



CARRIER SEKANI FAMILY SERVICES

Dear Interested Parties,

As you may know we have had some personnel changes to the Task Force recently. Dan George is no longer the Chair of the Task Force. First, we would like to thank Dan for all his hard work and direction over the last few months. Now, we have the pleasure of welcoming three new members.

Emma Palmantier is the new Chair of the Task Force. Emma's experience in northern health issues and Aboriginal politics is extensive and we are excited to have her onboard. Some highlights of her experience are: Vice-Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Chief of the Lake Babine Nation, General Manager of Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and General Manager of Lake Babine Nation. As well, Emma completed one year of the Business Management program at the Camosun College and served on the Provincial Chiefs Health Committee, facilitated the BC AFN/DIA joint initiative, worked for the College of New Caledonia and for the Northern Health Authority.

Emma's plans for the Task Force include solidifying and gaining your support for the Strategic Plan and moving forward to an Implementation Plan in the near future. As well, she expects to be meeting with all the relevant government agencies to ensure we are all committed to the goals of the Task Force. She hopes to get a Work Plan and the necessary budget organized very soon.

Barby Ann Skaling of the Gitksan – Wetsu'wet'en Nation is a Licensed Practical Nurse and has been the Education Program Coordinator with the Healing Our Spirit program for 11 years. She was hired as the HIV/AIDS Coordinator/ Consultant. She has a long history of participation in community organizations with HIV/AIDS, gay/lesbian issues, and international development, and is committed to providing culturally competent HIV/AIDS information, especially within Aboriginal communities. She is involved at the national level with HIV/AIDS organizations and also with the Canadian Women's Health Network.

Barby's focus is on community leadership and will work towards soliciting input and support from community leaders in addressing the HIV/HCV epidemic. She hopes to get collaboration between Aboriginal leaders and all levels of government in acknowledging

the health crisis facing northern communities and hopes to explore solutions for this epidemic. She hopes to encourage Aboriginal leaders to work together to create a strong political voice at both the local and national level. Barby brings both her passion and unwavering dedication to this undertaking.

Lincoln Heaney was recently hired as the Coordinator of the Task Force. Lincoln is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Victoria. He has recently taken a leave of absence to devote his time to working on the Task Force. His academic experience has focused on Aboriginal politics and governance issues as well as Indigenous philosophies. Some highlights of Lincoln's experience are: Senior Researcher for the Takla Lake First Nation on Land Use/ Occupancy studies, Senior Research Assistant for the DIA Litigation Management Branch, and Research Assistant for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Treaty Negotiations Division.

Lincoln is excited to be working for the Task Force and hopes to establish a good working relationship with all members. His goals for the Task Force in the near future include ensuring all Task Force members and communities have their input as we begin to move from our Strategic Plan to our Implementation Plan. Lincoln expects to be meeting with all Task Force members and visiting communities to garner their input and specific concerns as we deal with this crisis so that our work is relevant and beneficial to each community.

We ask that you join us in welcoming our new members to the Task Force. Together and with your support we can fight the HIV/AIDS and HCV crisis facing our communities. The team will be in contact with you for Phase II of the Northern Task Force Strategic Work Plan. Thank you for your continued interest in improving First Nations' and Aboriginal Health. Please direct all question to myself, Coordinator Lincoln Heaney or the Chair, Emma Palmantier.

Warner Adam
Executive Director