

Grandmother Moon continued, “Women must protect themselves at all cost for they carry the gift of life forever and this gift is a sacred gift that must be protected.

I would encourage women to

carry these pouches all the time, even in their homes. I would have mothers make



pouches for their young, in preparation for when their young become of age to mate. I would have the mothers instruct their young not only to respect themselves but to respect the person with whom they wish to mate with.”

And so the Health Worker embarked on the task of making the dual medicine pouches to promote and encourage women and young people to take better care of themselves. This is how the dual medicine pouch for the little latex coats came to be.

Funded by: The Aboriginal Healing Foundation – As a result of Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples the Aboriginal Healing Foundation was set up in 1998 with funding from the Government of Canada. The funding is to encourage and support Aboriginal people in healing from the physical and sexual abuse in the Residential Schools.

Story and Pouches created by: Patti Nawagesic
Graphics by: Nelson Chief



Ogden Site (Main office)

525 Simpson Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3J6
Tel: (807) 622-8235
Fax: (807) 622-3548

Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
Tuesday evening until 9 pm.
Thursday evening until 7 pm.

Longlac Site

99 Skinner Ave, PO Box 910
Longlac, ON P0T 2A0
Tel: (807) 876-2271
Fax: (807) 876-2473

Monday: 9 am – 8 pm. Closed 5 – 6 pm.
Tuesday: 8:30 am – 8 pm. Closed 5 – 6 pm.
Wednesday: 9 am – 5 pm.
Thursday: 8:30 am – 5 pm.
Friday: 9 am – 5 pm.

Armstrong Site

PO Box 104
Armstrong, ON P0T 1A0
Tel: (807) 583-1145
Fax: (807) 583-1147

Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

www.norwestchc.org

The Dual Medicine Pouch



A group of health workers gathered together to discuss the problems of the rise of HIV and Hepatitis B in high-risk populations. One Health Worker shared her vision with the others...

This Health Worker was very concerned for her people. Her concern was so great that she had a message given to her in a dream. In her dream, a woman with long white hair came to her with a beauty of total magnificence.

The woman said she was 'Grandmother Moon'. She said, "I have been watching your people down below on Earth. I have seen so much suffering going on around the mating between a man and a woman. It was so simple long ago.

It was a gift to mankind from the Creator and it was intended to ward off the illnesses of loneliness, depression, and isolation, but now it promotes more illnesses.

The Health Worker agreed "These sicknesses are called HIV and Hepatitis B. They enter into our bodies through the exchange of our body fluids. They are called viruses because they cannot be seen like bacteria under a microscope. There is no medicine that can overpower



them. Body fluids are exchanged in different forms, such as, mating, injecting drugs through shared needles, and having physical contact with human blood."

The Health Worker continued, "Aboriginal people, people who live in extreme poverty and people who mate for business reasons, catch these and other sexually transmitted diseases more often than others. Our Aboriginal women and young people become more vulnerable and the numbers are growing higher every year. There is no cure."

"What do people do to take precautions?" asked Grandmother Moon.

"The men wear these little latex coats, called condoms, on their penises; but not everyone practices this ritual. They take their chances and do not use the latex coats," said the Health Worker.

"Why would they do that?" Grandmother Moon asked in dismay.

The Health Worker responded, "Well, I guess they may have many reasons. They like it better without the condom or they cannot afford to buy the condoms. Even though you can get them for free from various places,

they may be too shy."

Grandmother Moon said, "If I was down there I would make sure the man I would mate with used

this latex coat on his penis.

I would not want to catch a disease that would could make me suffer and die."

The Health Worker replied, "Oh Grandmother Moon, I wish all people thought that way especially our women and our young people. What

can we do about this problem we have down here on Earth?"

Grandmother Moon responded, "We need to encourage those that take chances to wear these latex coats by giving them a Medicine Pouch that would conceal them. It would have two pouches and two openings so that the latex coats can be made easily accessible. At the same time, they would keep my integrity in place so that no one would know that I carry this special medicine. I would make sure that this was available for our women and our young people."

