



media release

Local award for far-reaching work...

PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. (Nov. 2009) – The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, hosted at UNBC, was recently recognized for its role in the health of northern communities in B.C. and beyond with an award honouring its work internationally with the United Nations and World Health Organization; nationally in convening work on the social determinants of Aboriginal peoples' health; and locally for supporting health and wellness within Northern B.C.

A ceremony hosted by Prince George MLA Shirley Bond last month celebrated people and organizations in Northern B.C. dedicated to supporting the optimal health of individuals and communities. The event was held in partnership with the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society and featured a focus on healthy living across cultures.



"We're really delighted to be part of the phenomenal work taking place in the northern communities of this province, with so many leaders in their fields who are committed and passionate about improving the health of our communities," said Dr. Margo Greenwood, NCCAHA Academic Leader. She noted that northern populations of B.C. include a rich cultural diversity, including 17 First Nations with more than 27 distinct languages and dialects.

The NCCAHA has contributed to several international initiatives, including development of the United Nations General Comment on the Rights of Indigenous Children, which gives voice to specific concerns that affect the health and well-being of Indigenous children globally. The Centre also coordinated international Indigenous input to the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health as it prepared a report on global health conditions that was released last year.

In the past two years, the Centre has initiated national dialogue with Aboriginal organizations from across the country to determine how sectors such as housing, education,

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culture, sports, and environment can work together in support of the optimal health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

The award for research was presented to Dr. Greenwood, accepting on behalf of the NCCAH, at the *A Healthier You* event by Cathy Ulrich, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Health Authority of B.C.

About the National Collaborating Centre Program

The NCCAH is one of six National Collaborating Centres established by the Government of Canada in 2004 and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada in support of public health renewal in Canada. The centres are hosted by various institutions in regions across the country, and work to improve response to public health threats, chronic disease and injury, infectious diseases and health disparities.

The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health is hosted at the [University of Northern British Columbia](#) in Prince George, B.C as part of the university's commitment to First Nations and Aboriginal programming. The Centre supports First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in realizing their health goals and reducing the health inequities that currently exist for Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

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NATIONAL COLLABORATING CENTRE
FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

CENTRE DE COLLABORATION NATIONALE
DE LA SANTÉ AUTOCHTONE