



The Northern Oral Health Working Group (NOHWG) was established in 2003 to bring together dental professionals in both Northern First Nations and provincial Regional Health Authorities to respond to the escalating oral health needs in Northern Saskatchewan. Operating under the umbrella of the Northern Health Strategy (NHS) it had a dual focus of improving the oral health of the Northern population and increasing access to oral health services by working together to remove barriers of inter-professional and interjurisdictional lines. NHS folded in 2010 but the valuable efforts of this group was identified by its members and a decision reached that it would continue under the same name.

The NOHWG is focused on oral health issues that impact young children and families. Although our membership is predominantly from the North, it includes others from Central Saskatchewan which provides a provincial context.

We connect oral health promotion, prevention, and treatment that utilizes a wholistic perspective and provides culturally sensitive and responsive care. We are client-centered and nurture continuous quality improvement. We follow Best Practice Standards through resource sharing which in turn facilitates knowledge transfer to communities and allied health professionals as well as professionals in other sectors.

We work collaboratively to standardize Prenatal Classes in Northern Saskatchewan, to encourage First Dental Visit, and to establish a Dental Home by children's first birthday. To reduce Early Childhood Caries and establish transition from breast to cup, we have introduced the Open Cup Initiative which encourages use of small cups rather than sippy cups. To encourage our practice we have developed resource and promotional materials and found venues to purchase cups, which then is shared with other groups. Our resource development includes pamphlets, open cup and 1st birthday visit displays, videos, as well as resource collection from organizations across the world.

The CAPHD (Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry) awarded the NOHWG the 2016 Merit Award. Received at the National Conference in September, this award recognizes the effort of groups or individuals in improving the oral health of Canadians. These efforts can include but are not limited to administrative work, inter-professional, education, and health promotion. The link to the article on CAPHD can be found at [http://www.caphd.ca/sites/default/files/MosaicNewsletter WIN17 FINAL.pdf](http://www.caphd.ca/sites/default/files/MosaicNewsletter_WIN17_FINAL.pdf)



Group Photo of some of the NOHWG Members- November, 2017

Brief Overview of Oral Health Resources developed through NOHWG Partnerships

Name of Resource	Target Group	Description of Resource
<i>A Parent's Guide to Oral Health*</i> (see link) (online resource available)	New Parents, Community Agencies, Health Fairs, CHC's	Information for new parents and families covering preventive dental care, oral health & pregnancy, infant oral care through teen years * find online resource of <i>A Parent's Guide to Oral Health</i> at http://www.sdta.ca/parents_guide/mobile/index.html#p=52 *Revised in partnership with Sask. Dental Public Health Network (SDPHN)
<i>Lift the Lip*</i> (see link) (online resource available)	New Parents, Community Agencies, Health Fairs, CHC's	Folding pamphlet promoting importance of lifting the child's lip to look at child's teeth to catch any cavities early * find online resource of <i>Lift the Lip</i> at http://www.sdta.ca/mrws/filedriver/lift_the_lip_brochure.pdf
<i>Open Cup Series*</i> (see link) (online resource available) (see photo below)	New Parents, Community Agencies, Health Fairs, CHC's	To reduce Early Childhood Caries and establish transition from breast to cup, the Open Cup Initiative encourages use of small cups rather than sippy cups http://www.nhcp.ca/healthy_eating_team/open_cup.html *In partnership with Northern Healthy Communities Partnership (NHCP)
<i>First Visit By Age 1</i> (see photo below)	New Parents, Community Agencies, Health Fairs, CHC's	The First Visit By Age 1 poster and resource series promotes the importance of the first dental visit by Age 1 and promotes the importance of having a Dental Home (relationship with a dental care provider) at an early age

The attached website links were up to date as of February 21, 2018.



First Visit by Age 1 –NOHWG Resource

Open Cup Series- NOHWG Resource *

*(in partnership with Northern Healthy Communities Partnership)



Open Cup Display at CAPHD and SOHP Conferences



*Parent Tear sheets Ages Birth-6 Years

* Fluoride Varnish Program- Oral Health Aide Instructor's Manual

*(Resources developed in 2005 under Northern Health Strategy (NHS) in partnership with NITHA)