

Aboriginal health in Canada. Historical, cultural, and epidemiological perspectives. 2nd edition

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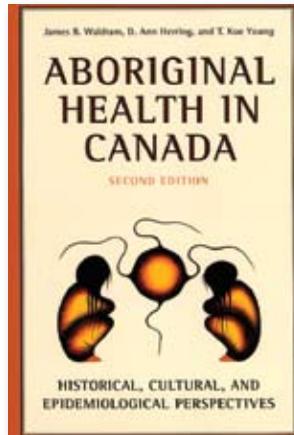
PUBLISHED 2006/367 pp/\$29.95

OVERALL RATING Good

STRENGTHS Useful for those with little experience working with Canada's aboriginal peoples; provides pearls about effects of historical and cultural influences on current health and well-being of individuals and their communities

WEAKNESSES Some information related to areas within the health sciences reduces the credibility of an otherwise excellent resource (eg, information in the example from the Native Access Program at the University of Saskatchewan was confusing and inaccurate; the discussion of the ACADRE Centre in Saskatchewan was also confusing)

AUDIENCE Health care practitioners, undergraduate and graduate students



This book was designed to bring a broad interdisciplinary perspective, reflective of the diverse backgrounds of the authors, to the topic of aboriginal health. In doing so,

this book provides many thoughtful insights into understanding the effect of history and culture on the health and well-being of Canada's aboriginal peoples.

The book indicated that, in all aspects of health research, administration, and clinical service delivery, a public health perspective must be adopted. Delivery of health services should also include elements derived from population health, primary health care, and the 4 principles of family medicine. It should also engage end users in the process, which was discussed in the book within the context of self-determination.

In closing, the authors indicated that researchers and health care practitioners must appreciate that there is no single aboriginal culture in Canada, which from my perspective is critical—without a relationship with the community, what is “culturally appropriate” is unknown.

This book could be used as a tool to enhance awareness of historical, cultural, and epidemiological perspectives of Canada's aboriginal peoples with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as with health care practitioners in Canada.

— Vivian R. Ramsden RN MSc PhD

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