A Community-Directed Approach to Addressing HIV in First Nations Communities

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Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
He Huliau 2016: A Turning Point
Context for Vancouver Coastal Health

Map Legend
Load polygons and mouse over them or click to see more.

Source: native-land.ca
First Nations Communities in VC Region
Hope to Health HIV Strategy

• Reduce the number of new HIV infections in British Columbia.

• Improve the quality, effectiveness, and reach of HIV prevention services.

• Diagnose those living with HIV as early as possible in the course of their infection.

• Improve quality and reach of HIV support services for those living with and vulnerable to HIV.

• Reduce the burden of advanced HIV infection on the health system.
BC Aboriginal Population and HIV Incidence (2014)

- % BC Population: Non Aboriginal 95%, Aboriginal 5%
- % New HIV diagnoses: Non Aboriginal 89%, Aboriginal 11%
- % New HIV in women: Non Aboriginal 63%, Aboriginal 37%

BC Centre for Disease Control Annual Report
Ask, Listen and Act

- **Hope to Health:**
  - “Let’s test!”

- **Community:**
  - “This doesn’t work for us.”

- **Working group:**
  - Collaboration

- **Validation:**
  - “Is this what you said?”

- **Gap analysis:**
  - “What’s the reality?”

Partnerships

Ask → Listen → Act
Holistic Wellness Fair

• Recommendation: create a holistic wellness toolkit which includes HIV testing
• Inspirations: PitStop and ATKT
• Trial of PitStop in Tla’amin
The Journey
ELDERS
Sharing their Teachings and Wisdom

CEREMONY
Substance Use and Mental Wellness

SACRED BUNDLE
Sexual Health and Wellness

MOUNTAINS
Prevention and Screening for Cancer

DRUMMING, DANCING AND SINGING
Respecting Tobacco and Preventing Lung Disease

RIVER
Blood Pressure and Prevention and Testing for Hepatitis A, B and C

FEAST
Healthy Eating and Preventing and Managing Diabetes

SACRED SPACE
Reflection During the Journey
Other features

• Key messages
• Educational activity
• Check-in (screening tool)
• Wise practices from communities
• Resources to order and contact
Musqueam Health staff opening the Village of Wellness Fair

Elders table

Musqueam staff at the “Ceremony” (Mental Wellness and Substance Use) table

Blood pressure screening at the “River” table in Tla’amin

HIV education at the “Sacred Bundle” table in Tla’amin

Confidential HIV screening is offered in a nearby room
Lessons Learned by VCH

- Support from leadership
- Committing sufficient time and resources to engage and build relationships with communities
- Health directors know their communities best - listen and follow through
- Education and engagement on HIV still needed in communities
Lessons Learned
Thank you!

Halika’as Heiltsuk Health
Kitasoo Xai Xais Health
Nuxalk Health and Wellness
Wuikinuxv Health
Sechelt Indian Band
Tla’Amin Health Centre
Southermn Stl’itl’ixm Health Society
Squamish Nation Yúustway Health Services
Musqueam Indian Band
Tseil-Waututh Nation Health Department
First Nations Health Authority
Chee Mamuk at British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
Yúusnewas at YouthCo