

# NORTH

NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY NEWS | FEBRUARY 2022

**HAVE WE GOT A  
JOB FOR YOU!**  
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## STORIES FROM THE LAND

A LIFE-SAVING VAN IS HELPING  
VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN FORT ST. JOHN

## BONFIRE CHAT

COMMUNITY LEADERS HOLD  
THE VISION FOR TOMORROW

## SHARING STRENGTHS

NEED SOME HELP WITH FUNDING  
(AND OTHER THINGS)?



**NORTHERN REGION**  
First Nations Health Authority

## STORIES FROM THE LAND

# THERE IS A LIFE-SAVING VAN PARKED OUTSIDE THE FNHA'S FORT ST. JOHN OFFICE

**THERE IS A NEW VAN PARKED OUTSIDE THE FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY** office in Fort St. John when it is not driving around taking life-saving harm reduction services to people who use substances.

The customized van, together with an insulated tent, serves as a mobile Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) and offers witnessed consumption of substances, naloxone kits and other harm reduction supplies. It is a partnership with local peers, Northern Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

"This is a culturally safe initiative that meets vulnerable populations where they are at," said Julie Morrison, FNHA Northern Region Vice-President. "It is vital we do everything we can for our people as BC First Nations are dying from toxic drug overdoses at five times the rate of the rest of the population."

The Mobile OPS currently services key downtown areas early each weekday morning before parking in the FNHA lot at 10130 100 Ave. (near the "two benches" park) for four hours each weekday afternoon. In addition, outreach teams are available to help connect people to other health services including mental health and substance use supports.



Look for this van at 10130 100 Avenue in Fort St. John

Startup funding for the Mobile OPS service (approximately \$142,000) is from Northern Health and funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions announced in 2021.

As of March 1, additional staffing and peer supports will allow the service to serve a second location beside the Salvation Army Shelter (99th Ave. and 98th St.), and to expand hours of operation.



Outreach will connect people with other services

Download a digital copy of NORTH:  
<https://fnha.bmeurl.co/D7F2D79>

## SHARING STRENGTHS

# PLANNING TO SUCCEED

Have you ever wanted to clone yourself to get funding applications and reporting done? We now have three regional planners who can help.

In December, Anspayaxw Health Services in Kispiox reached out for assistance to complete a funding application for a community and medical shuttle vehicle. Monies were available to purchase a vehicle, but the deadline was tight: December 23.

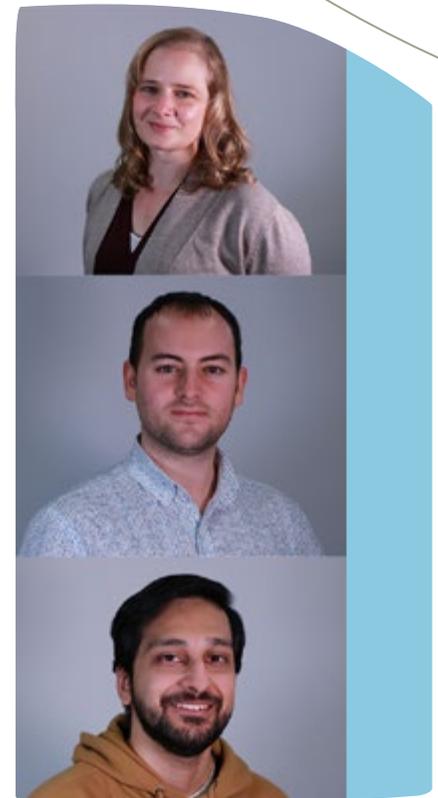
Tammy Baskin, Health Director, asked her project assistant, Nicole Campbell, to contact [NRPlanning@fnha.ca](mailto:NRPlanning@fnha.ca). Alex Currey answered. Each of the three planners is linked to specific communities, so you have your own dedicated planning liaison. The other two planners are Pratyush Dhawan and Diana Kutzner.

Support included researching the budget pieces like insurance costs, maintenance for two years, and vehicle options. These time-consuming tasks eat into leadership's priorities. Nicole and Alex met three or four times and the application, support letters and budget were all reviewed and sent in by the deadline. They are waiting to hear if they were successful.

