



**Collectively Caring for Indigenous  
Children and Youth:**  
An Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Initiative



*The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition acknowledges that we are on unceded Algonquin-Anishinaabe territory.*

Dear Community Member,

We would like to invite you to participate in our *Collectively Caring for Indigenous Children and Youth* project. The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC), with Kids Come First and CHEO, is doing a community-based Quality Assurance project to help identify and reduce barriers for our community members when accessing health care in the areas of;

1. Mental health assessments and services
2. Assessments around development needs and supports to parents with children.
3. Paediatric dental surgery (particularly for Inuit children).

Sharing your story will help us identifying barriers and work towards solutions for families in these areas through the *Collectively Caring for Indigenous Children and Youth* project.

We would like you to be part of the research if you identify as Indigenous – First Nation, Inuit or Métis and you; 1) have at least 1 child (ages newborn to 17), 2) have experienced challenges in the above areas of health care, and 3) are available and agree to at least two interviews. *As our initiative has progressed, we have not yet had any Métis families participate. To ensure our work is representative of our unique and diverse urban community, we are specifically seeking more Métis community members to share their stories.*

Your story of accessing healthcare for your family will be captured through 1-2 interviews with OAC research staff.

We will be giving each family a gift of their story made into a booklet and given back to them to honour the knowledge shared with us. We will also give a gift of \$500 for both interviews for your participation in this project. You will also be provided with mental health, cultural and spiritual supports in the form of access to a counselor and Elders.

If you are interested in joining us for this project or if you have any additional questions, please connect with the OAC Research Team:

- o Kyra Hagerty [researchassistant@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca](mailto:researchassistant@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca)
- o Kate Carroll [researchcoordinator@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca](mailto:researchcoordinator@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca)

- o Or call the OAC research phone: 613-914-9256.

With respect,  
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Research Team