

Pandemic-proof Cancer Screening:

Using HPV self-screening to put cervix
health into the hands of First Nations and
Métis communities in the North

Featuring Speakers: Dr. Terri Aldred, Dr. Sheona Mitchell-Foster,
Katina Pollard, Marion Erickson, & Ally Dick

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Excellence in
Indigenous Health



Pandemic-proof Cancer Screening

**Using HPV self-screening
to put cervix health into
the hands of First
Nations and Métis
communities in the
North**



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

**BC
CAN
CER**



UNBC UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Acknowledgements

- This work was done on First Nation's traditional and unceded territories and among Chartered Métis communities
- Without their welcome this work would not be possible



Why the north?



Image: Wet'suwet'en
traditional territory;
Wedzin kwa River



Cervical cancer is preventable

The HPV vaccine protects for 90% of cervical cancer.

Regular screening can prevent cancer by detecting it at an early stage.



What causes cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which is passed through sexual contact (sex, skin to skin contact).



About 80% people who have had sexual contact will have an HPV infection at some point in their lives.

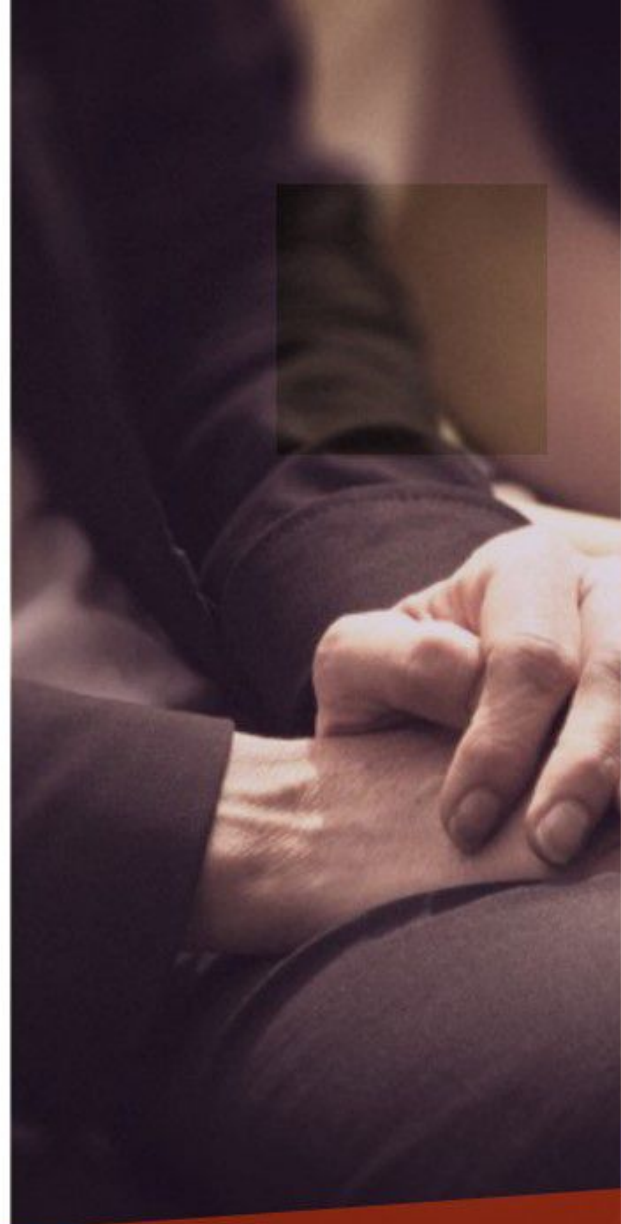
Most times HPV clears without a person ever knowing they had it.



