



## The Blueprint on Aboriginal Health

### Moving forward to improve Aboriginal health

The *Blueprint* is a roadmap intended to guide the federal government, in working with provinces, territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis in closing the gap in Aboriginal health outcomes. The *Blueprint* is a ten-year plan for improving the health and lives of Aboriginal people.

### Closing the gap

At their September 2004 meeting, First Ministers and the Leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada agreed to work together to improve First Nations, Inuit and Métis health. Since that agreement, governments and the National Aboriginal Organizations have undertaken unprecedented, inclusive discussions to develop a road map to improve Aboriginal health, beginning with discussions at the community level across the country. The resulting *Blueprint on Aboriginal Health* is a landmark commitment to achieve that goal.

### The Blueprint on Aboriginal Health

Over the ten-year horizon of the *Blueprint*, the federal, provincial and territorial governments commit to work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis in:

- improving access to the range of public health services that non-Aboriginal Canadians enjoy;
- the recruitment and training of culturally-appropriate health professionals in Aboriginal communities;
- the accreditation of a significant number of federally-funded health facilities on-reserve;
- and in improving primary care services in Aboriginal communities.



The *Blueprint* was developed in an unprecedented year-long collaborative effort by the federal government, provincial and territorial governments, and representatives of the five National Aboriginal Organizations. The *Blueprint* will be augmented by the development of regional plans that respect regional diversity and unique circumstances and will provide for specific actions.

### **Next steps**

The federal government will work with the relevant Aboriginal peoples and provinces and territories to develop concrete tripartite negotiated agreements. In addition, federal initiatives will be taken to address the priorities that have been identified in the *Blueprint*.

November 2005