

Ottawa sends body bags to Manitoba reserves Wednesday, September 16, 2009 | 8:28 PM CT, 16 Sept, 2009 | CBC News

# Building a First Nations Public Health Surveillance Framework

John D. O'Neil, PhD Professor and Dean



"First Nations Communities unsafe for children"

#### "Changing the Relations of Surveillance"

- O'Neil, J.D., J. Reading, and A. Leader. 1998. Changing the Relations of Surveillance: The Development of a Discourse of Resistance in Aboriginal Epidemiology. *Human Organization* 57 (2):230-237.
- "Researched to death" OCAP (FN Ownership, Control, Access and Possession of Health Information)
- Reject the "Discourse on Pathology" that characterized Aboriginal health research to date.
- Build a First Nations Health Information system that supports First Nations governance in health care and public health.

## Theoretical Perspectives – Public health and "governmentality"

 "Following Michel Foucault, we contend that in modern societies, power operates not so much through repression, violence, direct coercion or blatant control as through the creation of expert knowledges about human beings and societies, which serve to channel or constrain thinking and action." (Peterson and Lupton – The New Public Health, 1996, Sage Publications)

#### The New Public Health: a new morality?

"The new public health can be seen as but the most recent of a series of regimes of power and knowledge that are oriented to the regulation and surveillance of individual bodies and the social body as a whole... (this) is a caution against the dominant view that the new public health is unproblematically a liberating project or 'movement'." (Peterson and Lupton – The New Public Health, 1996, Sage Publications)



First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS) 2002/03

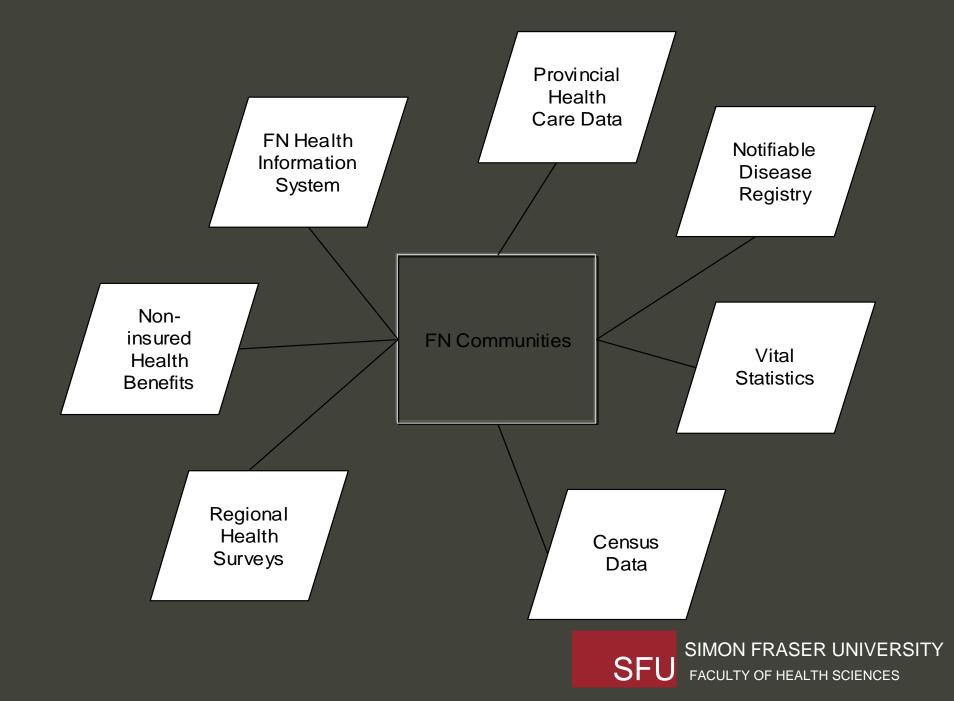


Results for Adults, Youth and Children Living in First Nations Communities



#### Issues in Public Health Surveillance - AFN Report

- O'Neil, J.D., and J. Blanchard. 2002. Considerations for the Development of Public Health Surveillance in First Nations Communities. First Nations Information Governance Committee, Health Secretariat, Assembly of First Nations, Ottawa.
- Federal, provincial and First Nations as "data stewards"
- Surveillance products/dissemination
- Basic research/applied research/knowledge synthesis
- Human resource and institutional development



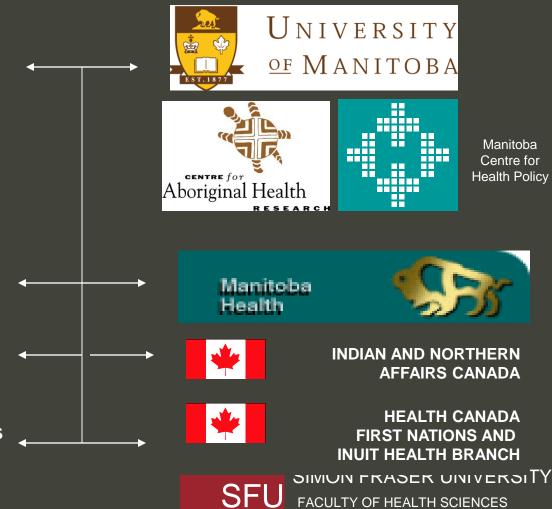
### Manitoba First Nations Population Health Registry Initiative (2005)



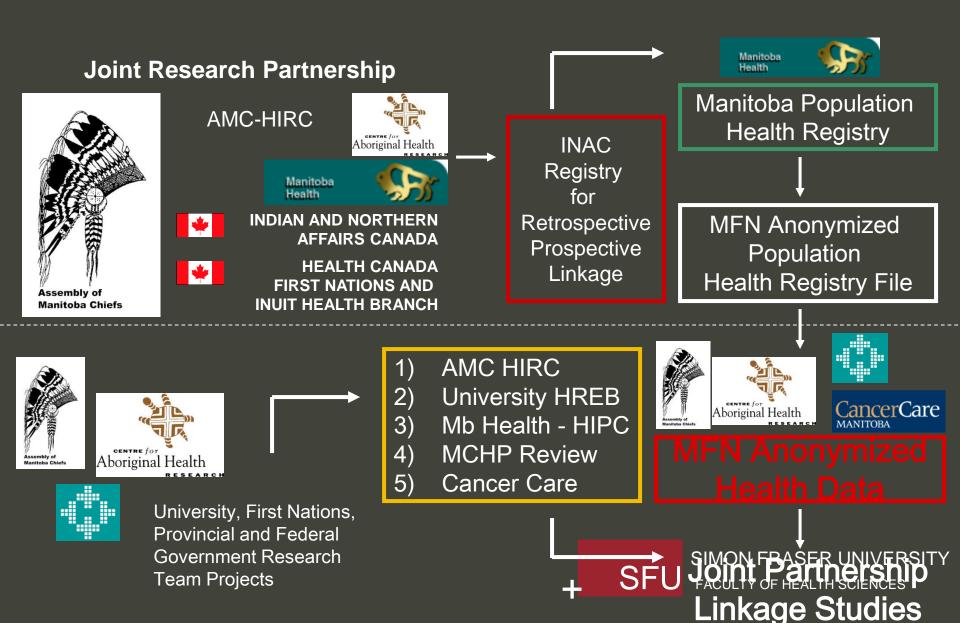
AMC Executive Council of Chiefs / All Chiefs

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**Manitoba First Nations Communities** 



#### Administrative health data linkage & research permission process



#### Building a Surveillance Narrative – two examples



