



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



**Ontario NEIHR Theme Leaders/Elders**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** October 20, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00pm to 5:00pm  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**In Attendance:** Suzanne Stewart, Pauline Shirt, Clay Shirt, Luana Shirt, Roy Strebel, Holly Graham, Clay Shirt, Wendy Phillips

**Absent:**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION /ACTION
Elder Pauline Shirt Spiritual opening  Individual Check ins		
2. Group Updates	<p><b>Holly</b> – We should be drafting some recommendations for psychologists responding to TRC Calls to Action. Co-chairing the task for Sask. Maybe our NEIHR could help, have some basic training for psychologists.</p> <p>Collective paper on Increasing Indigenous Representation with Psychology – guidelines on education they could take – strict codes on who we can see and can't see.</p>	

**Pauline** – Watch Night Raiders, it's a great movie about Residential Schools.

**Suzanne** – Want to make some statements about Indigenous and a few other terms to clarify including Reconciliation and decolonization.

**Holly** – Spirit to Spirit in Cree, Pauline to translate to Cree.

Did a presentation for the National Conference for the Canadian Federation on Mental Health Nursing – Titled – Acknowledging & Addressing Indigenous Specific Racism within Health Care – Now What?

**Wendy** – Thinking of students who have asked for exemptions. We are getting ready for ceremonies now.

**Clay** – Family was sick with Covid. Lots of support. Grateful. We are all doing our own ceremonies.

75% of opioid addiction in Toronto are Indigenous.

Met with the Shamans in the Amazon – working with Ayahuasca. Maybe can help our people. We need to come up with something quick.

I have been with some for over 20 years and seen the miracles in those ceremonies are.

Many people on the red road have past on, went back to their addictions, alcoholism.

**Holly** – We should be building more Wellness Centers. For every residential school they created they should create a well center for healing in an environment that intervention is culture. There is no commitment for wellness centers.

**Suzanne** – The objective of the ON-NEIHR is to shift the system of care of mental health away from the deficit based treatment to Indigenous Knowledges prevention models.

Reconciliation on the part of the mental health system include making a shift of programs that funding should occur.

**Holly** – I support that and I have been trying to start a youth wellness center here in Sask.

Working with a man who built homes with intellectual disabilities to reach the Minister. We would need to come up with \$500,000 before the gov't would invest money.

**Suzanne** – Our theme group is working on a Policy and Translation piece. Hoping to hold a policy forum in end of Feb or early March. Hold a one day policy forum with a panel and keynote speakers. Invite all levels of government and policymakers. Tell them what it is needs to happen. Going to several different conferences national and international conferences. We have done a scoping review on Indigenous policy work in health.

**Holly** – Do we want to make recommendations to psychologists? Turn the statement into a publication?

**Suzanne** – Lets make a statement and publication. I will work on creating an outline for it. Will send to Holly and we can draft it up.

**Holly** – All the psychologists and knowledge keepers could co-author it.

**Suzanne** – Does everyone here want to be on board with this? Pauline, Wendy, Clay, and Rod would also be on board.

I put forth different ethical guidelines, and all psychologists that are registering are required to have mandatory training in Indigenous mental health. It has all been rejected.

Not treat well by the CPA and disrespected.

Everyone in the NEIHR is invited to our Policy Forum.

Will send out a save the date for the forum when we get a date. (March)

Meeting with the IMN Leaders to plan the Fall Gathering.

As Holly mentioned maybe do something on Prevention and Wellness.

Lateral violence and the red road to wellness.

Chantelle Richmond is the head of the IMN-prof at Western U and Katie Big-Canoe is asst.

**Pauline** – I want to be here when the shift is done. It has been a great meeting and a lot of things have been talked about.

**Suzanne** – Holly is the one who is pushing us to do these things. I will draft this up and send it to you. The statements, the article, the outline, and the recommendations to the College.

**Clay** – The political scene is neo-conservative views. The #1 academic person in the world Joseph Peterson. Most popular conservative academic now.

**Pauline** – A lot of our leaders are leaving – we have to make the shift. We must hurry.

Miikwec to our leaders here.

4. Spiritual Closing- Elder Pauline Shirt		

