Author's response to reviews

Title: Indigenous Populations Health Protection: A Canadian Perspective

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**Response to the Reviewer**

We would like to thank the reviewer for a careful reading of our manuscript and providing useful suggestions to improve the quality and public health relevancy of the paper. We have taken his comments into full consideration and addressed them in the revised manuscript. Below, we provide the details of this revision.

- **Would it be helpful to have a table or insert a figure showing some data on disease burden in aboriginal communities versus the general populations?**
  
  We have included a figure for age-standardized (relative) infection and hospitalization ratios of FN and non-FN populations to highlight the difference in the burden of H1N1 pandemic in these settings. We used the laboratory confirmed and hospitalization cases of H1N1 pandemic in Manitoba during the first wave to perform a descriptive analysis and generate the figure for mean values and 95% confidence intervals.

- **Would it be helpful to add a table summarizing the main points or recommendations?**
  
  We have complied with this suggestion and provided a table to include the topics and research methods discussed in the workshop, and recommendations made on addressing the relevant issues for improving the health of indigenous populations.

- **How could these Canadian experiences and plans be relevant to other countries with indigenous populations (the US? Australia?)?**
  
  We believe that this report is relevant to other countries where indigenous populations are experiencing disproportionate rates of health burden. We have included this in the revised manuscript with citation of relevant studies.

We believe that the revised manuscript addresses the comments of the reviewer, and hope that it can ultimately be found acceptable for publication in BMC Public Health.