

**National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health**

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The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH) will focus on closing the gap in health status between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians and improving the health status of all Aboriginal Canadians. Since the effects of low socio-economic status and physical and cultural isolation are complex, the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health will integrate its activities with the Aboriginal community, researchers, health professionals and government departments at many levels when developing priorities for knowledge translation, applied research and networking.

The University of Northern British Columbia whose mandate is to provide Northern British Columbia with a full service university with a special emphasis on the needs of Aboriginal peoples, will sponsor a Population Health Fund project to support the development of this NCC.

The activities the organization will undertake to meet the objectives include organizing cross-country focus groups and workshops with key individuals and organizations to develop the vision, goals, priorities, roles, structures and identify the to key players for the NCCAH; completing an environmental scan to identify experts, leaders, best practices and existing networks in the field; examining current strategies being used for knowledge translation and identifying knowledge gaps that will need to be addressed; developing a range of mechanisms to communicate with stakeholders including a web site, list server, newsletter and the establishment of liaison functions with key aboriginal organizations; identifying potential sources for future funding; developing proposals which address priority areas of activity; and collaborating with the other National Collaborating Centres (NCCs).