



OUR RESEARCHERS | DR. BRANDY WICKLOW

Thank you for your generosity. Diabetes Canada is grateful to our donors for supporting critical research that will end diabetes.

Through your support, Dr. Brandy Wicklow, associate professor and medical director, Diabetes Education Resource for Children & Adolescents (DER-CA) at Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, is bringing us one step closer to more equitable health outcomes for First Nations people living with diabetes.

In Canada, who you are impacts how healthy you'll be. This is health inequity – when your ethnic background, level of income or where you live affects your health outcomes. This is unfair and unjust.

The diabetes epidemic in First Nations communities is a tragic legacy in Canada. Health, social, and systemic inequities, discrimination and racism, and geographic isolation all have had long-term, negative impacts on the health of First Nations peoples – First Nations living on reserve have a rate of diabetes three to five times higher than that of other Canadians. First Nations children in Canada experience the highest rates of type 2 diabetes and early kidney disease worldwide.

To help address these health inequities, Dr. Brandy Wicklow is working in partnership with First Nations communities to better understand the causes of type 2 diabetes and kidney disease in First Nations children.

Dr. Wicklow and her team will:

1. Determine the impact of type 2 diabetes in First Nations pregnant women on the genes of their babies, and the likelihood their babies will have type 2 diabetes.
2. Determine whether a specific gene called HNF-1a increases the risk of getting type 2 diabetes and early kidney disease in First Nations babies.
3. Work on earlier detection and interventions for First Nations children at risk of type 2 diabetes and kidney disease.

Your support will help Diabetes Canada fund this project and many more, leading to a healthier future for people with diabetes.