

Bernadette Collins was hired March 2016 by First Nations Health Authority as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Nlaka'pamux Nation out of an FNHA office located in Merritt. As the CEC, Bernadette works closely with Jim Adams, the Nlaka'pamux Nation Health Technical Representative and Ko'waintco Michel, the Nlaka'pamux Nation Health Governance Representative, as well as the Health Directors from each of the Nlaka'pamux Nation communities. As the CEC, the main focus is Health and Wellness working alongside the Nation Shared Services staff, First Nation Health Authority, and Interior Health on Communication, Collaboration, and Planning.

Bernadette has received her Diploma in Business Administration from the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. She has enjoyed working with several Aboriginal Organizations throughout the interior for the past 22 years. Her background includes Administration, Finance, Education and Training, and working with Children and Youth.

Bernadette was born in Vancouver and is a member of the Musqueam Indian Band, she grew up in the St'át'imc Nation, on the T'it'q'et. She now resides on the Coldwater reserve of the Nlaka'pamux Nation. Bernadette enjoys spending her time with family, being in the wilderness, and taking part in Traditional and Cultural activities. As a youth she spent one summer in the Stein Rediscovery camp and came away with so many good memories and lessons and now is passionate about learning as much as she can on Traditional and Cultural teachings and protocols.

Bernadette's parents are Virginia Scotchman (Grant) from Musqueam and Paul Scotchman from T'it'q'et. She comes from a very large family, with 6 older brothers and sisters, and 8 younger. Family gatherings are very important to her. She has three beautiful children, whom she loves to spend her time with.

Throughout the year she enjoys taking rides up into the mountains to gather traditional foods and medicines, swimming and boating at the lakes, fishing in the Fraser River, and in the fall hiking and picking mushrooms. A couple of her favorite sports are volleyball and softball, including travelling to tournaments and spending time with friends.

She is very excited to be working with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Health and First Nations Health Authority and looks forward to learning more about the Nation and assisting with filling any health gaps the Nation may be experiencing.

**Bernadette Collins**  
**Community Engagement Coordinator**  
Interior Region – Nlaka'pamux Nation



**First Nations Health Authority**  
Health through wellness

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