



Message from your Executive

Tansi! Hello All and welcome to your summer edition of the Aboriginal Health Group Newsletter. We try to publish a newsletter quarterly to keep everyone abreast of our news and events in the community. We have had an exciting summer thus far with a transition period of new and vibrant executive members whom you will meet later in this newsletter. First off, we wish to thank last year's executive, Nicole Cardinal, Terri Aldred, Darren Gray and Lisa Bourque-Bearskin for all the wonderful work they did and for continuing on a strong commitment to improving Aboriginal Health. Hai! Hai!

This year plans to be quite exciting for the Aboriginal Health Group. Some of our main priorities are: programming, leadership and governance, communications and membership. All four of these areas have been assigned to a specific Vice President who will work with a team in developing objectives and work plans for carrying out specific activities. Thanks to Michaela our wonderful leadership consultant who held a board retreat for us to sort out our activities and goals for the upcoming year.

Programming

We will continue with our highly popular monthly Aboriginal health speaker series. Experts from across the country will be on stage at the University of Alberta providing knowledge and wisdom on key issues in Aboriginal health. The third Wednesday of every month, September to April at lunch hour has been reserved for these successful events. Additionally, the culturally appropriate tobacco project for Aboriginal youth will continue running this year, hopefully with funding assistance from Health Canada, with presentations from Aboriginal post secondary students on the harmful and traditional aspects of tobacco use. Lastly, an Aboriginal Health Awareness Week is currently being planned for February 2010 with speakers, art and entertainment. Look on our website for more information.

Leadership and Governance

This year the AHG will undergo a constitutional review and an update to our bylaws and governance structure. It is hoped that a more traditional governance structure can be used for guiding the AHG. An advisory committee is being formed as well literature reviews and consultations are being carried out.

Communications

As always we will provide pens and other promotional items at as many community events that we are able to attend. Additionally, our website is being updated and we now have a cell phone!

Membership

Partnerships with other Aboriginal organizations are a top priority for us this year as is more formal partnerships with faculties within the university. We have begun meeting with various Aboriginal organizations and hope to increase our presence and awareness in the Aboriginal community for this year.



Upcoming Events for the AHG

Nechi Press Conference Aboriginal Addictions
August 20, 2009

Medical Student Orientation Booth Fair
August 31, 2009

University of Alberta Aboriginal Student Orientation
September 10, 2009

SU Leadership Summit
September 24-25, 2009

Elders and Advisors

Meet our Elders for this year:

Martha Campiou from the Driftpile First Nation is an arts and crafts woman who has a strong cultural upbringing and will be advisory to the Aboriginal Health Group this year.

Clifford Cardinal from the Goodfish Lake First Nation is a traditional healer and faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine. He will help our executive better incorporate traditional healing practices into our programs.

Meet our Advisors for this year:

Dr. Danielle Behn-Smith is a family physician from Fort Nelson, BC, in the Department of Family Medicine. She has her R3 Emergency room training as well and is the new current President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada.

Dr. Brenda Cameron is from Stony Plain, AB and is a faculty member in the Faculty of Nursing. She currently holds a CIHR grant in improving access to healthcare for Aboriginal people.

Dr. Cora Weber-Pillwax is from Fox Lake, AB and is a faculty member in the Indigenous Education Program in the Faculty of Education. She currently holds a CURA grant in culture and language.



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009



Executive 2009-2010

Daniel McKennitt – President
Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
Year 4 Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

R. Lisa Bourque Bearskin – VP Programs
Beaver Lake First Nation
Graduate Student Faculty of Nursing

Freda Yerbich – VP Communications
Buffalo Narrows First Nation
Year 2 Faculty of Native Studies

Laura Brookbanks – VP Membership
Kawacatoose First Nation
Year 3 Faculty of Science

Anita Lafertty – VP Financial
Liidii Kue First Nation
Year 3 Faculty of Education



Aboriginal Health *Group*



Volunteer with the **AHG.**

- *Gain valuable volunteer **experience.***
- *Learn about planning big events, like our Aboriginal Health Week or our Speaker Series.*
- *Promote healthy habits to high school students.*
- *Meet others who are interested in **health and Aboriginal issues.***

Contact us at abhealth@ualberta.com

Email: abhealth@ualberta.ca, Website: <http://www.aboriginalhealthgroup.org>