

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: IS YOUR CARE CULTURALLY-SAFE?

The **Aboriginal Health Initiative** was formed in 1993 in response to the growing recognition of the sexual and reproductive health disparity between Aboriginal people and the rest of Canada.

OUR GOAL: Work in collaboration with the Aboriginal community to advance culturally safe health & healing for Aboriginal women through:

- ▶▶ Education
- ▶▶ Partnerships & Community Initiatives
- ▶▶ Leadership & Advocacy

Alisha Nicole Apale & Jennifer Ferrante
Aboriginal Health Initiative Coordinators
aboriginalhealth@sogc.com
613-730-4192 ext. 247/260

EDUCATION:

Members: Raise awareness of SOGC members and health care professionals to foster a socio-cultural understanding of Aboriginal peoples. Provide the tools needed to deliver culturally competent care.

Public: Develop and facilitate access to culturally relevant resources on key women's health issues.

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

Engage Aboriginal organizations and communities to collaborate on projects and initiatives that improve women's and maternal/child health.

LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY:

Bring Aboriginal health to the forefront of the medical community by engaging and lobbying mainstream medical organizations, the government and industry.



ABORIGINAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



Administered by:
THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS OF CANADA

780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7
Tel: 1 800 561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 Fax: (613) 730-4314 www.sogc.org





HISTORICALLY, Aboriginal women were equal partners in Aboriginal social structure.

Women were the guardians of most health knowledge and traditions surrounding maternity and child care.



WHY DOES CANADA'S FASTEST GROWING POPULATION HAVE THE POOREST ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE?

In 2006, Canada's Aboriginal population surpassed the 1 million mark.

Within Canada, the need to address the health risks facing Aboriginal peoples has become more compelling as the population continues to grow rapidly.

DID YOU KNOW?

54% live in **urban areas**

36% of Aboriginal women are living in **poverty** – approximately double that of non Aboriginal women

Many — 53% of urban Inuit — live in **over-crowded, sub-standard housing**

Strong healthy women are the foundation of thriving, connected communities.

TODAY, we commit to advancing First Nation, Inuit and Métis women's health.



THE COSTS OF INEQUITY

Aboriginal women experience:

- ▶ Highest rates of cervical cancer
- ▶ Highest rates of STI's and HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Highest rates of teenage pregnancies
- ▶ Highest rates of diabetes during pregnancy
- ▶ Highest rates of violence, especially during pregnancy

A YOUNG AND GROWING POPULATION

Over half of Aboriginal **mothers are under 25 years of age**. The health of Aboriginal children depends on the health of their mothers. **It's time to work towards a vibrant and healthy next generation. Are you ready?**