

First Nations Telehealth Network



May 2016



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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Keep up to date on upcoming videoconferences and important announcements just by following us on Facebook and Instagram! You can now find information on Telehealth through the First Nations Technical Advisory Group Inc. Facebook Page. Click on the link below to view the Facebook page. Don't forget to Like the page!



To connect to us on Instagram search for @FNTSAG and click the Follow button.

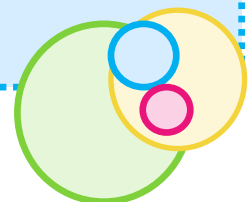
Upcoming Featured Sessions

A Special Report on Ending the Overrepresentation of Aboriginal Young People Involved with the Child Welfare System

Date: June 14, 2016

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and the Aboriginal community are advocating for systemic changes within the child intervention system through a special report and community forums related to the high percentage of Aboriginal young people in this system. "Our hope is that a new story is created for Aboriginal young people and their families involved with the Child Intervention system." Elder, Saddle Lake. In 2015/2016, the OCYA reached out to Aboriginal young people, elders, families, caregivers, and key stakeholders through focus group gatherings, interviews, and online surveys to hear from them what is important and helpful to Aboriginal young people before and after they are brought into care.



Siksika First Nation Health Fair

On May 27th, First Nations Telehealth Network was on-site at the Siksika Health Fair to present and provide information on Telehealth.

Michelle Hoeber (Videoconference & EBusiness Solution Analyst) and Amal Hassen (Telehealth Program Officer) were onsite to answer all community member questions. Participants were given an overview of Telehealth. This included information on the following topics:

- Types of sessions
- How to access the website
- What information can be taken from the website
- The benefits of Telehealth

Health Centre attendees were also able to demo the RealPresence Software. This software allows for videoconferencing from any smartphone or computer.



If you would like First Nations Telehealth Network and/or TSAG to participate in your upcoming Health Fair or Nation event please contact us at 1-888-999-3356 or at vchelp@firstnationsth.ca



Thank you Siksika First Nation!



HcOM Operations & Support Sub-Committee Presents: eHealth Showcase



On May 19, 2016 TSAG and the HCoM Operations & Support Sub-Committee organized the first ever Alberta eHealth Showcase. This event was hosted at Siksika Health Services on the Siksika First Nation. The showcase focused on current eHealth programs in Alberta as well as upcoming initiatives happening in other areas of the country.

One of the key presenters at the event was Dr. Ivar Mendez. Dr. Mendez presented on **Remote Presence Robotic Technology to Provide Service to Remote First Nation Communities**. His presentation offered a look at new advancements in robotics in Saskatchewan as well as Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Mendez discussed clinical trials in the northern remote city of Nain. Nain is only accessible by plane and is approximately 350 km away from the closest town. Being so isolated has its struggles; eventually the people of Nain reached out to the government and Dr. Mendez. With the hospital in Happy Valley Goose Bay and Dr. Mendez, Nain was given a robot named Rosie. Rosie is a mobile cart that is controlled by the doctor in the hospital. The doctor is able to move Rosie around the Nain Health Centre, treating patients and assisting Nurses with procedures.



Dr. Ivar Mendez is the Fred H. Wigmore Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Saskatchewan and Unified Head of Surgery of the Province of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Mendez has focused on, and significantly advanced, the use of remote-presence robots for medical care in neurosurgery and primary health care. In 2002, Dr. Mendez and his team performed the first long distance telerobotics neurosurgery in the world. In 2010, his team established the first remote presence robotic program in the Canadian North to provide access to primary and specialized medical care to underserved First Nations communities. Since 2013, he has been working with First Nation communities in Saskatchewan using advanced robotic technology for healthcare delivery.

For his pioneering work in the use of remote presence devices to deliver health care to underserved populations, Dr. Mendez received the 2011 Health Canada Award for Contribution to the Improvement of the Health of Canadians. In 2012 he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and was inducted as a fellow into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2014.

