

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COUNCIL



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HUBS

Expressions of Interest:

This call for Expressions of Interest is intended as the first step in exploring the development of Community Engagement Hubs for the fiscal year 2008-2009 (April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009). The Community Engagement Hubs will act as a collaboration point for a collective of First Nations Communities who agree to work together in the area of health and participate in the ***Tripartite First Nations Health Plan***.

Background:

The First Nations Leadership Council, comprised of the political executives of the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nations, works together politically to represent the interests of First Nations in B.C. and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in British Columbia.

On November 27, 2006, the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province of British Columbia released the ***Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan***, detailing a 10-year action plan to close the gap in health outcomes between BC First Nations and other British Columbians in the next 10 years. At that same time, the First Nations Leadership Council, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada signed the ***First Nations Health Plan Memorandum of Understanding*** which set out the agreement of the parties to build on the bilateral ***Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan*** to develop a tripartite 10 year First Nations health plan. The ***Tripartite First Nations Health Plan*** was negotiated by the parties and signed on June 11, 2007.

All three health agreements recognize the importance of First Nations governance over health services in realizing success in closing the health gaps that exist. A First Nations Health Council (FNHC), as first referenced in the ***Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan***, has been established to support and advocate on behalf of BC First Nations and BC First Nations peoples, regardless of residence, with respect to implementation of these agreements.

The ***Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan*** makes reference to the advancement in of Health Promotion, Disease and Injury Prevention and Health Services within First Nations communities. In addition, the ***Tripartite First Nations Health Plan*** sets out to ensure each First Nations Community has its own health plans and looks to develop a new structure to govern First Nations Health Services in BC. To achieve these goals, the First Nations Health Council must be able to work effectively with all First Nations Communities in BC. To accomplish this, the FNHC wishes to work with Community Engagement Hubs, where a group of First Nations Communities agree to work collectively through to engage in activities that include:

- Providing leadership, technical expertise and experience in the strategic planning, development and implementation of policies, programs, and initiatives that address the health needs of the member communities of the Community Engagement Hub in an equitable manner with the goal of improving their health status. .
- Serve as the advocacy voice and ensure on-going two way communication for all member First Nations of the Community Engagement Hub in all areas related to the ***Tripartite First Nations***

Health Plan. This may include representing member First Nations at regional or provincial discussions that relate to the **Tripartite First Nations Health Plan.**

- Enhance collaboration among member First Nations and with outside health services providers and agencies to promote innovation and efficiency in providing effective health services to the First Nations communities and peoples.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The FNHC Community Engagement Strategy is a community driven process of engaging the First Nations to develop a cultural, and wholistic approach to close the health gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians over the next 10 years.

Community engagement is the process of building relationships with First Nations communities and community members, who will work with FNHC as an ongoing partner in implementing the **Tripartite First Nations Health Plan** (TFNHP). It includes a wide variety of activities from on-going dialogue with First Nations to community development and capacity building.

Community Engagement Hubs will be the vehicle through which First Nations communities can partner with the FNHC to participate in the TFNHP. Community Engagement Hubs will be a collaboration of First Nations communities working through one agreed upon organization to create efficiency in the partnership arrangement. The FNHC proposes that there be no more than 5 Community Engagement Hubs within each Provincial Region Health Authority boundary in the province. However, membership in each Community Engagement Hub will not be geographically limited to the regions as utilized by the Provincial Regional Health Authorities, but will be comprised of First Nations who have natural partnerships based on tribal or geographic preferences.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

- Build trust and credibility with First Nations communities and our partners
- Ensure that the First Nations community health needs and priorities are recognized
- Contribute to better health outcomes for First Nations people
- Develop community health plans for all First Nations communities
- Provide equitable opportunity for First Nations to fully participate in the health process
- To enhance collaboration among First Nations Communities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the FNHC Community Engagement Strategy are to:

- Engage First Nations within their own tribal affiliations or geographic partnerships to identify groups willing to work together in a strategic and cost effective manner.
- Develop, or enhance current, partnerships in health services within these groupings and with outside health service providers and agencies.
- Ensure no First Nation community is left out of the process and that every community has access to a minimal level of capacity or support to participate in planning, communication, and collaboration to address their health needs and issues.
- To support the development and implementation of collaborative, innovative and efficient health initiatives to address the health priorities of First Nations Communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES:

The FNHC is committed to First Nations community members, communities, and their partners as outlined in the TFNHP. FNHC will ensure that the community engagement activities are realistic and that expectations are not raised unnecessarily.

