



# AFMC

The Association of Faculties  
of Medicine of Canada

## IPAC-AFMC Indigenous Health Education Initiatives

**Since late 2004, in partnership with Indigenous physicians and other stakeholders, the AFMC has made Indigenous health one of its top priorities. The goal of its activities is to help reduce the health disparities of Indigenous peoples by attaining a representative physician workforce and improving the cultural competency of all medical school graduates.**

The Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) represents First Nations, Inuit and Métis physicians and medical students across Canada. AFMC and IPAC have collaborated since 2005 on national workshops that have engaged all undergraduate medical faculties, producing recommendations for culturally competent curricula and strategies to increase the numbers of First Nations, Inuit and Métis medical students and physicians. These recommendations were accepted unanimously by the 17 deans of medicine. Together, IPAC and AFMC co-lead national projects focused on these goals.

To date the IPAC-AFMC partnership has developed the Pre-Admissions Support Toolkit for First Nations, Inuit, Métis Students into Medicine with admissions representatives from all 17 medical faculties; conducted a scan in order to identify best practices in recruiting mature Indigenous students into medicine, and a survey to produce the Summary of Admissions and Support Programs for Indigenous Students at Canadian Faculties of Medicine. The IPAC-AFMC Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee also held a symposium for creating best practices in the recruitment and retention of Indigenous Students into Medicine at the 2008 Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME).

The IPAC-AFMC Curriculum Subcommittee engaged in a broad consultation process with many partner stakeholders to develop the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health Core Competencies: A Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Medical Education. The competencies focus on increasing cultural competency and safety between Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical learners/faculty and between physicians and Indigenous peoples/communities. A workshop entitled Using an Aboriginal Health Lens to Increase Cultural Competency was also delivered at the 2008 CCME.

IPAC-AFMC has supported the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's use of these core competencies for their work to enhance First Nations, Inuit and Métis health curricula in postgraduate and continuing medical education, and will continue to support linkages to postgraduate groups and other health professions with regards to these initiatives.

Next steps include the development of the Indigenous Health Curriculum Implementation Toolkit; the formation of a national Indigenous Health Education Working Group to support local curriculum implementation in partnership with Indigenous communities; and a review of the Medical Council of Canada licensing examination and the accreditation standards for undergraduate medical education programs with the view of enhancing the teaching of Indigenous Health.

All documents mentioned can be found on the AFMC and IPAC ([www.ipac-amc.org](http://www.ipac-amc.org)) websites.

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