



THE AHA CENTRE

NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2018

CAAN'S AGM AND SKILLS BUILDING

CAAN's Annual General Meeting and Skills Building was held in Toronto, ON September 17 – 20. It was a wonderful event and AHA Centre staff had the opportunity to speak with attendees as well as reconnect with our partners, team members and fellow CAAN staff.

AHA Centre CRA Sandy Lambert and Coordinator of Community-Based Research & Peer Initiatives James Watson (REACH) co-facilitated a workshop entitled **Working Together: why do we need to build research capacity? Because we need to build leaders.** The goal of the workshop was to facilitate a discussion around how we might build the capacity of Indigenous People Living with HIV and AIDS (IPHAs) to support the development of more IPHA leaders in community-based research. The workshop was very well received and we send our thanks to everyone who attended and participated.

The AHA Centre also had an opportunity to introduce its staff to the Indigenous People Living with HIV and/or AIDS caucus and give a brief overview on the work that we do. It was yet another example of how the AGM event helps us to connect with our IPHA community.

CATALYST GRANT

We are happy to report that Sherri was successful in putting together a proposal for a CIHR catalyst grant! The goal of the project is

to establish an Indigenous HIV and health research framework to promote and support the uptake of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Doing (IWKD) and its diversity. This proposal seeks funds to support a two-day workshop that brings together members of the AHA Centre's staff, Governing Council (GC) and National Aboriginal Research Advisory Committee (NARAC) and other well-networked Indigenous HIV and AIDS researchers and change agents.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) GRANT

Our AHA Operations Team is also in the midst of preparing our first SSHRC Connection Grant application. We will seek funds to run a CBR workshop at Wise Practices in 2019. If successful, we will be reaching out to AHA Centre Team members to offer 90-minute capacity-building CBR workshops.

AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUND ARE...

We are so pleased to announce that we have **two** amazing projects that will be receiving funding on behalf of our Community Engagement Fund:

Proclaiming our Roots and Making Connections for Health and Wellbeing of Indigenous-Black Communities in Canada
Ciann Wilson, Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University

Ann Marie Beals, graduate student at Wilfrid Laurier University

This project will bring together scholars, activists, community leaders, and community members, of Indigenous, African diasporic, and Indigenous-Black ancestry in Ontario and Nova Scotia, to focus on networking and collaboration on a larger research grant about health service access (and particularly HIV-specific needs) in Black-Indigenous communities. This project builds from the first phase of a SSHRC grant that was an oral digital history project aimed at sharing the stories, histories, geographies, and realities of Black-Indigenous people in Canada.

NISTOHTAMOHIWEWIN (interpreting to understand): Exploring quantitative data analysis informed by Indigenous epistemologies

Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, All Nations Hope Network

Norma Rabbitskin, Sturgeon Lake First Nation

Laura Warren, University of Toronto

Jann Ticknor, All Nations Hope Network

All Nations Hope Network (ANHN) currently holds quantitative data that could benefit from a secondary analysis grounded in Indigenous epistemologies. Led by ANHN, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts in epidemiology and biostatistics, the research team will collaboratively reflect on and identify the elements (e.g., what wisdom is needed and people who have it) required to decolonize quantitative analysis frameworks and build new model(s) grounded in the wisdom of the peoples in the local territories.

The AHA Centre is so proud to be supporting these two excellent projects. Congratulations to this year's recipients and thank you to everyone who applied.

ENGAGING OUR TEAM

Our AHA horizons are expanding! Our small (but mighty) Operations team will be engaging our research and governing bodies more than ever before. We will be seeking input and contributions to ideas, work, planning, etc. We have an amazing network of support and we

look forward to tapping into the gifts that each person brings to our work.

WINNIPEG

This September Sherri and Marni participated in the Remote Control meeting hosted by the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network. This meeting brought together 3 communities to share the research that they have been leading at their respective sites and to plan next steps. It was so exciting to see what happens when community is given the necessary support to take the reins and make the dreams that they have for their communities come true!

TRIBUTE TO ELDER MAGGIE PAUL

We are so grateful to have the support of two wonderful Elders – Maggie Paul and Cliff Thomas. Their guidance and encouragement help us tremendously in the work that we do.

Maggie Paul was recently acknowledged by musician Jeremy Dutcher during his acceptance speech of the 2018 Polaris Music Prize. Below is a link to his speech and the beautiful words he has for our cherished Elder: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=429&v=qIEHxNGJApA

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INDIGENOUS HEALTH (IJIH)

Volume 13 of the IJH was recently published in August of this year. This is the first volume produced by the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health (WBIH). The journal features the following articles:

- Aboriginal Youth Experiences with Cyberbullying
- Milo Pimatisiwin Project
- Understanding the Sleep Habits of Children Within an Indigenous Community
- Community-Based screen and triage versus standard referral for Aboriginal children
- Adult Māori Patients' Healthcare Experiences of the Emergency Department in a District Health Facility in New Zealand

- Barrier to Healthcare Access Faced by Indigenous Women in Guatemalan Highland
- Caregivers' Perspectives on the Determinants of Dietary Decisions in Six First Nation Communities
- "It's a lot of work, and I'm still doing it": Indigenous perceptions of help after sexual abuse and sexual violence
- Effectiveness of an Outreach Model of Care of Rheumatology Specialty Clinics to an On-Reserve First Nations Community

The full issue can be viewed here:

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijih/issue/current>

SUGGESTED READING

In an effort to promote our Indigenous colleagues who may or may not be directly engaged in HIV research, we want to share articles, videos and other relatable information to our research team. This is a new area of our newsblast.

Research team, if you have an article you would like us to promote, please send it to Jenn at jenniferm@caan.ca

We would like to highlight an article from the International Journal of Indigenous Health: *Milo Pimatisiwin Project: Healthy Living for Mushkegowuk Youth*

Janice Cindy Gaudet, University of Alberta
Carmen Chilton, (Former) Youth Services Director, John R. Delaney Youth Centre

Abstract:

The milo Pimatisiwin Project is a community-centred initiative of John Delaney Youth Centre in the Moose Cree First Nation community in the James Bay region, Ontario, Canada. This article describes the creation of this collaborative youth-centred project and how it re-centres Indigenous values and conception of health and wellbeing. The article begins with an overview of the Cree philosophy of *milo pimatisiwin*, "good and healthy living." This sets the background for the focus of the article, namely the significance of sharing pimatisiwin teachings over the local

youth radio station and within land-based initiatives. The study includes the project results and feedback from the youth engaged in the project. It also describes the Youth Services Director's vision and leadership efforts to enhance culturally relevant programming at the Youth Centre. Finally, it discusses lessons learned in the project and suggests best ways to enhance wellbeing in community-engaged research initiatives. The aim is to privilege Indigenous people, their knowledge and experiences, and their critical role in decolonizing notions of health and wellbeing within research practices and community-centred initiatives.

The full article is available online:

<https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/ijih/article/view/30264/23001>

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you, **Manitoba Harm Reduction Network**, for the incredible work that you do!

Marni and Sherri have been engaged with the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network (formerly the 595) for several years, after meeting Shohan Illsely, Executive Director at CAHR in St. Johns' NFLD. Since then, our engagement with Manitoba has been one of utmost respect and gratitude as we continue to learn and be a part of the work that is going on in that province.

For more information, please visit their site:

<https://mhrn.ca>

CONTACT US

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

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