



# NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS 2012 – 2013



Ministry of  
Aboriginal Relations  
and Reconciliation



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# INTRODUCTION

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On behalf of many partners across government, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has prepared the *2012-13 Annual Report on Progress: New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in British Columbia*.

The report provides an annual snapshot of progress made towards the goals of the *New Relationship* and the commitments under the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. It also includes a summary of key accomplishments since 2005, future strategies, and measures for monitoring progress.

The report contains examples of the *New Relationship*, as well as the *BC Jobs Plan*, in action, such as:

- In 2011, the *BC Jobs Plan* was launched with a commitment to reach 10 new non-treaty agreements by 2015. By April 2013, British Columbia had far surpassed that goal with 18 new non-treaty agreements.
- On October 1, 2013, programs and services previously operated and managed by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch were transferred to the First Nations Health Authority.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education worked with the Province's Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Partners to develop the 2012 Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan.
- Ten ministries pooled \$400,000 in funding to support 2012-2013 ORAAP activities.

There are many inspiring and promising initiatives taking place across British Columbia. This report is a way to acknowledge those initiatives, and to demonstrate the progress and commitment of Aboriginal people and communities, working in partnership with the Province.

The *New Relationship* is a vision for a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights. In November 2005, the Province, Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council (the *BC Assembly of First Nations*, the *First Nations Summit*, and the *Union of BC Indian Chiefs*) signed the *Transformative Change Accord* (TCA). The purpose of the TCA is to close the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians, reconcile Aboriginal rights and title with those of the Crown, and establish a new relationship based upon mutual respect and reconciliation.

In May 2006, the Province and the Métis Nation British Columbia signed the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* (MNRA). A formalization of the relationship between the Province and the Métis people of British Columbia, the MNRA identifies mutual goals, including collaborative efforts to close the quality-of-life gap that exists between the Métis people compared with other British Columbians.

In 2011, the Speech from the Throne committed us to work with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an *Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan* (ORAAP) to achieve better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultures and traditions. This has resulted in a multilateral partnership that includes municipalities, the federal government, First Nations, urban Aboriginal peoples and Métis.

Government maintains a commitment to measure and report on progress. *Measuring Outcomes* is the companion report to this document and provides quantitative measures of progress on closing the social and economic gaps in Crown-Aboriginal relationships, education, housing and infrastructure, health and economic opportunities.



# CROWN-ABORIGINAL RELATIONSHIPS

British Columbia is unique in Canada with respect to many Aboriginal issues. Unlike other provinces, British Columbia is largely without treaties and, as a result, faces a greater level of legal and economic uncertainty from undefined Aboriginal rights, an issue which impacts all British Columbians. The province is home to more than one third of Canada's 600 Aboriginal communities who together form an essential part of the province's unique culture and opportunity.

British Columbia is recognized as a leader in reconciliation efforts with Aboriginal peoples. British Columbia's approach has:

- Created success and momentum within the treaty process.
- Involved First Nations more fully in resource development, supporting immediate and long-term opportunities for the economy.
- Made progress towards closing the significant socio-economic gaps faced by Aboriginal people.

In 2012/13 the Province's work focused on building stronger relationships with Aboriginal peoples to help close the socio-economic gaps that separate them from other British Columbians. This has been a year of great successes, collaboration and strengthening of the Province's relationships with First Nations while promoting economic growth and job creation.

In 2012/13, a number of significant milestones were reached in BC's treaty process with First Nations. In 2011, the *BC Jobs Plan* was launched with a commitment to reach 10 new non-treaty agreements by 2015. By April 2013, British Columbia had far surpassed that goal, with 18 new non-treaty agreements to help ensure greater certainty on the land base for all parties involved in resource development activity.

- An agreement to allow the Haisla Nation to acquire a key parcel of Crown land for development and use for a liquefied natural gas facility and associated marine export terminal in the Douglas Channel.
- A number of mine revenue sharing agreements that benefit First Nation communities while creating more certainty for industry.
- Agreements with the Fort Nelson First Nation to establish a clear process for consultation.
- A reconciliation agreement with Gitanyow First Nation that will lead to shared decision making.
- An agreement to allow BC and the Tahltan Nation to collaborate on land and resource issues.

MARR plays a key role in the success of the *BC Jobs Plan*. The Province's economic potential cannot be achieved unless the Province works closely and respectfully with Aboriginal communities.

MARR also plays a crucial role in supporting key corporate initiatives focused on building stronger relationships with Aboriginal peoples. In 2012/13, ministry efforts were focused on supporting the *BC Jobs Plan* by pursuing agreements, both treaty and non-treaty, to build certainty on the land base, and to ensure that First Nations share the benefits of resource development in their territories. The ministry also works in partnership with Aboriginal communities and organizations and brings together representatives from other ministries and Crown agencies, other orders of government, and businesses to identify new opportunities for economic participation, investment and job creation.

## 2012-13 Highlights

BC has responded to the need to reconcile Aboriginal rights with a flexible set of treaty and non-treaty tools that can be tailored to the needs and situations of individual First Nations. Building on progress of 2011/12, 2012/2013 was a year of significant movement forward for Crown-Aboriginal Relations as the Province continued with signing Treaties, Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing and other economic benefit agreements.

### *Revenue Sharing and Strategic Agreements:*

- 7 new agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements and strategic engagement agreements.
- 8 new revenue sharing agreements with First Nations.
- 21 Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA), which provide First Nations with economic benefits that return directly to their communities based on harvest activities in their traditional territories.

### *Reconciliation – from Treaty Tables and beyond*

BC is a leader on consultation, treaties, strategic engagement and revenue sharing and is often called upon by other jurisdictions to share our new approaches to reconciliation. Non-treaty agreements underscore an innovative approach that supports economic growth and job creation, strengthening government's relationships with First Nations creates benefits for all British Columbians and creates certainty for industry.

BC has made significant progress on incremental reconciliation agreements in recent years. Treaty remains the highest form of reconciliation, but additional tools we have help us achieve longer-term, lasting reconciliation.

For example MARR and natural resource ministries have developed a variety of revenue sharing and shared decision making agreements that are designed to enable natural resource development on Crown lands while fully addressing consultation and accommodation obligations associated with Aboriginal rights pre-treaty.

These agreements, both Treaty and non-treaty, are all incremental steps towards reconciliation. Treaties and other agreements are important tools for First Nations to develop sustainable, healthy, resilient communities. Strategic engagement agreements and economic and community development agreements represent innovative approaches to streamlining consultation obligations and sharing new resource revenues with First Nations.

These agreements, among others, help build relationships with First Nations, resolve conflicts, or address concerns associated with development on traditional territories.

Strategic engagement agreements with First Nations are intended to encourage a positive and respectful government-to-government relationship, strengthen BC's investment climate and establish mutually agreed upon procedures for consultation and accommodation. For those First Nations who chose to also enter the treaty process, strategic engagement agreements can help to build the mechanisms to support decision making in a post-treaty environment.

For First Nations not in the treaty process, strategic engagement agreements provide an opportunity to take a more active role in the decision-making process and develop a stronger government-to-government relationship with the Province.



In addition, the Province continues the work of reconciliation by seeking success through agreements, such as reconciliation protocols, at the community level. Reconciliation protocols increase economic and legal certainty for resource and land use, establish a process for shared decision making and create economic opportunities for First Nations communities building a stronger future for all British Columbians.

The Province's efforts in sharing revenues with First Nations target several natural resource areas such as forestry and mining through such agreements as the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements which provide First Nation communities with economic benefits based on harvest activities in their traditional territory.

The Province committed to share revenue with First Nations as a means to create certainty on the land and to make First Nations partners in resource development. As part of commitments made in the Transformative Change Accord, the Province committed to seeking ways to address the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens by working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. Revenue sharing agreements are entered into on a case-by-case basis with the impacted First Nations.

BC has undertaken a number of innovative approaches to assist First Nations with developing capacity and the means to pursue economic activities. Strategic Engagement Agreements provide governance capacity funding, early land transfers allow for economic development opportunities ahead of signing of treaties, and First Nation forestry tenures.

We have come a long way but we still have much work to do to close the gap. The closer we work with First Nations puts us that much closer to reconciliation and realizing the vision of the *New Relationship*.

## SHARING OF FORESTRY DERIVED REVENUES

The *Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA)* provide First Nation communities with economic benefits from forest harvest activities in their traditional territory. It also provides a new, mutually agreed on, process for consulting on forestry decisions that affect First Nation communities.

This approach is in accordance with both the recommendations that emerged from the 2009 Minister's Working Roundtable on Forestry and the vision for a better future for First Nation communities from the Transformative Change Accord. These agreements also directly support jobs in BC's forestry sector by creating certainty on the land base.

The FCRSAs provide tangible benefits to First Nation communities and have played a key role in supporting First Nation's participation in the forest sector. For example, in December 2010, the Province expedited the payment of revenue sharing funds to the Moricetown Band. Those funds allowed the community mill that was in immediate danger of being forced to close, to remain open and continue to provide employment for Band members.

More recently, in 2012/13, the Nuxalk Nation have partnered with Bella Coola Forestry Society on several forestry initiatives, which are of significant benefit to the communities in the Bella Coola Valley. The Nuxalk Nation FCRSA funding has helped Nuxalk in development of recent capital projects, such as the sawmill operation, water sort and dry-land sort and development of scoping elements for a deep sea loading facility, which would allow for forest products to go straight to Asia from Bella Coola.

In fiscal 2012/13, 21 FCRSAs were signed with First Nations resulting in further support to First Nation communities across the province.

## Children, Youth & Families

- MARR continues to support Aboriginal youth and Aboriginal youth workers.
- Two regional *Aboriginal Youth Worker* forums were held – one in Terrace and the second in Kamloops, reaching more than 150 service providers. The federal government's Active Measures program was the primary funding source, with MARR staff behind the event creation, planning and coordination.
- The *Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective* (UAYC) continues to work in partnership with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to support youth leadership, youth engagement and representation of Aboriginal youth voices in government through their annual youth forum. In 2012, 65 youth gathered to share their perspectives on indigenous youth and child rights.

## Culture and Arts

- The *First Peoples' Cultural Council* (FPCC) funded 52 arts and 65 language projects and produced 26 language resources in 2012.
- FPCC assisted *Google.org* with the launch of The Endangered Languages Project (*endangeredlanguages.com*), a new online platform that will facilitate language documentation and revitalization globally. FPCC will continue to play a key role in the ongoing oversight and outreach of the project.
- The BC Arts Council allocated \$480,000 to the *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council* (FPHLCC)<sup>1</sup> for the 2012/13 *Aboriginal Arts Development Awards* (AADA), which included Emerging Individual Artists, Organizations and Collectives, Sharing Traditional Arts-Inter-generational transmission and Arts Administrator Internships and Mentorships. The *New Relationship Trust* augmented support to the latter two programs with \$145,000.
- The BC Arts Council, through its Artists in Education (District Allocations program), provided \$25,000 to the First Nations Schools Association.
- The BC Arts Council awarded a further \$25,000 in special project funding to support of the final phase of a cultural mapping project and the Cultural Protocols and the Arts Forum to take place at En'owkin centre, Penticton in March, 2014.

<sup>1</sup> First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council (FPHLCC) is also known as the First Peoples' Cultural Council.



## Justice and Community Services

- The Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Justice invested approximately \$1.6 million in 36 locally based Aboriginal Justice Strategy Programs. *Aboriginal Justice Strategy Programs* are supporting community-based justice programs in communities throughout British Columbia to reduce the rates of victimization and incarceration among Aboriginal people and helping the justice system become more responsive to the cultural needs of Aboriginal people and are helping communities.
- The Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Justice invested approximately \$1.3 million in the *Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC (NCCABC)*. NCCABC helps Aboriginal people involved in the criminal justice system to obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment. This program is located in 28 British Columbia communities and serves 74 per cent of the province's courthouses. The program celebrated their 40th anniversary this year.
- In 2012, BC established the *Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV)* as the permanent lead for the BC government in coordinating and strengthening services for children and families affected by domestic violence. It ensures that all provincial policies, programs and services related to domestic violence are effective and delivered in a comprehensive and unified way across government. It is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and regularly reporting progress, as well as consulting with stakeholders, to support a coordinated, systemic approach to addressing domestic violence.
  - \* *In response to a report from the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY), the BC government established PODV to coordinate the development of the cross-government Taking Action on Domestic Violence in British Columbia action plan. A progress report was released in March 2013 and implementation of actions is well underway or completed.*
  - \* *One of the commitments in the action plan is a three-year provincial plan to address domestic violence. The plan will be inclusive of an Aboriginal and diversity focus.*
- In 2012-13, the *Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW)* continued to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women. Highlights of the Council's work were tabled in their first report to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. Work included providing advice to the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, participating in the BC Justice Reform Initiative, and developing relationships within government and with external partners.

## FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY RELATIONS – GOING THE EXTRA NAUTICAL MILE

In order to better serve the isolated coastal Aboriginal communities served by the RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment, the Prince Rupert Coastal Policing Unit was structured to provide core and enhanced policing to five Aboriginal communities accessible only by boat or float plane. Of the 14 members of the Unit, eight are enhanced positions attached to Community Tripartite Agreements between each of five coastal Aboriginal communities, the Province and Canada.

In order for the Unit to provide police services to all communities equally and fairly, it is broken down into three teams. The North Team covers Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla, the South Team covers Kitkatla and Hartley Bay, and the Klemtu Team covers Klemtu. Team members work eight days in their communities followed by six days off. Members can travel up to 200 kilometers one way by boat to reach their communities.



It takes six hours to reach Klemtu from Prince Rupert and four hours to reach Hartley Bay – if the weather cooperates! High winds and rough seas have prevented members from reaching their communities at the beginning of their shifts, or from leaving their communities at the end of their shifts.

The members have worked hard on building relationships within the communities they serve: playing basketball with the youth after work hours, putting on BBQs, hosting 10k runs, reading to youth in school, and participating in canoe journeys, community meetings and events, to mention a few. As a result, each member of the team understands and respects the culture in which they work and live, and are self driven and motivated to provide the service required.

Read a story about the Klemtu team's connection with their community here:  
<http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeld=50&languageId=1&contentId=30137>

Police Services Division of the Ministry of Justice released a draft BC Policing and Community Safety Plan in February 2013. This plan was developed through an engagement process that took place between April and June 2012 with British Columbians, community leaders, First Nations, local governments and police. It represents a framework to develop a long-term, strategic plan for policing against which decisions about policing will be made now and into the future.

Themes that emerged from the engagement process relevant to First Nations policing focused on relationship-building, trust, and multi-agency collaboration. First Nation communities want policing that is professional, effective, culturally appropriate and accountable to the communities served.

In October 2012, the Ministry coordinated a First Nations Roundtable. Some issues discussed related to the recruitment and retention of RCMP-First Nations Community Policing Service (FNCPS) members, lack of sustainable and equitable funding for the FNCPS, inadequate police response times, and lack of culturally appropriate alternatives to the justice system.

An action item suggested that First Nations, police, the federal government, and the Ministry of Justice, in consultation, reform the service delivery framework of the First Nations Policing Program in British Columbia. This includes increasing First Nations community engagement through the completion of Letters of Expectation outlining community goals and objectives, regular on-site program visits and governance support of local committees. The final report will be delivered in early 2014.

In 2012, the First Nations Community Policing Service had 108.5 officers to provide enhanced policing services to 130 First Nation communities in BC through 54 Community Tripartite Agreements. In addition, one Delta Police Department member provided enhanced policing to Tsawwassen First Nation through a Quad Partite Policing Agreement with the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN), Corporation of Delta, BC, and Canada. There was also one First Nations Self-Administered Policing Services in BC: Stl'at'imx Tribal Police (STP). This police service has eight officers and is modelled on the structure of an independent municipal police department with governance provided by a police board whose members are selected from the communities served. All STP police officers are appointed under the *Police Act*.

### **Social Innovation**

- The *BC Social Innovation Council* was established in January 2011 to develop recommendations that would assist government in seeking new and innovative ways to help BC communities tackle the most intractable social challenges of the day. The Council was drawn from government, Aboriginal and community organizations, and business agencies with an interest in social entrepreneurship, including credit unions, foundations, academics, local and provincial government, investors, social entrepreneurs and innovators.
- The *BC Partners for Social Impact* was established in April 2012 as a successor entity to the Council and continues to foster cross sector and cross community collaboration to support social impact. This includes collaboration in the development and implementation of projects, programs and partnerships that foster the further development of social innovation capacity in First Nations communities.

## Off Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan

- Ten ministries pooled \$400,000 in funding to support 2012-2013 ORAAP activities which included:
  - \* *A protocol agreement between the Province and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to collaborate on ORAAP.*
  - \* *An agreement between the Province and the federal government outlining how they will collaboratively work together to support the off-reserve and urban Aboriginal population.*
  - \* *A social innovation competition designed to generate innovative ideas that will have positive social impacts in off-reserve/urban Aboriginal communities.*
  - \* *Implementation of five community pilots (Vancouver, Surrey, Prince George, Kamloops and Duncan) resulting in reports identifying community priorities, initiatives and next steps.*

To view the ORAAP 2012-13 Year-End Report, please visit [http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/down/oraap\\_year-end\\_report\\_2012\\_2013.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/down/oraap_year-end_report_2012_2013.pdf)

## Building Capacity in Aboriginal Relations

- Working with an Aboriginal Consultative Council outside of government, the BC Public Service Agency and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation developed, Building Capacity in Aboriginal Relations “We’re All Here to Stay” which is a free, on-line training course available to all BC Public Service employees through the PSA Learning Centre.

## BUILDING CAPACITY IN ABORIGINAL RELATIONS

Since 2005, the Province of British Columbia, First Nations and Aboriginal leaders have focused attention on building positive working relationships. The *New Relationship* vision document, the *Transformative Change Accord*, and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* all speak to a new approach to how government works with Aboriginal people – based on the principles of recognition, respect and reconciliation.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation's Building Public Service Capacity in Aboriginal Relations (BCAR) Strategy makes available to every BC Public Service employee information, tools and resources needed to understand and work well with the diversity of BC First Nations and Aboriginal communities, organizations and people.

Acting on a commitment to provide all BC public service staff with a foundational Aboriginal online training course, MARR and PSA engaged with government's Aboriginal partners. Collaborating with an Aboriginal Consultative group from outside government tasked to provide direction and advice to the course developers ensured the content was representative, respectful and inclusive of the diversity of Aboriginal people in BC. This collaboration coupled with some of governments' formal processes that focus on results and timelines, created a course development process that centred on how we worked together in relationship.

The course's story line brings the learner into a conversation between an experienced employee coaching an inexperienced employee about the Aboriginal people of BC. The course uses a web based program that animates a diversity of topics using video, cultural images and sounds to illustrate both some unsettling historical and current day facts faced by a number of Aboriginal people and, their resiliency moving forward. The course content reflects a multicultural mosaic of Aboriginal people and encourages the pursuit of deeper learning. The resulting relationships and understanding that grew out of how government approached the development of this course exemplify a positive "shift" between Crown-Aboriginal relations.

## The Strategy for the Future

The Province will continue to develop effective, respectful Crown-Aboriginal relations in working with First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, all levels of government and the private sector on initiatives aimed at improving social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. Specifically:

- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will continue to negotiate and implement agreements with First Nations, including treaties, which contribute to improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will work with provincial ministries, Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to implement the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan.
- Working together with justice partners, Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders, the Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Justice will work toward the goals in the Aboriginal Programs and Relationships Strategic Plan 2012-2016.
- The First Nation Policing Agreements are currently being renegotiated with the Government of Canada. These new agreements will outline the cost share and budget to support First Nations policing in the province. It is anticipated that these agreements will be completed in March 2014. Consultations will also be commencing with First Nations at that time.
- The Province will continue to work with the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW) and MACAW will develop a set of recommendations for government on stopping violence against Aboriginal women and girls.
- The Province will continue with its ongoing commitment to the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts and cultures. This will include supporting the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC), a First Nations-run Crown Corporation, to work in partnership with First Nations communities in BC by providing funding and resources to communities, monitoring the status of First Nations languages, and developing policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government.
- The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will continue to work with youth and Aboriginal Youth Workers.

# TREATIES

Treaties are a formal expression of reconciliation and a positive tool for building capacity and stimulating community economies. These negotiated agreements clearly define rights and responsibilities of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments, including land ownership, governance, wildlife and environmental management, financial benefits and taxation.

In 2012-13, a number of milestones were reached with First Nations in the treaty process:

- The Province passed legislation to ratify the Tla'amin Nation Final Agreement.
- The Province signed 11 new treaty related agreements with First Nations including incremental treaty agreements and agreements-in-principle.
- The Kitsumkalum and Kitselas communities voting in favour of their agreements-in-principle.
- The Province amended and extended the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Incremental Treaty Agreement.
- The Province signed 4 new incremental treaty agreements with:
  - \* *Ditidaht First Nation.*
  - \* *Pacheedaht First Nation.*
  - \* *Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Malahat, Snaw-naw-as, Songhees and T'Sou-ke First Nations.*
  - \* *Kitsumkalum and Kitselas First Nations;*

## The Strategy for the Future

Key strategies for the future include:

- Supporting the conclusion of agreements among First Nations, the Province and local governments.
- Continuing to seek improvements to treaty making through tripartite processes.
- Linking economic development agreements to treaty through land transfers for current and future use.

There are six stages in the BC Treaty Commission process.

- \* *Stage 1 – Statement of intent to negotiate.*
- \* *Stage 2 – Readiness to negotiate.*
- \* *Stage 3 – Negotiation of a framework agreement.*
- \* *Stage 4 – Negotiation of an Agreement in Principle.*
- \* *Stage 5 – Negotiation to finalize a treaty.*  
*(At this stage, a Final Agreement is being finalized and will turn into a treaty after being signed and formally ratified by the First Nation, Canada, and BC).*
- \* *Stage 6 – Implementation of the treaty. Starts on the effective date*

# EDUCATION

Access to a culturally based education and learning environment is an important element in fostering learner success at all ages. Working with dedicated partners and communities across the province, meaningful steps are being taken.

School curricula and resources continue to be developed that reflect and honour the diverse cultures and histories of Aboriginal Peoples in the province. Post-secondary institutions continue to create welcoming spaces and services for Aboriginal students.

As well, more Aboriginal adults and youth are accessing training and employment supports and completing employment training programs. Through these and many other initiatives, work to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal learners will remain a priority.

## 2012-13 Highlights

### Early Childhood

- Provided \$5 million to fund proposals focused on community delivery of effective, quality and culturally appropriate Aboriginal early childhood development services. The *First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Steering Committee* provides stewardship over funding.
- The \$5 million supports the Year 2 implementation of the First Nations Early Childhood Development Framework and the Aboriginal Early Years Advisory Circle Strategic Plan. This funding was in addition to the 2012-13 ongoing regional funding provided to support 43 Aboriginal ECD community-based programs both on and off-reserve across BC.
- The Province funded the Dollywood Imagination Library program which delivered free books monthly to 356 First Nation and Métis children from birth to ages 5 primarily in rural and remote areas.
- A *StrongStart BC* Outreach program was opened in the *Nisga'a School District* with \$20,000 in start-up funding provided by the Ministry of Education. The program runs out of four schools and serves four aboriginal communities: Gingolx, Laxalts'ap, Gitwinksilkw, and New Aiyansh.

### Kindergarten to Grade 12

- The Ministry of Education continued to support school districts and Aboriginal communities as they created, signed and implemented additional Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements around the province for a total of 53 out of 60 school districts. Four school districts have signed their third agreement, signifying more than 11 years of working together to increase the success of Aboriginal students.
- The Ministry also provided support to various First Nations communities and associated school districts in the planning and development phases of their First Nations language curriculum. There are now 15 First Nations language curriculum documents approved for use to meet the language learning requirements for students in the public/independent school system. The Ministry of Education facilitated a consultation meeting with Aboriginal language educators and experts to further develop understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with Aboriginal language learning and teaching.



- As well, the Ministry created a space for meaningful and relevant conversation with Indigenous knowledge keepers, to provide guidance in decision making and to ground all aspects of the K-12 education system transformation process in Indigenous teaching and learning. These knowledge keepers continue to provide guidance as needed. As the curriculum re-design has unfolded, Aboriginal representation has been included on all curriculum writing teams. These teams have used the First Peoples Principles of Learning when drafting new curricula.
- The Ministry has also been involved in a cross-ministry initiative, the Aboriginal Skills Training and Employment Northern Development (ASTEND) Initiative to support increased training and jobs for Aboriginal people in northern BC as a result of the development of five LNG plants and expanded mining opportunities. Skills training for Aboriginal youth is a joint concern for ASTEND and the 10-year Skills Training Youth Plan lead by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, Skills and Labour. These two initiatives will be co-ordinated to prevent duplication. The Ministry of Education is responsible for K-12 curriculum and delivery of programs to all BC students, including seamless transitions to post-secondary institutions, training or the workforce.

### Post-Secondary

- The Ministry of Advanced Education worked with the Province's Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Partners—which include the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association, Métis Nation BC, the First Nations Public Service, BC Colleges, BC Association of Universities and Institutes, and the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia—to develop the 2012 *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan*.
- The *Aboriginal Policy Framework and Action Plan* intended to help Aboriginal learners succeed in an integrated, relevant, and effective post-secondary education system, and it encompasses all post-secondary education and training programs, including adult basic education, vocational, career, business, trades, undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HELPS LEARNER PURSUE CAREER IN NURSING

Melissa Monson is a single mother of two enrolled as a full-time student in the Nursing Program at the College of the Rockies. She is working towards a Bachelor of Science, and has been placed on the Deans' List during previous terms.

In 2013, she was one of 145 recipients of the British Columbia Aboriginal Award through the Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society.

The award allowed her to continue her studies and work towards achieving her goals of working in the community and pursuing further education.

“My goals are to work in the field of nursing for a few years, preferably in the Aboriginal community.”

Afterwards, Melissa is interested in becoming a professor of nursing.

“This will allow me to pursue both of my passions: nursing and teaching.”

She was proud to receive the award and to be recognized for her efforts.

“I will continue to strive for success and prove to be a good example to my children and also the Aboriginal community.”

## GATHERING PLACE PROVIDES SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Rainbow Acoby is from the Lytton First Nation along the Fraser River, and is in her third year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at Thompson Rivers University (TRU). She has received support at TRU's Gathering Place, where Aboriginal students are provided with information on university life and given opportunities to study and socialize.



*Photo credit: TRU Marketing and Communications*

“The Gathering Place has supported me with food, workshops, printing, computer access, and elders, but more importantly it has provided me with valuable social interactions.

“I come to The Gathering Place every chance I get, between classes, before classes, and after classes. I come for coffee, I come for an apple, and I come for soup on Soup Days.”

Through the Gathering Place, Rainbow has received support and guidance from Elders.

“There is always an Elder at the house. They give me hope and awareness of who I am and who I am going to become. I love their presence and the way they provide me with holistic support.”

The Gathering place also served as a source of inspiration.

