

Overarching Themes and Priorities Arising from Forum Discussions

NCC Knowledge Exchange Forum: Towards TB Elimination in Northern Indigenous Communities

- Principles of self-determination must be incorporated into all levels of TB programming for Indigenous communities. This includes shared decision-making with Indigenous Leadership, and community-driven programming and reporting.
- Principles of Indigenous health, wellness and healing must be incorporated into all levels of TB programming for Indigenous communities. This includes ensuring that all care is delivered in a culturally safe and trauma-informed manner.
- There is a need to improve local capacity for TB diagnosis, treatment and care. This must include improved access to rapid diagnostics and short-course drug regimens, as well as increased TB education, training and support of local Community Health and Wellness Workers.
- There is a need for focused attention on improving diagnosis and treatment of LTBI in high-incidence communities.
- There is a need for improved integration of TB care with other health and social services to ensure holistic care of patients.
- There is a need to foster partnerships between health and non-health sectors to address essential underlying TB determinants such as housing, infrastructure and food insecurity. This includes departments at all levels of government, and key non-government entities.
- There is a need for increased TB education and stigma-reduction activities at the community level. These activities should be multi-pronged and community-led. They should involve community champions (particularly youth), include incentives, and incorporate harm-reduction approaches
- There is a need for tracking indicators to monitor progress towards TB elimination in Indigenous communities. TB program performance indicators should be informed by community priorities for health and wellness.