



NAHO Bulletin

January 2004

Vol. 3, No. 1

NAHO holds double unveiling

After years of hard work, planning and preparation, the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) proudly unveiled two of its major information-sharing initiatives.

The Information Centre on Aboriginal Health (ICAH) and the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* were officially launched during a ceremony held at Library and Archives Canada on Jan. 23.

ICAH is a virtual library database. It provides NAHO content and links to national and international Aboriginal health materials. It includes everything from quick and easy frequently asked questions and fact sheets to informative and entertaining Web sites and videos to in-depth research papers and books.

ICAH keeps Aboriginal Peoples, the health community and the general public informed and connected to Aboriginal health information. It will foster communications and linkages between individuals,

Aboriginal health organizations and Aboriginal communities.

NAHO created the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* to fill a void in the availability and accessibility of health information and results of Aboriginal health research.

While NAHO, as the publisher, has final responsibility for the *Journal of Aboriginal Health*, an Editorial Advisory Board sets the overall direction of the publication. This includes choosing Guest Editors for each theme. A Guest Editor, who is an expert in the theme of each issue, gathers a variety of previously unpublished papers on the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Each paper is peer reviewed by an academic and Aboriginal community member to ensure research excellence with community relevance.

Former NAHO Executive Director Richard Jock said he was impressed with the hard work and dedication that went into

developing ICAH and the *Journal of Aboriginal Health*.

"It has been a culmination of several years of effort and design," Jock said. "I'm pleased to see those items ultimately realized."

NAHO, an Aboriginal-designed and -controlled body, works to influence and advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples through carrying out knowledge-based strategies. Both ICAH and the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* have a strong focus on NAHO's first three objectives:

1. To improve and promote health through knowledge-based activities;
2. To promote understanding of health issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples; and
3. To facilitate and promote research and develop research partnerships.

This issue of the *NAHO Bulletin* focuses mainly on these two major initiatives. The February issue will return to the regular format with reports from NAHO's First Nations, Ajunnginiq and Métis Centres.

Click and Search NAHO launches virtual library of Aboriginal health

By Denise Rideout

The Information Centre on Aboriginal Health – a virtual library created to keep Aboriginal health-care workers, Aboriginal communities and the general public connected to health information on Aboriginal Peoples – is available on the Internet.

On Jan. 23, the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) launched its new Web-based database at an unveiling ceremony at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. The gathering gave Aboriginal health-care workers; people involved in Aboriginal health and wellness; and First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations a look at this innovative project.

The Information Centre on Aboriginal Health's database contains a wealth of resources and research on Aboriginal health, from traditional foods to midwifery to the protection of healing prac-

continued on page 2

Journal of Aboriginal Health debuts

By Virginia St-Denis

More than two years in the making, the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* was unveiled during a ceremony at Library and Archives Canada on Jan. 23.

In early development, guided by the original consultation reports about the role of a national Aboriginal health institute, the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) became aware that there was a void in the availability and accessibility of health information and Aboriginal health research results. To remedy this, NAHO's Board of Directors and staff decided to produce a twice-annual Aboriginal health research journal.

The *Journal of Aboriginal Health* shares traditional knowledge, success stories, issues, and provides the latest information and research of interest to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. It publishes in-depth, previously unpublished research with full citation of sources, from an Aboriginal viewpoint.

continued on page 3

Click and Search... *continued from page 1*

tices. It also provides information on careers, education and training in health care; links to scholarships and bursaries; and details of programs and services available to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

"It points people to the information they need. It's a one-stop shop," explained Gordon Jung, Acting Manager of the Information Centre on Aboriginal Health. "Instead of going all over the Internet, come to NAHO's Information Centre on Aboriginal Health for information related to Aboriginal health in Aboriginal communities."

NAHO developed the Information Centre to ensure Aboriginal Peoples have access to relevant and easy-to-understand information on health and well-being.

The Web site is available in three languages— English, French and Inuktitut — which allows First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to find information about their own unique health issues.

"With the Information Centre on Aboriginal Health, we're trying to meet that cultural need, that community need, that appropriateness for Aboriginal Peoples," Jung said. "We're trying to provide information that is appropriate and accessible to the diverse Aboriginal communities."

Aboriginal health-care professionals and people working in the area of Aboriginal health and wellness will also benefit from NAHO's newest initiative.

Health-care professionals in Aboriginal communities can search the Information Centre on Aboriginal Health for a fact sheet on nutrition, a pamphlet on the benefits of exercise or a video on health careers. A community health representative in Sioux Lookout or a nurse in Igloolik, for instance, can use these resources in their day-to-day work in promoting health and well-being.

"Health care workers can come to the Information Centre on Aboriginal Health, browse through our topics and find information on a health issue that is a concern in their community," Jung said. "An Aboriginal health-care worker might find a report with diabetes rates for a certain community. They might then find a link to an organization that provides treatment and care in that region. You might also find a link to an academic institution or a training program that deals with diabetes health. So, it is a very broad database."

The database's broadness is the result of years of work by researchers, library tech-

nicians and policy analysts at NAHO.

"We actually started work on it almost three years ago by looking at who's doing what and what kind of models were out there of other health databases," former NAHO Executive Director Richard Jock said. "Then we looked at which models had the most utility. We tried to look at what sort of approach might work for Aboriginal Peoples."

Essentially, the Information Centre was designed with Aboriginal health-care professionals in mind. Pamphlets, books, articles, videos, and research papers are all pulled together onto one site. All materials were reviewed for quality and to determine if they are relevant to Aboriginal Peoples.

"We're trying to save visitors time. That is a big thing for health-care workers in the Aboriginal communities," Jung said.

Just as important, NAHO recognizes that many Aboriginal communities have low to adequate bandwidth Internet connections. The ICAH virtual library is set up to accommodate older computers, browsers and printers.

"The other, longer-term interest is to have it interactive and to promote ways of exchanging and developing ideas, papers and other areas of interest for exchange so that this is more than just a passive provision of information, but is also a vibrant, dynamic way of exchanging information and getting people to contribute to issues," Jock explained.

The Information Centre on Aboriginal Health is a click away from Aboriginal health information from across Canada and around the world. Come search our virtual library at <http://www.ich.ca>.



NAHO Bulletin

The National Aboriginal Health Organization, an Aboriginal designed and controlled body, will influence and advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples through carrying out knowledge-based strategies.

The NAHO Bulletin is an electronic publication produced monthly to provide readers with an update of the activities of NAHO and its First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Centres.

If you have any questions or comments about NAHO or its publications, including having this and other publications sent directly to you, please contact us at:

National Aboriginal Health Organization

56 Sparks Street, Suite 400
Ottawa, ON K1P 5A9
Phone: (613) 237-9462 ext. 510
Toll Free: 1-877-602-4445
Fax: (613) 237-1810
Web site: www.naho.ca
e-mail: naho@naho.ca

Les versions françaises de cette publication sont disponibles sur demande.



Journal of Aboriginal Health... *continued from page 1*

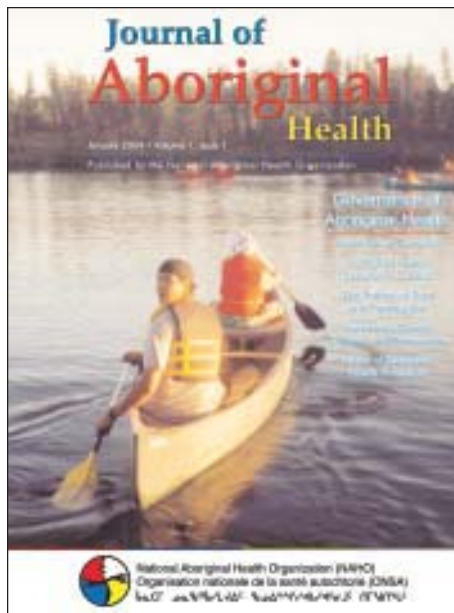
The *Journal of Aboriginal Health* is a tool for community members including traditional healers, Aboriginal health and social service care practitioners and organizations; tribal, treaty, regional, and national political organizations; Aboriginal and other Canadian health scholars and researchers; people who influence and determine Aboriginal health research and policy including Canada's federal/territorial/provincial and Aboriginal politicians, public servants, consultants, and foundations; and anyone with an interest in Aboriginal health in Canada. Readers can use this journal to share their work, experience and knowledge.

Each issue of the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* will feature a theme. Papers come from a variety of sources to cover as many perspectives of the theme as possible.

"I hope that this will become a desk reference for groups who are interested in exploring areas of Aboriginal health," former NAHO Executive Director Richard Jock said.

Starting with the third issue, general Aboriginal health research papers will be added to the journal to complement the theme.

"The *Journal of Aboriginal Health* will also have the effect of being timely," Jock



said. "I think it will provide a useful outlet for the many Aboriginal health researchers who are now being trained as part of the efforts of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (IAPH-CIHR). That's why the inclusion of Jeff Reading and his IAPH staff on the Editorial Advisory Board has been an impor-

tant part of the development of the *Journal of Aboriginal Health*."

As publisher, NAHO has final responsibility for this publication. However, the overall look and feel of the publication is the responsibility of the Editorial Advisory Board. This dedicated group of people currently includes: Marlene Brant Castellano; Aboriginal Healing Foundation Research Director Gail Valaskakis; NAHO's First Nations Centre Director Valerie Gideon; and NAHO Board of Directors Chairperson Dr. Judith Bartlett. Others who have served on the Editorial Advisory Board include: Linda Day as the former Senior Research Analyst and Projects Manager for the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health; Richard Jock as NAHO's former Executive Director; and Melissa Lazore as NAHO's former Communications Director.

The Editorial Advisory Board selects the theme and Guest Editors for future issues. As experts in the theme areas, Guest Editors use their established network of contacts to solicit appropriate research papers on the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

John O'Neil is the Guest Editor for the first issue focusing on the governance of

continued on page 4

Aboriginal health governance focus of first Journal

The extent that individuals or communities have control over the conditions that impact their life is an important determinant of health.

The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* takes an in-depth look at this important issue of governance of Aboriginal health.

The theme is not new to the academic and community discussions around Aboriginal health. Aboriginal communities have made a determined effort to restructure the colonial relationship over the last two decades. Much of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report Gathering Strength was devoted to providing examples of efforts to increase local governance in health.

The first issue of the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* contributes to this discussion. It draws particular attention to

growing confidence in collaborative models that reflect partnerships with other sectors such as regional health authorities, provincial governments and universities.

Papers in this issue include:

- Governed by Contracts: The Development of Indigenous Primary Health Services in Canada, Australia and New Zealand by Josée Lavoie;
- Aboriginal Health Systems in Canada: Nine Case Studies by Laurel Lemchuk-Favel and Richard Jock;
- Clearing the Path for Community Health Empowerment: Integrating Health Care Services at an Aboriginal Health Access Centre in Rural North Central Ontario by Marion Maar;

- Politics of Trust and Participation: A Case Study in Developing First Nations and University Capacity to Build Health Information Systems in a First Nations Context by Brenda Elias, John O'Neil and Doreen Sanderson;
- Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession process (OCAP) or Self-Determination Applied to Research: A Critical Analysis of Contemporary First Nations Research and Some Options for First Nations Communities by Brian Schnarch;
- Ethics of Aboriginal Research by Marlene Brant Castellano.

This issue of the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* does not pretend to provide an exhaustive review of the area of Aboriginal health governance. However, this collection of papers provides important insights into critical aspects of issue.

Employment Opportunity

As the Executive Director, reporting to the Chairperson on behalf of the Board of Directors, you will work with the Board directing activities and you will provide leadership to a strong team of professionals who are dedicated to the mission and objectives of this national organization. You will be a true consensus leader with a proven track record of success in working with a board and managing people, finances and organizational development at a senior level. A thorough knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal health issues at a national and international level are desired.

With excellent communications skills and university trained or possessing a combination of related experience and education, you will be a visionary leader with demonstrated ability to achieve positive measurable results. You will possess

the skills and experience to manage and lead this dynamic organization dedicated to serving the future and existing health needs and concerns of all Aboriginal Peoples.

Interested individuals may submit a covering letter and resume in confidence by Tuesday, February 10, 2004 to: Guy Poirier, Human Resources and Office Manager, National Aboriginal Health Organization, 56 Sparks Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, ON K1P 5A9, Tel: (613) 237-9462, Fax: (613) 237-1810, E-mail: gpoirier@naho.ca.

No application will be accepted beyond the closing deadline. Interviews will be held in Ottawa. In meeting the objectives and vision of the organization, preference will be given to individuals of Aboriginal ancestry.

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Journal... *continued from page 3*

Aboriginal health. O'Neil is the Senior Investigator with the CIHR, Head of the Department of Community Health Science and Director of the Centre of Aboriginal Health Research at the University of Manitoba. He brought together an interesting mix of papers dealing with the governing structures of various Aboriginal health centres, systems and research units.

Each paper is peer reviewed by an academic and an Aboriginal community member to ensure research excellence with community relevance. This process identifies the strengths and weaknesses of a paper, soundness of arguments, accuracy of facts, relevance to the *Journal of Aboriginal Health*, readability, and more.

The *Journal of Aboriginal Health* is available in English and French, in print and online at http://www.naho.ca/english/communications_journal.php.

NAHO welcomes letters and feedback so the *Journal of Aboriginal Health* can continue to develop and meet the needs of its readers. NAHO also hopes readers will become a future part of this publication by sharing their research, experience, creativity, and knowledge.

For more information, contact Virginia St-Denis, NAHO Communications Editor, 56 Sparks Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, ON K1P 5A9, Phone: (613) 233-1543 or 1-877-602-4445 ext. 512, Fax: (613) 233-1853, or e-mail: naho@naho.ca.

The National Aboriginal Health Organization's Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank Richard Jock for his more than three years of hard work and dedication as Executive Director. We wish him the best in his new job at the Assembly of First Nations.



Monthly Reflection

“When you see a new trail, or a footprint you do not know, follow it to the point of knowing.”

Uncheedah
The Grandmother of Ohiyesa
*The Wisdom of the
Native Americans*

Upcoming Events

All Native Basketball Tournament

Feb. 8 to 14

Prince Rupert, B.C.

(250) 627-8997

<http://allnativetournament.com>

Blueprint for the Future Career Fair

Feb. 10

Edmonton, Alta.

1-800-329-9780

www.naaf.ca

International Residential School Conference

Feb. 13 to 15

Edmonton, Alta.

(780) 444-8003

www.sturgeonlakecreenation.com

Kahnawake Winter Carnival

Feb. 14 to 22

Kahnawake Youth Centre

www.ksdpp.org

Training Program in Diabetes Prevention

Feb. 17 to 20

Kahnawake, Que.

(450) 635-4477



The First Nations Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization

~presents~

Two Three-Day Workshops



How to Use Data for Effective Community Health Planning

Community Health Information and Research for First Nations Youth

Become a Data Warrior for a Healthier Community

Where: Holiday Inn Harbourview, 101 Wyes Road, Dartmouth, NS

When: February 24 to 26, 2004

In these workshops you will learn about:

- Ways of Knowing – How Health Research is Grounded
- Different Approaches to Studying Health in Your Community
- Why Health Information is Important to First Nations
- The Principles of O.C.A.P. (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession)
 - Using the Internet to Access Health Information

These workshops will include case studies, simulations and exciting hands-on activities.
You will be the creators of your own learning experience.

You will also learn about:

Create a Health Information Plan
for YOUR Community

Who Should Attend:

Community health representatives and nurses,
leadership, health planners, health/social directors, community-
based researchers, etc.

Cost:

Before Feb. 13 - \$50.00

After Feb. 13 - \$65.00

You will also learn about:

How to plan a health research project
for YOUR community and
create change that will benefit others

Who Should Attend:

Any First Nations youth (ages 18 to 25) who cares
about community health issues

Cost:

Registration fee of \$35.00

Note: Cost includes course material, t-shirt, breakfast, lunch, and health breaks.
Dinner and travel costs are the responsibility of the participant.

For Inquiries, contact:

Jane Gray, RN, BScN

Regional Health Survey National Co-ordinator/
Skills Enhancement Co-ordinator
First Nations Centre at NAHO
Tel: 1-877-602-4445 Ext. 517 or (418) 845-1492
E-mail: jgray@naho.ca

For Inquiries, contact:

Jason Whitebear

Youth Policy Analyst
First Nations Centre at NAHO
Tel: 1-877-602-4445 Ext. 525
E-mail: jwhitebear@naho.ca

Register today!

Contact, Heather Raymond, First Nations Centre at NAHO, Tel: 1-877-602-4445 Ext. 505, E-mail: hgraymond@naho.ca



Get Involved with the First Nations Youth Health Network

**A forum for First Nations youth
on issues affecting the health of our communities.**

Purpose of the First Nations Youth Health Network (FNYHN)

- To bring forward First Nations youth health issues and solutions, providing a forum where First Nations youth can learn from one another and share ideas to take back to their communities.
- It will strive to maintain strong, positive working relationships with other regional, national and international Youth Councils.
- Through this network, First Nations Youth across the country can voice their perspectives on First Nations youth health issues of importance to them.

Membership

- FNYHN members will be First Nations youth, ages 18 to 29, from urban, rural, remote and northern communities.
- Membership will be on a **volunteer** basis.
- Each regional/national First Nations Youth Council will nominate their one male/female representative.

Getting Involved

To become involved in the FNYHN, please send us your contact information.

Name: _____

First Nation: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov.: _____ P/C: _____

Tel: _____

The FNYHN is about...

- **Creating a voice for First Nations youth related to health issues**
- **Connecting our young Peoples together**
- **Sharing Our Experiences and Strength**
- **Working Together on First Nations Youth Issues in Health**

Please indicate which of the following things interest you:

- Receiving More Information Volunteering to Help
 Becoming a Member Health Research Workshop

**Please mail this portion
of the flyer to:**

First Nations Centre at NAHO
130 Albert St., Suite 1500
Ottawa ON K1P 5G4

**For more information
about the FNYHN, contact:**

Jason Whitebear, Youth Policy Analyst, NAHO
Tel: (613) 233-1543 or 1-877-602-4445 ext. 525
E-mail: jwhitebear@naho.ca