“It was a place for me to witness others like me, to see others who are following their dreams, and to see dreams come true. I see students that are now Alumni. I see the Alumni making a difference in the community. It gives me hope that I too will succeed and become a working member of society. I can see myself making a difference in people's lives.”

## Employment, Job Training and Apprenticeship

- In 2012/13, more than 4,700 Aboriginal people received training and employment supports offered through more than 25 programs funded by the *BC-Canada Labour Market Agreement (LMA)*. Examples include: More than \$3.5 million invested in trades training programs for unemployed or low-skilled Aboriginal people to enable them to break through barriers to employment in the trades and meet the workforce demands of BC's growing economy. Through the *Industry Training Authority's (ITA) Aboriginal in Trades Training Initiative*, approximately 475 Aboriginal people received pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training. As a result of collaboration with Aboriginal support agencies, employers, training providers, and program participants, the number of Aboriginal people in apprenticeship programs has more than doubled since 2006.
- Approximately 1,200 youth in 36 communities were served through BladeRunners, a program that offers training, life skills and employment opportunities for at-risk youth, (over 60 per cent are self-identified Aboriginal people). BladeRunners has a 75 per cent job placement rate and provides its participants with access to job coaches at all hours, every day of the week.

### ABORIGINAL YOUTH INTERNS ARE THE LEADERS OF TODAY

Since 2007, BC has been providing Aboriginal youth with the opportunity of 12 months of paid, practical, inside experience on how the provincial government works through the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program. To date we have 96% completion rate with 124 Aboriginal youth.

The program won the Premier's Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Partnership category for its 2010 program. This recognition is an indication of how successful the internships have been since they started. In November 2013, the Year 6 cohort set of interns celebrated the completion of their year while Year 7 started on their own adventure.



*BACK ROW: Bradley Dick (AYIP Program Coordinator); Chief Andy Thomas (Esquimalt Nation); Brenda Schwab (Y6 Intern); Bruce Dumont (President Métis Nation); Gregory Forsberg (Y6 Intern); Daniel Isaac (Y6 Intern); Maxime Lepine (Y6 Intern); Duane Louis (Y6 Intern); Celia Pinette (Y6 Intern).*

*MIDDLE ROW: Chief Ron Sam (Songhees Nation); Amanda Horncastle (AYIP Program Administrator); Kyla Schorneck (Y6 Intern); Jessy Auger (Y6 Intern); Monique Auger (Y6 Intern); Alexa Manuel (Y6 Intern); Rita Merrick (Y6 Intern); Kelli Clifton (Y6 Intern); Brittany John (Y6 Intern).*

*FRONT ROW: Danette Jubinville (Y6 Intern); Leah Godin (Y6 Intern); Jessica McIntyre (Y6 Intern); Ashley McCarthy (Y6 Intern); Stephanie Papik (AYIP Program Lead); Corrine Hunt (Y6 Intern); Melissa Matheson Frost (Y6 Intern).*

Here is what two Y6 interns had to say about their experience:

*“The experiences, support, and personal growth I have gained from this internship have surpassed any other opportunity I have had. Not only have I been able to develop skills that I never expected from government (did not expect to be doing so much video production and it is great) but I get to work on strengthening my home community as well. It has been the best of so many worlds.”*

*Jessica McIntyre, Aboriginal Youth Intern,  
BC Public Service Agency*

Musgamagw Dzawada’enukx

*“I think it is important to have aboriginal representation in provincial government. Before this program, I never would have entertained the idea that working in government could be a potential career path. I have found a healthy balance working within government without losing my cultural values.*

*The support from my ministry, AYIP team and fellow interns has left a positive impression and I AM open to the possibility of returning to government. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would recommend all aboriginal youth consider this program.”*

*Brittany John, Aboriginal Youth Intern,  
Environmental Assessment Office  
Squamish Nation*

## The Strategy for the Future

- The Ministry of Education has reviewed, and will continue to review, the impact of Education Enhancement Agreements as a system to support Aboriginal learner success, and will network with other regions to share successful strategies. The ministry will continue to work with FNECS for the full implementation of First Nations education jurisdiction and, through consultation with Aboriginal communities, will work to increase the Aboriginal voice and culturally relevant learning in all aspects of the K-12 school system.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education will continue to work with the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Partners to implement the commitments of the *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan*, including increasing the number of credentials awarded to Aboriginal learners and the percentage of youth making the transition from K-12 to post-secondary education.
- In 2013/14, the Industry Training Authority, in partnership with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, will continue to build upon the lessons learned from a three-year program review to identify strategic directions and suggested strategies for the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal trades people in BC.

# HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Province, the *Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)*, and other Aboriginal housing service providers and partners are working together to develop appropriate housing to meet the diverse needs of Aboriginal people and families living off-reserve.

## 2012-13 Highlights

- More than 1,750 homeless Aboriginal people were provided with housing and supports through the *Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program*, the Homeless Outreach Program, and the Emergency Shelter Program.
- There have been 4,788 units of supportive housing completed to date under the *Provincial Homelessness Initiative*, which benefits many homeless Aboriginal people.<sup>2</sup>
- BC is the first province to support a self-management model for Aboriginal social housing. The province has transferred more than 4,000 Aboriginal housing units to the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA).
- The Rural Native Housing Program, a federal government program established in 1974 and transferred to BC Housing in 2006, includes more than 500 houses scattered in small communities around the province. In March 2012, BC Housing transferred the ownership of 75 homes located on Vancouver Island to *MAkola Housing Society*, an Aboriginal housing provider. This is the first step in a phased-in approach for the transfer of ownership of the entire rural native housing stock to Aboriginal housing providers.
- In June 2012, a \$5-million federal and provincial investment in a newly funded *Aboriginal Housing Initiative* was announced. *MAkola Housing Society* and *Vernon Native Housing Society* are using these funds to create 42 units of affordable housing for Aboriginal households in need. Through the *Aboriginal Housing Initiative (AHI)*, 220 units of transitional housing with culturally-appropriate support services have been created to date.
- The Province initiated a second phase of community-based housing projects with Moricetown band and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, and the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. Housing projects were aimed at illustrating the feasibility and benefits of connecting existing provincial training and employment programs with federally funded housing on-reserve.
- Key outcomes included a new off-reserve housing strategy foundation report, needs assessment and important partnerships built in order to implement the housing strategy. In addition, Aboriginal youth and young adults received 12 weeks of essential skills and pre-trades training, 12 people attained employment or paid work experience and 5 others entered apprenticeships.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to newly developed and preserved units such as Single Room Occupancy hotel units undergoing renovations.

## ABORIGINAL HOUSING TRANSFERRED TO AHMA

Effective November 1, 2012, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) assumed responsibility for administering all existing housing program agreements between BC Housing and Aboriginal service providers in British Columbia. This historic transfer includes all housing agreements as well as emergency shelter and Aboriginal Homelessness Outreach Program agreements. BC Housing will transfer over \$30 million to AHMA annually. AHMA will use these funds to administer the subsidy payments to Aboriginal housing providers under the portfolio. This self-management model for administering Aboriginal social housing is the first of its kind in Canada.

The Pathways to Technology project continued to gather momentum in Fiscal 2012-2013 as connectivity expanded to more First Nations throughout the province. As of March 31, 2013, 177 of 203 First Nations had access to broadband backhaul or transport services.



*(Left to Right) Lisa Ross, former AHMA CEO, Ann Howard, BC Housing, Jim Crisp, former BC Housing employee, Shayne Ramsay, CEO, BC Housing, Ray Jones, former AHMA President, Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Margaret Pfoh, Acting CEO, AHMA, Rosanna McGregor, ED for Cariboo Friendship Society.*

## CREATING TELEHEALTH CONNECTIONS IN CARRIER SEKANI

In the spring of 2010, Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) began to develop a cutting-edge telecommunications network, with a goal of connecting high-speed Internet to its head office in Prince George, and seven First Nations health centres within the region.

In partnership with Pathways to Technology, CSFS was able to establish connections that serve more than 11,000 people in 10 separate BC communities – helping the organization to provide enhanced health and family services to its band members.

With the upgrade to broadband connection came the implementation of telehealth services. Now people living in the area's most remote and isolated communities have the chance to see a medical specialist from their local health care centre, rather than travelling several hours and hundreds of kilometres for a half-hour consultation.

"Almost immediately we saw a significant increase in our ability to deliver acute care across the region," said Megan Hunt, Carrier Sekani's Executive Director of Communication, Information Management and Systems. "Now we are better prepared to manage cases of chronic disease, and can provide remote consultations with specialists for our patients living with HIV/Hepatitis, chronic kidney disease, mental health issues, addictions, all stages of cancer and other serious ailments."



In the past, the region's primary care physician, Dr. John Pawlovich, travelled immense distances to treat band members for one week each month. Now, with access to a high-speed Internet connection and telehealth services, the CSFS health centres can offer truly continuous care, allowing patients the opportunity to connect with a doctor they know and trust at a moment's notice.

"When we build a relationship with the people in the communities, they're much more likely to seek and receive the care they need," added Dr. Pawlovich. "Having the broadband Internet connection at our health centres is revolutionizing the way we distribute medical care throughout the region."

