




**Invitational Gathering on North American Indigenous Birthing and Midwifery  
CANADA Participants**

Participant Name	Organization	BIOS
<p><b>Martha Aitken</b></p>	<p>Midwifery Supervisor, Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre</p> <p><a href="http://www.pulaarvik.ca/community/rankinInlet.html">http://www.pulaarvik.ca/community/rankinInlet.html</a></p> 	<p>Martha Aitkin was born and raised in Ontario. She has 3 daughters, all born at home with midwives in the 1980's, and one newborn granddaughter. Martha completed a Bachelor of Health Science in Midwifery at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario in 1996. In 2006 Martha moved to northern Canada where she has become a part of the team providing midwifery services and midwifery training to Inuit women.</p>
<p><b>Geri Bailey</b></p>	<p>Interim Manager, Maternal Child Health, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.pauktuutit.ca/">http://www.pauktuutit.ca/</a></p>  	<p>Geri Bailey joined Pauktuutit at the beginning of 2004 to work on maternal child health issues facing Inuit. Geri participated in an Interchange with First Nations and Inuit Health -- Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative- Capacity Building in September 2005. She brings 30 years experience as a nurse practitioner, has been on staff at Dalhousie University Outpost Nursing Program, senior nursing consultant for Baffin Regional Health Board, and has been involved with Inuit and First Nations health care with assignments in at least twenty communities in the North.</p> <p>Geri has enjoyed many years working with traditional Inuit midwives and done many deliveries herself. Her interest is in providing quality care for maternal child health and empowering women to make informed choices.</p>

<p><b>Faye Bartlett</b></p>	<p>Program Manager, Kanaci Otinawawasowin Baccalaureate Program, University College of the North</p> <p><a href="https://www.ucn.ca/ics/Programs/">https://www.ucn.ca/ics/Programs/</a></p> 	<p>Faye Bartlett is a Métis mother of three, grandmother of seven and granddaughter of several generations of midwives. She is currently nearing completion of Master of Education Degree at the University of Calgary.</p> <p><b>Since August 2006, Faye has worked as manager</b> for the implementation and the ongoing delivery/development and expansion of Kanací Otinawáwasowin Baccalaureate Program (KOBP) at University College of the North. Faye has held the following position over the last 15 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidance Counsellor-Keewatin Community College, Thompson, Manitoba</li> <li>▪ Student Advisor-Inter Universities North, Thompson, Man.</li> <li>▪ Instructor-Keewatin Community College, Thompson, Man.</li> <li>▪ Instructor Native Education Center, Vancouver, BC</li> <li>▪ Program Coordinator of a Brandon University Degree Program offered through Inter Universities North</li> <li>▪ Program Director-Cont. Ed. Div., Aboriginal Focus Programs, University Of Manitoba.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stephanie Caron</b></p>	<p>Policy Analyst, First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html</a></p> 	<p>Stephanie Caron has an honours degree in History and International Politics. She has worked on Aboriginal issues for 13 years having worked at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canadian Heritage and Health Canada. While living and working in the Yukon, Stephanie became interested in midwifery and birthing issues, seeing first hand the impact of women having to be evacuated from small northern communities to Whitehorse to give birth. After training with a midwife in the Yukon and with Doulas of North America, Stephanie became a certified birth doula in 2005. Since then she has volunteered with pregnant teenagers and immigrant women as well as worked as a birth and post-partum doula in the Ottawa/Gatineau area. Stephanie joined Health Canada in August 2006 as a Policy Analyst supporting Aboriginal midwifery and the Maternal Child Health Program.</p>

**Catherine Carry**

Research Officer, Ajungginic  
Centre, National Aboriginal  
Health Organization (NAHO)

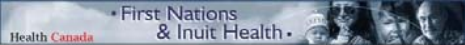


<http://www.naho.ca/english/>



Catherine Carry's connection with Inuit is life-long and her family spent over a decade in Iqaluit, Nunavut in the 1980s. Between 1994-2004, she worked with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada on health promotion projects, multi-media resources and training for community workers and qualitative research activities. She joined the Ajungginic (Inuit) Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) in Ottawa in September 2004 and is now the senior program officer there focusing on a range of public health issues.

