

# Many Hands, One Dream:

New perspectives on the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth



## What is Many Hands, One Dream?

*Many Hands, One Dream* is a long-term initiative to generate commitment, foster collaboration, and develop and implement solutions that will improve the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth in Canada.

## Who is involved?

*Many Hands* is directed by a group of 11 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal national organizations concerned with the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth.

## How did it start?

*Many Hands, One Dream* began with an event. A national summit was held December 3-5, 2005 in Victoria, BC. During this historic gathering, more than 160 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health professionals, social workers, educators, parents, administrators, policy makers, researchers and community leaders gathered to initiate sustained, long-term change in the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth.

Since then, many other organizations and individuals have joined this movement—by supporting the principles of Many Hands, distributing material, participating in other gatherings, and working to improving the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth in a collaborative way.

## What are the principles of this movement?

*Many Hands, One Dream: Principles for a new perspective on the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth*\* is a document produced following the summit, to articulate the principles that will underpin a new approach to Aboriginal child and youth health in Canada. These principles can be used by individuals, organizations and communities who work with and care about First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and youth. They are:

- Self-determination
- Intergenerational
- Non-discrimination
- Holism
- Respect for culture and language
- Shared responsibility for health

## Is the movement sparking real action?

The organizations involved with *Many Hands* are busy on several fronts: public policy advocacy, communications and outreach, and education for health professionals. To get involved or for more information, visit [www.manyhandsonedream.ca](http://www.manyhandsonedream.ca) or e-mail [manyhands@cps.ca](mailto:manyhands@cps.ca).

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\* This document is available in English, French and Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun at [www.manyhandsonedream.ca](http://www.manyhandsonedream.ca)