



First Nations Health Directors Association

Sharing experience for community wellness

Five Things You Should Know About the FNHDA

1. We are a flexible and practical resource for our members.

As an association, we support our members in their role as First Nations Health Directors. We remain flexible and practical to help them meet the evolving health needs of their communities. We do this through training, information sharing and by facilitating collaborations.

2. We lead with tradition and culture.

Our work embeds the ancestral teachings and spirituality of First Nations and our members acknowledge and respect the local traditions and cultures of the communities they serve. We act with courage, supported by the conviction that we can improve lives through these cultural practices.

3. We are connected to our communities.

Through our members, we are in the community; everything we do is dedicated to improving the health and well being of community members. We are also the health and wellness voice of our communities, helping our partners understand the needs and challenges of the individuals and families with whom we work.

4. We are a values-driven organization.

As an organization, we are inclusive, resourceful, respectful and act with integrity in everything we do. Our work is grounded in the values that are guiding the transformation of First Nations healthcare services: respect, discipline, relationships, culture, excellence and fairness.

5. We are advisors and partners in Aboriginal healthcare.

We are partners with the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Health Council and we collaborate with regional health authorities, other healthcare providers and professional associations. We seek to use our experience to help improve the health care system and contribute to its transformation.

Our Story

First Nations health directors are an integral part of their communities, bringing a wealth of real-world experience to their role of securing and managing health services for individuals and families. The challenges vary, depending on the location of the community, but the work requires the experience, dedication, and resourcefulness of individual health directors, who often work in isolation.

A few years ago, several First Nations health directors began the journey towards creating their own professional association. They recognized that a circle of support could help them be more effective in their roles by offering a forum to share the stories and needs of their communities, and most importantly, by providing a voice for them in emerging discussions on changing the delivery of health services to the First Nations of BC.

In the works for over a decade, the First Nations Health Directors Association was created by health directors, for health directors. Formally incorporated in 2010, the First Nations Health Directors Association (FNHDA) is one of four governance pillars created to support the transformation of the delivery of health services to BC First Nations.

At its inception, the FNHDA created a visual symbol that recalls the link to the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) by featuring the head of the eagle, which also appears in the FNHC logo. The eagle represents the Association as a source of wisdom and courage. A sacred, wise and noble creature, the eagle also has great vision, with the ability to see things from its vantage point that others can't see.

Today, the FNHDA works in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Health Council and collaborates with regional health authorities and other health providers and professional associations.

The FNHDA continues to evolve and strengthen its role in shaping the future of First Nations health services. The Association seeks to use its experience and unique perspective to help transform the health care system and contribute to improvements that will benefit all British Columbians.



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