



Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada

Newsletter July 2010



Dear IPAC members,

We are all excited to see our colleagues and friends at the annual mentorship gathering in August at Whistler, British Columbia. This year, as many of you are aware, we will be hosting PRIDOC. This important event will see a large number of

Indigenous physicians, medical learners and others concerned with the health and healing of our communities worldwide. This opportunity will see us reacquaint and renew our old friendships with members from Indigenous Australia, Ateora, Turtle Island and Hawaii along with many other International communities. Please take a moment to visit the website www.pridoc.org for more information. You will see a wonderful program which will allow us to share our unique and sometimes common experiences across our nations as we seek to address the health concerns and to celebrate our many victories as Indigenous practitioners.

Remembering that **mentorship** is the cornerstone our organization, we each have a responsibility to take on this role in whatever activities we are involved with. Many young Indigenous students have become inspired by those of you who have taken time to speak about your journey at elementary, junior and high schools across this nation. This is one of our most powerful tools. It is an Indigenous recruitment strategy.

It is a **unique feature** of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. We have to realize this, embrace those opportunities and in doing so, support the aspirations of many elders current and past who challenge us to expand an Indigenous health workforce.

While some of you will be unable to attend this time for professional and personal reasons. You are always

there in spirit. We ask that you send your good thoughts and prayers for a successful gathering. As always, we encourage you to call anytime, to send messages, ideas and critiques about our work.

The work continues on advancing the curriculum changes across the 17 medical schools and a recent evaluation of this work brings us hope and confidence that things are changing. And that the medical schools realize the importance and primacy of the health and healing of Indigenous communities in Canada. More so, we are demonstrating strength, commitment and perseverance as we challenge the systems to go beyond racist notions and stereotypes and to embrace and acknowledge the work done by Indigenous peoples for all Canadians as evidence of our ancestors and their dreams.

Again, when you have time, visit our site and explore and review the documents. We have accomplished much. We acknowledge all of you and the work you do in your own environments.

Megwetch,

Barry Lavallee MD, CCFP, FCFP, MCISc (UWO)

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PRIDoC2010

Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors' Congress

August 26 - 29, 2010

Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

PRIDoC Vision:

"Pacific Doctors for Pacific Peoples for Pacific Health."

Theme:

"Sharing Our Stories"

Title:

"Building Strength through the Circle of Knowledge Translation"

Program Highlights:

- Wednesday, August 25, 2010:
 - Medical education pre-conference
 - Pre-conference Students' Day
- Thursday, August 26:
 - Welcoming Reception
- Saturday, August 28:
 - Cultural Evening

The Conference program includes plenary, poster sessions as well as workshops. Workshops will deal with such diverse topics as "Indigenous General Practice Registrars Network in Australia", the "Healing Power of Giving" and "Holistic Model of Wellness". There will also be panel discussions on the topics of traditional medicine and sovereignty/colonization.

Accommodations:

Reservations can be made by telephoning the Four Seasons Resort directly at 604-935-3400. Reservations deadline is July 20, 2010. Reference Code: Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors' Conference (PRIDoC).

Transportation:

Transportation services are available from Vancouver to Whistler through VIP Whistler Transportation. Information and reservations can be made by visiting www.vipwhistler.com or by calling toll free: 1-866-335-2299.

Full details and additional information available at www.pridoc.org

PRIDoC 2010 Highlights

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

16:00 – 19:00 IPAC Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

13:00 – 17:00 Arrivals & Registration
9:00 – 17:00 Pre-Conference Medical Education Workshop
Students' Day Activities
18:00 – 22:00 Resiliency Project Activity (Canadian Physicians)

Thursday, August 26, 2010

8:45 – 10:45 Opening Ceremonies
10:45 – 11:30 Keynote Speaker - Dr. Barry Lavallee, President, IPAC
13:30 – 14:00 Oral Presentations
19:30 – 21:00 Welcome Reception

Friday, August 27, 2010

9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker – Hawaii
10:30 – 12:00 Panel Discussions
13:00 – 14:30 Workshops
14:30 – 15:45 Facilitated Poster Session
16:00 – 17:00 Keynote Speaker – New Zealand
Free Evening – Optional Activity

Saturday, August 28, 2010

9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker – Dr. Tom Calma – Australia
10:30 – 12:00 Workshops
13:00 – 14:45 Facilitated Poster Session &
PRIDoC Strategic Planning Session
15:00 – 16:30 Oral Presentations
16:30 – 18:30 PRIDoC Council Business Meeting
18:30 – 22:00 Banquet / Cultural Evening

Sunday, August 29, 2010

10:00 – 11:00 Keynote Speaker - Dr. Marcia Anderson DeCoteau, Dr. James Makokis
11:00 – 13:00 Closing Ceremonies



**Indigenous
Physicians
Association of
Canada**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010

**Four Seasons Hotel
Whistler, British Columbia
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

TO THE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP:

TAKE NOTICE that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel, 4591 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, British Columbia for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the annual report, the report of the directors and the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2010
2. To elect Directors for the ensuing term; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Membership.

DATED at the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 26th day of May, 2010

By Order of the Board of Directors

Dr. Barry Lavallee
President

Ms. Kandice Léonard
Executive Director

The Full Agenda, Annual Report and supporting documentation will be distributed prior to the AGM.

To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting you must be a current member.

Please visit www.ipac-amic.org to download an IPAC membership form.

www.ipac-amic.org

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

RESILIENT INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKFORCE NETWORK (RIHWN) PROJECT

IPAC has 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 this final phase of the Project, IPAC has agreed to grant access to its membership who may be recruited to participate. After providing informed consent, participants will complete the initial key informant interview, which will be administered by the RIHWN's Research Project Coordinator.

Over the following 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.

Should you, as a member of IPAC, wish to participate, please visit the IPAC website at www.ipac-amic.org where you will find further information.

RESILIENCY PROJECT ACTIVITY

Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre, Whistler, British Columbia
Wednesday, August 25, 2010
15:30 to 22:00

AGENDA

Tour of Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre
Make Medicine Bags
Medicine Walk
Dinner



**** Open to Canadian Indigenous Physicians**

IPAC - AFMC RELEASE 2 NEW DOCUMENTS

Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) and Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) are pleased to announce the release of two new documents to support the implementation of Indigenous health curriculum at all Canadian faculties of medicine. They are:

1. **First Nations, Inuit, Métis Health Core Competencies: Curriculum Implementation Toolkit for Undergraduate Medical Education**
2. **First Nations, Inuit, Métis Health Core Competencies: Critical Reflection Tool for Undergraduate Medical Education**

These new documents and the *First Nations, Inuit, Métis Health Core Competencies: A Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Medical Education* are available in English and French on the IPAC and AFMC web sites: www.ipac-amic.org and www.afmc.ca.

The *Curriculum Implementation Toolkit* and the *Critical Reflection Tool* were established on the premise of collaboration with the diverse Indigenous communities served by the faculties of medicine. The implementation of the *FN/I/M Health Core Competencies* will necessitate the

use of old and new resources, varied approaches to teaching, robust evaluation and sustained, equitable participation from those affected by these changes.

Through the education of medical students in Canada, future doctors will better understand and appreciate the reasons for the disparities between Canadians and the Indigenous Peoples of Canada that include inter-generational impacts from colonization, residential schools, treaties, land claims, ongoing systemic socio-economic disadvantage, and a vast under-representation in the health professions, including medicine.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and leadership of the IPAC-AFMC Curriculum Co-chairs and all of the people and many organizations (listed in the acknowledgements of each document) who contributed to the development of these important resources. We would like to express our gratitude to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada for their ongoing financial support of this project.