Fentanyl Learning Series



Did you know you can view all of the previous recordings in the Fentanyl Learning Series? Visit the First Nations Telehealth Portal to view previous sessions in preparation for the upcoming installment in the series.

www.firstnationsth.ca



Fentanyl Crisis in Alberta: From an enforcement perspective

When: June 15, 2016

Time: 10 am—11:30 am

Where: Videoconference

Featuring Martin Schiavetta, Staff Sergeant with Calgary Police Service Drug Vice Unit, Pierre Blais, Staff Sergeant with Edmonton Police Service ALERT/CFSEU Edmonton Region and Dr. Chris Sarin, FNIHB Lead of Fentanyl Response. This session will include:

- Discussion of how it became a public health crisis
- Overview of how Fentanyl is being distributed in Canada
- Description/discussion of safe handling procedures

Target Audience: All those involved in mental health, addictions, and preventive programs on reserve in Alberta, including Health Directors, NNADAP staff, Front Line Workers, leadership and other band staff.

If you are interested in attending please visit our First Nations Telehealth Portal to find more information and register! You can also contact our scheduling team at 1-888-999-3356 or at vhhelp@firstnationsth.ca

KTC Community Highlight

Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC)

"The Clinical Telehealth Program has proven to be a great success in our semi-isolated communities"



With the goal of increasing access to and expanding available healthcare programs and services to our community members living on-reserve in our semi-isolated communities, KTC worked diligently with their member Nations to implement Clinical Telehealth Services from their local Health Centres. Loon River First Nation, Woodland Cree First Nation, and Whitefish Lake First Nation #459 have been operational since 2012. Peerless Trout First Nation & Slave Lake Apple Drugs Suboxone Program commenced in 2015. Lubicon Lake Band is working towards implementation in the future.

Currently KTC Health Centers and Clinical Telehealth programs offer support to on-reserve community members through clinical sessions, educational sessions and business purposes. Clinical sessions include medical, specialist, family support and follow up appointments.

Our Suboxone Program at Slave Lake Apple Drugs utilizes Clinical Telehealth to provide physician screenings and follow up appointments without having to travel far into the urban centres.

Clinical Telehealth Services is not intended to, nor has not replaced the in-person visits, but instead has enhanced existing services and provided access to services off site.

For decades, our member Nations have struggled to entice, recruit and to retain specialized service providers including nurses, physicians and specialists on reserve. Since the implementation of the Clinical Telehealth Program, the health outcomes of our members has certainly improved.

We have been able to decrease travel and travel times for clients and physicians, lowered transportation costs, and reduce client wait times for appointments. In 2015-2016 fiscal year, our Clinical Telehealth Program has already delivered over 200 consultations and Physician utilization has increased since 2012.

"We continue to work on expanding services and usage in the communities; increased usage means increased access to services". -

*Kirsten Sware, Director of Health,
KTC Administration*



Do you want First Nations Telehealth Network to highlight your Nation in our newsletter? Contact us today to ask how!

Call our Scheduling and Support team at 1-888-999-3356 or by email at vhhelp@firstnationsth.ca

Under The Microscope with Dr. Sarin



Welcome back to *Under the Microscope*. The last column discussed Harm Reduction approaches to the Fentanyl Crisis. Since that time, the Fort McMurray wildfire fire crisis has had a profound impact on the city, the surrounding First Nations and every Albertan. Our thoughts are with all residents of Fort McMurray and the nearby First Nations communities as they begin the process of returning home. We are hopeful that some normalcy returns to the lives of the individuals who had to deal with this period of chaos and uncertainty.

This month, the Telehealth Newsletter presents the highlights of a meeting that recently occurred at the Siksika Health Centre. TSAG, the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, and First Nation representatives had the opportunity to learn what eHealth activities are occurring throughout Alberta. It was a very exciting and busy day and there were many great presentations and discussions. We hope the momentum from this meeting supports efforts to keep the First Nations Telehealth Network strong and vibrant. We are implementing a Strategic Plan and hope to see Telehealth activity expand dramatically in the next few years.

