



First Nations  
Health Council

Exhibit: <i>National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls</i>		
Location/Phase: <i>Part 4: Closing oral subs</i>		
Witness: <i>n/a</i>		
Submitted by: <i>Charlene Belleau</i>		
Add'l info: <i>PO4PO1.R0301</i>		
Date: <i>NOV 28 2018</i>		
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## First Nations Health Council

### Testimony to the National Inquiry on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Shared by the women of the First Nations Health Council

[www.fnhc.ca](http://www.fnhc.ca)

November 26-30, 2018

# Presentation overview

- Introduction / Acknowledge the Treaty 7 Region
- Overview on the BC First Nations Health Governance Structure
- Calls-To-Action
  - Trauma Informed Care
  - New Mental Health Funding
  - Commitment Stick Initiative
- “Our Culture is our Wellness”
- Recommendations
- Thank you and Questions



## Charlene Belleau

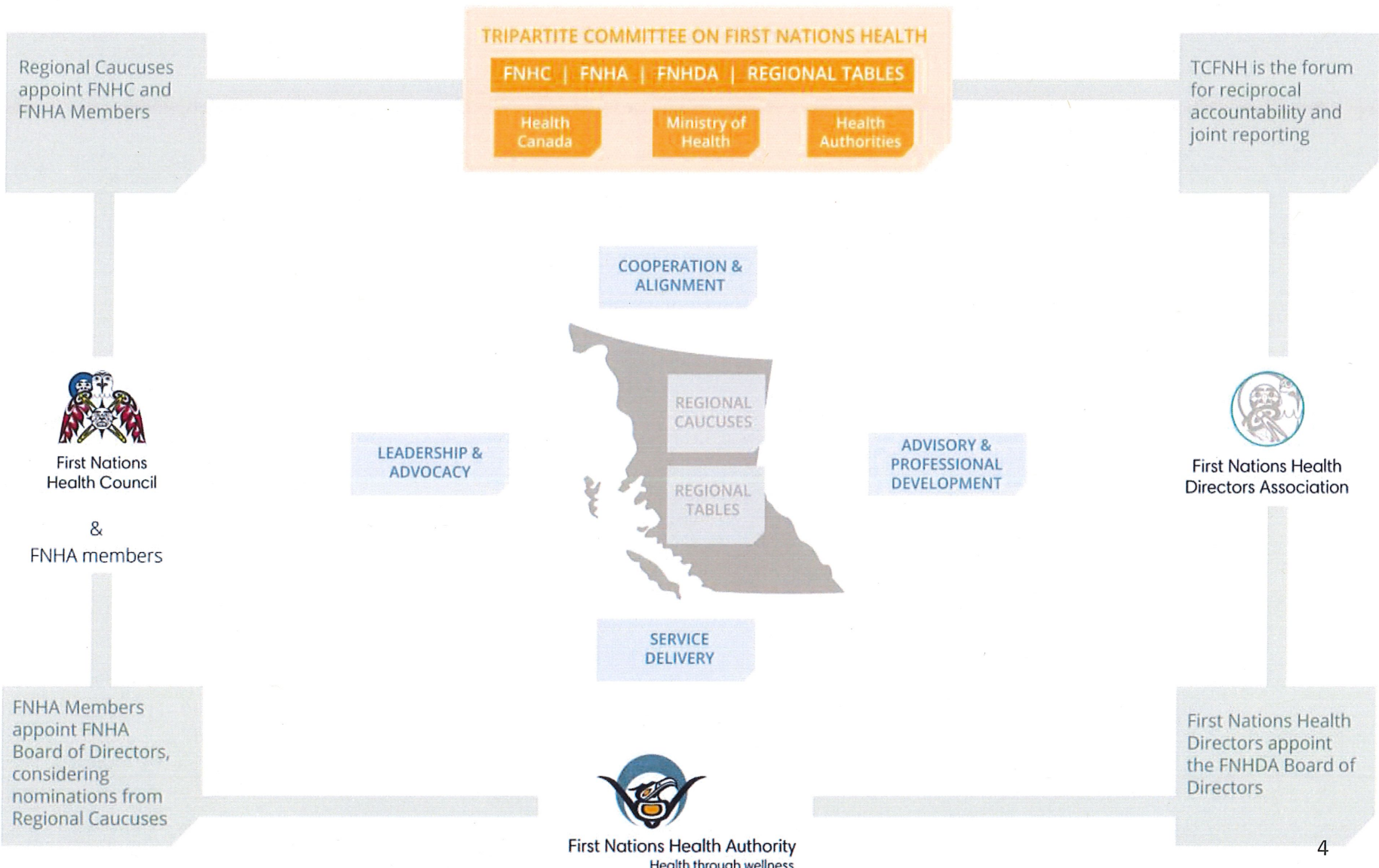
- Acknowledge Treaty 7 Region
- Former Chief of the Esk'temc First Nation
- FNHC Interior Regional representative

**“Esk'temc vision is that we strive to stand with dignity before our Elders and children that will not allow another generation of our women and children fall victim to a cycle of abuse and violence.”**

**– Charlene Belleau**



# BC First Nations Health Governance Structure



# Calls-to-Action

- Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey IX featured several powerful calls-to-action, compelling First Nations leaders to be the solution to issues in our communities.
- These included calls-to-action on:
  - The opioid crisis, calling for a response to the many people self-medicating and at high risk of dying from fentanyl poisoning;
  - Sexual abuse, family violence, incest and assaults on women and children, and;
  - To be self-determining and engage in healing and Nation rebuilding.



## Trauma-Informed:

- A common theme throughout the calls-to-action is addressing intergenerational trauma.
- Trauma causes people to self-medicate with drugs and alcohol.
- Many leaders are dealing with their own struggles and coping with their own traumas.
- Exposure to traumatic events can significantly impact health outcomes later in life.
- At our sessions, leaders have stood up and expressed the need for support in dealing with trauma and to help their communities heal.
- Creating safe spaces for conversation about trauma can open the door to larger conversations about healing at an individual, family and community level.

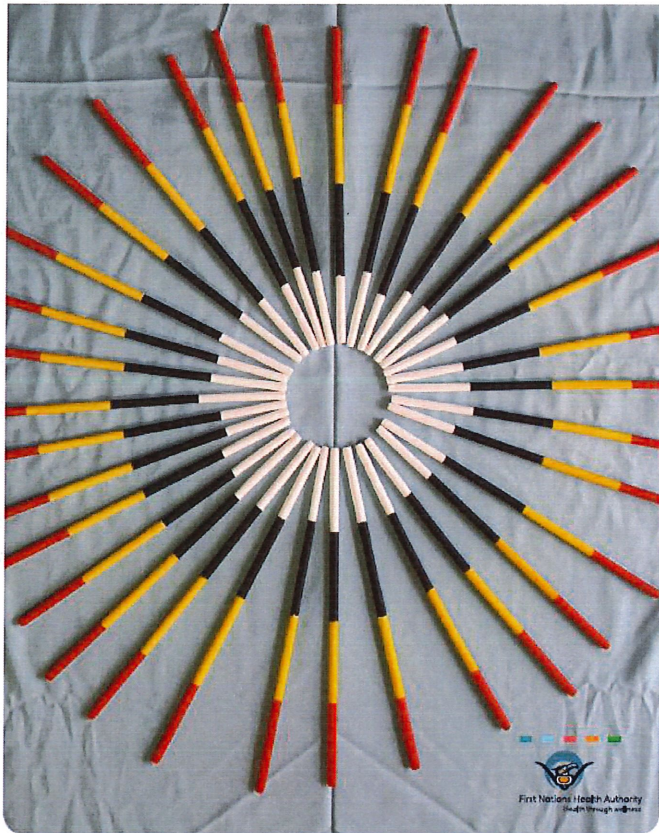
## New Mental Health Funding:

- The FNHC, Canada and BC signed the *Tripartite Partnership to Improve Mental Health and Wellness Services and Make Progress on the Social Determinants of Health and Wellness* on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.
  - The MOU provides \$30 million over two years for planning and service delivery for mental health and wellness.
  - The MOU also commits the parties to develop a tripartite plan to build, renovate, replace and expand treatment centers. This funding is separate from the above \$30 million.
- The FNHC and its partners have three months to complete an implementation plan.
  - This implementation plan will outline the process for disbursing funds to communities and Nations.
  - As part of this, the implementation plan will need a mechanism for assessing community readiness and an intake process for onboarding new communities.

# Commitment Stick Initiative

#VIOLENCESTOPSWITHME  
COMMITMENT STICK INITIATIVE  
TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

AN EVENT PROMOTION GUIDE FOR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS



- The Commitment Stick Initiative challenges men to end violence against women and girls.
- It represents a personal commitment to change.
- It originated in Esk'etemc and has expanded across the province.
- The FNHC has championed this work through Regional Caucus sessions and at Gathering Wisdom.
- The FNHA has begun to disburse grants to support communities in tackling this issues.



## Commitment Stick Initiative at the Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey Forum



# Leaders Called to Action

## “Our Commitment Sticks in Action”

### Grand Chief, Chiefs, and Leadership Community Search For CAITLIN POTTS



Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Schedule of Activities:

- 8:00 am Ceremony @ Splatsin Community Center, Enderby, BC
- 9:00 am Press Conference
  - Priscilla Potts - mother of CAITLIN POTTS
  - Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Splatsin
  - Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC
  - Grand Chief Doug Kelly, First Nations Health Council
- 10:00 am Search plan and schedule for CAITLIN POTTS
- 5:00 pm Debrief & Feast, Splatsin Community Centre, Enderby, BC.

