

# Progress Report on Contact Tracing Recruitment Initiative

February 23, 2021

## Summary of Contact Tracing Progress

- Since August, there has been significant work done across all health authorities to increase their contact tracing teams to ensure they were able to adequately respond to the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hiring targets increased from the initial announcement of 500 in August, to 608 in September, and again to over 1,200 by the end of 2020.
- **To date, a total of 1,347 individuals have been hired**, and recruitment is generally now focused on backfilling as individuals move on. Most health authorities have exceeded their targets. Over the last month an additional **14 net new roles were filled**.
- Government recently approved increases to several health authorities, bringing the total number to be hired to over **1,224 positions – 100% of this new target is complete**.
- The Ministry approved First Nations Health Authority to hire community health representative positions to support **culturally safe contact tracing** efforts within First Nations communities:
  - FNHA is supporting sub-regional, nation, and community models for these positions. **A total of 75 communities have been allocated funding for this initiative**. Each has a slightly different roll-out model, depending on the unique needs of their region, Nation or community.
  - Across those 75 communities, **funding has been provided for a total of 97 FTEs**.
    - This represents an increase from the initially approved FTE total of 76, due to efficiencies in planning and collaboration.
    - Of those 97 FTEs, **51 FTEs have been confirmed to have been recruited to date**.<sup>1</sup>
- **PHSA's rapid response pool** is being utilized by the regional health authorities:
  - Redeployment is focused on supporting Fraser Health on the ground, with additional staff supporting HAs from the Contact Tracing Hub.

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<sup>1</sup> Communities are reporting progress to FNHA on a weekly basis.