



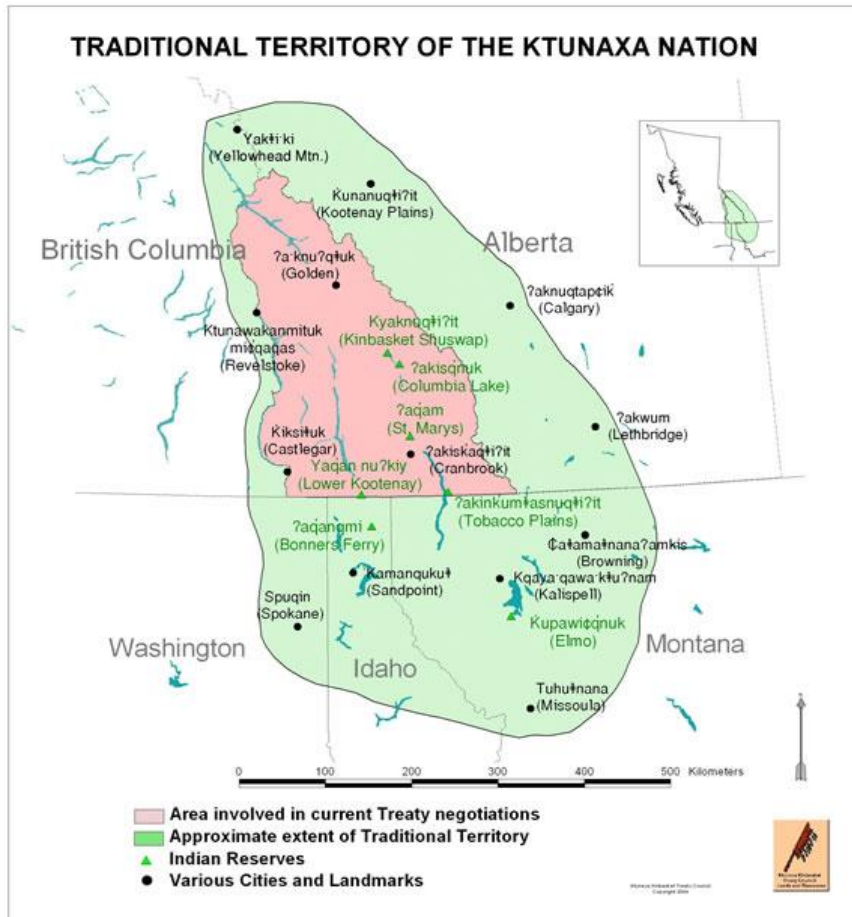
Aboriginal Health Curriculum  
and Laddering

Funded by:

Aboriginal Health & Human  
Resource Initiative  
(AHHRI),

Approved: November 21, 2008

# Ktunaxa Traditional Territory - Canada



- 4 Ktunaxa Bands & 1 Shuswap Band:
  - **?Aqam** – *Deep Dense Woods* (340 pop.)
  - **?Akisqnuuk** – Place of two lakes (255 pop.)
  - **Yaqan Nuk?iy** – Where the Rock Stands (210 pop.)
  - **Tobacco Plains Band** – Place of the flying head. (173 pop.)
  - **Shuswap First Nation** (230 pop.)

# The partners today:

- College of the Rockies
- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- Shuswap Band
- Métis Nation BC, Kootenay Region



# Our Advisory Committee

Representatives from:

- Bands, Nation Council and Métis leadership
- Health professionals, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
- COTR Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- College Health program faculty
- COTR Elder Advisor
- COTR management
- COTR Aboriginal Education Coordinator/Advisor

# Our Staff:

- Aboriginal Health Program Laddering  
Researcher/Facilitator (posted, closing Mar 13, 2009)
- Aboriginal Health Researcher/Curriculum  
Developer (posted, closing Mar 9, 2009)
- Curriculum Faculty RCHS curriculum  
developer/instructor- Charmaine Lingard, RCHS  
Faculty, Fernie Campus

# Aboriginal Health Curriculum and Laddering Project



The purpose of the project is to Indigenize and increase access to COTR Health programs through research and collaboration with the Ktunaxa Nation, Métis Nation BC and other Post Secondary Institutions.

