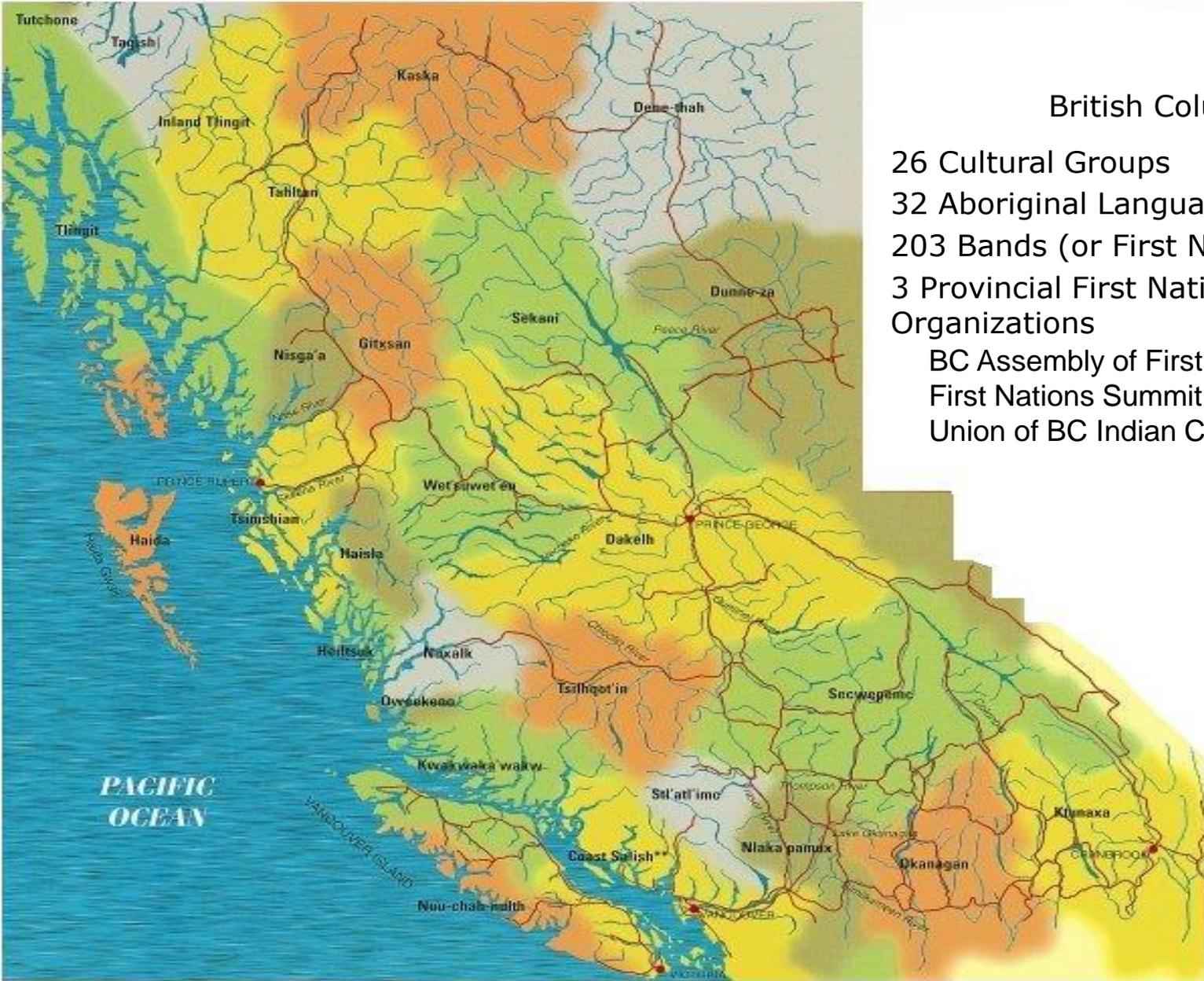




First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

**A Road to Wellness  
through First Nations decision-making:  
The New Health Partnership for BC First Nations**

**Presentation to Indigenous Allied Health Australia**  
November 25-26, 2013



### British Columbia

26 Cultural Groups

32 Aboriginal Languages

203 Bands (or First Nations)

3 Provincial First Nations Organizations

BC Assembly of First Nations

First Nations Summit

Union of BC Indian Chiefs



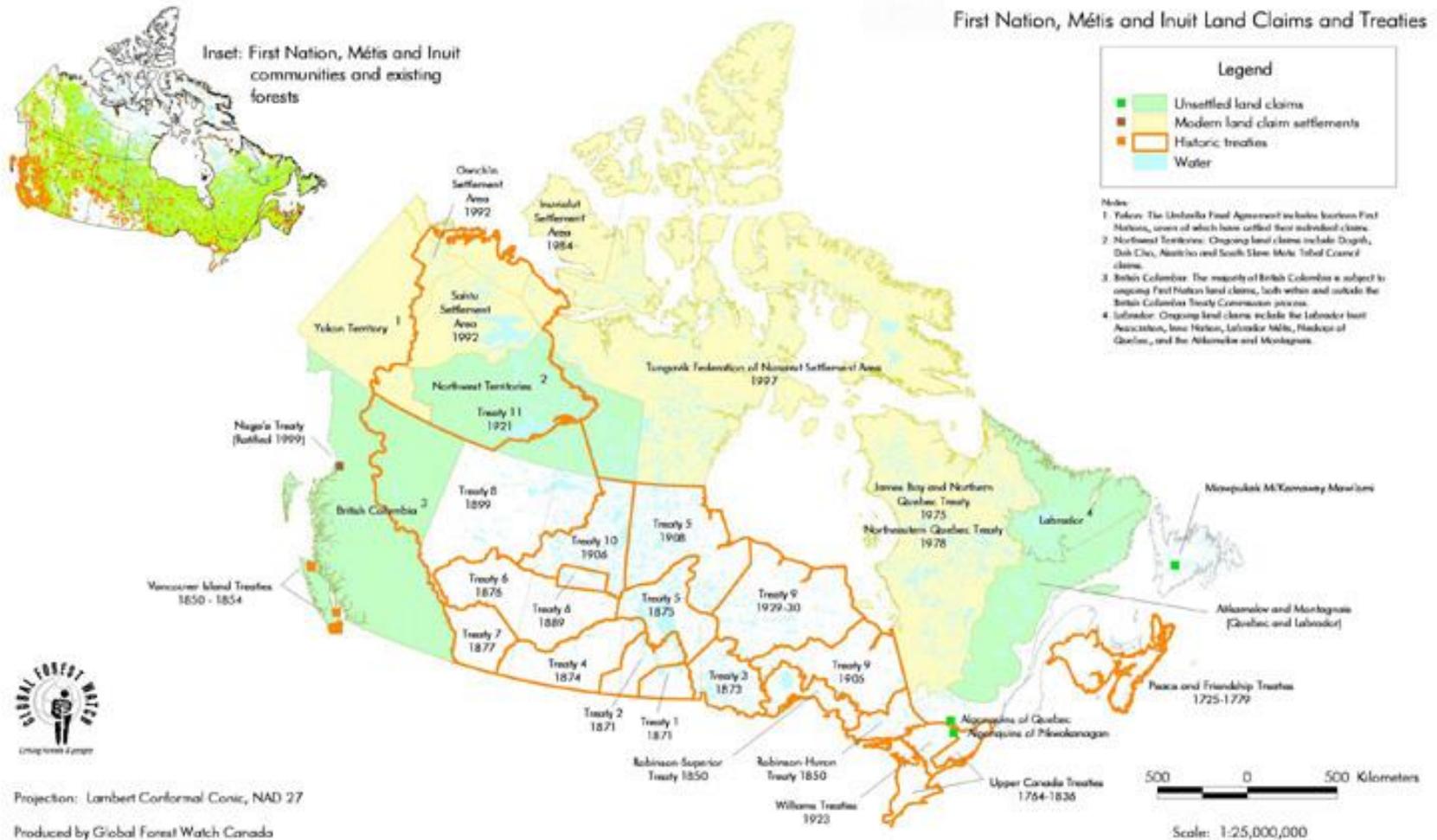
# Our Population

- Aboriginal Population in BC is 197,070 (2006)
- Registered status First Nations population is 132,687 (2011)
- 61,374 (46%) registered status First Nations people live on reserve (2011)
- Over 50% under the age of 25



