

## **CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH**

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health is a non-government organization established to improve and maintain the health of the circumpolar people in Canada, and to promote and support the efforts of all circumpolar peoples in the attainment of better health. Circumpolar is defined as including all Indigenous peoples in Canada, regardless of area of residence.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To foster the dissemination of information of scientific or educational nature relevant to circumpolar health;

To serve as coordinating agent for international contacts relevant to circumpolar health;

To increase the awareness in Canada of the health conditions and priorities of circumpolar peoples;

To encourage the conduct of scientifically based research with special needs identified such as health care delivery and diseases of lifestyle; to encourage research into mechanism whereby circumpolar peoples can obtain maximum involvement in their own health care management delivery; to promote the involvement of circumpolar peoples in research projects which concern them; to serve as a resource to circumpolar peoples in the development of solutions to their needs.

To develop contacts in the international health area to allow for the bi-directional application of knowledge relevant to both third world and circumpolar health;

To develop a liaison with other agencies, military, industrial and academic, which have related involvement in circumpolar health;

To serve as a medium for the publication of materials relevant to circumpolar health;

To encourage multidisciplinary involvement in the conduct of research in circumpolar health;

To encourage and assist circumpolar peoples in entering the health professions.

### **HISTORY**

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health was formally organized in May, 1984 in Anchorage, Alaska at the time the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Circumpolar Health.

Dr. Otto Schaefer was unanimously elected as Honorary President and Honorary Lifetime Member. A fourteen member executive and regional advisory board was elected with representatives from Aboriginal organizations and geographical areas across Canada.

Past-Presidents of the Society included Dr. Brian Postl (1984-1990), Jean Goodwill (1990-1993), Dr. Kue Young (1993-1996), Roda Grey (1996-2000) and Mabel Horton (2000-2003).

Earl Nowgesic was elected as president during the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress on Circumpolar Health in Nuuk, Greenland, September 2003. (2003-2006 term)

The Society became a charter member of the International Union for Circumpolar Health in March 1986 in Stockholm, Sweden. The International Union is an important vehicle for international collaboration in circumpolar health. Other members include the American Society for Circumpolar Health; the Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine; the Siberian Branch of the Russia Academy of Medical

Sciences; and, the Danish/Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to any person in agreement with the purpose of the Society.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, there is a Regional Advisory Council consisting of one member from each of the following regions and Aboriginal organizations.

British Columbia/Yukon  
Northwest Territories  
Nunavut  
Alberta/Saskatchewan  
Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario  
Ontario  
Quebec  
Newfoundland/Labrador  
Atlantic

Assembly of First Nations  
Inuit Tapariit Kanatami  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association  
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

(note: observer status on the Regional Advisory Council include: the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada; and, the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization)

The regional advisory council meets at least once annually, normally in conjunction with a meeting of the executive committee.

The terms of office of the executive and regional council is three years.

The President and Secretary of the Society are Council members of the International Union for Circumpolar Health.

**ACTIVITIES**

Since its inception, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health has actively promoted Aboriginal involvement in the International Circumpolar Health Congresses. The Society organized the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health held in Whitehorse, Yukon in May, 1990. The Society is actively involved in the promotion of circumpolar research and collaboration on circumpolar health issues. Members receive copies of the International Journal of Circumpolar Health published by the International Union for Circumpolar Health, Nordic Society of Artic Medicine and the University of Oulu (Finland).

**EXECUTIVE AND REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (2003-2006)****EXECUTIVE**

President: Earl Nowgesic  
 Secretary: Laura Arbour  
 Treasurer: Mark Buell  
 Past President: Mabel Horton

**REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

British Columbia/  
 Yukon Ray Scott  
 Northwest  
 Territories Andre Corriveau  
 Nunavut Patricia DeMaio  
 Alberta/  
 Saskatchewan Diane Westerhoffe  
 Manitoba/NW  
 Ontario Bruce Buelow

Ontario Anne Wieler  
 Quebec Hannah Ayukawa  
 Newfoundland/  
 Labrador Charlotte Wolfrey  
 Atlantic Vacant

**ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Elaine Johnston, Assembly of  
 First Nations  
 Larry Gordon, Inuit Tapariit  
 Kanatami  
 Veronica Dewer, Pauktuutit Inuit  
 Women's Association  
 Debra Wright, Congress of  
 Aboriginal Peoples