For more information:  
Chief Charlene Belleau

250-440-5611 (W) or 250-305-8784 (C), [charleneb@esketemc.ca](mailto:charleneb@esketemc.ca)

OR

Irene Johnson - Mental Health Worker  
250-440-5651 (W)



Everyone welcome to assist and support.

Meals for the day will be provided.

### Our commitment sticks in ACTION!

### Chiefs, and Leadership Community Search for NATASHA MONTGOMERY



Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Schedule of Activities:

- 8:00 am Ceremony at Bowren River Rest Stop, 60 km. east of Prince George, BC
- 9:00 am Press Conference @ Bowren River Rest Stop
  - Louanne Montgomery - mother of Natasha Montgomery
  - Chief Wayne Christian – Splatsin
  - Grand Chief Doug Kelly – First Nations Health Council
- 10:00 am Search plan and schedule for Natasha Montgomery
- 5:00 pm Debrief & Feast at Bowren River Rest Stop on Hwy 16.



For more information contact:

250-440-5611 (Work) or 250-305-8784 (Cell) or [charleneb@esketemc.ca](mailto:charleneb@esketemc.ca)

Chief Charlene Belleau

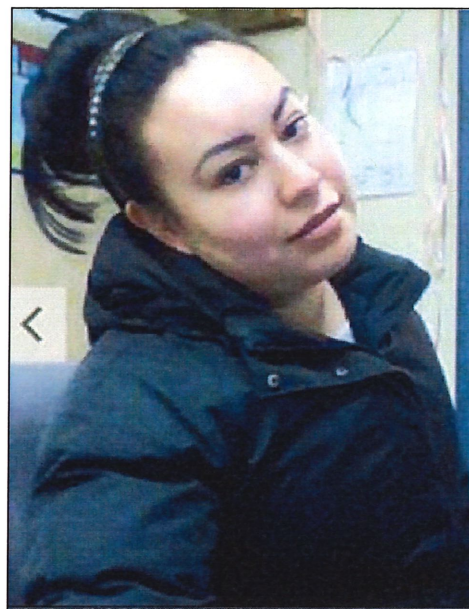
**EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN THE SEARCH**

## Leaders Called to Action “Our Commitment Sticks in Action”





# Our families





CHAR is described as

- Esk'etemc organized search teams for Amy Char September 28, 2016 . Alive.
- Esk'etemc facilitated a ceremony October 11, 2016 in conjunction with former Xeni Gwet'in Chief Roger Williams for missing Jackie Bob from Esk'etemc. Deceased.

- Aboriginal
- 160 cm
- 45 kgs
- Black Shoulder length hair
- Brown eyes

## Commitment Sticks in Action



Blueberry River First Nation Director of Community Services Tammy Baskin explains the Commitment Stick ceremony to participants in a workshop on ending violence against women.



Youth Brenden Nosky and Elder May Apsassin cut a cake together after the Commitment Stick ceremony - Aleisha Hendry Photos

## “Our Culture is Our Wellness”

Esk’etemc Cultural Protocols for Healing:

- Cultural Protocols are developed as alternatives or in conjunction with the RCMP or Criminal Justice Branch;
- Cultural Protocols are victim driven process for healing of both victim and the offender;
- MCFD are involved when are children are impacted;
- Multiple circles may be required;
- Esk’etemc traditions and ceremonies create safety within the healing circle

**Spousal  
Assault**

**Historical  
Abuse**

**Fish &  
Wildlife**

**Community  
Constable**

**Community  
Tripartite  
Agreement**

**Complaints  
Against  
RCMP**





# “Our Culture is Our Wellness”



# Recommendations

- We need to create spaces and support our leaders to:
  - Start conversations in their own communities about mental health and healing
  - Support community members through mental health and substance use challenges
  - To support the ongoing call-to-action initiatives, such as the Commitment Stick
  - To continue to support the New Mental Health Funding for BC First Nations Communities

# Thank you

**Gayaxsixa** (Hailhzaqvla)

**Huy tseep q'u**  
(Stz'uminus)

**Haa'wa** (Haida)

**Gila'kasla** (Kwakwaka'wakw)

**Kleco Kleco** (Nuu-Chah-Nulth)

**kwuk<sup>w</sup>stéyp** (Nlaka'pamux)

**Snachailya** (Carrier)

**Mussi Cho** (Kaska Dena)

**Tooyksim niin** (Nisga'a)

**Kukwstsétsemc**  
(Secwepemc)

**č̣ε̣č̣haθ̣ε̣č̣** (Ayajuthem)

**Sechanalyagh** (Tsilhqot'in)

**kw'as ho:y** (Halq'eméylem)

**T'oyaxsim nisim**  
(Gitxsan)