



Tripartite First Nations Health Plan

April 25, 2011

A Memorandum from the Tripartite Data Quality and Sharing Working Group

Dear First Nations Health Directors and Health Staff,

We are happy to tell you about signed agreements that will help improve the way that First Nations health data is collected, stored and used.

The Tripartite First Nations Health Plan (TFNHP) outlines a vision where First Nations in BC will be more fully involved in decision-making regarding the health priorities of their people. One of the actions items in the TFNHP is to improve how First Nations health data is collected, shared and used. To make this happen, a Health Canada, the Province of B.C. and First Nations Health Council have signed the Tripartite Data Quality and Sharing Agreement (Data Sharing Agreement). The Data Sharing Agreement will enable greater First Nations access to, and authority over, their health information.

In the past, it has often been difficult to get complete, accurate population health data about First Nations in BC, because both the federal and provincial governments held different pieces of the health data puzzle. To fix this issue, the Province and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding, which will allow INAC to supply the Province with a yearly data extract. The data will come from the Indian Registry System, and can be used to link with provincial health databases

to create the best possible population health information for Registered First Nations (Status Indians) in BC.

This “data match” will use a combination of federal and provincial data, and provide a more complete data picture, using what will be the best possible source of First Nations information.

The information sharing made possible through this agreement is secure and protected by the terms in the Data Sharing Agreement as well as privacy legislation and policy. A tripartite working group has been established to promote meaningful research, monitor data usage, and to ensure that culturally appropriate and respectful usage of data sets created through the Data Sharing Agreement takes place. The Data Sharing Agreement will help to provide the essential foundation for the development of First Nations research capacity and health information.





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The signed MoU designates the BC Ministry of Health as the interim data steward, responsible for the file containing information on Registered First Nations (Status Indians) until there is the capacity for a First Nations governance entity to appoint a data steward. The implementation of the Data Sharing Agreement, and the related MoU, will be developed by this tripartite working group in coming months. We look forward to updating you on the tools and processes developed to allow the implementation of these historic agreements on a regular basis.

If you would like further information please contact the Tripartite Research and Surveillance Project Manager, Jeff Moffett by e-mail at jeffmoffett@telus.net.

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