Real Time Integration:

Achieving complete immunization records for all First Nations in Alberta

Cathy McDermott

Public Health Consultant

OKAKI Health

Disclosure Statement

Cathy McDermott, B.S.N., RN
Public Health Consultant
OKAKI Health Intelligence

▶ I have no affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a pharmaceutical, medical device or communications organization.

▶ I work for a private public health infomatics social enterprise.

Before: First Nations immunization records

▶ Paper records

▶ Populations are mobile & receive services elsewhere

- ❖ Public Health in **other First Nations** communities
- ❖ **Other providers** in Alberta system
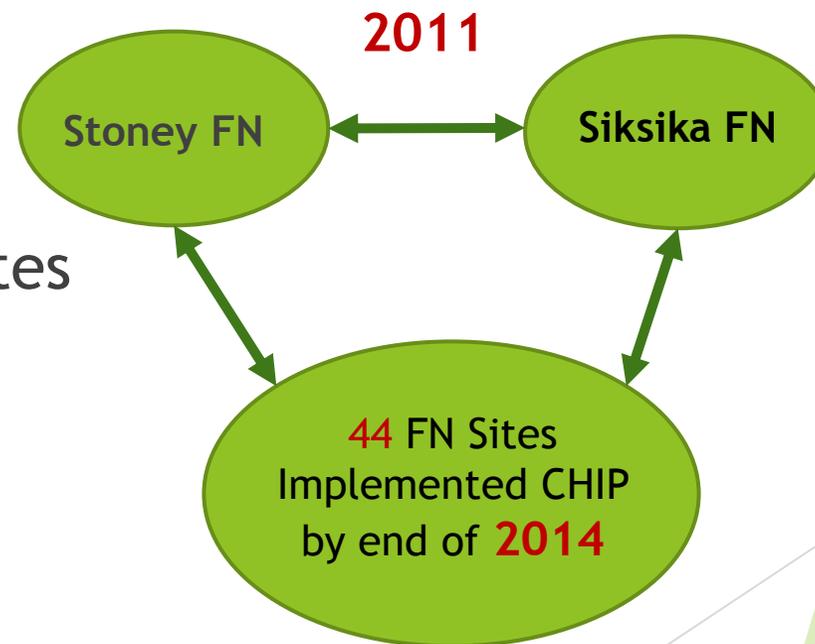
20 - 40%

▶ Incomplete immunization history

Chasing records! ~ 30% of staff time

Step 1: Implement electronic health records

▶ **Implement electronic health records**

  ❖ Community Health Immunization Program (CHIP)

▶ **Share key data between CHIP sites**

  ❖ Immunization records, allergy info

2011

Stoney FN ⟷ Siksika FN
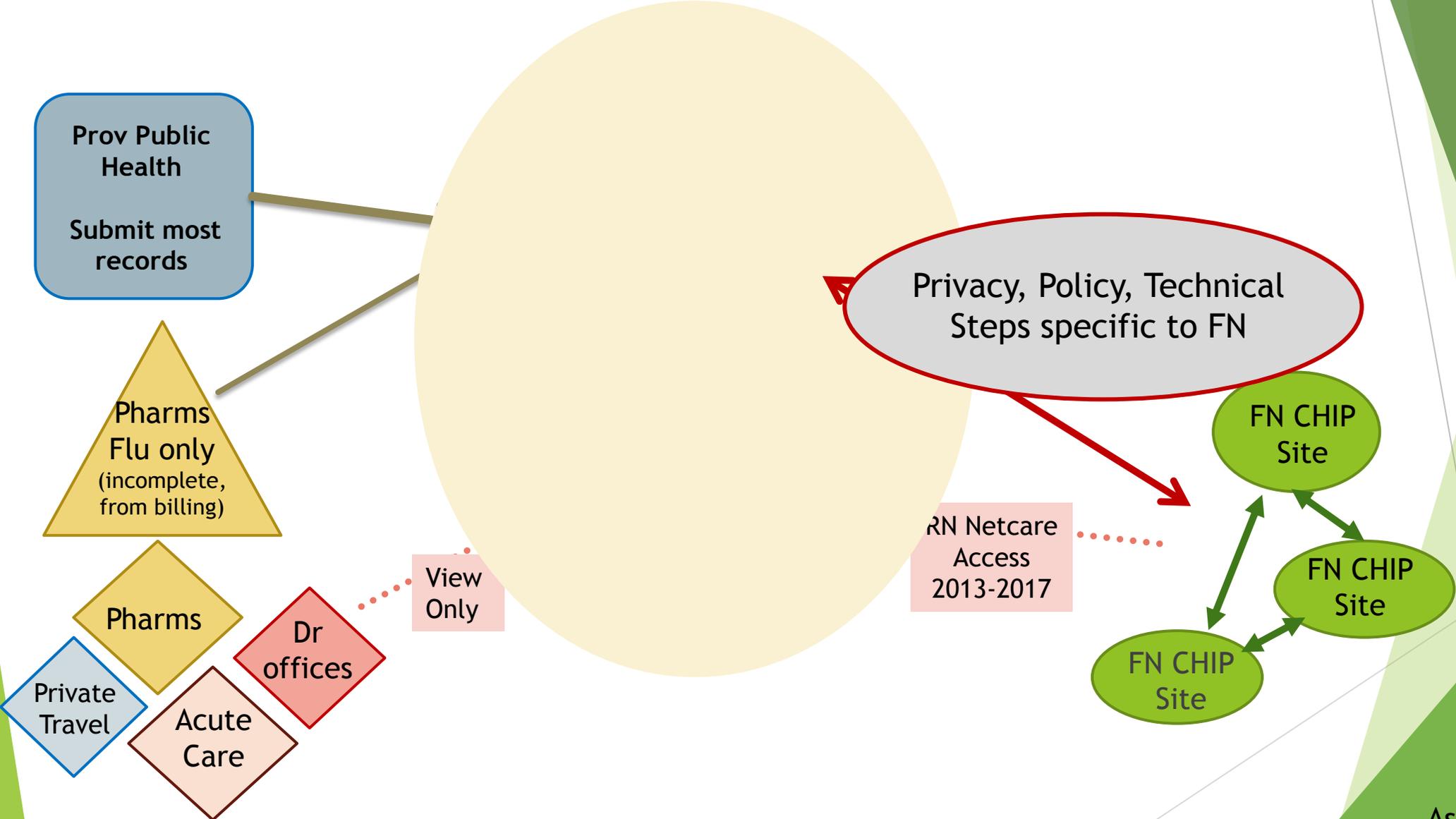
44 FN Sites Implemented CHIP by end of **2014**

