

NIH AND CIHR COLLABORATION TO STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HEALTH RESEARCH

MONTREAL (October 6, 2004) -The United States of America's National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) announced their intent to strengthen health research cooperation on health issues of priority to American Indian, Alaska Native, Canadian First Nations, Métis and Inuit of the USA and Canada. NIH Director, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, and CIHR's President, Dr. Alan Bernstein, signed the joint cooperation agreement on September 20, 2004.

By working together, North American researchers will be more able to study the complex problems of Indigenous Peoples' health. This cooperation will encourage new research partnerships; ensure ethical conduct in research and the application of new knowledge. Furthermore, it will contribute to building capacity and training researchers in Indigenous Peoples' health; support global indigenous health research, and promote health information and knowledge translation.

"Research, with the direct involvement and leadership of Indigenous communities, is critical to addressing and solving Indigenous Peoples' health issues," said Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of CIHR. "This cooperation between the NIH and CIHR will help to engage health researchers in both countries to work together and with Indigenous communities to address the poor health outcomes of North America's Aboriginal Peoples."

"The cooperation will promote a health research agenda that aims to improve on the profound disparity between the health status of Indigenous Peoples in the USA and Canada compared to their general populations," says Dr. Jeff Reading, Scientific Director of CIHR's Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health.



NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research, helping to lead the way toward important medical discoveries to improve people's health. NIH investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. Composed of 27 Institutes and Centers, each with its own broadly defined mission, NIH provides leadership and financial support to more than 210,000 researchers in every state and throughout the world. The NIH Web site may be visited at: <http://www.nih.gov>



CIHR IRSC

CIHR

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research is the Government of Canada's agency for health research. Its objective is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 8,000 researchers and research teams in every province of Canada. One of CIHR's thirteen Institutes, the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health supports research to address the special health needs of Canada's Aboriginal people. The NIH Web site may be visited at: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca>