



**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 Indigenous Community Member,

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) would like to invite you to participate in our *Collectively Caring for Indigenous Children and Youth* project. The OAC, with Kids Come First and CHEO, is doing a community-based initiative to identify and reduce the barriers that Indigenous families are experiencing when they try and access health care services for their children or youth. Have you had any challenges in accessing these three types of services for your children and youth?

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

If you have faced these challenges in your family we would like you to be part of the research. Other required criteria are that you:

- a. identify as Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit or Métis) and you;
- b. have at least one child (ages newborn to 17) that experienced a challenge in the health care system;
- c. have a connection with an OAC organisation, and
- d. agree to two interviews.

Every family that participates in the project will receive a gift of their story made into a booklet, \$500 for doing the interviews and access to mental health, cultural and spiritual supports in the form of access to a counselor and Elders. Childcare and transportation help is available upon request. You can leave the project at any time if it becomes too stressful to remember your experiences.

Your story will help the OAC make recommendations to the different services, including CHEO, to better support Indigenous children and youth.

If you are interested in joining us for this project or if you have any additional questions, please email info@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca or call 613-914-9256.

With respect,
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Research Team