



## **National Lung Health Framework**

### **Phase I Lung Health Program**

*Project: “An Exploration of First Nations and Inuit Perspectives on  
Community Respiratory Health Awareness Initiatives”*

#### **Project Factsheet**

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**Lead Organization:** Asthma Society of Canada

**Partners:** Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis Nation British Columbia, AllerGen NCE Inc.

**Supporting Partners:** National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health

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**Area of Focus:** Awareness of Risk Factors for Respiratory Disease

**Target Groups:** First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

**Timeline:** February – August 2010

**Project Objectives:**

- Evaluate existing promotion and chronic disease prevention programming, educational materials and resources that are available for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- Determine types of materials and programs on respiratory health and the risk factors for chronic respiratory disease that need to be developed to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal communities
- Gain a better understanding about how the existing materials can be further adapted and/or modified to be culturally relevant for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
- Determine what methods of community outreach (e.g. a community workshop/public forum, a health/information fair, etc.) will be appropriate to implement in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities

### **Project Methodology:**

- Focus Groups
  - Focus groups (5 First Nations, 2 Inuit and 1 Métis in 7 communities with a total of 57 individuals in attendance) were conducted to elicit the perspectives of community members and their preferences on the type, content, format, and language of educational materials and resources as well as to identify appropriate methods of community outreach activities and initiatives
  - Pre-focus group questionnaire was distributed to evaluate knowledge on respiratory health and assess awareness of existing community resources and educational materials
- Survey
  - Conducted to assess the knowledge and awareness of community members in regards to respiratory health and the risk factors for chronic respiratory disease (collected 162 community surveys from 6 communities (68 from First Nations, 51 from the Inuit, and 43 from the Métis communities)).

### **Key Findings:**

- Low level of awareness and knowledge on social determinants of health and how they can affect respiratory health
- Strong sense among project participants that respiratory health was an important issue facing their communities
- Lack of information and resources available at the community level
- Strong need for more information on the prevention (e.g. the risk factors) and management of chronic respiratory disease in their communities
- Educational and awareness strategies identified for potential implementation in Aboriginal communities including the style, format, content and language preferences for educational materials and resources
- Community outreach and engagement model developed based on the project findings and results.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Undertake pilot of the designed community outreach and engagement model in selected Aboriginal communities
- Develop core content for awareness and educational materials and resources that are to be used under the main model components (e.g. Community Education, Community Participation, Community Awareness, etc.).
- Develop comprehensive dissemination network for printed and other materials on respiratory health to be available in both health-focused areas (e.g., health centres,

pharmacies, etc.) as well as in the wider community (e.g., community centres, bingo halls, etc.)

- Develop tools to engage, train and support community leaders in delivering respiratory health education messages and to ensure their proper engagement and involvement in community awareness activities
- Develop strategies/tools to ensure adequate participation of community-based health care providers/representatives
- Develop tools and resources to ensure broader community involvement in awareness initiatives and facilitate the engagement process for various community organizations

**Project Contact:**

Oxana Latycheva  
Asthma Society of Canada  
416-787-4050 ext. 108  
[oxana@asthma.ca](mailto:oxana@asthma.ca)