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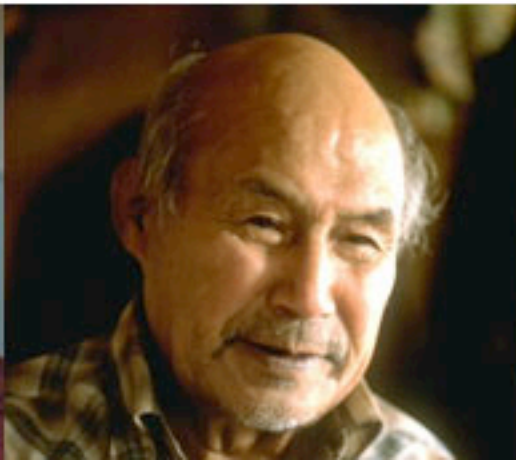
Health Canada First Nations & Inuit Health Branch British Columbia Region

Youth Suicide Prevention & Response to Mental Health Emergencies

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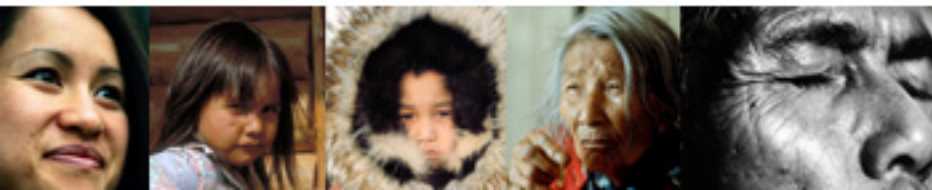
Dr. Isaac Sobol MD MHSc
Health Protection Directorate



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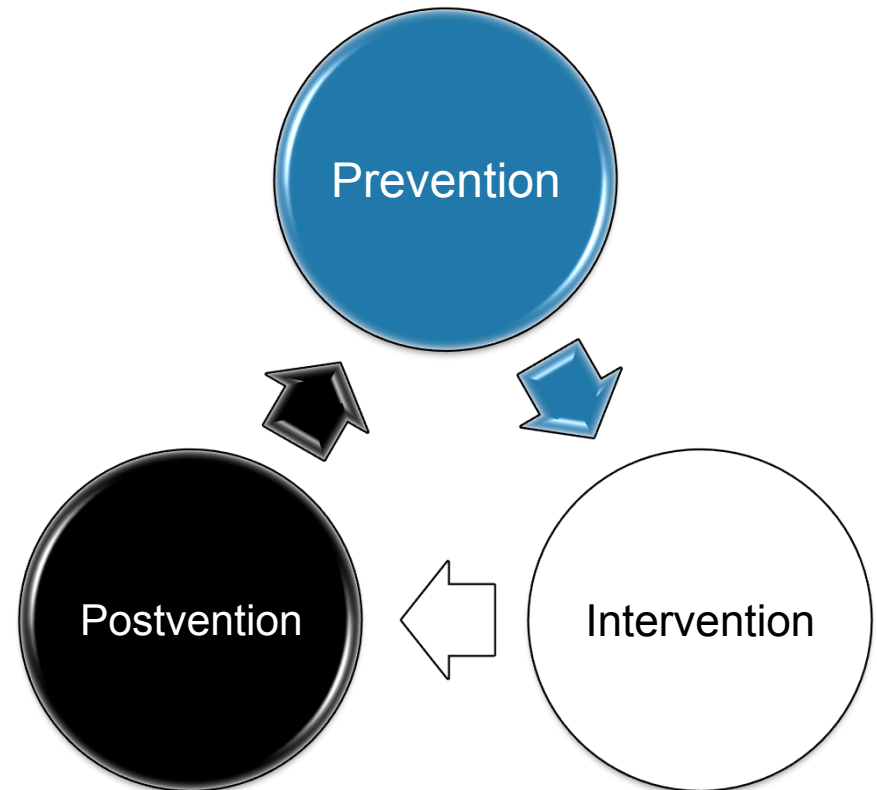
Overview

- Current state at FNIHB
 - National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)
- Challenges & opportunities
- Responding to mental health emergencies
- Role of First Nations Medical Officers in emergency response, health surveillance & mental wellness
- A path forward . . .



