

# Promoting Atikamekw Children's Interest for Health Professions Through a Book Collection

June 20, 2015

Université  de Montréal

2 Faculté de médecine

3 École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information



Aboriginal people account for 4.3% of the Canadian population but less than one per cent of doctors are aboriginal



# ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN CANADA

## – Health

62.6 % of adults living in First Nations communities live with one or more chronic condition(s)

20.7 % prevalence of diabetes in adults aged 25 years or older living in First Nations communities

Substance abuse, mental health, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections are also important health issues in aboriginal communities



Photo: [Brandon Towne](#)

# ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN CANADA

## -Education

39.9% of adults living in First Nations communities did not complete high school

4.9% of adults living in First Nations communities have a university or professional degree



Photo: [Brandon Towne](#)

## THE MINI-ÉCOLE DE LA SANTÉ AT UdeM

- Created in 2011
- **GISA**, *medical students' interest group in aboriginal health*, in charge of the Mini-école's educational activities
- **First Nations Program Advisor** responsible for logistics
- **CÉI**, *Interfaculty student council*, in charge, since 2013, of **recruiting students** outside of the medical program
- **Bibliothèque de la santé**, in charge, since 2014, of the **book collection**





# CONNECTING HEALTH, EDUCATION AND CULTURE THROUGH NARRATIVES

Dr Stanley Vollant's conference on aboriginal health





To  
introduce  
aboriginal  
children to  
the health  
professions

UdeM Mini-école de la  
santé

UdeM Libraries

To support  
the  
University's  
outreach  
activities



"READ!  
Every book is a  
doorway to a  
hundred other  
doorways that  
allow you to see  
the world." *Richard  
Wagamese*  
*Aboriginal Reading  
Champion*  
*National Reading  
Campaign*

Libraries in  
Aboriginal  
communities

## THE MINI-ÉCOLE BOOK COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

*A book collection, to be donated to the schools visited by the Mini-école, to support UdeM Health sciences faculties in achieving their goal of reaching out to Aboriginal children and making them aware that a career in health sciences is possible for them.*

- A two-year pilot project
- 4 Atikamekw schools
- 1000 \$ per school
- Fiction and non-fiction reading materials
- Subjects : health, anatomy, health professions, sciences





## BOOK SELECTION

Selection tools for children books were suggested by Valérie Bastien, Education librarian, UdeM



Other websites were consulted for health sciences material or aboriginal content



## THE CULTURAL SIDE OF SCIENCE

"Overall, Native American-authored books used a greater variety of illustrative tools, encouraging viewers to approach the story from more multiple perspectives."

*Medin DL, Bang M. The cultural side of science communication. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2014 Sep 16;111 Suppl 4:13621-6*

### Books about science -- hard or impossible to find

- ...books in Atikamekw
- ...books with aboriginal characters
- ...books by aboriginal authors
- ...books with aboriginal content



# HOW TO ADDRESS ABORIGINAL CULTURE IN A SCIENCE BOOK COLLECTION?

Books with North American animals



Books allowing children to be "inside the story"



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOOK COLLECTION

- List submitted to the elementary school in the aboriginal community
- List enriched by the person in charge of the school library
- Books purchased by UdeM libraries
- Physical preparation done at the Health sciences library







We hope that, when the reader will see the **Mini-école de la santé** stamp in the book, it will bring back memories of the Mini-école visit and activities





# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS VISITED IN ATIKAMEKW COMMUNITIES

École Simon-P Ottawa, Manawan

École Seskitin, Wemotaci





## HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION. ÉCOLE OTAPI, MANAWAN



## HIGH SCHOOL

### École Otapi, Manawan



A library student joined the Mini-école and, with the medical librarian, hosted the books stand



Bookmarks advertising the *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* online resources were distributed

# FROM PILOT PROJECT TO INTEGRATION IN THE MINI-ÉCOLE

## – Pilot project

One high school left in the pilot project: École secondaire Nikanik, Wemotaci

The four schools' collections will be updated when the Mini-école returns for another visit

## – Integration

Planned budget from the Mini-école for book collections for 10 schools in Innu communities on the Quebec Côte-Nord

Planned Integration to the visits of one or two library student(s)





# INNU COMMUNITIES ON THE QUEBEC CÔTE-NORD



Source: Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones. Carte des onze nations autochtones du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 2011

# ARTICLE IN THE SPECIAL ABORIGINAL ISSUE OF UdeM'S NEWSPAPER, MAY 1 2015



[L'UdeM donne des centaines de livres aux miniécoles de la santé](#)



- 
- A large collection of children's books on human anatomy and health, including titles like 'Le corps humain', 'L'hôpital', 'Pourquoi?', and 'Mon Premier Atlas des Sciences'. The books are arranged in several rows on a wooden surface. Some books are standing upright, while others are lying flat. The covers feature various illustrations of the human body, medical professionals, and children. The books are in French and appear to be part of a library or a collection for educational purposes.