

Saik'uz Health Service Agreement Options

What are we being asked to decide?

You are being asked to decide whether or not Saik'uz First Nation should disengage from its current health service arrangement with Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) and establish its own funding agreement with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).

Why are we being asked to make a decision?

In 1990, Carrier Sekani Family Services started as a non-profit organization to assert control over holistic health and wellness services for our member nations. At that time the population of Saik'uz was quite small; however, the population has since grown and the Saik'uz leadership now wants to engage the community to consider taking on these responsibilities independently.

Currently, CSFS receives funding from FNHA to provide health and wellness services to Saik'uz.

The Saik'uz leadership is asking Saik'uz members to decide whether it wants to keep the current arrangement with CSFS (Option 1), or disengage from the current health service agreement with CSFS and have Saik'uz receive health service funding directly through a new agreement with FNHA (Option 2).

How will the voting process work?

1. A safe and secure online voting tool called One Feather will be used for the vote.
2. You can vote online at home or come to the Gathering Place.
3. If you come to the Gathering Place, you must follow COVID-19 safety protocols.
4. The decision will be based on a majority vote of registered Saik'uz members.
5. All registered Saik'uz members of voting age are eligible to participate in the voting process.
6. Votes will be counted using the One Feather voting tool and the results will be communicated same day.

When is voting day?

July 22nd, 2020. You can vote at the Gathering Place or from your home. The voting link and related information will be posted on the Saik'uz First Nation website and Facebook page.

What are our options?

Option 1: *Saik'uz should stay in the current agreement is has with CSFS to deliver health services.*

In choosing to stay with CSFS, Saik'uz will receive the following benefits:

- **Provision of Quality Services** – CSFS has a solid reputation for delivering quality and culturally safe health and wellness services since 1990.
- **Efficiencies** – CSFS is a large organization and has the capacity to deliver a diverse range of services and can offer a greater variety of services that smaller organizations cannot.
- **Oversight** – There is strength in a Board of Directors model where leaders of various nations exchange insights with other CSFS member nations' Board members on strategy, financial, program, and service delivery.
- **Expertise in Research and Evaluation** – CSFS also has Research and Evaluation Department and accreditation services that provides guidance on the effectiveness of programs.
- **Reporting Requirements** – CSFS provides accountability reports to funders and government that are time consuming.
- **Management Skills** – CSFS has the required capacity to manage the health planning programming. As a large organization, CSFS has a Nursing Manager, Mental Health Manager, and Mental Health Clinical Lead who guide service delivery, provide clinical oversight, and ensure standards of service.
- **Administration** – CSFS has an efficient administration system complete with Human Resources and Finances, who work with established systems and processes that assist with recruiting and retaining medical professionals.
- **Practitioner Team** – CSFS has skills in recruiting and retaining health staff in rural and remote areas.
- **Integrated Care** – CSFS uses the life cycle approach based on integrated Health and Social Services, which provides holistic services in line with First Nations to support community members.

Option 2: *Saik'uz should establish its own agreement with First Nations' Health Authority (FNHA) to deliver health services.*

In disengaging from CSFS, Saik'uz will receive the following benefits through its own agreement with FNHA:

- **Assert control over health and wellness services** – Saik'uz First Nation will exercise self determination in the development of its health and wellness services.
- **Development of a direct funding agreement with FNHA** – Saik'uz First Nation will be able to develop its own funding agreement with the First Nations Health Authority, so the funding will come to Saik'uz directly.
- **Flexibility and Direct Service** – Saik'uz has been involved in giving shape to their direct service model by revising their service plan as needed to reflect community needs. Since the FNHA funding will come directly to Saik'uz, it can be applied to programs and services tailored to the needs of Saik'uz members.
- **Proximity of Service:** More services and programs can be designed in-community.
- **Self Determination and Capacity Building** – Independent control over health and family services funding is another step toward sovereignty and self determination. Growing the capacity of the Nation to plan and deliver health and family services helps to build up the governance and knowledge infrastructure to begin taking back more responsibilities from outside involvement.
- **Greater Responsibility** – In taking over responsibilities for health and wellness services, Saik'uz will assume the management and administration of programs and services, as well as the maintenance of the facilities, including the costs associated.
- **Integration** – By asserting more control over health services, Saik'uz can design more integrated and holistic programs at the community level. Saik'uz will also have more ability to develop partnerships with other organizations that will enhance Health Service delivery.

Have other questions?

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