

Message from Candice St-Aubin

Senior Assistant Deputy Minister - Indigenous Services Canada

Hello BC First Nations Leaders, Chiefs and Health Partners,

As the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at Indigenous Services Canada, I have been reflecting on the eleven years since the Government of Canada transferred the responsibility of First Nations health to the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia.

Our tripartite partnership has had an incredible journey. There have been countless historic moments – like last year, when the 10-year Canada Funding Agreement for the FNHA was renewed at \$8.2 billion, making it the largest service transfer agreement to date across the Government of Canada.

The historic resolution passed on the 10-Year Strategy on the Social Determinants of Health at Gathering Wisdom in 2023 was another important step towards decolonizing health care.

Evaluations give us a much needed opportunity to look back; but equally importantly, they allow us to look forward and make evidence-informed changes.

This Evaluation of the BC Tripartite Framework Agreement is especially timely, as the lessons learned from the past five years will be critical as we all continue to address complex issues, including the toxic drug crisis and climate-related emergencies.

It is not always easy to share feedback or even to remember details from four years ago, but I encourage everyone to share your stories and experiences openly to make sure that all First Nations in BC are represented in the evaluation's findings.

As a co-chair of the Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health, I am committed to using the learnings from this evaluation to support progress in the coming years in partnership with BC First Nations and the Province of British Columbia.

Miigwetch. Thank you.

Candice St. Aubin
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister
Indigenous Services Canada



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