



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



Ontario NEIHR Theme Leaders/Elders
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday September 15th, 2021

Time: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Suzanne, Pauline, Luana, Clay, Holly, Adriana

Absent: Rod, Jeffrey, Wendy

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION /ACTION
Pauline Spiritual opening Individual Check ins		
2. Group Updates	Holly - In academia we don't like the word Indigenization. Doesn't capture what we are striving for. Suzanne - Indigenization, decolonizing are difficult words. Are there some other words that can be used. Pauline - Hello	

Suzanne - We were wondering if there is a better word to use than Indigenize?

Pauline - What is the correct translation of Indigenize in the English language.

Holly - That is what the problem is. Everyone has there own meaning. Have our belief system side by side the western - excepted and respected.

Pauline - The dominant culture has to understand what their ways are. How we see our way of life in a dominant culture.

Holly - Western acadamia has controlled whose knowledges are validated and important. Indigenization means different things to different people - is there another English word that is better. Maybe a Cree or Ojibwe word? Make it safe for students on campus and our knowledge systems to be respected.

Pauline - What are we trying to say within our spirit? The dominant culture has many different languages and there is where the problem lies. They do not want to, or do not understand about what spirit is all about.

Holly- How to say “from one spirit to another” in Cree.

Pauline - (word in Cree) meaning “All spirits working together”. Also (word in Cree) “Hounouring each others Spirit” Will get the exact word.

Clay - What is the problem with the word? Indigenization. It’s a learning curve for some people. Ok with the word.

Pauline - This word includes everyone, people feel respected. Some people don’t like the word Indigenous. Start using the word spirit more.

	<p>Clay - Not everyone is on the same page on spirituality. Explaining spirituality to people may be a difficult thing.</p> <p>Pauline - We need to talk about spirit and get along with people. We have to start talking like that.</p> <p>Holly - agree with Clay but comfortable going there. Spirituality is left out of the practice of psychology.</p> <p>Suzanne - Fully agree with Holly. People need to learn and understand our ways.</p> <p>Adriana -The process of Indigenizing & accepting Indigenous knowledges in a western setting, can be misconstrued. Doesn't make me uncomfortable as a non-Indigenous person.</p> <p>Holly - Mental health and spirit are intertwined. Have to acknowledge spirit in our therapy. People cannot talk about a spiritual exp. in sessions. Educating our worldview as part of T & R calls to action.</p> <p>Clay - Remember who we are, pass it to the next generation.</p> <p>Holly - Have a webinar about this with our Elders and talk about this.</p> <p>Clay - Concerns about which Indigenous language to be used,...Ojibwe, Cree, Mohawk etc...</p> <p>Holly - would like translation of the word with proper spelling.</p> <p>Suzanne - We will have a broader discussion</p>	
<p>4. Spiritual Closing- Clay</p>		

