



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

First Nations Health Authority - Supporting Interior Region Communities through the 2023 Wildfires

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Region



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First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)

Who are we?

- Established in 2013
- Responsible for programs and services formerly delivered by Health Canada
- Represents a new era in BC First Nations health governance and health care delivery



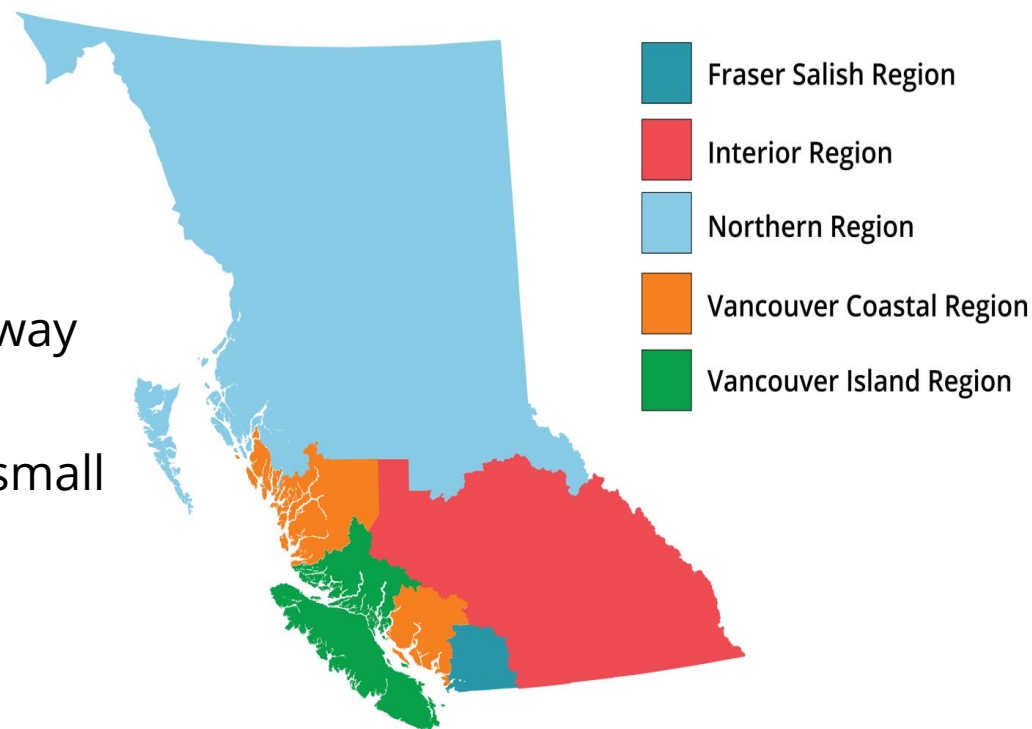
In 2011 BC First Nations voted to take control of First Nations health services

Our Vision: Healthy, Self-Determining and Vibrant BC First Nations Children, Families & Communities



FNHA Across The Province

- Over 200 distinct First Nations (or Bands)
- 26 Cultural Groups
- 34 Languages
- Majority live urban and away from home (~72%)
- 51% of communities are small (≤ 500 residents)
- 41 communities isolated/remote





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What We Do

- The **health and wellness partner** to over 200 diverse First Nations communities and citizens across BC
- Champions **culturally safe practices** throughout the broader health care system
- The FNHA **plans, designs, manages, and funds** the delivery of First Nations health programs and services in BC



