

ABORIGINAL HEALTH PLANNING

**EVAN ADAMS, MD
ABORIGINAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN ADVISOR
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER
BC MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIVING & SPORT**

FIRST NATIONS & INUIT HEALTH (FEDERAL)

- ✘ Health Canada's role in First Nations and Inuit health goes back to 1945, when Indian health services were transferred from Indian Affairs.
- ✘ This formal transfer coincided with the development of Canada's "social net", and is often seen as related to social supports like welfare, employment and income assistance, and not as an inherent right (the right to the best health achievable).

PROVINCIAL ROLE

- ✘ Health care services include insured primary health care (such as the services of physicians and some other health professionals) and care in hospitals
- ✘ The provinces and territories also provide some services and benefits such as prescription drug coverage, ambulance services, home and community care, public health, long term care, etc.

PROVINCIAL ROLE

- × **5 Regional health authorities, each with an individual Aboriginal health and wellness plan**
- × **203 FN communities, the majority of which have individualized health plans**

KEY ELEMENTS OF “TFNHP”

- ✘ A 10-year health plan (June 2007 to May 2017) that builds on the TCA FNHP
- ✘ Articulates a shared vision between the federal, provincial and First Nations partners
- ✘ Principles include respect and recognition, commitment to action, nurture the relationship, and transparency

PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION

- ✘ Governance, Relationships and Accountability
- ✘ Health Promotion / Injury and Disease Prevention
- ✘ Health Services
- ✘ Performance Tracking

2ND REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION IN BC

PATHWAYS TO HEALTH AND HEALING

2nd Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report
(Release date: February 2009)

PERFORMANCE TRACKING

- ✘ Reciprocal accountability framework
- ✘ The TFNHP asks us to track 7 key health indicators targeted for improvement over the next 10 years:
(Life expectancy at birth, mortality rates, youth suicide rates, infant mortality, diabetes, childhood obesity, & FN HC professionals)
- ✘ Regional Health Survey
- ✘ Tripartite Data-sharing Agreement

A SUGGESTED CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS FRAMEWORK FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Cultural Requirements would apply across 3 dimensions in Health Authorities

SYSTEMS

- Planning & Decision Making
- Human Resources
- Communications
- Information Systems
- Quality and Risk Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation (including Research)
- Funding and Contracting

SERVICES

- Primary/Chronic/Maternal Care
- Hospital/Acute Services
- Tertiary Specialist
- Community Care
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Public Health/Prevention

COMMUNITES & POPULATION GROUPS

- Geographic Areas
 - Focus on specific communities with poorest access to services
- Population Groups
 - Children
 - Youth
 - Adults – Men
 - Adults – Women
 - Elders
 - First Nations, Métis and Inuit

WE'RE UNIQUE – AN EXAMPLE

(From CBC News, September 24, 2008)

- ✘ “Upset parents are asking a band council in BC to stop allowing smoking at bingo games held in a community hall that adjoins the band's elementary school.”
- ✘ Smoking is banned in all public places by provincial law (the Tobacco Act does have exemptions for smoking in ‘relation to a traditional Aboriginal cultural activity – this not include bingo).

OUR CHALLENGES

- ✘ Partnerships for each community are inconsistent
- ✘ Heretofore, “administrative burdens” have hindered FN healthcare services
- ✘ Underresourced
- ✘ A continuum of answers

SOLUTIONS - A ROLE FOR:

- ✘ Clinicians
- ✘ Cultural workers
- ✘ Addressing the social determinants of health
- ✘ Research
- ✘ Academia
- ✘ Public health
- ✘ Leadership
- ✘ Families

SOLUTIONS

- ✘ Alignment of initiatives within the TFNHP – all partners working together
- ✘ A new governing structure for First Nations health services in BC
- ✘ Aboriginal Health Human Resource initiatives
- ✘ Implementation of FN's Act Now
- ✘ Renewed Tripartite Data Quality & Sharing Agreement
- ✘ Continuing improving communication and coordination of FN Health
- ✘ Continuing improving relationships among First Nations, Provincial Health Authorities, Provincial and Federal Governments
- ✘ Aboriginal involvement to identify specific solutions

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✘ Evan Adams, MD,
Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor
Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer
250-952-1330 evan.adams@gov.bc.ca