



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



First Nations Health
Directors Association

FNHDA & the FNHA CMO

- *Working Together to Support Communities*

FNHDA Annual General Meeting
September 16, 2015



Presentation Overview

- Chief Medical Officer Office Overview
- Ideas for Working Together



Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

Dr. Evan Adams

- Dr. Adams provides leadership for the Office of the CMO in all Public Health functions.
- Offers support to individual First Nations & regions in public health.
- Provides leadership for the building of strong relationships with provincial & regional medical health officers in order to advance high-quality clinical care for FN people.
- Provides direction & leadership on behalf of the FNHA to key stakeholders.
- Provides a First Nation lens on Office of the Provincial Health Officer guidelines, policy & reporting.

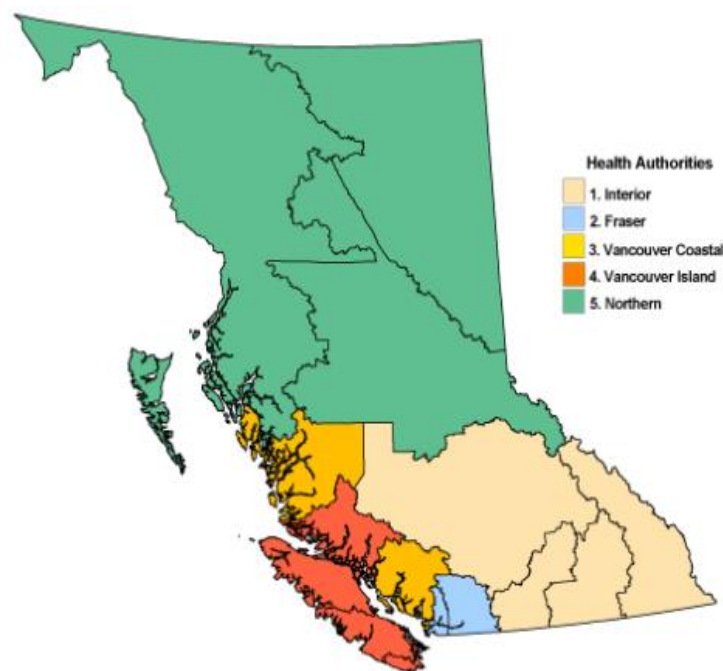


Senior Medical Officers (SMOs)

- Dr. Evan Adams (Vancouver Coastal Region)
- Dr. Shannon McDonald (Island Region)
- Dr. Rob Parker (Interior Region)
- Dr. Nataliya Skuridina (Fraser Region)
- Position to be filled (Northern Region)

Role:

- Maintain both regional & outward focus.
- Provide leadership in population health, health & wellness promotion, environmental health, health surveillance, & communicable disease & management.
- Support response to public health emergencies.
- Strengthen cultural competency.



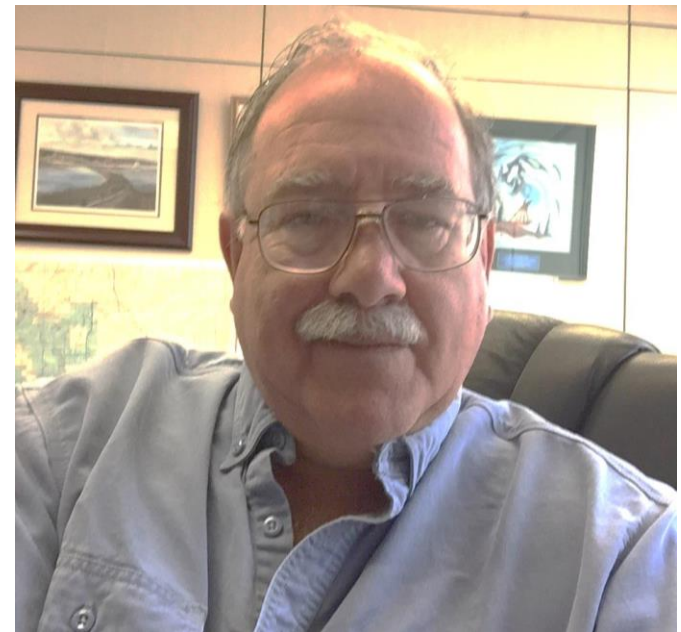


Medical Director

Dr. Charl Badenhorst (Starts Oct 1)

Role:

- Reviews appropriateness & quality of primary health care provided to communities & community members.
- Provides medical expertise to assist clinical care providers in community to ensure effective high-quality delivery of healthcare services.
- Works with community-level physicians on both health issues & health policy issues.
- Demonstrates cultural humility.
- Works with physician leadership.





Quality Care & Safety Manager

Katie Procter, R.N.

Role:

- Leads the development & implementation of CMO quality, care, safety & complaint & frameworks, methodologies & processes, including tracking, monitoring & reporting mechanisms.
- Provides leadership & expertise in the application of quality improvement principles, practices & tools, at point of care & service to support clinical program priorities in alignment with the FNHA's strategic goals.
- Creates linkages & alignment between the FNHA & external partners in the development & implementation of quality, care, safety, complaint & wellness frameworks.



Technical Writers

Kathryn Berry, MPH & Anita Christoff, BA (Hons)

Role:

- Draft reports on First Nations health status in collaboration with subject matter experts.
- Monitor First Nations health status (surveillance, research, investigations - i.e. data & analysis).
- Draft briefing notes & speaking notes.
- Support the response to public health emergencies.
- Draft best-practice/encouraging "good-news" health & wellness stories, & promote the CMO as the "public face" of the FNHA.



