



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



### **Ontario NEIHR Research Team Meeting**

**Date: October 31, 2023 Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm**

**Location: Zoom Meeting**

#### **MINUTE S**

**In Attendance: Roy, Clay, Shanti, Sabina, Michael Brown, Pauline, Wendy Phillips, Valerie O'Brien, Maile Taulii Flores, Chris Mushquash, Mikaela Gabriel, Paul Whitinui,**

#### **Absent: ?**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION /ACTION
Pauline Spiritual opening  Individual Check ins	Pauline in Edmonton – With thousands of Elders in National conference, Topic – Climate Change, Dancers, Freezing moon Harvesting Medicines, need to focus on youth  Clay – topsy turvy world, upsetting. What we're trying to do to bring people in instead of calling people out. No answers but to just show up and do what can be done. Trying to cultivate Peace in mind and heart. Laying foundations.  Sabina – Middle east is on the mind – Joy in Conference on the Land for first time – Rejuvenating.  Michael – Doing well. In PhD work. Share in feeling powerless as to state of the world, but sending prayers for peace.	

Shanti – Conference – a lot of healing over those 2 days. Presentation just delivered today on Climate Crisis and Impacts – thankful for Grandma Pauline opening. Just received an appreciative email for work. Slower period this month.

Roy – Busy Month – In Sydney for NGGS mid Oct., and Indigenizing Health symposium – felt a great success. Great to have all together in ceremony. Tomorrow bringing his daughter to work.

Paul – Disappointing weekend in regards to world cup - what is happening in Middle East – Sad time when you hear Adults can't make up. We enjoy peace and freedom but there is no certainty. Social Media – no transferring clips - Censorship of news – problematic in day to day. Thankful for the peace we enjoy. Teaching 2 courses. Attended Native Indian Education conference, 2.5 k attendees – Presented on idea of Native Students enjoying academic success – packed audience. In the room Devolved in the states – separation into silos – no cohesion to allow goal of native academic success – 85% of students in mainstream schools & hard focus on reading and math – diverse native landscape in US - hard to navigate. Made suggestion – if you want to see the levels of progress – how can we do that to show coherence and cohesion within a devolved system. In health we have cultural competencies. Made suggestion that to ensure accountability – all teachers and professionals need consistent cultural competencies, for congruence to engage and have an impact. They said we need to do more & be a part of technical review team. Just a suggestion. Planted seeds. Def need something consistent like that in Canada as well. – for pre-service teachers. Might get traction – applied for new position – associate Dean, Indigenous – Interim position for 1.5 years, 3 faculties. Lots of synergy and connections. Good time to look at being the change. Also looking at identity fraud – at university of Sask. Part of application process you have to prove your indigeneity.

Link to the Indigenous Truth policy

<https://indigenous.usask.ca/indigenous-initiatives/deybwewin-taapwaywin-tapwewin.php>

Maile – Lahaina has been Hit by Fires – rebuild will be a long process – affecting tourism. Still growing a planting – trying to keep community uplifted. Teaching docs to be farmers and clinicians – next gen clinic – growing traditional food and medicine on campus as important part of community – Taking over western places to make indigenous.

In mode of becoming “teachers” making drums out of coconut stumps – takes 3 years! Her kids were also at Native Indian Education conference.

45 in process of becoming traditional healers – tattooing process of healing – and protection to protect manna - Shark teeth represent protection.

Mikaela – she and others completed Fast – Profoundly transformational. Powerful reconnection with spirit. Studying for licensing exams – Celebratory shout out to Chris – Carner (?) award in Innovation – first indigenous person to receive – will like to put out a celebratory email on his work.

Donna- Attended Symposium – First with the Team – Elder George Mackenzie spoke on loss of Cariboo and brought out the idea that Public health is not just about physical and emotional health but also the health of the land, state of agriculture that supports those stewards of the land, when the land literally is the lifeblood of communities...

Valerie – going into dip of vacation – had Covid during NGGS so could not attend. Quiet Phase – Coordinator for INN – also University Sask – Coordinating PI meeting – NEIHR Renewal Coming up. Good to feel well.

Wendy – Enjoying change of -Seasons- Just graduated!

**Missed updates!**

Major events Tattoo Symposium – brought in tattoo artists

Harvesting

About half way through ceremony

– **Could not hear** –

Additional pride in having something to show –

Talk about past, while being present.

New clients –

State of medical system

<p>Group Updates</p>	<p>Climate Crisis Project – Pilot finished – next step started analyzing themes with 2 spirits.  Presented in Australia, and at NGGS, also Webinar, posters  Amping up to reach more youth and make plans to bring together with NWT youth to each other and larger audience hopefully at next Indig. Health symposium.  Hope to visit NWT soon.  Trip to Hawaii – to see perspectives and bring voices –  Ethics went through to start next phase – writing up results on project to generate and publish a review and report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continuing with Seasonal Newsletter</li> <li>● NGGS</li> <li>● Indigenizing Health Symposium</li> <li>● Monthly Webinars (Michael and Shantil this week)</li> </ul> <p>Valerie – INN just put out newsletter as well – call for scholarship and research grants – see newsletter for recipients – Indigenous Mentorship of Ontario on facebook.  What is timeline of NEIHR submission? Talking about meeting again in January – Roy will let others know –  Valerie – thinks April 1 deadline  Paul available for Input.</p>	
<p>Spiritual Closing- Clay</p>	<p>at Hart house Farms – for first time in history we held the Fasting Camp/ Vision Quest. Amazing that these graduates took part in this training  Honour and privilege to provide the ceremony.  Connecting to spirit – Incredible to see and witness – that we are doing this and the university is paying for it, finally. Incredible work.  Finding peace in self and to echo out. Elders – only have a limited time – but they echo peace, compassion...  Blessings for youth, though with a heavy heart for those losing their lives. Heart Breaking to see what colonization has done and continues.</p>	