



First Nation Panorama Deployment in Ontario "Balancing Culture with Technology"

Newsletter

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the First Nation Panorama Deployment in Ontario (FNPDiO) Newsletter!

We'll be publishing quarterly, reporting on project progress and activities.

In This Issue

- An overview of the FNPDiO project
- A description of Panorama
- Who to contact for more information

Project Background

A "Made in Ontario" Approach

In 2006, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) passed resolution 06/47 at the 32nd All Ontario Chiefs Conference which recognized the need to pursue a "made in Ontario" approach to address public health planning and surveillance management, responsive to the unique needs of First Nations in Ontario. This included establishing a tripartite "Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KMAG)" to provide direction on implementing an integrated public health information management system, beginning with immunization. KMAG is overseeing the deployment of Panorama to First Nations in Ontario.

The First Nation Initial Subscribers on KMAG include Constance Lake, Couchiching, Garden River, Mohawks of Akwesasne, Nipissing, Oneida and the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council representing Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, North Spirit Lake and Poplar Hill.

KMAG membership includes:

- The First Nation Initial Subscribers of FNPDiO;
- Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health – Ontario Region; and
- The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

KMAG is supported at both the technical and administrative levels by the Chiefs of Ontario.

The Need for Good Immunization Information

Good information is vital to good care, but today immunization records are stored in many different forms and locations. This presents challenges for health professionals trying to piece together a complete and accurate picture of a client's immunization record. Panorama has the potential to address these gaps as well as provide an enhanced source of immunization information for all Ontario residents.

What is Panorama?

Panorama is a web-based system that gives authorized public health users access to a centralized database where they can collect, store, share and analyze a wide range of health information critical for managing public health issues such as immunization, influenza

outbreaks, SARS and other communicable diseases. Panorama contains a number of components that can be deployed separately or together and provides tools to promote and protect the health of community members.

Why Panorama for First Nations in Ontario?

At the same time as First Nations in Ontario started development of a broader First Nation public health strategy, Canada Health Infoway, in partnership with all Canadian provinces and territories, began constructing a Communicable Disease Surveillance System (now known as Panorama). The Province of Ontario is interested in using Panorama as a possible Ontario-wide public health information management tool.

As more communities and organizations adopt Panorama, and as more individual client information is entered, the more useful Panorama will become. The fragmentation of immunization records both within First Nation communities and across Ontario will decline, and authorized users will be able to track immunizations provided to First Nation clients regardless of where they receive those services. Panorama will provide health professionals with up-to-date information on a client's immunization status, helping to ensure that the necessary immunizations are given at the proper time. In addition, the Panorama system supports First Nations in managing and controlling use and access to community data.

Panorama's Immunization Component

The first component that First Nations will deploy and test will be Immunization Management. Immunizations can help to limit the spread of communicable disease. Panorama helps public health professionals plan, deliver and keep track of immunization services and outcomes. It also provides the tools to manage vaccine inventory, track the cold chain, and support the sharing or transfer of vaccines in the case of an outbreak or shortage.

Upcoming Events

The FNPDiO project team will be at the Chiefs of Ontario's *Health Forum* (February 22-24, 2011) hosting a series of interactive workshop sessions.

These will include live project overviews; poster board presentations; online Panorama demonstrations and promotional draws. We look forward to seeing you there!

Elder's Message

From the very beginning of this project it's been recognized that to achieve the successful deployment of Panorama we must ensure that we "balance culture with technology". What does this mean? This electronic tool is intended to enhance the work of our community health care professionals in a way that is respectful and responsive to our unique health needs. As we continue to strive for the best health possible, it is ultimately about caring for our people in a good way; in the right way. And with KMAG'S continued guidance in this work, it can happen.



First Nation Elder Advisor Barney Batise, Matachewan First Nation

For more information please contact:

- Lily Menominee-Batise, Chiefs of Ontario.
Email: menominee@personainternet.com
- Nicolette Kaszor, First Nations and Inuit Health – Ontario Region. Email: Nicolette.Kaszor@hc-sc.gc.ca
- Lauren Dunn, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Email: Lauren.Dunn@ontario.ca