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eHealth InfoSource cybersanté is a free electronic current awareness service alerting readers to new electronic information resources available in eHealth. It is published by the Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada. [More information](#) about this publication.

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Find more eHealth resources on our Web site at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/res/index_e.html

Conferences

Conferences happening in the next 4 months in Canada and the United States, that focus on information and communications technologies in health, health informatics, health information management, health technology assessment, and privacy. Access all of the upcoming [Conferences](#) listed on our site (including conferences from around the world and into 2004).

March 2004

March 1, 2004. **Electronic Health Record.** (Calgary, Alberta, Canada.)
<http://www.coachorg.com/Default.asp?id=471&>

March 3, 2004. **Privacy & Security of Health Information.** (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.)
<http://www.coachorg.com/Default.asp?id=471&>

March 4, 2004. **Health Information Management.** (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.)
<http://www.coachorg.com/Default.asp?id=471&>

March 4, 2004. **Mobile Emergency Triage System in the Emergency Department : Development and Clinical Experience.** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.)
<http://www.ocri.ca/events/IThealth.html>

March 25, 2004. **Electronic Health Record Teleconference Series : Part III.** (Audio conference: 13:00 - 14:30 EST.) http://www.chra.ca/download_doc/Jan04-CPEform.htm

April 2004

April 21, 2004. **IT in Healthcare Seminar Series : "Telemedicine demands in the Eastern Ontario Region".** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.)
<http://www.ocri.ca/events/IThealth.html>

May 2004

May 8-11, 2004. **eHealth 2004 : Annual Conference.** (Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.)
<http://www.e-healthconference.com/>

May 16-19, 2004. **National Primary Health Care Conference : Moving Primary Health Care Forward : Many Successes More to Do.** (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.)
<http://www.phcconference.ca/intro.html>

May 20-23, 2004. **Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) 2004 : Twenty-first Annual Meeting.** (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.)
<http://www.scarnet.org/meeting04/index.html>

June 2004

June 24-27, 2004. **Conférence de Fondation : Réseau international santé et mieux-être en français "Vers l'unité pour la santé".** (Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.)
http://www.rismef.org/conference_fondation.htm

June 25-29, 2004. **ICR-2004 Twenty-third International Congress of Radiology.** (Montréal, Québec, Canada.) <http://www.icr2004.com/>

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Electronic Documents

New publications including government white papers and reports, industry publications, and periodical articles, which are available for free on the Internet, and which are published by authoritative sources. Access more than 2600 publications via the searchable [eHealth Online Literature Catalogue](#).

Clinical Transformation : Cross-Industry Lessons for Health Care

Given, Ruth and Deloitte Research. United States : Deloitte Consulting, 2003.
http://www.dc.com/pdf/Clinical_Transformation.pdf

Computer-Based Delivery of Health Evidence : A Systematic Review of Randomised Controlled Trials and Systematic Reviews of the Effectiveness on the Process of Care and Patient Outcomes

Cramer, Kristie et al. Canada : University of Alberta, 2003.
http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/grants/docs/state_of_science_reviews/Klassen_Review.pdf

A Computer Decision Aid for Medical Prevention : A Pilot Qualitative Study of the Personalized Estimate of Risks (EsPeR) System

Colombet, Isabelle et al. BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making, v3 n13, November 27, 2003.
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6947-3-13.pdf>

Cutting I.T. Down to Size

Gillespie, Greg. *Health Data Management*, December 2003.
This article discusses the use of blade computers and proximity badges in exam rooms of a group practice.
<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/PastIssueStory.cfm?PostID=16591&PastMonth=December&PastYear=2003>

Dial-A-Nurse : A Telerriage Pilot Project in Northern Ontario

Laurentian University, Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research. Canada : Laurentian University, Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research, 2003.
<http://laurentian.ca/cranhr/pdf/focus/FOCUS03-A1.pdf>

Evaluating a New Approach for Improving Care in an Accident and Emergency Department : The NU-Care Project

Mayhew, Leslie and Carney-Jones, Eileen. United Kingdom : City University, Cass Business School, 2003.
http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/pdf/Health_Report.pdf

Fake Worlds Offer Real Medicine

Thacker, Paul D. Journal of the American Medical Association, v290 n16, October 22, 2003, p2107-2112.

