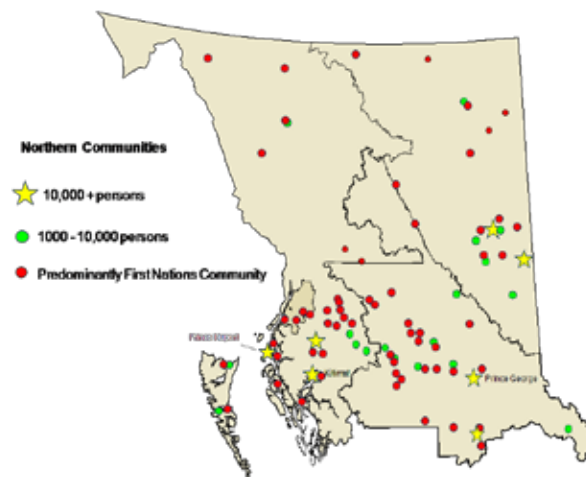


Aboriginal health is holistic and seeks balance. At the heart of this view is an understanding that all things are connected and in relationship to one another – land, water, air, animals, individuals, families, and communities. Holistic health is a process that demands a broad and inclusive perspective for addressing health issues.



The Northern Health region includes the area west to Haida Gwaii, north to the Yukon border, east to the Alberta border, and south to the Robson Valley, Quesnel and Alexandria.



northern health

the northern way of caring

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Inside: "Falling for Colour" (near Atlin, BC) by Lyndsay Esson is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0: www.flickr.com/photos/98198789@N02/11019705815

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Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees (AHICs)



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Northern Health is committed to partnering with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples and to building a health system that honours diversity and provides services in a culturally relevant manner.

In 2005, Northern Health initiated several Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees (AHICs) that have since increased to eight across the north. AHICs include local representatives from First Nations and Aboriginal communities and organizations, the First Nations Health Authority, Northern Health, and other sectors.

Building connections

AHICs provide opportunities for new and stronger connections, relationships, and cultural understandings between diverse communities and sectors all working for the health and well-being of First Nations and Aboriginal people and communities.

Listening to First Nations and Aboriginal peoples' voices

AHICs include First Nations and Aboriginal community members and people from organizations that serve urban First Nations and Aboriginal people. These AHIC members bring perspectives and experiences to AHICs from people who live in their communities and access their organizations. Through AHICs, First Nations and Aboriginal peoples' voices inform local priorities and solutions.

Collaborating on local initiatives

AHICs are action-oriented groups that support improved health and well-being for First Nations and Aboriginal people and communities through innovative and collaborative local initiatives.

AHIC regions

- Lakes District AHIC
- North Coast AHIC
- Northeast AHIC
- NW East (Smithers and area) AHIC
- Omineca AHIC
- Prince George and area AHIC
- Quesnel and area AHIC
- Terrace/Kitimat AHIC

AHIC Gatherings

An inaugural gathering of AHICs took place on June 18-19, 2014 in Prince George for members to learn, share, reflect on practice, vision possibilities, and enhance and develop new partnerships and relationships. A second gathering took place on September 22-23, 2015 with a focus on celebrating successes and moving forward with critical action planning.

This report summarizes the 2014 AHIC gathering.



Learn more

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Visit: northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/AboriginalHealth/WhatWeDo/AboriginalHealthImprovementCommittees

AHIC successes

In June 2014, funding and resource support was provided by Aboriginal Health to AHICs for patient journey and process mapping activities, as well as to develop local cultural resources.

Mapping patient journeys and health care processes

Mapping initiatives gathered information on health care experiences of First Nations and Aboriginal individuals and families. Gaps and challenges that were identified will be collaboratively addressed through local strategies and solutions.

This report summarizes the AHIC mapping initiatives.



Local cultural resources

Local cultural resources developed by AHICs are available for health practitioners to support their understanding of First Nations and Aboriginal community histories and contexts. This will build on existing Indigenous Cultural Competency training for Northern Health staff by increasing local knowledge.

This booklet summarizes the cultural resources developed by AHICs.

