. With the development of an evaluation framework, improvements will be made by identifying service gaps and directing resources where they are most needed. Further developments on asset mapping and an evaluation framework will be shared in the coming months.

Investing Together in our Priority Areas - The NFNHPC is moving forward by reducing jurisdictional barriers and investing collaboratively to fund priority areas in support of northern First Nations' health. Working groups established by the NFNHPC are also a part of the joint investments where work plans are established to see collaborative funding and work taking place. The Northern FNHA office looks forward to learning more about best practices and opportunities for partnership with communities in addressing their health priority areas.

Joint Project Board (JPB) Funding - JPB discussions were led by Richard Jock of FNHA. Information on allocations and criteria were shared. Funding will be utilized in partnership to support improvements in primary care for our northern region. The northern team will work with communities at various engagement opportunities to discuss and confirm priorities in this area.

CSFS Primary Care Project - As the final update, Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) shared the exciting work being carried out through their primary care project supporting regional First Nations community health. Some project highlights include; Defining roles of Community Health Nurses, exploration of partnership opportunities for nursing services and expansion of tele-health services.

In the closing remarks, Cathy Ulrich commented on the NFNHPC meeting and work, "What makes me most excited is that the work we do is in the North for the North". A sentiment truly shared by all.

In partnership for enhanced health and wellness for Northern B.C. First Nations communities, the NFNHPC will meet again in September 2014.