The use of virtual reality in medical treatment and training.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/290/16/2107>

Health Care in Canada 2003

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Canada : Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2003.

http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/products/hcic2003_e.pdf

HealthConnect Interim Research Report, Volume One : Overview and Findings

Australia, Department of Health and Ageing, HealthConnect Program Office. Australia : Department of Health and Ageing, 2003.

<http://www.health.gov.au/healthconnect/researchrep/irr.html#vol1>

HealthConnect Interim Research Report, Volume Two : Research Reports

Australia, Department of Health and Ageing, HealthConnect Program Office. Australia : Department of Health and Ageing, 2003.

<http://www.health.gov.au/healthconnect/researchrep/irr.html#vol2>

HealthConnect Interim Research Report, Volume Three : Background Documents

Australia, Department of Health and Ageing, HealthConnect Program Office. Australia : Department of Health and Ageing, 2003.

<http://www.health.gov.au/healthconnect/researchrep/irr.html#vol3>

How Adolescents Use Technology for Health Information : Implications for Health Professionals from Focus Group Studies

Skinner, Harvey et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n4, October-December 2003, e32.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/4/e32/>

Online Patient-Provider Communication Tools : An Overview

MacDonald, Keith and First Consulting Group. United States : California Healthcare Foundation, 2003.

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/ihealth/PatientProviderCommunicationTools.pdf>

PACS : What to Look for

Schuster, Sydney. Medical Imaging, October 2003.

<http://www.medicalimagingmag.com/articles.ASP?articleid=M0308S01>

Point of Care Can Be Anywhere

Briggs, Bill. Health Data Management, December 2003.

This article discusses the benefits of point-of-care technology in patient care.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/PastIssueStory.cfm?PostID=16588&PastMonth=December&PastYear=2003>

Point of Care on a Roll

Briggs, Bill. Health Data Management, December 2003.

An example of point-of-care technology using computers attached to rolling carts to assist nurses with surgical patient charting.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/PastIssueStory.cfm?PostID=16593&PastMonth=December&PastYear=2003>

Privacy in Practice : A Handbook for Canadian Physicians

Canadian Medical Association (CMA). Canada : Canadian Medical Association, 2003.

<http://www.cma.ca/staticContent/HTML/N0/I2/HIT/protection-health-info/pdf/privacy-handbook.pdf>

Public Response to HL7 Ballot 1 : Electronic Health Records

EHR Collaborative. United States : EHR Collaborative, 2003.

http://www.ehrcollaborative.org/EHR_Collaborative_Final_Report_082903.pdf

Reasons for Consulting a Doctor on the Internet : Web Survey of Users of an Ask the Doctor Service

Umefjord, Göran et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research, v5 n4, October-December 2003, e26.

<http://www.jmir.org/2003/4/e26/index.htm>

Sources of Data for Rural Health Research : Development of an Inventory of Databases

Laurentian University, Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research. Research in Focus on Research, v2003-A4, 2003.

<http://laurentian.ca/cranhr/pdf/focus/FOCUS03-A4.pdf>

Tactical Plan for Health Information Management in British Columbia : Nine Key Projects in Six Months

British Columbia, Health Chief Information Officer Council. Canada : British Columbia, Ministry of Health Services, 2003.

http://healthnet.hnet.bc.ca/pub_reports/tac_plan_may2003.pdf

Taking Stock Results of a CHRA/THiNC iMi National Survey of Health Record Professionals

Maloney, Shelagh. The CHRA Source, v4 n3, Summer 2003, p1,4-9.

http://www.chra.ca/download_doc/Summer2003Issue.pdf

Telemedicine Eyed for Mental Health Services

Mitka, Mike. Journal of the American Medical Association, v290 n14, October 8, 2003, p1842-1843.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/290/14/1842>

Who's Counting Now? ROI for Patient Safety IT Initiatives

Newell, Lucy Mancini and Christensen, Doug. Journal of Healthcare Information Management, v17 n4, Fall 2003, p29-35.

<http://www.himss.org/content/files/jhim/17-4/newell.pdf>

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Funding Opportunities

Current funding opportunities for health research on the use of information and communications technologies in health, which are open to Canadian researchers. Access all of the [Funding Opportunities](#) listed on our site.

American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA's) Foundation of Research and Education

Practice Solutions and Best Practice Awards

<http://www.ahima.org/fore/practice.html>

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Knowledge Translation Strategies for Health Research

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/19752.shtml>

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Initiatives

Selected initiatives that profile Canadian telehealth, electronic health record, education, privacy and health information infrastructure projects and programs. Access the full descriptions of more than 250 initiatives via the [Canadian eHealth Initiatives Database](#).