National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)

- Target population: First Nations youth on-reserve ages 10-30 yrs
- Goal: reduce risk factors & promote protective factors
- Program elements →
- Range of activities
 - ASCIRT teams
 - Community based projects
 - Support to communities



Aboriginal Suicide Critical Incident Response Teams (ASCIRT)

Nisga'a Valley
Crisis Response
Team (Serving 4
communities)

Inter-Tribal
Health
Authority
ASCIRT
(Serving 29
communities)

Nuu'chah'nulth
Tribal Council
Huu-pee-stalth
(Serving 14
Communities)

Cowichan Tribes
ASCIRT (Serving
6 communities)

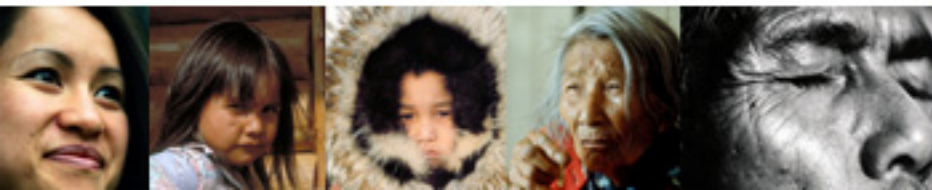
Gitxsan Health
Society FAST
(Serving 11
communities)

Okanagan Nation
Alliance Youth
Response Team
(Serving 7
communities)

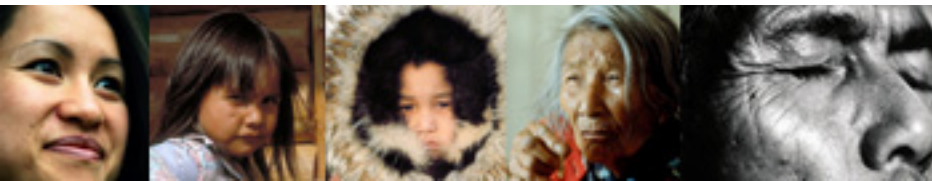
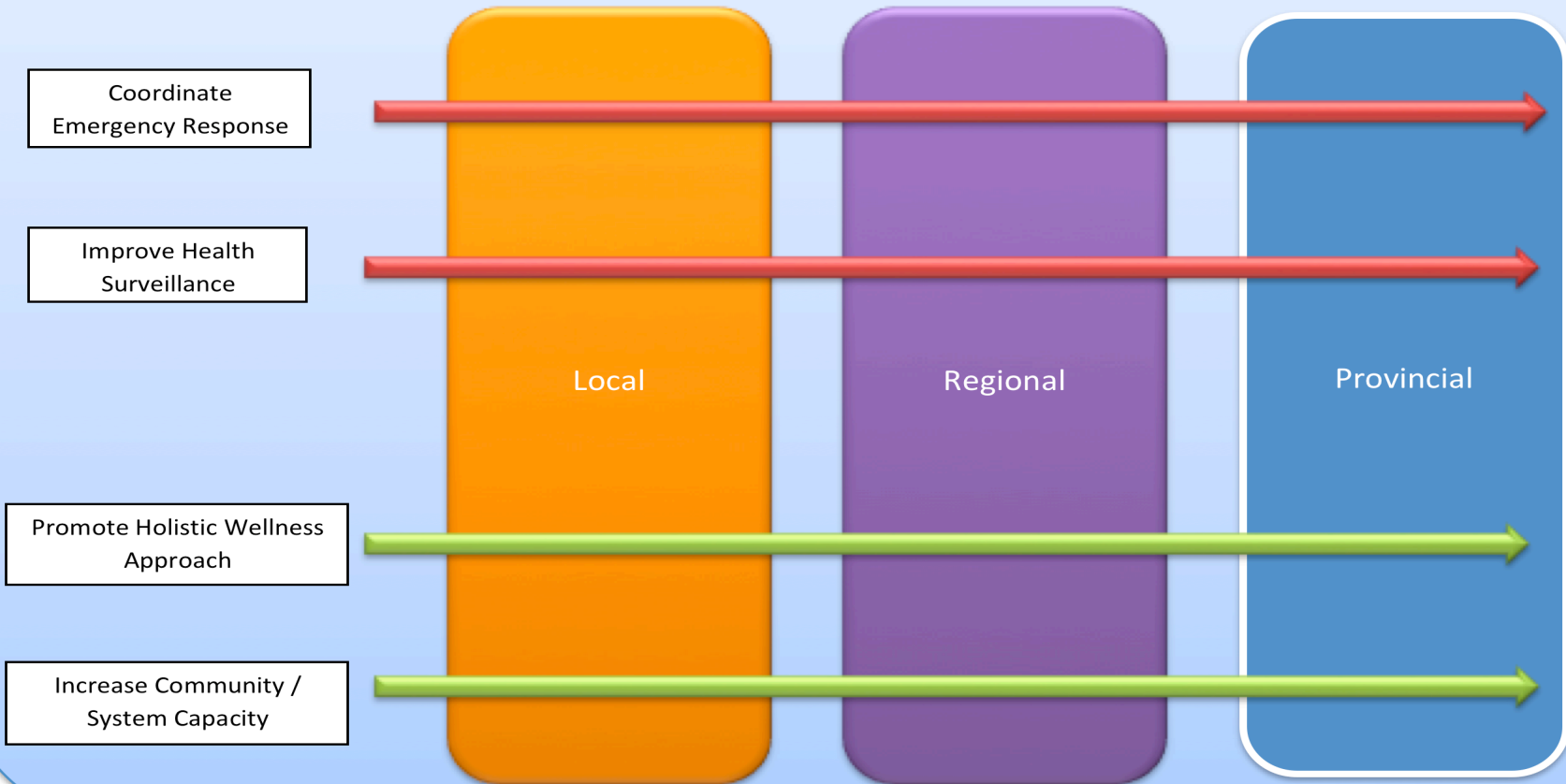
Sto:lo Nation
ASCIRT (Serving
11 communities)



