First Nations Health Council

Testimony to the National Inquiry on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Shared by the women of the First Nations Health Council

[Website link]

November 26-30, 2018
Presentation overview

• Introduction / Acknowledge the Treaty 7 Region
• Overview on the BC First Nations Health Governance Structure
• Calls-To-Action
  • Trauma Informed Care
  • New Mental Health Funding
  • Commitment Stick Initiative
• “Our Culture is our Wellness”
• Recommendations
• Thank you and Questions
Charlene Belleau

- Acknowledge Treaty 7 Region
- Former Chief of the Esk’temc First Nation
- FNHC Interior Regional representative

“Esk’temc vision is that we strive to stand with dignity before our Elders and children that will not allow another generation of our women and children fall victim to a cycle of abuse and violence.”

– Charlene Belleau
BC First Nations Health Governance Structure

TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ON FIRST NATIONS HEALTH
- FNHC
- FNHA
- FNHDA
- REGIONAL TABLES

Regional Caucuses appoint FNHC and FNHA Members

TCFNH is the forum for reciprocal accountability and joint reporting

First Nations Health Council

& FNHA members

First Nations Health Directors Association

FNHA Members appoint FNHA Board of Directors, considering nominations from Regional Caucuses

First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness
Calls-to-Action

- Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey IX featured several powerful calls-to-action, compelling First Nations leaders to be the solution to issues in our communities.
  - These included calls-to-action on:
    - The opioid crisis, calling for a response to the many people self-medicating and at high risk of dying from fentanyl poisoning;
    - Sexual abuse, family violence, incest and assaults on women and children, and;
    - To be self-determining and engage in healing and Nation rebuilding.
Trauma-Informed:

- A common theme throughout the calls-to-action is addressing intergenerational trauma.
- Trauma causes people to self-medicate with drugs and alcohol.
- Many leaders are dealing with their own struggles and coping with their own traumas.
- Exposure to traumatic events can significantly impact health outcomes later in life.
- At our sessions, leaders have stood up and expressed the need for support in dealing with trauma and to help their communities heal.
- Creating safe spaces for conversation about trauma can open the door to larger conversations about healing at an individual, family and community level.
New Mental Health Funding:

- The FNHC, Canada and BC signed the *Tripartite Partnership to Improve Mental Health and Wellness Services and Make Progress on the Social Determinants of Health and Wellness* on July 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2018.
  - The MOU provides $30 million over two years for planning and service delivery for mental health and wellness.
  - The MOU also commits the parties to develop a tripartite plan to build, renovate, replace and expand treatment centers. This funding is separate from the above $30 million.

- The FNHC and its partners have three months to complete an implementation plan.
  - This implementation plan will outline the process for disbursing funds to communities and Nations.
  - As part of this, the implementation plan will need a mechanism for assessing community readiness and an intake process for onboarding new communities.
Commitment Stick Initiative

- The Commitment Stick Initiative challenges men to end violence against women and girls.
- It represents a personal commitment to change.
- It originated in Esk’etemc and has expanded across the province.
- The FNHC has championed this work through Regional Caucus sessions and at Gathering Wisdom.
- The FNHA has begun to disburse grants to support communities in tackling this issues.
Commitment Stick Initiative at the Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey Forum
Leaders Called to Action
“Our Commitment Sticks in Action”

Grand Chief, Chiefs, and Leadership Community Search For CAITLIN POTTSS

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Schedule of Activities:
8:00 am  Ceremony @ Splatsin Community Center, Enderby, BC
9:00 am  Press Conference
- Priscilla Potts - mother of CAITLIN POTTSS
- Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin
- Grand Chief Stewart Phillips, UBCIC
- Grand Chief Doug Kelly, First Nations Health Council
10:00 am Search plan and schedule for CAITLIN POTTSS
5:00 pm  Debrief & Feast, Splatsin Community Centre, Enderby, BC.

For more information:
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250-440-5611 (W) or 250-305-8784 (C), charleneb@esketemc.ca
OR
Irene Johnson - Mental Health Worker
250-440-5651 (W)

Everyone welcome to assist and support.
Meals for the day will be provided.

Our commitment sticks in ACTION!

Chiefs, and Leadership Community Search for NATASHA MONTGOMERY

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Schedule of Activities:
8:00 am  Ceremony at Bowren River Rest Stop, 50 km. east of Prince George, BC
9:00 am  Press Conference @ Bowren River Rest Stop
- Louanne Montgomery - mother of Natasha Montgomery
- Chief Wayne Christian - Splatsin
- Grand Chief Doug Kelly – First Nations Health Council
10:00 am Search plan and schedule for Natasha Montgomery
5:00 pm  Debrief & Feast at Bowren River Rest Stop on Hwy 16.

For more information contact: Chief Charlene Belleau
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EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN THE SEARCH
Leaders Called to Action
"Our Commitment Sticks in Action"
Our families
- Esk’etemic organized search teams for Amy Char September 28, 2016. Alive.
- Esk’etemic facilitated a ceremony October 11, 2016 in conjunction with former Xeni Gwet’in Chief Roger Williams for missing Jackie Bob from Esk’etemic. Deceased.

CHAR is described as
- Aboriginal
- 160 cm
- 45 kgs
- Black Shoulder length hair
- Brown eyes
Commitment Sticks in Action

Blueberry River First Nation Director of Community Services Tammy Baskin explains the Commitment Stick ceremony to participants in a workshop on ending violence against women.

Youth Brenden Nosky and Elder May Apsassin cut a cake together after the Commitment Stick ceremony - Aleisha Hendry Photos
“Our Culture is Our Wellness”

Esk’etemc Cultural Protocols for Healing:

- Cultural Protocols are developed as alternatives or in conjunction with the RCMP or Criminal Justice Branch;
- Cultural Protocols are victim driven process for healing of both victim and the offender;
- MCFD are involved when are children are impacted;
- Multiple circles may be required;
- Esk’etemc traditions and ceremonies create safety within the healing circle
"Our Culture is Our Wellness"
Recommendations

• We need to create spaces and support our leaders to:
  – Start conversations in their own communities about mental health and healing
  – Support community members through mental health and substance use challenges
  – To support the ongoing call-to-action initiatives, such as the Commitment Stick
  – To continue to support the New Mental Health Funding for BC First Nations Communities
Thank you

Gayaxsixa (Hailhzaqvla)
Huy tseep q'u (Stz'uminus)
Haa'wa (Haida)
Gila'kasla (Kwakwaka'wakw)
Kleco Kleco (Nuu-Chah-Nulth)
k'wuk'wstéyp (Nlaka'pamux)
Snachailya (Carrier)

Mussi Cho (Kaska Dena)
Tooyksim niin (Nisga'a)
Kukwststétsemc (Secwepemc)
c'ce jedehaθc̓ (Ayajuthem)
Sechanalyagh (Tsilhqot'in)
k'was hō:y (Halq'eméylem)
T'oyaxsim nisim (Gitxsan)