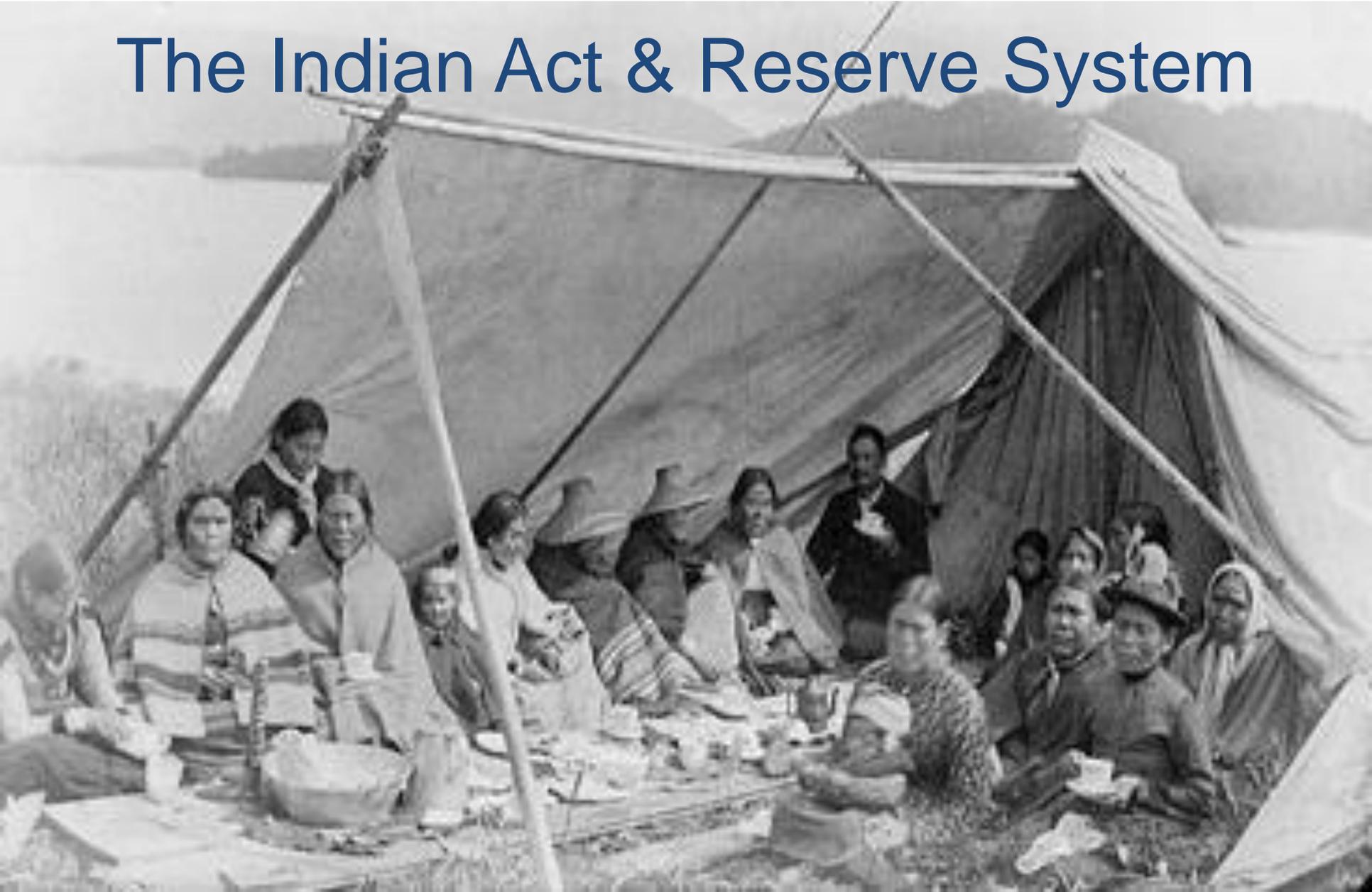


# Treaty-Making in Canada





# The Indian Act & Reserve System

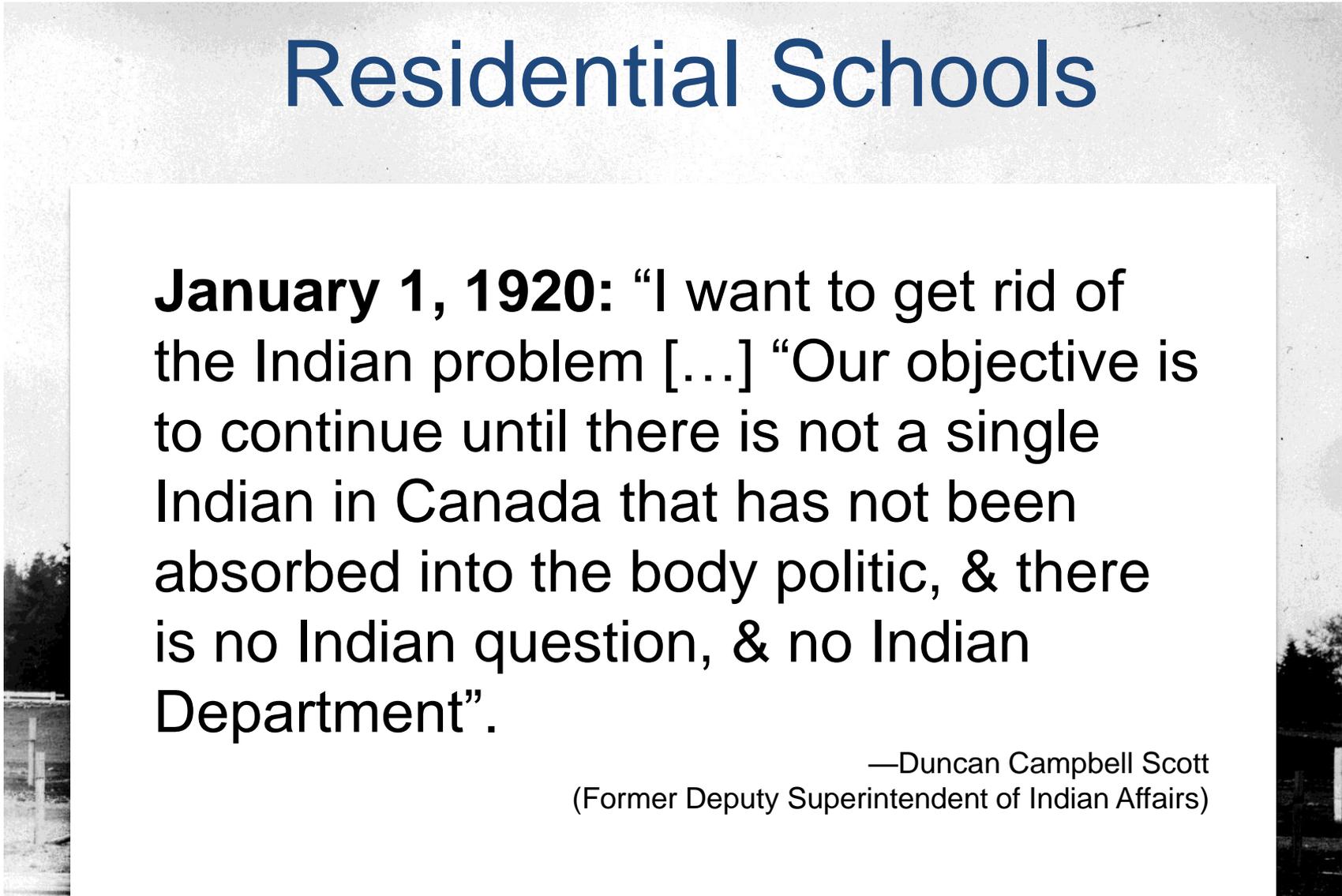




# Residential Schools

**January 1, 1920:** “I want to get rid of the Indian problem [...] “Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, & there is no Indian question, & no Indian Department”.

—Duncan Campbell Scott  
(Former Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs)



# Population Collapse

If at one point you drew a circle, the medicine people were aboriginal, the medicine was aboriginal, nurses, teachers were aboriginal, as colonization evolved and you looked at the circle there were no aboriginals, we were totally powerless

– Chief Robert Joseph





# Federal Indian Health Structure & Policy



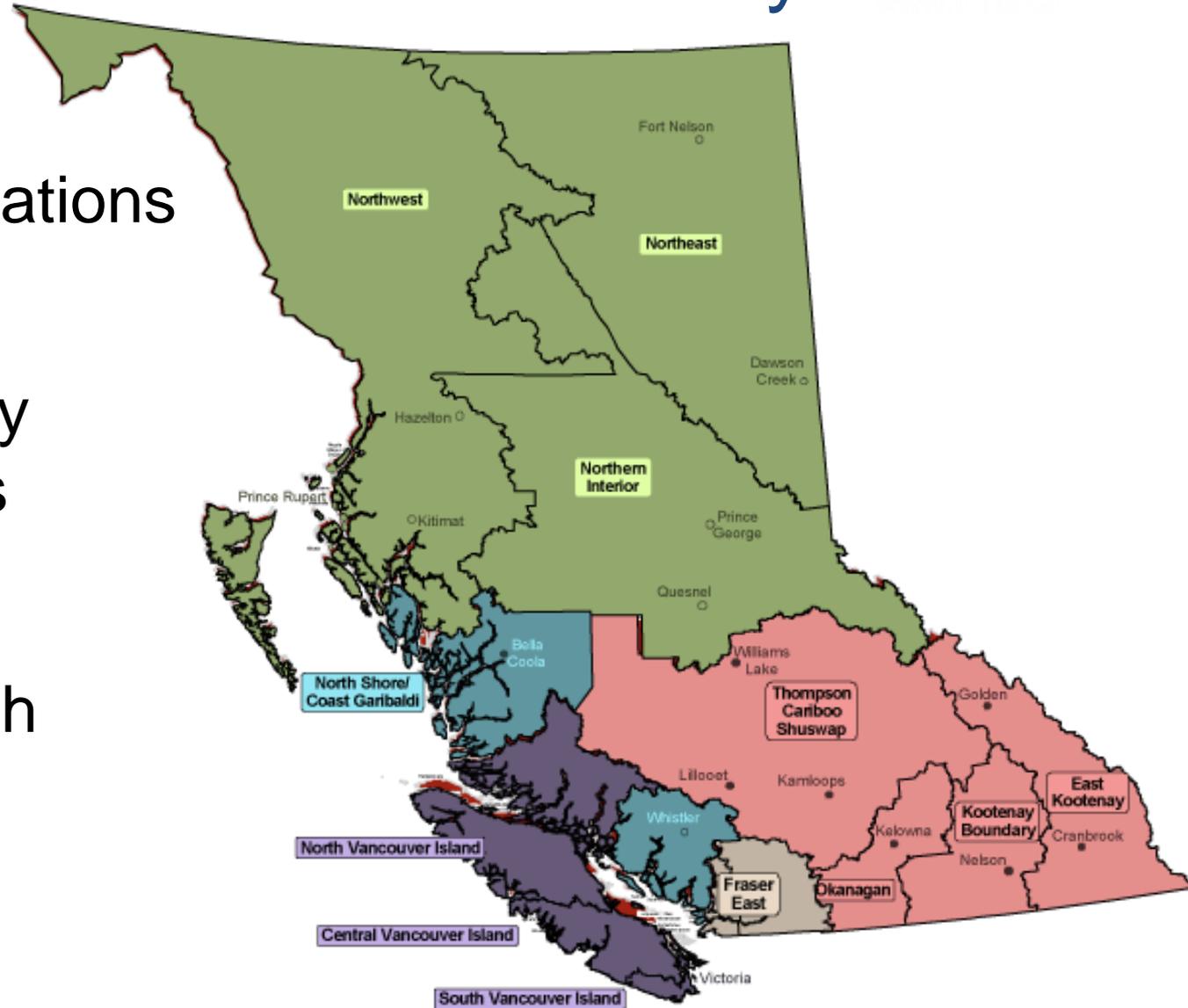


# Current Health Service Delivery in BC

203 BC First Nations communities

137 Community Health Centres (Federal)

Regional Health Authorities (Provincial)



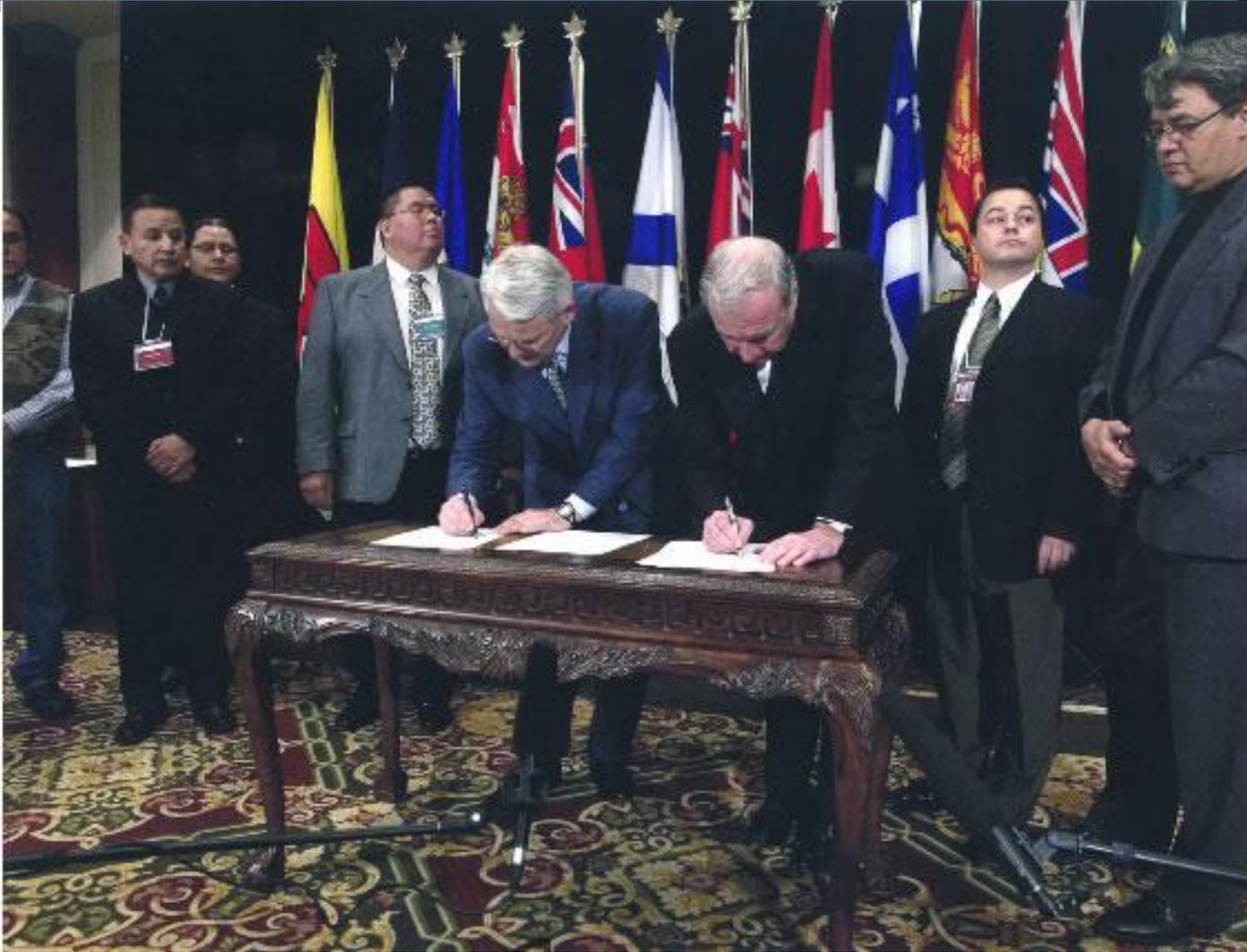


If you are an Aboriginal person living in British Columbia, your standard of living is likely to be 20 per cent below the provincial average, based on measures such as income, employment, educational attainment, and housing adequacy.  
2001 PHO Report

