



As part of the primary care transformation strategy, the NNPBC Nurse Practitioner Provincial Initiatives Program delivers a Regional Leadership Program, Practice Support Program, and Reimbursement Programs for NPs. The Regional Leadership Program is a collaborative initiative between Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) that includes an Indigenous Provincial Lead and NP leader in each of the five health regions across the province to support contracted NPs working in Primary Care Networks (PCN) settings.

The Indigenous Provincial Lead provides support for NPs on Primary Care Service contracts within PCNs and the First Nations-led Primary Care Initiative (FNPCI) which aims to improve access to primary health-care services for Indigenous peoples across BC in a way that is culturally safe and closer to home.

NNPBC, Provincial Initiatives Program has recruited **Tarah Reece from Victoria, British Columbia**, to serve in this transformational Provincial Lead role.

Tarah, an Indigenous person from Lil'wat Nation and Nurse Practitioner, is dedicated in providing culturally safe and trauma-informed care to Indigenous peoples to address health disparities and barriers to wellness. She recognizes the immediate need to foster a more collaborative approach in reducing patient, provider and allied health knowledge gaps and underutilization of the health resources and benefits that are available for the Indigenous people in BC.

Some of Tarah's responsibilities include:

- Building and maintaining relationships with Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous PCN partners alike.
- Providing leadership and expert advice on NP clinical practice as it pertains to Indigenous health care.
- Playing an integral part in creating quality practice environments by liaising, influencing, and consulting with various partners to promote and advance NP professional practice/clinical education with the aim of successful integration of NPs into a team-based primary health care system within Primary Care Networks and FNPCIs, specifically with the FNHA as they develop new First Nations Primary Health Care Centers in rural and urban locations across the province.
- Providing direct support, coaching and mentorship, ensuring the implementation and integration of NPs within the team based PCNS/ FNPCIs is in alignment with the Provincial primary health care strategy.
- Representing NNPBC and individual Nurse Practitioners on behalf of NNPBC with key partners/stakeholders within Primary Care Networks, maintaining a provincial lens.





INDIGENOUS PROVINCIAL LEAD



In addition to these responsibilities, Tarah aims to drive measurable and sustainable change for Indigenous communities by leveraging provincial relationships and sharing her Indigenous knowledge and experiences working within Indigenous communities with contracted NPs serving Indigenous peoples. This strategy will also enable more confident nurse practitioners, that are supported and equipped to care for Indigenous patients in the context of the past historical trauma and future of improved health outcomes.

Tarah works as a family NP at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, offering primary care to both urban and rural Indigenous peoples. In both roles Tarah draws on her previous experience as an Indigenous NP Counselor with NNPBC, Indigenous advisor with the Nursing Policy Secretariat and Indigenous curriculum consultant for the Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Victoria. Outside of work, Tarah is a wife and proud mother of two young boys also with origins to Lil'wat Nation. Her passions include travel, meeting new people and learning about new cultures and traditions.



Art by Rose S., Tsartlip Nation.