Step 2: Real Time Integration (RTI) 2014-2017

▶ AB Health make records viewable in Netcare

▶ First Nations RTI: 3 functions identified & developed

- ❖ **Send** FN records **from** FN EHR **to** Alberta Health
- ❖ **Receive** records **from** Alberta Health **into** FN EHR
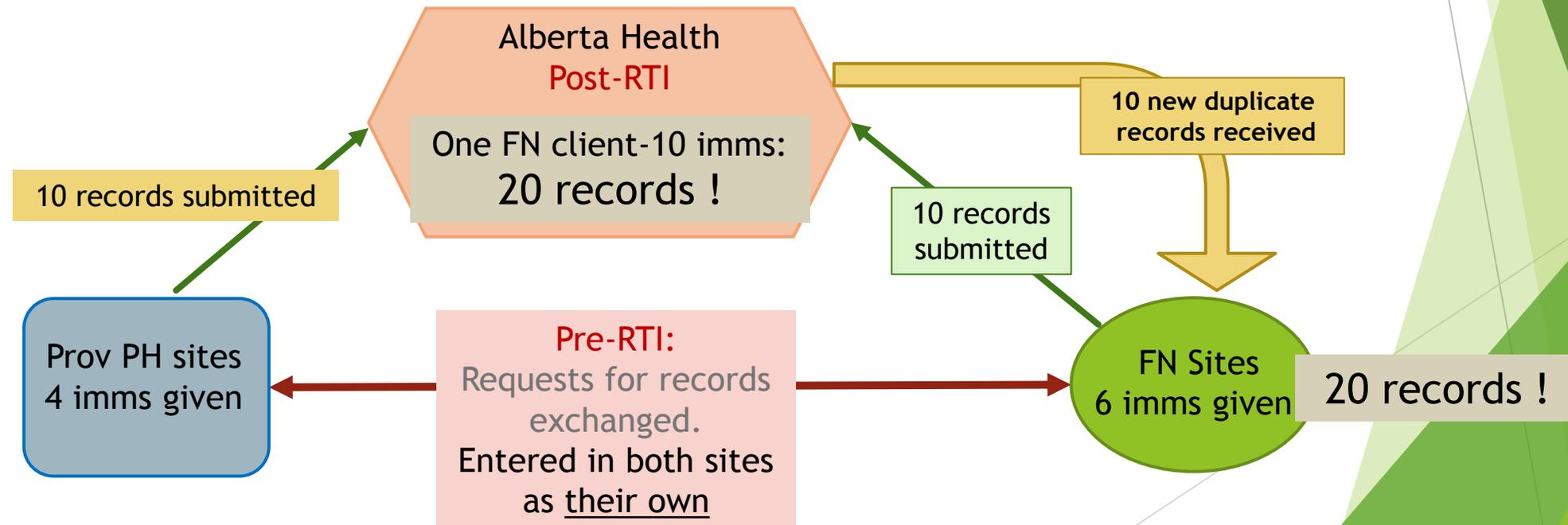- ❖ Check **Provincial Health Number** & demographics from within FN EHR

- ❖ Must be available in clinic room at point of care, in real-time
- ❖ Builds on existing work to have RNs gain access to provincial EHR

Alberta Imm Records Flow: Pre RTI

Prov Public Health

Submit most records

Pharms Flu only (incomplete, from billing)

