



MEDIA RELEASE

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First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey

Enquête Régionale Longitudinale sur la Santé des Premières Nations

National Data Release Conference: Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS)

The First Nation Information Governance Centre Launches National First Nations Survey Results

Ottawa, Ontario — The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) is pleased to announce the national release of the First Nations **Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS)** at its upcoming **RHS Phase II National Data Release Conference** to be held at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel, 101 Lyon Street in Ottawa, Ontario, on March 1-3, 2011.

The **RHS** is the only First Nations governed national health survey in Canada that collects information based on Western and Traditional understandings of health and wellness.

The **Regional Health Survey RHS** is the most comprehensive snapshot on the health and living conditions in First Nations communities. It is expected that a total of four national surveys will be conducted by 2016. The first RHS report (1997) is widely recognized and has been influential in supporting the launch of new health programs and in building the foundation for First Nations data and research infrastructure.

“This exciting data launch is an event worth celebrating and a time to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of First Nations across the country to this process,” says Jane Gray, RHS National Project Manager.

In RHS Phase I (2002-03), the Adult, Youth and Children Surveys were conducted in 238 First Nations Communities and an 80% target sample was achieved. The data collection process is conducted through the established First Nations’ principles of **Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP)** of health data and information. RHS Phase II (2008-10) covers a wide range of priorities, including: health conditions and services; language; culture; education; housing; employment; sexuality; water quality; traditional medicine; mental health and disabilities.

“There is a misconception out there that RHS collect data only about health, what people fail to understand is that RHS is a holistic survey and collects data on all aspects of our lives. RHS contains a treasure trove of information on the First Nations

on-reserve population and it is recognized as a world's Indigenous model of research according to Harvard University," says Gray.

The **RHS Phase II National Data Release Conference** will not only feature the release of findings for First Nation Adult, Youth and Children, it will examine changes in First Nation communities since RHS Phase I (2002-03); understanding OCAP and Privacy Protection; and showcase inspiring motivational speakers and First Nations entertainment, arts and crafts.

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For more information, media inquiries and sponsorship opportunities; please contact Gail McDonald, FNIGC Operations Manager at 613-733-1916 (Toll Free: 866-997-6248, Extension 101) www.FNIGC.CA