

# Primary Biliary Cirrhosis (PBC) BC Coastal First Nations People: An Update to Participants March 2011

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This is the fifth in a series of update notices sharing the progress of the study with study participants and their families.

Thank you to all of the families who are participating in our study of the genetic causes of primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC) in B.C.'s First Nations People. We hope that this study will help answer the question of why PBC is so much more common in BC Coastal First Nations populations than in non-First Nations people. In addition, we aim to educate health care providers about the higher rate of PBC among First Nations people so that it can be diagnosed promptly and treated at an early stage in the disease. Your help with this study is very much appreciated.

We appreciate the funding we have had for the last 2 years from the Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF). This funding has allowed us the opportunity to get a good start on searching for possible genes that might be increasing the risk for PBC. However, there is more work to be done, and we will continue to search for more funding sources so we can keep moving forward with this important research. Even when our funding ends, we will still be available to answer your questions and enroll any new participants who are interested in taking part in the research. Currently we have 31 participants, including 45 with PBC.

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## Where do we go from here?

The study will continue to remain open for enrollment. Anyone of First Nations ancestry with PBCs or has a relative with PBC, is welcome to join our research study. We are happy to hear from you at any time. Please feel free to