GLOBAL HEALTH: DAWSON CITY, YUKON

Image from http://bonanzagold.ca/location/
DAWSON CITY, YUKON

DAWSON CITY, YUKON

- Population ~2000 people
- ~ 1/3rd of the population is First Nations (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people indigenous to Klondike Valley)
  - Traditional land of Han people
  - Rich fishing ground historically
  - Indigenous peoples displaced by Gold Rush colonization
  - 1990s TH people given self-government rights
- 6-7 hours Northwest of Whitehorse, YT
- Town centre at confluence of Yukon and Klondike Rivers
- National Historic Site designation - historical gold mining centre
  - Main economic activity is tourism in present day
  - Still mining activity
- Dirt roads and no traffic lights

(Government of Yukon, 2014)
DAWSON CITY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Clinical focus: Emergency Department

- Hospital built in 2013 (Nursing Station before)
- Building includes:
  - Emergency Department (6 patient care areas)
  - Inpatient Unit (6 single rooms)
  - Medical Clinic
  - Public Health Offices
  - Paramedic office
  - Telehealth
  - Other professional offices ex. Addictions Worker
- Lab work offered (some sent out)
- X-ray imaging (read in Calgary)
- No surgical area
- No deliveries other than emergencies
- Therapies (OT and PT) visit from Whitehorse

(Yukon Hospital Corporation, 2016)
WHY DAWSON CITY?

- Past student’s recommendation
- Friends’ recommendation of Yukon in general
- Desire to work with Indigenous people & learn more about First Nations cultures
- Desire for a placement that married acute care setting with community care features
- “Baby step” → assessing my readiness for a big change!
- More affordable than many Northern locales
STUDENT ROLE & LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Assist in performing CTAS/assessment of incoming patient
- Run POC lab work
- Provide patient care interventions (within scope)
- Assist with inpatient care
- Stocking/inventorying, etc...
- And more!
STUDENT ROLE & LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Appreciate alternative health beliefs, attitudes towards HC
- Provide culturally competent care
- Communicate with appropriate community supports
- Be aware of the challenges facing Dawson!
ONE LESS HEALTH CHALLENGE!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGHLIGHTS</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small centre</td>
<td>Small centre (pace)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable team</td>
<td>Small community (privacy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide variety of patients</td>
<td>Connecting patients to community resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming community</td>
<td>Limited resources (Medevacs!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff turnover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SELF CARE
JOINING IN

Made salve from spruce pitch today!

JOSEPH BOYDEN
THROUGH BLACK SPRUCE
IT WAS REALLY WORTH IT...

- Independence
- Confidence
- 1-to-1 learning opportunities
- Engagement with ALL staff
- Perceived positive impact of FN self-governance
- Exposure to expanded scope nursing
CONTRIBUTIONS

- Empirical knowledge from class
- Compassion
- Cultural awareness and humility
- Team member

(FNHA, 2016)
Questions?

mcintonyv@mcmaster.ca

nadine.v.mcintosh@gmail.com

Thank you for coming!
