

Social Determinants of Health National and International Policy

Joint Presentation:
First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), Health Canada
and
National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health (NCCAH)

Albuquerque NM
March 2009

Faculty Disclosure

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Purpose

- ❑ Provide overview of Canada's work with WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
- ❑ Describe Canada's contribution to Indigenous Knowledge Network - national and international activities
- ❑ Provide highlights of WHO Commission final report – recognition of Indigenous disparities
- ❑ NCCAH Forum 2 – *From Vision to Action*
- ❑ Discuss next steps for FNIHB and NCCAH

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WHO Commission: Background

- ❑ Commission on Social Determinants of Health
 - ❑ Created for 3 years: determine the causes of the causes
 - ❑ Chaired by Sir Michael Marmot (London)
 - ❑ Monique Begin was Canada's Commissioner, William H. Foege, David Satcher and Gail Wilensky the American.
- ❑ Nine Knowledge Networks
 - ❑ No Indigenous-specific Knowledge Network
 - ❑ Special recognition of Indigenous work
- ❑ Canadian Reference Group
 - ❑ Secretariat in PHAC supports Commissioner Madame Begin and work in Canada.
 - ❑ Comprised of about 15 individuals including: leaders in SDOH such as Ron Labonte, Clyde Hertzman and Trevor Hancock
 - ❑ CPHA, CPHI
 - ❑ Meets quarterly
 - ❑ Margo Greenwood, NCCAH, and Bernice Downey speak to Indigenous interests
 - ❑ Dawn Walker represents FNIHB

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Creation of Indigenous Knowledge Network

- ❑ Support from Canada, the Canadian Commissioner, the Honourable Madame Begin and Australian Commissioner, Fran Baum
- ❑ Leadership from NCCAH - Margo Greenwood – Forum 1: *Under a Red Moon*
- ❑ Contributions of NAOs – development of discussion papers, symposia
- ❑ Adelaide Indigenous Symposium- April 07
 - Identified commonalities among Indigenous peoples globally
 - Persisting disparities between Indigenous / non Indigenous
 - Focus on Self-Determination and Human Rights
- ❑ Indigenous presentation to Commissioners in Vancouver – June 07
 - Global presentation based on findings from Adelaide – included
 - Site Visits; Burrard and Downtown Eastside Friendship Centre
- ❑ PAHO – October 08
 - Canada supported meeting on SDOH in the Americas
 - Focus on indigenous definition of poverty and linkages between western medicine and traditional health and healing

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Indigenous Discussions: Key Points

- Socio-political perspectives
 - Colonial influences
 - Self-determination
- Challenges:
 - Who is Indigenous?
 - Data: Who are we counting?
 - Social Inclusion
- Opportunities:
 - UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples
 - UN Declaration on Universal Human Rights

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Culturally Relative Context

- Recognition of Cultural Continuity
- Over-arching principle: self-determination
 - Holistic Worldview
 - Traditional Knowledge & Traditional Medicine
 - Land and Environment
 - Language

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WHO Final Report:

Closing the Gap in a Generation

- WHO CSDOH released final report in August 2008
- "(The) toxic combination of bad policies, economics, and politics is, in large measure responsible for the fact that a majority of people in the world do not enjoy the good health that is biologically possible... Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale."

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Closing the Gap in a Generation

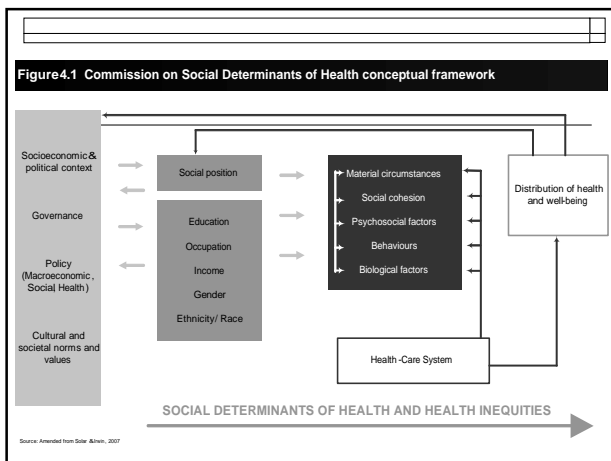
- Over-Arching Recommendations
 - Improve daily living conditions
 - Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources
 - Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action
- Indigenous Content
 - Box 3.1 Unique status of Indigenous Peoples
 - Chandler and Lalonde Research
 - BC Tripartite Agreement

