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**Shkaakaamikwe gchi twaa miigwewin (Mother Earth's Gifts)  
Winter Newsletter**

**Editorial**

*Aaniin, Boozhoo, Sekon, Wachay, Hello;*

We humbly publish the third issue of the Shkaakaamikwe gchi twaa miigwewin seasonal newsletter which highlights the incredible work taking place at the Ontario NEIHR. As the temperatures drop and the snow starts to fall, our team has been hard at work on a number of important projects and initiatives. From new research studies and presentations, to community knowledge sharing circles, there is a lot to be excited about at the ON-NEIHR this winter. These events and publications are empowering in many ways, and it is necessary to celebrate all of these achievements.

We hope you enjoy reading about our progress and that you will continue to support us on our journey to improve the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health and well-being of individuals and communities, and to honour and respect the Elders and Knowledge Keepers who share their teachings with us.

We hope you appreciate the updates and we look forward to your continued support and engagement.

Chi Miigwetch,

Iman F. Dar, Research Assistant at WIIH, Co-Editor

Darienne Russell, Research Assistant at WIIH, Co-Editor

Michael Brown, MEd, Research Officer and Cultural and Spiritual Events Coordinator at WIIH, Co-Editor



Sharing Indigenous Knowledges in academia  
 Hosted by WIH, IEN, & ONNEIHR

## Ceremonies + Sacred Fire

A weekly drop in Ceremony at Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Learning Lodge)

Led by  
 Dr. Gokoomis (Grandmother) Jacqueline Lavallée & Dr. Hopi Martin



This event is open to all U of T students, staff, and faculty.

**DATES AND LOCATION**

6PM - 8PM  
 Weekly  
 January 11 '23 - April 26 '23

Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Learning Lodge)  
 20 Willcocks St.  
 University of Toronto,  
 Toronto, ON, Canada

For more information please contact  
 whih.dlsp@utoronto.ca or  
 ontarioneihr.dlsp@utoronto.ca

# Foundational Knowledges

led by  
**Vern Morrisette**

WIH  
 DLSPH Room 400  
 155 College St., Toronto, Ontario

"Where do Indigenous Knowledges come from?"

**In-Person Event**

Part 1: January 25th, 2023  
 Part 2: February 8th, 2023

12 PM - 2 PM

all U of T students, staff, and faculty welcome  
 food and drinks provided  
 for more information please contact  
 whih.dlsp@utoronto.ca or ontarioneihr.dlsp@utoronto.ca




## Drop-In Ceremony & Sacred Fire

**Wednesdays >> January 11th - April 26th,**  
 Dr. Gokoomis (Grandmother) Jacqueline Lavallée and Dr. Hopi Martin will be hosting weekly Drop In Ceremony at Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Learning Lodge) from 6-8pm. This event is open to staff, students, faculty, and community from all Four Directions (i.e. everyone is welcome!). Thanks to support from: Waakebiness, NEIHR, IEN, and Edge of the Bush.

Please note that we have launched an updated the booking system for those wishing to use the Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Learning Lodge) space. Click below for the form.

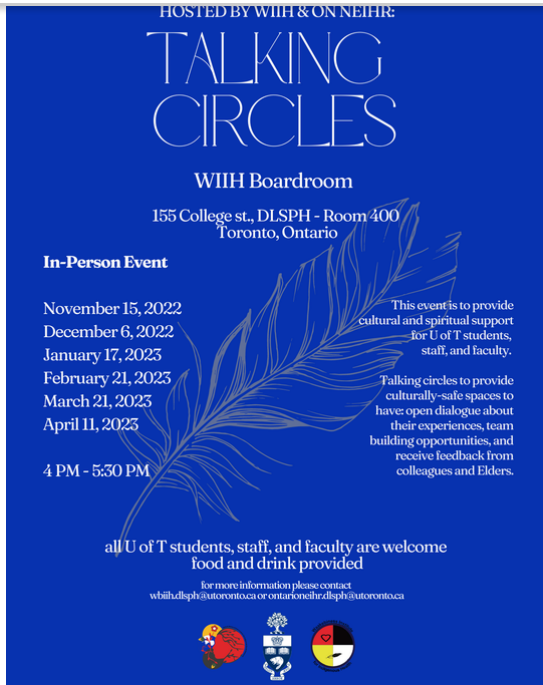
[Booking Form](#)

## Foundational Knowledges

**Part 1: January 25th**  
**Part 2: February 8th**

Cultural teachings of Foundational Knowledges with Elder Vern Morrisette will be In-Person at 155 College St. on the 4th floor (Room 400). The two sessions are intended to establish the foundations for Indigenous ways of knowing and being, to answer the question "where do Indigenous knowledges come from?" All U of T students, staff and faculty are welcome! Food and Drinks will be provided.

