

# NORTH

NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY NEWS | FEBRUARY 2023

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39 YEARS AT THE  
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**IN THE GALLERY**  
IF IT'S FEBRUARY, IT  
MUST BE BASKETBALL

**STORIES FROM THE LAND**  
ENVISIONING ART  
WITH MEANING



**NORTHERN REGION**  
First Nations Health Authority

## STORIES FROM THE LAND

# "THE VISION CAME EASILY, TURNING IT INTO ART WAS PAINFUL"

**CREATING ART HONOURING MISSING WOMEN, GIRLS AND MEN WAS AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY FOR CLAYTON GAUTHIER.** The easy part was knowing what to draw.

"I had a vision that just came to me but it was hard to produce because of what it was for," said Clayton.

The piece, which graces red sweatshirts worn by First Nations Health Authority staff and gifted to those attending the 2022 Fall Northern Caucus in Prince George, is a haunting depiction of loss and sorrow surrounded by culture and healing.

The ancestors are represented by a star and the smudging bowl sends healing smoke up a representation of the Highway of Tears.

"It revolved around self care, smudging and taking care of our spirit and going to the medicine for guidance," said Clayton. "As simple as possible but sharing a lot of feeling."

Clayton is getting more and more requests for art honouring the ancestors.

"A lot of our ceremonies are coming alive. We are on the cusp of seeing the beauty of the struggles," he said.



This logo, "Prayers for the Spirits", is in honour of all Missing and Murdered Indigenous people.



Artist, Clayton Gauthier, created to artwork.

Download a digital copy of NORTH:  
<https://fnha.bmeurl.co/F17DBA9>

## SHARING STRENGTHS

# WILLIS PARNELL ON 39 YEARS AT THE ALL NATIVE

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BASKETBALL IN PRINCE RUPERT IN FEBRUARY?** Ask Willis Parnell. He was a player till 2021, is the current All Native Basketball Tournament board chair for rules, and broadcasts for CFNR. At this year's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual, he reminisced with us.

"In '84 I was living in Rupert and thought: I'd love to play in this tournament. The Old Massett team wrote to my mother to see if I could play for them." And that started a 39-year journey.

He still keeps in touch with many of his old teammates. They show up yearly in Prince Rupert, including Sid Edenshaw, tournament hall of famer, who has only missed playing one year in over 40. "He's a work horse," says Willis.

Watching his dad and uncles play, Willis learned respect. For the people you play with and against. Emotions, pride, adrenaline all combine on the court, and harnessing those elements makes for

fierce competitiveness. Still, when someone gets knocked down, others from either team pick them up.

The biggest change since '84? Technology. The internet has propelled coaching to new heights. Players can watch and learn on their phones rather than viewing VHS tapes or having a live coach. They learn quicker today. There are significant changes in strength training and nutrition, too, notes Parnell.

More fans can enjoy the games from their screens with live feeds. CFNR provides coaches and player interviews, and round tables both prior to tournament and to the finals. Discussions, predictions and rumours abound.

Some changes this year included moving the semi-finals for the Masters and Women from the arena to the main gym. And teams in the finals had reps introduce their players. "This builds the crowd up, making it more exciting."

Willis would like to see the teams capped at 12 per division to make the number of games per day fairer. "Right now, the advantage goes to the team that is rested. I'm hoping that'll change."

Once September rolls around it'll be time to organize the 64<sup>th</sup> annual All Native Basketball Tournament. Once the basketball drops in February, each community's pride—and Willis Parnell—will be there too.



"It's only going to get better," says Parnell about the All Native Basketball Tournament. See more photos on page 7.



# HAVE WE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!



You are an Indigenous student or new grad looking for a unique experience.



**ARE YOU AN INDIGENOUS STUDENT OR NEW GRAD? FIRST NATIONS, INUIT OR METIS?** The FNHA has launched a new program to give you a chance to get some real world work experience like no other. Cohorts run January to April, May-August, and September to December. Flex work arrangements may be available, too. Potential work areas include: community health and wellness, nursing, public health response, information technology, health benefits, human resources, environmental health, finance, and project/admin support. To qualify, you are an Indigenous student or new grad, enrolled in a post-secondary school or a recent post-secondary undergraduate/graduate, and living in BC during the program. It is open to co-op or practicum students. Interested? If so, [check out this posting](#) today!

