



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



Ontario NEIHR Theme Leaders/Elders
 MINUTES

Date: March 15, 2023

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Suzanne Stewart, Pauline Shirt, Clay Shirt, Roy Strebel, Wendy Phillips, Rod McCormick

Absent:

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION /ACTION
Pauline Shirt Spiritual opening Individual Check ins		
2. Group Updates	<p>Pauline – All having ceremonies with the children at the school. Six days with the maple sap. Listening to a lot of workshops. I would like to talk to you Roy about the National Gathering in Edmonton in the fall. Keeping busy.</p> <p>Wendy – Ceremonies are only a few weeks away. They will be going for almost six weeks.</p> <p>Rod – Was in Rome for a UN meeting from a project that we have with them for knowledge makers – expanding from undergraduate to graduate.</p>	

and to youth and Elders so we'll have knowledge makers – the university student's, Indigenous students, Knowledge seekers-K-12, Knowledge Mentors-Elders. Already got funding from a local First Nations.

Project with UN has students from 19 different countries, young Indigenous Women doing research on food sovereignty and climate change. Now being mentored by us and other international mentors and will produce a publication.

We have gone from domestic knowledge makers for our undergrad students to international with the UN.

Suzanne – Our team is going to a Knowledge Exchange in Australia next week, have a partnership with USyd – 10 days. Doing presentation from the NEIHR.

Trying to plan a spring gathering on policy. Have 3 KT events to do with policy, planning for May and June with provincial and regional policy makers around Indigenous mental health. One is called The Policy Forum in May with NWRCT.

I got the CIHR Catalyst Grant for the youth mental health and climate crises project, \$200,000 for one year. Start talking circles with Elders and the youth and collecting data and getting things together.

Clay – Planning ceremonies, having our young people helping out rebuilding lodges so we can have our gatherings together.

Rod – Usyd has sent students to us and we sent some there. They took part in our Knowledge Makers Journal. They started their own journal called Blackout. They gave us a 1 pg testimonial on how our journal inspired their journal.

Meeting in Cambera that foreign affairs office paid for went with Jeff and Michael Hart. Tom Long and Evan Adams ran the meetings but have not had in awhile.

Suzanne – We have a partnership with USyd for five years now. We just use our own money and do our thing.

Rod – Got money from Universities Canada, going to send 15 students to NZ. Were going to send a bunch of students to Tazmania this year and next. Great bunch at UTaz.

Suzanne – That’s great, maybe we should link up the two groups.

Rod – I’ll send information.

Rod – The Land-Based group is still trying to do an environmental scan. RA’s big turnover.

-Many people running these programs, eg. Learning from the land, Healing from the land.

-developing an international version - offered in different places in the world – PhD program.

-Connection to the UN University – Something for our NEIHR to consider?

-Have a pilot on an international Healing from the land course? And what would that look like.

-Talked to Wendy about a Traditional Healing College. ISK interested in financial supporting a college.

Talked to Evan Adams about it and the Thunderbird folks., Brenda and Carol. Get it before a Conservative govt get in – Draft up a proposal.

-High demand for traditional healers.

Pauline – Look at ourselves and ask how we want to get healed. How are we going to doctor ourselves? The spirits will take care of you. The Poundmaker family in Sask. – came to repatriate Poundmakers pipe and saddle. Held the pipe in hands – very healing and powerful.

Wendy – Had conversation last fall with Rod. How are we going to ensure our own traditional healer? We must do something now before it no longer exists. Important to think about this.

A guilt component for their healing for adults thinking that they should know more than they do. This is a setback.

-We do a right of Passage. If any of the fasters want tattoos done - have artists on hand to do this. Young people have requested this. Hope will work this year.

-hope to do a few land-based camps – 3 of them focused on mental health., different target groups.

Clay – Curious Rod what you mean about the college.

Rod – It wouldn't be out of university. – was writing a paper on one of Gail's paper that she commissioned, and wanted to look at the integration of traditional healing with western healing. I said no. It was an extensive review of traditional healing that I did. The Navaho or Shinee, they had a college to train certain types of healers, been running that for several years.

In S America & some south African countries they are very organized, a professional association, almost unionized, with standards and guidelines. For gov't funding. Traditional healer very busy. The Maori's have a form of college.

In Alberta it is illegal to practice Indigenous Healing. Feds cautious to pay for it.

Explore the idea, more formalized apprenticeships.

An American Indian Conference show called Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men. Everyone laughing about it. Certificates with different sweat levels.

Clay - Each tribe has their own medicine teachings, and way of doing things. How do you regulate this. Trying to find these people that still have connect with the Sky World. Having a conversation with these people before they go, training researchers/people to sit with Elders/healers. Having a college with Elder getting together and saying you passed the course,....it doesn't work that way. It's an individual thing, it's about the heart.

Rod – Spiritual component to healing which for psychologist's is not a big consideration. With western medical people attribute the success of the

healer to the healer/doctor. With traditional healers it's a partnership between the patient and creator and the healer facilitates that. Healers called Hollow Bone, the spirit flows through you, you are not responsible for that, its between the patient and the creator. That is the fundamental difference between the two.

It is interesting how we would undertake this. Concerned about capacity, maybe it's time to explore this. Find out who else is doing this.

Clay – Tibetans have done this, they have schools, take generations. Maybe look at how they have done things.

Rod – My students in my 5-day course with local knowledge holders is having the right attitude about the natural world, of healing, guidance, and education. It changes peoples view of the environment.

Suzanne – Who should have a community consultation forum to create ideas of what a proposal would look like.

Rod – Maybe involve traditional people to the meeting, some folks who know about getting funding.

Clay – Was told the old ways are not coming back. Some Elders are set in their ways, no changes. Other say we need to evolve. Women can drum the hand drum and sit around the big drum. In the Blackfoot tribe women do not sweat.

Rod – They are having sweats in BC now.

Suzanne – We should go to Healing Our Spirit in Vancouver in Sept. or maybe meet another time. Brenda is interested in this. Think about who we should invite. Rod will send some names.

4. Spiritual Closing- Wendy Phillips		

