



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN



Education

2009	Dalhousie University Halifax, Nova Scotia Master of Nursing (Policy Practicum)
1993	St. Francis Xavier University Antigonish, Nova Scotia Bachelor of Science in Nursing
1990	Western Memorial Regional Hospital School of Nursing, Corner Brook, NL. Registered Nursing Diploma

Experience

June 2021 – Present	<p>National Senior Director, Primary Care Services and Deputy Chief Nursing Officer (Executive 2 level) – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Indigenous Services Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting to the Director General, Office of Primary Health Care and Chief Nursing Officer, directly responsible for approximately 50 employees and a budget of nearly \$50M. • Key responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leading Departmental Primary Care Services and second in command for all departmental nursing interests. ○ Leading a national team in providing both operational and strategic policy direction for \$250M clinical services to 50 remote communities and 29 remote community services delivered directly by First Nations. ○ Leading Community Oral Health Services across First Nations and Inuit communities. ○ Key leadership function for nursing in the department. Including union – management negotiations for a national nursing workforce of over 915 nurses; occupational health and safety; recruitment and retention; collaboration with provincial, national and international nursing organizations. ○ Responsible to advocate nationally for thousands of First Nation and Inuit employed nurses through policy and funding requests and collaboration such as that with the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association
June 2020- June 2021	<p>Acting National Director General, Office of Primary Health Care and Chief Nursing Officer (Executive 3 level) – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Indigenous Services Canada</p>



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

- Reporting to the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, responsible for approximately 100 employees and a budget of nearly \$100M and oversight of a special purpose allotment of more than \$700M.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Leading the Office of Primary Health Care and all departmental nursing interests.
 - Collaboration and co-leadership role with the *Chief Medical Officer of Public Health* on national pandemic response
 - National oversight for: direct primary care services to 51 remote communities; the Home and Community Care Program; Community Oral Health Services Program; Implementation of Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative.
 - Key leadership function for nursing in the department. Including union – management negotiations for a national nursing workforce of over 800 nurses; occupational health and safety; recruitment and retention; collaboration with provincial, national and international nursing organizations.
 - Responsible to advocate nationally for thousands of First Nation and Inuit employed nurses through policy and funding requests and collaboration such as that with the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association
 - Co-lead a national nursing campaign with the Canadian Nurses Association called *Nursing Now Canada*.

August 2020

While acting Chief Nursing Officer, appointed to a new departmental role of **Deputy Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Director of Primary Care Services** (Executive 2 level).

March 2020- June 2020

Provided COVID 19 surge support to Chief Nursing Officer – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Indigenous Services Canada

October 2019- March 2020

Acting National Senior Director – Education Programs (Executive 2 level) – Education Social Development Policy and Programs – Indigenous Services Canada

- Reporting to the Director General of Education and responsible for approximately 40 staff and a budget of over \$2.5 billion.
- Key responsibilities:
 - National First Nation and Inuit education programs, including the K – 12 school systems, as well as post-secondary education student supports and support for Indigenous post-secondary institutions.
 - Implementation of provincially comparable funding formulas in partnership with First Nations,



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

Sept 2018 – Sept 2019

- Implementation of the inaugural distinction based post-secondary strategies for First Nations, Inuit and Metis. The position was

Acting National Executive Director Jordan's Principle (Executive 2 level) – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Indigenous Services Canada, National office.

- Reporting to the Director General, Office of Primary Health Care
- Key responsibilities:
 - Strategic direction and leadership of the national Jordan's Principle Division, with a staff of 30 and oversight of a budget of \$400M
 - Responsible for several significant milestones for Jordan's Principle including supporting the development of the long term strategy, introducing revised standard operating procedures and planning the development of a new data solution.
 - Introduced the Inuit Child First Initiative.

2013 – 2018

National Director Primary Health Care Systems Division (NU-CHN 8 level) – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch- Indigenous Services Canada; National office.

- Reporting to the Executive Director, Office of Primary Health Care.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Provided strategic direction and leadership to an interdisciplinary team of more than 35 health professionals, policy analysts and support staff.
 - Provided national strategies and professional practice leadership for both primary care and community oral health services.
 - Managed the national nurse recruitment campaign and staffing processes.
 - Management of a national \$45M contract for nurses, and provision across Canada as and when required.
 - Assured improvement to supports for employees in remote locations with a view to quality service delivery and retention of staff.

2012 – 2013

Associate Regional Director (assignment - Executive 1 level equivalent) – First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Health Canada; Atlantic Region

- Reporting to the Atlantic Regional Director (RD)
- Key responsibilities:
 - Second-in-command for Atlantic Canada.
 - Responsible for the operational management of the region's programs and services, by ensuring a coherent, consistent and horizontal integrated approach to regional program delivery.