With the help of the Northern Health Authority, CSFS has also identified creative solutions to enhance primary care services. An online information sharing system ensures that up-to-date patient details are available for practitioners – providing accurate assessment, diagnosis, specialist reports, follow up and treatment information.

In the remote communities of Takla Lake, Yekooche, Fort Babine and Tachet, on-site nurses are receiving physician support via the telehealth connection, which has opened the doors to new treatments by developing ultrasound and prenatal services.

In all, CSFS has seen a 200% increase in patient visits since the installation of the high-speed Internet network, creating a foundation of healthcare that has never before been accessible to the region's remote First Nations communities.

Regardless of the geographical challenges, Carrier Sekani's local health professionals and patients are now receiving the support they need to ensure a healthier future for their communities.

## The Strategy for the Future

- The Province will continue to work with AHMA and other Aboriginal organizations to support a strong and self-reliant Aboriginal housing sector that addresses Aboriginal housing needs through a variety of appropriate housing options and programs.
- The Province will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to explore innovative approaches to improve housing for Aboriginal people in BC.
- Through a process of collaboration with First Nations organizations, the federal government, broader public sector organizations and the private sector, the Province will continue working towards ensuring that all 203 First Nations have affordable broadband access.

# HEALTH

The Province, working with the First Nations Health Authority and Aboriginal organizations, the federal government, Provincial Health Services Authority, and regional health authorities, remains committed to making progress on the health actions in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan and improving the health status of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples in the province.

## 2012-13 Highlights

### Governance

A *Health Partnership Accord* was signed by the Province, First Nations Health Council and the Government of Canada on December 17, 2012. It captures the vision of the Parties for a better, more responsive and integrated health system for First Nations in BC. The Accord is a non-legally binding agreement that describes the broad and enduring relationship amongst the Parties and their political commitment to pursue their shared vision.

On October 1, 2013, programs and services previously operated and managed by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch were transferred to the First Nations Health Authority, thereby allowing BC First Nations to administer, plan and provide culturally responsive health care services for First Nations. The transfer includes a range of prevention and health promotion programs and services, including children and youth programs (e.g., Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Head Start); chronic disease programs and injury prevention; primary care (e.g., nursing and oral health care); communicable disease control programs; mental wellness and substance use, environmental health; and Non-Insured Health Benefits. The transfer also included 165 Health Canada First Nations Inuit Health BC Regional Staff, 208 Contribution Agreements with First Nations Health Service Providers, and Capital Resources including Nursing Stations and office space throughout the province.

The fifth annual Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey forum was held May 15-17, 2012, marking another significant step forward in creating a more effective and culturally-responsive health service system for BC First Nations. These forums are the largest assembly of BC First Nations leadership in the province, bringing together Chiefs, Elders, front-line health workers, community members, and provincial and federal partners to move forward on health systems transformation for BC First Nations. Regional Partnership Accord signing ceremonies took place between First Nations and regional health authorities in the North, Vancouver Island, and Vancouver Coastal regions, opening new doors for cooperation and shared decision-making.

In November 2012, First Nations in the Interior Region signed their Partnership Accord with Interior Health, the final of five regional agreements that moves First Nations and the respective regional health authorities in their territory in a new direction. The regional Partnership Accords are part of a greater vision in the creation of a more effective, innovative, culturally appropriate health care system for BC First Nation communities.



## Health Actions



*Mental Wellness - A Path Forward: BC First Nations and Aboriginal People's Mental Wellness and Substance Use 10 Year Plan* was released in March 2013. The Plan serves as a Provincial approach to facilitate regional and local planning and action, and fulfils commitments in the *Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan* and the *Tripartite First Nations Health Plan* to address adult mental health and substance use as well as young adult suicide through an Aboriginal Mental Health and Substance Use Plan. The Plan is intended to act as a guide that supports First Nations and Aboriginal communities to achieve their goals related to mental wellness and substance use, as well as influence the wider provincial health system in offering

more culturally competent and effective care for First Nations, Aboriginal, Métis, and Inuit peoples who interact with the system on a daily basis. The 14 Strategic Directions and 56 Suggested Actions included in the Plan are intended to inform discussions shaped by community priorities, and enable and complement, not supersede existing mental wellness and substance use initiatives.

**Traditional Wellness:** Traditional Wellness is recognized by the First Nations Health Authority as a key component in improving the health and quality of life for BC First Nations and Aboriginal people. To help protect, incorporate and promote traditional healing into the health system First Nations and Aboriginal people interact with, a Traditional Healers' Advisory Committee has been established and a Traditional Wellness Strategic Approach is being developed. To articulate a visual depiction and description of the FNHA's vision of 'Healthy, Vibrant and Self-Determining BC First Nations Children, Families and Communities', the First Nations Perspective on Wellness was developed. It is intended to be used as a tool for both internal and external stakeholders in order to create a shared understanding of the holistic vision of wellness shared by BC First Nations.

In primary care and public health, a comprehensive evaluation of community-driven primary health care integration initiatives was completed which highlights six community case studies of various primary care services for shared lessons that can inform the design of new programs.

In health human resources, an environmental scan of strategic priorities was carried out to help determine what work already exists and plans are underway to develop a comprehensive First Nations and Aboriginal health human resources database system.

In the area of maternal child health, a strategic approach was in development by the Tripartite Maternal Child Health Strategy Area to provide province-wide guidance to support maternal and child health strategies and plans within the regions. Tripartite efforts have also been directed towards the development and drafting of a province-wide oral health strategy and a number of culturally appropriate resources including the Honouring Our Babies: Safe Sleep Guide and Discussion Cards.

Collaborative efforts from the Tripartite Maternal Child Health Strategy Area have also focused on reviewing information about existing culturally safe and respectful approaches within maternal child health services and programs for First Nations and Aboriginal pregnant women in BC, including an assessment of whether the Nurse-Family Partnership model is appropriate for First Nations and Aboriginal women, families and communities. Support for improved discharge planning and well-connected care for First Nations infants and children with serious and complex health care needs has also been pursued with the establishment of the Returning Home Project and the hiring of a coordinator to develop inter-professional linkages between hospital care providers and community services.

In the area of healthy living, the Ministry of Health collaborated with the Heart and Stroke Foundation in the Food Systems in Remote First Nations project to build long-term vegetable and fruit production in 15 First Nations community gardens previously established through the Produce Availability in Remote

Communities Initiative. The project focused on community engagement workshops and training in agriculture and food preservation. The goal is that communities will have the tools needed to continue the gardens on their own as part of a community food plan.

Visit the First Nations Health Authority website and view their Annual Reports for more Community-Driven, Nation-Based best practices.

### *Research, Data and Information Sharing*

The *First Nations Client File (FNCF)* is currently the best method of access to accurate health information for status First Nations residing in BC. The FNCF is governed by the Tripartite Data and Information Planning Committee consisting of members from Health Canada, BC Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority. They balance the need for high-quality First Nations health data with the need to protect privacy and the principle of First Nations Health Information Governance.

The First Nations Health Authority and the Ministry of Health have jointly developed some foundational elements to support the tracking and reporting of progress under the health plans and agreements. Performance tracking measures include undertaking the development and implementation of a joint reporting framework for BC, to be led by the Deputy Provincial Health Officer, to report on First Nations health outcomes while respecting First Nations Data Governance.

Other measures include providing support to the First Nations Health Authority to develop an epicentre which can provide data to inform joint reporting, the continuation of the development of wellness indicators as a measure of health outcomes (to be included in future reporting), and future First Nation Information Governance Agreements that will build on the foundation of the FNCF. The Tripartite Partners will also be releasing the 2012 Tripartite Data Quality Sharing Agreement Annual Report in 2014.

Métis Nation BC and the BC Ministry of Health are working together on the *Métis Public Health Surveillance Program*. The program has enabled the creation of a Métis cohort file (a first of its kind in BC) through data linkages with Ministry of Health administrative databases. In 2014, the Ministry will provide Métis Nation BC with reports on the health outcomes of Métis Citizens in BC, specifically the prevalence of chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness and diabetes.

### *Service and Program Delivery*

By the end of 2012, nearly 8,000 health staff from across all health authorities and the province participated in the *Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Program* developed by the Provincial Health Services Agency.

Under the Aboriginal Healthy Living Activities, the Ministry of Health sponsored a minor grant funding program and activities designed to build capacity within Aboriginal communities to promote healthy living. Ninety-four *Aboriginal Run/Walk projects*, 58 *Honour Your Health Challenge* projects, and five *Fit Nation* projects were supported by 157 grants of up to \$1,000 each, delivered in partnership with the *Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council* and *SportMedBC*.

On November 30, 2012, the Ministry of Health announced annual funding of \$19.9 million for the provincial expansion of the *Seek and Treat to Optimally Prevent HIV/AIDS (STOP HIV/AIDS)* project, beginning in April 2013. *From Hope to Health: Towards an AIDS-Free Generation*, provides details regarding BC's vision that the next generation of British Columbians will grow up AIDS-free. Beginning April 1, 2013, the STOP HIV/AIDS program will support health professional and community partners to better engage the broader community and specific vulnerable groups, including First Nations and Aboriginal people, in prevention services and HIV testing, and reach and engage those living with HIV into care and support.

