

FROM VISIONS TO ACTIONS: THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH

The NCCAH Planning Committee gratefully acknowledges the participation and contribution of the following guest speakers, presenters, and facilitators.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ~ FEBRUARY 17TH



Dawn Walker, an obstetrical nurse by profession, is Special Advisor on public health at the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada, working horizontally across Health Canada on a variety of special projects. She was Chief of Family & Child Health and Director of Health Promotion Programs at Health Canada prior to being Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Child Health. Until last year, Dawn sat on the Institute

Advisory Council of the Research Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health. Throughout a 40-year career in both government and non-governmental positions, Dawn has been an avid advocate for the health and well-being of children and a strong supporter of holistic approaches. Dawn has raised six daughters and now enjoys nine grandchildren.



Gail Turner, a member of the Labrador Inuit, is Director of Health Services with the Nunatsiavut, Department of Health and Social Development. She is responsible for Public Health, Home and Community Care, and the NIHB program. Gail's public health experience includes Community Clinics, Continuing Care and medical evacuations in Labrador. She has a Bachelor of Nursing degree, a Masters of Adult Education, and a Diploma in

Health Administration. Gail represents Nunatsiavut on health issues at a local, regional, provincial, national and international levels, and is active in the Integrated Nursing Access program for Inuit nurses. She is currently the Chair of the National Inuit Committee on Health and Co-Chair of the National Collaborating Center on Aboriginal Health. Gail was a member of a Labrador Steering Committee on tuberculosis and has helped develop a Tuberculosis Control Manual for Nunatsiavut. In 2007, Gail was a proud recipient of the FNIHB Award of Excellence in Nursing.



Marissa Nahannee's ancestral name is Maykw Cha7em; she comes from Es7lhan (North Vancouver, BC) and Gitwinshilkw (Canyon City, Northern BC). Marissa's ancestral lineages are from the Squamish and Nisga'a Nations; her parents are her role models. She has practiced her culture since she was seven years old, and has travelled to Taiwan, Switzerland, the United States and across Canada to showcase the diversity of Aboriginal peoples.

She graduated from the Art Institute of Vancouver in 2007 in event planning and is part way through her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business. Marissa has a passion for youth engagement, particularly as youth make up more than half the Aboriginal population. She is currently working with the Four Host First Nations on the Youth Engagement Strategy for Canada and on events for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. For Marissa, life is all about passion and the belief that each person is here for a reason.



Mary Polak was appointed BC Minister of Healthy Living and Sport in 2008. She currently sits on the Cabinet Committee on New Relationship Coordination and the Government Caucus Committee on Social Development. Mary has served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for the Conversation on Health; on the Government Caucus Committee for Natural Resources and the Economy, and on the Select Standing Committees for

Children and Youth, Education and Public Accounts. Before being elected to the Legislative Assembly, Mary was director of operations for a small polling and research firm, and a trustee and former chair of the Surrey School Board. Throughout her nine years in local government, Mary has worked with many regional and provincial organizations. In the mid 1990s, Mary chaired the Council of British Columbia School Districts and in 2003, she was elected to the board of directors of the British Columbia School Trustees Association. Mary lives in the Willoughby area of Langley.



Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh) of the First Nations Summit Political Executive and First Nations Leadership Council, is a lawyer and a Hereditary Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation, located on the banks of Stewart Lake in Northern BC. He has both an LL.B and BA from the University of British Columbia. Chief John is a signatory to Canada's first-ever Tripartite First Nations Health Plan with the goal of improving the health and well-being of First

Nations in British Columbia, closing the gaps in health between First Nations people and other British Columbians, and ensuring First Nations are fully involved in decision-making regarding the health of their peoples. Chief John is currently serving his eighth consecutive term as an elected member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive, which is authorized by the Summit Chiefs to carry out specifically mandated tasks on issues related to treaty negotiations in BC, as well as other issues of common concern to First Nations.



