



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health



## 2018 Indigenizing Psychology: Death & Dying

9th Annual University of Toronto/WBIIH  
Indigenous Symposium  
23 May, 2018

### **CALL FOR REGISTRANTS** **CALL FOR POSTERS**

The overarching goal of this *Symposium* is to build on previous and current conceptions of Indigenous perspectives on death and dying in health, and to provide new and innovative information, inquiry, and synthesis of end of life issues and solutions from Aboriginal knowledges. New insights regarding Indigenous psychology in public health will be addressed throughout the *Symposium*, encompassing cutting edge and creative theories and models for addressing current end of life care needs in all levels of services and education, including curricula, pedagogies, programming, research, and health and mental health services for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

This *Symposium* will achieve several central objectives. First, to get a clear understanding of the psychology of Indigenous end of life care by articulating conceptual foundations that expand the current deficit models, enriching knowledge by focusing on the social processes of socio-political contexts, culture, and traditional knowledge's and medicines, and their relationship to psychology. Secondly, to bring together leaders and innovators in the fields of Indigenous health from traditional, academic, and practitioner backgrounds. The sharing of ideas and ensuing dialogue of the diverse expertise of these high-profile speakers will allow all attendees at the *Symposium* to take part in the creation of Indigenous healing solutions to psychological challenges within services and education that will be developed out of the strengths and resources that Indigenous individuals and communities provide to explain the key intersections of mental health, socio-political realities, and Aboriginal knowledges. Thirdly, *The Annual UT-WBIIH Mental Health Symposium* was developed to address a dire need for the advancement of the psychology of Indigenous mental health from Aboriginal knowledges, given the overwhelming lack of culturally based theory and models, and the growing population of Indigenous peoples migrating to cities, many of whom seek health services from non-Indigenous perspectives.

More specific *Symposium objectives* for 2018 include:

- Reaching a diverse audience interested in Indigenous public health, mental health and end of life care, including researchers, academics, students, practitioners, policy makers, and community service administrators.
- Developing new and refining existing traditional Indigenous approaches to current public health and mental health issues.
- Engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and communities in a meaningful dialogue on Indigenous public health and end of life care.
- Training and/or enhancing the careers of Aboriginal scholars, educators, practitioners, policy makers, and administrators.
- Infusing Indigenous ways of knowing into current applied psychology theories and practices in public health and mental health.
- Preserving and documenting Indigenous knowledges within the various levels of research, practice, and administration.
- Identifying knowledge mobilization tools to extend research and practices' impact to Indigenous communities first, and then more broadly to non-Indigenous contexts.

The symposium will be held this year in Toronto Ontario. Over **one day** there will be **Three Leading Experts** in Indigenous perspective on death and dying, keynotes sessions on Indigenous health, plus an interactive panel discussion. A social cultural event in the evening will also conclude conference activities.

Specifically, the symposium will explore six key topic areas via oral keynotes presentations, and an interactive panel discussion led by leading Canadian Indigenous health and healing practitioners within public health and mental health at the postsecondary, secondary, and elementary levels. As well, we invite **researchers, students, institutions, and community organization members** to present **academic or program posters** within the following topics:

1. Indigenous public health and healing in education and higher education
2. Integration of Indigenous and Western healing in public health and mental health
3. Traditional cultural healing in public health and mental health service
4. Partnerships, research and ethical issues
5. Policy, program, and administrative issues in Indigenous public health NEEDS

#### UPDATE

You may submit abstracts (max 500 words) for poster presentations in any of the above key topic areas until **May 15, 2018**. Please email the presenter's name, title, biography, and abstracts to [wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca)

For more information or to register please contact the Conference Committee at [wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca)