



Evolving how we engage FAQ:

Evolving how we engage: First Nations Health Council, First Nations Health Authority and First Nations Health Directors Association separate political and technical conversations.

The separation of business from politics is a hallmark of the BC First Nations Health Governance Structure. This principle is captured in our founding documents including the seven directives.

Through regional caucus evaluations and feedback from leadership The FNHC, FNHA and FNHDA have heard a clear message that we still have work to do to meet this principle. We also heard that the best way to respect the time of both Chiefs and Health Directors is to continue to separate these conversations.

Since Transfer, the types of discussions and engagement we need to undertake in order to change the health system have grown in both scope and specificity. That's why this spring we are introducing separate events for Chiefs and Health Directors and caregivers as follows.

Q: How is the engagement structure changing?

A: the following provides an overview on the upcoming engagement events:

- **Regional Health and Wellness Forums** are new annual health service focused engagements and information sharing events. Two community delegates are invited to attend: one Health Director, and one additional attendee.
- **Regional Governance Caucuses** are annual political and decision-making forums. One Chief or political lead is invited to attend.
- Finally, every fall we will bring both conversations together in every region. The **Fall Regional Health Assemblies** will bring together the FNHA/FNHC/FNHDA to engage and share information on matters that are relevant to both political and technical leads, such as the Annual Report and Audited Statements.

2019/2020 is a learning year- there is an exception.

In an effort to ensure we are meeting the needs of Chiefs and Health Directors, the upcoming Spring and Fall Sessions are as follows:

- A two (2) day **Governance Caucus** for Political and Governance Leaders and Chiefs in Spring 2019 for 1 (one) political lead and 1 (one) Health Director (2019/2020 only)
- A two (2) day **Health and Wellness Forum** for Community Caregivers and Health Directors, that will include FNHDA and FNHA in Spring 2019 for 1(one) Health Director and 1(one) additional attendee

- A two (2) day **Fall Regional Health Assembly** for Leaders, Chiefs and Health Directors and Caregivers in Fall of 2019 for 1(one) political lead, 1(one) Health Director, and 1(one) technical lead
- Communities are welcome to send additional attendees at their own expense.

Q: Why are we making these changes?

A: Through our evaluations, Chiefs, Health Directors, and Leaders have told us that we need to maintain the separation of business and politics and clearly define the feedback we are seeking. Additionally, the demand on Chiefs and Health Directors' time has steadily increased. Leadership wants to be in the room when important decisions are made and direction given. Health Directors want to be there when changes are proposed to services that impact their communities.

Separating the Spring Caucus into two events allows us to be more targeted in our engagement, and reduce the demand on the time of Chiefs, Leaders, and Health Directors.

Q: What about sub-regional sessions?

A: The budget that would normally go towards the spring sub-regional sessions is being reallocated towards the Regional Health and Wellness Forums. The fall sub-regional sessions remain unchanged.

Q: How can we provide feedback on this new approach to engagement?

A: We will distribute evaluation forms at the Regional Health and Wellness Forums and the Regional Governance Caucuses to ensure that attendees will be able to provide feedback and suggestions. We look forward to working with Chiefs, Health Directors, and other leaders to evolve the engagement structure to better support the health and wellness of First Nations children, families, and communities!

Q: Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Please contact your local regional office.

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