[Learn More](#)



## Talking Circles

**February 21st, 4pm-5:30pm**

There will be additional Talking Circles to provide cultural and spiritual support based on traditional Indigenous practices. Talking circles will continue to provide culturally safe spaces to have open dialogue about experiences and receive feedback from colleagues and Elders.

[Learn More](#)



## Drum Circles

**January 31st, 5pm-7pm**

**February 7th, 5pm-7pm**

**February 28th, 5pm-7pm**

The Drum circle will be led by Spirit Wind. Feel free to bring your own drum. If you do not have one, a drum can be provided. No experience is necessary. All U of T students are welcome.

[Learn More](#)

**OSPWAGON  
PIPE CEREMONY**  
led by  
**Vern Morrissette**

In-Person Event

**December 1st, 2022  
January 19th, 2023  
February 16th, 2023  
March 16th, 2023**

**1PM - 5PM**

**Hart House Farm  
15911 Creditview Rd  
Terra Cotta, Ontario**



all U of T students, staff, and faculty are welcome wear appropriate winter clothing; skirt protocol recommended but optional food and drinks provided

for more information please contact  
wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca or ontarioineihr.dlsph@utoronto.ca



**ON-NEIHR  
WEBINAR  
SERIES**

In conversation with:  
Dr. Janet Smylie



Advancing Generative Health Services for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples



January 25, 2023  
12:00pm to 1:00pm EST

Scan QR Code to RSVP



### Ospwagon: Pipe Ceremony

February 16, 1pm-4pm

March 16, 1pm-4pm

Pipe Ceremonies will continue to be held on an ongoing basis, In-Person once a month at Hart House Farms (15911 Creditview Rd, Terra Cotta, ON). Please wear appropriate winter clothing. Skirt protocols are recommended but optional. Food and Drink will be provided.

[Learn More](#)

### ON-NEIHR Webinar Series 2022-2023

January 25th, 12pm-1pm

February 15th, 1pm-2pm

Elder Clayton Shirt will be facilitating sessions touching upon important topics relating to Indigenous Health. He will be joined by Dr. Janet Smylie on January 25th to discuss advancing generative health services for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples. On February 15th, he will meet with Dr. Chelsea Gabel and Dr. Bobby Henry to explore their work on Metis Identity and Digital Storytelling. These Webinars are held online and are free to attend.

[Learn More](#)

**PUBLICATIONS**



### Indigenizing Policy Change in Canada: Eliminating Harms

**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022

**For Equity and Sovereignty for the People [Conference Presentation].**

J., R., Atanasoff, M., Hart, P., & Brown, M.

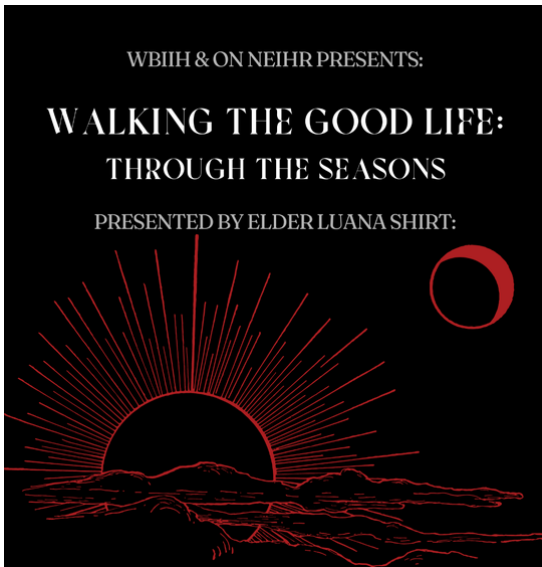
[Learn More](#)

**The Covenant Study: COVID-19 and Indigenous Vaccination Hesitancy, Experiences from the Streets [Conference Presentation].**

**Date:** November 8-10, 2022.

**Authors/Presenters:** Stewart, S., Hwang, S., Hester, J., Ponton, S. J., Gabriel, M. D., & Brown, M.

[Learn More](#)



**Walking the Good Life : Through the Seasons**

**September 21st, 2022; 1pm**

Teachings by Elder Luana Shirt.



