



## **The Asthma Society of Canada presents the Summary Report “A Shared Voice”**

**Toronto, Ontario – August 24<sup>th</sup> 2010:** The Asthma Society of Canada (ASC) is pleased to present the Summary Report of the project entitled “A Shared Voice: Engaging First Nations and Inuit communities in the development of culturally appropriate asthma and allergy education materials and resources for youth and their families”.

This project was conducted in March 2010 with support from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada (FNIHB), and builds upon a previous study conducted in 2009 entitled “A Shared Vision” which identified the development of culturally appropriate educational materials and resources as one of the integral factors in improving access to asthma/allergy-related health services in First Nations and Inuit communities.

The prevalence of asthma and associated allergies is substantially higher in First Nations and Inuit communities than in the general Canadian population. To address this concern, this project collected background information about the relevance of the existing asthma education materials and resources to First Nations and Inuit community members, and identified how these materials could be adapted to be culturally appropriate and better suit the needs of these communities.

“The lack of culturally appropriate educational materials and resources on asthma and associated allergies in First Nations and Inuit communities is a key barrier for proper asthma education and management” says Christine Hampson, President and CEO of the Asthma Society of Canada. “By identifying the tools that these communities believe will be beneficial for their population and by taking into consideration their unique culture, the ASC strives to empower First Nations and Inuit communities as they seek to better manage and control asthma and reduce asthma rates”.

The Summary Report is available to be downloaded from the ASC main website at [www.asthma.ca](http://www.asthma.ca) under “**A Shared Voice**” **Summary Report**.

Should you be interested in receiving the full report, please contact the ASC by phone at 1-866-787-4050 or by email at [info@asthma.ca](mailto:info@asthma.ca) to request a copy.

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