Supporting mental wellness & suicide prevention in communities

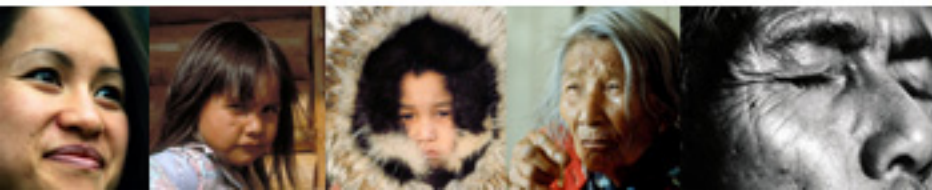


Challenges & Opportunities



First Nations Medical Officer role in suicide prevention & crisis response

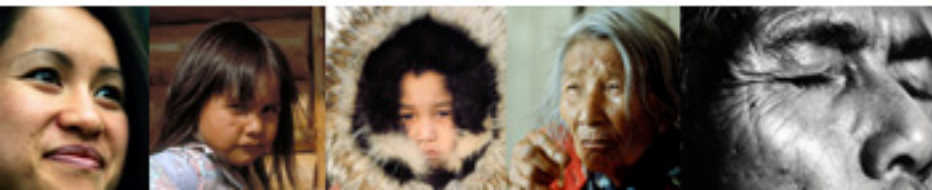
- Health Officer's Council April 2012: responding to suicide clusters
 - Short term: Suicide crisis response
 - Medium-long term: Mental wellness promotion & suicide prevention planning
 - Surveillance & health assessment