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Indigenous Lens within Report

- Box 3.1 Unique status of Indigenous Peoples
- "Indigenous People worldwide are in jeopardy of irrevocable loss of land, language, culture, and livelihood, without their consent or control – a permanent loss differing from immigrant populations where language and culture continue to be preserved in a country of origin. Indigenous Peoples are unique culturally, historically, ecologically, geographically, and politically by virtue of their ancestors' original and long-standing nationhood and their use of and occupancy of the land. Colonization has deterritorialized and has imposed social, political, and economic structures upon Indigenous Peoples without their consultation, consent, or choice. Indigenous Peoples' lives continue to be governed by specific and particular laws and regulations that apply to no other members of civil states. Indigenous People continue to live on bounded or segregated lands and are often at the heart of jurisdictional divides between levels of government, particularly in areas concerning access to financial allocations, programmes, and services. As such, Indigenous Peoples have distinct status and specific needs relative to others. Indigenous Peoples' unique status must therefore be considered separately from generalized or more universal social exclusion discussions."

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- ## Indigenous Lens within Report
- Uniqueness and diversity of Indigenous Peoples worldwide
 - Universality of health inequities among Indigenous populations
 - The relationship between health inequities and the relationships between health and power, social participation and empowerment
 - The importance of supporting and facilitating the advancement of Indigenous-led initiatives, research, and policy and decision making with respect to advancing cultural continuity among the world's Indigenous populations
 - Importance of traditional knowledge and traditional healers
 - Support of recommendations by other international entities
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- ## London: Call to Action
- Convergence of four key global challenges:
 - Communicable / Non-Communicable Diseases
 - Economic / Credit Crises
 - Climate Change
 - Conflict and Arms
 - Recognition of "false freedoms of choice; rather choices reflect societal structures."
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- ## Key Messages
- Economic crises provide opportunities in social structural change and infrastructure:
 - Water, housing, transportation, etc.
 - Public Health Interventions that address SDOH hold the most promise:
 - Home Visiting and in-home programs
 - Health Impact Assessments
 - Linkages with Traditional Medicine: Health and Healing
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Forum II – From Visions to Actions

Web of 13 dialogues: social determinants and actions in broader health

- Gathering of First Nations, Inuit and Metis national organizations, practitioners, researchers, policy makers and youth
- Commitment to collectively address health inequalities

Next Steps - NCCAH

- Bring together key organizations and individuals to draft a strategy based on the recommendations by the WHO
- Develop an Action Plan to implement the strategy
- Share the Action Plan at Forum III in 2010
- Implement the Action Plan
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of the Action Plan



Next Steps

- Anticipated country resolution to WHO in January for "robust focal point."
- Call to Action:
 - Canadian Civil Society Engagement supported through PHAC
 - 2nd Forum on Aboriginal SDOH – February 2009 in Vancouver – hosted by National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal Health in partnership with housing, education, and research sectors
- Identified as fourth strategic direction in the proposed five year strategic plan to identify effective tools and mechanisms to address SDOH
- Linkages with:
 - Community health planning process (FNIHB)
 - SDOH work led by HRSD and PHAC
 - INAC horizontal coordination and comprehensive community planning
 - Anticipated report from Senate Sub-Committee on population health
 - Panel on INAC Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, March 2009
 - Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission

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There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold onto the shore. They will feel they are being torn apart and they will suffer greatly. Know the river has its destination.

The Elders Oraibi, Arizona Hopi Nation