

## Fraser Health Aboriginal Health Plan Progress Update

### Aboriginal Health Plan (2007-2010)

The strategic planning process for Aboriginal Health Services in Fraser Health (FH) involved a year-long collaboration with health care providers and representatives of Aboriginal communities. The overriding purpose of this partnership was to identify how FH can better serve the needs of Aboriginal residents, through adapting or expanding existing health services. The Aboriginal Health Plan (2007-2010) was endorsed in 2007 by Aboriginal partners, and provides a strategic direction to address health inequities of Aboriginal people.

### Alignment with Tripartite First Nations Health Plan

The purpose of the Aboriginal Health Plan, reflected in the Mission, is consistent with the Transformative Change Accord goals of closing the gap between First Nations and other British Columbians in the area of health over the next 10 years, and establishing a new relationship based on mutual respect and recognition.

### Mission Statement

*Inuit, Metis and First Nations (regardless of Status) partner with Fraser Health Authority and other service agents to meet primary health care and wellness needs and together build on cultural strengths enhancing communities of care.*

### Strategic Priorities

The **key areas for action** identified in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan are reflected in the **strategic priorities** of the FH Aboriginal Health Plan, and implemented through the **goals** of the Fraser Health Aboriginal Adaptation Plan.

Tripartite Health Plan Key Areas for Action	FH Aboriginal Health Plan Strategic Priorities	FH Adaptation Plan Goals
Health promotion / disease and injury prevention; health services →	Improve health outcomes →	Build Fraser Health capacity
Accountability →	Improve access to culturally appropriate services →	Implement community initiatives
Relationships Governance →	Strengthen relationships →	Engage Aboriginal communities
Performance tracking →	Community capacity building →	All goals

## **Progress in Meeting Targets**

### **Goal: Build Fraser Health Capacity**

- An Aboriginal Health Team has been created (14 individuals) along with dedicated communications and human resource support. The team's focus is liaison of Aboriginal people to mainstream services and ensuring culturally appropriate service delivery. (6 members of the team have Aboriginal heritage.)
- Over 700 FH staff have attended cultural training in Aboriginal communities. Education has also been provided to FH staff on the impact of the Indian Residential School Settlement (IRSS) compensation on Aboriginal people.
- Tools and Resources developed:
  - Aboriginal Health website under development
  - JOURNAL WATCH program developed by FH Library Services, devoted to journal articles on ABORIGINAL HEALTH published in recent months
  - Educational dvds related to perinatal depression and mental illness, from an Aboriginal perspective

### **Goal: Engaging Aboriginal Communities**

- FH Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee (AHIC) was formed in September 2007 as the advisory structure. Sub-committees in the north, south and east areas, and meet bi-monthly with FH healthcare providers to resolve local barriers
- The AHICs identified their top 3 priorities for collaboration and development:
  - Mental Health & Addictions
  - Access to culturally safe and appropriate services
  - Chronic Disease Management
- FH education opportunities offered to First Nation healthcare providers

### **Goal: Engaging Aboriginal Communities**

- An inventory of all Aboriginal Health Services funded by federal, provincial and health authority jurisdictions completed, identifying gaps and overlaps in services
- Protocol agreement developed between Seabird Health and Fraser Health in relation to early childhood vision and hearing screening in First Nation schools
- Partnership agreement developed with Klahoweya Aboriginal Center to provide Nurse Practitioner and physician support to underserved urban Aboriginal people
- Integrated health promotion teams established in 6 First Nation communities to address priorities identified by these Aboriginal communities in their federal Integration funding proposals and community health plans