



NOVEMBER IS ABORIGINAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2016 marks the 2nd Anniversary of Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month in British Columbia.

In 2015, the Métis Nation British Columbia, the BC First Nations Summit and the Province of British Columbia all recognized and proclaimed November as Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month. This was the first such recognition, specific to Indigenous persons living with disabilities, proclaimed anywhere in the world.

Since 2015, the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) has been working with various Indigenous leadership organizations and provincial and territorial governments to have Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month recognized across Canada.

In 2016, the Assembly of First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Province of Saskatchewan all recognized and proclaim the month as well.

The frequency of disabilities experienced by the Indigenous population of Canada is twice that of the national rate and up to three times higher within certain Indigenous age groups.

Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month was created to raise awareness of the often-unique issues that face the Indigenous population of Canada who live with disabilities. Through bringing issues to light, Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month assists to eliminate the barriers that can restrict persons living with disabilities in being fully participating members of our communities, provinces, territories and country.

Throughout November a variety of activities and awareness events are being held to raise awareness and celebrate the month.

About the British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)

BCANDS is the only stand-alone Indigenous organization of its type in Canada. 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of BCANDS and its delivery of award winning Indigenous disability and health services. BCANDS disability services are available to any Indigenous person living with a disability regardless of age, location, Indigenous ancestry, disability and disability related need.

For more information on Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month or BCANDS please contact Neil Belanger – Executive Director at (250) 381 7303 or by email at exdir@bcands.bc.ca or visit www.bcands.bc.ca

For information of the upcoming BCANDS 2017 “*From the Outside Looking In.....Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering*” please visit www.bcands2017gathering.com