
To: Chief and Council

From: Stephanie Charlie

Throughout the document anything in red are my own thoughts on needs or questions we should be considering in our work and moving forward with what has been presented at these meetings.

May 15-18, 2018 – Gathering Wisdom; Vancouver, BC

Attached are my notes on the presentations and discussion. The motion I made at the May 8th meeting in Tsawout was brought up and the Chiefs were concerned that the FNH Council did not follow the motion in getting time on the agenda but instead set up a dinner meeting the night before the conference started when many chiefs were traveling and unable to attend.

Gathering Wisdom meeting – May 15-18, 2018

Vancouver, BC

Day 1 - 8:30-12:20

Prayers and opening statements

- Regional Cultural Sharing – each region shared a prayer and song with the other regions
- Honour ceremony for Leonard George – past leader with the FNHA. Blanketed his family, prayer songs and honouring his memory and contribution.
- Honouring Ceremony and Call to action – response to the opioid crisis
 - Stories shared about family members addicted to drugs and alcohol
 - Shared statistics on deaths in FN communities vs. non-FN communities due to additions
 - Calling leaders to support a call to action to confront this epidemic.

State of Emergency Declaration on addictions was signed.

Day 1 - 1:15 - 5:30

Youth council introduced themselves

Opening Remarks

- Coleen Erickson – Chair of the FNHA Board of Directors stating what the board is committed to do as well as the vision
- Kim Brooks – President FN Directors Association; support for the Health Directors and role in supporting.
- Grand Chief Doug Kelly – Chair of the FNH Council
 - Work to transform pharmacare, dental, eye care – there is opportunity for leaders to talk to those doing the work. Need to work together and bring the information to the table.

Presentation by FNHA

- Joe Gallagher – CEO of FNHA – shared what the role of the office, position in the office as well as positions to be filled.
- Dr. Shannon McDonald – Acting CMO – review of stats on health concerns as well as stats on hospital visits and hospitalization rates.

Joe highlighted:

- fitbit challenge and how successful it was.
- Reviewed the support for sport and the success of the NAIG BC team.
- FNHA will be supporting Aboriginal Day events
- Cancer campaign to be announced later in day –focus on education and early detection.

Cancer Campaign

- Early detection – screening for those who may be at high risk for cancer.

- FN cancer numbers are going up in colon cancer and cervical cancer
- Breast cancer numbers are going down. Early detection and screening more
- Screening helps prevent cancer or diagnose early to help treatment success.

Challenge communities to take on cancer prevention campaign – funding available to assist with the consultation – to host event etc.

Day 2 – 8:30 – 12:00

- Overview of Agenda

Social determinants of Health video

The Role of Health Resilience and Healing in Nation Rebuilding

Satsan (Herb George) - presenter

- To do this first have to go to the people
- Look at what the leaders of the past were saying our inherent right to govern ourselves. The 5 pillars are:
 - About the people – that make up our nations
 - About our lands – taking back our rightful place; to fulfill our obligations as caretakers of the land
 - Out jurisdiction and laws – put our own laws in place to deal with each other as people. The power and authority to make our own laws and enforce them. It is for our territory.
 - Put back in place our own governance systems – build on that foundation
 - Look at the resources - to be responsible for ourselves; provide services; rely on ourselves and our internal resources
 - After determine the meaning of inherent right to govern educate the community and bring back memory of who we are, how we governed, how that changed etc.
 - We cannot allow anyone determine for us what self governing means
 - Reconciliation we are talking about is jurisdictional – its government to government to government.
 - This is supposed to a reconciliation between our laws and the government
 - In the absence of putting together and enforcing our own laws the crown by default will use theirs. This is a matter of critical urgency. We need to come together to make this happen – to work together to get this work done.

Steven Point – presenter

- Self- governance – some agreements are being worked out through treaty or other agreements
 - In communities we have a lot of conflict due to the Indian Act election/governance structure
 - It is hard to get people together to talk about self-government. The history of the election system and the band creation has damaged and created mistrust.
 - Historical ways of governing
 - We need to look to see how we address the conflict in the communities and how to resolve. It is important to acknowledge the conflict.
 - Another reason there is conflict is we have been stuck on the reserve to long and the belief we can't leave.
 - Create an advocacy office to handle the calls and give information. Use the youth/students to be in that office.
 - We need to train our kids/youth to be leaders. Being a leader is about being with the community, going through things with them.
 - Have to acknowledge the abuse of all kinds in our communities. We need to stop that to save our nations. We need to save the body, mind and spirit.
- ❖ Strategies
- Bring your leaders to another place – see what's possible
 - Why self-government now? Because it is long overdue.
 - The solution to our community's struggles is held within each community. It is in our language, our lands, our traditions.

Sophie Pierre - Presenter

- Leaders are people that work to see the people succeed. Leaders bring the youth forward and build them up to be leaders.
 - Over the years we have become politicians instead of leaders
- ❖ Five lessons learned
- Message of nationhood – know who we are and where we come from; celebrate that.
 - Recognize each other's nationhood – we have demanded other governments to recognize us but we need to recognize each other. This is real nation rebuilding.
 - Self-government –exercising our right to govern. The institution of self-government's primary role is to build strong citizens not strong programs. We want strong citizens who do not need programs; that the responsibility over self is recognized and accepted. Re-build our nations
 - Language and culture; our traditional knowledge and passing that on. We have a responsibility to pass on that knowledge.

