



Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A.N.A.C LAUNCHES TWO NEW RESOURCES

The Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (A.N.A.C.), is pleased to announce the launch of two new resources: *The Spirit of Courageous Leaders: Profiles of Aboriginal Nurses* and *Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety: Curriculum for Aboriginal Peoples*.

The Spirit of Courageous Leaders: Profiles of Aboriginal Nurses is a collection of biographies of Aboriginal nurses, whose stories span almost a century. The First Nation, Métis and Inuit women represented throughout this anthology embody a wide array of experiences, challenges and successes in nursing. What is common throughout these narratives is an immense will to persevere and triumph over obstacles in order to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. Embedded in the narratives are suggested ways forward and suggestions as to how to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal nurses in Canada. Designed to spark the interest of Aboriginal youth to consider nursing as a career and to strengthen the resolve of current First Nation, Inuit and Métis nursing students as they handle their own adversities while striving to complete their studies, the stories of these early Aboriginal nursing leaders in their work and with their families and communities is an inspiration to all.

The second resource is a follow-up companion document to the *Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety in Nursing Education: A Framework for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nursing*, which was developed in partnership with the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and is currently being implemented a number of schools of nursing across Canada.

These cultural safety competencies were developed specifically to support the health needs of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, the commitment to culturally competent practices works to eliminate discrimination and disparity in the system by actively engaging in activities and strategies designed to maximize health, economic and social benefits for all.

The second resource, *Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety: Curriculum For Aboriginal Peoples*, highlights the journey of Canadian Schools of Nursing as they strive to bring a cultural safety perspective into their planning and their processes. The schools of nursing highlighted are Langara College (British Columbia), University of Alberta (Edmonton), Laurentian University (Sudbury, ON), Trent University (Peterborough, ON), Nova Scotia Community College and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

These schools were selected to demonstrate that this work can be implemented in various ways regardless of size, geographic location, number of Aboriginal students, or how much or how little work or funding had been invested in this area before. The work was documented by each school and it reflects the progress they made between September 2009 and April 2011. All of these schools we are pleased to report are continuing on their implementation journeys to enhance their respective curriculum and to identify and support culturally-relevant means of supporting their Aboriginal students while bringing a greater understanding of the health needs of First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples.

“Both of these resources demonstrate the collective commitment of A.N.A.C, post-secondary institutions, students, nurses and community partners to advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal people in Canada,” A.N.A.C President Evelyn Voyageur asserts. “Our nurses have spoken, and we have listened.”

The Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety in Nursing Education: A Framework for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nursing and related Literature review is available in English, French and Inuktitut. Both the new resources are also available for complimentary download at: www.anac.on.ca and will be available in print version shortly. Unfortunately, funding is not currently available for translation.

For more information, please call Audrey Lawrence, Executive Director, A.N.A.C., at 613-724-4677, ext. 23, or send an e-mail to alawrence@anac.on.ca.