



Participants from the five reserve communities:

Cathryn Aune, Nurse—
Westbank First Nation
Kelsey Rix, Nurse—Westbank
First Nation
Deborah Andreychuk, Nurse—
Penticton First Nation
Shari Hughson, Nurse—
XeniGwetin First Nation
Camilla Williams, Nurse—
Upper Nicola First Nations

Participants from the Interior Health Authority:

Shannon Campbell, ER/ICU-
Kamloops General Hospital
Colleen Driscoll , Maternity
Nurse—Kootenay Lake Hospital
Pam Rorie , Public Health
Nurse—Penticton Health Centre



Nurses share experience in Nursing Exchange Program

The Nursing Exchange Program was facilitated through the Aboriginal Health Network, Interior Health Authority. Denise Taylor, Director of Aboriginal Health, and Brenda Baptiste, Aboriginal Program Lead provided the oversight for the project. Elaine Herbert MSW was hired to organize and implement the Nursing Exchange Program for the Interior Health Region.

There were a total of eight nurses who participated in the program, five from the reserve communities and three from Interior Health Authority. Nurses from the reserve communities included: Cathryn Aune and Kelsey Rix from Westbank First Nations; Deborah Andreychuk from the Penticton First Nation; Shari Hughson from the XeniGwetin First Nation; and Camilla Williams from the Upper Nicola First Nations community.

The on-reserve nurses were more focused in their objectives in terms of practice ideas and information, for example, ostomy/wound care, diabetes education and mental health. “The program was very useful for me”, stated Cathryn Aune. “My experience was a day-long shadow of Mimi Stuart the Enterstomal/Wound Care Nurse.. It was interesting to see what she did and it helped me make connections that will help in my work”. The IHA nurses were more interested in how nursing was practiced on reserve and wanted to learn more about how Aboriginal/First Nations interacted with the health system.

The nurses who participated felt the program was successful in the fact that they were able to practice in specific areas and also learn the difference between on reserve and off reserve practice. The nurses would encourage others to participate in this exchange.

The program was successful in raising awareness on how nursing is practiced on reserve communities, provided the

on-reserve nurses with very specific practice information that would help their clients, and opened communication between the IHA health care system and the on-reserve nurses.

Some of the recommendations was to continue the exchange program, consider sharing information and education with on-reserve nurses such as access to electronic medical files in order to provide better services to their clients. Communicate the Exchange Program as early and as wide as possible so that all nurses know about this program and have opportunity to participate.



NAMING CEREMONY—UPPER NICOLA INDAIN BAND

The Nurses completed Nursing Exchange Reports and commented on the following learning opportunities:

- Dental Health and dental hygienists
- STI clinic for youth up to 25 years
- Visited small communities and had opportunity to see first hand challenges nurses have working on reserve.
- Working with the Enterstomal/ Wound Care Nurse at KGH
- Gateway Nursing Aid responsibilities