



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2021

The winter months created space for our team to get organized and develop a workplan for the remaining 16 months of the AHA Centre 2.0 grant. It is incredible to think that we are already on the cusp of our fifth year! We meet regularly as an operations team and also had the opportunity to meet with both NARAC and our Governing Council in March. We value and appreciate the insight and energy that these two groups bring to our work. To everyone on our council and committee, thank you!!

As the days grow longer and the ground starts to wake up, we are working hard to finalize projects as we welcome new ones. We hope the warmer days filter into every corner of Turtle Island and bring with it a renewed sense of health, happiness and overall wellbeing.

Stay safe and take good care!

Wise Practices VIII

With the hope of being able to meet in-person, our operations team and Governing Council decided to postpone our bi-annual event till spring of 2022. A brief survey will be circulated in the next few weeks to gather information on how people feel about the possibility of gathering in-person and what they hope to see from the last Wise Practices of AHA 2.0.

We understand that the event will look different from previous years. Our hope, however, is to create a space (virtual, in-person or a hybrid of both) where the spirit of Wise Practices rings true. Thank you, in advance, for your thoughts and feedback!

Community of Practice Webinar [Sharing Space: Indigenous Research in the time of COVID](#)

Staff at the AHA Centre and [The Pacific AIDS Network/REACH](#) have created space for members of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous research communities to come together to learn from and support one another as we struggle with our new reality. And so, we extend an open invitation to join us for the Sharing Space Community of Practice Virtual Gatherings. This opportunity is open to anyone trying to sort out how to do research in a good way given our 'new—COVID—reality'. We can brainstorm together, or simply build a supportive environment at a time when many of us have no idea what to do.

The next Community of Practice Zoom call will take place on **April 20, 2021 at 12:00 EDT**.

[Register here!](#)

JIHR Volume 12: Call for Papers

This year, we've chosen the theme of 'Capacity Bridging' as the focus of Volume 12.

The term capacity building is seen to be paternalistic, often referring to non-Indigenous academics 'teaching' Indigenous peoples about research. Capacity bridging more appropriately represents our reality — Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations possess numerous capacities to plan, to organize, to operationalize and to lead. Communities simply require supports and

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opportunities to bridge those capacities in the context of research and within what Indigenous scholar Willie Ermine refers to as the Ethical Space, where Indigenous worldview, knowledge systems and practices are valued, acknowledged and used to ground research (Ermine, 2007).

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.ahacentre.ca/journal.html>

*We will accept papers that do not directly address the Capacity Bridging theme.

Submission Deadline: Monday June 07, 2021 by 4:30pm PST.

CAHR/CANFAR Excellence in Research Awards

<https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/cahr-news/2021-cahr-canfar-excellence-in-research-awards/>

Two of our esteemed team members are being recognized by The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) and the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR):

Social Sciences: **Dr. Sarah Flicker** (York University)

Community-Based Research: **Dr. Randy Jackson** (McMaster University)

Congratulations Sarah and Randy!

Report – Health and wellbeing among Indigenous trans, two-spirit and non-binary people

<https://transpulsecanada.ca/results/report-health-and-well-being-among-indigenous-trans-two-spirit-and-non-binary-people/>

The Trans PULSE Canada project collected survey data from 2,873 trans and non-binary people in 2019. Of this number, 252 survey respondents indicated being Indigenous. This report presents results from the first national all-ages data on health and well-being among Indigenous trans, two-spirit, and non-binary people in Canada. Results highlighted that community belonging and participation in

traditional activities or embracing a traditional identity are important factors connected to the health of Indigenous trans, gender-diverse, and two-spirit peoples.

Highlights

Indigenous gender-diverse people, from time immemorial, have always been part of our community. Held in high esteem, respected roles in sacred and traditional ceremonial contexts were taken on.

Participation in traditional activities or embracing a traditional identity are important factors connected to the health of Indigenous gender-diverse peoples, despite participants reporting higher levels of violence and harassment.