2003 – 2012

Director, Prevention and Promotion Programs and Nursing Leadership (PPPNL) (NU-CHN 7 level) – First



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH) – Health Canada; Atlantic Region

- Reporting to the Regional Director of Atlantic Region
- Key responsibilities:
 - Strategic direction and leadership for nursing practice for FNIH Atlantic Region
 - Operational planning; long-term and strategic planning to ensure that community health nursing services are fully integrated into regional operations.
 - Provision of professional guidance and assistance to community leaders in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for the transfer of health services to First Nations as they assume control and manage their Community Health Programs.
 - Strategic direction, leadership and management for a variety of prevention and promotion programs across the life span for FNIH Atlantic Region, including direct Dental Therapy services.

2003 - 2004

Acting Director of Operations (Executive 1 equivalent) – Labrador Health Secretariat, Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Goose Bay, Labrador

- Reporting to the Regional Director for Atlantic Region.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Leading and monitoring the health components of mental health, maternal/child health, community development and evaluation of programs and services within the *Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy*.
 - Simultaneously, fulfilled role as Atlantic Region Director of PPPNL (above) while the Labrador Director role was in the staffing process. Performed both roles for approximately one year.

2001 - 2003

Associate Director (NU-CHN 6 level) – Labrador Health Secretariat, Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Goose Bay, Labrador

- Reporting to the Director of Operations, Labrador Secretariat.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Planning and Implementation of the *Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy* in response to Innu First Nation community crisis.
 - Health programming concerning the Innu of Labrador, in collaboration with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the relocation of the community of Davis Inlet to Natuashish.

2000 – 2001

Coordinator of Community Health Programs: Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation / Site Facilitator of the Mani Ashini Health Center, NL.



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

- 1997 - 2000

 - Development & Coordination of all Community Health Programs through a collaborative Primary Health Care model within the Mani Ashini Health Center.

Community Health Nurse: Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, NL.

 - Facilitated program development and implementation for a First Nation's community. Represented the nation at health tables at the National, Provincial, and Regional levels.
- 1996 –1997

Public Health Nurse: Health Labrador Corporation; North West River, Labrador, NL.

 - Provided provincial community health programs to the ageing population of North West River and for the Innu people of Sheshatshiu.
- 1993 -1996

Public Health Nurse: Grenfell Regional Health Services, Nain, Labrador, NL and St. Anthony, NL

 - Provided public health programs in isolated Inuit community. Managed a large Tuberculosis outbreak among many public health challenges.
 - Covered satellite communities of Cook's Harbour, Boat Harbour, and Raleigh, NL.
- 1990-1992

Various Registered Nursing Roles:

 - Registered Nurse-Part time: Bay St. George Senior Citizens Home, Stephenville Crossing, NL.
 - Part time: Western Memorial Regional Hospital, Corner Brook, NL.
 - Part time: Dr. Charles L. Legrow Health Centre, Channel, Port Aux Basques, NL.

Fellowships:

- 2021

Inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Nursing
[Fellowship Program - Canadian Nurses Association \(cna-aicc.ca\)](http://cna-aicc.ca)

Professional Development:

- 2021

McGill Executive Leadership Experience
 A program which advances the competitiveness of seasoned managers and executives by challenging them with new insights, high energy learning exercises, best practices, practical tools and coaching techniques.
- 2003

Dorothy Wylie Nursing Leadership Institute
 Intensive residential health leadership program over 2 weekends. Included a change project.
 Toronto, Ontario



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

1999

University of Ottawa / Health Canada/ Community Information Epidemiological Technologies (CIET)

Ottawa, Ontario

Evidence based planning course – graduate certificate on utilization of epidemiological tools to identify information asymmetries and to fill gaps in information. This course was part of the two year 'Local Public Health Infrastructure Development' Project in Atlantic Canada which included the completion and publishing of 4 regional research projects and reports.

1997

Thames Valley University / The British Council

London, England

Tuberculosis: the role of the nurse in prevention, control and care – an international seminar looking at solutions to the world tuberculosis crisis.

International, national, provincial and regional strategic experience:

Task Force Participation:

- Principal Nursing Advisors Task Force: sub-committee of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Health Workforce (CHW) – Indigenous Services Canada representative. (2015-Present)
- Canadian Nurses Association Taskforce member: National Nursing Framework on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) in Canada – First Nation and Inuit Health Branch representative. (2016-2017)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist project task force, FNIHB, Health Canada, reporting to the Executive Director, Office of Nursing Services – Atlantic Canada representative. (2003-2004)

Professional Collaborations:

- Principal Nurse Advisor Task Force, The Vision of The Future of Nursing In Canada, (2019) <https://indigenournurses.ca/resources/publications/vision-future-nursing-canada>
- National Nursing Framework on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada (2017) – Canadian Nurses Association. First Nations and Inuit Health Branch representative: <https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/policy-advocacy/palliative-and-end-of-life-care/medical-assistance-in-dying>
- Canadian Community Health Nursing: Professional Practice Model & Standards of Practice (2011) <https://www.chnc.ca/en/standards-of-practice>

