

A Message from the First Nations Health Council



July 20, 2021

FNHC Chair Resigns to Serve as First Nation Liaison on Residential Schools within BC

Coast Salish Territory | Today, the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) announced that its chair, Charlene Belleau, has resigned from the FNHC to join the BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation as a First Nation liaison specific to the BC residential school response fund. Ms. Belleau was elected to the FNHC in 2017 and has served as its chair since July, 2019.

The FNHC's deputy chair, Les Doiron of the Nuu-chah-nulth family on Vancouver Island, will serve as interim chair to help guide the process for the FNHC to determine its next permanent chair, based on its bylaws. The FNHC is regionally-driven by a 15-person Council with three elected representatives from each region in BC.

Current priorities for the FNHC include working alongside its Tripartite partners in BC and Canada on implementation of the 2018 Tripartite Partnership to Improve Mental Health and Wellness MOU as well as the response to the November 2020 *In Plain Sight* report on racism within the BC health care system.

About the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) The FNHC is one of four pillars of the First Nations Health Governance Structure in BC, along with its partners at the FNHA, the FNHDA and the Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health including the BC and federal government. Its advocacy journey began in the early 2000s, including the 2007 signing of the Transformative Change Accord to address health disparities between First Nations and other BC. The FNHC's mandate is to oversee transformation of the health system, make progress on the Social Determinants for Health and advocate for First Nations decision-making in health and wellness. The FNHC provides political leadership for implementation of Tripartite commitments and supports the health priorities for BC First Nations. For more information, visit FNHC.ca.