Health Knowledge Network. Lead Organization : Health Knowledge Network

<http://www.hkn.ca/>

Nursing Students Introduced to Home Telehealth. Lead Organization : Algonquin College

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/pr/Releases/Project.pdf>

Satellite Telehealth Project. Lead Organization : Telesat

http://www.telesat.com/rd/inprogress_telecare.htm

Information on the following initiatives involving Capital Health (Edmonton) is available in the database. Search for these initiatives by typing "capital health (edmonton)" in the "Organizations" search box, and then by selecting "Telehealth" from the "Limit Search by Category" drop down box.

Cardiac EASE Telehealth.

Internet-Based Asthma Management.

Telehealth Lung Cancer Triage & Follow up Clinic.

Telehealth Orthopedic Services in Northern Lights Health Region.

Telehealth Stroke Screening and Triage Clinic.

Telehealth to Improve Child Health in Central and Northern Alberta.

Telehealth to Improve Geriatric Care in Central and Northern Alberta.

Telehealth to Improve Rehabilitation in Central and Northern Alberta.

Telehealth to Improve Renal Care in Central and Northern Alberta.

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Periodicals

The latest issues of electronic journals which are available for free on the Internet, and which are published by authoritative sources. Access the full list of [Electronic Periodicals](#).

Advance for Imaging and Oncology Administrators Online. Latest Issue : v5 n2, January 29, 2004.

<http://www.advanceforioa.com/Main.aspx>

Artificial Intelligence in Medicine. Latest Issue : v30 n1, January 2004.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09333657 ...](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09333657)

ATSP Online. Latest Issue : January 2, 2004.

<http://www.atsp.org>

BMJ Medical Informatics : Information in Practice. Latest Issue : January 17, 2004.

http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/information_in_practice

BMJ Medical Informatics : Other Medical Informatics. Latest Issue : January 17, 2004.

http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/collection/other_medical_informatics:other

BMJ Medical Informatics : World Wide Web. Latest Issue : January 31, 2004.

<http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/WWW>

Canadian Medical Association Journal (eCMAJ). Latest Issue : v170 n2, January 20, 2004.

<http://www.cmaj.ca/current.shtml>

The CHIMA Source. Latest Issue : 1:1, Fall 2003.

http://www.chima-cchra.ca/download_doc/Fall2003.pdf

The Canadian College of Health Record Administrators (CHRA) has officially changed its name to the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA), and the publication formerly known as "The CHRA Source" is now called "The CHIMA Source".

CIHI Directions ICIS. Latest Issue : v10 n3, Fall 2003.

http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=news_dir_v10n3_e

Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine. Latest Issue : v73 n2, February 2004.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01692607 ...](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01692607)

The E-Backbone. Latest Issue : v3 n3, December 2003.

http://www.nlchi.nf.ca/pdf/backbone_Dec03.pdf

eHealth Update. Latest Issue : September/October 2003.

http://206.222.94.60/QuickPlace/ehealth/Main.nsf/h_D4F365376AF1EEE885256B9000555D20/D83619DDE9C72F9685256E0400562B66/?OpenDocument

Federal Telemedicine Update. Latest Issue : January 26, 2004.

<http://www.federaltelemedicine.com/n012604.htm>

The Feed-back.com Ezine. Latest Issue : v6 n5, December 2003.

<http://www.feed-back.com/ezine.htm>

Health Affairs. Latest Issue : v23 n1, January-February 2003.

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

Health Data Management. Latest Issue : February 2004.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/html/current/index.cfm>

Health E-News. Latest Issue : n7, December 2003.

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/f872666357c511eb4c25666d000c8888/814be29d27485378cc256df700705467?OpenDocument>

Health ICT News. Latest Issue : October 23, 2003.

http://www.chik.com.au/newsletter/view_news.php?id=290

Health Informatics Europe. Latest Issue : January 29, 2004

<http://www.hi-europe.info/new.htm>

Health Informatics Zone. Latest Issue : January 6, 2004.

http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/home_info.asp

Health Management Technology. Latest Issue : February 2004.