One of Catherine's main interests is maternal child health. Some highlights include a tri-lingual Web site on Inuit midwifery ([www.inuitmidwifery.ca](http://www.inuitmidwifery.ca)) that Catherine coordinates along with an e-mail listserv for over 80 participants across Canada in the *Innisuksiiniq* - Inuit Midwifery Network. Catherine participates in a growing number of initiatives advancing Aboriginal midwifery. She is also part of a research team looking into what smoking cessation interventions would help pregnant Inuit women.

<p><b>Sherri Chisan</b></p>	<p>Coordinator, Leadership and Management Program &amp; Indigenous Artists Program, Blue Quills First Nations College</p> <p><a href="http://www.bluequills.ca/index.html">http://www.bluequills.ca/index.html</a></p> 	<p>Sherri Chisan, a Cree woman from Saddle Lake, coordinates the Leadership and Management Program &amp; the Indigenous Artists Program at Blue Quills First Nations College, with administrative, instructional, and research &amp; development responsibilities. She has more than 25 years experience as a facilitator in government and private organizations including program development, cultural sensitivity, leadership/organizational issues around visioning, strategic planning, structure, teamwork, and healthy work places.</p> <p>Sherri is currently a candidate in the Doctoral Program in Iyiniw Studies at Blue Quills First Nations College. She has an MA in Educational Leadership with SDSU — Thesis: Building Effective Teacher-Learner Relationships Guided by Traditional Cree Teachings (2001); a BMgmt specializing in Business Enterprises and Self-Governing Systems of Indian, Inuit, and Metis Peoples from University of Lethbridge; and a Certificate in Business Administration from Blue Quills First Nations College/Lakeland College.</p> <p>She has also worked with the Saddle Lake Education Authority as Associate Education Director, and with the Assembly of First Nations as researcher &amp; policy analyst/advisor and a community liaison in the Education Secretariat and the Languages &amp; Literacy Secretariat.</p>
<p><b>Louise Cholock</b></p>	<p>Regional Nurse Manager, Atlantic Regional Office, Health Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/about/index.html">http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/about/index.html</a></p> 	<p>Louise Cholock is a graduate of the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing and holds a Baccalaureate in Nursing from Dalhousie University and a Masters in Nursing from the University of Manitoba, Advanced Practice Stream. Louise has been working in Aboriginal health for over 20 years in various positions with Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health. Currently she is the Regional Nurse Manager Family Health where she is responsible for the management and support of programs for Aboriginal women, children and families.</p>

<p><b>Joyce Desjarlais</b></p>	<p>Executive Director, Office of Nursing Services, First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html</a></p> 	<p>Joyce Desjarlais, PhD student with the University of Alberta and full-time employee of the First Nations University of Canada is currently on an interchange assignment with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada. Her research program includes Aboriginal education and health care delivery. Her dissertation is titled "Walking in Multiple Worlds: The Stories of Aboriginal Nurses."</p>
<p><b>Betsi Dolin</b></p>	<p>Policy Analyst, Midwifery and Maternal/Newborn Services, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, Province of Manitoba</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/">http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/</a>  <a href="http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/">http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/</a></p>  	<p>Betsi Dolin is a Policy Analyst for Midwifery and Maternal/Newborn Services at Manitoba Health. Born in Wisconsin, she was raised in St. Louis, rural and remote Manitoba First Nations communities, and Winnipeg's North End. Committed to respect for traditional knowledge, she worked with both the Childcare and Midwifery professions as they made the transition to a regulatory environment; serving on the Manitoba Child Care Association Board, the Provincial Midwifery Advisory Committee, the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health and as President of the Midwives Association of Manitoba.</p> <p>She followed a traditional path to midwifery, and was an initial registrant when Manitoba's <i>Midwifery Act</i> was proclaimed. Her practice included home and hospital birth, collaborative care for high-risk women, work with the homeless and HIV+; and focused on serving Aboriginal youth.</p> <p>In addition to her role at Manitoba Health; Betsi teaches part-time in KOBP at University College of the North, is an instructor-trainer for neonatal and maternal emergency skills programs, and serves as an Examiner for the College of Midwives.</p>

**Brenda Epoo**

Midwife, Inujjuak Maternity Centre and President, Nunavik Midwifery Association

[http://www.naho.ca/inuit/midwifery/meeting\\_summaries-e.php](http://www.naho.ca/inuit/midwifery/meeting_summaries-e.php)



Brenda Epoo is a midwife and currently president of the Nunavik Midwifery Association. Brenda is from Inukjuak, Nunavik and has always dreamed of bringing birth back to the community. The staff at the nursing station did not want women to give birth there and all women were supposed to fly out to give birth. However, when it was her turn to have her baby, she decided to stay in her community.

