

FROM THE GENERAL EDITORS



Nancy Gibson and Patti LaBoucane-Benson



It has been an amazing two years since the first issue of *Pimatisiwin* was published. We started with the intent of being a quarterly journal and quickly discovered that semi-annual publication is a more realistic schedule.

With this, our fourth issue, the second issue of Volume 2, we are making it official that *Pimatisiwin* will, from this point on, be a semi-annual publication. To those of you who subscribed with the first issue, we are adding a free year in order to make up the four issues we originally projected.

We have been thrilled to have *Pimatisiwin* adopted as a classroom text by professors at the University of Alberta and Brandon University in Manitoba, and elsewhere. Our articles provide information and discussion about areas of Aboriginal health research that have, until now, seldom been seen in academic literature. Some professors have found the collections useful — and less expensive than the usual copyrighted reading package!

There is one goal for *Pimatisiwin* that we have not achieved as well as we would like. Our experiences in both the academic and the Native communities tell us that communication between the two has often been poor. As Malcolm King, Gustavo Zayas, and Rose Martial point out in their article in this issue, given the right venue, conversations between medical professionals and Aboriginal communities can occur in meaningful ways. Those conversations form the beginning of trust and trust is the beginning of any lasting relationship.

We have always hoped that *Pimatisiwin* would become a venue for conversations, but in writing. So many of you are involved in creating and maintaining community research partnership. We want to hear your stories, whether from the perspective of an Aboriginal community or the perspective of a medical researcher. We encourage you to respond to the stories of other people, even — or especially — if your experiences have been different to those of the writer.

For instance, in this issue, we have a conversation between two people who have done community-based research in Australia. It is not a formal arti-

cle, but two men talking about the differences and the similarities in their experiences. Perhaps you have had a community research experience in Alaska, or Alberta, or New Zealand which speaks to some part of what Allen Benson and Ed Brownfield discuss in this issue. Write us a short article about it and share your knowledge with everyone who reads Pimatisiwin. Over time, we will create a world-wide learning circle where your experience, though not identical, may provide a solution for someone else's challenge. Reading about other peoples' challenges also allows us to reflect on our own in ways that give another perspective to a similar issue. We all tend to get locked in certain ways of responding to challenges, certain ways of expecting them to be solved.

If you have a story you prefer to share orally, and don't mind it being written down, we are delighted to talk to you, in person or by telephone, put your words on paper, and get your approval of them before publication. The important thing, more important than anything else we can do, is to talk to each other frequently and constantly.

All articles and stories submitted to us are subject to editorial revision where that is considered necessary. All editorial revisions must be given the final approval by the person telling the story. That, too, is a conversation.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Pimatisiwin and find in it stories and ideas for your own communities and reassurance that your concerns are shared by many.