

# Topic: Health Equity

Report  
to the Board of Directors

Highlights from the  
Community

Fall 2015



## Meeting Details

A total of 3 regional Local Health Involvement Group (LHIG) meetings took place between September & October 2015 (2 English consultations/1 French)

Presentations were made by Stephanie Verhoeven, Ales Morga and Claudette Lahaie to introduce the topic of Health Equity and to examine regional data from our Community Health Assessment.

### Total attendance:

24 community representatives

4 board members

5 staff members

## Themes/Thoughts

1. Fictional stories about individuals in our region were shared with meeting attendees.

In response, three main themes emerged when asked how the health authority should respond to ensure equity for specific people.

- **Listen to individuals.** Professionals often think they know what people want or need. Involve individuals and families when making decisions about their care to find out what they truly need to be healthier.
- **Focus on partnerships.** Many communities already have resources in place. Connect with those resources to identify community leaders who can help provide information about the area.
- **Make use of volunteers.** Many people in the community would like to help if they knew how to participate.

2. Regional data was presented about Premature Mortality Rates, SEFI (socioeconomic factor index), and Diabetes Rates in map format.

Following the presentation, attendees identified key thoughts to present to the Board of Directors. A few of the recommendations were:

- Look at what you are currently doing to strengthen health equity and build upon those initiatives.
- Make sure to use the Community Health Assessment for data but don't forget about the patient voice.
- The data clearly shows health status inequities in Aboriginal communities. Keep these communities in mind when making decisions.
- Communities aren't always interested or willing to participate in health initiatives. Building relationships by identifying community leaders will make a larger impact.
- Develop a multi-pronged engagement strategy to reach all residents. No one effort will do the job.

## Feedback from Participants

"I was impressed with how knowledgeable the group was about the health care system. They asked good questions about my presentation and I felt like they really understood the concept about health equity."

"I was really pleased by two things: firstly, the level of engagement was very impressive and honestly more than I hoped for. The members seemed genuinely interested in discussing health equity in the context of our health services and communities. It was also obvious that significant relationship building with members of this new group has already begun and in doing so, all members felt comfortable to participate in the discussion."

"It was encouraging to realize how much community members support the notion of health equity. "