



PILAR Tobacco Project

Promoting Indigenous Led Action on Respecting Tobacco Project

ADAMS LAKE COMMUNITY EVENT

What:

PILAR tobacco project

Where:

Adams Lake Band Hall

When:

July 22, 2019

Agenda

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| 5:15pm | Welcoming and blessing |
| 5:30pm | Dinner will be served |
| 6:00pm | Introduction |
| 6:15pm | PILAR Tobacco Project Presentation - Kelley |
| 6:35pm | Questions |
| 7:10pm | First door prizes |
| 7:15pm | Mapping workshop |
| 8:45pm | Main door prizes |

Did you know?

PILAR aims to better understand commercial tobacco use in Indigenous communities to support health and wellness. The project is implemented through a partnership between the First Nations Health Authority and Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

Promoting
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PILAR News

Promoting Indigenous Led Action on Respecting Tobacco Project

May 2019

Issue No.1

Welcome to PILAR!



PILAR Project Team

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Promoting Indigenous Led Action on Respecting (PILAR) Tobacco Project. We are excited to introduce the project to you and provide an update on progress so far.

Over the last eighteen months, we've been busy getting the project up and running. We got ethics approval from SFU, and have been reading everything we can get our hands on about tobacco use in Indigenous communities. We conducted 12 scoping interviews with people around the province working on health and wellness initiatives with Indigenous communities. Respondents told us about the importance of developing ongoing relationships with communities, understanding tobacco use within its wider cultural context, and adopting a holistic view of health and wellness. These insights were immensely useful in conceptualizing our research approach.

We then shared information about the project with First Nations communities around the province and established partnerships with five communities (see reverse side for details). A Community Research Associate was hired in each community, and we are now planning our first community engagement meetings.

If you would like more information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thanks for reading our very first newsletter! Please feel free to share it widely and send us any questions or comments.

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PILAR MSc Student Wins Top Scholarship

PILAR MSc Student Sheryl Thompson has been awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship. Sheryl's thesis research will include conducting a process evaluation of PILAR's approach to community engagement.





Five First Nations Communities Join PILAR

To reflect the cultural diversity in the province in our community selection, we established partnerships with one community from each of the five FNHA regions. The size and location varies in our selection, representing small to large as well as urban, suburban, and rural communities. We are excited to begin working with these communities over the next few months.

The **Adams Lake Indian Band** is in the Interior Health region, on the north-west side of the Little Shuswap Lake. It is comprised of a number of Indian reserves and has the longest running Indigenous language immersion school in western Canada.

The **Tla'amin Nation** is located north of the city of Powell River, along Highway 101. The nation is a medium sized rural community with traditional territory spanning the northern part of the Sunshine Coast, extending down both sides of the Salish Sea.

The **Cowichan Tribes** is home for Coast Salish peoples in the Cowichan Valley region of Vancouver Island. It is the largest single First Nation band in BC, and has seven traditional villages.

The **Katzie First Nation** is the band government of the Katzie people of the Lower Fraser Valley region. The Katzie Nation is a small suburban community that shares their language, hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓, with the peoples living near the Salish Sea.

The **Witset First Nation** (formerly known as Moricetown Band) is located in and around Smithers, BC. The band is part of the Wets'uwet'en people and the name means 'the people of the lower drainage.'



Community Research Associates Participate in Training

In March 2019, six Community Research Associates from five BC First Nations communities attended a training workshop at the First Nations Health Authority and Simon Fraser University as part of the PILAR Tobacco Project led by Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Kelley Lee and Dr. Evan Adams from FNHA.

Laura Evans (Adams Lake Indian Band), Edward Joe (Cowichan Tribes), Jamie Pierre and Kristina Leon (Katzie First Nation), Shelby George (Tla'amin First Nation), and Warner Naziel (Witset First Nation) will work closely with the project team to understand perspectives and needs related to tobacco use within their communities.

"I am pleased to welcome our new team members who will play a key role in the project's activities within the five communities," says Lee. "With the FNHA, we are committed to understanding how the public health community can better support Indigenous health and wellness through engagement with communities in research projects such as this one."

Project findings will support the development of community-led and culturally appropriate approaches to commercial tobacco use.