# Our goals....

1. Aboriginal culture and health perspectives, values and practices reflected in all the COTR Health programs and graduates qualified to provide appropriate care and service to Aboriginal people.
2. Create a ladder and a PLA process for current Aboriginal health workers to gain credit for their learning and experience, and to facilitate their access to further training opportunities.
3. Evaluate the need and viability of developing a regional Aboriginal Wellness/ Addictions Counseling program.

## Including Aboriginal culture, values, practices and perspective....

1. Enhance the visibility of and appreciation for Aboriginal people in Canada in health education.
2. Collaborate with Aboriginal people in the development and delivery of curriculum and learning experiences for students, faculty, management and staff.
3. Acknowledge and celebrate the strengths as well as identify and explore health challenges from the broad perspective of the social determinants of health.

# Creating a ladder and a PLA process ...

1. Identify opportunities and barriers to further professional training and employment of Aboriginal health providers.
2. Identify and develop assessment tools and processes to recognize prior learning and experience and personal preparedness.



## Research and initiate the development of an Aboriginal Addictions Counseling program...

1. Assess the need regionally for an Aboriginal Addictions program.
2. Research similar programs provincially and in Alberta with consideration given to identifying potential partners.

## Aboriginal Addictions Counselling program cont...

3. Identify appropriate programming choices for COTR through consultation and collaboration with the Ktunaxa Nation, Métis Nation BC and other bodies such as the FN Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board.
4. Develop curriculum and establish sharing agreements/partnerships with other institutions in BC and nationally to ensure affordable regional access to training and recognized certifications.

## Reaching to Community learners...

- Fall 2007 – **Homecare Service Provider project** funded by ASPF Ministry of Advanced Education.
- February – April 2008 - **Homemaker Service Worker training** (2 week) delivered in Akisqnuq First Nation Learning Centre.
- May 2008 –**Homemaker Service Worker training** (2 week) delivered in Shuswap Band Office

## Community based Health initiatives cont...

- August 2008 – **Homemaker Service** training (2 week) delivered at Aqam (St. Mary's Band)
- Summer 2008 - **Youth Health Camp** requested by Yaqan Nuk?iy Band – later cancelled due to deaths in community.

## Community based initiative cont...

- **Community Diabetes Initiative** delivered in partnership with Aqam Health and Ktunaxa Nation Health and Interior Health Authority
- **Summer (2008) Health Worker Retreat** – for all community health care providers.

## Results of Community initiatives....

- **14 participants of the Homecare Service Provider (Homemaker) trainings in Akisqnuq and Shuswap and 6 from Aqam (St. Mary's Band) successfully completed their training.**
- Aqisknuk First Nation contacted COTR Invermere Campus immediately following the Homemaker training for more community based training.
- Shuswap Band began discussions with COTR prior to the end of their Homemaker program about further training opportunities for their program participants and other community members.

## Results continued....

- The first community based **COTR Resident Care Home Support Program** began in the fall of 2008 at the Shuswap Band Hall.
- 9 of the 14 Homecare graduates enrolled.  
(COTR capped enrollment at 9)
- 2 graduates entered COTR ABE in the fall 2008 to complete the prerequisites for admission to Practical Nursing.

# New curriculum development...

**Aboriginal Homecare Service Provider** curriculum ready for future delivery and sharing.

- Outstanding feedback from each of the communities served.
- Appropriate training and service for Band populations.
- Fills the gap now created by latest revisions to the provincial Health Care Assistant Program (formerly RCHS).

# AHHRI funding approved...

- **AHHRI Curriculum Laddering project approved in October 2008** - Charmaine Lingard recruited to review RCHS Curriculum and, in consultation with communities, develop Aboriginal content/experience for current students in Fernie Campus RCHS and Shuswap Band RCHS programs.
- **AHHRI Bridge to Health** project funding available to continue the work to prepare Advanced, Intermediate and Provincial Bridge courses for on-line access from the new community based Learning Centres.

