

First Nations and Inuit Treatment Access Issues



HIV/AIDS Treatment
Access Advocacy
Workshop Series



Canadian Treatment Action Council



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Workshop Overview

1. Overview of First Nations and Inuit in Canada
2. Stigma and Discrimination
3. Health Care Delivery
 - Barriers
 - Who's Involved
 - What Needs to Change

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First Nations and Inuit in Canada

Who are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada?

What are some traditional health and wellness models?

What are some health indicators and issues?



Who are the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada? 4

First Nations

Inuk / Inuit

Innu

Métis



Who are the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada?

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First Nations



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Who are the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada?

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Inuk / Inuit
Innu



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Who are the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada?

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Métis



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Health and Wellness Models

Traditional Medicines

Elders

Healers

Medicine Wheel

Churches

Ceremonies

Healing Retreats

Country Foods

Gatherings

Connection to the land

What else?



What are some socio-economic factors that affect health?

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Life expectancy

Isolation

Infectious diseases

Education

Literacy

Phobias

Employment

Housing

Poverty

Water and sewage

What else?



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What are some inter-generational effects of the Residential School Legacy?

Loss of language, culture and identity

Impact on self-esteem and pride

Negative coping behaviours



Health Indicators and Issues

- More Aboriginal peoples are becoming infected with, and living with, HIV/AIDS than any other population in Canada
- HIV/AIDS has a big impact on Aboriginal women.
- Injection drug use continues to be a major way that HIV is transmitted in the Aboriginal community.



Stigma and Discrimination

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What is it?

Misunderstandings about HIV/AIDS reinforced by social problems and other forms of oppression.

Being avoided, ignored, talked about, laughed at or bullied because of HIV/AIDS.



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Stigma and Discrimination

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How does this affect treatment access?

Quality of care

Social marginalization

Mistrust of government and institutions

Disclosure and confidentiality

How else?



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What needs to happen?

- Health care provider education
- HIV/AIDS education in communities
- Stronger measures to enforce confidentiality
- **What else?**



Health Care Delivery

Who is responsible for health care delivery for First Nations and Inuit?

What are some jurisdictional barriers?

What needs to happen?



Who's Responsible for First Nations?

What are the federal government's responsibilities?

What are the provincial and territorial governments' responsibilities?



Who's Responsible for Inuit?

What are the federal government's responsibilities?

What are the provincial and territorial governments' responsibilities?



Who else is involved in health care delivery?

NIICHO, CHRs and CHNs

Land claims organizations

AASOs

Drs and RNs

Infectious Disease Specialists

Who else?



Health Care Delivery

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Who are some key players?

Decision-makers

Friends and allies

Opponents

Undecided

Media

Who else?



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Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program:

- What is it?
- Who is eligible?
- What are the benefits provided?



What are some barriers that First Nations face?

“Passing the buck” between federal and provincial governments

Federal/provincial/territories/municipal priorities

Inter-departmental divisions

Cultural sensitivity

What else?



What are some barriers that Inuit face?

Access and capacity

Geography

Programs design

Capacity and resources

Cultural sensitivity



Health Care Delivery:

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What needs to happen?

- More First Nations and Inuit input in decision-making processes
- Improved communication and service coordination among all levels of government and inter-departmentally
- Sustainable partnerships – knowing who to approach and how
- **What else?**



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Contact us

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Tools for Action: HIV/AIDS Treatment Access Advocacy Series

Canadian Treatment Action Council

PO Box 116, Station "F"

Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L4

Telephone and Fax: (416) 410-1369

Email: tfa@ctac.ca

Website: www.ctac.ca/tfa



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