

Cedar Project Update

For the Cedar Project Partnership,

Vicky Thomas – Cedar Project Coordinator Wuikinuxv Nation



Acknowledgements

- Lheidli T'enneh Peoples
- The Aboriginal young people whose voices need to be heard and those we have lost
- Our Elders who support and govern our study

Residential schools sought to “kill the Indian in the child”



Thomas Moore before and after his entrance into the Regina Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan in 1874.

Library and Archives Canada / NL-022474

The child welfare system: continuing legislative genocide



REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*When Talk Trumped Service:
A Decade of Lost Opportunity for
Aboriginal Children and Youth in B.C.*

Special Report

November 2013

The Cedar Project: Why Prince George

- Question of whether there is a simmering epidemic of HIV among young Aboriginal people in the North
- Recognition that the majority of clients at the needle exchange in Prince George identify as Aboriginal people
- Concerns of AIDS Service Organizations regarding access to rigs on reserve, the disproportionate number of First Nations
- Overrepresentation of young Aboriginal women in sex work
- Few studies offer perspectives on the experiences and challenges of young at-risk Aboriginal people

The Cedar Project: Why Prince George

- To our knowledge the Cedar Project is the only study in the world that has linked historical trauma with infectious disease and other negative health outcomes
- The Cedar Project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Functioning partnership

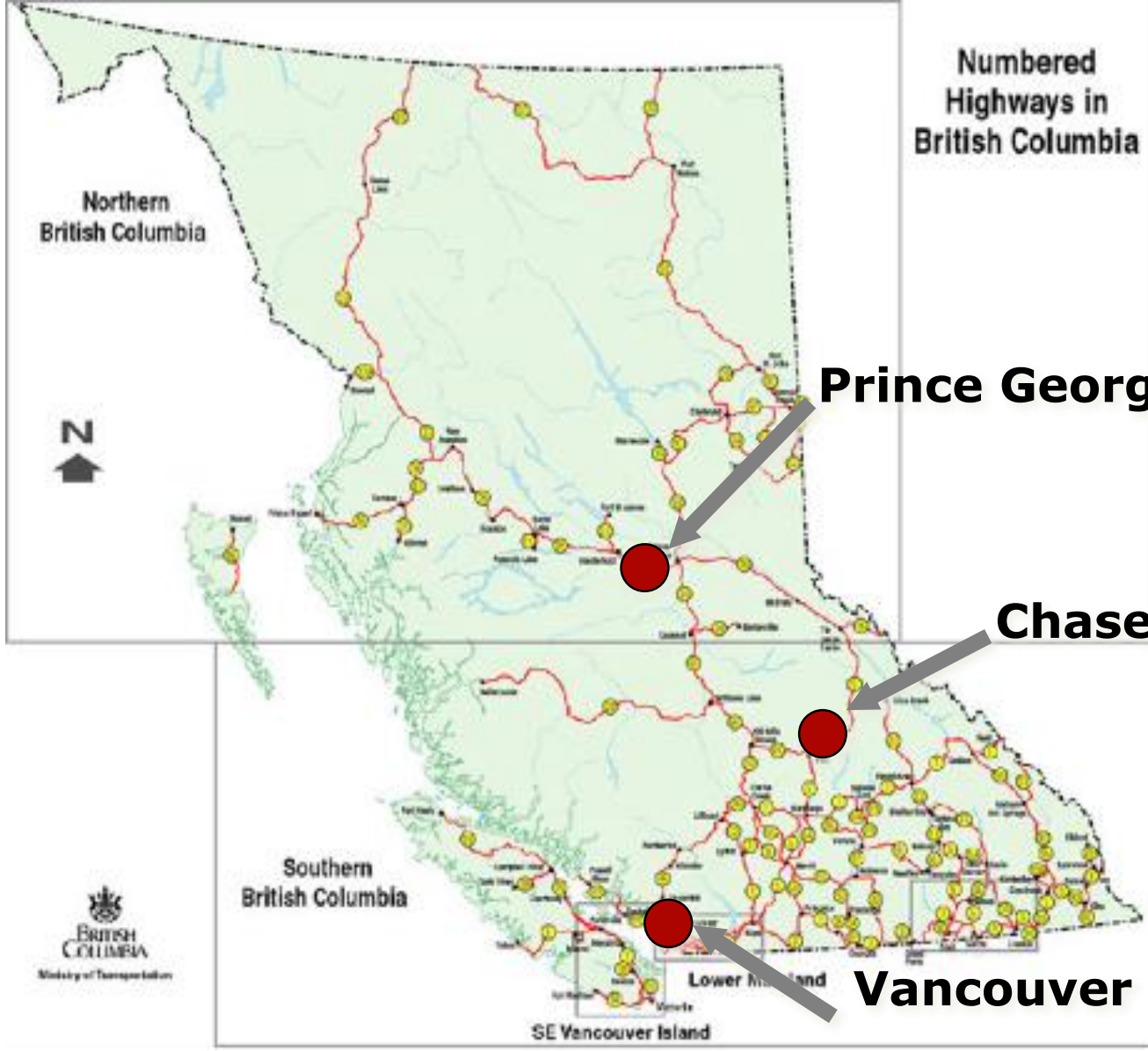
- a. Informed research design and paradigm
- b. Quarterly meetings
- c. Project design and oversight—
assuring ethical standards are met
- d. Identification of important analysis
- e. Control all communication and
media strategies
- f. Interpretation of results
- g. Development of recommendations
for programming



Cedar Project Partnership

- Violet Bozoki
- Earl Henderson
- Katharina Patterson
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services
- Splantsin-Secwepemc Nation
- Adams Lake Indian Band
- Neskonlith Indian Band
- Positive Living North
- Healing Our Spirit
- Red Road Aboriginal AIDS Network
- Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network
- Vancouver Native Health Society
- Central Interior Native Health
- All Nations Hope





Numbered Highways in British Columbia

Northern British Columbia



Prince George

Chase

Southern British Columbia



Vancouver

Lower Mainland

SE Vancouver Island

Study methods:

- Community based cohort study of 800 Aboriginal young people (aged 14-30) who use illicit injection and non-injection drugs in Prince George, Vancouver, and Chase, BC
- Enrolment 2003-2005; ongoing follow-up interviews every 6 months
- Questionnaires include socio-demographic information, HIV and HCV vulnerabilities, childhood trauma, and resiliency
- Ongoing concurrent studies: HIV case management; qualitative study of injection initiation