

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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| Date: | 12/19/2011 | Entry Number: | 1157 |
| Case Study Name: | Knowledge Transfer and Exchange Processes for Environmental Health Issues in Canadian Aboriginal Communities | | |
| Author: | Susan M. Jack, Sandy Brooks , Chris M. Furgal and Maureen Dobbins | | |
| Document Type: | Paper in scientific journal | | |
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| Region: | North America | | |
| Country: | Canada | | |
| Ecosystem Type: | Northern | | |
| Social Characteristics: | Indigenous communities | | |
| Scale of Study: | National | | |
| Resource Type: | Medicinal species | | |

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| Type of Initiative: | Research driven project |
| Community Based Work: | Community development and resource management |
| Keywords: | environmental health; research utilization; knowledge transfer; Aboriginal; qualitative |
| Summary: | <p>Within Canadian Aboriginal communities, the process for utilizing environmental health research evidence in the development of policies and programs is not well understood. This fundamental qualitative descriptive study explored the perceptions of 28 environmental health researchers, senior external decision-makers and decision-makers working within Aboriginal communities about factors influencing knowledge transfer and exchange, beliefs about research evidence and Traditional Knowledge and the preferred communication channels for disseminating and receiving evidence. The results indicate that collaborative relationships between researchers and decision-makers, initiated early and maintained throughout a research project, promote both the efficient conduct of a study and increase the likelihood of knowledge transfer and exchange. Participants identified that empirical research findings and Traditional Knowledge are different and distinct types of evidence that should be equally valued and used where possible to provide a holistic understanding of environmental issues and support decisions in Aboriginal communities. To facilitate the dissemination of research findings within Aboriginal communities, participants described the elements required for successfully crafting key messages, locating and using credible messengers to deliver the messages, strategies for using cultural brokers and identifying the communication channels commonly used to disseminate and receive this type of information</p> |