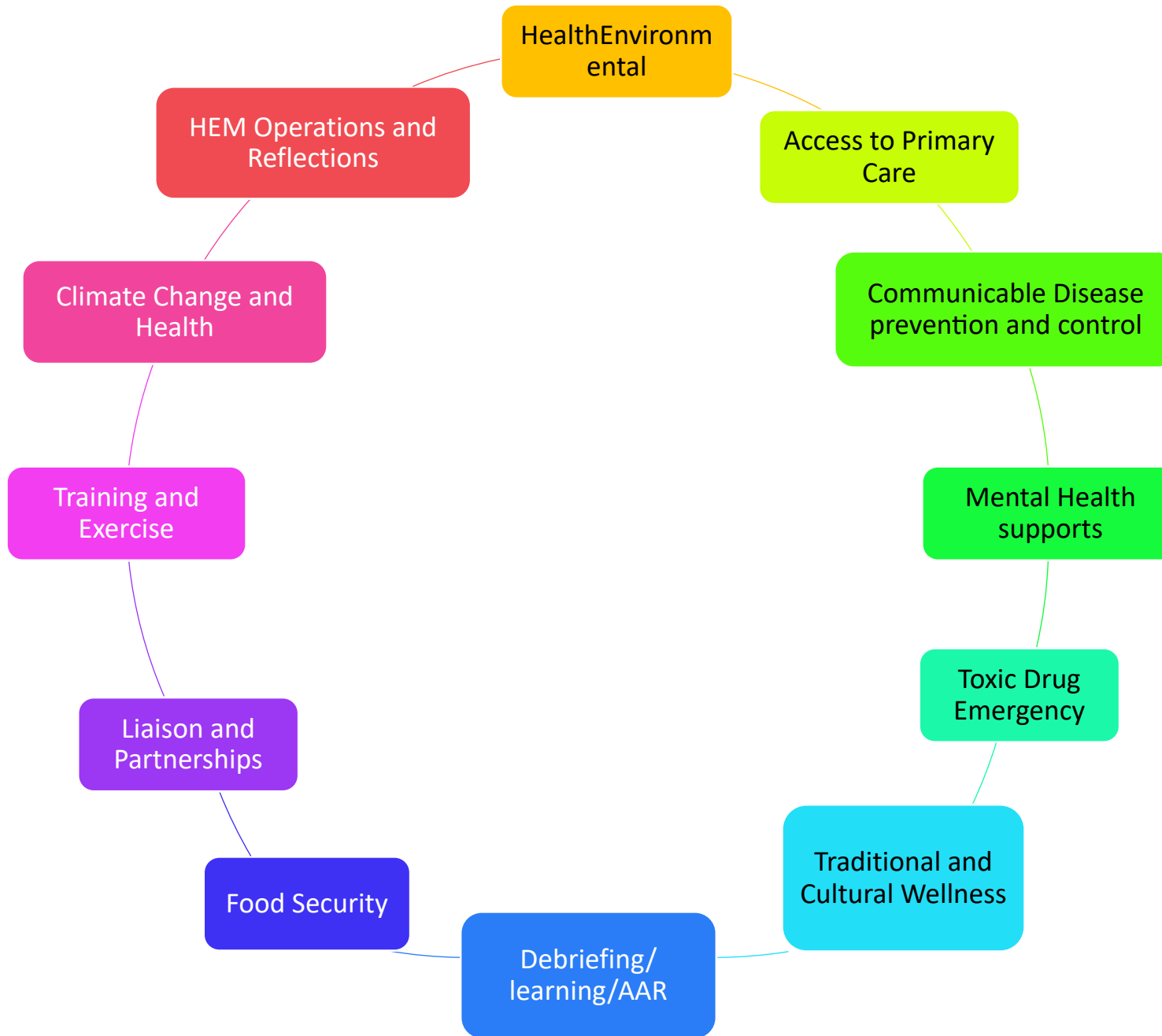
First Nations-led Primary Care in Williams Lake, opened October 2022



FNHA Programs and Services

- Primary Care- 130 medical centers and nursing stations, including First Nations Primary care sites
- Health Benefits
- Nursing and Clinical Services
 - Communicable Disease Population & Public Health
 - Home & Community Care
 - Community Accreditation & Quality Improvement
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
 - Maternal, Child, & Family Health
 - Mental Health & Substance Use
- Environmental Public Health Services
- Health Infrastructure Support
 - Health Planning & Management
 - Healthy Systems Transformation
 - Health Emergency Management
 - Virtual Services
 - Virtual Doctor of the Day
 - Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service





