

Organization	BC First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
URL	https://www.fnh.ca
Area(s) of Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous health and wellness across BC • Culturally safe, community driven primary care • Mental health and wellness • Chronic disease prevention • Harm reduction and substance use • Maternal, child, and family health • Community based public health programs • Health systems transformation and partnerships • Indigenous led models of care and governance
Relevance to social determinants of health and health equity	<p><i>Strong</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNHA was founded to bring transformation to colonial health systems and eliminate health inequities. Health equity and cultural safety are foundationally embedded across all programs, governance structures and their engagement methods.
Intended Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To guide the development of community driven, community based health initiatives • To ensure that First Nations perspectives and cultural values are central to planning, implementation, and evaluation • To support relationship building between FNHA, First Nations communities and partners within the health system • To uphold self-determination, increase community control, and support capacity building across Nations
Principles/Values	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respect 2. Reciprocity 3. Self-determination 4. Cultural humility and safety 5. Collaboration 6. Transparency and accountability
Tools/Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health and Wellness Plans (CHWPs) • Regional health and wellness plans • FNHA regional engagement hubs • Engagement protocols • Community meetings, listening sessions and engagement gatherings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural safety and humility frameworks • Partnership engagement toolkits • Online engagement platforms • Crisis and harm reduction outreach toolkits • Elder and youth guided engagement frameworks
Strategies	<p>FNHA uses both traditional and emerging strategies</p> <p><i>Traditional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meetings and roundtables • Band council meetings • Elders advisory groups • Youth councils • Community health representatives • In-person Nation visits • Culturally grounded ceremonies <p><i>Emerging</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design workshops with Nations • Distributed leadership through regional caucuses • Land-based consultations • eParticipation • Story-based knowledge gathering
Barriers/Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical mistrust of government and researchers • Colonial trauma • Systemic racism • Geographic isolation • Variability in community capacity with staffing and resources • Burnout within communities • Power imbalances between health authorities and Nations • Language and cultural differences • Funding instability • Turnover in provincial health partners
Success Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation led decision making • Long term relationship building • Cultural protocols guiding all interactions • Compensation for community members time and expertise • Consistent, transparent communication • Leadership continuity within FNHA • Elder and youth participation • Co-development instead of consultation
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community driven evaluation frameworks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback loops after engagements• Regular reporting through Nations through understandable data sets• Indicators for cultural safety and trust building• Surveys and story-based evaluation methods• Continuous quality improvement cycles
Other Comments	FNHA is the first and only provincial First Nations health authority in Canada and is internationally recognized as a leading example of Indigenous health governance and engagement.