

Division Seminar Series **Social and Behavioural Health Sciences**

Tuesday, February 14, 12-1pm

Zoom meeting: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/84813524969>

Meeting ID: 848 1352 4969

The Giiwe Model for Intersectoral Collaboration, Learning, and Healing

In this seminar, we will present the *Giiwe* (“s/he goes home” in Anishinaabemowin) Model for Intersectoral Collaboration, Learning and Healing. M’Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre has led the Giiwe Program since 2018 to improve relationships between over 20 Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations working primarily off-reserve in the *Saukiing Anishnaabekiing* (the territory of Saugeen Ojibway Nation). The Giiwe model was first used to improve collaboration on Indigenous homelessness prevention. Giiwe involves hosting ongoing in-person meetings or “circles” that use ceremony, Indigenous Knowledges, discussion, and follow-up actions to foster adequate relationships for inter-organizational collaboration. We developed a visual depiction of the Giiwe Model (attached) based on the medicine wheel and a metaphor about bricks and roots to map how Western and Indigenous views of reality impact intersectoral work. The seminar will emulate the format of a “Giiwe Circle.”



Shirley John

Elder and Knowledge Keeper, Saugeen First Nation

Shirley John aka Strong White Buffalo Woman is an Elder and Knowledge Keeper from Saugeen First Nation, Ontario. A great passion in her life is to walk with Minobamadsawin—Good Life. For several years, Shirley has water walked to bring awareness to endangered bodies of water, singing the Water Song and conducting Water Ceremonies.



Diane Giroux

Giiwe Program Coordinator, M’Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre

Diane Giroux is a Project Developer. In 2017, she received the Sesquicentennial Medal from the Senate of Canada. Diane recently developed the “Giiwe Project” at M’Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre. “Through Giiwe, I nurture meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.”



Carlos E. Sanchez-Pimienta

PhD Student, DLSPH

Carlos is a second-year PhD student and Vanier Scholar in the Social and Behavioural Health Sciences program. Carlos is a *mestizo* (a non-Indigenous identity category assigned to people of mixed ancestry; most of his ancestors are Indigenous to Mexico, with one known relative from Spain). Carlos has worked with M’Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre since 2017 on several research and community projects.