

Indigenizing Health Symposium 2025 **Being Safe With Our Culture Again**

Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research
Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health Research
& Indigenous Mentorship Network of Ontario

23 & 24 APRIL 2025



Contents

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 3 | Event Summary |
| 4 | Indigenizing Health Symposium Objectives |
| 5 | Keynote Speakers & Student Posters |
| 6 | • Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt |
| 7 | • Elder Wendy Phillips |
| 8 | • Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel |
| 9 | • Dr. Michael Hart |
| 10 | • Dr. Janet Smylie |
| 11 | • Dr. Paul Whitinui |
| 12 | Indigenizing Health Symposium Agenda |
| 14 | Event Feedback |
| 22 | Evaluation Summary & Next Steps |
| 23 | Acknowledgements |
| 24 | Appendices |


Event Summary

The Indigenizing Health Symposium 2025: Being Safe With Our Culture Again aimed to share Indigenous knowledges and foster dialogue and collaboration on Indigenous health and cultural safety. This year's symposium marked the third land-based gathering hosted by the Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (ON NEIHR) and the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health (WIIH). The gathering is also hosted in partnership with the Indigenous Mentorship Network of Ontario (IMN ON).

The gathering brought together a diverse group of keynote speakers who facilitated presentations and workshops in the Teaching Lodge at Hart House Farm, located in Caledon, Ontario. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in ceremony and other cultural activities throughout the two-day event.

Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, scholars, and graduate students shared their insights on the importance of policy grounded in Indigenous knowledges and how to increase the accessibility of policy work for Indigenous communities. The event was open to academics, health professionals, policymakers, students, Indigenous community organizations, and community members.


The Indigenizing Health Symposium takes place annually and has attracted audiences from across Turtle Island and around the world since its debut in 2011.



2025 Indigenizing Health Symposium Objectives

The overarching goal of this year's symposium was to build on previous and current conceptions of Indigenous perspectives on mental health and cultural safety, grounded in Indigenous knowledges and community-driven research and practices.

The objectives of this year's symposium included:

- Reaching a diverse audience of individuals interested in Indigenous health, mental health, and policy, including researchers, academics, students, practitioners, policy makers, and community service administrators.
 - Developing new and refining existing Indigenous approaches to current public health and mental health policy issues.
 - Engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and communities in meaningful dialogue on Indigenous health and policy.
 - Training and/or enhancing the careers of Indigenous scholars and students from the Indigenous Mentorship Network and NEIHRs across Canada, as well as educators, practitioners, policy makers, and administrators.
 - Infusing Indigenous ways of knowing into applied health theories and practices in medicine, public health, and other health-related disciplines.
 - Preserving and documenting Indigenous knowledges across all levels of research, practice, and policy.
 - Identifying knowledge mobilization tools to extend the impact of research and practice to Indigenous communities first, and more broadly to non-Indigenous contexts.
- 

Keynote Speakers & Student Posters

To address the cultural, spiritual, emotional, and ethical relationship challenges explored in “Being Safe With Our Culture Again”, the 2025 Indigenizing Health Symposium brought together Elders, Knowledge Keepers, teachers, students, faculty, and researchers from a wide range of Indigenous academic disciplines and diverse identities, including Métis, First Nations, Two-Spirit, Transgender, Inuit, Māori, and others.

The symposium included the following Keynote Speakers:

- Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt
- Elder Wendy Phillips
- Dr. Mikaela Gabriel
- Dr. Michael Hart
- Dr. Janet Smylie
- Dr. Paul Whitinui

Note: See the following pages for full biographies of the Keynote Speakers.

Student Posters

Master’s and PhD Students presented posters, each addressing a distinct topic within Indigenous health research. See **Appendix 1** for authors, titles and abstracts.

Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt, Plains Cree/Anishinaabe



Originally from Treaty 6 Territory and of the Wolf Clan, Clayton Shirt is a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, practitioner of holistic health and wellness, lecturer, educator, and historian. His worldview and understanding of life have been shaped by a lifetime immersed in learning from traditional Indigenous teachers, Elders, and family.

He currently serves as the Traditional Knowledge Teacher and Educator with the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health, where he brings his traditional perspective and deep experience in "walking the good path" to scholars and educators. He also offers wise counsel and support to Indigenous students pursuing higher education.

Clayton was raised in Toronto, where he continues to live with his wife, their three children, and his granddaughter.

Elder Wendy Phillips




Elder Wendy Phillips is of the Bald Eagle Clan; She is Ojibwa and a proud member of Wasauksing First Nation in the heart of the Muskokas. She is a keeper of the 8th Fire Prophecies, Keeper of the Ancient Thunderbird Calendar, Ceremonial Leader, Spiritual Educator, Cultural Innovator and Traditional Indigenous Healer.

Wendy is a lifelong educator, advocate and supports Traditional Indigenous Ways of Knowing; devoted to improving the quality of life for the next seven generations. In 2018, Wendy was awarded the Community Medal for Scarborough/Guildwood from M.P John McKay and she was also a recipient for the Remarkable Woman Award.



Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel




Traditional Teachings, Future Frameworks: Applying Indigenous Teachings to Cultural Safety for Healthcare Intersections for Indigenous Women & 2-Spirit Peoples



Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel is an Italian-Mi'kmaq Psychologist, Scientist, Professor, and auntie. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Mental Health and Homelessness, and serves as a Research Scientist at Unity Health Toronto across both the Well Living House and the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions.

Her clinical and research work focuses on providing culturally grounded, trauma-focused, and ceremonially enriched care for Indigenous Peoples in urban settings who are navigating housing, healing, and health.



Dr. Michael Hart

Reflections of a project addressing traditionally based Cree Elders supporting Cree youth and boys



Dr. Michael Hart is a proud citizen of Fisher River Cree Nation in central Turtle Island. In 2018, he joined the University of Calgary as the inaugural Vice-Provost of Indigenous Engagement and as a Professor in the Faculty of Social Work. Previously, from 2012 to 2018, he held a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledges and Social Work at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Hart led the development of the Master of Social Work in Indigenous Knowledges program at the University of Manitoba, where he also served as the program's first Director. His research focuses on Indigenist helping perspectives, theories, and practices.

He holds a BSW, MSW, and PhD in Social Work, as well as a BA in Psychology, all from the University of Manitoba.

While he has always been grounded in Cree ways of being through the guidance of his family and Elders, he has spent over three decades actively learning Indigenous ceremonial practices focused on well-being. His work is particularly informed by Cree concepts such as wîcihitowin, mîno-pimâtisiwin, and mamatawisowin.

Dr. Janet Smylie

Generative Health Services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Relatives Living in Urban and Related Homelands – Relational Approaches Advancing



Dr. Janet Smylie is a Family Physician and Public Health Researcher. As a Métis woman, with Métis roots in the Prairies she acknowledges her family, teachers, and the lodge as central to her learning and practice. She currently works as a Research Scientist in Indigenous health at St. Michael's Hospital, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, where she directs the Well Living House Applied Research Centre (www.welllivinghouse.com) and holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Advancing Generative Health Services for Indigenous Populations.

Dr. Smylie holds academic appointments as a Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She also maintains a part-time clinical practice with Inner City Health Associates at the Auduzhe Mino NeseWINong clinic.

She has practiced and taught family medicine across diverse urban and rural Indigenous communities. Her applied research program focuses on actively addressing Indigenous health inequities through enhancing Indigenous-led, high-quality health information systems; disrupting anti-Indigenous racism in health services; and promoting Indigenous community health and well-being solutions.

Dr. Smylie currently leads multiple research projects in partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations. She has served on numerous expert advisory committees. In recognition of her contributions, she received the National Aboriginal Achievement (Indspire) Award in Health in 2012 and is a fellow of both the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the Royal Society of Canada. She is also an international member of the National Academy of Medicine.



Dr. Paul Whitinui


If Being Culturally Safe is the Solution, what is the Problem?



Dr. Paul Whitinui (he/him) is an Indigenous Māori scholar from the Confederation of Tribes in the Far North of Aotearoa New Zealand—Ngā Puhi, Te Aupōuri, and Ngāti Kurī on his father's side, and Irish, French, English, and Welsh on his mother's side. He currently serves as the Special Advisor to the Vice President Indigenous and is a Professor in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada.

As an interdisciplinary Māori and Indigenous scholar, his work is informed by Kaupapa Māori and Indigenous theory, which draws on the lived and emancipatory experiences of iwi Māori and other colonized Indigenous Peoples to critically interrogate dominant colonial state interests. His areas of focus include sport, health, physical activity, education/schooling, and wellbeing.

More recently, Dr. Whitinui's research has focused on the development of Indigenous impact assessment tools to improve and strengthen Indigenous cultural safety training programs in post-secondary settings, while continuing to support the development of culturally safe and inclusive practices.



Indigenizing Health Symposium Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday 23 April 2025

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:00AM – 9:00AM | Breakfast in Farmhouse & Networking |
| 9:00AM – 10:00AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spiritual Opening by Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt• Welcome by Dr. Ethsi (Suzanne) Stewart |
| 10:00AM – 11:15AM | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Whitinui |
| 11:15AM – 11:30AM | Break – Coffee & Snacks in Farmhouse |
| 11:30AM – 12:45PM | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Janet Smylie |
| 12:45PM – 1:30PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch in Farmhouse & Networking• Student Poster Session in Farmhouse |
| 1:30PM – 2:15PM | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Hart |
| 2:15PM – 2:30PM | Break – Coffee & Snacks in Farmhouse |
| 2:30PM – 4:00PM | Drum Circle in Teepee with Spirit Wind |
| 4:00PM – 5:00PM | Explore the Farm or Rest |
| 5:00PM – 6:30PM | Dinner in Farmhouse |

Indigenizing Health Symposium Agenda

Day 2: Thursday 24 April 2025

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 7:30AM – 9:00AM | Breakfast in Farmhouse & Networking |
| 9:00AM – 9:30AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Remarks, Elder Wendy Phillips & Dr. Ethsi (Suzanne) Stewart• Group Check-in |
| 9:30AM – 10:45AM | Keynote Speakers: Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel |
| 10:45AM – 11:00AM | Break – Coffee & Snacks in Farmhouse |
| 11:00AM – 12:00PM | Keynote Speaker: Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt, Sweat Lodge Teachings |
| 12:00PM – 1:15PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch in Farmhouse & Networking• Student Poster Session in Farmhouse |
| 1:15PM – 5:00PM | Sweat Lodge Ceremony |
| 5:00PM – 6:00PM | Dinner & Leave Hart House Farm |



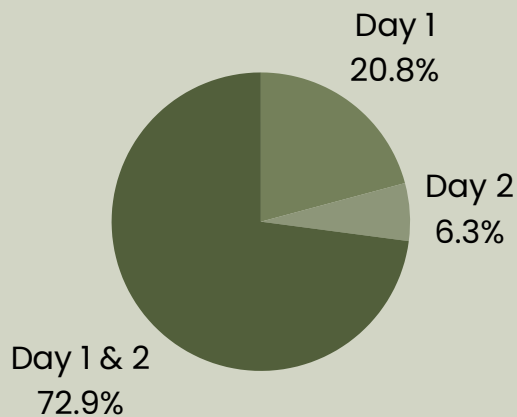
Event Feedback

Keynote speakers, students, and attendees were sent a survey regarding their experience at the symposium. Participants were asked to comment on the relevance of the presentations, the appropriateness of the symposium's timing, and to provide suggestions for improving future gatherings. Refer to **Appendix II** for the event feedback form.

