

### Indigenous cultural safety corner

On January 4th, HAMAC observed National Ribbon Skirt Day. This important day honors Indigenous cultures and histories, inspired by Isabella Kulak, a young girl whose right to wear her culturally significant ribbon skirt was challenged.

Ribbon skirts are powerful symbols of identity and empowerment within Indigenous communities. They represent a connection to tradition and ancestry.

In reflecting on the importance of [Indigenous Cultural Safety](#) at VCH, we are reminded of our responsibility to uphold the right to access traditional medicines.

By working together, we can create a more inclusive and culturally safe healthcare system for all.

### Welcome to HAMAC



**Dr. Anna McGuire**  
HAMAC Vice-Chair



**Dr. Jennifer Wilson**  
Vancouver MAC Chair

### Follow up to Management of Substance Use in Acute Care

HAMAC received an update on management of substance use in acute care from the Regional Addiction Program. In collaboration with the Regional Emergency Services Program, they have launched new and updated ED Cerner power plans for withdrawal management and OAT initiation that will feed into a new ED Substance Use Dashboard. The program's Emergency Physician Education Plan is also underway, with a set of funded training sessions starting in January.

Additionally, work is underway to create addiction medicine teams in acute sites for further support. The ED Substance Use Dashboard will provide real-time data to support quality improvement work. The program is also working with the Health Data Platform to streamline access to ministry data for quality improvement and evaluation initiatives.

### BC Accessibility Act

HAMAC received a presentation from the Regional Medical Director and Executive Director of EDI & Anti-Racism on the [Accessible BC Act](#) and VCH's work to meet the requirements laid out by the Act. These requirements include the development of an accessibility plan, establishment of the staff and medical staff accessibility committee, and creation of a feedback tool. As part of this work, a VCH Staff and Medical Staff Accessibility Committee was established in June 2024. This committee provided feedback on the [VCH Accessibility Plan](#), which will be published soon. In the coming year, there will be an external engagement and a feedback tool will be rolled out to engage staff, medical staff, and patients on barriers to accessibility they have experienced at VCH.

HAMAC looks forward to working with the EDI & Anti-Racism team on addressing accessibility barriers identified by VCH medical staff in the coming year.

### Coastal Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) Update

The Co-Chairs of the CMAC provided a verbal update on the Coastal Community of Care. They noted the enhancement of rural/remote voices through the CMAC and an increased awareness of areas of concern including HHR challenges across the CoC.



### Public Health Update

HAMAC received an update on the respiratory virus season, BC masking mandates, outbreaks of avian flu, and updated COVID vaccination recommendations for 2025-2026.

Visit the [Physicians and Nurse Practitioners updates](#) for the latest practice-related information from the office of the Chief Medical Health Officer.

### HAMAC Round Table

As part of the January meeting, HAMAC had a short round table to highlight issues of importance to the members. HAMAC members shared valuable insights on health human resources planning and safe consumption sites. They also highlighted opportunities for cross-Health Authority partnership in improving access to care for our communities.

HAMAC has committed to following up on these topics and bringing them back for discussion at future meetings.