

Aboriginal Health Programs and Services

St. Paul's Hospital is proud to be a leading provider of culturally safe and sensitive health services in British Columbia. To help meet the unique needs of our Indigenous patients, the new St. Paul's will continue to ensure they have access to:

- An Aboriginal Health Team
- An Indigenous nurse practice leader
- An Indigenous patient navigator to assist with advocacy, translation and access to care and spiritual services
- Traditional healing practices and medicine

In our planning, we are partnering with Indigenous health organizations and direct-care providers to shape the types of programs and services that will be offered and connected to the new St. Paul's.

Providence Health Care (Providence) will continue to require senior leaders, program directors, emergency department staff and others to take Indigenous cultural safety training.

Local Indigenous culture and design elements will be incorporated into many aspects of the new hospital and campus. The hospital will house an All Nations Sacred Space to accommodate ceremonial practices on site, including smudging. Indigenous works of art will be showcased as part of our art program.

Opportunities to incorporate other features, such as healing gardens or wellness facilities, will be explored with our Indigenous planning partners and Vancouver Coastal Health.

The St. Paul's Redevelopment Project is striving to work closely with Indigenous communities and groups on these aspects of design planning.

We are continuing to foster our relationships with the First Nations Health Authority and other Indigenous organizations, and we are exploring opportunities to partner with community groups on health- and wellness-related initiatives.



Aboriginal health programs & services

In 2011, Providence officially formed its Aboriginal Health Team, integrating them within the urban health program. This team consists of the urban health program director, a nurse practitioner and a program assistant, and the program is a leading provider of culturally safe and sensitive services in the province.

On-site cultural services

In addition to its team, Providence also works with an on-site medicine man to provide appropriate healing and spiritual care as required by patients. Providence is one of the few centres in the province to provide this type of care. Care is supported through access to appropriate traditional medicine such as cedar, organic tobacco, sage and sweet grass. The Aboriginal Health Team provides support to staff, is on-call to be with patients and families at critical times in their life and engages community resources when required.

Culturally safe care

Providence continues to work towards providing culturally safe acute and outpatient care across all services and programs through staff training and employee support. More Providence employees have completed cultural safety training than in any other centre in the province.

continued on next page ...

Re-imagining St. Paul's with patients at the heart of care

The new St. Paul's is a bold plan to develop a new hospital and health campus that will transform the future of health care for British Columbians

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On-site cultural healing ceremonies and talking circles

Providence provides Yuwipi ceremonies (which is unique in North America to provide access to these ceremonies within a hospital) for all Providence acute, outpatient and community patients in an All Nations Sacred Space, which opened in 2013. These ceremonies often include traditional feasts, and involve community Aboriginal leaders. Aboriginal Health Team members also lead a weekly Talking Circle in the All Nations Sacred Space.

Research

- The Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS) is a multidisciplinary centre focused on research and research support activities across Providence services. With over 140 research staff, the centre conducts its own research across a range of disciplines and provides research services to the broader Providence community.
- The Cedar Project is a partnership between Indigenous leaders and health researchers at CHÉOS to examine vulnerability to HIV among Indigenous people who use drugs in Prince George and Vancouver. The findings from this study point to alarming patterns of historical trauma, childhood sexual abuse and vulnerability to sexual assault among at-risk Aboriginal young women in British Columbia.
- The recent appointment of the inaugural First Nations Health Authority Chair in Heart Health and Wellness at Providence and SFU will pose a significant opportunity to place a holistic, culturally sensitive focus on First Nations and Aboriginal people's cardiac health to drive research initiatives and improve care.

Vision for the new St. Paul's

Providence's vision for the new St. Paul's is to lead in the delivery of British Columbia's new model for health care by providing our patients with the highest quality, integrated, compassionate and patient-centred care, where and when they need it most.

Find out more about the project

More information about the St. Paul's Redevelopment Project is available on our website at thenewstpauls.ca.

You can also contact us by email at thenewstpauls@providencehealth.bc.ca