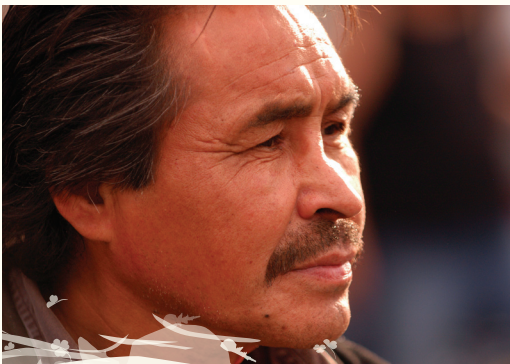


## Welcome to the NCCAH

The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health supports a renewed public health system in Canada that is inclusive and respectful of diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across Canada. The NCCAH strengthens the links between evidence, knowledge, practice and policy to help reduce health inequities that exist between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians, while advancing self-determination over health and the role of Indigenous knowledge in optimal well-being.



## National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

The NCCAH is one of six collaborating centres funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada, each focused on a different aspect of public health. Together, the centres help improve response to chronic disease and injury, infectious diseases, environmental health and health disparities. The NCCAH is hosted at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, BC and is guided by a 15-member advisory committee comprised of leading First Nations, Inuit and Métis representatives from a variety of disciplines.



## Visit Us

We invite you to visit our website: [www.nccah.ca](http://www.nccah.ca) to access our resources, explore our work, view our videos and link to partners and collaborators in Aboriginal health. Please contact us at [nccah@unbc.ca](mailto:nccah@unbc.ca) for more information.



NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE  
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*sharing knowledge ·  
making a difference  
partager les connaissances ·  
faire une différence*

## Highlights of Our Work

The community-centred, holistic and strengths-based approach to health at the NCCAH is integral to activities in our key program areas:



## Setting the Context

The NCCAH promotes broader understanding of Aboriginal public health issues and perspectives at events, conferences and workshops, as well as through culturally relevant videos, reports, fact sheets and other materials. Our many collaborations at international, national, provincial and regional levels extend across traditional boundaries to address the multi-faceted and structural issues underpinning Aboriginal health. A highlight of our work includes the *Landscapes of Indigenous Health* report outlining current directions in Indigenous peoples' health research in Canada, as well as gaps in research and data that require attention. This work is being updated in 2010.

## Child and Youth Health

A focus on child and youth health can lead to lifelong health benefits and help break an intergenerational cycle of illness and disease. Many of our collaborative projects are now bearing fruit. Our joint 2009 report with UNICEF Canada, *Aboriginal Children's Health: Leaving No Child Behind* helped draw national and international attention to the state of Aboriginal children's health in Canada. Our groundbreaking video, *Messages from the Heart: Caring for our Children* explores the role of parenting in Aboriginal child health in the wake of the residential school system, and supports the work of organizations across the country. We are also seeing the roll-out of a Canadian Paediatric Society education module to sixteen universities across Canada in 2010, effectively educating the next generation of paediatric physicians in best practices in Aboriginal child and youth health. This NCCAH-supported project involved nearly a dozen national organizations.

## Emerging Priorities

The NCCAH responds to emerging priorities of relevance to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Our centre is collaborating on strategies addressing infectious and communicable diseases, and is exploring environmental health issues relevant to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We host the First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network linking researchers and communities, and are currently involved in a project related to the safety of small drinking water systems in First Nations and Inuit communities.

*Together, with our communities, advisors, and our many partners and collaborators, we are moving the agenda forward in support of sharing knowledge and making a difference in the optimal health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.*

## Social Determinants

Since its inception, the NCCAH has brought a strong national and international focus in its activities to the social determinants of health. This approach targets not just specific illness, but underlying causes such as poverty, substandard housing, and barriers to education. Many of these factors are rooted in a history of colonization affecting culture, languages, land rights and self-determination. The NCCAH played a leadership role in facilitating Indigenous perspectives to the World Health organization's 2008 global study on health, and has hosted two national forums with Aboriginal Organizations to identify how sectors within and beyond health can support an integrated approach to improving Aboriginal public health outcomes. Our DVD documentaries are helping shed light on this vital approach to health, and have been released nationally and internationally.