



Updating the Circumpolar Inuit Cancer Review

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Background



In 2007, a Working Group met in Vancouver:

- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- NWT Health and Social Services
- Nunavut Health and Social Services
- Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
- Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen

Rapporteur: Kue Young [University of Toronto]

**Observers: Yukon Health and Social Services,
Council of Yukon First Nations, Dene Nation,
Institute for Circumpolar Health Research**

- Building on previous collaboration in 1980s, but with old+new players
- Collected data from Inuit populations in Alaska, Canada and Greenland from 1989-2003
- Agreement of collaboration and data sharing
- Each region provided data to U of Toronto; master tables generated – by year, region, site, age group and sex [Inuit only]
- Preliminary results presented to Inuit Public Health Task Group, Ottawa, April 2008
- Presentation to ArcticNet conference, Quebec, Dec 2008 – extensive media coverage
- Published papers in special cancer issue, *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* 2008



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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

Inuit & Cancer: Discussion Paper



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INUIT TAPIRIIT KANATAMI

Inuit & Cancer: Fact Sheets

Data
incorporated
into ITK cancer
fact sheet and
discussion
paper



**Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
February, 2009**

Main findings

- Cancer in general increasing among Inuit
- Some “traditional” cancers [nasopharynx, salivary] have not decreased
- “Modern” cancers – esp lung – now much more – highest in the world; others such as colorectal also catching up, while breast and prostate still low relative to non-Inuit
- Some success story – decline in cervical cancer
- Scope for prevention
- Implications for health services

Proposed Next Steps:

- Update data for another 5 years to 2008, thus forming a unique time series of 20 years
- Important to know if cancer trends previously detected have continued or changed
- Circumpolar comparison – not just of statistics, but also on cancer care and preventive services
- Data already available – technically simple
- Potential Arctic Council project [+ Dene and Sami + Russian indigenous people?]
- Partnership with ITK and ICC