What is cervical screening

Pap Testing

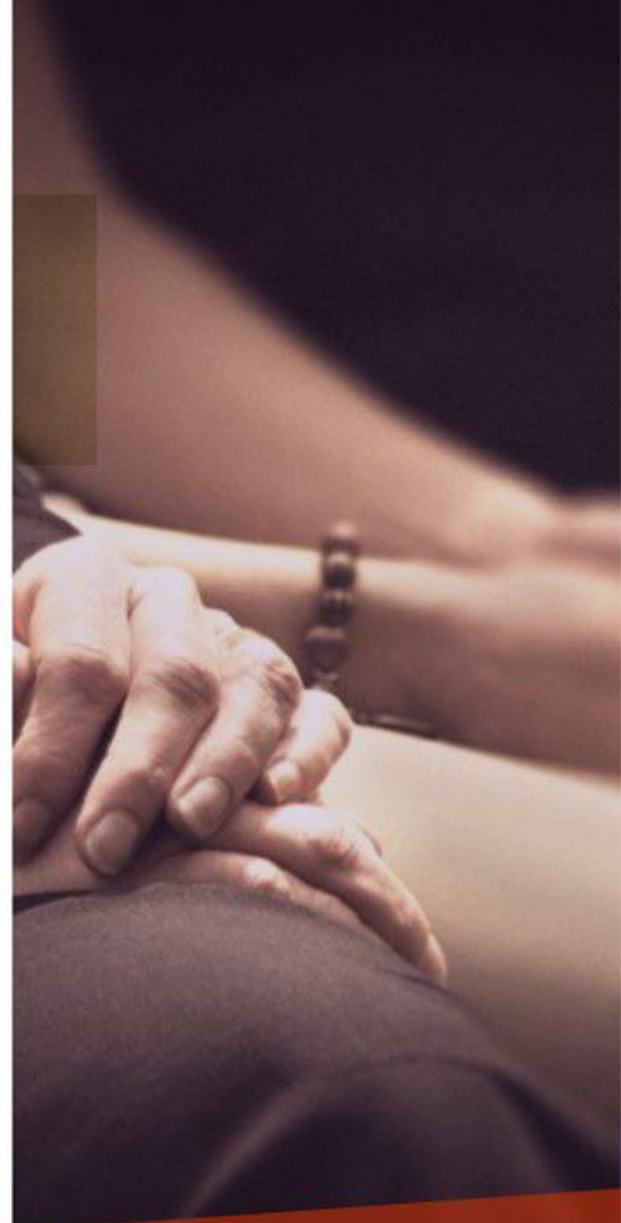
- Clinician (a doctor or trained nurse) performs a pelvic exam, collects cells from your cervix with a small brush
- Sample goes to the lab to be examined for cell abnormalities
- Abnormal results indicate the need for additional follow-up



What is cervical screening

HPV Testing

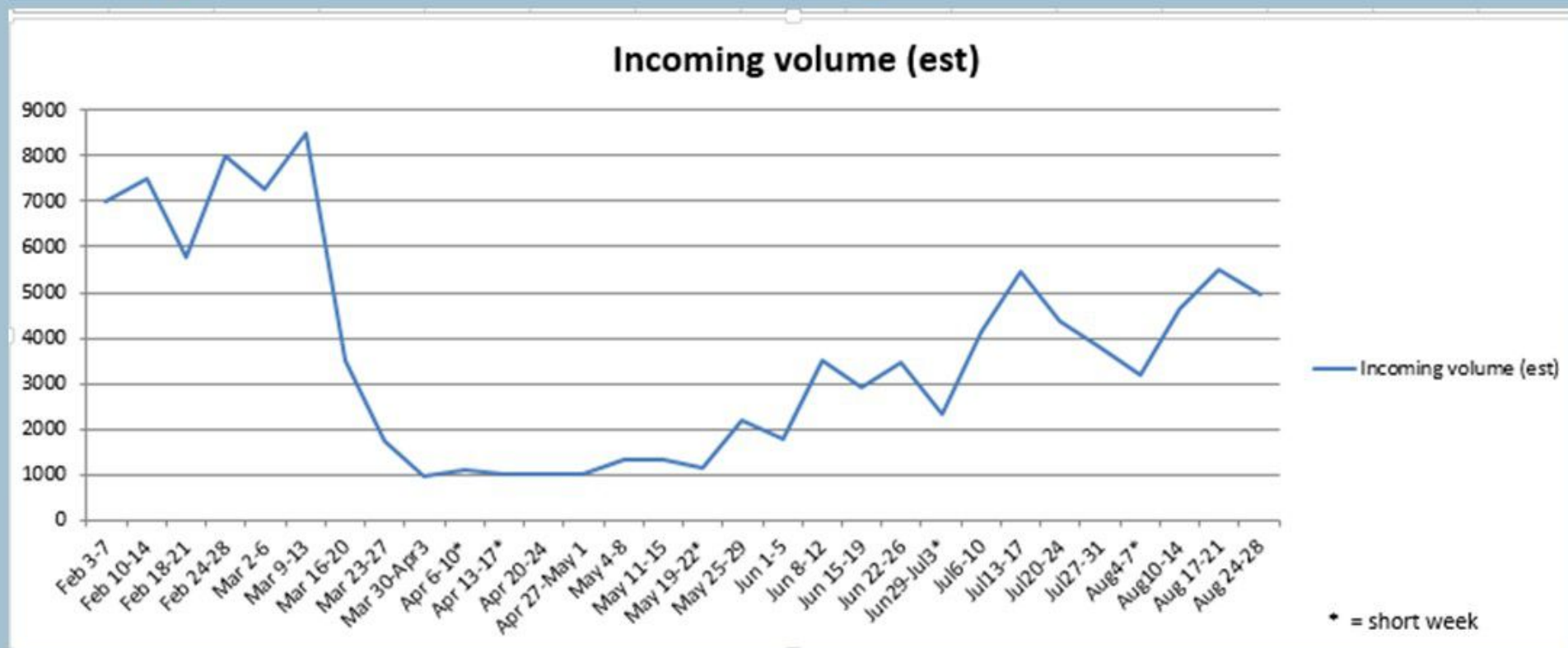
- Can be done by a clinician, or by yourself (i.e., self-screening)
- Uses a small brush to collect cells close to the cervix
- Sample goes to the lab, and is tested for HPV
- If a high-risk type of HPV is detected, then further follow-up will be recommended



