



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

September 21, 2006

Conference addresses violence against women among Aboriginal communities

Vancouver, B.C. – On Monday, September 25, more than 450 delegates will gather at Vancouver's Westin Bayshore, some from as far away as Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia, to look at the growing patterns of violence among indigenous communities. The 7th *World Indigenous Women & Wellness Conference: Warriors Against Violence* is an opportunity for community health workers, educators, elders, youth, policy makers, and others, to come together to share their knowledge and experience in an effort to end violence that has affected Aboriginal families for decades. BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre is hosting the conference in partnership with the University of British Columbia and the Pacific Association of First Nations' Women.

"We are pleased to host this year's conference and excited about the line-up of presenters," says conference co-chair and Nurse Clinician with the Aboriginal Health program at BC Women's, Lerinda Swain. "This is an excellent opportunity to examine how we can best bring men and women to the table together to understand the root cause of violence against women in our communities, and develop a holistic approach to address such violence together."

"Violence, particularly family violence, is a complex issue that affects indigenous women from around the globe. We are taking steps towards healing – steps such as this conference and the discussions and shared learning that result," adds conference co-chair and President of the Pacific Association of First Nations' Women Marjorie White.

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This year's three-day conference highlights include sessions focusing on gender roles; teenage moms; street youth; relationship violence; engaging men in change; reclaiming birthing; art therapy; and much more. To view the full program please visit www.interprofessional.ubc.ca.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides service for pregnant women, newborns and women with specialized health needs from across the province. For more information please visit www.bcwomens.ca.

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information please visit www.phsa.ca.

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