Robert Comeau, on behalf of the NIYC
Faculty/Presenter Disclosure

• Robert Comeau has no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of commercial services discussed in this CME activity
  AND
• Robert Comeau does not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in my presentation
Inuit Population

- Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Inuit, First Nations and Métis
- 59,445 Inuit in Canada
- Population increase of 26% from 1996 - 2006
- Median age of 23
Inuit Communities

• Inuit live in northern regions of Alaska, Chukotka, Greenland and Canada

• **53** Inuit communities in Canada

• **Four** Inuit Land Claim Regions
  • Inuvialuit
  • Nunavut
  • Nunavik
  • Nunatsiavut

• Remote Communities
Inuit Culture
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

- ITK came into existence in 1971
- National representational organization for Inuit in Canada
- Directed by all Canadian Inuit
- Represent and promote the interests of Inuit on a wide variety of environmental, social, cultural, and political challenges
Tungasuvvingat Inuit

• With the increase in Inuit population in Ottawa, TI came into existence in 1987
  ✓ Partner with Inuit Regions and ITK
  ✓ Support of our national leadership
  ✓ Urban endorsement from ITK

• Represent and promote the interests of Inuit of Ontario on a wide variety of environmental, social, cultural, and political challenges
Resolutions:

- Education
- Justice
- Recreation
- Youth camps
- Communication
- Inuit youth well-being
- Youth participation in Inuit organizations
NIYC Today
NIYC Priorities

- Suicide Prevention
- Health and Substance Abuse
- Culture and Language
- Youth Political Involvement
- Youth Facilities and Resources
- Housing and Poverty Reduction
- Education and Research
Inuit social determinants of health are:

- Quality of early childhood development
- Culture and language
- Livelihoods
- Income distribution
- Housing
- Personal safety and security
- Education
- Food security
- Availability of health services
- Mental wellness
- Environment
Suicide Prevention

**Figure 2:** Rate of death by suicide, Canada (all) and Inuit in Nunavut (5-year rolling average), 1972-2013

**Figure 3:** Rate of death by suicide, Inuit in Nunavut, by sex and age group, 1999 to 2013

Hicks, 2014
Mental Wellness

- Physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellness as well as strong cultural identity
  - Legacy of relocation and residential schools
  - Socio-economic conditions and lack of employment opportunities
  - Lack of access to continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness, medical and social services

- Influences choices about health and wellness

Rates of Inuit youth suicide are 11X the Canadian national average
To that Place

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eCCzA_0coQ&feature=related
Half of Inuit youth smoke every day

Statistics Canada, 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, custom tables
Don’t be a Slave

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoVoX5vil1o

Credit: NIYC1993
Housing

• Housing Crisis in Inuit Nunangat:
  • Housing shortage
  • Crowded homes
  • Homes in need of major repairs
  • Poor ventilation

• Major Challenge for Youth seeking employment

Inuit are 8 X more likely than non-Aboriginal Canadians to live in crowded homes
Moving Forward

• Creating youth involvement
• Pride
• Leadership skills
• Involvement in the Political system
• Raising Awareness
• Elder and Youth Summit in August
Canada’s Inuit Youth Magazine

www.niyc.ca
http://issuu.com/nipiit
NIYC Summit 2013 Kuujjuaq

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtTiolGM_4A

Credit: urbaNorthwebtv
Qujannamiik

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
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