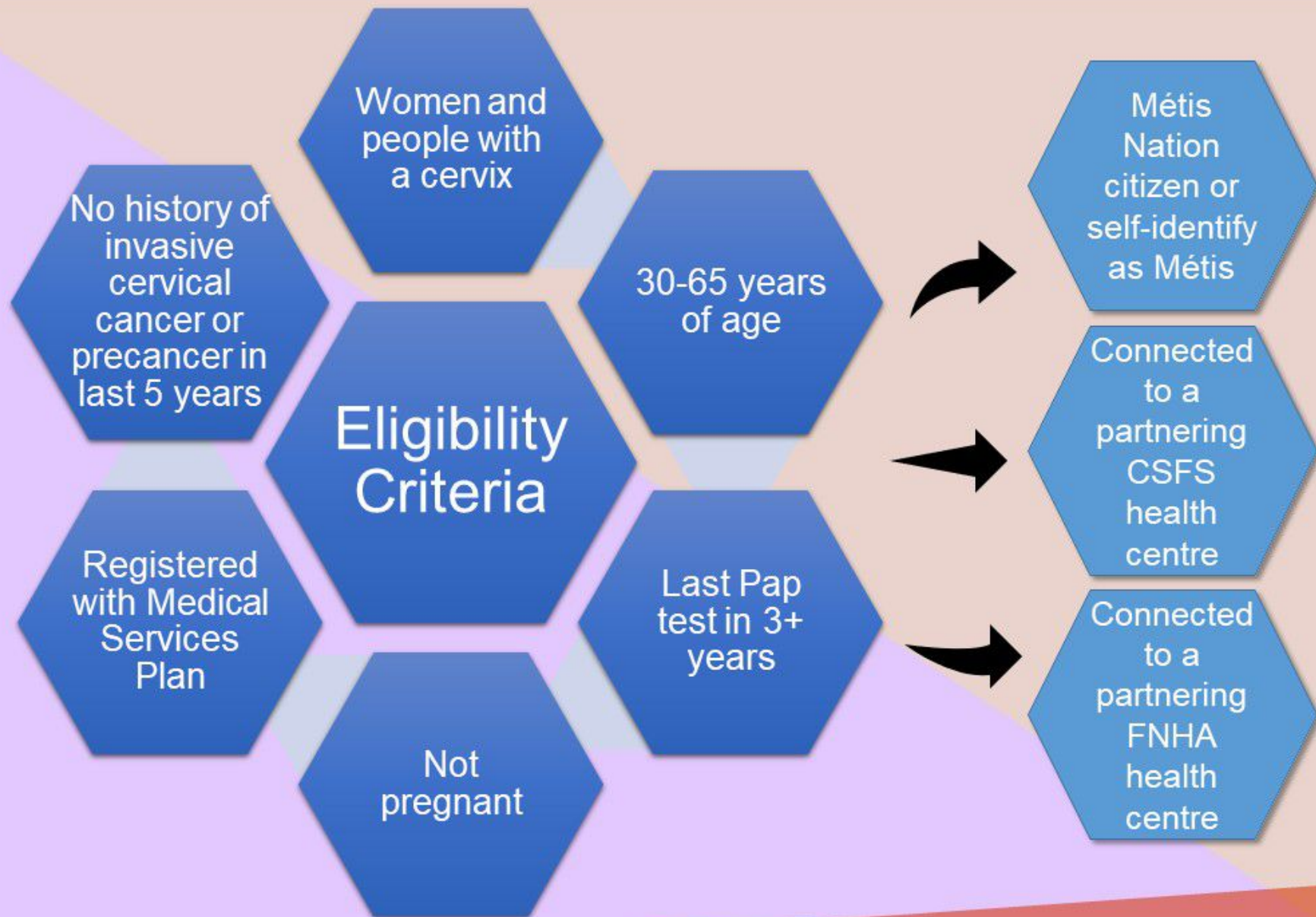
Current screening rates in BC

- ❑ In 2018, the average screening rate was 68%.
- ❑ Of those individuals who were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer in 2017, 59% had either not screened in 5 years or had never been screened.
- ❑ First Nations women were found to have higher incidence in cervical cancer than non-First Nations women
