

Patients First

Objective

Promote and optimize the quality of care provided by interprofessional teams in northern BC, *Patients First* emphasizes: interprofessional team collaboration in First Nations/Aboriginal communities; assessing the impact of collaborative patient-centred practice on patient care outcomes; and encouraging health science student placements in rural/remote practices.

Project Approach

1. Gather information to establish current practices through needs evaluations, environmental scan, literature review, round table forums (community, partners and students), surveys, interviews, case studies and community forums.
2. Formulate information into a series of reports to inform the development of various workshops and seminars.
3. Develop and offer workshops and seminars focused on increasing skills, knowledge and capacity of students and service providers
4. Collaborate and partner with community, First Nations and education. Create a conceptual model of interprofessional team development in First Nations/ Aboriginal communities.
5. Develop case studies of teams, patients and services that explore best practices and outcomes of interprofessional teamwork.

“Nancy Tom, a member of the Tl’azt’én First Nation, thanked the Patients First project for providing the opportunity to bring together students, community, service providers and First Nation in the Unity Learning Circle – as it was the first time that it had ever happened. Nancy states “we welcome white brothers and sisters – we welcome you. We will go out with you – we will guide and support you – we will introduce you to the community. You will find that each of our communities share a sense of humor – we hang on to it – we are a resilient people and we welcome working together on this journey.”

Results

Patients First has developed interactive community, education and service provider collaborative partnering relationships. It is through these supportive partnerships that we have gained a perspective of interprofessional teamwork through various “world views” – that of the student, the First Nation and those who work the front line in health and wellness services. Rural and remote First Nation communities are committed to interprofessional teamwork, eager to work with students, educators and the community and willing to model and mentor service providers in a patient-centred holistic approach.

Conclusion

Through interprofessional teamwork, the *Patients First* project has optimized and developed education/training and balanced this knowledge with a holistic patient-centred focus. With the support of the Northern Health Authority, UNBC, Carrier Sekani Family Services and Central Interior Native Health Services the *Patients First* project has become a journey of learning, sharing and strengthening relationships between community, education, health and First Nations.

Resources

For more information, please visit <http://www.in-bc.ca/projects/pf.php>