

Towards a Southern Saskatchewan First Nations Health Authority



Background

- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations' health with Canada and Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan's Recent Patient First Review with particular focus on First Nations' and creation of partnerships aimed at improving the health of First Nations' peoples.
- Health Canada Strategic Priority



Why Now?

- Current directions taken by the federal and provincial governments make this an opportune time.
- First Nation Experience – Ready for the next step?
- View of Health organizations:
 - *Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada*
 - *Canadian Medical Association – to RCAP*
 - *World Health Organization*



The Start

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council was asked by First Nations and Inuit Health – Health Canada to consult with Southern Saskatchewan First Nations and Tribal Councils, including the Independent First Nations to determine if there is an interest in creating a Southern Saskatchewan First Nation Health Authority (SSFNHA).



Project Scope

- **Respecting Treaty and Inherent Rights, undertake a consultation, research and analysis project that will establish the interest of First Nations in creating a Health Authority that would:**
 - **strengthen First Nation governance;**
 - **clarify jurisdictional authorities, roles and responsibilities; and,**
 - **Create seamless health services delivery**



Project Initiation Key Objectives

- **Secure commitment of Southern Saskatchewan First Nations Leadership at the Community and Tribal Council level.**
- **Engage one or more Chiefs to champion the project.**
- **Build awareness of the project among a wide group of political and professional.**
- **Create “ground up” Development process.**



Current Status

- **20 of the 26 potential First Nations partners have been consulted**
 - **Challenges**
 - – overwhelming interest
 - - scheduling
- **Feedback has been positive in all cases**
- **Ongoing resourcing will require resolution with FNIH.**



Next Steps

- Establish a working group
 - To facilitate further consultation at the community and tribal council levels.
 - To ensure that individual community processes and priorities are identified and respected.
 - To capture and validate all the pros and cons to enable chiefs to make informed decisions on proceeding or not.



Next Steps (cont'd)

- Validate commitment via community process
 - Formal commitment via BCR, TCR or other acceptable authorizing documents.
 - Establishment of a Project Steering Committee, project manager and implementation team.
 - Further discussions with FNIH
 - Development of the health oversight structure in regards to governance and legislation; Infrastructure; Human resources; Information technology; and, Training plans.



Outcomes

- This health organization would take control of the support and oversight services currently delivered by First Nations and Inuit Health such as:
 - Medical Health Officer,
 - Broad Surveillance activities,
 - Information Technology Services,
 - Environmental Oversight Services,
 - Nursing Supervision and
 - Broad coordination activities.
- **These services would continue to support and enhance community services, not draw from them.**



In Summary

- Federal context.
- Collaboration, communication and cooperation will be critical.
- Consultations need to be fluid and open to properly identify opportunities and needs and shape a responsive organization.

