

## NEWS RELEASE

---

For Immediate Release  
June 2, 2016

### New funding available to address HIV and hepatitis C in northern B.C.

Northern Health has provided an additional \$180,000 as part of a Request for Proposal program for community partners and First Nations health organizations to enhance HIV and hepatitis C services in communities across Northern BC. With this additional funding, Northern Health has now made approximately \$1.06 million available in 2016/17 to enhance service delivery across northern B.C. and to create a regional network of resources and services to support those living with HIV and Hepatitis C and help achieve an AIDS-free generation.

Successful projects will have a focus on their community's needs while providing a foundation of services that will make it easier for people living with HIV or hepatitis C to get the help they need. Northern Health is looking for proposals that will:

- Prevent and reduce the risk of HIV and hepatitis C transmission;
- Demonstrate partnerships that will enable quick and easy to access testing; and
- Assist people who are living with HIV or hepatitis C, including supports of those who choose to start and maintain treatment.

The funding, in part, comes from the Province's STOP HIV initiative and is being made available by Northern Health's Chronic Diseases Program and by Population and Public Health departments. This program has been developed in partnership with currently contracted service providers and in close consultation with the First Nations Health Authority.

Northern Health currently works with four service providers to deliver HIV and hepatitis C programs mostly in Prince George and satellite services in Smithers and Fort St. John. The request for proposals will include a review of current service delivery.

Interested organizations can find the Request for Proposals on the Northern Health website or at [www.HIV101.ca](http://www.HIV101.ca). Proposals are due by July 3, and contracted services will begin on October 1, 2016.

Media Contact Northern Health Media Line: 1 (877) 961-7724