

DATE: November 4, 2014

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Presentation re Research Findings from a Nutritional Study with First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Youth

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance and Strategic Support Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Nancy Petersen

BACKGROUND

Dr. Sangita Sharma, Endowed Chair in Aboriginal Health and Centennial Professor/Professor in Aboriginal and Global Health Research at the University of Alberta, conducted a research project with nine district schools examining nutrition habits of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) youth. Dr. Sharma will present her research findings at the November 4, 2014 board meeting.

Professor Sharma, PhD, is an internationally known expert in dietary assessment and nutritional risk factors for disease in unique populations spanning the globe, from the Canadian Arctic to the Caribbean. With over 18 years of experience, Dr. Sharma has worked with many populations in Canada and the United States including: Inuit, Inuvialuit, First Nations, Apache, and Navajo. Additionally, she has worked internationally in countries such as England, Cameroon, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Brazil, Indonesia, and Nepal. Her work combines nutritional sciences, epidemiology, health promotion, and community-based interventions, with a focus on the development of dietary assessment methodologies for diverse populations. Research has been multidisciplinary, including the relationship between diet and disease, nutrient-gene interactions, ethnic differences in health outcomes, and the development of nutritional and lifestyle intervention programs to promote health.

Some of Dr. Sharma's recent publications include:

- ["Impact of the changing food environment on dietary practices of an Inuit population in Arctic Canada"](#) *Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics*, Volume 23, Issue Supplement S1, pages 18-26, Oct. 2010.
- ["Vitamin D deficiency and disease risk among aboriginal Arctic populations"](#), *Nutrition Reviews*, Volume 69, Issue 8, pages 468-478, Aug. 2011.
- ["Sources of Food Affect Dietary Adequacy of Inuit Women of Childbearing Age in Arctic Canada"](#), *J Health Popul Nutr*, 29(5):454-464, Oct. 2011.
- ["Nutrition Society Silver Medal Lecture Development and use of FFQ among adults in diverse settings across the globe"](#), *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* (2011), 70, 232–251.

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