In total, 48 individuals completed the survey, with 29 respondents providing written feedback on their experience of the symposium. The feedback received will be used to help inform the planning and development of future Indigenizing Health Symposiums.

Event Feedback Results

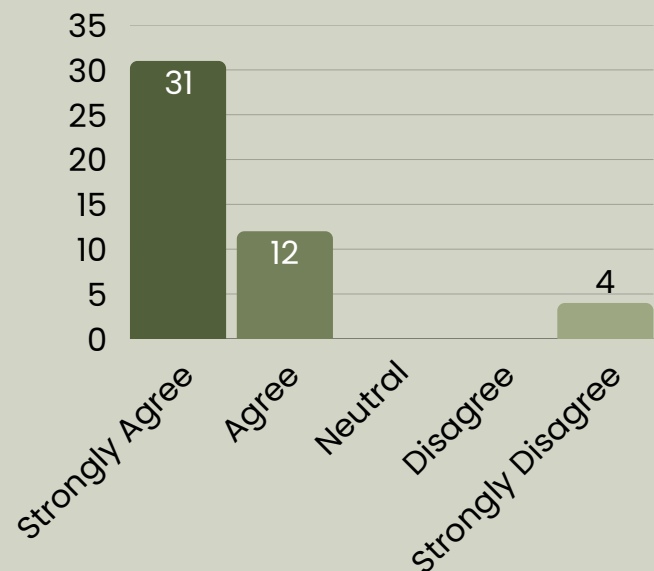
Question 1: Please indicate if this form is for Day 1, Day 2 or Day 1 & 2.



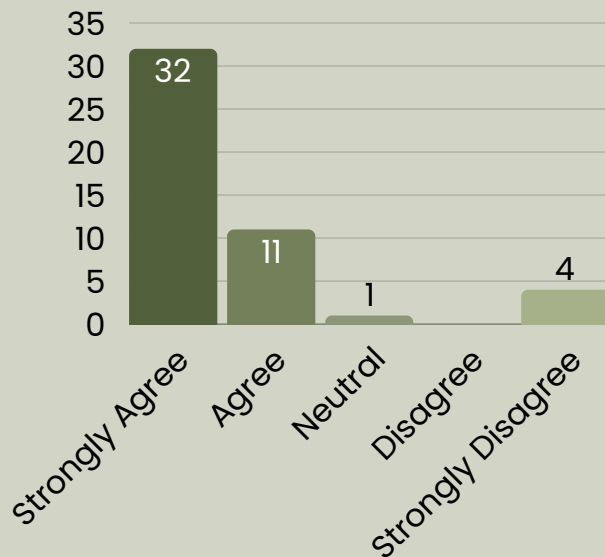
The majority of participants attended both days of the symposium, with 35 respondents (72.9%) selecting Day 1 and Day 2. Ten participants (20.8%) attended only Day 1, while three participants (6.3%) attended only Day 2.

Question 2: The content of the symposium was accurately described in the materials provided.

The majority of participants felt that the content of the symposium was accurately reflected in the materials provided. Thirty-one respondents strongly agreed, and twelve agreed. However, four participants strongly disagreed, indicating a perceived discrepancy between the promotional materials and the content presented.