## The Strategy for the Future

The Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority have worked together to create a shared vision to improve the health services experience and health outcomes for First Nations people in BC. Strong executive and operational partnerships between the Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority, an appropriate legal framework for the First Nations Health Authority, and “hardwiring” health plan implementation into key planning and accountability processes of the Ministry of Health will drive health plan implementation in a strategic and transformative manner.

Strategic tables have been established for governance purposes and to ensure accountability for working effectively with a Community-Driven, Nation-Based approach that has been outlined by BC First Nations communities. Key strategic tables include: the Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health; First Nations/BC Joint Project Board; First Nations Health Authority Regional tables; and a First Nations / Deputy Ministers Table on Social Determinants of Health.

The ongoing work at the Tripartite Implementation Committee has, and continues to use, the following as measures of a successful process of transfer:

1. Ensuring no disruption and minimal adjustment required by individual First Nations people and communities to the continuation of their health services or health benefits.
2. Ensuring minimal disruption and minimal added work burden on First Nations program providers who deliver community programs.
3. Respecting the Seven Directives established by BC First Nations at Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey IV.
4. Respecting the vision and principles of the Framework Agreement and creating a solid foundation for its continuing implementation.

The Ministry of Health will continue to work with the First Nations Health Authority, regional health authorities, Aboriginal organizations and Health Canada to support the continuing evolution of the First Nations Health Authority; ongoing implementation of the health actions commitments in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan; and support the Aboriginal Sports, Recreation & Physical Activity Partners Council as well as SportMedBC in delivering Aboriginal Healthy Living Activities.

# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Through the *Canada Starts Here: the BC Jobs Plan*, the Province continues to work with First Nations, Métis, Aboriginal organizations and communities to create economic opportunities that are sustainable and will improve the standard of living, well-being of Aboriginal people and provide certainty for investment.

Partnerships and relationships are established that help attract investment, share resource revenues, establish inclusive land decision-making processes, help to develop a skilled labour force, and foster equitable access to income supports and services.

## 2012-13 Highlights

### *Business and Development*

- Following a 2012-13 pilot project, the Ministry of Agriculture's First Nations Agriculture Business Development Initiative, under the support of *Growing Forward*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, launched the First Nations Agriculture Opportunities Assessment program. This program is an adaptation of the existing Farm Business Advisory Services program. The adaptations came as a result of input received through the First Nations Agriculture Needs Assessment reflecting unique needs and circumstances that the existing program could not adequately address. It was created primarily to assist First Nations communities, organizations and individuals in determining the expected feasibility of agricultural development options and identify next steps in their associated economic development. Five First Nations participated in the program this year.
- The *First Nation Clean Energy Business Fund* provided over \$1.97 M to 35 First Nations to pursue their alternative energy plans and to bring real economic and social benefits to their communities. Funding has been provided to support First Nations ranging in job training, joint ventures with industry, feasibility studies, the development of business plans and community energy planning. Equity funding was also provided to three First Nations to build and construct their own community projects this year.
- The Province honoured 18 businesses at the second *BC Aboriginal Business Awards* gala event. The awards honour and celebrate business excellence and represent the growing number of outstanding Aboriginal business leaders in the province.
- Delivered the *Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training (BEST)* program in 12 communities. The BEST program provides Aboriginal people with entrepreneurial skills training to undertake market research, create a business plan, and start their own businesses.

### *Agreements*

- MARR signed two mineral tax revenue-sharing agreements with the Williams Lake Indian Band and Xat'sùll First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band).
- The Ministry signed a first ever revenue-sharing agreement with the Tahltan Central Council related to a newly developed renewable energy project/independent power project within their traditional territory. The Tahltan will receive a portion of water rentals and land rents charged by the Province for the Forrest Kerr hydroelectric project. Once the project is fully operational, the revenue to Tahltan is forecast to be up to approximately \$2.5 million per year over the life of the project.
  - \* *This revenue-sharing agreement is enabled by BC's First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (as provided under the Clean Energy Act), which aims to promote increased First Nations participation in the clean-energy sector.*

## Training Collaboration Offers Access to the Trades

In 2006/07, 5.4 percent of students in Industry Training Authority (ITA) trades training programs at BC post secondary schools were Aboriginal, by 2012/13 this grew to 9.0 percent. First Nations and Aboriginal employment organizations have been working collaboratively with industry, training and post-secondary institutions to improve access for Aboriginal people to skilled trades training.

Established in 2006, the Squamish Nation Trades Centre (SNTC) located on Squamish Nation lands in North Vancouver, BC is one of those facilities, who working with post-secondary institutions like Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Capilano University, and Vancouver Community College, as well as the First Nations Employment Centre, Vancouver, and Industry Training Authority (ITA) Aboriginal Initiatives have supported over 300 Aboriginal people to enter and succeed in the skilled trades. SNTC launched to prepare Aboriginal people to gain employment on projects associated with the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The Centre provides training to any person of Aboriginal ancestry wanting to pursue a skilled trades career. The Centre first offered training that met the labour needs of major projects associated with the Olympics, and has since focused on emerging and industry gaps, which includes Warehousing, Carpentry Level 1 and Foundations, Water Damage Remediation Technician, Introduction to the Trades, and Safety training.

"It's important for the Centre to offer industry recognized and proven training we get by partnering with post-secondary schools to ensure our students have the greatest chance of success," said *Crystal Quocksister*, SNTC Coordinator.

The SNTC offers tailored support to Aboriginal learners who... *in a post-secondary school may fall off the map and get lost in the system.* "Through collaboration with schools, the Aboriginal student gets the best of both – the same quality instructors they'd have at a school like Kwantlen, including instructors of First Nation ancestry, and the personalized support from our Centre and the Aboriginal community."

SNTC provides qualified Aboriginal students with full tuition, books, and a living allowance. "Many students are from low-income and or single parent homes that without support wouldn't be able to take training," said Crystal. "Our relationships with post-secondary schools and the First Nations Employment Society grants access to training funding support that lets us provide students with these needed services. Without it, many of our students would not be able to take training and secure these jobs."

Many of the programs have a work experience component added to the training that last from two to six weeks in which students gain invaluable hands-on skills with an employer. During the work program, SNTC continues to provide support through Job Coaches that liaise regularly with the student apprentice and employer providing support as needed. "After training, it is up to the apprentice and employer to determine if they will continue to work together," Crystal says. "Our goal is to have as near 100 percent employment following training as possible... that target is in sight."

## Employment

- The Employment Program of British Columbia assists eligible job seekers to reach their career goals by providing training to upgrade skills, offering valuable work experience or lending support and expertise for starting a business. The EPBC has 73 Employment Service Centers (ESCs) across British Columbia that serve a broad range of Specialized Populations, including Aboriginals.
- Unemployed BC Aboriginal job seekers represent 9% of all client types served by the EPBC. Since the Program launched on April 2nd, 2012, EPBC has provided Case Management Services to over 10,000 Aboriginal Clients across the province to help individuals find and maintain employment and improve employment readiness.

- Case Management is a collaborative process between a EPBC Case Manager and a Client to support the Client in achieving the highest level of labour market participation possible. Of Aboriginal Clients who have completed Case Management, 37% have achieved employment. Over \$3.5 million in EPBC financial supports and services have been provided to Aboriginal Clients and 76% of Aboriginal EPBC Clients have participated in various employment workshops and 15% have participated in various short-term or long-term skills training.
- Job Creation Partnerships (JCPs) are a component of the Community and Employment Partnerships part of EPBC, under which the Ministry (ELMSD) enters agreements with organizations to fund them to develop and operate job creation projects to provide meaningful work experience to Program Clients and benefits to communities. Under JCP we had 28 self-identified Aboriginal Clients participating in Job Creation Partnerships (JCP), 6 have achieved employment and some projects are still in progress.

## The Strategy for the Future

Over the next year, the Province will continue to work on multiple fronts to support increased and sustainable economic opportunities:

- The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI) has implemented an *Expert Advisory Panel on Specialized Populations* as part of program governance for the Employment Program of BC that will help review results, monitor data and ensure that clients from specialized populations are receiving the services they need.
- As part of program governance, MSDSI has launched a *Specialized Populations Working Group* comprised of both ministry and service provider representatives. In the last year, this group has collaboratively developed program enhancement options that the ministry has implemented to ensure the program continues to be responsive. Exploring communities of practice, research and strategies to ensure the program is effectively meeting the needs of Aboriginal peoples is an area of focus for this working group over the next year.
  - \* *Work with other ministries to support Aboriginal access to programs and services associated with skills development and training.*
  - \* *Provide flexible funding to First Nations through various agreements such as economic and community development agreements.*

# MEASURING PROGRESS

Measuring and tracking progress on closing social and economic gaps between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population is a responsibility shared across government. Some of the indicators and reports being used by ministries and Crown agencies for reporting are highlighted below. Many indicators are also included in the cross-government report, *Measuring Outcomes*.

