

## 7. Meetings

For a complete list of meetings, please check out the Website.

## 8. Chair and Co-Chair

The Secwepemc Health Caucus has just recently voted in Kukpi7 Wayne Christian of Splats'in First Nation as the new Chair. And the Co-Chair is Colleen LeBourdais, Health Director of Q'wemtsin Health Society.

## 9. interim First Nation Health Authority

On May 15-17, 2012, over 800 delegates were on hand at the three-day event-Gathering Wisdom V, that saw 94% of Chiefs and Proxies in attendance approve the Consensus Paper 2012: Navigating the Currents of Change – Transitioning to a New First Nations Health Governance Structure. The Consensus Paper mandates transition from the interim First Nations Health Authority into a permanent form and begins planning for the establishment of Regional Offices to support health and wellness engagement with First Nations and Health Authorities at the regional level. The new model is founded upon the principle of reciprocal accountability and creates an environment for innovation, tradition and continued collaboration with all partners towards the overall goal of improving the design and delivery of health services and achieving a higher standard of health for BC First Nations. This development will enhance the clear separation between the political health governance work of the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) and the service delivery responsibilities that will soon fall under the FNHA. Updates on the transition process will be provided through Regional Caucus Meetings taking place in the Fall 2012.

The Secwepemc Health Caucus is comprised of  
The following First Nation  
Community Chiefs and Health Directors:

Sexqeltqín – Adams Lake

Simpcw – North Thompson

St'uxwtéws – Bonaparte

Ts'kw'aylaxw – Pavilion

Tsq'éscen – Canim Lake

Kenpésq't – Shuswap

Stswécem'c/Xgét'tem' – Canoe/Dog Creek

Skitsesten – Skeetchestn

Esk'étemc – Alkali Lake

Splats'in – Spallumcheen

Llenlleny'ten – High Bar

T'éxel'c – Williams Lake

Qw7ewt – Little Shuswap Lake

Tk'emlúps – Kamloops

Xats'úll – Soda Creek

Sk'atsin – Neskonlith

Stil'qw/Pelltiq't – Whispering Pines/Clinton

For More Information, or if you have any  
comments or ideas regarding health  
please email us;

Vicki W. Manuel

Hub Coordinator

Phone:250.318.8350

Fax 250.314.6732

Email:

Vicki@qwemtsin.org

Sanik Edwards

Hub Assistant

Phone: 250.314.6732

Fax: 250.314.6742

Email:

Sanik@qwemtsin.org

Visit Our New Website or our Facebook Page

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



The Secwepemc Health Caucus (SHC) is comprised of 17 Chiefs and 13 Health Directors and two technical persons of the Secwepemc Nation who come together quarterly to provide informed, united direction to First Nations Health Governance discussion and negotiations. As well as, to increase communication, collaboration and planning for members First Nations Communities as it pertains to Health. The Secwepemc Chiefs carry out the political health advocacy work and the Secwepemc Health Directors carry out the technical work and support the Chiefs in their political advocacy work.



## **SHC Health Issues Being Addressed Currently Include:**

### ***1. Interior Health Authority***

The Chiefs and Health Directors developed a briefing note for the Interior Health Authority listing the issues, examples for those issues, and the impacts that the Secwepemc People are having due to the issues, such as; Region wide lack of Consultation and Communication, Lack of Consultation and Communication regarding the IHA Aboriginal Health and Wellness Plan, Failure to Provide Services on Reserve, Centralizing Services, Inappropriate Hospital Discharge of Patients, IHA Aboriginal Health Team changing roles and high staff turnover, IHA Proposal Driven Funding, Aboriginal Health and Wellness Advisory Committee – Dysfunction.

### ***2. SHC—Letter of Understanding***

In the IHA briefing note a recommendation was made to draft an agreement between the Secwepemc People and the Interior Health Authority with the goal of the securing improved health care for the Secwepemc People. A meeting is being set for August 2012 between IHA Chief Operating Officer and President, Dr. Halpenny and Chief Wayne Christian – SHC Chair and his technical staff to address Secwepemc Health Care concerns.

### ***3. Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)***

A letter of invite from the Secwepemc Health Directors Hub was sent to Non Insured Health Benefits Director Tara Bjornson to discuss issues that the Secwepemc People are having with Non-Insured Health Benefits. A meeting has been set for July 19th, 2012. Currently a briefing note is being drafted outlining numerous issues pertaining to each of the programs and services funded through NIHB. Issues pertaining to (1) Eye and Vision Care Benefits, (2) Dental Benefits, (3) Medical Transportation Benefits, (4) Drug (Prescription) Benefits, (5) Short –Term Crisis Intervention Mental Health Counseling Benefit, (6) Approved Health Benefits Outside of Canada, (7) Communications, (8) Funding, and (9) Cultural Insensitivity.

### ***4. Traditional Healers/Elders Meeting June 2012***

The Secwepemc Health Caucus has a vision of a Wellness Center for the Secwepemc Territory with the input of the Secwepemc People. There was a Traditional Healers/Elders Meeting held on June 27th, 2012 which had very good attendance by people from all over the Secwepemc Territory. The major issues that were expressed were the protection of harvesting sites, finding harvesters, getting the youth involved, identifying venues for processing/storing medicines, finding a sustainable model in the harvesting of medicines, etc. The next steps are to compile a list of knowledge keepers (traditional healers and medicines), and to have another gathering just on medicines and the use of them, and lastly to stay united as Secwepemc People.

### ***5. SHC—Strategic Planning June 2012***

The Chiefs and Health Directors held Strategic Planning held on June 15th and 16th, 2012 to address the top 13 Health Issues, which are; (1) Relationship with Interior Health Authority, (2) Mental Health and Addictions, (3) Long Term care/Elder Care, (4) Non Insured Health Benefits, (5) Social Determinates of Health (Poverty, housing), (6) Capacity (Education/ Life Skills, Human, Financial), (7) Transition to New Health Authority, (8) Capital (Elders Home, Wellness Center/Health Center, (9) Traditional Medicine, (10) Communications/ Technology), (11) Wellness and Lifestyle, (12) Nutrition and Food Security, and (13) Child and Families. The SHC – Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewing each of the goals to see if they are realistic, apply a time line, budget and team leader.

### ***6. Communications Plan***

The SHC is currently looking into a communications plan for the group. The Secwepemc Health Caucus website has been launched and can be accessed at: [www.secwepemchealth.ca](http://www.secwepemchealth.ca). This site is meant to keep Nation members informed of Secwepemc Health Caucus Health related business and well as an area to provide comments or feedback related to health. On the website you will find very pertinent and informative information as to what is new in the SHC resources, a calendar of events, a link to the new Facebook page as well, and a link to send the group feedback or ask questions.

*Turn page for more information...*