Pharms

Private Travel

Acute Care

Dr offices

View Only

Privacy, Policy, Technical Steps specific to FN

RN Netcare Access 2013-2017

FN CHIP Site

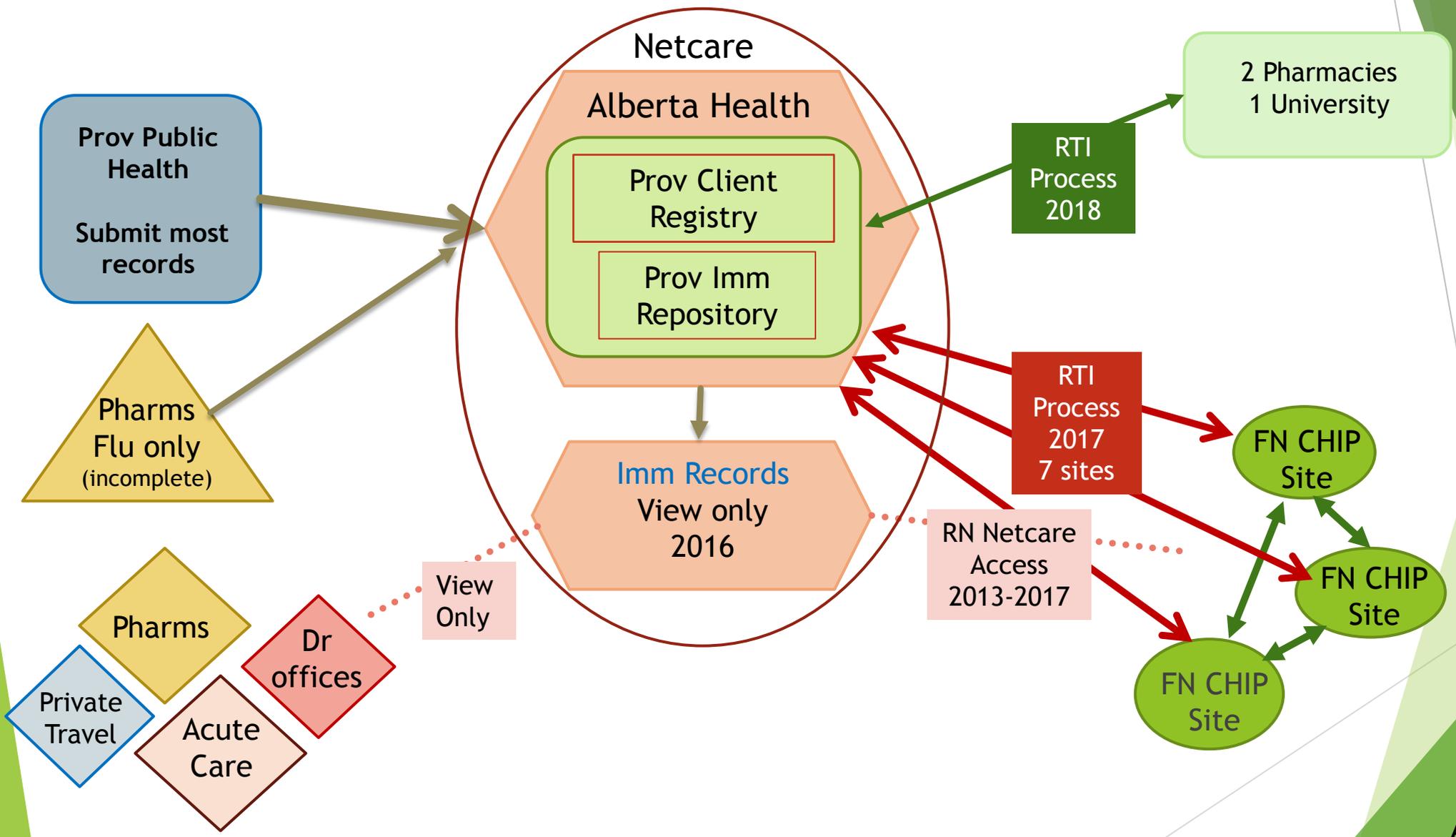FN CHIP Site

FN CHIP Site

As of Nov 2018

Challenges

- Technology related
- People related
- Data related

What was learned

- **Assigning source of records crucial to avoid duplicates**
  - ❖ Delivery Management Site: site where imm was given
  - ❖ Only submit records given at own site (for which you are the source)
  - ❖ Receive - Allow partial imm hx to come in, ignoring duplicates

- **Initial extensive support:** data cleanup pre & post implementation

- **Ongoing support required**
  - ❖ PH nurse dedicated to helpdesk for data and process issues
  - ❖ Records referred back to province for cleanup at source (non-FN sites)

Alberta Imm Records Flow: Post RTI

As of Nov 2018

Future

Point-of-care

▶ All FN sites (+40 sites)

▶ Other facilities using RTI-enabled software

Alberta Health

▶ Process available for others

▶ 2018 Immunization Regulation

❖ Require e- reporting of <u>full records</u> by 2021 by <u>any immunizer</u> using provincial vaccine

Summary

- Public health practice is negatively impacted by incomplete records
  - nationwide problem
  - priority issue identified in the National Immunization Strategy

- Partnership required between government, First Nations, and vendor to solve the problem

- While technical, data, personnel issues were expected, a **sustainable and scalable process** has been established
  - to implement in all First Nations sites by the Regulation change in 2021