

## 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](http://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?**