

NORTHERN REGIONAL TABLE

CANDIDATE PROFILES

2021 North Central Community Representative Election

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Rhoda Hallgren, NRT Nomination Statement



Hadih North Central Elected Leadership & Health Representatives,

My name is Rhoda Hallgren and I am from the Lake Babine Nation. I belong to the Likh Ji Bu (bear) clan; my mother was Sophie Disher and my father was Larry Disher. I grew up in the Village of Burns Lake which is where I currently reside and choose to live, work, and play.

I started working as the Director of Community Health with Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) in July 2020. Prior to my transition to CSFS, I was employed as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Carrier Lakes region with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA). While my employment with FNHA was rewarding and I truly enjoyed the comradery of the Northern Regional team, I chose to transition over to CSFS because I felt that it would align with my employment goals more definitively.

In working as the Director of Community Health, I have taken on much of the responsibilities from my predecessor, Mabel Louie – she leaves big shoes to fill! During my time with FNHA, I was blessed to have worked with many outstanding community health leaders, including Mabel Louie. I am fortunate that I am now in a position where I can continue to work towards strengthening those established relationships and support community leaders in building programs that improve health outcomes for our member nations.

I do have familiarity with the organizational structures of the First Nations Health Authority, the First Nations Health Council, and the Northern Regional Table; therefore, should I be appointed to this position, the need for orientation will be limited. The Northern Regional Table's (NRT) primary goal is to ensure that there is opportunity within the region for "community-driven, nation-based decision making" in directing regional health matters (as mandated in the 7 Directives of the FNHA).

With this in mind, I have accepted the NRT nomination for the North Central region and would like to take this opportunity to thank Chief Corinna Leween for her trust and belief in my ability to represent the region at this level.

I feel that my experience in engagement and facilitation will be an asset when working towards achieving the directives identified at the North Central Sub-Regional Caucuses and the Northern Regional Caucuses. The outcomes that are assigned to the NRT are to engage with First Nations, develop and implement agreements and arrangements between regional tables and regional health authorities, develop regional perspectives and approaches on health and wellness, and establish effective, efficient and sustainable engagement operations. I believe that I have the background knowledge and the experience to be able to provide insight and assistance in meeting these deliverables when priorities and concerns are raised at the caucus level.

Furthermore, I am passionate about furthering the health and wellness model of the Northern Indigenous peoples within our structures in order to create a more holistic outlook on health provision within the region. I do believe in working collaboratively to create better health models that work with and for Indigenous peoples throughout our region and I hope to bring optimism, facilitation skills, and a team-building approach to the table in driving priorities forward. Working with both FNHA and CSFS has also given me the opportunity to gain awareness of the health needs within the North Central region.

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As the North Central NRT representative, I would aim to ensure that the needs identified by the 22 North Central communities are acknowledged in the work and strategic planning for programming and service provision within the health authority and when establishing meaningful partnerships between agencies.

Mesiya' – Thank you for your time and attention.

Awit Zah,

Director of Community Health, Carrier
Sekani Family Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rhallgren', is positioned above the contact information.

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Sandra Teegee, NRT Nomination Statement

As a member of Takla Nation, I have gained valuable experience as a Band Council Representative. My duties included the Education Portfolio and Deputy Chief for multiple terms in the 90s. For the past two terms 2013 to present I have managed the Health and Social Portfolio and Deputy Chief role.

I had the golden opportunity as the Mobile Diabetes Coordinator for the Aboriginal Health Initiative through the First Nations Mobile Diabetes Clinic from its inception in 2002 to 2013.

Other related experience I attained, Employment Outreach Advisor and Parks Canada Guide. Managing Municipal Special Projects has enhanced my skill set and insight into other sectors of society. As Board Representative for various organizations (Carrier Sekani Family Services, Nechako Training Board, Fort St. James Cares, Yinka Dene Language Society) I gained valuable experience. We must appeal to the needs of our nation. Representing their voices in building bridges with organizations and agencies that are there to support our Nations. Equally important is for us to educate, create understanding of our peoples' ways and traditions. Negotiating on behalf of our people, requires that we are firm on the issues while welcoming the best alternative avenues to reach our needs and goals. Highly effective communication is key in creating opportunities for the wellness of our nation.

I have served one term as the Northern Representative for the North Central Region. I strongly believe in advocating for change for our people through collaboration, education and awareness. I have been involved in confronting the challenges that face our people across the board, whether they are residing in our communities or off reserve.

Throughout my years as an advocate of change for my nation, I have acquired valuable understanding. Leading by being a good team player, gaining resources, creating opportunities for change, integrating new information for our members. One skill I value the most is being open to the latest information and listening to new methods for practical use.

I am passionate about Creating Awareness. In coordinating four major conferences for Carrier Sekani Family Services, I thoroughly believed in the work and the information provided. It was both enlightening and exciting, the gathering of many nations to share in the latest, useful health and wellness information for three days.

I believe providing education and awareness for our people through healing workshops, healing retreats, healing centers is integral in the process of effective change. I cannot emphasize how important it is to communicate and involve our members from the young to the elderly, in collaborating initiatives for healing and wellness.

As a member of the NRT Table for one term I have gained valuable experience and background in our Nations' leading of our own Health Process. As a grass roots member residing in my own community, I will continue to bring their needs and issues to the table, including the voice of our off-reserve members. The plight of our people can be shifted. It is crucial to manage our nations' health and wellness programs efficiently. The Mission to work towards self-determination with a clear direction and a collective plan.

I am a mother and grandmother of two. I believe that it is up to us to take a proactive lead in making a favorable future for our young. It is very important to understand that for our people to follow then we must lead by example, starting each day with the good intention to be a good mother or father, a supportive grandmother, grandfather, a guiding auntie or uncle, a protector for your community. We must keep up with the latest information that helps our nation in a good and healthy way. We all need to be a part of building a strong foundation to lead our people in the right direction.

It is imperative that we have a strong conviction in bringing the social and health determinants of our Nation to the forefront. We can overcome the forces of poverty, addictions, abuses, mental health, chronic disease, primary and palliative care, communicable disease, prenatal care, literacy, employment readiness, additional educational supports from kindergarten to post-secondary to name a few. The challenges are many and the load is heavy. Creating innovative paths toward healing our families develops a healthy community.

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Communities that build on lateral kindness versus lateral violence and support our people managing wealth instead of managing poverty. The plight of our people can be shifted, the key is to manage our nations' health and wellness, while working toward self-determination with a clear direction and a collective plan.

With that, I thank you Northern Regional Table, Health Leads and Chiefs.

With Kind Regards,

Sandra Teegee

Takla Nation

Health and Social Portfolio