



The Role of the Indigenous Relations Manager

Introduction

The Chilliwack Division of Family Practice is a non-profit society that represents Family Physicians in Chilliwack, Agassiz, Seabird Island and Hope. Our members provide primary care services from Chilliwack to Boothroyd, and strive to improve health care services for patients by supporting an engaged and collegial medical community.

Indigenous Relations Manager for Chilliwack Division Of Family Practice

Gracie Kelly's family roots range from Tselxweyeqw Tribe: Soowahlie and Xaxlip First Nations. Gracie has been the Indigenous Relations Manager for Chilliwack Division since July 2020. Gracie's role includes advocating for consistency in the health care that the Indigenous communities are receiving.

Gracie believes one key detail needs to be remembered while working with the Indigenous community. "Before you do any work with Indigenous people, you need to know who we are." This includes remembering the connection that land has on universal health care and having open discussions around racism specifically in the healthcare system. The role of the Indigenous Relations Manager is important for the work of the Division as our key value is to provide ongoing primary care for vulnerable communities, and promote health and wellness within them. For Gracie, it's a daily reminder of why it is important for her role to exist within the Division. "The work I do in this role needs to impact the following seven generations." An example of this is by sharing the Cultural Safety and Humility Framework which includes: "7 Caring Teachings which highlights Indigenous Worldviews."





The Responsibility of the Indigenous Relations Manager

The Chilliwack and Fraser Health Rural Primary Care Network are honored to provide health services within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Tselxweyeq, Teit, Pilalt, Sto:lo and Nlaka'pamux communities including Metis and Inuit. The Chilliwack North and South PCN are the home of Aitchelitz, Kwaw-kwaw-Aplit, Shxw'ha:y Village, Skowkale (Sq'ewqéyl), Skwah, Soowahlie, Squiala, Tzeachten (Ch'i:yàqtel), and Yakweakwioose. The Fraser Health Rural PCN is the home of Boothroyd, Boston Bar, Chawathil, Cheam, Sts'ailes, Peters, Popkum, Seabird Island, Shxw'ōwhámél, Skawahlook, (Sq'ewá:lxw), Spuzzum, Union Bar, and Yale. Gracie works to strengthen relationships with the twenty two Indigenous communities and Indigenous partners, as well as local family physicians, nurse practitioners, and service providers that provide services to Indigenous peoples in our Primary Care Network. Gracie works collaboratively with Community Organizations and participates in various Working Groups ie: First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Fraser Health Aboriginal Health, First Nations communities, and Métis organizations in their Primary Care Network geographic area to integrate services. Additional responsibilities include:

- **Supporting the redesign, design, and integration of culturally safe services**
- **Supporting community Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners to embed culturally safe care into their Patient Medical Homes (community practices)**
- **Completing various reports, as per the funding agreements**
- **Provide Indigenous cultural considerations for new Primary Care Network Health Centre (2022)**

Q'elmétsét

is 'We Believe' in each other to provide 'quality health and wellness services' within our Primary Care Networks



Projects Implemented and Ongoing

- Leading a Cultural Sharing Series on the last Friday of every month at noon that promotes Indigenous communities. Topics include discussion around primary health care: Impact of residential schools, systemic racism, etc
- Integrating and collaborating with the Primary Care Network around the role of the Traditional Wellness practices including: Traditional Wellness Mentor Micro Health Project and collaborating to provide continued supports
- Developing and sharing of the Cultural Safety and Humility Framework
- Leading design innovation round Indigenous Artwork in new Primary Care Network clinic
- Continuing to bring training/learning opportunities to attention of Division and Primary Care Network staff
- Continuing to connect and form relationships with the community representatives and Working Groups

Plan for Indigenous Relations in 2021/2022

- Leading open discussion around the Truth and Reconciliation Act, systematic racism, impact of various historical events that have impacted the Indigenous community
- Assisting with Indigenous Health Services integration of approved funds for Nurse Practitioners, Allied Health Services such as social work, mental health and substance use
- Providing education to the Indigenous community around the benefits of the Primary Care Network and wrap around services
- Developing the "Every Heart Matters" initiative
- Facilitating of workshops around Indigenous Cultural Teachings
- Developing Indigenous services tab on Division's website