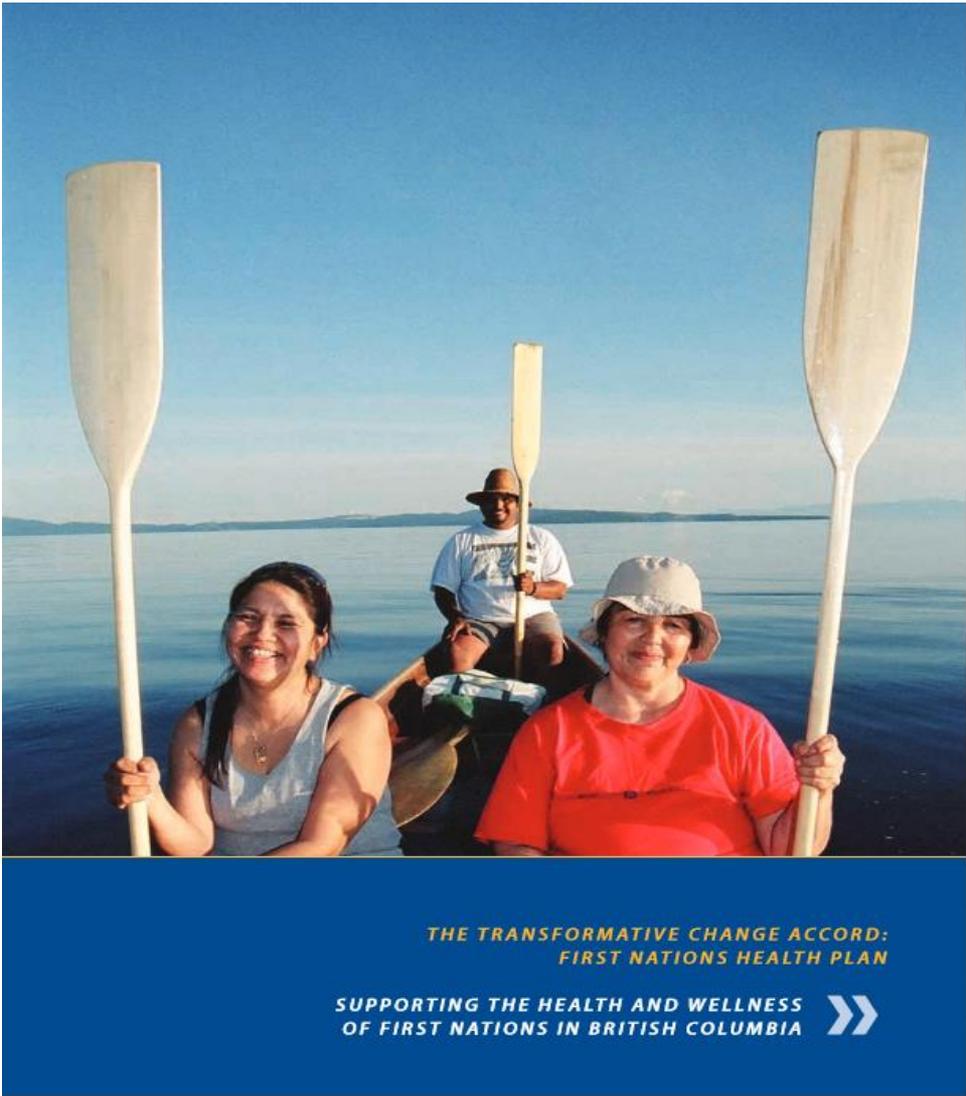




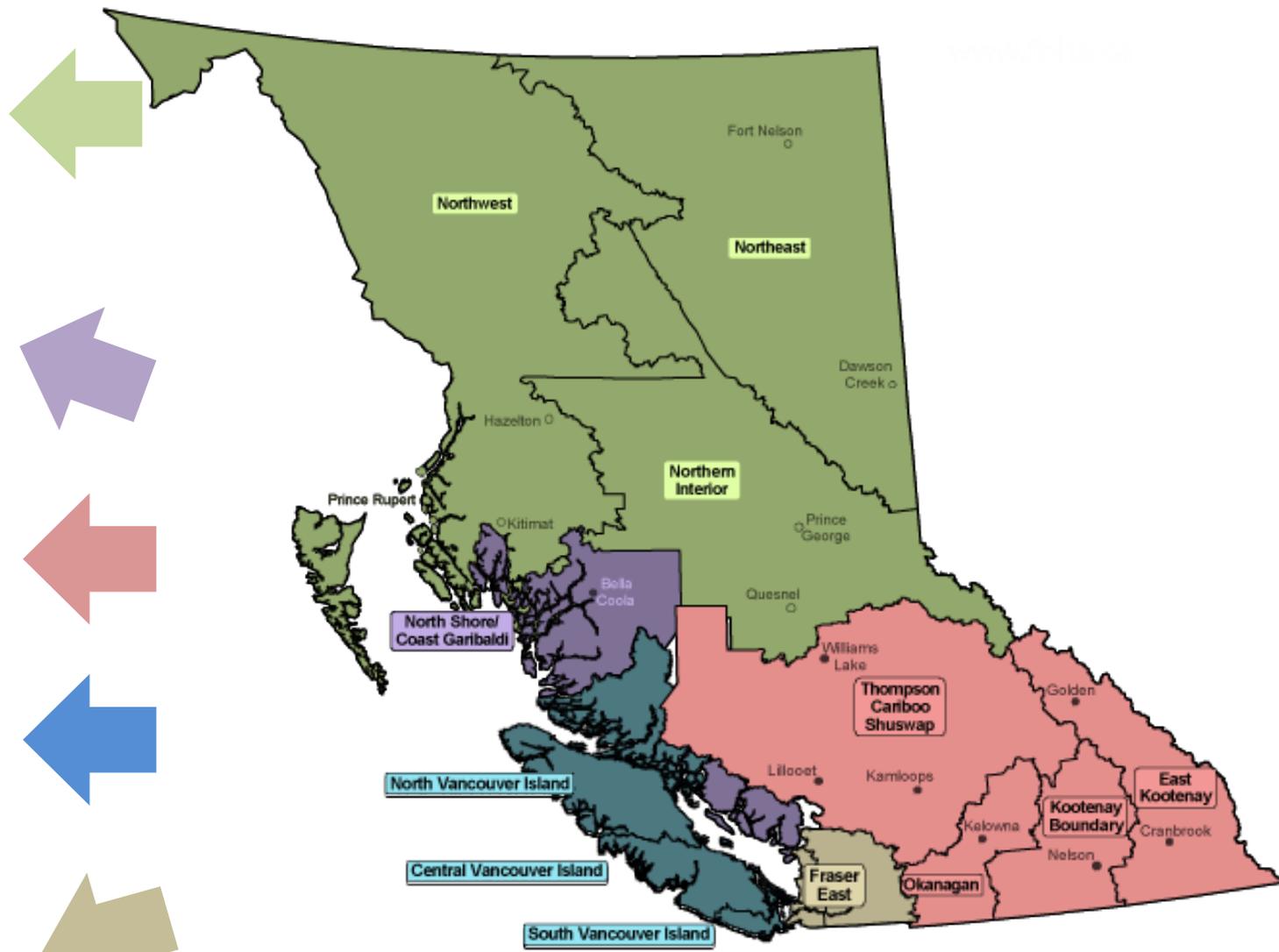
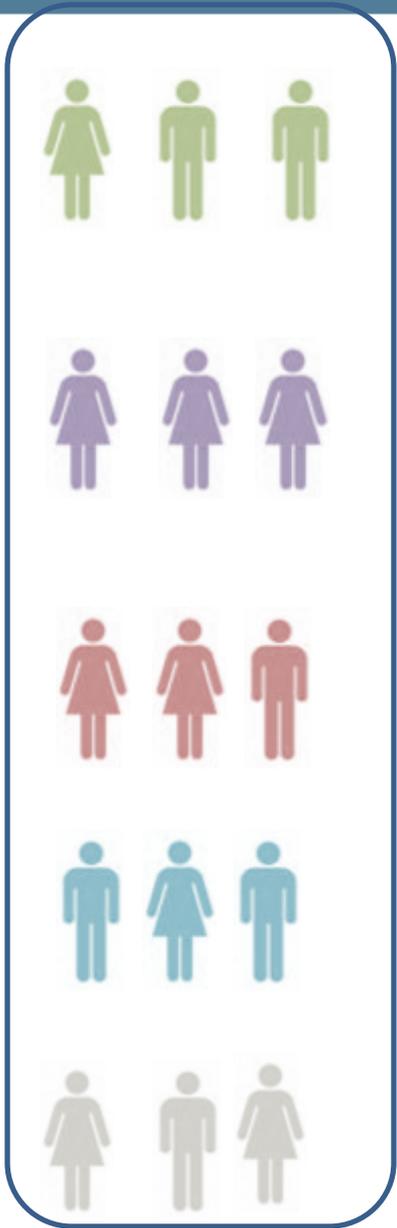
# New Relationship with BC



First Ministers' Meeting & Transformative Change Accord, 2005



Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan, 2006



15-Member First Nations Health Council



## Tripartite First Nations Health Plan

Between  
The First Nations Leadership Council  
Representing the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit  
and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs

