



# Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada

August 9, 2011

Dear Member:

## **RE: RESILIENT INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKFORCE NETWORK (RIHWN) PROJECT**

As you may recall, IPAC agreed to participate in the final phase of the Resilient Indigenous Health Workforce (RIHWN) Project. The objectives of the RIHWN project are:

- Identify and describe the current Indigenous health workforce networks, functions, development and sustainability factors
- Identify work-life experiences of Indigenous health workers
- From the data, identify structures and practices within Indigenous health networks that promote and sustain a resilient Indigenous health workforce
- Define resiliency from an Indigenous perspective for the purposes of the study
- Develop and evaluate a pilot implementation of a Resilient Indigenous Health Workforce Networks framework

In the final phase of the Project, IPAC made its membership aware of the Project thereby giving those who wish, the opportunity to participate in it. After providing informed consent, participants completed the initial key informant interview, which was administered by the RIHWN's Research Project Coordinator.

During the next two years, the Network will identify a series of activities in which IPAC members may voluntarily participate. The identification of activities will be informed by a reflection exercise of the themes and sub-themes that arose in the study and will include enhanced communication and engagement opportunities. At the conclusion of the Project, participants will once again engage in key informant interviews and complete the brief survey to determine their experiences within the Network.

As a first event, **Indigenous Canadian physicians** gathered in an atmosphere of sharing and growth on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, BC. Participants learned the history of the First Nations of the area, toured the Centre, participated in a craft activity and went on a medicine walk. The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner.

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The next phase of the Project involves completion of an electronic survey, the questions of which were jointly developed by the IPAC Board of Directors. **The survey will be a “safe” document. It is for internal planning purposes only and will not be used for research purposes.**

Should you wish to participate in the Resilient Indigenous Health Workforce Network (RHIWN) Project Survey, please complete the information below and return to our office either by email to [admin@ipac.amic.org](mailto:admin@ipac.amic.org) or by fax to (204) 221-4849 by AUGUST 26, 2011. Following our receipt of your consent, you will be directed to a Web site where you can complete the survey.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate by checking the box:

I am willing to participate in the survey mentioned above.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Written signature required

**Please reply by August 26, 2011.** Should you require further information, please contact the IPAC office.

Yours sincerely,

Kandice Léonard  
Executive Director

**Improving Indigenous Health Status  
to the Highest Attainable Level.**