

Peace River Regional District
Box 810 1981 Alaska Avenue,
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G4H8

02/03/2025

Dear Directors of the Peace River Regional District,

Below is supporting information to accompany the Northern Nations Wellness Centre's Health Related Services funding application.

The South Peace First Nations Primary Care Clinic Society, doing business as Northern Nations Wellness Centre is a non-profit society and the recipient of approved and ongoing public funding in the form of a Contribution Agreement as part of the First Nations Primary Care Initiative (FNPCI).

The First Nations-led Primary Health Care Initiative (FNPCI) is an initiative to improve access to primary health-care services, as well as the health and wellness of First Nations people across BC in a way that is culturally safe and closer to home. Our clinic is net new, meaning we are accepting any patients who are not currently attached to a physician, regardless of whether they are indigenous or not.

We receive annualized operating funding from both the Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority. FNHA carries a portion of these costs on behalf of the Society (for the lease and Physicians and Nurse Practitioner's contracts) with the balance flowing to the Society as operating revenue. Approximately 72% of our funding comes from the Ministry of Health and 28% of our funding from the First Nations Health Authority.

The ministry funds our medical professional positions (GP, NP, RNs, LPNs and so forth), and FNHA funds our traditional positions (Healer, Health and Traditional Food Advisor, Indigenous Social Navigator and Traditional Wellness Coordinator). Both funders contribute to overhead and one-time capital purchases. As FNHA is not yet a legislated Health Authority, to the best of our knowledge, they did not receive the same funding which other Health Authorities did from the Ministry for recruitment incentives, thus putting us at a disadvantage when it comes to recruiting and incentivizing employees to our Centre.

The Society was established by the Saulteau First Nations and reflects their support for community sovereignty and self-determination over healthcare. Their Chief and Council appointed a board of Directors to govern the Society accordingly and ensure the service plan is achieved as it addresses healthcare gaps within our rural communities. The Northern Nations Wellness Centre is committed to culturally safe, trauma-informed, and accessible healthcare that serves both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in the South Peace Region.

Positions that we will have at our clinic include:

- Director of Operations
- Clinical Manager
- General Practitioner
- Nurse Practitioner (or secondary GP dependent on Ministry approval of funding upgrade)
- Medical Office Assistant (2)
- Indigenous Social Navigator
- Healer
- Traditional Wellness Coordinator
- Community Wellness Counsellor
- Mental Wellness Professional
- Dietician
- Health and Traditional Food Advisor
- Registered Nurse (2)
- Licensed Practical Nurse

Once fully staffed, we aim to provide the following services:

1. Primary Care Services

- General Practitioner (GP) & Nurse Practitioner (NP) Services – Longitudinal care for up to 1,250 patients.
- Registered Nurses (RNs) & Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – Chronic disease management, diabetes care, routine medical support.
- Dietitian Services – Nutrition counseling with a focus on Indigenous food sovereignty.
- Occupational & Physiotherapy Services – Rehabilitation and mobility support.

2. Chronic Disease Screening & Management

- Proactive health risk assessments for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic illnesses.
- Self-management tools and education to empower patients in disease management.
- Cancer screening programs in collaboration with BC Cancer's Mobile Mammography & HPV self-swab programs.

3. Mental Health & Substance Use Services

- Counseling and crisis intervention – On-site Registered Clinical Counsellor or Social Worker.
- Indigenous Social Navigators – Helping patients navigate care in and out of hospitals and our clinic, navigate housing, and other social supports as well as provide ride hailing services to remove barriers to care.
- Traditional Healing & Wellness Services – Support for emotional and spiritual health.
- Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) & Harm Reduction – Safe supply access, Naloxone training, peer engagement.
- Aftercare for discharged patients – Coordination with psychiatric hospitals and treatment centers.

4. Indigenous Wellness & Traditional Healing Services

- Traditional Healer– Providing cultural healing services, workshops, and educational opportunities for traditional healing.
- Health & Traditional Food Advisor – Supporting diet and wellness from an Indigenous perspective. Educate on the benefits of holistic nutrition.
- Land-based healing activities & cultural safety integration – Ensuring Indigenous practices are respected in treatment. Host land-based learning opportunities.

5. Maternal & Newborn Health Services

- Prenatal & postnatal care –Consistent checkups. Breastfeeding education, and postpartum support.
- Access to midwives & maternity teams in collaboration with regional hospitals.
- Sexual health education & STI testing – Including harm reduction and reproductive health support.

6. Virtual & Outreach Services

- FNHA Virtual Doctor of the Day & Virtual Psychiatry Services – Expanding access to remote medical support.
- Mobile health outreach to Saulteau and West Moberly communities.

7. Wraparound Care & Social Support Services

- Patient navigation & transportation support – Reducing barriers to accessing care.
- Education & capacity-building initiatives – Community health workshops and training for providers.

Should you require any additional information regarding the Northern Nations Wellness Centre, I would be happy to address them.

Regards,



Sarah Canning

Director of Operations

Northern Nations Wellness Centre

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