

Research Ethics BC welcomes Gillian Corless of First Nations Health Authority

Vancouver, BC, Canada (February 6th, 2020) Research Ethics BC, an operational unit of the British Columbia Academic Health Science Network (BC AHSN), and the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) are pleased to announce that Gillian Corless is the new Senior Advisor, Indigenous Research and Ethics, Research Ethics BC, effective January 15th, 2020. This part-time secondment position complements her existing role as Senior Advisor, Research and Ethics at FNHA.

Since June 2017, Gillian has led the development of an Indigenous research ethics review process to reflect the needs and priorities of First Nations communities in BC in health and wellness research and knowledge development.

In her new role, Gillian will work with colleagues in both organizations and create a working group to develop resources and a network of expertise around First Nations and Indigenous community-based research and ethics review. Developed through Indigenous stakeholder engagement, all resources created will be inclusive of (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession) OCAP[®] principles.

Gillian holds an MA from McGill University in community-based policy and planning, and has held key roles in Indigenous governance and community engagement in decision-making for more than 20 years. Previously, she was the Director of Policy for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in the land claim territory of Nunavut. Gillian also played a critical role in Indigenous data governance at UBC, working with a BC provincial Aboriginal Steering Committee, which comprised of Indigenous experts from the community to oversee data sharing agreement development and knowledge exchange for population health research.

“We are so pleased to be working closely with Gillian and are grateful to the FNHA for entering into an agreement that creates the opportunity for mutual commitment to OCAP[®] principles and trust between organizations,” said Terri Fleming, Director of Research Ethics BC.

The British Columbia Academic Health Science Network (BC AHSN)’s role is to advance learning health systems in BC and to enable innovations within the system that make the best use of provincial assets, resources and expertise. BC AHSN’s operational units include the BC SUPPORT Unit, Clinical Trials BC and Research Ethics BC.

Research Ethics BC (REBC) makes British Columbia a more competitive and innovative health research environment by streamlining and facilitating research ethics review processes. Formerly known as the BC Ethics Harmonization Initiative (BCEHI), REBC is a collaboration between BC’s regional health authorities and the major research universities, who collectively conduct more than 80 per cent of the province’s human participant ethics reviews.

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For more information:

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