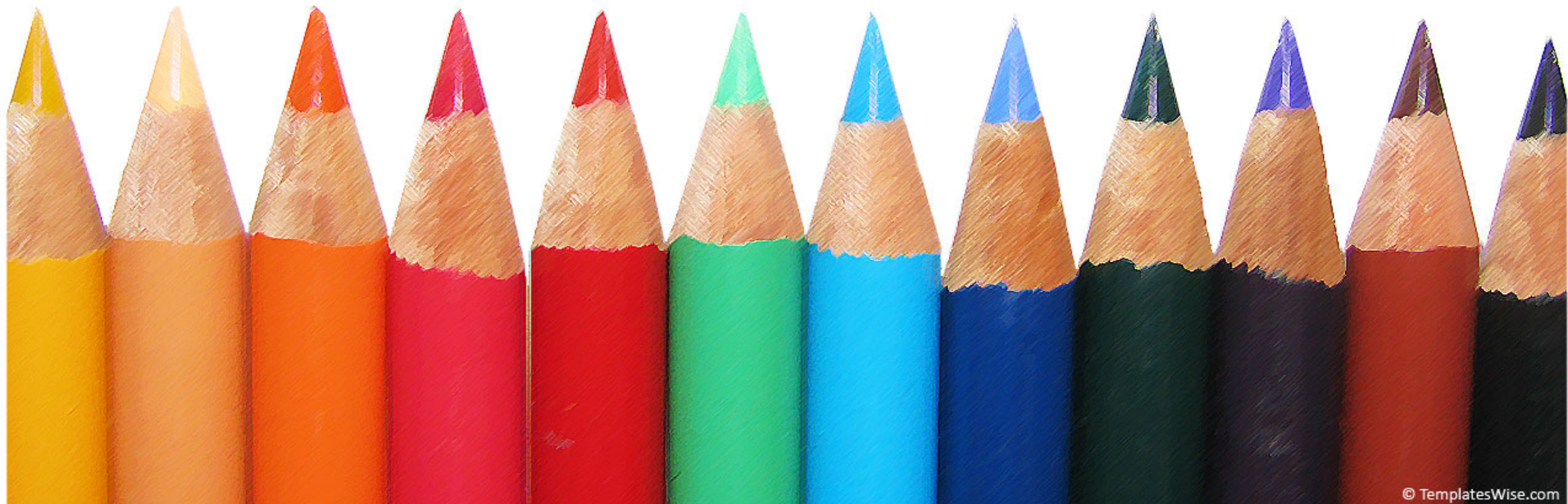


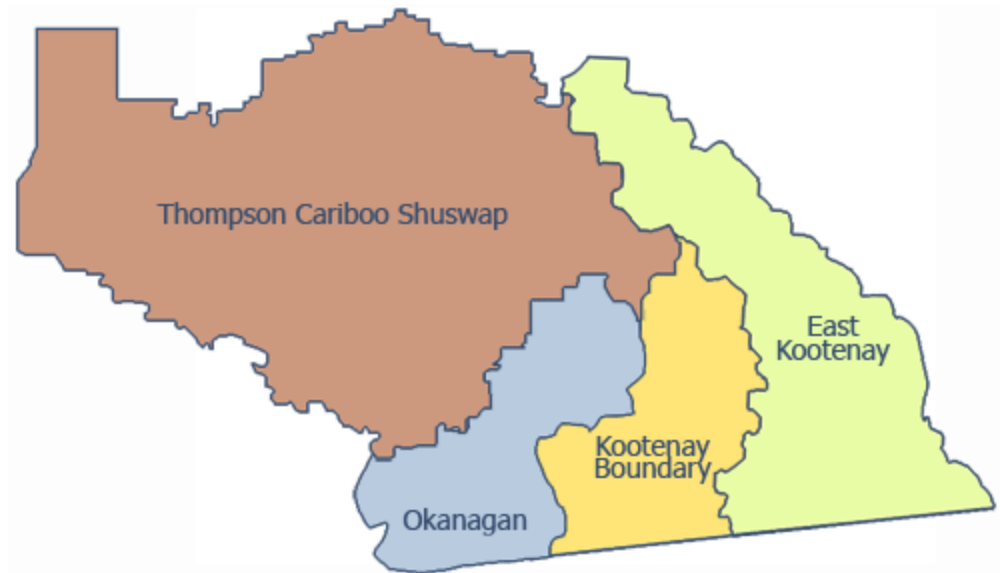
# Immunization using a Comprehensive School Health Approach

*Western Canada Immunization Forum 2011  
December 8, 2011*

*Rhonda Tomaszewski, Program Consultant, Interior Health*



# Interior Health Authority



# School Districts within IH

- 16 Public School Districts
- 2 Catholic School Divisions
- First Nation Schools
- Independent Schools



# Healthier Schools Healthier Students (HSHS) Project

Exploring approaches to improve the effectiveness and coordination of Interior Health work with schools and school districts.