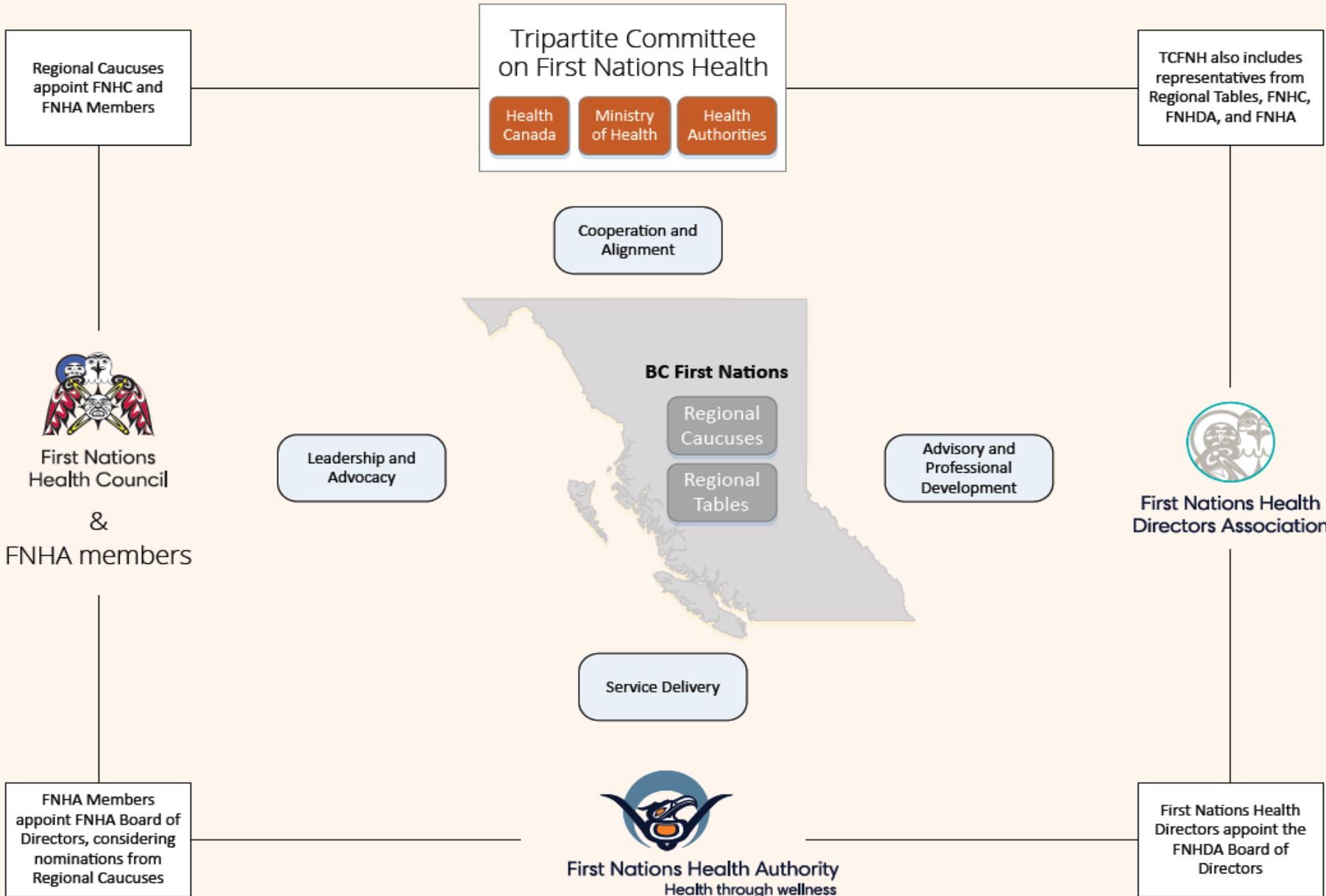
And  
Government of Canada

And  
Government of British Columbia  
(Collectively the "Parties")

Canada



# Tripartite First Nations Health Plan, 2007



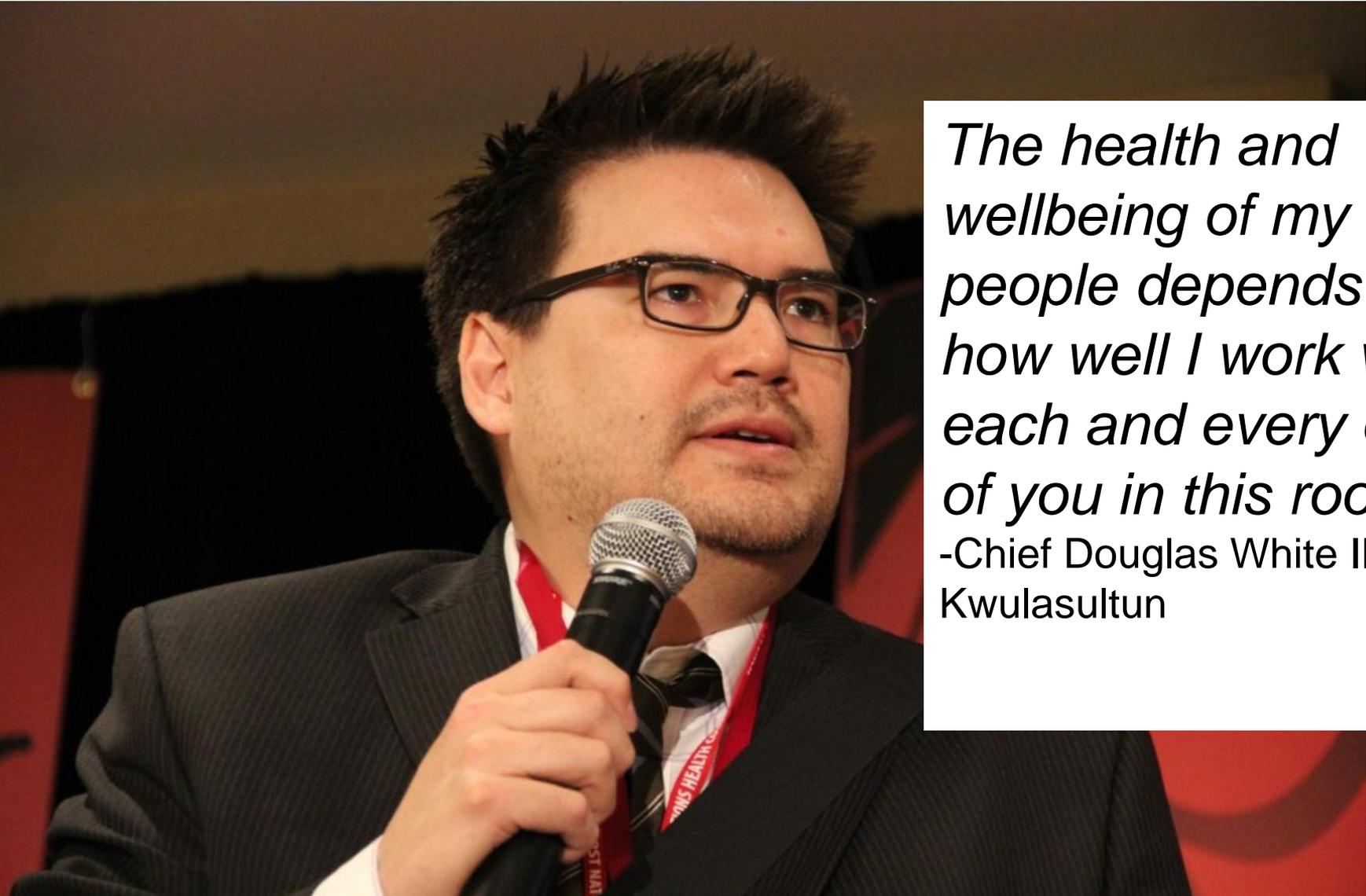


Intervention from the Late Elder Pierre John at GW III (2009) encouraged BC First Nations to be unified for the benefit of citizens on the ground

***“If I could leave you with one thing, it’s that all the questions and concerns you have is where we were twenty years ago... at the time it was a tremendous leap of faith.”***

-Valarie Davidson, Senior Director Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Alaska





*The health and wellbeing of my people depends on how well I work with each and every one of you in this room.*

-Chief Douglas White III  
Kwulasultun



***“I have been committed to this process and believe this is the only way and best way to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal people in Canada and First Nations in British Columbia.”***

-The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq,  
Minister of Health, Government of  
Canada



***Unity is power. If you're not unified, you don't need an enemy, look across the table.***

-Ron Allen, Jamestown  
S'Kallam Tribe





***We know what is wrong, our job now is to put it right.***

***And when we walk through that door, we can't go as one... One community, one nation, one region, one part of BC and not the rest. We have to walk through that door together.***

**-Kukpi7 Wayne Christian**





## **2011- Leadership approve the transfer**





British  
Columbia  
Tripartite  
Framework  
Agreement  
on First  
Nations  
Health  
Governance  
Oct. 2011



**BRITISH COLUMBIA TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK  
AGREEMENT ON FIRST NATION HEALTH GOVERNANCE**

Made as of the 13th day of October, 2011

Between

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA  
as represented by the Minister of Health

and

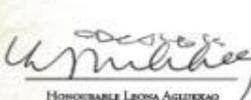
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
as represented by the Minister of Health

and

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH SOCIETY

Endorsed by  
FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COUNCIL

In commemoration of the signing of the Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance

 HONOURABLE LEONA AGLUKTOQ MINISTER OF HEALTH, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	 HONOURABLE MICHAEL DE JONG, QC MINISTER OF HEALTH, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	 JOE GALLAGHER CEO, FIRST NATIONS HEALTH SOCIETY	 GRAND CHIEF DOUG KELLY CHAIR, FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COUNCIL
 IAN POTTER, WITNESS CHIEF FEDERAL NEGOTIATOR GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	 GRAHAM WHITMARSH, WITNESS DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	 PIERRE LEHOUC, WITNESS CHAIR, FIRST NATIONS HEALTH SOCIETY	 NATION CHIEF SELWYN A-AI-CHUT ATLAS, WITNESS ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Canada  BRITISH COLUMBIA 



**leonaaglukkaq** Leona Aglukkaq

Wrapping up a great trip to BC. Yesterday signed tripartite health agreement w/ @mike\_de\_jong and FN leadership.