## Crown-Aboriginal Relationships

- Number of completed treaties, incremental treaty agreements and agreements-in-principle.
- Number of completed agreements that support strategic engagement with First Nations, including reconciliation agreements and strategic engagement agreements.
- Percentage of public service employees who are able to use their knowledge of Aboriginal peoples, histories and cultures to influence their day-to-day work.
- First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council annual reports.
- Ministry of Children and Family Development public performance measures.
- The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia Annual Reports.

## Education

Local boards of education and Aboriginal community partners continue to work together to develop and implement Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements. These agreements help to define what evidence of success looks like and provide ways to improve educational success for Aboriginal youth.

The Ministry of Education collects data to monitor the performance of Aboriginal students in the BC public school system. The data is published annually in the form of a report entitled "*How Are We Doing?*" (*HAWD*) which includes demographic and assessment outcomes at both provincial and school district level. This report provides a mechanism for the Ministry of Education, Aboriginal communities and school districts to open dialogue and make recommendations for improving the educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

The Ministry of Advanced Education sets a number of targets under the *Aboriginal Policy Framework and Action Plan*. While the bulk of these targets are for 2013 and 2016, the *Aboriginal Policy Framework and Action Plan* identifies two overarching outcomes—increasing the number of credentials awarded to Aboriginal learners and increasing the percentage of Aboriginal youth making the transition—both to be achieved by the year 2020. The Ministry is currently developing a "Report Out" on its progress to date in implementing the *Aboriginal Policy Framework and Action Plan*, with a public report to be made available in early 2014.

Specific measures include:

- BC Certificate of Graduation.
- Scores on the Foundation Skills Assessment.
- Performance on Provincial Examinations.
- Number of credentials awarded at the post-secondary level, and percentage of Aboriginal youth making the transition from K-12 to post-secondary education.

## *Housing and Infrastructure*

- Core housing need.
- Percentage of households reporting major repairs.
- Number of First Nations with broadband facilities.
- Number of long-term drinking water advisories on-reserve.
- BC Housing annual reports.

## *Health*

- Life expectancy at birth.
- Mortality rates.
- Youth suicide rates.
- Infant mortality rates.
- Prevalence of diabetes.
- Incidence of childhood obesity.
- The number of practising certified First Nations health-care professionals.

Other key indicators include First Nations defined wellness indicators, the measurement of new and improved health governance, management, and service delivery relationships at all levels.

## *Economic Opportunities*

- Unemployment rate.
- Median employment income.
- Self-employment status.
- Possession of apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma.
- Number of completed revenue sharing agreements with First Nations .
- Number of completed agreements under the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement program.

Ministries also report on specific measures and indicators in their service plans.



# CONCLUSION

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Aboriginal people have crucial roles in building a strong and sustainable BC economy, and will benefit with jobs, business and community opportunities. The *2012-13 Annual Report on Progress* highlights initiatives that support these roles and enable partnerships between the Province, First Nations, Métis, and Aboriginal people and organizations to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people across the province.

We can be proud of our achievements, and recognize that there is a need for innovative tools that will create a positive legacy for First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal people throughout British Columbia. Work will continue to strengthen the reconciliation process through the signing of new agreements and treaties, supporting the priorities of Aboriginal people to govern and design services for their diverse communities and needs, and initiating economic development and employment strategies, among many other important actions.

Through sustained commitment, the Province, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people will work together to establish healing relationships and build sustainable communities for Aboriginal people and all British Columbians that will close the socio-economic gap.

To obtain more information, please visit the Government of British Columbia website:  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/>.

# APPENDIX I: CORNERSTONES TO PROGRESS – ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2005

## Crown-Aboriginal Relationships

- 2012/13:** The Province and a number of First Nations signed 4 new incremental treaty agreements
- 2012/13:** The Province signed 21 *Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSA)* with First Nations, which provide First Nations with economic benefits that return directly to their communities based on harvest activities in their traditional territories
- 2011:** A *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Métis Nation BC, the Métis Commission for Children and Family of BC, and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) was signed.
- 2009:** The *Recognition and Reconciliation Protocol on First Nations Children, Youth and Families* was signed by the Province, the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs committing the parties to an inclusive process to establish a common vision for First Nations child and family wellness in British Columbia in addition to other commitments laid out in the protocol.
- 2009:** The subsequent Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (NNFFA) was finalised by the Province, Canada and the Nisga'a Nation (the "Parties") on April 1, 2009. The NNFFA is a tripartite funding arrangement to enable the provision of agreed-upon public programs and services to Nisga'a citizens and, where applicable, non- Nisga'a occupants of Nisga'a Lands. This renewed NNFFA provides the Nisga'a Nation with increased funding and greater flexibility in the delivery of the agreed-upon programs and services.
- 2008:** To improve the experiences of Aboriginal offenders and victims in the justice system, the Corrections Branch created the *Aboriginal Programs and Relationships* section. The Aboriginal section has developed initiatives to address the root causes of Aboriginal criminality and victimization and to engage communities and organizations in the management of Aboriginal offenders.
- 2006:** The Province signed the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*, agreeing to work with the Métis Nation BC (MNBC) to strengthen relationships and to improve the quality of life for Métis people. The Province provides annual operational funding matched by the federal government to MNBC for government-to-government dialogue.
- 2006:** The *New Relationship Trust Act* established the not-for-profit *New Relationship Trust (NRT)*. The Province provided \$100 million to the NRT to support First Nations in capacity building efforts.
- 2006:** The *Framework Agreement for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and First Nations Community Policing Service (FNCPS)* was signed by Canada and the Province. This agreement allows a First Nation Community, or a group of First Nation Communities to enter into an agreement with the Canada and the Province for the provisioning of community policing services that are culturally sensitive and responsive.

**2006:** Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) was established with government support to unify the diverse groups of Aboriginal youth in British Columbia to address issues of common concern. In 2009-10, the UAYC and the Province signed a *memorandum of understanding* to promote a positive relationship between Aboriginal youth and the Province.

**2005:** The Province provided significant financial resources to support the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) Society to implement their *Protocol with VANOC*, the federal government and other partners. The protocol ensured “unprecedented Aboriginal participation” in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games by ensuring First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Canada had opportunities to participate. It marked the first time that indigenous peoples had been recognized as full partners in an Olympic and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee.

**2005:** The Province signed the *Transformative Change Accord*, committing to work together to close the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.

**2005:** The *New Relationship* document was created, proposing new processes and structures for the Province and First Nations to work together on decisions regarding the use of land and resources, as well as explore opportunities for revenue-sharing in consideration of Aboriginal rights and title interests and to help enable First Nations economic development.

## Treaties

Signed treaties with six First Nations, including the first urban treaty with Tsawwassen First Nation and the first multi-nation treaty under the BC Treaty Commission process with the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

## Education

**2013:** The Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement was renewed in July 2013 and has a 5 year term

**2013:** Education Day which was a part of the Vancouver Truth and Reconciliation Week in September in which 5,000 students, educators, and administrators attended workshops, a youth forum and tributes on the residential school experience and its intergenerational impact.

**2013:** BC Ministry of Education is co-creating with its educational partners and stakeholders, an improved education system that includes personalized learning for every student, flexibility and choice, high standards, and learning empowered by technology. The objectives involve ensuring that provincial curriculum and assessments allow all students the opportunities to achieve their goals, and recognize every student’s unique learning style. To enrich the educational experience and perspectives of all students, curriculum development teams are working with Aboriginal experts and community members to include authentic Aboriginal content, perspectives and First Peoples Principles of Learning throughout the BC curriculum.

**2012:** Canada, the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the Ministry of Education signed the *Tripartite Education Framework Agreement*. The agreement is intended to close the funding gap between band-operated on-reserve and BC public schools, and formalizes the province’s practice of consulting with FNESC as an obligation, consistent with the spirit of the *New Relationship*.

**2012:** The *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan* was launched. This document is the result of a collaborative effort by the following organisations: British

Columbia, Canada, the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association, Métis Nation BC, the First Nations Public Service, BC Colleges, BC Association of Universities and Institutes and the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia released the 2012.

- 2009:** The first tuition payments were made to K-12 students living off-reserve enrolled in a band-operated school, and to cover students enrolled in independent certified on-reserve schools through the *Reciprocal Tuition Agreement* signed between the Province and the FNEESC. In 2010-11, over \$6.5 million in tuition payments were made.
- 2009:** The Industry Training Authority (ITA) released the *Aboriginal Trades and Apprenticeship Business Plan*. The Plan outlines how the ITA will address barriers to Aboriginal participation in trades training, and also identifies roles for supporting stakeholders within each action item.
- 2008:** Through the *Canada – British Columbia Labour Market Agreement*, 4,302 Aboriginal individuals have participated in 24 Labour Market Agreement initiatives since 2008.
- 2008:** Continued to partner with and support the FNEESC in the ongoing implementation of English 12 First Peoples curriculum and provincial examination for that course. New courses English 10 and 11 First Peoples were fully implemented in September, 2010.
- 2008:** The *BC Aboriginal Student Award* was created as part of the provincial government's strategy to improve Aboriginal access and achievement by reducing financial barriers to obtaining post-secondary education.
- 2007:** Implemented *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy* to enhance Aboriginal learner success. This initiative has included important foundational contributions such as: The development and implementation of Aboriginal Service Plans by 11 public post-secondary institutions in partnership with Aboriginal communities.
- Allocated \$10.5 million to create an endowment for the BC Aboriginal Student Award administered by the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society.
- Funded research to provide evidence that supports Aboriginal learner transitions along the post-secondary education continuum.
- Provided funding to build culturally welcoming gathering places at public post-secondary campuses.
- 2007:** One-hundred and 92 on-going public post-secondary seats were created in 2007-08 (100) and 2008-09 (92) that specifically target Aboriginal learners in strategic program areas.
- 2006:** Signed the Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement, and the BC First Nation Education Agreement. In 2007, the Province enacted the *First Nations Education Act* which formalized British Columbia's commitment to recognize First Nations' jurisdiction over the education of First Nations children in band schools of participating First Nations.
- 2004:** Collaborated in the development and implementation of *Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements*, which are five-year commitments made by Aboriginal communities, school districts, and the Ministry of Education to work together to improve the success and educational experience of Aboriginal students in British Columbia.