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

[Aboriginal Head Start Advisor](#)

[Advisor, Crisis & Emergency Response](#)

[Clinical Counsellor, Mental Health & Wellness](#)

[Community Engagement Coordinators:](#)

- [Northern Region](#)
- [Prince George](#)
- [Terrace](#)

[Crisis Response Community Coordinator \(2\)](#)

[Environmental Health Officer](#)

[Executive Director, Regions](#)

[Indigenous Educator, Harm Reduction](#)

[Indigenous Student Program](#)

[Program Coordinator, Traditional Wellness](#)

[Project Manager Land Based Healing](#)

[Regional Addictions Specialist](#)

[Regional Planner \(2\)](#)

[Senior Administrative Coordinator](#)

[Wellness Systems Quality Care Coordinator](#)

[eHealth Trainer](#)

### NURSING

[Community Health Nurse, Health Centres \(casual\)](#)

[Community Health Nurse, Nursing Station:](#)

- [Kitkatla](#)
- [Lax Kw'alaams](#)
- [Tsay Keh Dene](#)

[Community Health Nurse, Resource Team](#)

[Nurse in Charge, Telegraph Creek](#)

[Nurse in Charge, Remote, Tsay Keh Dene](#)

[Primary Care Nurse, Remote 0.6 FTE](#)

[Primary Care Nurse, Remote 1.0 FTE](#)

[Remote Certified Community Health Nurse, Nursing Stations \(casual\)](#)

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

# BONFIRE CHAT

WITH JULIE MORRISON, VICE PRESIDENT REGIONAL OPERATIONS



**NONE OF US GOES ON FOREVER** and, although our leaders seem like they will always be with us, our biggest responsibility is preparing the next generation.

That is why we have asked two of our youngest staff members to organize our youth conference. We are not going to throw them in the water to flounder; we'll support them when they need it. And, hopefully, leave them alone when they don't.

Desiree Williams and Brittany Mikolayczyk are organizing the three-day event. They are drawing up the agenda, booking speakers, making sure there is enough coffee—all the details that nobody ever notices that go into creating a successful event.

Desiree and Brittany have risen to the challenge and are getting the work done. They are very excited about the youth gathering and working with the regional team to plan and make the event a success.

Their goal is to provide a fertile and welcoming space for young voices to bring their concerns, ideas and dreams forward.

We want to know what our young people are thinking and what challenges they are facing. They know more than we do about their lives.

And even though we don't know what is going to happen yet at the Prince George Civic Centre in Prince George, we know the event will be slick and make us proud.

**"OUR BIGGEST RESPONSIBILITY IS PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION (OF LEADERS)."**

They have struck up a working group with a few of the regional staff to support the planning and development of the gathering.

This is the way we are growing our leadership and our capacity, right from the beginning. It's one of our prime directives.

(And Don Burnstick will be there, so there will also be lots of laughter.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morrison'.

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

# FYI

## SIGN UP FOR UBC SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

This is a one-week cultural, health and science program for Indigenous students in grades 9-11. The program promotes interest in health and science programs through firsthand experience at UBC. The Summer Science Program is a great opportunity to meet new friends, eat great food, connect with Elders and Indigenous role models while enjoying fun, laughter and learning. Applications open until May 31.

More info at:

<https://health.aboriginal.ubc.ca/programming/summer-science/>



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UBC's First Nations House of Learning

## FUNDING

### IC's Rural Transit Solutions Fund

Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transit Solutions Fund is now accepting applications for its Capital Projects stream. Eligible applicants can seek contributions of up to \$3 million to help cover the capital costs of a new or expanded transit solution (e.g., purchase of vehicles or digital platforms), and up to \$5 million to support zero-emission transit solutions (e.g., for the purchase of a zero-emission vehicles).

This Fund targets the development of transit solutions in rural and remote communities. The Fund provides \$250 million in federal funding over 5 years to support the development of locally-driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities get to work, school, appointments, and to visit loved ones.

To get more information, please visit the Infrastructure Canada website: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural-trans-rural/index-eng.html>

For support to complete an application, please contact [Alexander.Currey@fnha.ca](mailto:Alexander.Currey@fnha.ca), Regional Planner, FNHA Northern Region.

## On the cover

Referees from all over BC are key to running the All Native Basketball games fairly and efficiently. This year 15 refs were on hand. A big shout out to each one and thank you for your part in making the tournament a success!



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

## URBAN AND AWAY FROM HOME ENGAGEMENT

Starting this March, the FNHA will be inviting partners, including the Urban and Away-From-Home (UAH) population, to be involved in creating and improving UAH engagement and communication pathways to support FNHA health and wellness planning. If you'd like to provide your input before then, the UAH engagement survey is now open. More information about engagement sessions in areas throughout BC will be announced soon. See our UAH Engagement plan at the link below.

<https://firstnationshealthauthority.cmail19.com/t/i-l-qhhkun-xiikuidy-i/>



# THROUGH NORTHERN EYES

## THE 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ALL NATIVE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



HAVE A GREAT SNAPSHOT?  
Send your photo 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**