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At the 2004 World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General announced the launch of a WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (SDH) to address the growing problem of inequities in health status within and between countries. Over a three year period, the goal of the Commission is to lever policy change by compiling evidence on the science and action on social determinants of health, enhancing societal debate on the topic and proposing global and national policy agendas for action. The Canadian initiative is led by Commissioners, Madame Monique Bégin and Mr. Stephen Lewis. Canada's work is related to the overall goal of the WHO Commission in addressing health inequities, to integrate lessons learned from the Commission into policy processes and to advance dialogue for policy action on the social determinants of health in Canada.

Indigenous Peoples are over represented among the world's vulnerable groups "suffering low incomes, living in poor conditions and lacking adequate access to employment, education, safe water, food and health care service".

Canada had previously undertaken a preliminary analysis on the advancement of the social determinants of health both nationally and internationally which identified that monitoring of Aboriginal health status over time would be an important activity.

An Aboriginal roundtable was hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Public Health (NCCAPH) on June 29, 2006 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Recommendations from participant experts were identified in three thematic areas: gathering evidence, policy recommendations and engagement processes. This presentation will provide a more detailed overview of the Roundtable proceedings and recommendations.