<http://www.healthmgtttech.com/>

HL7 Canada Bulletin. Latest Issue : n36, November 2003.

http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb/dispPage.jsp?cw_page=news_hl7_current_e

Healthcare Informatics. Latest Issue : January 2004.
http://www.healthcare-informatics.com/issues/2004/01_04/jan04.htm

Healthcare Information Management and Communications Canada. Latest Issue : v17 n5, December 2003.
http://hcccinc.qualitygroup.com/hcccinc2/bcovers/crnt_edition.html

i-Health Media Watch. Latest Issue : December 10, 2003.
<http://www.hinz.org.nz/ihealth/Media-Watch.htm>

The Informatics Review. Latest Issue : v7 n3, February 1, 2004.
<http://www.informatics-review.com/>

Journal of AHIMA Public Article Archive. Latest Issue : February 2, 2004.
http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/web_assets/bok1_016845.hcst

Journal of Medical Internet Research. Latest Issue : v6 n1, January-March 2004.
<http://www.jmir.org/2004/1/index.htm>

Military Medical Technology. Latest Issue : v7 n8, November 25, 2003.
<http://www.mmt-kmi.com/index.cfm>

TeleHealth Initiative. Latest Issue : n10, January 2004.
http://www.hprb.health.nsw.gov.au/pmd/telehealth/main_4/media_news/pdf/newsletter10_04.pdf

Telemedicine Information Exchange News (What's New). Latest Issue : January 23, 2004.
<http://tie.telemed.org/news/>

Virtual Medical Worlds Monthly. Latest Issue : February 2004.
<http://www.hoise.com/vmw/04/articles/index.html>

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Success Stories

First Nations Health Care in Transition: The Alberta Story

Applying e-Health concepts

The e-Health vision is taking hold for First Nations communities in Alberta, and all stakeholders are starting to recognize the immense potential of Internet technologies. It's a homegrown solution that touches hundreds of First Nations people everyday. It's also a good news story worth sharing.



Electronic health (e-Health) is a general term referring to the use of digital data transmitted electronically -- for clinical, educational and administrative applications -- both locally and at a distance. It's much broader than telemedicine or Telehealth. In Alberta, Health Canada's First Nations Telehealth Program team, private and public sector partners and members of the province's 44 First Nations communities are working together to apply e-Health concepts to the way they do business.

Quick Facts

- 44 First Nations in three treaty areas
- 123 reserves
- Approximately 700,537 hectares of reserve land
- Approximately 58,046 people living on the reserves
- Internet access to all Alberta First Nations health centres through bi-directional satellite equipment
- 24 Telehealth sites where the telecommunications infrastructure permits

The opportunity

Like all sectors, the use of information technology has seen a natural progression. This is particularly true for the delivery of health care services in First Nations communities in Alberta during the last decade or so. The first significant piece of technology used in Alberta First Nations communities was an information system designed to collect client data, such as health history, lab results and immunization records. The original rollout included one application, one computer and one phone line -- it was met with mixed reaction.

"Our communities were simply not fully buying-in to an information system," Says Mel MacLean, a Regional Program Manager in what has become Alberta's Telehealth Team in Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. "The application was great, but the processes surrounding it weren't working. First Nations communities told us they were more interested in infrastructure support, knowledge transfer and capacity building -- that's why we needed a new way to deliver service."

Up until recently, the team responsible for delivering technology solutions to First Nations communities focussed almost exclusively on supporting individual applications. But as technology was improving - getting more reliable, easier to use and less expensive - the need for change was obvious. At the same time, other factors were making it clear that a change in approach was in order. Alberta First Nations have a decentralized population with a high percentage of that

population living in remote areas. More importantly, First Nations have perhaps the poorest health status in Alberta.

By 2001, the mindset had started to shift -- instead of simply using technology as a tool, the team started to look at ways to leverage technology's advantages in changing business processes. What was to become Alberta's e-Health vision was born.

The response

One of the first steps in bringing Alberta's e-Health vision to life involved looking at what was technologically possible. The Telehealth Program Team zeroed in on ways to promote the use of technology and identified potential technological barriers. The aim was to leverage information and communication technology to connect healthcare providers and governments; educate and inform healthcare professionals, managers and clients; and ultimately improve client health and the First Nations healthcare system.

"We needed to facilitate improvements in business and clinical practices and processes," explains Dr. David Strong, Health Canada's Regional Community Medical Consultant for the Alberta Region. "We had to respond to demands from healthcare workers and their clients for improved access to quality healthcare information and services. Healthcare lends itself particularly well to the strategic application of technology because of its size, the current inefficiencies of paper-based records, and the intense need for up-to-date information to provide quality care in First Nations communities."

