

## ***March, 2008 CONFERENCE***

### **PARTNERSHIPS IN FIRST NATIONS DIABETES FOOT CARE: SEEDS OF CHANGE**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27th, 2008**

**The Radisson Hotel, Winnipeg MB**

The conference brought together stakeholders from multiple sectors of health including: community administrators, community health providers, clinical health providers, specialist physicians, elders/knowledge keepers of traditional medicine, as well as representatives from regional health authorities and the provincial government. Building on the recommendations of participants in the [Community Gathering](#) held in February, 2008, the event provided the opportunity for stakeholders to share knowledge of best practice and best models of diabetes foot care, and to define their role in First Nation health.

The main themes of the conference were:

- sharing of resources and knowledge
- exploring health systems
- excellence in care
- centralization of information systems
- review of health policy.

Highlights of the Conference included a sharing circle on traditional medicine and the sharing of best models of foot care from community health providers. Through open discussion with elders/knowledge keepers from five linguistic groups, participants explored the core principles of traditional healing and issues of access to traditional healers. This dialogue furthered an understanding of the integral role and place of traditional medicine in the health and wellness of First Nation people. Health providers from three pilot First Nation communities shared models for integration of community foot care programs, engagement of families through peer support, and sharing resources through regional partnerships. These models offered a glimpse of the innovation in diabetes foot care present in Manitoba's First Nation communities.

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAM & PRESENTATIONS**

**[Wednesday, March 26, 2008](#)**

**[Thursday, March 27, 2008](#)**