What does Health Emergency Management look like at FNHA



Structures that Support Response



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- First Nations Communities:
 - Impacted communities activate their EOC
 - Communities open their own evacuation centers
- Regional teams:
 - Health Emergency Management team
 - Mental Health and Wellness teams
 - Environmental Public Health Services team
 - Sit in Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Center (PREOC) as liaisons
 - Situational awareness of communities needs
- Provincial teams:
 - Access to various teams to support informed decision making
 - deploy supports to teams in response, includes human resources, supplies etc.
 - Situational awareness of provincial needs
 - Sit in Provincial Emergency Coordination Center (PECC) as Liaison
 - Escalation pathway to response quickly when needed

Partners:

- First Nations Communities
- Cultural and traditional support networks
- BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Provincial Health Authority Services
 - HEMBC
 - Mental health supports
- First Nations Emergency Support Services
- Canadian Red Cross
- Ministry of Health



INTERIOR REGION
First Nations Health Authority

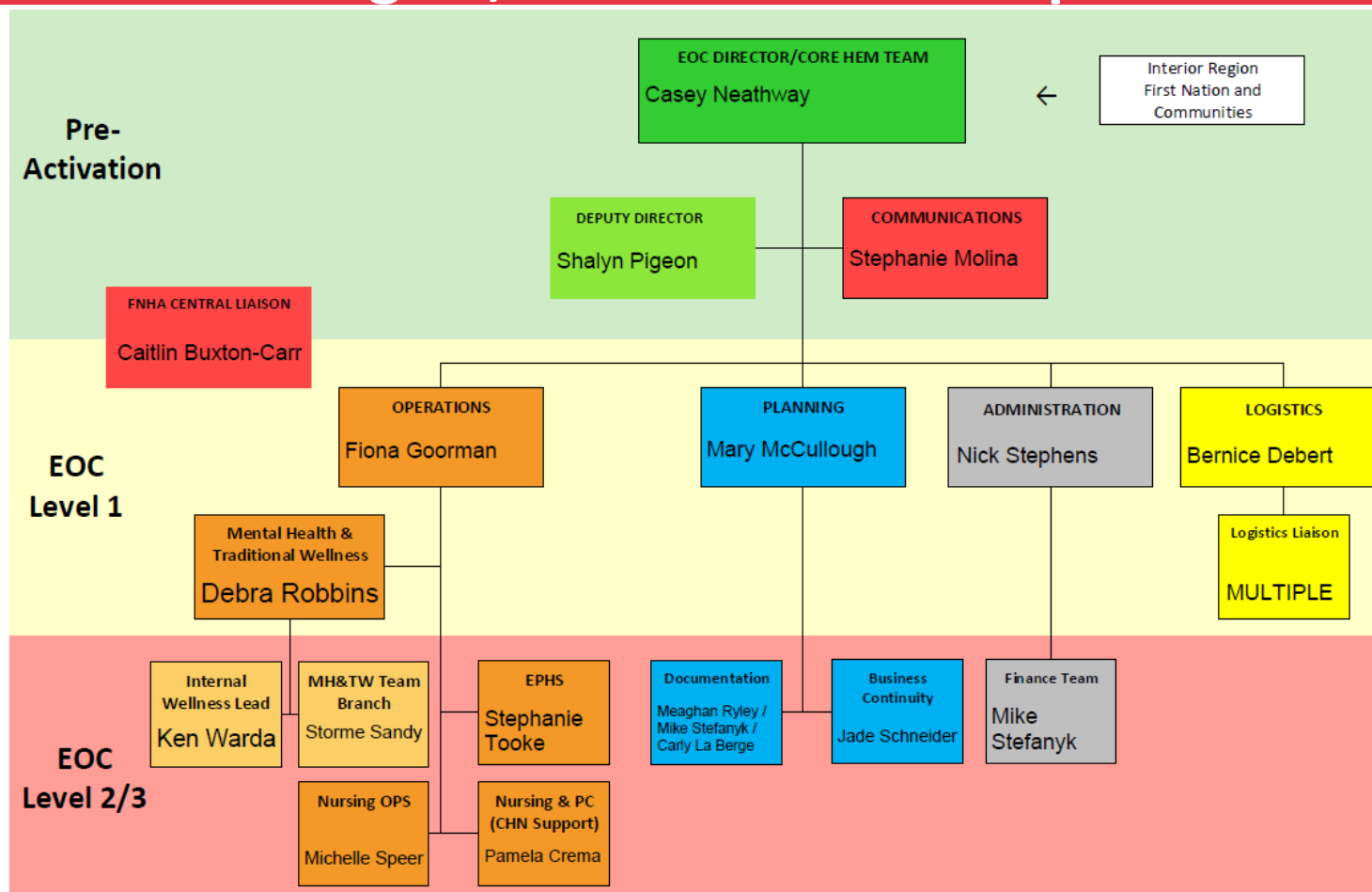
Interior Region



2023 Wildfire Season

- 24 of 54 Interior region communities stood up EOCs at varying levels (monitoring, response, supporting)
- Aug 18th 13 communities were on alert and/or order
- 3 communities with structural losses, one of which lost 1/3rd of homes
- Over 700 evacuees in the Kamloops area from all Nations
- Main sites for support in Kamloops: Mac Park ESS Site, Rayleigh Group Lodging, Sun Peaks Lodging, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc Arbour

Aug 25, 2023 IR EOC Example



On-Site Supports

- On-site staff at multiple ESS reception centers for systems navigation support
- Traditional Wellness Totes
- If lodging in Community, EPHS assessments
- Health Benefits