Traditional Medicine Specialist – *to come*

Role:

- Leads the development & implementation of standards of practice, quality & patient safety measurements for traditional medicine.
- Supports community-level traditional health practices.
- Builds FNHA holistic approach to traditional medicine.
- Contributes to the global knowledge of Indigenous traditional medicine.
- Integrates traditional practices into health services.





Environmental Health Specialist – *to come*

Role:

- Views environments & health through an Indigenous lens.
- Consults on environmental public health programs & services.
- Broad focus: climate change, built environment, environment for future generations, determinants of health.





Epidemiologist – *to come*

Role:

- TBD.





FNHA Chair in Heart Health & Wellness (FNHA/ SFU/ SPH/ Providence Health Authority) – \$1.9M Research Chair

Interviews with candidate: Sep 21 & 22, 2015

The **objectives** of the Chair are to:

- Develop a heart health & wellness research program that meets the needs of First Nations communities in BC.
- Support the development of research infrastructure including databases, particularly as it pertains to increasing capacity for research in First Nations communities & organizations.
- Improve health system outcomes in the area of chronic disease prevention with a focus on translational research for best practices, risk factor control, & economic & social impact.
- Take an active leadership role locally, provincially & nationally, that advances the understanding of the strategies to develop a program of excellence in First Nations' heart health & wellness.





Relationships with:

- the Office of the PHO,
 - regional Health Authorities, &
 - Physician Leadership (professional organizations)
- Assist with legislated duty to report.
 - Participate in disease surveillance.
 - Work with Regional Medical Health Officers.
 - Work with Deputy Provincial Health Officer for Aboriginal health.
 - Assist the Office of the Provincial Health Officer with its responsibilities as outlined in the *Public Health Act*, including:
 - providing independent advice on health issues to the Minister & public officials;
 - reporting on progress towards achieving BC's health goals;
 - acting as a medical health officer, if indicated, addressing a gap in coverage by MHOs for a specific community or area, or taking action in emergencies; &
 - working with the BC Centre for Disease Control & Prevention & BC's medical health officers to fulfill their legislated mandates on disease control & health protection.



Overarching CMO Office Priorities

- Reporting on First Nations Health Status
- Pain Strategy (opioid issues/prescription drug misuse?)
- Heart Strategy
- Cancer Strategy
- Diabetes Strategy
- Alcohol Strategy
- Critical Incidents; medical cases review
- Communicable Diseases, incl. HIV/AIDS, HCV & TB
- Emergency Preparedness - Crisis Response Protocol
- Quality & Safety (Complaints) – Quality Manager
- Accreditation – Quality Manager
- Nursing Services Alignment – Medical Director
- Regionalization
- Mental health



Discussion: Working Together



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True Partners

“We work together, not apart, to lead transformation. We actively seek partners both internally & externally because we truly are better together. We listen & take our cue from community to best understand & support local decision-making. **We do *with* & not *for*, because we are true partners in health & wellness.** What happens to communities happens to us – we care for & respect those we serve & one another, & believe they deserve the best we have to offer.”

– Excerpt from the FNHA Leadership Statement

- The FNHA is reforming the way health care is delivered to First Nations in British Columbia through direct services.
- We are governed by & directly serve BC First Nations individuals & communities.
- We are a team.
- We can do things centrally to support all communities.



Primary Care

Our Medical Director will focus on:

- Appropriateness & quality of primary health care.
- Assisting clinical care providers in communities.
- Working with community-level physicians on both health & health policy issues.





Our Land

Environmental Health

- Modifying territories, contaminants, water & air quality (radon).

Disaster Planning (Risk Management)

- Natural disasters, wildfire, floods.





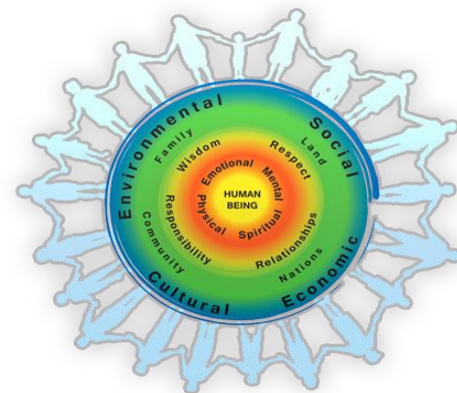
Collecting Data

- Community-level & health-status health indicators
- Special incidents
 - Environmental events
 - Communicable diseases
 - Unexpected deaths





Mental Wellness Indicators: Key Themes & Definition



Wellness Indicator Survey: **84 responses** from FN HDs & staff!

Mental wellness was defined as:

- Being connected to family, friends, community & the land.
- Knowing where we come from & who we are.
- Seeking support from family, friends, community counsellors.
- Knowing ways to take care of mental health, including practising traditional teachings from family, grandparents or Elders.
- Having skills to cope with life's stressors.
- Continuously learning & living life with connections to healthy peer groups & positive relationships.
- Experiencing joy, peace, harmony & vitality.
- Seeking support in times of need.

*The themes of **Learning & Balance** were associated with **Mental Wellness** across all regions.*

- “Learning” included ***the ways of our ancestors***.



Ee mutl! Thank you

Discussion

Evan Adams