



BC Cancer Agency

CARE + RESEARCH

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority



northern health

the northern way of caring



**Provincial Health
Services Authority**

Province-wide solutions.
Better health.

Northern Cancer Control Strategy partnership

Hal Collier, Chief Project Officer
December 2011

Northern Cancer Control Strategy (NCCS)

- A partnership between Northern Health (NH), BC Cancer Agency (BCCA), and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).



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Northern Cancer Control Strategy

- **Other partners:**
 - Ministry of Health Services
 - Aboriginal Communities
 - Canadian Cancer Society
 - BC Cancer Foundation
 - Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
 - University of Northern BC (UNBC)
 - UBC/UNBC Northern Medical Program

Northern Cancer Control Strategy

- **Background behind Northern Cancer Control Strategy**
- Significant statistics – Northern British Columbia
 - High smoking rates, levels of alcohol consumption, and obesity
 - Highest Standardized Mortality Ratios (SMR) for most causes of death including all cancers
 - Relatively poor access to care and cancer treatment services
 - Small, widely dispersed population
 - *Higher percentage of young people than provincial average*
 - Highest proportion of Aboriginal people in B.C.
 - Expected rapid growth in number of seniors
 - Only B.C. health region without a regional cancer centre
 - A partnership between agencies would greatly help to enhance cancer care, through collaboration, in this region

Northern Cancer Control Strategy

- **The goals of the NCCS in the North are:**
 - Reduce cancer incidence rates
 - Reduce mortality rates due to cancer
 - Improve access to cancer services (closer to home)
 - Improve the quality of life for cancer patients

Important Principles for Success

- Commitment to build partnerships between BCCA/PHSA, Northern Health and Ministry of Health
 - Focus on the development of an integrated strategy across the continuum of care, rather than just construction of a new cancer centre
 - Coordination structures to bring agencies together
 - Eg. Steering & Integration Committee, PMO
- Dedicated project leads for each major program

Partnership in Clinical Projects

- **Prevention Initiatives**

- Partnership between BCCA, NH and CCS for 'Stop Smoking Before Surgery' initiative

- **Telehealth**

- BCCA and NH working together
- Now, 15 sites throughout the North



Partnership in Clinical Projects

- **Patient navigators on board, unique in North**
 - Improving patient access to services
 - Connecting health professionals across cancer care continuum
- **Increased delivery of cancer patient support services across North**
 - Regional team: Pharmacist, Dietitian, Social Worker working with community clinics to enhance care

Partnership in Clinical Projects

- **Community cancer clinic enhancements**
 - Two new clinics
 - Now, 10 clinics in region
 - Haida Gwaii
 - Vanderhoof

Partnership in Clinical Projects

- **Aboriginal Cancer Care Strategy** developed
 - To give ownership to communities in project development/implementation
 - Advisory Committee with reps from across North



BCCA Centre for the North

- Construction of the Centre for the North commenced August 2010; open in late 2012
- Partnerships have helped with centre recruitment, with:
 - Northern Medical Program at the University of Northern BC
 - City of Prince George



BCCA Centre for the North



Future Opportunities

- Sustainable partnership with University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)
 - Research facilitation and framework development
 - Identifying priority areas of research
- Aboriginal, rural/remote strategy development
- Program partnerships between BCCA, NH and the Canadian Cancer Society
- **Implementation of breast pathway**

Questions?



Prevention collaboration meeting – Summer 2011