- Mental health and traditional wellness
- Harm reduction training (Naloxone) at Rayleigh site
- Nursing
- Awareness of cultural safety for system, contractors



Supply Drops

- Traditional/cultural/wellness items (tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, hooshum, honey, jams, canned salmon, dried salmon, salves, teas, etc.)
- Kids kits
- PPE (gloves, masks, hand sani)
- Red Cross hygiene kits
- Blankets
- Food
- Women's hygiene products



Air Purifiers



Ashcroft Indian Band

467 purifiers delivered
to 20 IR communities



Cawston

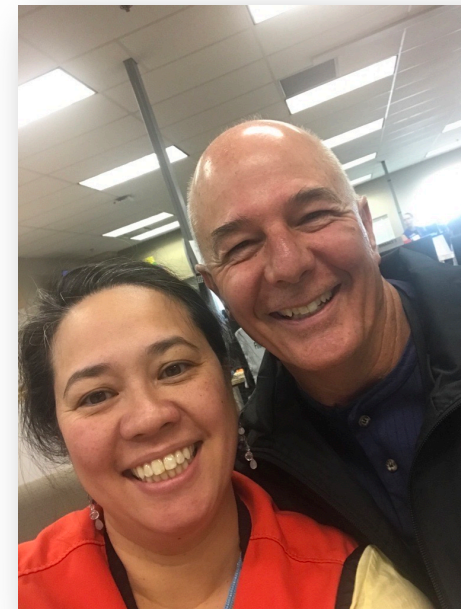


Community EOC Supports

- Supported on-site community EOCs when needed/requested
- Support with Expense Authorization Form (EAF) writing
- Support with liaising Community with various partner agencies including PREOC, Indigenous Service Canada and Interior Health
- Recovery supports from EHO team

PREOC

FNHA IR team staff embedded in PREOC



OTHER

- Immediate needs gift card support for gas & groceries
- Coordinating supports from other organizations, including New Gold, United Way, Telus, etc.
- Coordinating a 3-day pop up status card renewal with ISC
- Attending community meetings and coordination calls
- Continuing supports for Communities with long-term evacuees

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to support impacted communities
- After-Action review led by staff debriefing activities
- Supporting capacity building / training at the Community/Nation level
- Advocacy work



Thank you!

Gayaxsixa (Hailhzaqvla)	Kw'as ho:y (Halq'eméyem)	Mussi Cho (Kaska Dena)
Huy tseep q'u (Stz'uminus)	Huy ch q'u (Hul'qumi'num)	Tooyksim niin (Nisga'a)
Haa'wa (Haida)	Kwuk^wstéyp (Nlaka'pamux)	Kukwstsétsemc (Secwepemc)
Gila'kasla (Kwakwaka'wakw)	HÍSW<u>K</u>E (Sen'cōten)	ᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ (Ayajuthem)
Kleco Kleco (Nuu-Chah-Nulth)		Sechanalyagh (Tsilhqot'in)
Snachailya (Dakelh)		T'oyaxsim nisim (Gitxsan)