We are very proud of the First Nations Telehealth Network, but clearly see the limitations that fixed (permanent, non-mobile) sites impose. Our neighbours in Saskatchewan are implementing Remote Presence Technology under the leadership of Dr. Ivar Mendez. Dr. Mendez explained how technology can be used to provide health services on-reserve. Some examples of this might include, a robot controlled by an operator hundreds of miles away, or a Doctor in a Box that “travels” with a nurse to a patient’s home. Attendees at the Siksika meeting were treated to a live demonstration of several of the robots that have been deployed throughout Saskatchewan. It is truly amazing what technology can do. You have to see it to believe it. It was an honour to meet and engage with Dr. Mendez and see his deep commitment to innovation and to Canada’s indigenous peoples.

We have a busy last month before the summer and look forward to connecting with you at the upcoming sessions.

Until next time,
Christopher Sarin MD CCFP FRCPC



Telehealth Word Search

This month's word search is about health. Telehealth offers a wide variety of services that incorporate health and healthy choices. Join us for ongoing free Education sessions or ask us how you can have your medical appointments over videoconference.

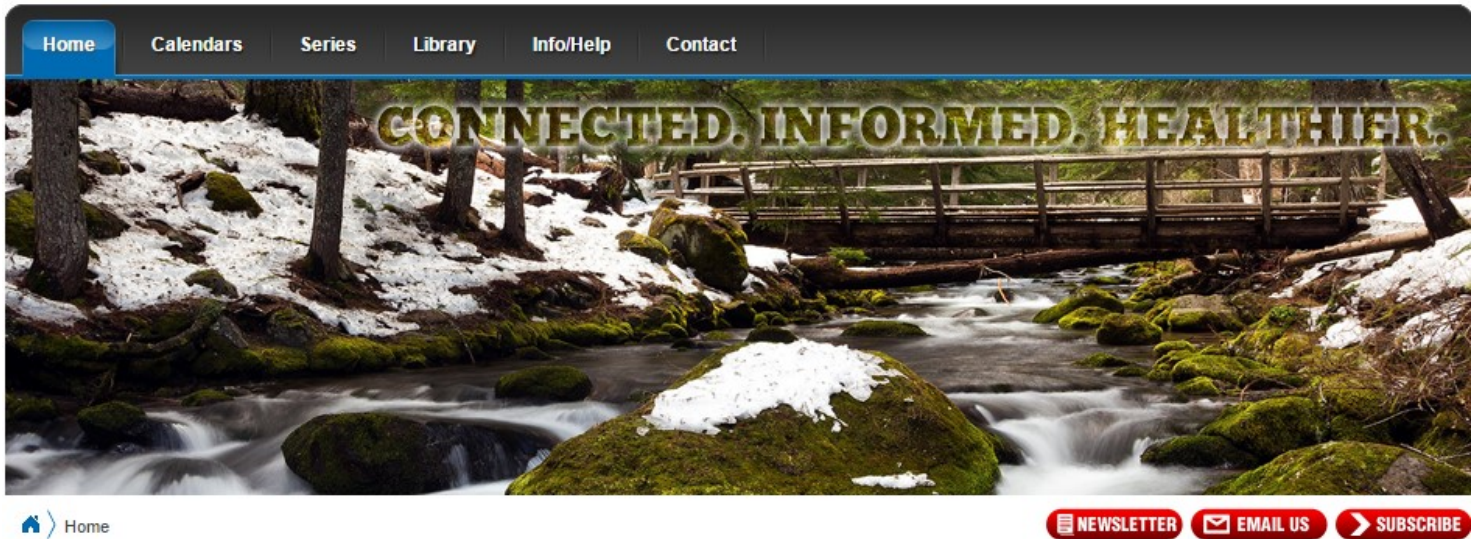
S D Y P P A H S E M
S O G C A E S D W L
E C R X A E U K O Q
N T M R N C U J L Q
L O T T A Q J J I F
L R I T H E A L T H
E F I L N W H T J B
W O L A C I N I L C
N J Q T H V Z P F A
Z J A N S M Z A K E

Clinical
Fitness
Heart
Doctor
Happy
Wellness
Education
Health

Fill In The Blank

Ar _ h _ i _ i _

Hint: There was a session hosted by First Nations Telehealth Network on April 28th that discussed this disease and the common types.



