

Use this area to offer a short preview of your email's content.

[View this email in your browser](#)



First Nations Telehealth Network

Videoconferencing has long been an important part of First Nations Telehealth Network. Video conferencing allows for communities to receive access to free education and clinical appointments without having to travel out of their communities. First Nations Telehealth Network continues to grow its network by giving health centres continued access to video conference; whether it is through new equipment or computer software. Within the past four months, First Nations Telehealth Network has expanded to include two brand new sites and one new clinical endpoint. A special welcome to the newest sites on our network: South Tallcree, Lubicon and Fort Chipewyan. Telehealth was happy to grow and expand the network with support of First Nations communities.



In This Issue

- Upcoming Speaker Series
 - Upcoming Featured Sessions
 - Fentanyl Learning Sessions
 - First Nations Telehealth Network is.... Telehealth Equipment
 - Community Highlight
 - Under the Microscope with Dr. Sarin
 - Clinical Peripherals
 - Video Conference on the Go!
 - Questions Corner
 - TSAG
 - We Want to Hear from You!
-

Upcoming Speaker Series

Date March 10, 2016

Time 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Presenter: Cinde Little, RRT, CRE, CTE – AHS
Community Pediatric Asthma Service



About the presentation:

“Motivational Interviewing Skills for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation” will explain what motivational interviewing skills are, how to use them specifically toward assisting clients to quit smoking. Several popular teaching tools will also be discussed including a brief overview of novel ways to use tobacco including electronic cigarettes.

[Register Here for our upcoming Speaker Series](#)

Little Warriors Prevent It! Taking Action to Stop Child Sexual Abuse Workshop.

Date: March 17, 2016

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Speaker Name: Bronwyn Peterson, Little Warriors Prevent It! Regional coordinator and Candace Sloan, Little Warriors Prevent It! Volunteer Facilitator

Session Description: Developed by researchers at the University of Alberta, the Prevent It! Workshop empowers adults to take action by equipping participants with the knowledge and skills required to help prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. Workshop participants receive a comprehensive workbook and certificate of attendance. Watch the two-minute trailer for a sneak peak of what the Prevent It! Workshop is all about: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hk_Glv-wuU&feature=youtu.be

[Register Here](#)

Ethics Lunch and Learn: Addictions in the Workplace

Date: March 10, 2016

Time: 11:30 - 12:15

[Register Here](#)

Fentanyl Learning Session

Alberta Health Services provided a learning session across Alberta to bring awareness about Fentanyl and its impact on the public. The sessions took place the week January 25, 2016. In case you were unable to attend these sessions, Alberta Health Services has provided a link to video. If you are interested in viewing this session please click on the link below. First Nations Telehealth Network is currently planning on developing a Fentanyl Session that provides exclusive content on Fentanyl and its impact on First Nations communities.

http://ahamms01.http.internapcdn.net/ahamms01/Content/AHS_Website/Health_Information/hi-amh-fentanyl-crisis.wmv



Community Highlight

Telehealth is a wonderful resource to have in Swan River. The benefits of having this equipment are many, such as:

- Advancing education for health care staff. which reduces cost and time for travel.
- Access to professional care reduces wait times, as well as minimizes medical transportation costs.
- It allows patients to remain closer to family and friends for support.
- Access to specialists provides for better care for patients and the community.

These are just a few benefits telehealth offers in Swan River.

Thank you

Kim Delorme - Health Director

Swan River First Nation

First Nations Telehealth Network Is.....
Telehealth Equipment



All video conference equipment on the First Nations Telehealth Network comes with 4 parts:

1. Camera
2. Video Conference Unit
3. Microphone
4. Remote

All of these parts make up one complete unit for video conference. There are two types of equipment found throughout Health Centres on the Network: Boardroom Units and Clinical Carts. Each Health Centre is given a Boardroom Unit (also known as a main Health Centre unit), these systems are stationary and generally stay in the room it was installed in. Clinical Carts are primarily used in Health Centre who have a greater number of clinical sessions. These carts are mobile and can be moved around so the doctor can see the patient better.

Each system provides the opportunity to connect to meetings, education and clinical. Even if a health centre does not have a clinical cart, the main unit offers a secure and safe connection to all sessions.

**Under the
Microscope
with Dr. Sarin**



Telehealth is a wonderful tool that is being used to bring valuable health information and services to First Nations in Alberta. Naturally, as with other new technologies, there are concerns about the privacy and integrity of the telehealth encounter. In this month's column, I will discuss some of the most successful clinical programs. I will also discuss some of the unique privacy considerations that telehealth brings up.

We have been tracking the clinical use of telehealth and are very pleased to see the activity grow from year to year. There were 3849 clinical sessions in 2014/15. The top three clinical sessions were Telepharmacy, General Practitioner consults, and Mental Health. FNIHB and TSAG have a role to support communities pursuing clinical partnerships. Key success factors for a clinical program include an explicit plan that identifies roles, a focus on training and awareness of staff and patients, and the selection of a clinical program and provider that meets the needs of the patient without overburdening Health Centre staff. TSAG does not employ health providers, but does have multiple contacts with telehealth providers, as well as expertise in setting up a clinical program. We want to help so please reach out to us for support.

