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Pathways to Building Cancer Education for First Nations Health Leaders

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Workshop Overview

- Who we are
- Introduce the Project and the intended goal
- Unpack what public health means in your community?
- Review the Cancer Landscape
- Share the Project Plan
- Share what you see are the knowledge gaps, skill and resource needs and wise practices

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First Nations Health Managers Association

- National, professional association serving the needs of those either working in or aspiring to health manager positions with First Nations organizations.
- Committed to excellence in expanding health management capacity for First Nations organizations.
- Responsible for providing **training**, **certification, and professional development** opportunities in First Nations health management.

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Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

- Guided by the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, CPAC works with partners across the country to improve cancer outcomes and access to high-quality care for all people in Canada.
- FNHMA signed a Partnership Agreement with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) in 2022.

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Project Goal

- To increase the capacity of First Nation health leaders by developing and implementing a comprehensive **public health workshop focused on the First Nations cancer journey**, including discussions related to access to screening and preventive services, while building in regional and jurisdictionally specific learning and information through workshop activities.

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FNHM Competency Framework

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PRIORITY 6

Culturally appropriate care closer to home

1. Recognize and reflect the First Nations wholistic approach to health and wellness.
2. Recognize and eliminate the impacts of racism within the system.
3. Provide equitable access to basic health supports and cancer services.
4. Provide more services closer to home and improve the journey for those who must travel to access care.
5. Improve understanding of cancer and the cancer journey.

PRIORITY 7

Peoples-specific, self-determined cancer care

1. Design and deliver First Nations-determined programs and services.
2. Reduce jurisdictional barriers.
3. Improve communication, navigation and coordination across the system.

PRIORITY 8

First Nations-, Inuit-, or Métis-governed research and data systems

1. Collect First Nations-specific data and set First Nations-specific indicators and targets.
2. Invest in First Nations research capacity.
3. Implement First Nations governance of the collection and use of data and research.

First Nations Specific Elements of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control 2019-2029

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What is Public Health?

- Public health is the organized effort of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness and premature death.
- It is a combination of programs, services and policies that protect and promote the health of all Canadians.

Canadian Public Health Association, 2025

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How is public health practiced in your community?

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The Canadian Cancer Landscape

- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada, ahead of heart disease and stroke.
- 2 in 5 Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Approximately 1 in 4 Canadians is expected to die of the disease (CCS 2023).
- However, not every type of cancer is the same. **Many forms of cancer are very treatable and have high rates of survival, if detected early. Many other forms can be prevented almost entirely, if the right proactive steps are taken.**

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Cancer in First Nations People in Ontario

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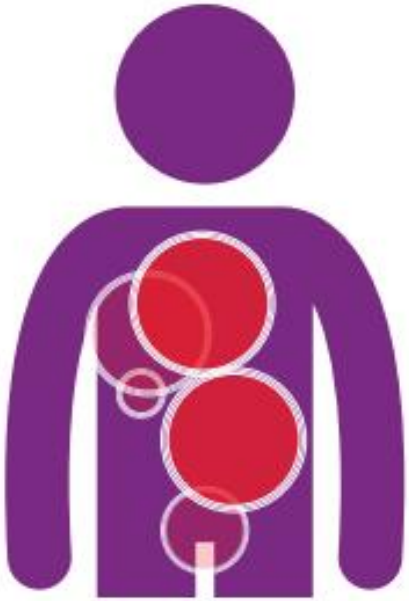
Cancer in First Nations People in Ontario

MOST COMMON CANCERS

The **most common** types of cancers among First Nations people are:



- Lung
- Colorectal
- Female Breast
- Prostate
- Kidney

CANCER INCIDENCE (NEW CASES)

New cancer cases in First Nations people compared to other people in Ontario:

Lung cancer
higher for First Nations people

Colorectal cancer
higher for First Nations people

Breast cancer
similar for First Nations women

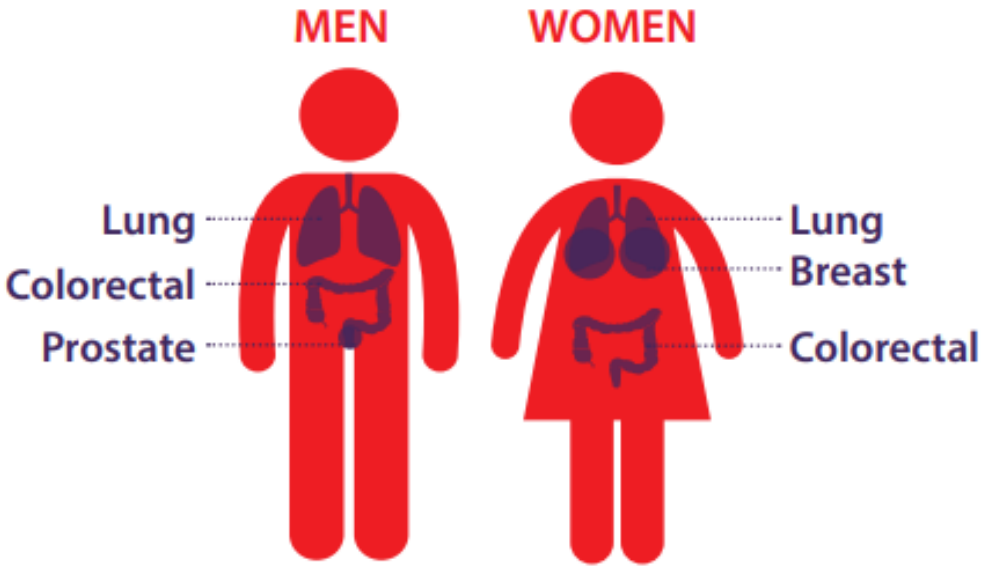
Kidney cancer
higher for First Nations people

Cervical cancer
similar for First Nations women

CANCER MORTALITY (DEATHS)

Deaths from cancer are **higher** in First Nations people than other people in Ontario

Top 3 most common deaths from cancer in First Nations people:



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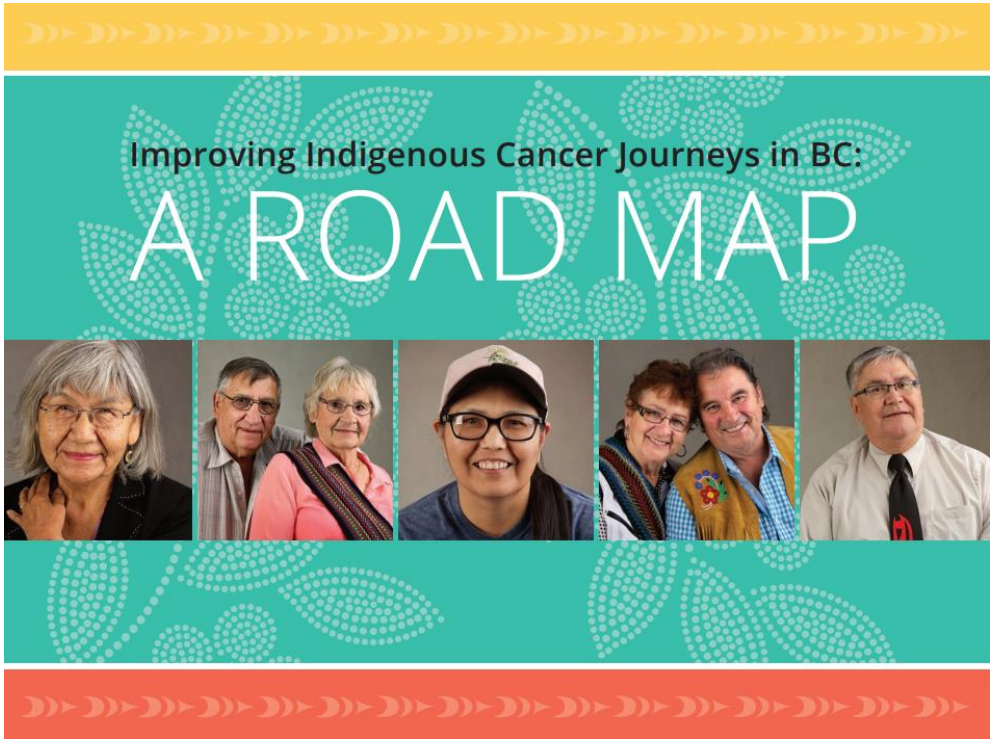
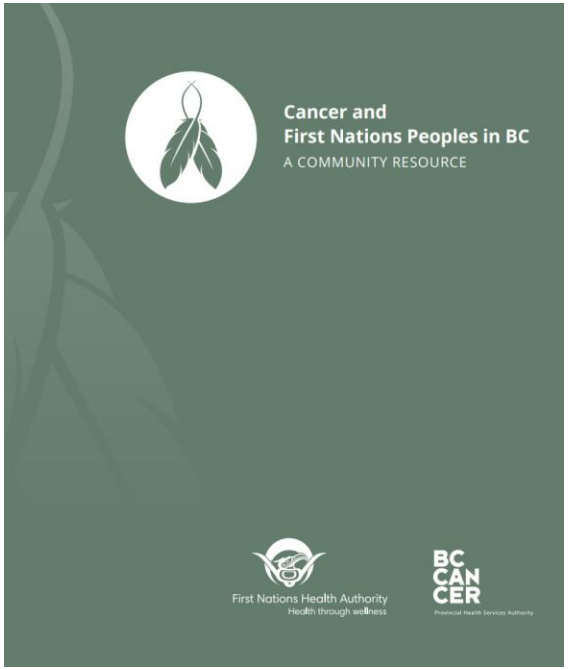
Cancer in First Nations People in BC





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Cancer in First Nations People in BC

- **Colorectal cancer** incidence rates were observed to be significantly higher in First Nations men and women compared to non-First Nations men and women
- **Cervical cancer** incidence rates were observed to be significantly higher in First Nations women compared to non-First Nations women
- **Lung cancer** incidence rates were lower for First Nations men and women; however, a worrying trend appears to show rates increasing, whereas rates for non-First Nations people are decreasing (men) or plateauing (women)
- **Breast cancer** was the most commonly diagnosed cancer in First Nations and non-First Nations women, and no differences were observed in incidence rates
- **Prostate cancer** incidence rates were observed to be significantly lower in First Nations men compared to non-First Nations men

FNHA, 2017

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Cancer in First Nations People in BC

A lower survival rate of cancer among First Nations was found in most cancers reviewed.

FNHA, 2017

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Why are there differences?

- These differences could be a combination of:
  - underlying risk of each specific cancer
  - Diagnosis at later stages of cancer due to lack of access or utilization of:
    - screening programs
    - primary care
  - Lack of access to high quality, timely, appropriate and effective cancer treatment.

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First Nations Strengths in the Cancer Journey

- Kinship
- Connection to Culture
- Spirituality
- Community Knowledge

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First Nations led approaches

- Community driven
- Drawing on relationships and partnerships
- Communication and education
- Supporting individuals' journeys

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Project Plan

1: Build FNHMA project team capacity

2: Understand Health Leader Training Needs

- Environmental Scan
- First Nations Health Leader Engagement
- Regional Cancer Partners

3: Workshop Development Plan

- Evaluation Plan
- Sustainability Plan

4.Workshop Development

- Pre-conference Workshop FNHMA 2025

5. Pilot Workshop Delivery

6. Finalize Workshop

- Communications and Promotion

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From your perspective..

- What **Knowledge and Resource Gaps** exist at the community level?
- What **Skills** need to be developed?

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From your perspective..

- What **Wise Practices** have you seen in community?
- How do we ensure that **Culture** remains at the foundation of the workshop content?
- What **Regional specific elements** need to be considered?

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THANK YOU!

To stay involved, please reach out to Judith at: judith.eigenbrod@fnhma.ca

or sign up at the front!

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