"It was great! I didn't know where to turn to get started," said Nicole. Working with Alex was quick and focused. The first few sessions were over Zoom, then he was available for answers to questions that came up. "I'd give him five stars," laughed Nicole.

If you are a new Health Director, like Kelly Burgess in Nee-Tahi-Buhn, a planner can help by providing an overview of what funding is available through the FNHA, along with deadlines. If there are outstanding reports due, they can help get those done, too. In addition, they can provide input into Community Health and Wellness Plans which are 5-10 year plans.

Because planners know the FNHA's funding sources, if you have a project or service you want in your community, they can direct you to which funding stream(s) may work best AND help with writing the applications. It's a win-win-win.



Planners: Diana Kutzner, Alex Currey and Pratyush Dhawan



To meet with a planner, contact [NRPlanning@fnha.ca](mailto:NRPlanning@fnha.ca).

# HAVE WE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!



- ✓ **POSITION:** Regional Financial Consultant
- ✓ **LOCATION:** Prince George BC
- ✓ Ideal for an outdoor-loving professional accountant

If you love numbers and think strategically, this could be for you!

## ARE YOU A CA, CMA, CFA OR CGA LOOKING TO JOIN A HIGH FUNCTIONING TEAM WHERE YOU WILL BE VALUED?

Bring us your strategic and operational financial consulting skills and we'll match you with our passion and dedication. Together, we can make a difference for northern BC First Nations children, families and communities. In this new position, you get to support the alignment of financial management practices and business strategies for the region, implement systems and processes, collaborate on wellness stratagems and projects, and influence operations and planning. With flexible work hours, you can enjoy affordable living in Prince George, home to world class sporting events, an international airport, a vibrant arts scene, a university and college, and the traditional unceded home of the Lheidli T'enneh people. If you are Indigenous, there will soon be an option to work tax-free at our Lheidli T'enneh location. [Check out this listing.](#) Home is

## FNHA JOB OPENINGS IN THE NORTH (click for more info)

[Admin Assistant Lax](#)

[Kw'alaams](#)

[Community Engagement](#)

[Coordinator Gitxsan](#)

[Wet'suwet'en](#)

[Crisis Response Coordinator](#)

[Environmental Health](#)

[Officers](#)

[Indigenous Educator, Harm  
Reduction](#)

[Regional Financial Consultant](#)

[Regional HR Generalist](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurse](#)

[Program Coordinator,](#)

[Traditional Wellness](#)

[Regional Mental Health &](#)

[Wellness Liaison](#)

### COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES

[Gitanyow & Gitwangak](#)

[Fort St. John](#)

[Kwadacha Fort Ware](#)

[Kitkatla](#)

[Kwadacha](#)

[Lax Kw'alaams](#)

[Telegraph Creek](#)

[Tsay Keh Dene](#)

[Resource Team across BC](#)

### NURSES IN CHARGE

[Telegraph Creek](#)

[Tsay Keh Dene](#)

Check out all our jobs at  
[fnha.ca/careers](http://fnha.ca/careers)

# BONFIRE CHAT

WITH JULIE MORRISON VP REGIONAL OPERATIONS



**I NOTICE CERTAIN POSTERS DAILY. THEY ARE DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY** in many of our FNHA staff's offices in the region. What are they? Our 7 Directives.

The 7 Directives form the foundation of our approach to working with communities. Directive #1 states that we are community-driven, Nation-based. And we take that to heart.

Anytime northern community leadership brings forth concerns or things they want the FNHA's support with, we listen. Our Operating Principles guide us to take a wholistic view toward wellness, so there are many threads that can weave together to find solutions with our community partners.

questions and help find unique solutions so you can make good informed decisions for your communities. We always respect leadership and your decision-making process.

Throughout the pandemic, we've met virtually with Councils, individuals and whole communities. It works.

The foundation of the FNHA was built by leaders who had visions and dreams of how we could provide health services to our Nations and provide programs and services based on traditions, protocols and culture.