[pic.twitter.com/G8cBH65p](https://pic.twitter.com/G8cBH65p)

14 Oct

Retweeted by FNHC



*This is indigenous people stepping forward into their rightful place, joining in partnership, shaking hands, with the federal government, the provincial government, and saying together we can smash the status quo.*

*- National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo*



*A BC First Nations Health Authority is the heart of the new structure, and through this authority, programs and services will be designed, delivered and managed by First Nations people for First Nations people and in a way that best meets the First Nation's needs.*

The Honourable Leona Aglukagq, Minister of Health, Canada





*It's a piece of paper, it's an important piece of paper, but it's **the people** that will breathe life into this paper and make a difference. The days when a First Nations child cannot expect to live, cannot expect to live as long as any other child must end. This [agreement] will help make that happen.*

*-The Hon. Michael DeJong , Minister of Health, BC*

# First Nations make historic health care decision

Four local chiefs attend meeting

Comments Tweet 13 Like

JUNE 13, 2011

WENDY FRASER

Story: BC's First Nations recently passed a historic resolution to assume greater control and decision-making over their health and wellness.

Of the 167 Chiefs and representatives attending the May 26 Gathering Wisdom Conference in Richmond, 146 (87 per cent) voted in favour of the resolution, which will make BC First Nations the first in Canada to take over health service delivery from the federal government. The resolution also gives the First Nations Health Council a strong mandate to work with the provincial government and regional health authorities.

The meeting was attended by four Northern Strait time Chiefs - Art Adolph from Shalalth, Bradley Jack from Xwisten and Kevin Whitney from Tl'axmin. Other attendees included Councillor Clifford Casper, community health director Franny Alee from Tl'axmin, and co-ordinator, also attended the conference.

"It's taken 20 years of discussions to reach this point," said one of the chiefs.

He says the new agreement will give First Nations more control over their health services.

In a health care count, the health services...

## B.C. First Nations sign health-care pact

FOR the first time since the advent of government health care, First Nations in B.C. will be overseeing their own services, thanks to a landmark pact signed at Xwemetchitn Thursday.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, B.C. Minister of Health Michael de Jong, and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, who all attended the signing, are hailing the agreement as a milestone in the relationship between the federal government and First Nations. The pact commits to building the government's responsibility for First Nations health care planning and delivery in B.C. to a new First Nations Health Authority, which will be currently handled by Health Canada.

"This administration," Aglukkaq said, "encourage the integration of federal and provincially funded health services."

See A24wvry page 3



FEDERAL Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq (left), B.C. Health Minister Michael De Jong and Grand Chief Doug Kelly share a smile while signing a landmark First Nations Health agreement at Xwemetchitn (Capilano 5 Reserve) Thursday morning.

The framework identifies who is sitting at the table and who is working together, Dick explains, and also effects a more formal agreement for moving ahead to implementation within two years.

One of the 55 bands in the Central Interior caucus, the CLB is among the 17 bands in the Swepemec (Shuswap) hub.



### First Nations Health Council

Read this editorial written by Grand Chief Doug Kelly, in response to a previous article printed in the Vancouver Sun.



**New approach will lead the way on first nations' health care**  
www.vancouver.sun.com

In his Oct. 26 column, *Economic independence needed*, Fazil Mihlar uses powerful facts to paint a shockingly dismal picture of first nations' "health status."

103 People Reached  
Like · Comment · Share · 4 People Talking About This

2 people like this.



**Robyn Sussel** Wonderfully articulate article.  
November 15 at 8:27pm · Unlike · 1

Write a comment...

# New approach will lead the way on first nations' health care

DOUG KELLY

In his Oct. 26 column, *Economic independence needed*, Fazil Mihlar uses powerful facts to paint a shockingly dismal picture of first nations' "health status."

Mihlar notes that the Canadian population is aging while the first nations population is significantly younger. He correctly says that it is in Canada's interest, morally and economically, to improve the health of first nations members and draws attention to this shameful blight on Canada's international reputation.

Sadly, however, like so many academics and so-called experts, Mihlar also prescribes an overly simplified treatment without undertaking a detailed review of the patient's history.

Moreover, he is off-base when he asserts that many chiefs are part of the BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone) crowd. Regrettably, this comment, other than blaming the victim, does little to address the serious issue of aboriginals' health. Indeed, most, if not all, chiefs support sustainable economic development and job creation. First nations leaders want real partnerships with governments and industry to develop projects responsibly.

These chiefs share a common desire to provide for future generations and are part of the APPLP (Aboriginal Peoples Protecting Land and Environment) crowd.

Mihlar also ignores completely the root causes of the grim health status of first nations. This deplorable outcome is a direct result of more than a century of assimilation policy directed by the Canadian government. The goal of this policy was clear and simple: Separate the Indians from their land, resources and wealth in order to open it up to the settler society.



Shield Dick. Submitted photo

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Home » News » British Columbia

HEALTH CARE

# Native actor and doctor takes on new role championing health in B.C.

**ROBERT MATAS**

VANCOUVER — The Globe and Mail

Published Monday, Apr. 16 2012, 6:50 PM EDT

Last updated Thursday, Aug. 23 2012, 10:53 PM EDT

3 comments

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 1 
 2 
 +1 
 2

Evan Adams was thrilled to win a Gemini at a glitzy ceremony last fall for co-hosting the national aboriginal achievement awards.

But he is much more excited to be delivering an address at the World Cancer Congress in Montreal this summer, where he will speak about



EDITORS' PICKS

# Dr. Evan Adams appointed Deputy Provincial Health Officer



***Regional Partnership Accords  
Signed with Health Authorities***





***“Not very often in life do all the elements fall into place to make it successful but we are at the place:***

***We have the time, we have the people, and now we set aside our apprehension, and we set aside our own lives to look to the health of all.***

***This is the moment.”***

**-Leonard George**



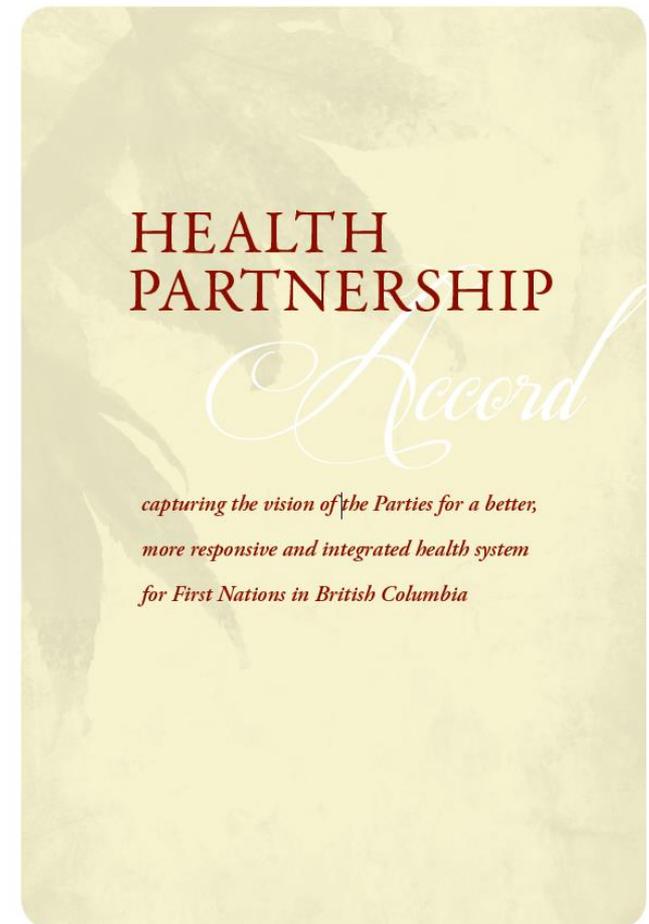
***2012 First Nations Leadership  
establish the permanent FNHA***





