



**Ontario NEIHR Theme Leaders/Elders  
MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2020

**Time:** 3:00pm to 4:00pm

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**In attendance**

Suzanne Stewart, Rod McCormick, Pauline Shirt, Clay Shirt, Luana Shirt, Wendy Phillips, Roy Strebel, Devon Bowyer

**Regrets:** Jeffery Ansloos, Holly Graham, Janet Smilie

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION/ ACTION
Elder Pauline Shirt, Spiritual opening	N/A	N/A
Individual Check ins	N/A	N/A
2. Group Updates	<p><b>Suzanne</b> – The purpose of this meeting is so that the theme leads can check in and give everyone an update of what’s going on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indigenous Policy and Knowledge Translation group. Creating an Indigenous policy strategy for the entire NEIHR team to use.</li><li>• Writing some articles about Indigenous policy re-uptake. How Indigenous research gets taken up by non-Indigenous governments. What some of the challenges and strengths are.</li></ul>	

- How this theme group could address what community partner organizations really need, in terms of policy and knowledge translation. How we can approach this broadly, by creating a strategy or frameworks.

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**Rod** – His group is about doing an environmental scan (lit review) on what’s out there for healing on the land programs, not learning from the land, more about healing. What’s out there especially Canada, U.S, Australia, and New Zealand. (Lynn & Wendy in group)

**Luana** – Reducing Trauma and Addictions – Group members Alanaise, Brenda, and Holly, very busy to meet. Have meeting scheduled until April. Holly has a subgrant and we are all going to support her.

**Suzanne** – A reminder that the research funds are not tied to the theme groups at all. Everyone on this team is entitled to an equal piece of the budget to do their work. (\$20,000)

- Funding money is not tied to theme groups – for whatever projects they want
- Can each use their funds with their theme group if they want to combine their funds
- Theme groups used to support each other

**Rod** – Have been moving research towards Land Based Healings

- Looking for innovative programs for Canada.
- (People too busy to even apply for the grant)

**Suzanne** – Too bad because its not even really an application (no evaluative criteria), we just have to have a record to say why we are transferring you \$20,000. The money that does not get taken the money should get

reallocated to the other members of the group. The funds are there for whoever needs them.

**Elder Pauline** – We are looking for the strength, guidance, concentration and collaboration of each other

- We used to go up in mountains – have gatherings, all invited. Elder’s gathered for a week. Spiritual advisors offer tobacco into the fire.
- What is evaluation all about according to our life.
- Giving teachings, sweatlodges, morning ceremonies, moon ceremonies – what the evaluation with us is about. Spirits would tell the spiritual advisors, they are doing their work in a good way – it was the approach of the seventh fire.
- Evaluation is doing things in a good way. Saying “Yes” Listen to yourself
- Evaluation is a great spiritual tool – Good for our way of life

**Luana** – I have a better understanding what is needed from us. Our group will be meeting soon

**Wendy** – Our group has been working in our group to prioritize. Our group is large and an Indigenous view includes inclusion which is really important. We face barriers which we are trying to address. Making sure the process is fitting, as these have been imposed on us.

**Closing** – Elder Pauline

**\*\*Meeting Dates: Every third Wednesday of the month 3-4pm.**