



**KTUNAXA  
NATION**

Ktunaxa Nation Council  
7468 Mission Road  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5  
tel: 250-489-2464  
fax: 250-489-2438

*visit us at:*  
[www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org)

**For Immediate Release  
June 3, 2009**

## **Ktunaxa Nation Planning Health Information Sessions**

***Kootenays / Ktunaxa Traditional Territory*** – The Ktunaxa Nation is working collaboratively with the First Nations Chiefs Health Council and the Interior Health Authority to undertake research and planning related to improving the relevancy of, and access to, health and wellness services for all Aboriginal People. The scope of this ongoing research and planning applies to both status and non-status, living in the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory, on or off reserve.

“This process will build awareness of health and wellness services currently available,” said Shannon Girling-Hebert, Manager Health Services and Strategic Initiatives, for Ktunaxa Nation Health.

“The goal is to identify gaps in service and access issues, and improve relevancy of health services to Aboriginal people. The Ktunaxa Nation wants to develop a long-term health and wellness strategy for sustained services which will promote improved health outcomes for all Aboriginal people living within the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory.”

Girling-Hebert believes that community participation is critical to achieving this goal, and has arranged for a series of sessions that will provide a forum for Aboriginal people as well as individuals providing care to Aboriginal people.

These discussions will assist the Ktunaxa Nation in their goal of equitable access to health and wellness services, for all Aboriginal people, regardless of status or residency.

“We encourage everybody to attend a session located near them to both receive information and share their personal stories,” continued Girling-Hebert.

“This is a great opportunity to connect with others and win door prizes including iPods and laptops. We hope to see a great turn-out!”

Community Sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

INVERMERE – June 11, 2009; 3:30pm to 5:30pm  
Invermere Community Hall  
Presentations by Public Health, Family Resource Centre and Dr. Shannon Page.

*Takisqnuuk*

*Lower Kootenay*

*St. Mary's*

*Tobacco Plains*

CRESTON – June 15, 2009; 3:30pm to 5:30pm  
Creston & District Library  
Presentations by a Pharmacist and Physicians

CRANBROOK – June 16, 2009; 3:30pm to 5:30  
Cranbrook Public Library  
Presentations by a Hearing Specialist, the IHA Director of Mental Health and Aboriginal  
Affairs, and East Kootenay Regional Hospital Pharmacy

KIMBERLEY – June 17, 2009; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Centennial Hall  
Presentations by Public Health Nursing, Nutrition Professional, Pharmacist, and Primary  
Health Care Nursing.

FERNIE - June 23, 2009; 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Elk Valley Hospital Board Room

–30–

**For Further Information Contact:**

Shannon Girling-Hebert  
Manager Health Services and Strategic Initiatives, Ktunaxa Nation Health  
250-489-4563  
[sgirling-hebert@ktunaxa.org](mailto:sgirling-hebert@ktunaxa.org)

*“Strong, healthy citizens and communities speaking our languages and celebrating who  
we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our  
lands and resources, as a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation.”*

*- Ktunaxa Nation Vision Statement*