Brenda started training as a midwife 10 years ago when the maternity centre opened in Inukjuak. She graduated 6 years ago having completed all of her education in the community. At the maternity centre, women receive care in Inuktitut, and in their own culture. Primary care is provided even during emergencies. Provision of midwifery care combines traditional and modern ways. The education fits in with Inuit oral tradition and lots of stories. The Nunavik Midwifery Association was formed in 2005 to ensure that these services continue.

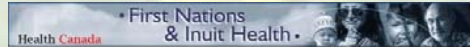
Birth in the community is very important for Inuit women and their families; it strengthens the bond between themselves, their culture and their community. Inuit have said that birth in the community is part of healing, strength and self determination. They are very proud of bringing birth back home.

<p><b>Martha Koneak Greig</b></p>	<p>Inuit Elder and midwife</p>	<p>Martha Koneak Greig was born in Cape Hope Advance Bay, Nunavik, eldest of ten children. She lives in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik with her husband Neil and youngest son Robert.</p> <p>Martha Grieg is a traditional midwife who has been actively involved in health and women’s issues her entire life. She is well known in northern communities, having traveled to all the 53 communities. She serves on a range of Kuujjuaq committees and up until January 2008 was Chair of Pauktuutit Board of Directors. Prior to this, Martha worked as Daycare Centre Director in Kuujjuaq. She has experience as past Health Coordinator for Inuit Tapirit Kanatami (then ITC) from 1986 – 88, and then with Pauktuutit 1986 – 92. She was elected Pauktuutit Vice President from 1992 to 1994.</p> <p>In the early 1990s, Inuit women expressed concern about the decline of traditional midwifery practices; the displacement of Inuit midwives, the loss of knowledge and community-based birthing, Pauktuutit undertook the documentation of traditional practices related to pregnancy and childbirth. Martha conducted the interviews for this project, recording oral narratives of Inuit midwives. This knowledge is being used to support community-based birthing centers and to promote greater cultural sensitivity to Inuit preferences/practices for healthy pregnancies.</p> <p>Martha is a grandmother, aunt, wife and mother; well grounded in her roots and culture. She speaks and writes in Inuktitut and English fluently.</p>
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**Elizabeth Harrold**

Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Maternal Child Health, First  
Nation Inuit Health Branch,  
Health Canada

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html)



Elizabeth Harrold graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, with a BScN in 1998, followed by a Masters degree in Health Sciences Education in 1995. She is currently employed as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Maternal/Child/Youth health with Health Canada, FNIHB, and Pacific Region. She also holds a cross-appointment as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia.

Elizabeth has extensive experience in instructional design, delivery and evaluation of education programs in health in international settings, providing a high degree of sensitivity to and understanding of the values and traditions of other cultures. She represents nursing interests on several provincial and national committees, including the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada - Aboriginal Affairs Committee and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing Health Policy Committee, and she is currently the chair of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia's Education Review Committee.

**Susan Hicks**

Senior Nursing Consultant,  
Health Canada - Office of  
Nursing Policy

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hpb-dgps/onp-bpsi/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hpb-dgps/onp-bpsi/index_e.html)



Susan Hicks has completed a Post-RN Baccalaureate in the Science of Nursing at the University of Ottawa and a Masters in the Science of Nursing with a major in Adult Education from the University of Western Ontario. Susan has over 20 years experience as a registered nurse in the provision of direct care to clients, primarily in critical care settings. She has also been an educator in clinical nursing in a large tertiary care hospital, and at the community college and university level. For the past 15 years, she has been involved with policy development and implementation at provincial, national and international levels. In 1998, after six years with the Canadian Nurses Association Susan moved to Health Canada. She is currently a senior nursing consultant with the Office of Nursing Policy, where issues related to nursing and midwifery is a major focus of her work.

## Rhoda Innuksuk

President, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

<http://www.pauktuutit.ca/>







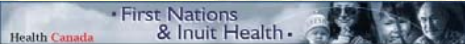
Rhoda Innuksuk was born in Qaiqsut, in Nunavut (delivered on the land in a tent by her mother who was unattended). She attended school in Igloolik, Churchill and Ottawa, where she has been living for the past 39 years. She has four children, Stephen, Joy, Jonah and Apitak. Rhoda has traditional midwifery experience. Rhoda has been devoted to Inuit issues all her life. She started her career as an Inuk reporter for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

She has worked as Executive Director of Inuit Committee on National Issues, the political arm of Inuit Tapirit Kanatami (ITK) and the Innuksuk Project that became the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. Later she was the first woman elected as National President of ITK for four years. She was Executive Council member of Inuit Circumpolar Conference for three years. Rhoda formed the Inuit National and International Youth Councils.

On a personal note, Rhoda's mother's work is on display at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) so the gathering will afford her the opportunity to see this

<p><b>Mary Jamieson</b></p>	<p>Owner, Native Management Services, acting as a co-facilitator for the gathering.</p>	<p>Mary Jamieson is a Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River in southern Ontario. She has owned and operated her own community-based consulting company, <i>Native Management Services</i>, for over 20 years. Before she opened her company, Mary worked for both the federal and provincial governments at both the middle and senior management levels.</p> <p>Native Management Services has focused on socio-economic research and development in support of policy and program change impacting Indian and Inuit communities. In addition the company has a long track record in the field of Health Care issues and HIV/AIDS in the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>Mary Jamieson is the author of <i>Journey to Success, A guide for Aboriginal Women in Business</i>, a past Vice-Chair of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board and past President of EDCAW (Economic Development for Canadian Aboriginal Women Inc.). She enjoys promoting Aboriginal women in business and has just assisted her own daughter, Erica Jamieson in forming her own video and film production company, Poe's Nest Films, based in Hamilton, Ontario.</p>
<p><b>Wendy Katherine</b></p>	<p>Coordinator, Ontario Midwifery Program, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care</p> <p><a href="http://www.health.gov.on.ca/">http://www.health.gov.on.ca/</a></p> 	<p>Wendy Katherine has been active in the area of women's health and maternity care for over 20 years, including 14 years as a practising midwife in Ontario, clinical teacher and director at the Association of Ontario Midwives.</p> <p>Since 2000, Wendy has led the midwifery program, the policy and funding unit for regulated midwifery in the ministry of health and long-term care in Ontario. Wendy's ongoing interests include innovation in maternity care, research and data integration and improving links between providers and programs offering maternal-newborn health services.</p>

<p><b>Marlene Larocque</b></p>	<p>Research Officer, First Nations Centre, National Aboriginal Health Organization</p> <p><a href="http://www.naho.ca/english/">http://www.naho.ca/english/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.naho.ca/firstnations/index.php">http://www.naho.ca/firstnations/index.php</a></p> 	<p>Marlene Larocque works with the Communications/Research Unit at the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO). Previous to joining NAHO, Marlene worked on issues related to Aboriginal women's health in Canada at the Women's Health Bureau-Health Canada and the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence. Additionally, Marlene has worked with Indigenous organizations in Latin America, namely in Ecuador and Argentina. Marlene is Cree from the Waterhen Lake Reserve in northern Saskatchewan.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Anne Mageau</b></p>	<p>Doctor of Natural Medicine, owner of the Natural Path Clinic and sessional instructor at Blue Quills First Nations College</p> <p><a href="http://www.bluequills.ca/index.html">http://www.bluequills.ca/index.html</a></p> 	<p>Dr. Anne Mageau has been a Doctor of Natural Medicine for over 9 years, and has over 20 years of experience and training in Manual &amp; Energy Medicine. She is also a sessional instructor at Blue Quills First Nations College where she has developed courses in Alternative Therapies, Nutrition, Women's Health, and Environmental Health, and coordinated the Doula Training Program including Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and Natural Medicine components.</p> <p>Her Clinical Practice focus is on Chronic Pain, Post Traumatic Stress, Endocrine and Metabolic Imbalances and Digestive Disorders. She is the owner of The Natural Path Clinic offering a full-service Natural Medicine consultation and pharmacy of herbs, homeopathics, nutraceuticals, a hydrotherapy facility and an integrative health service of Doctors of Natural Medicine, Psychologists, Nurses, Wholistic Practitioners, Massage Therapists and energy healers. She also operates a clinic at Blue Quills First Nations College serving many northern communities in Alberta, and regularly travels to Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.</p>

<p><b>Melanie Morningstar</b></p>	<p>Policy Analyst, Health Secretariat, Assembly of First Nations</p> <p><a href="http://www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=3">http://www.afn.ca/article.asp?id=3</a></p>  	<p>Melanie Morningstar is a member of Garden River First Nation, near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. She has worked on Children's health files for almost ten years for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), a national lobby and advocacy organization which represents First Nations across Canada. She participated on an interchange assignment from 2001-2005 with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada and worked on various files including the Aboriginal Head Start and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder programs.</p> <p>Melanie is the proud mother of two daughters, Justice and Brooke.</p>
<p><b>Heather McCormack</b></p>	<p>Senior Policy Coordinator, First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html</a></p> 	<p>Heather McCormack has a Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy and a Masters Degree in Health Administration. She worked for many years in health system planning at a regional/community level, including work on community-based health promotion initiatives, primary health care, and children's services. At Health Canada, she has played key roles in the management of a population health fund program for children and youth, development of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Early Childhood Development initiative, and the complementary early childhood development initiative for Aboriginal children. More recently, her work has focused on policy development and research related to public health and children's health for First Nations and Inuit in Canada. She is currently employed in the Children and Youth Division of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at Health Canada.</p>

**Marilee Nowgesic**



Director, Aboriginal Health Initiatives, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)





[http://www.sogc.org/index\\_e.asp](http://www.sogc.org/index_e.asp)



Marilee Nowgesic is currently with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) as the Director of the newly created - Aboriginal Health Initiatives – which is recognized as part of the organization’s Strategic Directions for 2006 -2011. She has worked with several clients (such as federal, provincial and non-government agencies) to develop social marketing campaigns, communications strategies, education programs and policy development initiatives which were targeted for Aboriginal communities across Canada. Other works included development of the Aboriginal Medical Program at the University of Ottawa, the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative with the Canadian Nurses’ Association and the Prime Minister’s Roundtable for Aboriginal People (specifically Education and Lifelong Learning).

Born and raised in her home community of Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay, Ontario – Marilee Nowgesic is Ojibway and of the Eagle clan. The oldest of four siblings, she obtained her undergraduate degree in Sociology and continued her graduate studies in the same discipline with a focus on Aboriginal people. An overarching and recurring theme in work with her various clients is to design a workshop/seminar series to develop awareness and positive understanding of the traditional knowledge, cultural protocol and current issues of Canada’s Aboriginal people.

<p><b>Sharon Paul-Rudderham</b></p>	<p>Health Administrator, Eskasoni Community Health Centre</p> <p><a href="http://www.eskasonihealth.ca/">http://www.eskasonihealth.ca/</a></p> 	<p>Sharon Paul-Rudderham is Mikmaq from the community of Membertou in Nova Scotia. Sharon is representing Mikmaq First Nation communities of Unamaki (Cape Breton) and currently Health Administrator of the Eskasoni Community Health Centre, located about 40 minutes from her home community. Sharon is currently the administrator for all community health programs from Homecare, Diabetes Education Centre, Head start and Mental Health services; Dental clinic services as well Primary Care &amp; Physician services for a community of 3500 people.</p> <p>The Unamaki communities are undertaking a study into how the delivery of midwifery care can be incorporated into the current multi disciplinary approach to patient care within communities, as well document local knowledge around traditional birthing practices in our communities.</p>
<p><b>Penny Stewart</b></p>	<p>Manager, Early Childhood Health Programs, Health Canada - British Columbia Regional Office</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/pacrb-dgapcr/reg/bc-cb_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/pacrb-dgapcr/reg/bc-cb_e.html</a></p> 	<p>Penny Stewart is the Manager of Early Childhood Health Programs (Aboriginal Head Start, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Maternal Child Health), First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in British Columbia. Since joining FNIHB in 1982, Penny has worked as the Regional Nutritionist as well as managing the First Nations and Inuit Health Careers program, developing standards for alcohol treatment workers and coordinating the initial implementation of the Aboriginal Head Start On Reserve program in Pacific Region. Penny's background is in human nutrition. She has a B.Sc.(F.Sc.) from McGill University and a M.Sc. in human nutrition from the University of British Columbia.</p>

<p><b>Susan Stonesone</b></p>	<p>Community Health Nurse, First Nation Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada</p> <p><a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html">http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html</a></p> 	<p>Susan Stonesone works as a Community Health Nurse on the Health Canada First Nations and Inuit Health BC Resource Team. She travels for a month at a time to the different First Nation communities throughout the province and works in the nursing stations in an advanced nursing scope of practice. She graduated from Athabasca University with her Masters in Nursing and she is currently working on her post-graduate Nurse Practitioner certification. She is a certified La Maze Prenatal instructor, a Canadian Certified Parent Educator, Postpartum Depression Group Facilitator and an experienced Public Health Nurse. Susan provides support, education and care for families during the prenatal and postpartum period.</p>
<p><b>Jennifer Stonier</b></p>	<p>Midwife, Canadian Association of Midwives</p> <p><a href="http://www.canadianmidwives.org/">http://www.canadianmidwives.org/</a></p>   	<p>Jennie Stonier has actively practiced as a midwife for over 30 years, primarily in Quebec, Canada, in home, hospital and birth center settings. She currently practices and teaches midwifery in Salluit, Nunavik, and has worked with the Inuulitsivik midwives since 1986. She has served as consultant on midwifery issues for various Aboriginal communities in Quebec, Nunavut, and Brazil.</p> <p>She is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) and the <i>Régroupement des Sages-Femmes du Québec</i> (RSFQ), has served on the Administrative Boards of both organizations, and is presently Secretary of CAM and acts as their liaison to the Canadian Aboriginal Midwifery Counsel. She was involved in the midwifery legalization process in Quebec, helped to implement the <i>Centre de Maternité de l'Estrie</i> birth center in eastern Quebec, and participated in the creation of the Midwifery Baccalauréat Program at the <i>Université du Québec à Trois Rivières</i>, where she still facilitates a course for fourth year midwifery students called <i>Ways of Knowing in Midwifery Practice</i>.</p> <p>Jennie is a mom, and hoping to soon be a grandmother.</p>

**Sarah Tedford Gold**

Sociologist, Health & Community Engagement; Community Information & Epidemiological Technologies (CIET) Canada

<http://www.ciet.org/en/aboutciet/>



Dr. Sara Tedford Gold is a sociologist with a background in health and health policy research who has worked for the past ten years on northern health governance and maternity care. For the past two years she has worked with Inuit organizations and CIET Canada on a health research and planning capacity-building program for Northern Inuit.

Prior to this work she held a CHSRF-CIHR post-doctoral fellowship at the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University, with a joint appointment at the Office of Nursing Services, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada. There, she worked on citizen and community engagement in health planning for rural, remote and northern communities, with a focus on childbirth and maternity care in Aboriginal communities. From 2002 to 2005, she was the principal investigator on a CHSRF-funded study on sustainable maternity care in Inuit communities.

**Brenda Thomas**

Executive Director, Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada

<http://www.anac.on.ca/>



Brenda Lynne Thomas, RN, BScN, MSc, is Wolf Clan, and has emerged from a Traditional Haudenosaunee community of the Cayuga Nation at Six Nations of the Grand River. She has dedicated most of her life to the promotion of health and well-being for First Nations people.

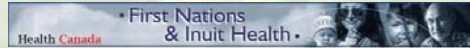
In 1991 she joined the Coalition of Ontario Midwifery and Birthing Schools and the movement to introduce midwifery and home birthing as a viable option for women prior to the recognition of midwifery under the Regulated Health Professions Act, and made a presentation to the Association of Ontario Midwives regarding traditional Aboriginal birth practices in 1992. In 1993, she worked with the Ontario Native Women's Association researching traditional Aboriginal midwifery and was instrumental in establishing a cultural component to the Baccalaureate Midwifery Program in Ontario. She has worked with mainstream midwives in the Ottawa valley promoting traditional home birthing, and promoting traditional birthing practices among Aboriginal clients. She has also worked in the promotion of the development of the Traditional Birthing Centre at Six Nations, and served as a member of the jury in selection of candidates for Birth Centres funded by the Ontario Aboriginal Health Strategy in 1993.

Brenda is a believer in the importance of culture, language and traditions. She credits her grandmother and her father, for their guidance in her continued success.

**Dawn Walker**


Special Advisor, Maternal and Child Health, Community Health, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/index_e.html)



Dawn Walker is a nurse by profession and has worked both within the community and government over a 40 year career. Currently she is Special Advisor on maternal, child and community health at the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada which means she works horizontally across the Branch on a variety of special projects: one being the visioning of public health.

In the past, after working for 8 years at the YM-YWCA, she was Chief of Family and Child Health and Director of Health Promotion Programs at Health Canada. Until this fall, Dawn sat on the Institute Advisory Council of the Research Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health for six years. She has consistently been an avid advocate for the health and well-being of children through holistic approaches. Dawn has raised six daughters and now enjoys 8.5 grandchildren.

<p><b>Louisa Willie</b></p>	<p>Health Director, Hailika'as Heiltsuk Health Centre, Heiltsuk First Nation (Bella Bella)  <a href="http://www.heiltsukhealth.com/index.html">http://www.heiltsukhealth.com/index.html</a></p> 	<p>Louisa Willie was born in the remote community of Bella Bella, British Columbia. She is a member of the Heiltsuk Nation. Her origins are „úífitxv – Inside People, of Roscoe Inlet within the Heiltsuk traditional territory. She has had the opportunity to see her community become a member of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council and Bella Bella School Board of Directors.</p> <p>She is currently the Health Director of the Hailika'as Heiltsuk Health Centre. During her time as Health Director, she has participated as a member of the Aboriginal Health Advisory Committee to the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Rural Maternity Project Committee with the University of British Columbia. Louise is a graduate of the class of 2004 Aboriginal Health Administration Program from the University of British Columbia/Institute for Aboriginal Health.</p>
<p><b>Julie Wilson</b></p>	<p>Supervisor, Six Nations Birthing Centre (Tsi Non: we Ionnakeratstha Ona: grahsta')  <a href="http://www.snhs.ca/BirthingCentre.htm">http://www.snhs.ca/BirthingCentre.htm</a></p> 	<p>Julie Wilson is a member of the Turtle Clan, Mohawk Nation from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is the proud mother of 4 children. Julie graduated from McMaster University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Health Science degree in Midwifery.</p> <p>After working for a short period of time as a Registered Midwife in Hamilton, Ontario, she gave up her registration status and became recognized as an Aboriginal Midwife by the Six Nations Band Council in 1999. At this time, she began working at Tsi Non:we Ionnakeratstha Ona:grahsta' Maternal and Child Centre where she currently serves as the Supervisor of the Centre. Julie was actively involved in the establishment and implementation of the Aboriginal Midwifery Training Program which commenced in September 2000.</p>

**Sara Wolfe**

Midwife, Seventh Generation Midwives, Toronto

<http://hind.oise.utoronto.ca/~jmcquire/sgmtbkup/>



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Sara Wolfe is Ojibway from Brunswick House First Nation Northern Ontario. She has a nursing degree from the University of Ottawa (1997), a Midwifery degree from Thames Valley University (2002) in London, UK, and did the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program (IMPP) at Ryerson University (2003) to gain registration to work as a midwife in Ontario. For the last 11 years Sara has done various work in maternal-child health as well as outpost nursing in Northern Ontario.

She is currently a registered midwife with and one of the founders of the Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto group in Toronto, Ontario. Seventh Generation Midwives is a practice with a special focus on improving access to and the quality of maternity care for Aboriginal families in Canada's largest city. Sara is also currently working on an oral histories project, gathering birthing and midwifery teachings, with the Indigenous Knowledge Network for Infant Child and Family Health.