International:

- 29th International Council of Nurses Congress: Canadian delegation (July 2023)
- 74th World Health Assembly: Canadian delegation: delivered a statement on health in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development; women's, children's and adolescents' health; and the health workforce. (May 2021)
- World Health Organization – Canadian delegation for the region of the America's consultation on the *Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery* (2020)
- Pan American Health Organization – Canadian delegation at Chief Nursing Officer technical meeting. (2020)
- World Health Organization: Canadian delegation to the 8th annual Triad (WHO, ICN, ICM) nursing and midwifery meeting and 9th Government Chief Nursing Officer forum. (2020)



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

National

- Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership – Editorial Advisory Committee (2023)
- Canadian Nurses Association – Board of Directors, one year term, 2022-2023
- Canadian Space Agency – Impact Canada: Deep space healthcare challenge – jury panel member <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/deep-space-healthcare-challenge> (2020-Present)
- Canadian Academy of Nursing – Awards Committee, accountable to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Nursing (2022)
- Federal Nursing Network: Lead and organized an informal network of federal departments that employ nurses. (2020- Present)
- Co-lead with Canadian Nurses Association, *Nursing Now Canada* Campaign (2020-2021)
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) – Nursing Leadership Committee – Chair (2013-2018; 2020-Present)
- Northern Nursing Network: Lead and organized an informal Federal-Territorial network of jurisdictions with common interest in remote clinical operations. (2017 – Present)
- National Indian Education Council – Assembly of First Nations education advisory body – Indigenous Services Canada representative (2019)
- Jordan's Principle Operations Committee – Member (2018-2019)
- FNIHB Joint Pharmacy Advisory Committee – Co-chair (2014- 2018)
- Community Health Nurses of Canada Special Interest Group of Canadian Nurses Association, Standing Committee on Certification, Standards and Competency (2009-2010)
- Community Health Nurses of Canada, National committee on standards and certification (2011)
- Canadian Nurses Association – Community Health Nursing Certification exam committee (2010)
- Health Canada, FNIHB – Director General's Sub-Committee on Public Health (2009-2010)
- National Advisory Group for the Elimination of Tuberculosis, Atlantic Representative; Medical Services Branch, Health Canada (1996-1997)

Provincial and Regional

- Health Policy and Planning Tripartite Committee of Prince Edward Island – departmental representative. (2010-2013)
- Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board. (2003-2013)
- Regional Committee: LoPHID (local public health infrastructure development) Labrador Pilot Research Project. (1999-2001)
- Newfoundland and Labrador Child Health Co-ordinators Group. (1998-2001)
- Health Labrador Corporation, Labrador Inuit Health Commission, Sheshatshiu Innu Band Council research steering committee on the Tuberculosis Chemoprophylaxis programs in Nain and Sheshatshiu. (1999-2001)
- Labrador Regional Team for the '*The Model for Co-ordination of services to Children and Youth*'. This province wide model introduced a framework whereby partner departments and their respective agencies provided coordinated supports and services to children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador. (1997)

Commentary and Evidence Informed Contributions:

- Bill, L; Gillis, L. (2018). Indigenous Nursing – Learning from the Past to Strengthen the Future of Healthcare. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership*. Volume 31 (1), 28-31 <https://www.longwoods.com/content/25475/nursing-leadership/commentary-indigenous-nursing-learning-from-the-past-to-strengthen-the-future-of-healthcare>



Leila Josephine Gillis, RN MN FCAN

613-218-1099

- Sandra Bassendowski, Pammla Petrucka, **Leila Gillis**, Ruth Schofield, Rosemarie Goodyear, Claire Betker. (2009). An Evaluation of the Community Health Nursing Certification Examination. Submitted to Community Health Nurses of Canada.
- Dr. Maureen Baikie, **Leila Gillis**, Dr. Michael Jong, Deborah Milne, Gail Turner, and Margaret Webb. (2001). Factors influencing decision making around preventive measures for tuberculosis in two different aboriginal communities in Labrador. Submitted to Health Canada at Atlantic Tuberculosis Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Policy practicum – Dalhousie University:

- Gillis, L. (2009). Measuring Nursing–Sensitive Outcomes in the First Nations Community Practice Setting. Health Policy Practicum Final Paper.

Research experience resulting from the LOPHID (local public health infrastructure development) Projects.

- Collaborated on all projects and had the lead role on all supplemental data collection and analysis of the First Nation specific content. Final project papers presented to the Health Labrador Corporation Board. Project reports utilized as local evidence for public health planning

2000

Influences on Adolescent Health and Behaviour, (including supplemental analysis on youth risk and resiliency within the Sheshatshiu Innu). Supplemental analysis used to inform health components of the Federal Government, Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy.

An Overview of Risk Factors for Heart Disease in Labrador.

1999

Breastfeeding: Attitudes, Perceptions, and Practices.

Children's Dental Health