- ❑ We have no data yet available on Métis individuals diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- ❑ We need approaches to improve access to cervical cancer screening in Indigenous communities.

Pap Test Volume by Week



BC Cancer Cervical Cancer Screening Program

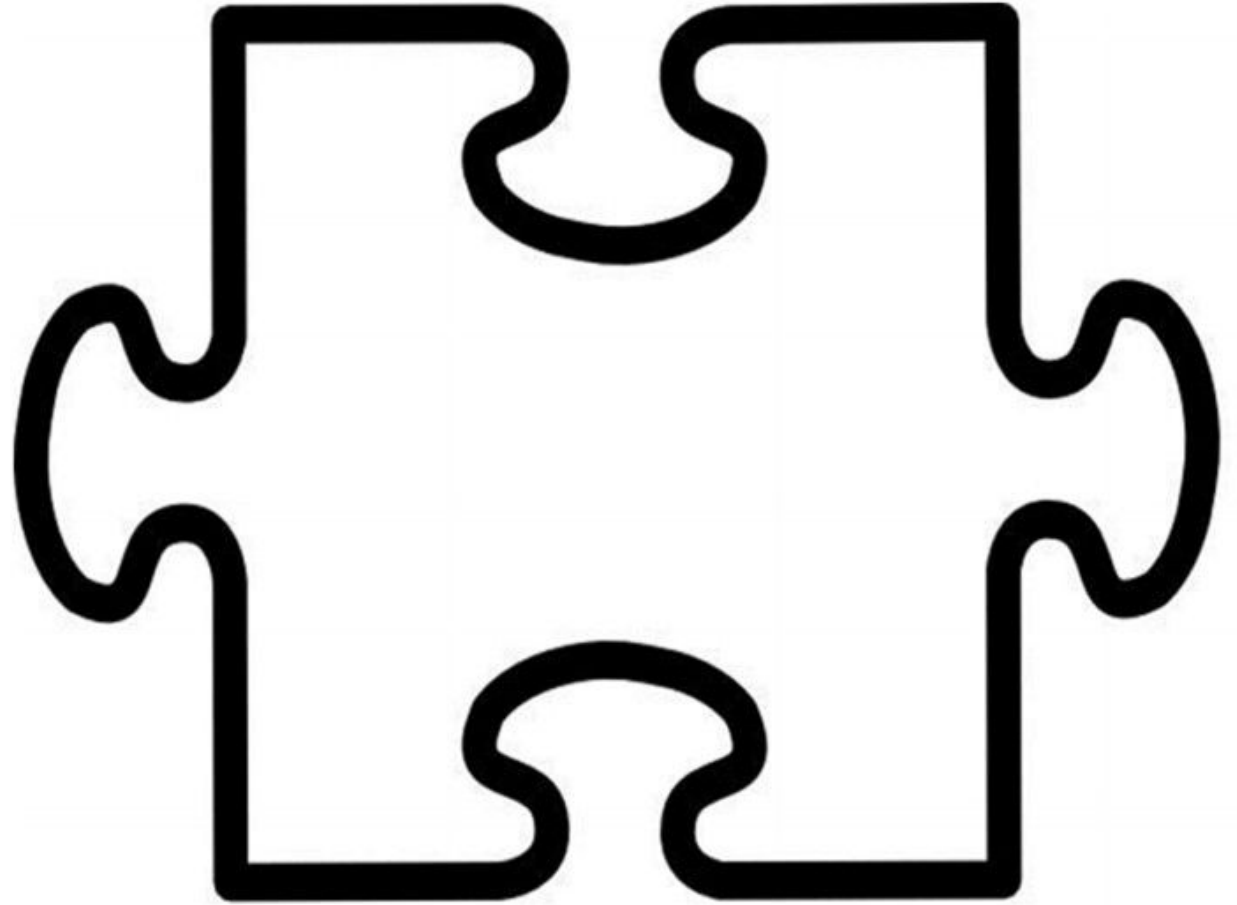


HPV Self-Collection Projects

A collaborative effort between the University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, and communities located throughout Northern BC.

