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The Fraser Partnership Accord

The goal: better health outcomes

The Fraser Salish Nations in the Fraser region – through their political and technical leaders in health – and the Fraser Health Authority are working towards shared decision-making to increase the influence of First Nations in decisions related to health services. The Accord includes all Aboriginal people living in the Fraser region, regardless of Nationhood, status and location.

The overall goal is to improve the health outcomes for First Nations and other Aboriginal people in the region by achieving greater service integration, through shared decisions on planning, management, service delivery and evaluation of culturally appropriate, safe and effective services.

The Accord is the first health agreement of its kind in the province - one between a regional health authority and one of the regional caucuses that have been formed by the First Nations Health Society to work with health partners to improve First Nations health.

Diverse communities call for flexible approaches

Each community and Nation is different from the other in terms of needs and stages of development. For example, the 13 First Nations Health Centres in the Fraser region are at different stages of development based on their history of Health Transfer funding and arrangements with Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

The 32 First Nations communities in the region vary in size and the way in which community members see health services. Some communities choose traditional health care methods rather than mainstream western health interventions – and some want a mix of both. All strategies agreed upon by the partners should take into account the desire by some communities to incorporate traditional methods of care.

First Nations representation

In order to coordinate and oversee health developments in the region, Fraser Salish First Nations formed the Fraser Salish Regional Caucus, which provides a vehicle for the political and technical leads from the region’s First Nations to come together at regular intervals. The Caucus has agreed that its appointed leaders should enter into this Accord with the Fraser Health Authority. The Caucus works with and invites partners to the table, including Fraser Health, for the benefit of First Nations and Aboriginal people residing in the Fraser Salish region.

The commitments of the parties in the Accord include:

- Aboriginal Health Steering Committee – to oversee the implementation of the Accord and serve as a forum for partnership and collaboration on health priorities, policies, budgets, programs and services in the Fraser region
• **Service Delivery Level** – includes working jointly on population health approaches and continually evaluating the quality and cultural appropriateness of services delivered to Aboriginal patients

• **Planning Level** – includes developing an Aboriginal Health Plan for the Fraser region with milestones and deliverables, and more integration of Aboriginal health into Fraser Health’s networks and initiatives

• **Accountability and Evaluation Level** – includes monitoring of performance indicators and measuring outcomes and health status indicators (using mechanisms such as Ministry of Health data or community-generated data and information.)

The Accord is intended to be a general statement of goals but is not intended to create, and does not create, legally binding obligations on the parties.

A copy of the Partnership Accord is available at: [www.fnhc.ca](http://www.fnhc.ca)

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