

PROTOCOL ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

BETWEEN THE

First Nations Leadership Council AND First Nations Health Council

(COLLECTIVELY THE "PARTIES")

Preamble:

The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is a collaborative political partnership among the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), the First Nations Summit (FNS) and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) with a mandate to politically advance and support the interests and initiatives of First Nations in BC. The FNLC takes direction from BC First Nations through resolutions passed at the respective assemblies of the BCAFN, FNS, and UBCIC, and at All-Chiefs' Assemblies, as well as provide advocacy for individual Nations upon their request.

The First Nations Health Council (FNHC) is a provincial advocacy body with the mandate to advocate on First Nations health and wellness matters, support health systems transformation, and build partnerships to address the broader determinants of health in support of the shared vision of healthy, self-determining and vibrant BC First Nation children, families and communities.

The Parties share the objective to improve health and wellness outcomes by improving the overall quality of life for First Nation children, families and communities in BC.

The Parties acknowledge that improving the quality of life for First Nations in BC requires concerted and coordinated action to address the related and underlying contributors that build healthy communities.

Purpose:

Within the scope of respective mandates, this Protocol confirms a shared commitment to ongoing collaboration, information sharing and coordinated action in addressing the social determinants of health.

This Protocol sets out processes for the Parties to determine shared priorities relevant to the social determinants of health and, in conjunction with clearly defined roles and reciprocal accountabilities, to advance those priorities in a manner that serves to enable and enrich respective mandates and accountabilities.

Roles and Reciprocal Accountabilities:

The Parties agree to uphold the following roles and reciprocal accountabilities:

- The Parties acknowledge and respect the role of each Party and the evolving nature of relationships and responsibilities in the implementation of this Protocol.
- The Parties acknowledge and respect that each Party has respective agreements and accountabilities, and take direction from BC First Nations through their respective governance structures and processes.
- The Parties agree to maintain open lines of communication and to notify the other Party of any developments that may impact the implementation of this Protocol.
- The Parties agree to an ongoing process of information sharing, ensuring coordination of effort on matters of strategic interest and importance.
- The Parties will work in a manner that upholds the principle of Community-Driven, Nation-Based and respects the diversity, cultures and contributions of First Nations in each region.
- The Parties will support one another in a positive and constructive manner to facilitate positive outcomes for BC First Nations.

Commitments to Ongoing Collaboration:

The Parties agree to the following areas for collaboration:

A. Information Sharing and Communication:

- The Parties (the full FNHC and the full FNLC) will meet twice per year, or as agreed upon, to discuss shared interests and emerging issues, establish direction on mutual priorities, and monitor the implementation of this Protocol.
- Each Party will make available time during regular meetings for the other Party to provide a status update on priorities and initiatives relevant to the implementation of this Protocol.

B. Cost-Effective and Coordinated Engagement:

- The FNHC will provide direction regarding the social determinants of health to the FNLC for inclusion into the annual Joint Gathering hosted by the FNLC and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.
- The Parties may choose to coordinate engagement efforts through the Regional Caucus sessions with the support and direction of FNHC regional representatives.

C. Cross-Sector Collaboration:

- The Parties will support and participate in the FNLC-FNO Forum to collaborate, share information, develop strategies and take measures, consistent with and subject to respective mandates, to support BC First Nations. As the lead body for the FNLC-FNO Forum, the FNLC will provide administrative and secretariat support to the process.
- The Parties will support and participate in the Social Policy Forum for collaboration, coordination and information sharing among member First Nation organizations with respect to the social determinants of health. As the lead body, the FNHC will provide administrative and secretariat support to the process.

D. Implementing Regional Social Determinant Strategies:

- Given their expertise, the FNHC will track progress in the implementation of regional strategies and plans related to the social determinants of health, as developed and approved by each Regional Caucus, and identify key outcomes for joint review and action with the FNLC.
- The Parties will coordinate advocacy efforts in a manner that effectively advances regional priorities and interests, and serves to mobilize respective capacities in support of shared priorities.

The Parties will develop a Reciprocal Accountability Framework that defines principles, mechanisms and processes for collaboration between the Parties in the implementation of this Protocol.

Dispute Resolution:

In the event of a dispute, the Parties will follow the process as outlined below:

- In the spirit of cooperation and unity, the Parties will make every effort to identify and resolve a disagreement or dispute in a productive and prompt manner.
- Where the Parties are unable to resolve a disagreement or dispute in this manner, the matter will be deferred to and discussed at a duly convened dinner meeting between the full FNHC and FNLC.
- The Parties will seek the support of an Elder to ensure processes of dispute resolution uphold and respect the traditional teachings, values and protocols that may be appropriate for facilitating a positive outcome in particular circumstances.

Review and Amendment:

The Parties will review this Protocol on an annual basis to ensure it reflects the expectations, priorities and shared interests of the Parties.

Any amendments to this Protocol must be in writing and signed by both Parties.

General:

The FNHC and FNLC agree that, in effect, this Protocol replaces and supersedes the *Declaration and Protocol of Recognition, Support, Cooperation and Coordination* signed by the Parties in 2013.

This Protocol will continue until such time as either one of the Parties terminates the Protocol in writing.

This Protocol does not create any legal or financial obligations on the part of signatories to this Protocol.

Signed this 1st day of October, 2015.



First Nations
Health Council



British Columbia
Assembly of First Nations



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS