



National Aboriginal Health Organization **BRIEFING NOTE**

TITLE: CIHR announces \$15 million in new research funding on obesity and diabetes.

BACKGROUND:

Attachments: [] Yes [X] No

Diabetes is now considered to be an epidemic in Canada. Half of adults are overweight and one in six is obese; this puts them at increased risk for diabetes. Diabetes accounts for 2.4% of total health care expenditures for all diseases. It costs the Canadian economy \$18 billion a year.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the major federal funding agency for health research. It funds research that is university-driven and housed but may involve partnerships with industry and communities.

One of CIHR's 13 virtual institutes is the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Diabetes (INMD).

NEWS/ISSUE:

Through INMD, CIHR has responded to the diabetes epidemic with \$15 million in research funding on Type 2 diabetes. The research will provide health professionals, the public, and policy-makers with the knowledge needed to prevent and treat obesity and diabetes.

CONTACTS: For more information, visit CIHR's Web site at www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca. Also see the INMD section at www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/institutes/inmd/news/index_e.shtml (although information on this initiative has not yet been posted). Ximena Ramos Salas, CIHR's Project Manager, Planning and Policy can be contacted at 613-941-6465 or xramossalas@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

DIABETES PROJECTS FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

These are excerpted from the Children and Youth Scan.

- Diabetic Education Program, Whitehorse General Hospital, YK
- Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program, University of Alberta, AB
- Causes of Obesity in Cree Children (research), University of Alberta, AB
- Diabetes Prevention Project for Children, an extensive program in MB
- Sandy Lake Health and Diabetes Project with University of Toronto, ON (This is seen as a good project; it includes the Sandy Lake School Diabetes Prevention Program, the Healthy Food Choice, program, and the Healthy Snack Program.)
- Northern Diabetes Health Network, ON
- Tyendinaga Coalition for Healthy Lifestyles: Stepping Stones to Diabetes Awareness, ON
- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, ON (has an all-ages diabetes program)
- Northern Quebec Diabetes Action Plan, QC (primary prevention, see www.diabetes.ca/Files?QuebecData.pdf)
- Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Program, QC (this is frequently cited as a good program)
- Urban Inuit Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Web site, CA (www.inuitdiabetes.ca)