



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



Ontario NEIHR Theme Leaders/Elders  
 MINUTES

**Date:** May 17, 2023  
**Time:** 3:00pm to 5:00pm  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**In Attendance:** Suzanne, Wendy, Clay, Rod, Roy, Pauline, Holly  
**Absent:**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION /ACTION
Pauline Spiritual opening  Individual Check ins		
2. Group Updates	<p><b>Rod</b> – On the Land Based Team, instead of applying for grants – His university had a call for Integrative Strategic Plan for money and he applied for half of what they had available. Thirty-five other Projects applied for it also within the university. The provost chose eight projects. We are the lead projects and coordinate all the other projects.</p> <p>Use Knowledge Makers program as the template for all new students &amp; land-based courses, all students will be taking a version of my land-based healing and land-based learning. See how much money they make available.</p> <p>15 Students just came back from New Zealand, and 4 staff. Difficulty getting passports for all students. 6 couldn't go. One Elder's passport didn't show up</p>	

but they flew him out a week later to join students. Maori hosts were doing cultural things everyday. ATV taking Elders to cultural events.

Gave a few presentations on land-based healing in Vancouver for provincial conference.

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide – Going as a Volunteer Therapist.

Students with the United Nations knowledge makers cohorts finishing up their papers. Started with 21 down to 17, on food sovereignty and food security, special issue for their journal with the UN.

Working with the Indigenous Services Canada committee chaired by Cindy Blackstock and (Valerie Vivian?).

Doing work with the UN on Ecosystem Restoration paper. On a couple of UN working groups.

On the Advisory for IIPH (CIHR). Laura Commanda acting Associate Scientific Director, temporarily.

Interesting about Rights of Passage and traditional tattooing (Wendy) and how it changes people (identity ceremonies).

**Wendy** – Did lots of camps this spring and Rights of Passage. There is quite a transition for people. Some people on medications for health and mental health reasons. What can they go without for fasting reasons. Some have medical devices that they must keep on. People taking mental health medication, are they able to fast? Can they cope, can they do the ceremonies? Withdrawal issues with the medication and how is it impacting them during the ceremony. Dynamics of people who are fasting. Issues for people to stay focused.

Young people struggling with culture and learning – many angry. A very challenging time. Some people asking to fast this year in the fall. Some people getting lost in the bush.

<p>Average 50 people per camp.</p> <p><b>Suzanne</b> – Wendy if you could capture these things in a publication. All these ceremonies is part of our research project.</p> <p><b>Wendy</b> – Yes, I could and I agree.</p> <p><b>Rod</b> – There is a book from 1909 called “Rights of Passage”. Originally written in French. All ceremonies have three stages; Separation, Transition, Incorporation (reintegration).</p> <p><b>Suzanne</b> – Update on Policy and Knowledge Translation group. Did a report launch with a feast and sacred fire at NWRCT. Doing the same thing at Native Child. We are hosting a policy forum – inviting all levels of government, inviting policy and lawmakers to our Mother Earth Learning Lodge. Give them our research results.</p> <p>Michelle Dickson and Suzanne are going to be doing a MOOC on Global Indigenous Health.</p> <p>Will be calling on everyone in the NEIHR to do a guest lecture in the MOOC at some point.</p> <p><b>Holly</b> – Transferred from the College of Nursing to the Dept of Psychiatry as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our group has been meeting monthly and we are working on some podcasts on clinical work as Indigenous psychologist. Looking into cost of the podcasts.</p> <p>Is the nominated PI and is a chance to have an Indigenous lens on the development. It’s a chair - 1.5 million for 5 years.</p> <p>Just finished co-chairing with the Saskatchewan Colleges of Psychologists about the response to Calls to action. One of the things we proposed was that the College reimburse the licensing fees that they are paying for supervision, up to \$20,000 for each First Nations or Metis candidate.</p> <p>Working with registered nurses and doing a video shoot on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, on nurses response to the to TRC Call to Action, addressing racism in healthcare.</p>	<p>Roy to set up meeting with Suzanne, Wendy and Roy.</p>
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Also part of the College of Nursing, invited to go back and address racism. Has written the script for the other video that will be released Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

Launched a professional practice group for Indigenous nurses in Saskatchewan before the regulatory board.

**Rod** – Had workshop for the School of Nursing on the “In Plain Sight” report, that I did with Margo Greenwood, if you want it.

Psychiatrists most are Chiefs of Psychiatry from across Canada part of a working group that are trying to stop the expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying and Mental Illness (MAiD). Most doing stories for papers opposing it.

Holly – The six of us Indigenous research chairs have lobbied the Canadian Facilitation of Nursing. They are the national Organization that set a accreditation standards, and we have been successful in that all nursing schools in Canada have to integrate Call 24 from the TRC’s Calls to Action as part of the accreditation.

In the process of providing workshops nationally and just finished the third one the fourth one is next week, and I do the fifth one. I have done two out of the five. To help all nursing schools in Canada response regarding Calls to Action to curriculum and recruitment retention, and specific to Call 24.

**Rod** – A former doctoral student of mine, now your provost. Kamloops they wanted a doctoral program and we don’t currently have one. Spoke to Irenei and she said offer one through U of S. Meeting with 10-12 students at the Kamloop on Saturday, offering interdisciplinarity PhD with a focus on Indigenous healing to students. Is a recent development and supposed to take place in September.

**Holly** – We have an internal vice provost they are advertising for someone else to come in that position.

We also just formed a Dept of Indigenous Health and Wellness within the College of Medicine. Looking at having some graduate programming. No one in this dept yet.

**(Holly’s audio intermittently cutting out)**

Indigenous Health class is now mandatory to complete any degree at USask and that has been causing violence against Indigenous Studies teachers.

**Rod** – Whoever is teaching compulsory courses have to deal with resentful people. The union is going to write a letter to leadership to keep faculty safe. At beginning of school year the president of the university do virtual talk about Indigenization and the expectations.

**Clay** – At conference in Alberta, very conservative spiritual people.  
- Struggles of dealing with it in universities, racism, sexism.

4. Spiritual Closing- Wendy Phillips		
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