# Why did we do the project?

- Enhance the focus and impact of IH activities in schools across the regions
- Coordinate our approach to communication and services
- Provide role clarity of IH Staff



# HSHS Activities

- Support district level Health Promoting School Coordinators in 12 school districts and 1 grouping of 3 First Nation Schools
- Develop communication plans:
  - Internal communication plan
  - District-level communication with Superintendents and administrators



# HSHS Activities

- Support PHNs in their understanding of CSH and their work with schools
- Enhance and standardize PHN services to schools through School Health Clinical Practice Standards (6 in place)



# School Immunizations using a CSH Approach

How has the Healthier Schools Healthier Students project enhanced the immunization program in the schools?

- District level
- School level





# The HSHS Project has:

- Strengthened relationships
- Enhanced communication
- Helped to define PHN role in schools
- Build knowledge and understanding of the CSH approach



# District Level: Activities

## Partnerships and Services

*Support for immunization activities:*

- Created contact list of all public, independent and First Nations Schools
- Established IH key contacts for district level staff
- Annual meetings with Superintendents
- Provide Superintendent's Letter from Medical Health Officers



# District Level: Successes

## Partnerships and Services

*Support for immunization activities:*

- ✓ Increased support & engagement
- ✓ Distribution of health authority information to school staff
- ✓ Assisting with challenges i.e. class lists, recent job action
- ✓ Assisting with planning: i.e. HPV catch-up: centralized class lists, demographics for mail-outs



# District Level: Activities

## Healthy School Policy

- Encouraging the development of School Health Policy (inclusive of immunizations)

## Teaching and Learning

- Newsletter immunization articles in Monthly School Newsletter: Stan and Fran
- Coordinated distribution of teaching materials/posters for school and communities

## Social and Physical Environment

- Creating awareness of program requirements for immunizations i.e. class lists, physical space, volunteers



# District Level: Successes

## Healthy School Policy

- Partnering in developing Health Policies

## Teaching and Learning

- Broad support for distribution of immunization materials/posters within schools

## Social and Physical Environment

- District level electronic class lists (SD 73)
- Assistance with school level challenges



# School Level: Activities

## Partnerships and Services

PHNs deliver services as outlined in School Health Clinical Practice Standards

- ✓ focus on building relationships
- ✓ facilitate planning for service delivery: meet with school principal at the beginning of the school year
- ✓ determine process for class lists, space etc.
- ✓ year end review and evaluation of services: meeting with school principal



# School Level: Activities

## Partnerships and Services

- Build understanding of the CSH approach: webinars on IH Website
- Support innovation: TCS  
Immunization Consent Committee  
2007



# School Level: Successes

## Partnerships and Services

- Increase in PHN participation in school level HPS activities
- Smooth delivery of immunization programs





# School Level: Activities

## Healthy School Policy

Promoting a common understanding of how immunizations contribute to overall health of staff, students and parents.



# School Level: Activities

## Teaching and Learning

- Provision of immunization resources/information
- Providing newsletter inserts

## Social and Physical Environment

- Engaging PAC volunteers and Peer Leadership students



# School Level: Successes

## Teaching and Learning

- Regular requests for newsletter information
- Promotion on School Websites
- Incorporating into curriculum through Peer Leadership projects

## Social and Physical Environment

- PAC volunteers and Peer Leadership students to assist the nurses during immunization



# Future Plans

- Explore how to engage and build capacity of HPS coordinators to promote and support immunizations
- Support PHNS as they work within Clinical Practice Standards
- Support PHNS in their understanding of CSH and how to apply to immunizations



# More Information:

## Interior Health Website

[http://www.interiorhealth.ca/school  
health.aspx](http://www.interiorhealth.ca/school_health.aspx)[www.interiorhealth.c  
a](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

Select Healthier Schools Project

**Rhonda Tomaszewski, Project Lead**

[rhonda.tomaszewski@interiorhealth  
.ca](mailto:rhonda.tomaszewski@interiorhealth.ca)

1-250-980-4807





# Conversation Café

- How do you see immunizations programs fitting into Comprehensive School Health?
- How do Health Authority staff build partnerships with school districts and schools?
- What successes can we celebrate right now? What is working in your health authority that promotes immunization and comprehensive school health?