First Nations therapist reflects on 20 years helping MMIWG families

Dr. Kim McKay-McNabb, therapist, executive director of the White Raven Healing Centre and AHA Centre team member, recently spoke to the CBC about her 20 years of experience in counselling family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Thank you, Kim, for sharing your personal and professional story.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/we-rise-conference-saskatchewan-1.5959345>

Suggested Reading

Queering Land-Based Education During Covid19

Alex Wilson

Published in the [Journal of Global Indigeneity](#)

Abstract

This essay relates the experience and reflects on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and myself (their instructor) as we muddled, plowed, stumbled, stalled, and occasionally sailed our way through Queering Indigenous Land-Based Education, a required course for students in the University of

Saskatchewan's Master of Education program with an Indigenous Land-Based Education concentration. Ordinarily, the course is presented as a land-based intensive, hosted by an Indigenous Nation. Students and faculty live on-site during the intensives, a context in which they can develop and deepen their relationships with their peers and instructors, and with their most valuable teachers, their Indigenous hosts and the land. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced our teaching off the land and into the digital realm. In consultation with other community-based and land-based educators and students, we reconstructed the course's pedagogy and curriculum. This article shares what did and what did not work well in our reconstructed course and reflects on how what we learned from this experience might inform future pedagogy and practice.

https://www.journalofglobalindigeneity.com/article/19438-queering-land-based-education-during-covid19?fbclid=IwAR1pBPdyQk34RFvn-LFQN5ybKQKJSpxn5OcY8u_CG9o0P9ckgK2nkUAxrKM

News from the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)

Good news! [Our Stats](#)—CBRC's online database of findings from Canada's largest and longest running GBT2Q health survey, [Sex Now](#)—has just been updated with information from 2020. The new data offers a unique look at how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted GBT2Q communities in the last year. Open to the public and easy to use, Our Stats democratizes the seminal source of statistics on GBT2Q men in Canada, building on CBRC's principles of accessible data and knowledge sharing. On average, it can take upwards of two decades for evidence-based health interventions to be implemented. But with Our Stats, findings and have the potential to translate into real-world, on-the-ground practices much more quickly.

Our Stats also allows for basic analysis rather than just providing descriptive stats, making it easier for people who don't have a research background to explore relationships between different variables, such as geographic

location, ethnicity, or HIV status. This means community groups and advocates could leverage Our Stats in many ways, including using the data as evidence to apply for funding or inform programming. It's a great data source for the sort of intelligence not every community organization has the capacity, time or resources to collect themselves.

To support our efforts, CBRC is creating tutorials, Q&As and other Our Stats training materials through a grant from the federal Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) LGBT2Q community capacity building fund. Contact [Ben Klassen](#), CBRC Research Manager, for more information.

Cannabis (Marijuana) Study

York University researchers are seeking research participants to help test a smartphone-based method for assessing medicinal and non-medicinal cannabis use, and associated health outcomes, among people living with HIV.

WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

- Two-hour online assessment (i.e., Zoom interview and questionnaires)
- Downloading an app onto your phone to answer brief surveys related to your typical cannabis use each day for a 2-week period
- One-hour follow-up interview

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

- 19 years or older
- Living with HIV and taking HIV medications
- Daily cannabis user (any type of cannabis)
- Use cannabis both medicinally and recreationally
- Own an iPhone or Android phone
- Currently live in Canada

BENEFITS?

The results of this study may help to improve our methods for assessing cannabis use among people living with HIV. In the long run, we hope the results will improve our understanding of the role of medicinal and non-medicinal cannabis use in the health and wellness of people living with HIV.

COMPENSATION

Eligible participants will be compensated for their time.

CONTACT

Email us for more information and to complete a confidential eligibility screening. Additional eligibility criteria apply.

Email: baclab@yorku.ca.

Please mention "SMART-CAN" study in your email

POZPLANET

The April 2021 edition of [POZPLANET](#) introduces HIV+ Indigenous recording artist Tony Enos and CANFAR Ambassador Christian Hui.

Download your free PDF of our magazine here: <https://krakenfiles.com/view/148fdfa051/file.html>

CANAC Conference

This year the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Nurse in HIV/AIDS Care will be virtual from May 14th to 16th. The pre-conference is hosted by the Harm Reduction Nurses Association (HRNA) and the Alberta Nurses Coalition for Harm Reduction (ANCHR).

It is the first year we have community scholarships for people with lived experiences. We also have great reduced student rates for the 3 days. The conference is a mix of presentations and workshops, as well as some social events. Below is the link to the conference. It would be lovely to see some of you at the conference, or some of the students or others you work with. Please feel free to circulate the information.

<http://canac.org/annual-conference/>

Job Opportunities

Two job opportunities were recently added to our [bulletin board](#):

- [Executive Administrative Assistant \(CAAN\)](#)
- [Research Assistant \(Dalhousie University\)](#)

Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments:

<http://www.ahacentre.ca/contact-us.html>