Community partners include Carrier Sekani Family Services, the First Nations Health Authority and Métis Nation British Columbia.





MNBC and HPV Self-Collection



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA



Who are Métis?





MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chartered Communities

- ① Alberni Clayquot Métis Association
- ② Boundary Métis Community Association
- ③ Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association
- ④ Chilliwack Métis Association
- ⑤ Columbia Valley Métis Association
- ⑥ Cowichan Valley Métis Association
- ⑦ Elk Valley Métis Association
- ⑧ Fraser Valley Métis Association
- ⑨ Ft. St. John Métis Society
- ⑩ Golden Ears Métis Society
- ⑪ Kelowna Métis Association
- ⑫ Kootenay South Métis Society
- ⑬ Métis Nation Columbia River Society
- ⑭ Métis Nation New Caledonia Society (Vanderhoof)
- ⑮ Mid-Island Métis Nation Association
- ⑯ MIKI'SIW Métis Association
- ⑰ Moccasin Flat's Métis Society
- ⑱ Nelson & Area Métis Society
- ⑲ Nicola Valley & District Métis Society
- ⑳ North Cariboo Métis Association
- ㉑ North East Métis Association
- ㉒ North Fraser Métis Association
- ㉓ North Island Métis Association
- ㉔ Northwest BC Métis Association
- ㉕ Nova Métis Heritage Association
- ㉖ Powell River Métis Society
- ㉗ Prince George Métis Community Association
- ㉘ Prince Rupert & District Métis Society
- ㉙ River of the Peace Métis Society
- ㉚ Rocky Mountain Métis Association
- ㉛ Salmon Arm Métis Association
- ㉜ South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association
- ㉝ The Métis Nation of Greater Victoria Association
- ㉞ Tri-River Métis Association
- ㉟ Two Rivers Métis Society
- ㊱ Vermillion Forks Métis Association
- ㊲ Vernon & District Métis Association
- ㊳ Waceya Métis Society

Northern Communities

Prince Rupert
Smithers
Terrace

Vanderhoof
Prince George
Quesnel

Chetwynd
Hudson's Hope
Fort St John
Dawson Creek



This map is a living document and is intended to be amended and refreshed over time. This map is the property of Métis Nation BC and may not be reproduced without written permission.

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Provincial Map Scale: 1:2,750,000; Print Map Scale: 1:1,000,000
Created: April 2005 by MetisNationBC.ca
Data Sources: Province of British Columbia, Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Esri, DeLorme, GeoEye, (GeoEye), IGN, NOAA, CSA, MITI, GEBCO, (IGN), and others P Corp.

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MNBC's HPV self-collection journey

2017

- Discussions with MNBC
- Communities identified for the project

2019

- HPV Self-Collection Project Assistant hired with MNBC
- Community Engagement begins!

2020

- HPV Self-collection launched in Terrace and Smithers
- Training of Physicians, MOA's, and Champions
- Continued communications with community

2021

- Registrations begin
- Ongoing Communications to promote the project
- Ongoing Community Engagements



MNBC

Recruitment platforms



- Métis Chartered Community Pages
 - Newspaper articles
- UNBC Northern Medical Program communications
 - Northern Health communication team
 - Community Engagements
 - Mailing Project Information Letters



MNBC- Online Platform

www.cervixcheck.ca



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[HPV TESTING](#) ▾

[PRIVACY](#) ▾

Cervical cancer screening
mailed to your home



Sign Up



Get a kit



Collect
sample



Mail to lab



Get results

Create an Account

WITH VALID ACCESS CODE

 Existing Users

Email Address

Password

Sign-In

[Forgot your Password?](#)

1. Create an account
2. Enter unique access code
3. Consent online
4. Verify your e-mail address
5. Eligibility confirmation
6. Collection kit will be mailed to you & pick up options available