




NOHWG

Est. 2003

CELEBRATING 20 years

Northern Oral Health Working Group

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- The Northern Oral Health Working Group (NOHWG) was established in 2003 to bring together oral health professionals in both Northern First Nations and provincial Health Authorities to respond to the escalating oral needs in Northern Saskatchewan. Originally 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 inter-jurisdictional lines. NHS sunsetted in 2010 but the group identified the need for this work to continue and a decision was made to move forward independently.

Early Days of Northern Health Strategy



Many original
members
are still
participating



Mission Statement

**Improve oral and
systemic outcomes
of Saskatchewan
residents**

Purpose

Develop strategies to support the diverse needs of Northern Saskatchewan and vulnerable populations

Function as a resource for dental public health at the local, regional, provincial and national levels

Work as an inter-jurisdictional team to develop and implement best practice standards

Provide a culturally safe environment through cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural humility and cultural competency

What we do.....


The NOHWG is focused on issues related to vulnerable and at-risk populations. While our membership is predominately from the North, it includes other members from Saskatchewan who also focus on vulnerable populations.

Thanks to the support of oral health programs across many organizations, the NOHWG has connected oral health promotion, prevention, and treatment utilizing a holistic perspective that provides a culturally safe environment through cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural humility and cultural competency.

We are client centered and nurture continuous quality improvement by following best practice standards through resource sharing. This facilitates knowledge transfer to communities and health professionals as well as professionals in other sectors.

Membership

NOHWG supports
Membership diversity to
ensure inter-professional and
inter-jurisdictional
representation.

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Objectives

Prevention, Promotion and Treatment

Resource sharing

Advocacy

Education and knowledge exchange

Inter-professional collaboration and
networking

Projects

Drop the pop

Choose water

Rethink your drink

Dental access program

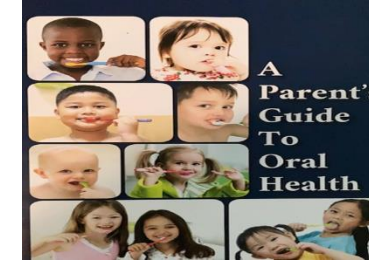
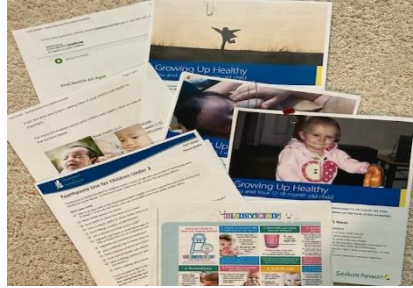
Age one dental bag

Start your baby on a cup at 6 months

Collaborate with Nutritionists, Healthy Eating Team, Saskatchewan College of Dental Surgeons

Continuing Education Sessions

Networking Sharing Distribution



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Prevention Strategies



Develop

Share

Network

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- In September 2016, the NOHWG was honored to receive the 2016 Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry Merit Award at the National Conference in Edmonton. This award recognizes the effort 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.

Accepting the
CAPHD award
for OPEN CUP
at 6 months
strategy and
promotion



Continuing
Education
sessions
NOHWG has
facilitated

SDF

Oral science

TB

Dryshield

IPC

Jordan's Principle

HET

Naloxone training

Traditional medicines

MEETINGS

Meetings occur three times per year (roughly March, June, October)

Rotating hosts/communities to be decided on by the group a year ahead of time

Funding is by each organization to cover costs of attending the meetings




Networking and fun

20 years

Many
meetings



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- The NOHWG meets in person 3 times a year with locations rotating through our member's communities. If you are an Oral Health Professional that is has a passion about finding solutions to oral health issues related to vulnerable and at risk populations and would like to become a member of the NOHWG, please contact the Chair, Melanie Martell at mmartell@willowcreehealth.com.