



Previous Projects

- ❖ Aboriginal Health Transition Fund
- ❖ Adaptation Envelope “Adaptation of the Provincial Health Care System to Better Meet the Needs of Métis People in Prevention
- ❖ Health Promotion
- ❖ Health Education

The Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) was a five-year initiative (2005 to 2010) implemented to improve the integration of Federal, Provincial and Territorial funded health systems, programs and services to better meet the needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada. The AHTF funded 310 Aboriginal health-related projects across the provinces and territories, concluding in March 2011.

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) was a successful applicant for the AHTF adaptation envelope with a project commencing in October 2008. The project titled “Adaptation of the Provincial Health Care System to Better Meet the Needs of Métis People in Prevention, Health Promotion, and Health Education” operated for 3 years, wrapping up in March 2011. The overall goal of the project was to adapt the provincial health care system to better meet the needs of Metis people in prevention, health promotion, and health education. Project objectives were to: investigate the opportunity for MN-S and Metis people to be involved in health prevention, health promotion and health education; develop a formal relationship with SK Ministry of Health; create governance structures and processes to enable MN-S and SK Ministry of Health to better respond to the health care needs of the Metis population by adapting current services; develop and implement AHTF plan for Metis involvement in health prevention and promotion; and, to evaluate the project.

The work of the project, in part, supported:

- A roundtable on Métis Health with Ministry of Health officials and Regional Health Authorities CEO’ and stakeholders;
- A consultation with and to make recommendations to the Patient First Review’s Commission;
- Engaging community health workers in Métis health promotional work; and,
- A partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada to complete the first comprehensive Métis Health study in the province of Saskatchewan entitled the *Community Based Participatory Project: Engaging Individuals/ Families in the Development of Programs to Enhance Health and Well-being*.

More Previous Projects:

- ❖ Aboriginal Health Transition Fund
- ❖ PanCanadian
- ❖ *Planning for a Healthy Future: Three Métis Community Health Coordinators in Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Cumberland House, Saskatchewan.*

In 2009, the MN-S secured funding through the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, Pan-Canadian Envelope for the project, *Planning for a Healthy Future: Three Métis Community Health Coordinators in Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Cumberland House, Saskatchewan.*

The goals and objectives of this project were to:

Develop and implement roles and responsibilities of three Community Health Coordinators in Buffalo Narrows¹, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Cumberland House to work with Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) and the Northern Health Strategy to adapt provincial health services, specifically for youth suicide prevention;

Identify the extent of suicide risk among Métis youth, identify good practices and potential partnerships of suicide prevention and provide input into an anticipated provincial mental health strategy;
Develop a Métis Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy; and,
Evaluate the project.

The specific objectives of the coordinators were to:

Collect data that links to the feasibility study;
Work with the current project Director to identify applicable and related programs in the province;
Determine the cultural relevance of the programs;
Develop agreements between the MN-S, Health Regions, and other partners;
Work with Northern Métis youth to develop a specific suicide prevention strategy.

Due to a staffing problem in the community of Buffalo Narrows, La Loche was eventually selected as a suitable community for a Community Health Coordinator to serve a term. Through the employment of three Community Health Coordinators working in the communities, the MN-S was able to promote the issue of youth suicide prevention on-site. The coordinators worked closely with youth, community members, the health regions, the Northern Health Strategy and other service providers to adapt and improve existing programs to meet the mental health needs of youth.

As the project time frame and funding drew to a close, the MN-S moved into the evaluation phase of the project to

a) Determine its strengths;
b) Highlight areas for improvement; and **c)** generate possible ways to build upon strengths and best improve the project. An evaluation of the program led to several recommendations including the development of a province-wide Métis Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy for Saskatchewan. The project was funded until March 31, 2011.