"First Nations communities told us they were interested in infrastructure support, knowledge transfer and capacity building."

In total, the team identified 21 Alberta First Nations communities that had sufficient broadband access to accommodate videoconferencing - a key tool in realizing a number of e-Health goals. In addition, through the use of bi-directional satellite equipment, high speed Internet access was provided to healthcare workers in all Alberta First Nations communities with a health centre.

The Telehealth team also met with end-users - those in the community who knew what the most immediate needs were. Health Directors and staff in general identified definite gaps that could be addressed with technology. They also expressed the need to demonstrate some immediate results. In response, efforts focussed on targeted initiatives, including a treatment program in conjunction with the National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), an educational nutrition program with the Dietitians of Canada, and an educational/assessment program with the Podiatrists Association of Alberta and the Victorian Order of Nurses. As well, a Health Portal was developed to provide access to e-mail, discussion groups and health content to all First Nations healthcare workers.

While individual communities concentrated on determining their own needs, the Telehealth Program Team was working toward ensuring a stable and sustainable infrastructure. There were problems at first - technical glitches and a steep learning curve for some - but now Health Centres

"Alberta's First Nations are adopting new technologies as impressively as the rest of the world."

are starting to function as business units with a single infrastructure and a range of solutions. The Program Team has evolved from simply supporting an application to supporting infrastructure and the over 400 users in community Health Centers.

Positive outcomes

For Alberta, e-Health has come to characterize not only technical development, but also a state of mind, a way of thinking, an attitude and a commitment to innovative thinking for improving healthcare in First Nations communities by using information and communication technology. It's also had a positive impact on all stakeholders.

"Alberta's First Nations are adopting new technologies as fast as we can roll them out," says Robert Vigneault, National Implementation Services Manager of Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. "The region's Telehealth Team is working with a number of stakeholders to develop and adapt unique e-Health technologies and applications that deliver improved healthcare. This results in the delivery of better, more cost effective health service delivery in First Nations communities, and that benefits clients, health providers and funding bodies."

In short, by implementing its e-Health strategy, the Alberta First Nations communities were successful in:

- positioning Alberta as a leading provider of innovative, cost effective health care options;
- improving community access to a range of identified services;
- providing patients with the convenience and independence of care access from their communities;
- enhancing community-based care and support;
- enhancing continuum of care with face-to-face conferencing for people in remote communities (e.g., between community health professionals and urban specialists, or between patients in one community and their family in another, etc.);
- increasing collaboration and teamwork between urban, rural or isolated health professionals and other government and non-government service providers;
- reducing isolation for rural health professionals, who are now able to regularly link with peers both interstate and intrastate to access a range of professional development opportunities; creating high levels of client and staff satisfaction with the technology;
- decreasing travel costs substantially; and
- increasing job satisfaction among nurses and healthcare providers as a result of less time



Tucked away in a storage closet, simple, off-the-shelf information technology and communications equipment facilitates the shift to an e-Health approach. It makes all the difference in the world to Alberta's remote First Nations communities.

spent travelling and more time treating clients.

For more information...

Alberta First Nations
Telehealth Program
First Nations and Inuit
Health Branch, Alberta
Region
Tel: 780.495.4949
Fax: 780.495.8920

e-Health Solutions Unit
First Nations and Inuit
Health Branch
Health Canada
Tel: 613.948.2622
Fax: 613.946.4571

Without a doubt, the combination of information technologies, telecommunications and Telehealth is beginning to have a significant effect on First Nations healthcare in Alberta. And the future looks promising. Alberta First Nations in cooperation with Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) will continue to work toward ensuring access to quality health services and removing barriers to good health for First Nations communities. In fact, the Alberta model is being adopted by other Health Canada regions and is being deployed throughout First Nations communities by FNIHB's Primary Health Care e-Health Initiative.

Read more eHealth [Success Stories](#) from across Canada.

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About

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All of the resources described in this publication were accessible on February 17, 2004.

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Past issues are available at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsi/about_apropos/hcpubssc_e.html#info

"OHIH's mandate is to serve as Health Canada's focal point for ehealth, multi-channel government service delivery, and privacy."

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Office of Health and the Information Highway, Health Canada
Jeanne Mance Building, Tunney's Pasture, AL 1904
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9