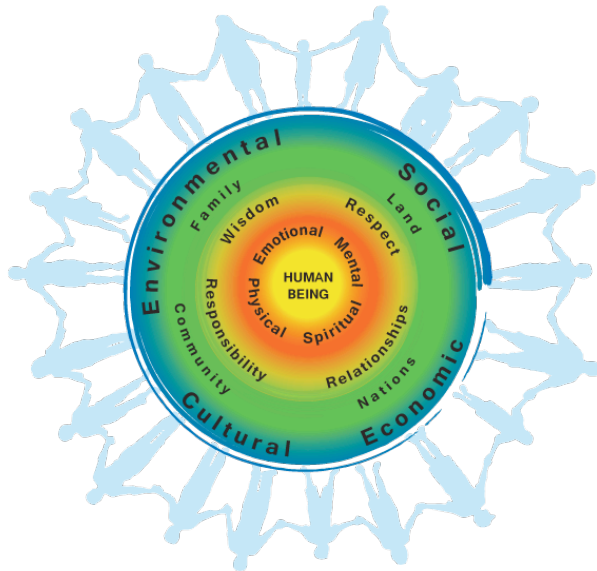
Responding to mental health emergencies



- Emphasis on inter-sectoral, interagency activity
- Consistent re-evaluation & updating
- Responsive to community resiliency

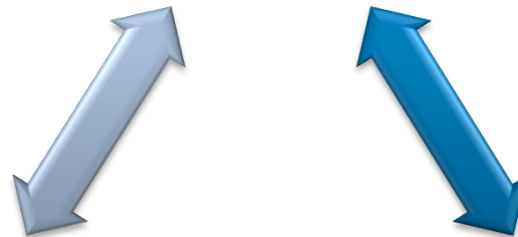


First Nations Medical Officer Roles



Health Surveillance

- Baseline health assessment & surveillance
- Measuring impact

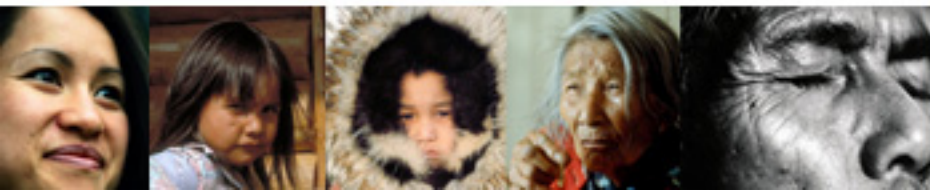


Emergency Response

- Response coordination
- Communication
- Intersectoral collaboration

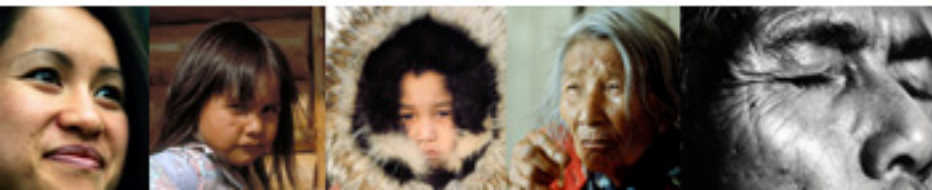
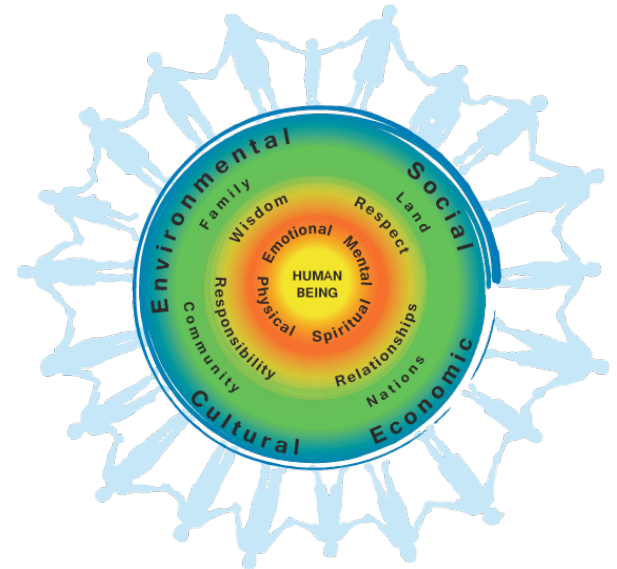
Health Promotion

- Upstream approaches
- Effective practices
- Community capacity



A path forward . . .

- Prioritize mental health & wellness
- First Nations Medical Officer leadership in responding to mental health emergencies & suicide prevention
 - Inter-sectoral coordination
 - Surveillance
 - Policy & program planning
- Align & coordinate public health & mental health service delivery



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