## Symposium: Rethinking with Spirit

**September 28th, 8:30am-4pm**

**September 29th, 8:30am-1:15pm**

This year's symposium included keynote speakers, a panel, student posters, and an interactive workshop. Throughout the symposium, Indigenous scholars, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and graduate students, shared insights regarding the importance of policy grounded in Indigenous Knowledges and the processes of increasing accessibility of policy work to Indigenous community.



## Hart House Farm Sweat Ceremony


**October 18th & November 9th**

Community members joined Elders & Knowledge Keepers at the Hart House farm for Sweat Ceremony.

& WAAKEBINESS INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

# KUU-GAA-GII PIMITIZI-WIN STUDY

A FREE TWO-WAY KNOWLEDGE SHARING EVENT  
DISCUSSING RESULTS FROM THE PARTICIPANT INTERVIEWS



**DATE AND TIME**  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 2022,  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**LOCATION**  
REGENT PARK  
TORONTO, ON CANADA

REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE VIA EVENTBRITE OR TEXT AT 647-785-6900.  
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME, CONTACT DETAILS AND NUMBER OF ATTENDEES. ONCE RECEIVED WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION.

FREE FOOD AVAILABLE AT EVENT



## Kuu-gaa-gii Pimitizi-win Study: Two-Way Knowledge Sharing

**October 20th, 11am-1pm**

The MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Anishnawbe Health Toronto & the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health hosted this knowledge translation event to provide safe space for open discussion about the Kuu-gaa-gii Pimitizi-win Study. The research study team spoke with people living in shelters about COVID-19, the COVID-19 vaccine, and other pandemic-related questions. Participants shared their thoughts on how the government could have improved their response to the pandemic. Our goal is to use the responses to inform policy makers.



## ON-NEIHR WEBINAR SERIES 2022

### Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto (NWRCT) Report




In conversation with Dr. Suzanne Stewart and Pamela Hart

October 26, 2022 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Zoom \(link provided upon registration\)](#)

## ON-NEIHR Webinar- NWRCT Report

**October 26th, 11am-12pm**

Pamela Hart and Dr. Suzanne Stewart led this webinar to discuss the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto Report.



## Tipi Raising

**October 29th, 10am-4pm**

First Nations House and WIH co-hosted a Tipi Raising at Hart House Farms.

Unfortunately, the Tipi has been put away due to a winter storm and plans are being made to re-raise the Tipi in the spring. So keep a look out for the next Tipi Raising!



## Talking Circle

**November 15th, 2022; 4pm-5:30pm**

**December 6th, 2022; 4pm - 5:30pm**

**January 17th, 4pm-5:30pm**

Talking Circles provide a culturally safe space to have open dialogue with feedback from Elders and peers.





## Drum Circle

**November 16th, 5pm-7pm**

**January 24th, 5pm-7pm**

Drum circle was led by Spirit Wind at the WIIH Office.



## ON NEIHR Monthly Webinar November - Dr. Mikaela Gabriel and Sarah Ponton

**November 30, 2022, 3pm - 4pm**

The Ku-gaa-gii pimitizi-win study shares health data from the voices of urban Indigenous Peoples experiencing housing loss and homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic in a community-based hospital study. Exploring vaccination hesitancy, health, movement, and service barriers, the data set will highlight the core messages of collected health data, while illustrating and identifying core strengths, barriers, and emergent needs for Indigenous homeless individuals. Recommendations for healthcare practices and interventions will highlight the importance of Indigenous cultural safety, data management and interpretation, and barriers and challenges to accessing housing, healthcare, and services.



## Ospwagon: Pipe Ceremony

**December 1st, 1pm-5pm**

**January 19, 1pm-4pm**

This Pipe Ceremony was held at Hart House Farm welcoming all U of T students, staff and faculty.



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