I am pleased to note that we have never experienced a significant privacy breach. We do fully recognize that there are concerns about privacy that are magnified when they involve a clinical encounter between a patient and a health provider. Over the years TSAG has taken many steps to ensure that important technical assurances are in place and are that they are equivalent to what is in place at off reserve telehealth sites in Alberta. Clinical encounters are not recorded- they are a live interaction between a provider and a patient. The equipment and internet connection is highly secure. Audits and quality assurance processes are in place. Privacy measures on the Health Centre side are discussed as part of the planning for a clinical program. This commonly involves recommendations to modify the rooms being used, training of staff, and awareness of users. We do respond to individual privacy concerns as they are raised and can do more in depth reviews of issues as they arise.

Until next time- Stay Connected!

[Click here to ask Dr. Sarin a question](#)

Clinical Peripherals



First Nations Telehealth Network was given the opportunity to test new versions of clinical peripherals in some of the First Nations communities. These peripherals include Stethoscopes and handheld examination cameras.

The Stethoscopes allow for the doctor to hear a patient heartbeats and breathe sounds over the video conference equipment. This allows for a more accurate and quick diagnosis of the patient even though they are not in the same room as the doctor. The examination camera come with two types of lenses (General Exam and Otoscope) this allows for the doctor on the far end to see a patients physical symptoms.

With both peripherals, the nurses at the health centre will be given training so they are comfortable with using the equipment; this training will be given in support with FNIHB Nursing team . No patient information is stored in the cameras so the only image being sent is a real time image. This will ensure that patient

information is always kept private and confidential. For further information on privacy within Telehealth, please read the article on this month's "Under the Microscope with Dr. Sarin".

Video Conference on the Go!

RealPresence is the answer to all of those people who work on the road or are unavailable to attend sessions from a First Nations Telehealth Network Site. RealPresence is a software based solution for video conferencing. It can be downloaded to Android, Iphone, computers and tablets. The software downloads with in minutes and can connect you to any video conference session happening on our network. The software is free to use and comes in handy when you are not in a health centre.

If you are interested in using RealPresence please contact our support team to learn more.



Questions Corner



What is your role within TSAG?

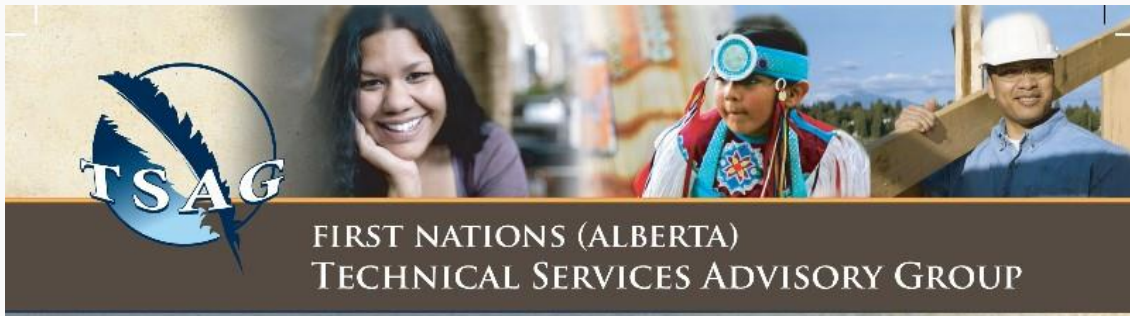
My role with TSAG is Director of Operations which means I am responsible for providing oversight for TSAG programs to ensure deliverables are met and are on target. I am also responsible for ensuring that our programs run smoothly and align with the organization's mandate and policies.

What role does Telehealth play within TSAG?

Telehealth is an integral part of TSAG's mandate to support strong and healthy communities. Telehealth provides a number of valuable services such as remote access to medical expertise and the coordination of quality education sessions from subject matter experts on a variety of health related topics. The telehealth team provides expertise and resource connections across the various programs at TSAG and help contribute to our overall strength as an organization.

Who is your favorite Disney Princess and why?

I am kind of anti-Disney princess...so how about I tell you my favorite tree? My favorite tree is the mighty oak because it has the coolest shaped leaves and my kids like to collect acorns as little treasures.



TSAG is an organization created by the Chiefs of Alberta and is here to provide technical support and training to First Nations in the treaty 6, 7 & 8 regions. TSAG is a not-for-profit First Nations organization. Our purpose is to assist Alberta First Nations gain the proper tools and knowledge that will help to achieve and maintain high standards in technology and services within the community.

We invite you to Like us on Facebook and visit our website to get the latest TSAG news. Click on the icons below to contact TSAG by email (comm@tsag.net) and link to the website (www.tsag.net) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FNTSAG).



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

[Click to Provide Feedback or Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2015 First Nations (Alberta) Technical Services Advisory Group, All rights reserved.

First Nations Telehealth Network

vchelp@firstnationsth.ca

1-888-999-3356

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)