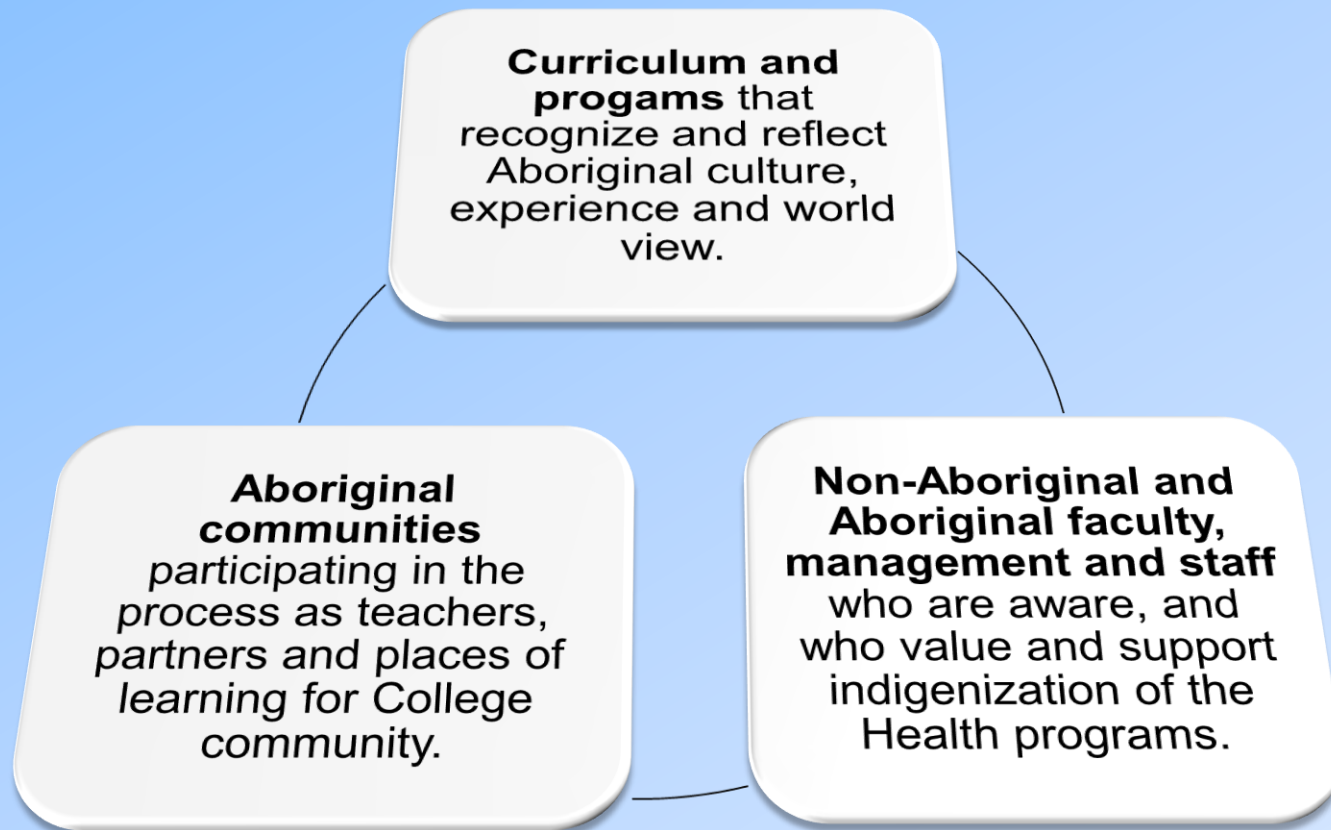
## More education more health workers...

- Shuswap Band set up their Band Office Learning Centre for COTR Bridge on-line courses and hired a Shuswap Training Coach/Teacher.
- 8 new Shuswap students enrolled to begin in April 1, 2009. **At least 3 plan to enter health programs.**

# Challenges...

- Due to tragedies in the communities of Tobacco Plains and Yaqan Nuk?iy, the scheduling of the Homecare Service Provider training and the Youth Health Camp became inappropriate. Anticipate another opportunity in the spring/summer of 2009
- Funding for future training...???

# The foundation of our change model...



# To achieve success, we need...

- Aboriginal communities willing and with access to the resources to provide learning to the College community.
- Partnerships with other post secondary institutions willing to inform our process, share curriculum and articulate courses and programs.
- COTR Management and staff continued commitment to support institutional change.....

Not the end...but just our beginning....

## **AHHR Presentation**

At UBC, March 11-12, 2009

by: Robyn Beattie-Laine  
Coordinator, Aboriginal Education

Thank you.