

Métis Nation- Saskatchewan Health (Aboriginal Health Transition Fund)

Since starting the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) health initiative in October 2008 with funding from Health Canada, MN-S has hired a Director of Health, 25 contract Métis Field Workers and two Health Promotion Coordinators. Minister Darlene McKay oversees the portfolio advising Executive and PMC of activities at regular meetings of the PMC.

In May, the MNS hosted the first ever Métis Health Roundtable with 20 representatives from provincial and federal health agencies meeting with the MNS Executive and PMC to discuss Métis health in Saskatchewan.

MN-S has received preliminary health data from its Community Based Evidence Informed Participatory Survey (CBPS), a survey template developed by Regina Métis Sport and Culture. The following is a sample of the health information on the status of Métis in Saskatchewan taken from the MN-S CBPS:

Health Concerns	
▪	33.9% (117/345) have high blood pressure (APS*, 16%; total population, 12%).
▪	19.8% (68/343) have high cholesterol.
▪	15.7% (51/343) have diabetes (APS*, 7%; total population, 4%)
▪	10.6% (36/340) have heart disease
Tobacco Misuse and Use	
▪	65.5% (207/316) said they currently misuse tobacco (smoke cigarettes, cigars or a pipe).

According to this preliminary data, we need to address health concerns in our community and as evident there is a lot of work to do.

To provide advice on Métis health, MN-S has set up an AHTF Advisory Committee with the following members: Dr. Carrie Bourassa, First Nations University of Canada, Nap Gardiner, Northern Health Strategy, Elder George Laiberte, Saskatoon and Pam Lavelley, Regina.

MN-S is collaborating with organizations such as Saskatchewan Health, Health Quality Council, Northern Health Strategy, Health Canada, Public Health Agency Canada, Statistics Canada, Métis Nation Ontario, Métis Nation British Columbia and the University of Saskatchewan, focusing on the following Métis health issues:

- Métis Health Data Collection
- Chronic Disease Surveillance
- Youth Suicide Prevention
- HIV
- Tobacco Session

With all initiatives, MN-S believes strongly in actively engaging Métis communities. If you have a program initiative for your community and would like more information on MNS health initiatives please contact Kelly Patrick, Director of Health Métis Nation -Saskatchewan at (306) 343-8285.