

Abstract

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**Abstract Name: The Canadian Institutes of Health Research-Institute of
Aboriginal Peoples' Health: Collaborative Opportunities for
International Indigenous Health Research**

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The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH) will be leading a Canadian advanced health research agenda in aboriginal health. The idea for creating a research institute devoted solely to aboriginal health was born in September 1999 when a national group of aboriginal and non-aboriginal researchers argued in a discussion paper this type of institution would serve to eliminate health disparities between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. After much discussion and debate over the merits of forming an aboriginal health research institute, CIHR agreed and launched IAPH in 2000. Consistent with the overall CIHR mandate, IAPH will promote holistic and cross-disciplinary health exploration that embraces the four pillars of research — biomedical, clinical, health systems and services, and social, cultural and environmental factors affecting the health of aboriginal populations. IAPH will improve the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people by supporting innovative research programs based on scientific excellence and aboriginal community collaboration. IAPH selected the following four strategic research priorities: (1) Develop and nurture health research partnerships with aboriginal and non-aboriginal organizations in the public and private sectors at all levels — local, regional, national and international; (2) Maintain open, two-way communication with CIHR to influence policy development on ethical standards, peer review processes and knowledge transfer systems that respect aboriginal values and cultures; (3) Build aboriginal health research capacity, especially among university graduate students studying aboriginal health; and, (4) Fund initiatives that address urgent or emerging health issues affecting aboriginal people.