

## **World TB Day - The New Brunswick Lung Association is part of a national team to fight TB in Canada's North**

World TB Day is held every year on March 24th to mark the discovery of the cause of the disease. Worldwide, more than 9 million people still develop active TB each year and nearly 2 million will die.<sup>1</sup>

The Canadian Lung Association has a rich and proud history of fighting TB. Established in 1900 to control the spread of tuberculosis, the Association began its work under the original name The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis. Over the years, the Association helped to achieve dramatic changes in the status of TB, and now a steady decline in this deadly disease has been realized.

Over the past seven years, TB rates in Canada have been relatively stable, averaging about 1,600 cases per year. In 2009, people born outside of Canada accounted for 63% of all reported TB cases in Canada.<sup>2</sup>

According to 2009 figures from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian-born non-Aboriginal and Canadian-born Aboriginal cases made up 15% and 21% of all reported cases, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

However, the TB rate in the Canadian-born Aboriginal group continues to be the highest of the three groups, being almost 6 times that of the overall Canadian TB rate of 4.7 per 100,000.<sup>4</sup>

The three most populous provinces (British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec) which collectively made up 75% of Canada's population in 2009, accounted for 66% of the total number of reported cases. The highest incidence rate was reported from Nunavut (174.0 per 100,000 population).<sup>5</sup>

The New Brunswick Lung Association is a key partner in an initiative to fight TB in Nunavut. In January 2011, the Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced \$800,000 in financial support for The Taima TB project, an initiative that includes: the Government of Nunavut, Dr. Gonzalo Alvarez, a consultant respirologist for Nunavut who is currently affiliated with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute at

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-2015, Stop TB Partnership  
[http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/global/plan/TB\\_GlobalPlanToStopTB2011-2015.pdf](http://www.stoptb.org/assets/documents/global/plan/TB_GlobalPlanToStopTB2011-2015.pdf)

<sup>2,3,4</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada. (2009). *Pre-release, Tuberculosis in Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbcan09pre/index-eng.php#in> Figures for 2008/9 are provisional until publication of the Tuberculosis in Canada – 2008 Annual Report.

the University of Ottawa; Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.; Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; and the National Aboriginal Health Organization.

“We are very pleased to be working with our partners both in Nunavut and across Canada to address the very serious threat of tuberculosis in the North,” says Barbara MacKinnon, president and CEO of the New Brunswick Lung Association.

The Taima TB project is an important part of Canada’s Lung Health Program, established by the Public Health Agency of Canada through the [National Lung Health Framework](#), a strategic action plan to improve the lung health of Canadians.

[Learn more about tuberculosis](#)

[Learn more about the National Lung Health Framework](#)

Established in 1900, The Canadian Lung Association is one of Canada's oldest and most respected health charities, and the leading national organization for science-based information, research, education, support programs and advocacy on lung health issues.

The Canadian Lung Association is the secretariat for and a founding member of [StopTB Canada](#), Canada's voice in the global partnership to accelerate social and political action to stop the unnecessary spread of tuberculosis around the world.

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