## Housing and Infrastructure

- 2013:** To date, the Province has transferred over 4,000 units of social housing to the *Aboriginal Housing Management Association*.
- 2013:** A second phase of community-based housing projects linked to implementing the historic MOU were completed with Moricetown Band / Office of the Wet'suwet'en and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.
- 2012:** A \$5-million federal and provincial investment in a newly funded *Aboriginal Housing Initiative* was announced.
- 2010:** The first phase of the First Nation Community-based Housing Initiative began, with a pilot with Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nation.
- 2008:** Launched the *Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program*, providing \$500,000 annually to Aboriginal non-profit organizations in nine communities across British Columbia to connect homeless people to housing, income assistance and support services in their communities within an Aboriginal context.
- 2008:** Announced the Province's commitment to work with First Nations leaders so that First Nations and their partners may bridge the digital divide in First Nations communities throughout British Columbia. Broadband connectivity will provide the electronic foundation required to share information and deliver many programs to First Nations. This announcement supports the spirit and goals of the Transformative Change Accord.
- 2008:** The Province, Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council signed a historic MOU, which commits the parties to work together to improve housing for First Nations communities, individuals and families living on- and off-reserve.
- 2008:** Undertook a province-wide engagement process involving over 250 people from Aboriginal organizations, First Nations and other groups to inform and guide future work related to off-reserve Aboriginal housing.
- 2007:** Through the *Aboriginal Housing Initiative*, the Province committed \$50.9 million to build 200 new units of affordable off-reserve Aboriginal housing to create safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing for youth, women, elders and those struggling with addictions. Since 2006, over 163 units of affordable housing have been created. This initiative is funded in part through the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust, which had been transferred from the Government of Canada to the Province.
- 2006:** Completed on- and off-reserve housing needs and capacity assessment review. In addition to a literature and statistical review, Aboriginal communities and organizations around British Columbia provided information. This input is now guiding development of safe, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to British Columbia's Aboriginal people living off-reserve.
- 2004:** The *Provincial Homelessness Initiative* was launched as a result of the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions. More than 4,000 new and upgraded supportive housing units and shelter beds have been created through the Provincial Homelessness initiative, which will benefit many homeless Aboriginal people.

## Health

**October 1, 2013:** programs and services previously operated and managed by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch were transferred to the First Nations Health Authority.

**2012:** A *Health Partnership Accord* was signed by the Province, First Nations Health Council and the Government of Canada on December 17, 2012. It captures the vision of the Parties for a better, more responsive and integrated health system for First Nations in BC. The Accord is a non-legally binding agreement that describes the broad and enduring relationship amongst the Parties and their political commitment to pursue their shared vision.

**2012:** In March 2012 the Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Dr. Evan Adams, was appointed *Deputy Provincial Health Officer* for British Columbia. Dr. Adams provides independent direction on First Nations and Aboriginal health issues to the Ministry of Health and sets out a path for the improvement of First Nations and Aboriginal health and wellness. Dr. Adams' new role reflects a strengthening of the partnership between the Province of BC and BC First Nations.

**2011:** The *British Columbia Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance* was signed on October 2011 by the Province, First Nations Health Authority (formerly First Nations Health Society) and the Government of Canada. The Framework Agreement is the first of its kind in the country. It sets out the commitment for the transfer of the planning, designing, management and delivery of First Nations federal health programs currently under Health Canada First Nations and Inuit Health Branch to the First Nations Health Authority.

**2010:** The province, along with the First Nations Health Council and the Government of Canada initiated the *Basis for a Framework Agreement on Health Governance*. The Basis Agreement outlines a staged approach for reaching a new administrative arrangement with Canada and British Columbia, where the funding, programs, services and staff of the BC Region of First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada, would be transferred to the control of a new First Nations health governing body (the First Nations Health Authority).

**2010:** The *BC First Nations Health Directors Association* was incorporated as one of four governance components identified in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. A 13-member board of directors was appointed with representation from all five health regions.

**2009:** The *Provincial Health Service Authority (PHSA)* developed an *Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Program* in response to the Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan action item #19: "First Nations and the Province will develop a curriculum for cultural competency for health authorities."

**2009:** Provincial implementation of First Nations early childhood health screening programs for vision, dental and newborn hearing was initiated. In 2009-10, vision and dental screening for kindergarten age children was offered to all First Nations schools on-reserve, and hearing screening was universally offered to all newborns in hospital and clinic settings at birth. Between September 2010 and June 2011, 82.8 per cent of kindergarten children who identified as Aboriginal had their eyes screened by public-health vision screeners.

**2008:** British Columbia was the first province in Canada to endorse *Jordan's Principle*, which ensures First Nations children receive the health and social services care they need. A joint process document for implementation between all parties will be finalized with First Nations' input.

**2007:** The historic *Tripartite First Nations Health Plan* was signed between the Province, Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council.

- 2007:** The province's first *Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor*, Dr. Evan Adams, was appointed to monitor and track progress and report on the health of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia.
- 2007:** The Provincial Committee on First Nations Health was established as part of a new governance structure created to ensure that First Nations have input into decisions affecting their health. The committee involved First Nations, Ministry of Health, health authorities and Health Canada in collaborative decision-making at the highest strategic health planning level.
- 2006:** The First Nations Leadership Council and the Province of British Columbia developed the *Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan* to identify priorities for action to close the health gap between First Nations and other British Columbians. It is intended to guide bilateral efforts to address the critical challenges that must be overcome in order to deliver on the joint commitments to improve the health and well-being of First Nations peoples and communities.

## Economic Opportunities

- 2012:** Three of the projects funded by the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund since 2008 have been lead by British Columbia First Nations. The projects were Tsay Keh Dene Solar Airfield Project receiving \$81,000, the Tla-O-Qui-Alt First Nations Escowista New Community District Geoexchange Energy system receiving \$750,000, and the T'Sou-ke First Nation Solar Photovoltaic Innovation and Demonstration project receiving \$400,000. All projects were successfully completed.
- 2010:** *The Clean Energy Act (CEA)* received royal assent on June 3, 2010. CEA created the *First Nation Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF)* with an initial appropriation of \$5 million and with additional revenues that flow into the fund through eligible land and water rentals. As of July 2012, under \$2.5 million has been provided to 53 First Nations.
- 2009:** The Province announced revenue-sharing with First Nations on new mining projects. British Columbia is the first province in Canada to share direct revenue generated from new mining projects throughout the life span of the mining operation.
- 2008:** The *first incremental treaty agreement (ITA)* was signed between the Province and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. ITAs advance treaty-related benefits for First Nations, such as land and capacity building resources. Two ITAs have been signed.
- 2007:** Negotiations began on Crown land agreements with First Nations to share revenue from major resort proposals.
- 2007:** Contributed \$30 million to the *Coast Opportunity Funds* directed toward economic development opportunities for First Nations businesses involved in activities including sustainable fisheries, forestry and tourism along the central and north coast.
- 2007:** The *Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Blueprint Strategy*, representing a partnership initiative between the Province, Federal Government and AtBC is now fully implemented and provides a long-term plan for the sustainable growth and development of the Province's Aboriginal tourism industry and is overseen by AtBC.
- 2007:** WorkBC was launched as an innovative new labour market strategy to ensure success in meeting key economic priorities and advancing British Columbia's global economic competitiveness. One of the goals of WorkBC is to increase Aboriginal participation and labour market success.

**2006:** The historic *Coast Land Use Decisions* for the north Coast and central Coast protect vast areas of temperate rain forest, while providing a unique framework called ecosystem based management. These protected areas preserve some of the largest intact temperate rainforests in the world and serve to balance the needs of the environment with the need for sustainable jobs and a strong economic future for coastal communities. Over 20 First Nations have signed strategic land use planning agreements for the central and north Coast.

**2006:** First Nations mountain pine beetle initiative: \$8.9 million transferred to the First Nations Forestry Council to address First Nations needs with respect to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Completed Phase I and II MPB impact assessment and response, and created communication tools for impacted First Nations communities.

The Province has entered into almost 200 forestry related agreements with First Nations including tenure opportunities and revenue sharing. Since 2003, more than \$323 million in revenue-sharing and access to over 62.1 million cubic metres of timber has been provided to First Nations across the province.