# Health Partnership Accord - December 2012

- **Captures the shared vision**
- **Outlines 6 shared principles.**  
**Describes 11 commitments.**  
Example: *Work together to eliminate disparities and inequalities in the health status between First Nations in British Columbia and other British Columbians, and build a better, more integrated health system that will benefit all people in BC.*
- **Imagines future possibilities.**  
Example: *Wellness System – the incorporation of indigenous models of wellness into the health system and a shift in focus from sickness to wellness.*





## Principles of our health partnership

- **Lead with culture:** Understand your Partners and where they come from.
- **Honour those who paved the way:** Pay respect to, and honour the wisdom of, those that brought us to where we are today.
- **Maintain unity and discipline:** Work for the common good of all; do not criticize one another; recognize that we all have a role to play.
- **Create strong relationships:** be tough on the issues and easy on each other. Seek opportunity to create understanding and support one another's dignity.
- **Engage at the appropriate level:** Partners must have authority, skills, and knowledge to fully contribute.
- **Respect each other's process:** Seek understanding of, acknowledge and respect the validity of one another's ways of working and decision-making processes, and provide assistance to one another in navigating these processes.



# Transition Milestones





## Tripartite Success Factors for Transfer

1. Ensuring no disruption and minimal adjustment required by individual First Nations people and communities to the continuation of their health services or health benefits.
2. Ensuring minimal disruption and minimal added work burden on First Nations program providers who deliver community programs.
3. Respecting the 7 Directives from Gathering Wisdom.
4. Respecting the Vision and Principles of the Framework Agreement and create a solid foundation for its continued implementation.



## Building the FNHA

### Our Vision

Healthy, self-determining and vibrant, BC First Nations children, families and communities

### Our Values

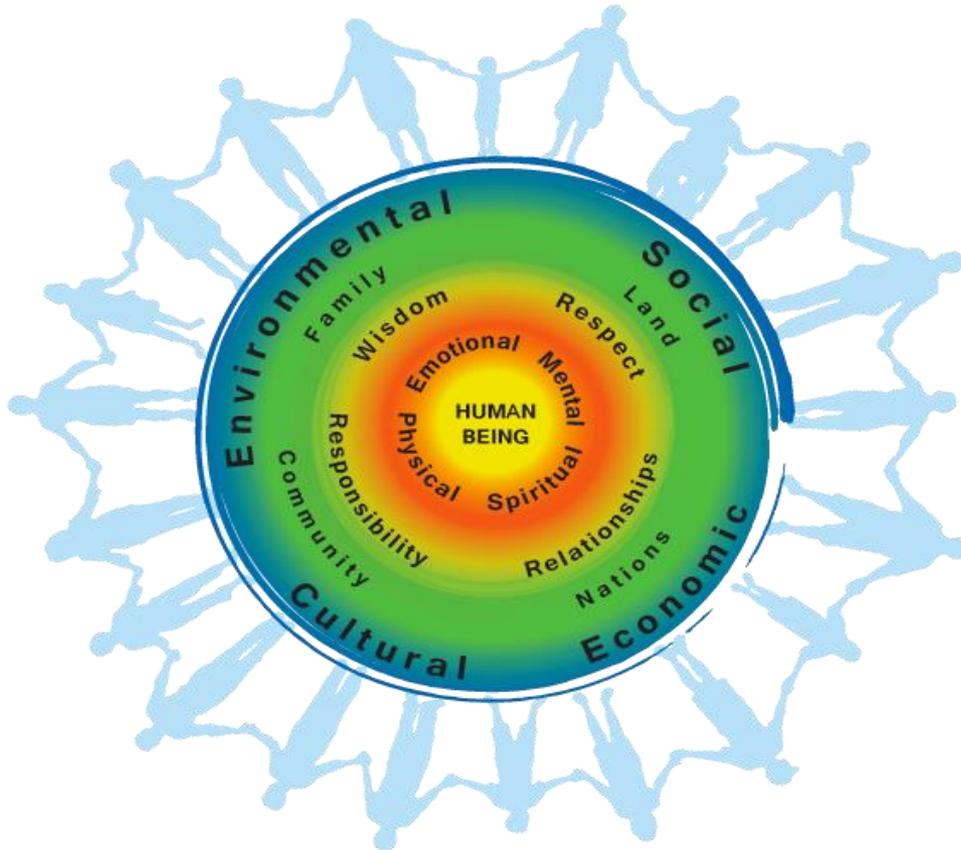
Respect, Discipline, Relationships, Culture, Excellence & Fairness

### Our Directives

1. Community Driven, Nation Based
2. Increase First Nations Decision-Making
3. Improve Services
4. Foster Meaningful Collaboration and Partnerships
5. Develop Human and Economic Capacity
6. Be without Prejudice to First Nations Interests
7. Function at a High Operational Standard



# First Nations Perspective on Wellness



- FNHA as a health & wellness partner
- Living the Wellness Model – FNHA as a Champion for health and Wellness
- Commitment to supporting the health and wellness from the youngest to the oldest
- Commitment to our youth (\*46% under 25)
- Leading edge of systemic change by aligning with the Innovation and Change Agenda of the Province of BC



## FNHA Operating Principles

- ❖ **W**ellness philosophy based on First Nations teachings is the perspective through which the FNHA approaches every aspect of its work and carries out its roles as health and wellness champions and partners
- ❖ **E**mphasis on personal best – being the best human being we can be – is how the FNHA approaches its work, partnerships, and those we serve
- ❖ **L**iving it – the FNHA leads by example as a First Nations Health Organization that models wellness
- ❖ **L**isten, learn, and act is the approach through which the FNHA establishes itself as a learning organization – and knowledge transfer will support shared learnings with health partners
- ❖ **N**ever leaving anyone behind, the FNHA works with its partners to ensure health initiatives, programs and services support and are accessible to all First Nations and Aboriginal peoples living in BC
- ❖ **E**xcellence means implementing initiatives, programs and services that brings the best in western medicine together with that of First Nations traditional knowledge and medicine and by examining needs to continuously improve services and approaches and remove barriers
- ❖ **S**ervice delivery and system transformation is driven by First Nations decision-making through engagement to determine desired outcomes, and supported by consensus leadership of the First Nations health governance partners and realized through leveraged collaboration with federal and provincial health systems
- ❖ **S**ustainability, integrity, efficiency and innovation are essential components to the business approach that the FNHA brings to its programs, services and initiatives



## Our Brand



# First Nations Health Authority

Health through wellness

**Thunderbird** - a traditional symbol of transformation and healing

**Crescent around the thunderbird** - represents our environment, families, communities and the context in which our health is determined.

**Thunderbird's wings reach beyond this crescent** - working within our context, but looking to break new ground in First Nations health.

**Thunderbird looking up** - to signify a healthy future.

**Overall** - conveys a hopeful, optimistic spirit.

**Artist - Andrew (Enpaauk) Dixel from the Nlakaapamux Nation**



# EVERYONE IS A WELLNESS CHAMPION

## CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE



Lead by Example

Walk the talk

Wellness through Leadership

Do your best to **LIVE IT!**

History of First Nations WELLNESS

sharing stories  
no journey is a straight line

changing **I** to **WE!**  
Illness to Wellness

First Nations Health Authority

Health through WELLNESS

**INNOVATIVE THINKING**

FNHA	individual	team	brown bag lunch
	MORE water	team lunch plan	

	walk at lunch	walking meetings	trail markers
	learning culture, history, traditions	round-tables	elder on site
	smoking cessation	encouragement	health literature
	decrease sedentary time	stretch breaks	stairs instead of elevator challenge

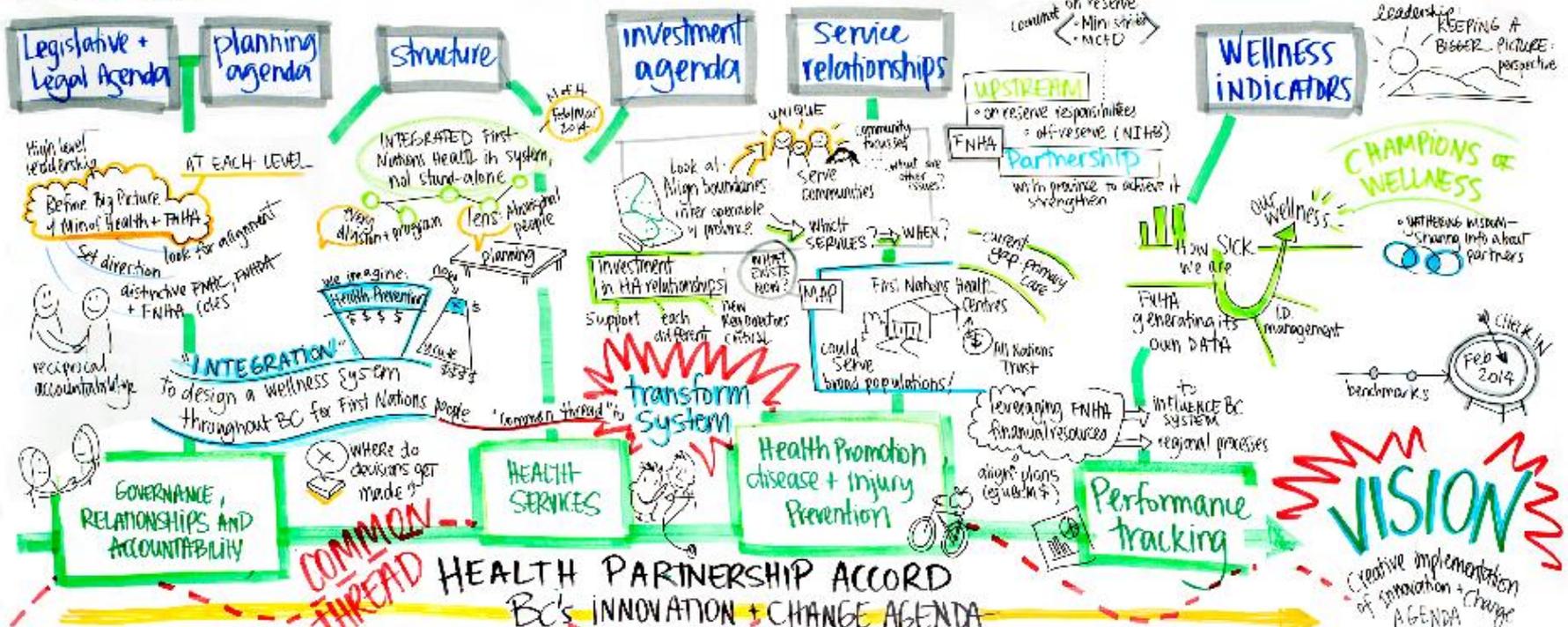
...as examples...



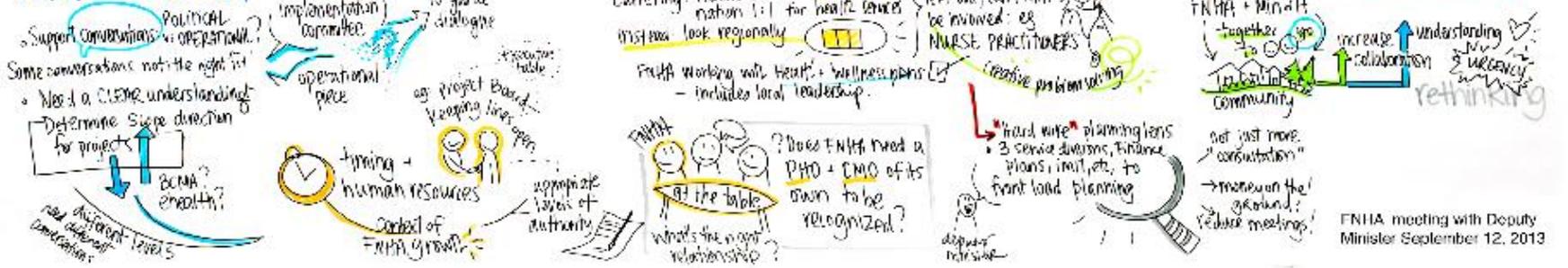
**FNHA IS THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARTNER**



WHERE NEXT?

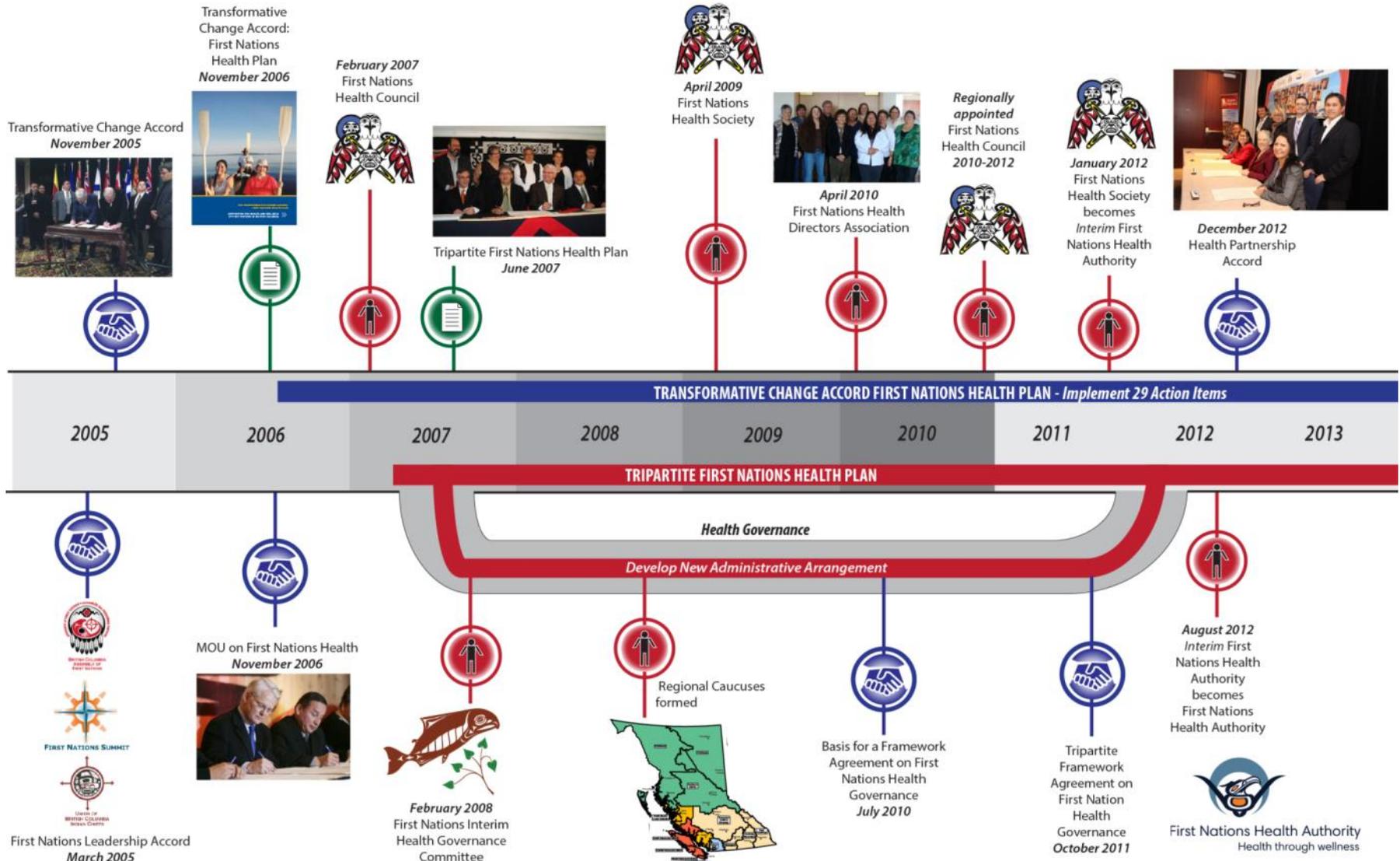


WHERE ARE WE?





# In Summary





In closing...

BC First Nations have entered into a new Health Partnership with BC and Canada

A First Nations Health Authority will position BC First Nations to enter into partnerships with Regional Health Authorities and provincial Health Service Organizations





Through this partnership, BC First Nations are the first in Canada to assume control of federally-funded health services through a new First Nations Health Authority



Decision for policy development, program design, and service delivery will be taken by First Nations closer to home





# United through a First Nations Health Authority, First Nations will have greater collective influence





Duplication will not occur and a parallel health system will not be created.



**FNHA will be transparent, community driven, accountable and measurable.**



Supported by our partners, these efforts will result in health improvements at the individual/patient, community, region, and population health levels.



**E-mote (thank you)**