

National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health

Mandate

The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAHA) supports Aboriginal communities across Canada in realizing their health goals. The centre builds bridges between Aboriginal peoples' approaches to public health and health research centres, service delivery agencies, and policy-makers at the federal, provincial, and regional levels.

Goals

- ◆ Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal child health by developing culturally relevant materials and projects, and by making these materials available in both official languages and in Aboriginal languages where appropriate
- ◆ Increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal public health by developing culturally relevant materials and projects
- ◆ Establish new and strengthen existing partnerships at the national and international level in order to support greater Aboriginal participation in the public health initiatives that affect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples
- ◆ Evaluate the activities of the NCCAHA, identify areas for improvement, and ensure accountability to our partners, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations and communities and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

Work to Date

- ◆ Conducted extensive consultations with Aboriginal organizations, community leaders, and public health practitioners to identify priorities and create a strong and durable foundation for future collaboration
- ◆ Established a national advisory committee to guide our work
- ◆ Researched and prepared several scoping reviews and health research papers that identified a dearth of evidence-informed research in areas of public health, critical to the health of Aboriginal peoples
- ◆ Organized and participated in conferences, symposia, and dialogue circles on Aboriginal child health issues, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and on Indigenous social determinants of health

Current Activities 2007-2008

- ◆ Continuing our work on FASD by publishing papers on the scope of FASD in the Aboriginal populations of Canada and holding web symposiums with key stakeholders in policy, research, and practice
- ◆ Beginning to examine the impact of parenting as a determinant of health for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children
- ◆ Coordinating the production and distribution of papers on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis social determinants of health
- ◆ Completing an environmental scan of HIV/AIDS as it applies to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples
- ◆ Implementing a peer review process of NCCAHA materials, tools, and products
- ◆ Establishing a National Stakeholders Reference Group made up of representatives from a wide range of national Aboriginal organizations; these stakeholders will provide us with their views on Aboriginal health in Canada and engage in the peer review process for NCCAHA materials, tools, and products
- ◆ Holding a series of Dialogue Circles, bringing together experts in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis public health to explore the nature of evidence in Aboriginal health
- ◆ Collaborating with the other NCCs and PHAC to develop an NCC program evaluation framework
- ◆ Assessing all NCCAHA materials, events, and initiatives completed to date to determine their reach and effectiveness

Host:

University of Northern British Columbia

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