

To: Chief and Council

From: Stephanie Charlie

Meeting #3 – May 8, 2018 – FNHA Island Caucus meeting; Tsawout, BC

Attached are my notes on the presentation. This meeting was to discuss issues raised at the April 18-20 meeting prior to the regions attending Gathering Wisdom.

- Motion made by Stephanie Charlie, Chief Seymour's proxy, to get time on the Gathering Wisdom agenda so the Island Region may have time to discuss the Social Determinants of Health with the other Nations.

FNHA Island Caucus meeting – May 8, 2018

Tsawout, BC

Review of the changes in the Wellness plan – as directed by the leadership at the Island Caucus meeting in Nanaimo.

Q) – Process for each Nation – what about developing own mental wellness program?

A) – Look at specific needs and how FNHA can help enhance services.

Chief Don Tom – request made to the chiefs and proxies to:

Amend the agenda to have the next steps for the path forward moved up after the presentation on murdered and missing men and women. (Agreed by leaders).

Motion to approve the wellness plan in principle pending the additional changes discussed today. Second by Tanya Jimmy. Passed

Archie Little

- Hope that one day we will come together to talk about what's working
- We need to stop saying we are all different. We all have the same health concerns – we need to work together to make change. If there is a community that does not have any of the concerns we have and are healthy then let us know so we can do what they have done so we can be healthy.
- How can a young FN be educated, healthy, work working?

Suggestions:

- Community driven, Nation based – what does this mean? Maybe need to go into communities to ask them what this means to them.
- FNHA has many staff starting all the time – can we have the workers come into the communities to let the community know what they can help with and who to call for different services.
- FNHA letter – it is not on the agenda and we need to address what is in that letter.

Tsycum Chief Tanya Jimmy

- Concerns with the funding allocation and not receiving enough. Want to see policy changes to accommodate the needs of the communities. Policies for small to large bands – not a one size fits all policy.

Concern:

- Elder's mobility – trying to keep the elders home. Hope to have available some funding to build an elder's facility, repair homes, made accessible and purchase scooters instead of wheelchairs.

FNHA Response – FNHA is looking for partners for building facilities. The capital budget at FNHA is used to expand health centres or build where there are none but it is not enough funding each year. Talking with BC Housing and looking at partnerships to help with the needs of the communities.

Missing and Murdered Men, Women and Children

Presentation: all volunteers; looking for sponsorship – will be organizing a walk from up North of the Island to Victoria. Aboriginal Day will do an event to bring awareness. Rick Thomas suggests we bring this issue to the higher leadership level – BC AFN etc. National awareness.

Update on the recommendations made at the April 18-20 meeting

- Have not yet had time to meet with the appropriate teams to begin work on the recommendations.

First Nations Health Council wrote a letter on May 7, 2018 re: recommendations of the Vancouver Island Regional Caucus

- Letter touched on the in-camera session and the motion.
- Also mentioned in the letter was the removal of an item that did not allow for an invited guest to do the presentation he was asked to do. Due to that change and the claims that the action insulted the invited guest, the FN Health Council sent a letter to the BCIC to question the conduct of Bob Chamberlin.

Chief and Proxy response to letter:

- **Chief Don Tom** – concerns with letter. Chiefs/leaders did not give the Health Council direction to check into the conduct of a Chief who stood to speak on his community's behalf. Asked others to comment or clarify what happened at the April 18 meeting.
- Two other Chief's spoke in support of Chief Chamberlin's actions and his right to represent his nation's concerns. They know the intention of his words was not to insult a person from another nation and that if the change in the agenda was going to cause an issue the table (chairs) should have informed the room so we could have discussed.

❖ **Stephanie Charlie** – stood up to speak on the meeting:

- Do not support questioning the conduct of a chief who was only speaking for his community.
- When the agenda was changed it was due to the needs of the leaders and where we are in the plan and what we needed to accomplish at the meeting. It was not personal and there was no discussion or anyone bringing up how the change would affect a presenter.
- We need to make changes to how agendas are developed if there is going to be a concern with us removing items at the meetings and we need to worry about insulting presenters. We as leaders should have a say in the work on the table and be able to remove items – it was not personal it was politics.
- We as leaders come to these meetings to talk about our community concerns and needs. When we speak about the social determinants of health, residential school, drugs, suicide – it is emotional, we speak with passion. The chief spoke with passion and did his job and I did not feel disrespected by his words.
- We who voted did not have it highlighted that a person from another nation would be affected – maybe we need to change or develop a mechanism to deal with removing items and how we inform individuals who were to present.
- We also need to be able to do business without worrying whether we are culturally inappropriate. Everything we do is respectful and we are always considering culture and protocol but as leaders in meetings we should be able to change the work on the table without the need to culturally apologize if we are doing the change in a respectful way. The responsibility should have been on the chair and co-chair to communicate to the presenter in a way that did not insult them.

Motion by Chief Don Tom to have FN Health Council rescind their letter to BCIC questioning Chief Chamberlin's code of conduct and that an apology is provided to the Chief's for acting on their behalf without direction. Seconded by ____.
Motion passed.

Question again asked about the recommendations and when the work will be done.

- Chair – Paul Sam said they will meet with the other regions and bring back a report on work on the recommendations.

Stephanie – asked if a place on the agenda at Gathering of Wisdom could be made available for the regions to discuss our recommendations that include the work we need to do with the other nations. We cannot wait for an update or the next opportunity for the

regions to be together to discuss the work. We who made the recommendations should be there to answer questions on the motion and hear the feedback, thoughts from the other nations. What is the time on this or how are you moving this forward?

Chair Paul Sam – we see there is need to make some policy changes and some mechanisms developed to do this type of work – this needs to be done yet.

Vancouver Island Partnership Accord – presentation.

- Access to address trauma – what does support to address trauma look like?
- Investing in treatment centre that runs a trauma based program to grow etc.

Nuu-chan-ulth Chief asked what can we do for ourselves as leaders. We need to educate and help ourselves – educate our communities. We have to be responsible for ourselves.

- Need an expedited system to get members into detox.

Motion by Stephanie Charlie that the FN Health Council request a place on the agenda at Gathering of Wisdom to discuss the recommendations made at the April 18th meeting with the leaders of the other Regions to move this work forward. Second by John (?). Motion carried.