- We have the solutions and the resources to repair the damage the settlers did to our communities.
- Owning our own healing – we take back 100% of our healing and do it ourselves.

Question of Banishment

- *Steven Point* – two types; one to remove a member or to leave the member
- Leave a member - The elders leave a member in the woods. It is not a punishment it is a healing. The elders check on them and talk to them. This has been successful in some societies and still practiced.
- Either type of banishment requires strong

Question – how do we build strong communities?

- Sophie Pierre – need to focus on how a person is well – on the positives. Build members to be strong by utilizing the programs to get to a place that programs are not necessary. We as community have the capacity to take care of ourselves and our health

Question – how do we build our nations if health isn't working?

- *Satsan* – to get to our communities to take off their Indian act hat and start talking about priorities. Language is first priority because it is who we are and how we have our systems. The second is health. We need to go back to our own traditions, songs, lands, systems etc. The answer is there. Currently we are working within our delegated authority. The problem with that is we receive those in the legislative and policy context of those that give it to us. It represents their values when ours are different. It is hard to reconcile that because we are asking them to agree with us in that delegated space. Our inherent right to govern gives us that space to put in place our own health jurisdiction. That's when we can put in place our own jurisdiction over health and not working within the delegated space.
- Health is critical for the success of our future – coming at it from our own laws and policies.

4) Role of Leaders in Community Health

Chief Nathan Matthew – Simpcw First Nation

- Expect success in everything we do
- Know our stories and our language; move in traditional ways – be on the land – give opportunities
- Know your territory – use the land; knowing the laws of the land; our constitutional rights; our historic laws
- Know how to protect ourselves – fire, first responders, emergency rooms

- Heal ourselves through programs – sponsored Pursuit of Excellence for the community. Some pick the program Choices.
- Educate ourselves – own schools
- Physical health – offer activities such as yoga, skiing
- Nourishing the spirit – prayers, songs
- Counselling – get outside on the land and talk
- Economic independence
- Governance – develop own authority to govern diff areas
- Have less than 5% unemployment, no housing backlog, drinkable water, no kids in care on the reserve
- How can leadership support – it is by distributing the leadership role/power amongst the community to empower the effort to make change

Chief Jackie Thomas – Saik'uz First Nation

- Working to change the governance system – currently Indian Act structure but traditionally was a hereditary chief system
 - ◆ 4 focus area
- Environmental stewardship – traditional ways of caring for the land and water
- Socio-Cultural – language and culture
- Finance and government – to improve the fiscal management and related governance processes
- Employment – participate in the economy in ways that reflect our nationhood and the dynamic needs of the members

5) Plenary Dialogue

- Vancouver Island leaders stood up to discuss the Nanaimo motion and the May 7, 2018 letter along with the motion (the motion moved by Stephanie) made at the May 8th meeting in Tsawout. Concerned the FN Health Council is not hearing us – that what we say is not recorded and is wrongly interpreted and acted on outside of the direction. The motion was not to host a dinner during a time when chiefs were traveling but to get the discussion with the other Regions on the agenda.
- Statement made that they will take a look at the recommendations and work on developing a method so all regions work together.

6) Wholistic Approach to Health and Wellness Planning

Stikine Wholistic Working Group

- Brought the front line workers together because things had to be done different. The working group decided it was discussing the community, the youth, the elders, the land, education, health – the whole of who we are

- Coming home book – evaluation of programs/process
- Journey to wholism – continuous evaluation of program/process
- Since 2010 no kids have been placed in care
- Now 5/6 of the participating communities have 100% support and involvement of staff, community, leaders
- Dancing and healing on the land in the community
- One way move forward is participating in the Olympics – danced on the land and then performed at the opening welcomed the world.
- The work in the past with the Ministry was going backwards and not working well together
- The challenges in working with the families to develop a safety plan. Calling in the elders (the grandmothers) to help got things moving
- Seeing this went door to door to invite the grandmothers together to talk and ask them to help
- The grandmothers are checking on the families – the checks the ministry requires. They are helping get children back home and keeping children home
- They are now helping in the schools
- Baby welcoming ceremonies guided by the grandmothers. They are training the youth to lead the ceremonies – transfer the knowledge
- Grandmothers Group has made a huge difference in the community
- ❖ *Wet'suwet'en Anuk Nu'At'en Ba'glh'iyi z'ilhdic Program*
 - Camps in fall, summer, winter – get on the land
 - Go back to the different clan territory for camps.
 - Also have family camps – also go to other places to meet with members to talk about culture and who they are as Wet'suwet'en
 - Signed a protocol agreement with the ministry –they now have to make a call and talk to someone. To visit the community they have to arrange a visit that includes a worker from the community
 - The ministry also trusts the community worker to do home visit/assessment when they get a call.
 - Without our language we will have no culture – our language is in danger; we need to teach the language to the young parents so it is spoken in the home
- ❖ *Syilx Wellness Framework*
 - How do we work collectively together – listen to the community to find the solutions is how it is done
 - Need to have staff in the community not off site at the ministry office
 - Embracing a family model – cultural