

Health & Well Being

Fraser Thompson Indian Service Society (FTISS) and Nlaka'pamux Services Society (NSS) were formed with community Board members on an interim basis to meet program funding requirements while providing health and well-being services to the Nlaka'pamux. Provincially controlled entities are not the ultimate way in which Nlaka'pamux jurisdiction will be exercised. While these Societies still function, exercising Nlaka'pamux jurisdiction is happening concurrently, for example, ShchEma-mee-tkt exercises Nlaka'pamux jurisdiction over connection and well-being of Nlaka'pamux children and families.

The NNTC is opposed to delegated authority. The Nlaka'pamux Nation has inherent jurisdiction, not merely authority granted by another government. This has greatly influenced how our children and families are cared for. The NNTC is instrumental in the development of the ShchEma-mee.tkt. ShchEma-mee.tkt is a culturally based and prevention focussed Nlaka'pamux child and family wellness model. ShchEma-mee.tkt asserts our identity as Nlaka'pamux and our inherent right of self-determination over all things in our territory, including our children. NNTC co-developed "Wrapping Our Ways Around Them" – a transformational approach and guidebook to the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* for Indigenous communities and those working under the Act. "We are Nlaka'pamux" is a children's book developed by the NNTC and ShchEma-mee.tkt.

Fraser Thompson Indian Services Society (FTISS) was incorporated as a non-profit society in March 2006. FTISS Health is one of the program areas that the Society oversees. FTISS health receives funding from the First Nation Health Authority to deliver a broad range of health programming in the communities of Oregon Jack Creek and Boothroyd Bands (e.g., HeadStart, patient travel, addictions and mental health programming, youth programming, drinking water, etc.).

The work undertaken by FTISS is complemented by fundraising and program development efforts of the Nlaka'pamux Services Society (NSS) which, over the years, has raised in excess of 1 million dollars for programming initiatives which range from grief and loss programming for children and youth, to falls and injury prevention, to home improvements for safer living, to supporting a canoe initiative. The website <https://www.safeforelders.com/> provides further information about the work being done.

NNTC works towards improved health services. The delivery of health services and programs is complex. The First Nations Health Authority took over services previously provided by Health Canada. The First Nations Health Council is a body for political representation and advocacy. There is a letter of understanding between Interior Health and the communities of the Nlaka'pamux Nation for provincial health services delivery. NNTC participates at all levels possible. At present, institutions/committees have been created which are not fully consistent with NNTC perspectives but are a step along the journey. The goal is to achieve better health outcomes for our people. NNTC is working to address these challenges so that our people will have proper access to needed healthcare.

NNTC is involved, through the Fire Recovery Task Force, with developing enhanced health care services to be made available locally to the Nlaka'pamux. Enhanced health care is one of the most urgent needs for those impacted by the wildfire of June 30, 2021. Enhanced health care includes outreach, basic financial supports, gatherings, education, communications, clinical services and health supports.



NNTC was instrumental in the creation of and continues to provide administrative support to Han Knakst Tsitxw (Helping Hands) Society. Han Knakst Tsitxw Society facilities exist to provide safe, temporary accommodation in a culturally supportive environment to Nlaka'pamux and non-Nlaka'pamux women and their dependent children who are in crisis as a result of physical, emotional, mental and/or spiritual abuse/violence.

Han Knakst Tsitxw Society serves all community members in the Society's mandated area (Spuzzum to Ashcroft) and seeks to alleviate the effects of family violence by advocating a holistic approach that encompasses the entire family.

The HKTS Women's Transition House is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Please call or text:

778-254-0217 Main House Cell

778-254-8582 Outreach

778-254-7354 Domestic Violence Prevention