- **Access and Inclusion**

FNHC will engage with the First Nations community members and communities, service providers, and health partners that have a stake in, or will be impacted by the TFNHP. FNHC will implement specific outreach activities to engage isolated and remote communities and, wherever possible, reduce barriers to enable First Nations communities to actively participate in FNHC activities.

- **Timeliness**

FNHC will engage with stakeholders early and often in the planning process, allowing sufficient time for meaningful dialogue, consultation and plan modifications. Our goal is to provide First Nations Communities with enough time to share information with their community members prior to and after engagement.

- **Co-ordination & Partnership**

FNHC will co-ordinate community engagement activities with First Nations communities and partners to avoid duplication and 'consultation fatigue'.

- **Transparent**

FNHC will engage with First Nations openly and will be transparent about our purpose, goals, accountabilities, expectations, and constraints and how First Nations engagement will be used in decision making.

- **Accountable**

FNHC will monitor the effectiveness of our stakeholder engagement strategies and be accountable for our process, principles, and ultimately to the First Nations communities. As well, FNHC will have a clear process to ensure that the First Nations communities and partners receive feedback on community engagement activities, and outcomes.

FIRST NATIONS APPLICANTS:

This invitation to apply will be of interest to First Nations communities or mandated health organizations who:

1. Are willing to partner with First Nations Health Council.
2. Want to contribute to enhance the capacity of First Nations organizations and communities goals as set out in TFNHP that:
 - Respond to identified health needs and gaps within First Nations communities;
 - Recognize the importance of First Nations governance over their own health services and the role First Nations must play in the design and delivery of programs and services intended to address health gaps experienced by First Nations peoples; and
 - Supports equitable participation of First Nations in the specific region or area that they have been selected to be the Community Engagement Hub for.
3. Will work with FNHC as a Community Engagement Hub to:
 - Support the First Nations to understand the role and mandate of TFNHP and the FNHC.

- Support, and dialogue with First Nations communities to obtain feedback and make recommendations on health service gaps, improving health service delivery, and opportunities for health service coordination and partnerships.
 - Coordinate, strengthen and build upon existing services in First Nations communities through partnerships and building community relationships throughout the engagement process, which includes developing and implementing service delivery models and solutions that demonstrate innovation, collaboration and efficiency in health priority areas.
 - Increase collaboration between First Nation communities and FNHC throughout the process so that the First Nation's recommendations, concerns and issues are consistently understood and considered.
 - Enhance First Nations communities and community member's capacity in order that they can address their own resource needs.
 - Assist communities in the development of their Community Health Plan and mapping of their resources.
4. Participate as required in FNHC communication activities undertaken by the FNHC; and
 5. Work closely with FNHC technical staff and update the FNHC on progress as required.

EOI PROCESS:

1. An Expression of Interest should be typed and submitted using the attached form by March 31, 2008. ***No faxed or electronic copies will be accepted.***
2. The EOIs will be reviewed to ensure that there is no duplication of First Nations communities with other EOIs. If there is no duplication of communities then a three month developmental contract will be signed with the administrative applicant. During this phase, the administrative applicant will be expected to:
 - Attend a Work Plan Workshop
 - Complete a 2008-09 work plan and budget, which would include how the hub will be collaborate, communicate and plan with their member communities.
 - Ensure documentation is submitted for each First Nations community that indicates either that:
 - the administrative applicant has the authority to submit proposals on their behalf or
 - an agreement has been developed with the First Nations community to participate in the community engagement hub.
3. Once the work plan has been developed and approved, a 12 month contract will be signed with the administrative applicant.

If you wish more information on this call for Expressions of Interest you can contact:

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