First Nations Telehealth Portal

First Nations Telehealth Network wants your feedback! After every First Nations Telehealth Network session, there are 2 different evaluations that get sent out to each registered participant. The first evaluation is made up of 2 questions: which site you are attending and if your connection was successful. The purpose of this evaluation is to get appropriate numbers for each site.

The second survey is a larger questionnaire. In this survey we ask for more detailed information and feedback on the presentation itself. We hope that with all the feedback from each detailed survey, we can continue to coordinate and provide meaningful education sessions to community members.

If you have any questions you want answered or any feedback for the presenters, you can include this in the evaluation. All feedback will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of the First Nations Telehealth Network.

www.firstnationsth.ca





Questions Corner

First Nations Telehealth Network sat down with our very own, Amal Hassen. Read below to find out more about her involvement with the network!

What is your role within Telehealth?

My role with the First Nations Telehealth Network is as the Telehealth Project Officer. In my position I work with our partners in FNIHB, Alberta Health Services and local organizations to develop educational sessions that can be delivered via videoconference to Health Centres on reserve. In addition, I compile statistics on Telehealth usage to help identify opportunities to enhance service delivery.

What do you think the benefits of Telehealth are?

Telehealth helps to connect people. Regardless of location, it allows for anyone to access clinical or educational services that might otherwise require considerable travel. Telehealth isn't meant to replace but enhance existing services. As our programming is community driven, it allows for individuals to get what they want, when they want.

Favorite place you traveled and why?

I loved going to Bali. I traveled around the entire island and it was amazing how different all the little towns were. The pace was a lot slower as well, spending time on the beach and going on walks were great. It was an unforgettable experience and I would love to go back some day.

Upcoming Sessions

June 2016				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2 Eating Disorders: An Overview	3
6	7	8	9 Ethics Lunch n Learn- Boundaries in Rural Context	10
13	14 A Special Report on Ending the Overrepresentation of Aboriginal Young People Involved in Child Welfare System	15 FNTN Rec FNTN Presents Fentanyl Information Series: From an Enforment Perspective	16 Cyberbased Dating Agression	17
20	21 Lower Limb Assessment & Compression Bandage Workshop	22	23	24 Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders: Understanding Both to Achieve Better Outcomes
27	28 FNIHB Rec B Best Practices – Notifiable Disease Follow Up Reporting	29 Aboriginal Health Telehealth Learning Series: Truth and Reconciliation Commission	30	



First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group Inc.



Are you interested in kayaking, rafting, and climbing in the Rocky Mountains? If so, apply for the TSAG Environmental Youth Camp today!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2016

When: August 7-12, 2016
Where: Centre for Outdoor Education (COE)
near Nordegg, Alberta
Who: First Nation students in grades 9-12

Spend time pursuing outdoor adventure activities while exploring careers in environmental science and experiencing what environmental stewardship is all about!

The 26th Annual Regional Firefighters **COMPETITION AND TRADESHOW**



Hosted by TSAG and
Tsuut'ina Nation Fire Rescue Service



SAVE THE DATES: JUNE 24-25, 2016

Grey Eagle Resort & Casino
Calgary, Alberta

BECOME A SPONSOR OR TRADESHOW EXHIBITOR!

Platinum Sponsor - \$7500 and up

Gold Sponsor - \$5000

Silver Sponsor - \$2500

Bronze Sponsor - \$1500

Tradeshow Exhibitor - \$500 per booth
Lunch/Banquet Sponsor

We are also seeking **GIFT CERTIFICATES** and **MONETARY DONATIONS** for door prizes for competition participants, speakers and guests.

We Want to Hear From You!

First Nations Telehealth Network encourages involvement from all communities and its members. If you have any questions or want to contribute material for our next newsletter, please contact us! Feedback is always welcome.

Phone: 1-888-999-3356

Email: vchelp@firstnationsth.ca

Telehealth Scheduling & Admin

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00 pm-4:30 pm

Telehealth Bridge & Technical Support:

Monday – Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