**"WE ALWAYS RESPECT LEADERSHIP AND YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS."**

There are current programs and services, funding opportunities in the region and provincially, and there are staff to lend support, like our planners and community engagement coordinators. Because we are aware of what is available here, we can share that information easily. We are your resource.

When community leaders and Health Directors have questions about funding, communication is straightforward: we meet and we share the parameters around the funding, answer any

There are many cultural differences across the region. And many similarities too. Family is always at the core. We will always be there for them.

Today's leaders—you—provide the vision for services and programs for our future. We are proud to take our direction from you.

Email [SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca](mailto:SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca)  
to sign up for our eZine

# FYI

## SUB-REGIONAL CAUCUSES

Please pre-register for the Sub-Regional Caucus for your area. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

This virtual meeting is primarily a political/governance Caucus, to which all interested parties from your community are invited.

**NW**

**NORTHWEST** Sub-Regional Caucus  
March 9-10  
9am – 4pm (PST)  
Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://fnha.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5wud-qgqDoiEtMLWjue6iYSXhkX-wLk\\_0Hww](https://fnha.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5wud-qgqDoiEtMLWjue6iYSXhkX-wLk_0Hww)

**NC**

**NORTH CENTRAL** Sub-Regional Caucus  
March 23-24  
9am – 4pm (PDT)  
Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://fnha.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ysdemspj4qHt1\\_p-FuXvhsP1a4Q-fReRE04](https://fnha.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Ysdemspj4qHt1_p-FuXvhsP1a4Q-fReRE04)

**NE**

**NORTHEAST** Sub-Regional Caucus  
March 29-30  
8:30am – 3:30pm (PDT)  
Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://fnha.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Uqc-qrqj0rGdHlxB6AsKO-v3YUGjqXisjj>

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR YOU

Our food and nutrition team, along with the tobacco cessation coordinator, have workshops available for delivery in communities, either virtually or in-person. There are 19 courses, and you can request a custom one!

Contact [Marissa.Alexander@fnha.ca](mailto:Marissa.Alexander@fnha.ca). Sample courses are:

LUNG HEALTH & FOOD

NUTRITION & FERTILITY

HEART HEALTH & NUTRITION

WHOLISTIC TOBACCO SUPPORT

TYPE 1 DIABETES

TYPE 2 DIABETES

HIV, NUTRITION & FOOD

JOINT HEALTH THROUGH FOOD

MIND & BODY CONNECTION

MENOPAUSE & NUTRITION

### On the cover

One of our longtime community engagement coordinators, Alisa Froh, is a gifted artist. In March, Alisa will be leaving the FNHA. She has served the Northeast communities for years, and we will miss her.



*Have a great picture for our cover or a story idea? Send to [SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca](mailto:SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca)*

## STAFF CHANGES

- Our Environmental Public Health Services team has a new Environmental Health Officer in the North Central area: **David Ho**. We are delighted to welcome him from the Interior where he worked with Northern Health.
- **Devon Hampsey** is the newest Community Health Practice Consultant. Her role is to support nurses in First Nations northern communities. She has spent the last year working with Médecins sans frontières (doctors without borders).
- Primary care has a new coordinator, a familiar face to many: **Alyssa Lepka**. Alyssa will be supporting the many primary care initiatives happening in the North.

# THROUGH NORTHERN EYES

## FEATURING DRUMS



NEXT MONTH: Show us your traditional foods!  
Send photos to [SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca](mailto:SubscribeNorth@fnha.ca)

# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

**FNHA Virtual Doctor of the Day**  
1-855-344-3800

**First Nations Health Benefits**  
1-855-550-5454

**National Indian Residential  
School Survivors Society**  
1-800-721-0066

**Kids Help Phone**  
1-800-668-6868  
**Text "connect" to: 686868**

**KUU-US Crisis Response**  
1-800-588-8717

**Mental Health  
(no area code needed)**  
310-6789

**Health Link BC**  
811

**BC Suicide Line**  
1-800-784-2433  
<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/get-help/>

**Northern BC Crisis Line**  
1-888-562-1214

**Northern BC YOUTH  
Crisis Line**  
1-888-564-8336  
**Text: 250-564-8336**