

**Canadian Institutes of Health Research funds multi-year research program on chronic disease prevention in northern populations**

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has recently approved under its Team Grants program the establishment of the *CIHR Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention*, with funding of \$7.77 million CDN over 5 years. The team consists of principal investigators, co-investigators and collaborators from several academic research centres, regional health authorities, and indigenous peoples' organizations. The team leader is Prof. Kue Young of the University of Toronto.

Northern populations in the circumpolar region have begun to experience the emergence of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity and the metabolic syndrome which have occurred in other populations undergoing rapid social, cultural and economic transition. The CIHR Team will create, develop and sustain an international, collaborative research program to monitor the burden of emerging chronic diseases among northern peoples; investigate genetic, behavioural and environmental risk factors that may be unique to these populations; and design and evaluate interventions in order to avert future epidemics. The research program consists of three major themes and 7 projects:

**Theme I: Identifying and Assessing Health Risks**

1. Inuit Health in Transition Study
2. Core Laboratory in Genetic Polymorphism and Cardiovascular Risks
3. Risk Assessment and Communication of Environmental Contaminants in Traditional Foods

**Theme II: Monitoring Changing Disease Burden**

4. Circumpolar Chronic Diseases Observatory
5. Birth Outcomes Surveillance System

**Theme III: Designing, Implementing and Evaluating Interventions**

6. Community Based Health Promotion Demonstration Projects
7. Cochrane Collaboration Northern Site: Northern Adaptation of Best Practices

In addition, the CIHR Team will support knowledge translation, research dissemination and research training. It will create regional research coordination centres based in the three territorial capitals of Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit in order to create a long-lasting legacy of enhanced capacity for robust health research in the North and for the North, and the improvement in the health of northern residents.

Further information about the CIHR Team can be obtained from Prof. Kue Young [kue.young@utoronto.ca].