

**Departmental Action Plan in response to audit findings and recommendations contained in
Report 7, “Establishing the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia” of the Fall 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
Health Canada – Updated August 2, 2016**

Introduction:

The OAG produced a report entitled, *Establishing the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia*, which was included in the Fall 2015 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

Health Canada’s (HC) First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia (BC) were the primary focus for this report which was planned as a study but also includes an audit.

The objective of the study was to inform Parliament about how through their efforts, the FNHA and HC overcame the structural impediments identified in the 2011 June Status Report of the Auditor General of Canada. The objective of the audit was to determine whether the FNHA had established and implemented selected elements of an accountability and governance framework.

The report includes one recommendation for HC to work with the FNHA to ensure that a sound accountability and governance framework is implemented, and five recommendations for the FNHA to address gaps in its conflict of interest, allegations of misconduct, staffing, and remuneration policies.

Auditor General’s Recommendation	Response	Actions and Timelines	Progress Update
<p>Health Canada should work with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to ensure that a sound accountability and governance framework is established and implemented, in keeping with requirements set out in the Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance.</p>	<p>Health Canada expects that all of the accountability and governance requirements set out in the Tripartite Framework Agreement and Canada Funding Agreement to be fully satisfied. To date, the FNHA has been diligent in providing Health Canada with quality and timely deliverables against all its obligations and meeting the accountability and governance requirements set out in the Framework Agreement. In a spirit of continuous improvement, Health Canada’s intention is to continue collaborating with the FNHA to achieve the highest management standard set in its own policies.</p> <p>In addition, the FNHA and Health Canada have formally established processes in order to advance joint priorities, monitor progress in resolving issues and working towards continuous improvement. In</p>	<p>Deliverable: The addition of a formal provision in the executive operational agenda to for an annual SADM-FNIHB/FNHA Board Meeting to discuss accountability and governance.</p> <p>Expected Completion Date: June 2016</p>	<p>In discussions with the FNHA, a provision was added to the 2015-16 executive agenda entitled, <i>Shared Vision and Common Understanding</i>, to include an annual meeting between the SADM and the FNHA Board to discuss governance and accountability. The first meeting took place on February 4, 2016.</p> <p>The 2016/17 Shared Vision and Common Understanding agenda includes a joint priority to provide oversight and leadership by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monitoring the progress of the actions taken in response to the OAG Study entitled, <i>Services to First Nations: Establishing the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia</i>; and, 2. sharing information and expertise to support the development of the OAG

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	<p>response to the observations and recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General, a specific provision will be included in the annual executive operational agenda (<i>Shared Vision and Common Understanding</i>) between Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Senior Assistant Deputy Minister (SADM) and the First Nations Health Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO), which will formalize the Annual ADM meeting with the FNHA Board to discuss Accountability and Governance.</p> <p>Health Canada will also assist the FNHA in accessing departmental expertise to finalize the development and implementation of its Human Resources Policies.</p>	<p>Deliverable: The SADM-FNIHB and the FNHA CEO to review the revised FNHA’s Human Resources Policy Framework.</p> <p>Expected Completion Date: November 2017</p>	<p>requirement for a FNHA Work Plan.</p> <p>The FNHA provided the SADM-FNIHB with a copy of its Work Plan that outlined the OAG findings and the FNHA’s proposed strategies to address the recommendations and revise their Human Resources Policy Framework. The SADM reviewed the Work Plan and provided advice and suggestions to the FNHA on February 15, 2016. The FNHA has subsequently shared with FNIHB their revised and updated Work Plan.</p> <p>The FNHA has updated its conflict of interest, respectful workplace, and whistleblowing policies. These policies have been reviewed and approved by the FNHA Board.</p>

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			<p>The policies are available in the FNHA’s Corporate Policy Library and have been shared with the SADM-FNIHB.</p>