



## **Press Release: Announcing an Exciting and Promising Partnership!**

The **Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA)** and **Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program (ADWP)** of **Alberta Health Services – Edmonton area (Capital Health)** will join forces to address type 2 diabetes awareness needs of Aboriginal children throughout Alberta.

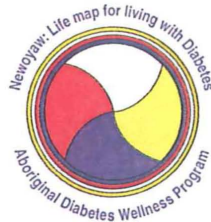
On January 23, 2009, these two organizations signed a letter of agreement to create "***The Sacred Circle***" – a set of culturally-relevant and age-specific type 2 diabetes resources for Alberta's Aboriginal children ages 8-12 years old. Project resources will be produced collaboratively between the *Aboriginal Urban Diabetes Initiative (AUDI)* of the ANFCA and the *Holistic Interactive Program (HIP) to be Healthy* project, including the *Ways of Life for Families (WOLF)* program, of the ADWP.

"The Sacred Circle" resources will include an educational DVD, a story and activity booklet and supplementary online materials. All materials will be available for distribution in May 2009.

Type 2 diabetes rates are alarmingly high among Aboriginal populations throughout Alberta, but even more alarming is the rapidly increasing incidence of this disease among young adult and teen populations. "The Sacred Circle" resources will help to fill a need for early intervention programs aimed at improving healthy lifestyle behaviors in Aboriginal children. The goal of this primary prevention strategy is to diminish current diabetes risk factors already present in Aboriginal youth, as well as to significantly reduce the incidence of this damaging disease in their later lives.

Alberta Health Services – Edmonton area (Capital Health) and the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) are committed to facilitating the development and maintenance of a supportive, mutually successful partnership for the common goal of implementing this culture-based, exciting and innovative project to combat the incidence of type 2 diabetes among Aboriginal populations.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Emilea Karhioo of the ANFCA at 780.423.3138 or Brenda Holowaty of the ADWP at 780.735.5584.



**LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

**Between:**

<b>Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program (ADWP) (Alberta Health Services – Edmonton Area)</b>	<b>and the</b>	<b>Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association</b>
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On behalf of the Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program (ADWP) of Alberta Health Services – Edmonton area (Capital Health) and the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA), we are pleased and excited to be entering into a collaborative project agreement to address the diabetes prevention and awareness needs of Aboriginal children and youth between the ages of 8 – 12 throughout Alberta.

We recognize that the incidence of Type 2 diabetes among urban Aboriginal populations throughout Alberta is on the rise. With over 50% of the Aboriginal population being under 25, there is a great need to begin looking at the primary prevention needs of younger and younger Aboriginal populations. In particular, this project will aim to address the primary prevention needs related to preventing diabetes among Aboriginal children and youth from ages 8 to 12.

The *Sacred Circle: Youth Diabetes Prevention and Resource Development Project* is a collaboration between the Holistic Interactive Program (HIP) to be Healthy project of the ADWP of Alberta Health Services and the Aboriginal Urban Diabetes Initiative (AUDI) of the ANFCA. The HIP To Be Healthy Project is a diabetes prevention initiative managed by the Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program of Alberta Health Services in Edmonton and includes the Ways of Living in Families (WOLF) project. The Sacred Circle Project will work towards integrating the ANFCA's existing diabetes youth programming with the WOLF Project of the ADWP. Project staff will focus on prevention of Type 2 diabetes in Aboriginal children and youth from 8 – 12 years of age, by: a) promoting healthy lifestyles utilizing youth Aboriginal role models in videos; and b) establishing sustainable resource accessibility to culturally appropriate videos and accompanying training resources.

Representatives of the Aboriginal Health Program of AHS – Edmonton area (Capital Health) will assist the ADWP and the AUDI in implementing this exciting new and innovative project by facilitating a culturally supportive partnership development and maintenance process between the two organizations.

Alberta Health Services – Edmonton area (Capital Health) and the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) are committed to working in a collaborative and culture-based manner to ensure that this project is a mutually successful venture. If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact either Emilea Karhioo of the ANFCA at 780.423.3138 or Brenda Holowaty at the Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program (ADWP) at 780.735.5584.

Respectfully,

*Brenda Holowaty*  
Brenda Holowaty, Program Manager  
Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program

*Alvaro Loyola*  
Alvaro Loyola, Executive Director  
Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

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