



Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Ms. Applewhaite administers a routine immunization to a patient.

Yvonne Applewhaite has worked as a nursing practice consultant with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch – Health Canada for over 8 years. She has 25 years of experience in immunization and 40 years of experience in nursing.

Ms. Applewhaite's first encounter with the health care system came when she was nine years old. She says that this encounter first planted the seed of what she wanted to be when she grew up: a nurse. She credits her mother, first and foremost, with ensuring that her daughter received an education, teaching her basic values, and encouraging her to strive for whatever she wanted to become, and never to give up. Later, as Yvonne studied to become a nurse, her nursing principal, an experienced and knowledgeable woman, pushed the nursing students to the limit of their abilities.

Ms. Applewhaite's love for nursing is evident in her work. It is this love that motivates her, as well as the opportunity to participate in the promotion of health to others. She looks for and welcomes opportunities to increase and apply new knowledge and skills, and to "learn, learn, learn".

She has found CCIAP's and PHAC's websites to be useful tools for her work: "One can educate both oneself and one's clientele about immunization." They keep her current on what is new, what is required, and what is happening (especially in the area of adverse events).

One challenge Ms. Applewhaite constantly faces is ensuring that clients comply with their immunizations and follow up as scheduled. Her hope is that clients are learning about the benefits of immunization and are more willing to have their babies and children immunized. But she is sometimes concerned that many clients, who may not fully understand the information being handed out, may refuse immunization for themselves or for their children.

Ms. Applewhaite has found that working with First Nations people has opened up many avenues for health promotion and prevention.

To young colleagues and students, she offers this advice: Decide whatever you want to be, and never give up on your goal.



**Canadian Coalition
for Immunization Awareness
& Promotion (CCIAP)**

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