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip has served the Penticton Indian Band over a 34-year career as Band Chief, Band Councilor and in various Band Administration positions. Chief Phillip is proud to be in his fourth three-year term as the President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. He has taken an active role in the defense of Aboriginal Title and Rights by readily offering support to Native communities in need. He has taken a personal approach, seeing first-

hand the impact of fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago, lobbying on Parliament Hill to defeat the First Nations Governance Act, standing with Elders of Treaty 8 against oil and gas development in the Peace River, burning referendum ballots with fellow chiefs in protest and has stood on the steps of the Legislature with 3000 other people united under the Title and Rights Alliance banner. The Okanagan Nation, led by the Elders of the Penticton Indian Band, recently acknowledged his lifetime commitment to the defense of Indigenous Peoples' Title and Rights by bestowing on him and his family the rare honour of the name of Grand Chief Stewart Phillip.



Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo), is a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation, the Chancellor of Vancouver Island University, and the British Columbia Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. Shawn's dedication to improving the lives of BC First Nations people is demonstrated by his diverse work history. He has long been a community activist, working tirelessly for the rights and freedoms of his people. Shawn's efforts

are focused on the empowerment of the people and their communities towards self-determination and building hope for the future. Shawn exercises leadership by first listening to gain an understanding and then working collaboratively to make positive change. As the BC Regional Chief, Shawn is also a founding member of the BC First Nations Leadership Council (BCAFN, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit), which allows all three organizations to collectively work together to protect the interests of First Nations in BC and to ensure that Aboriginal Title and Rights are recognized, accommodated and reconciled through government-to-government relationships.



Cindy Blackstock, M.M., Ph.D. (candidate) is Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. A member of the Gitksan Nation, she has worked in the field of child and family services for over 20 years. Cindy's key interests include exploring the over-representation of Aboriginal children in child welfare care; the structural drivers of child maltreatment in First Nations communities; and human rights and the role of the

voluntary sector in expanding the range of culturally and community based responses to child maltreatment. Her current professional interests include serving as the co-convener of the Indigenous Working Group, United Nations NGO Working Group on the Rights of the Child, as well as co-director of the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare. Cindy is a board member of National Aboriginal Youth Organization.





Evan Adams The appointment of an Aboriginal physician to advise on Aboriginal health issues in BC was a key commitment in the First Nations Health Plan, launched in November 2006. As the new Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Dr. Evan Adams is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the health of Aboriginal people in British Columbia and tracking progress against performance measures in the First Nations Health Plan. Evan completed three years of pre-med studies at the University of British Columbia, and a Medical Doctorate at the University of Calgary in 2002. He completed his Aboriginal Family Practice Residency program – during which he was Chief Resident – at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver in 2005. Adams is the past-President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) and is the current Director of the Division of Aboriginal People's Health in the UBC Department of Family Practice. A Coast Salish, award-winning actor-turned-physician, Evan Tlesla II Adams is from the Sliammon Band near Powell River, British Columbia. He is known for roles on the television series *Da Vinci's City Hall*, the feature film *Smoke Signals* and the Emmy-award winning television movie *Lost in the Barrens*.



Josie Auger is a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation, a predominantly aboriginal community located in Wabasca, Alberta. Ms. Auger is the Chief Executive Officer for the Nechi Training, Research and Health Promotions Institute. She has taught Indigenous Studies, Canadian History, and Native Health issues for the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta and Maskwachees Cultural College. Previously she has conducted research and written reports for various levels of government and aboriginal communities on health issues such as diabetes, respiratory diseases, injuries, birth weight, mental health, and sexually transmitted infections and HIV. Other health-related topics of interest to Ms. Auger include developing health policy using the determinants of health from a cultural perspective within aboriginal communities, and developing an indigenous vision and model of health. Currently, Ms. Auger is completing her dissertation on STI/HIV prevention using popular theatre and action research in an Aboriginal community.



Patrick Stewart, newly elected President of the National Aboriginal Housing Association, is a Nisga'a architect who was the first Aboriginal president of an Architectural Association in Canada, and the first Aboriginal architect to become president of the Architectural Institute of BC. Patrick achieved his masters of architecture in 1989 at McGill University. He is particularly interested in giving a voice to housing and homelessness issues locally and nationally, and was elected chair of the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee in BC as well as serving as a board member of NAHA. He is a sought-after representative speaker of Aboriginal issues, particularly on the subject of Aboriginal homelessness, by various media. Patrick owns and operates an architectural firm, whose philosophy is "Dim hlimoomin niin akshl sagalts'apkw" – "Together we will Create a Village!" The firm's designs use a holistic community development approach to ensuring projects are in harmony with the people and the land. An artist in mediums of paint and wood, Patrick also writes articles for "Architecture B.C.", "Canadian Architect", "City Magazine", "Context", and "The Peak."



Deb Schwartz is a proud Aboriginal public servant and the executive director of the Aboriginal Health Branch of the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. She and her team lead the implementation of the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan on behalf of the province. Past work includes authoring the BC Aboriginal Tobacco Strategy and acting as provincial coordinator for the first three years of the Honour Your Health Challenge (HYHC), a health promotion program championing Aboriginal health. Deborah has developed and facilitated many community initiatives, as well as workshops on self-esteem and life skills training, communication and conflict resolution. She wrote "Catching Our Breath: A Book About Change for Women Who Smoke," a smoking cessation self-help book for women. A masters student in leadership studies at Royal Roads University, Deborah's research will focus on the leadership skills of HYHC facilitators to better understand why they are successful, and how to better support them and recruit others.



Tara Marsden joined the First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network after most recently working for Carrier Sekani Tribal Council in the Natural Resources Department, focusing on environmental assessments and other consultation issues. Tara holds a Masters of Arts in Political Science, and a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies, both from the University of Northern BC. Tara's interest in First Nations-State relations has also been informed by a Legislative Internship with the Provincial Government of BC, and work for Government Caucus. Tara's Gitksan name is Naxginkw, from Wilp Gamlayeltxw, Lax Ganeda Clan, Village of Gitanyow.



Dr. Jeffrey L. Reading, MSC, PH.D., FCAHS, a Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences and a Mohawk from southern Ontario, just completed his term (2000–2008) as the inaugural Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (CIHR-IAPH). He is currently the inaugural Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health Research based at the University of Victoria, where he is a full professor in the Faculty of Human and Social Development, and a faculty associate with the Indigenous Governance Program. As an epidemiologist, Dr. Reading's research has brought attention to such critical issues as disease prevention, tobacco use and misuse, and diabetes among Aboriginal people in Canada. He contributed to the creation of the CIHR-IAPH in 2000 in support of a national advanced research agenda in the area of Aboriginal health. In 2005, he was elected as a Fellow into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and in 2008 was selected by Aboriginal peers to receive a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the Health category. Dr. Reading personifies visionary thinking and excellence in Aboriginal health research that is community-based, scientifically rigorous and relevant to Aboriginal communities.

PLANNING COMMITTEE



Charlie Taiowisakarere Hill is a citizen of the Mohawk Nation at Six Nations of Grand River Territory, Ontario. He is a graduate of Queen's University and has been involved with housing for Indigenous peoples for many years. He was head of INAC's On-Reserve Housing Program and subsequently served as Director of the National Housing Program at the AFN. Charlie is a long-time advocate for decent, affordable housing for First Nations, Métis and Inuit, both on and off reserve. He is currently Executive Director of the National Aboriginal Housing Association (NAHA) and continues to push for more and improved housing for Indigenous Peoples in urban areas.



Dr. Charlotte Loppie Reading is an Associate Professor in the University of Victoria's Faculty of Human and Social Development and an affiliated researcher with the UVic Centre for Aboriginal Health Research. Until December 2008, Dr. Loppie Reading was a faculty member in Dalhousie's Faculty of Health Professions, where she taught Human Sexuality, Health Promotion, Advanced Qualitative Research Methods, as well as Cross Cultural Health Research and Policy. In addition to several regional and national research projects, Dr. Loppie Reading is a Principal Investigator of the CIHR/NEAHR – Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program, Chair of the national Aboriginal Health Research Network Secretariat, Co-Chair of the CIHR Community-Based HIV Research Steering Committee, a member of the CIHR HIV Research Advisory Committee and a member of the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health's Advisory Committee. Her research agenda focuses on the health and social determinants of diverse vulnerable and marginalized populations, but concentrates primarily on the health of Indigenous Peoples.



Ray Wanuch, executive director of the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO), was born in Edmonton, Alberta, raised on the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement and is of First Nations descent from the Ermineskin Cree Nation. Ray obtained a Bachelor of Management degree from the University of Lethbridge in 1989. He also possesses the Technician Level Certification from the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) and currently is working on the Professional Level. Prior to working with CANDO, Ray was the CEO of Settlement Investment Corporation. He then moved on to facilitate and manage the Métis Settlements Economic Viability Strategy, which received international recognition for sustainable development. Recently, Ray managed and taught a self-employment program for the Métis Nation of Alberta. His volunteer work includes being appointed to the Alberta Water Council by the Métis Settlements General Council. He is the former CANDO Co-President and Director representing Alberta.



Margo Greenwood, NCCAH Academic Leader, is an Indigenous scholar of Cree ancestry with more than 20 years' experience in the field of early childhood education and Indigenous education. Margo has served with over 20 national and provincial federations, committees and assemblies, and has undertaken work with UNICEF, the United Nations, and the Canadian Reference Group to the World Health Organization Commission on Health Determinants. In recognition of her years of work in early childhood, Margo Greenwood was the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee medal in 2002. Currently, Margo is an Associate Professor in both the Education and First Nations Studies programs at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her current research interests include the structural impetus for the development and subsequent implementation of early childhood development programs and services; cross-cultural collaborative relationships and Indigenous social determinants of health. Margo directs a number of research institutes, including the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health; the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs, UNBC Task Force on Substance Abuse; and BC Initiatives, a Ministry of Health activity that is comprised of Aboriginal ActNow BC and Preschool Visual Screening.



Marcia Anderson, MD, MPH, FRCPC, in her second year of a three-year term as President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, is Cree-Saulteaux, with roots going to the Norway House Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation in Manitoba. She currently practices internal medicine in Winnipeg and public health in Northern Manitoba. Her research interests include improving the health measurement of Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the use of equity focused health impact assessments as a tool to reduce health inequities. Marcia is Assistant Professor, Departments of Community Health Sciences and Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba Medical Officer of Health, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, and Public Health Specialist, Manitoba First Nations Public Health Improvement Pilot Project.



FACILITATORS



Dan George, President of Four Directions Management Services Ltd. (1994) and Chief Executive Officer of the First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Initiative, is a lifelong resident of Prince George B.C. Mr. George is a member of the Gilseyhu Clan (Big Frog) of the Wet'suwet'en People and his home community is Hagwilget Village. His extensive experience in Aboriginal community development includes: Chief Negotiator, Office of the

Wet'suwet'en; Executive Director, Prince George Native Friendship Centre and Treaty Director, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. Dan is a proud and committed Board Member of: the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, the Fraser Basin Council, Partnerships BC, Positive Living North, and the Cedar Project. Dan has been involved in First Nations and Aboriginal issues for more than twenty-five years. He has been married for twenty-one years to his wife Teresa, they have two teenage daughters, Amanda and Brittany, and one granddaughter, Kiana.



Harold Tarbell is a Mohawk from the community of Akwesasne who has been living in Vancouver for eight years. He has been working as an independent facilitator for over 12 years and has facilitated for government, Aboriginal and corporate clients in virtually all of the sectors gathered at the forum. Throughout his career

Harold has served as an elected chief, a chief of staff to a national chief, and as a Senior Manager in several community, regional and national organizations. Harold has worked with the NCCAH since its inception and facilitated this SDOH session in Ottawa last year.