

Creating an Aboriginal Community of Practice for Tobacco Control

Research team:

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Background to research

- ☞ Smoking rates among Aboriginal populations, particularly female youth, are dramatically higher than for the general population.
- ☞ At this time there is not a Aboriginal research network dedicated to addressing Aboriginal tobacco control; neither is there adequate Aboriginal recruitment and participation in the discipline.

ICE Objectives

- ☞ To identify groups and individuals working in the area of Aboriginal tobacco control across Canada
- ☞ To collect materials, resources and experiences regarding Aboriginal tobacco control
- ☞ To explore feasibility of establishing tobacco control network
- ☞ To provide database of personnel, materials and resources regarding Aboriginal tobacco control

Findings: It is extremely difficult to identify and access Aboriginal tobacco control workers – especially at the grassroots level

- ☞ Tobacco control is not a priority in the face of more acute problems
- ☞ Hierarchy of health centres does not seem to allow for much grassroot involvement
- ☞ Funding and job security are major concerns within Aboriginal community health – especially tobacco control.
- ☞ There is a lack of education, preparation, time and availability for those interested in tobacco control within Aboriginal communities.

Conclusion: Several intermediary steps are required before an Aboriginal Community of Practice can arise

- Further research into awareness and ownership of tobacco control issues and strategies
- Further research into tobacco control education and preparation for Aboriginal leadership and health managers
- Support for accessing dedicated funding

Outcomes

- 📄 Annotated bibliography of Aboriginal tobacco control research
- 📄 Database of Aboriginal tobacco control workers, resources and materials across Canada
- 📄 Grant application (CTCRI Planning Grant)
Creating an interdisciplinary team to promote collaborative tobacco control program research, development and sustainability within Aboriginal communities