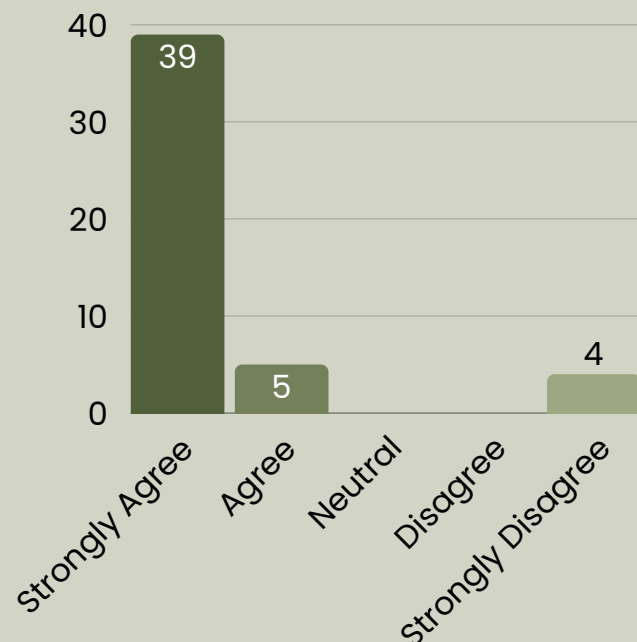
Question 3: The presentations were applicable to my work



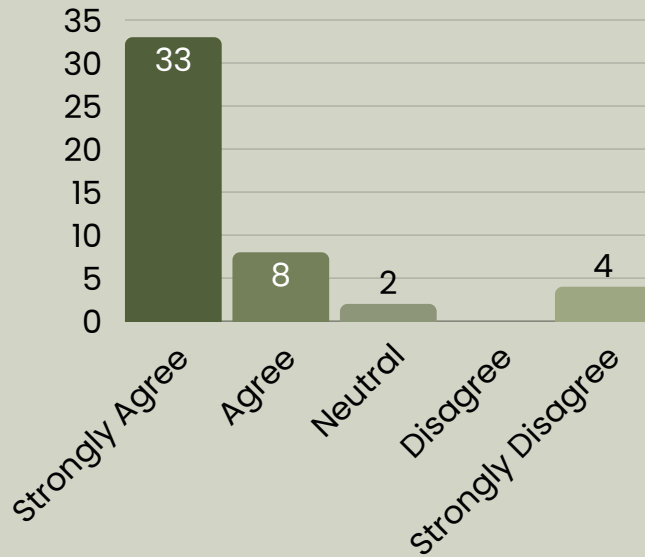
The majority of participants felt that the presentations were applicable to their work. Thirty-two respondents strongly agreed, and eleven agreed. One participant was neutral, while four strongly disagreed, suggesting some variation in how relevant the presentations were to participants' professional contexts.

Question 4: I will recommend this conference to others

The majority of participants indicated that they would recommend the symposium to others. Thirty-nine respondents strongly agreed, and five agreed. Four participants strongly disagreed, reflecting a small minority who were less likely to recommend the event.



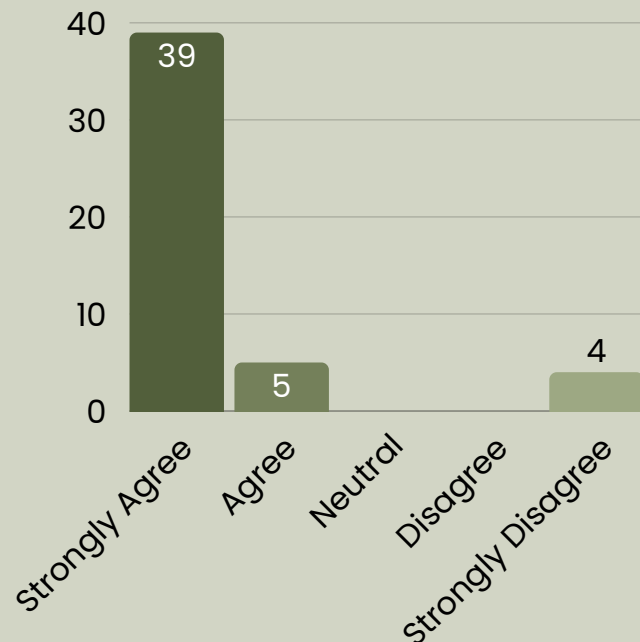
Question 5: The symposium was well paced.



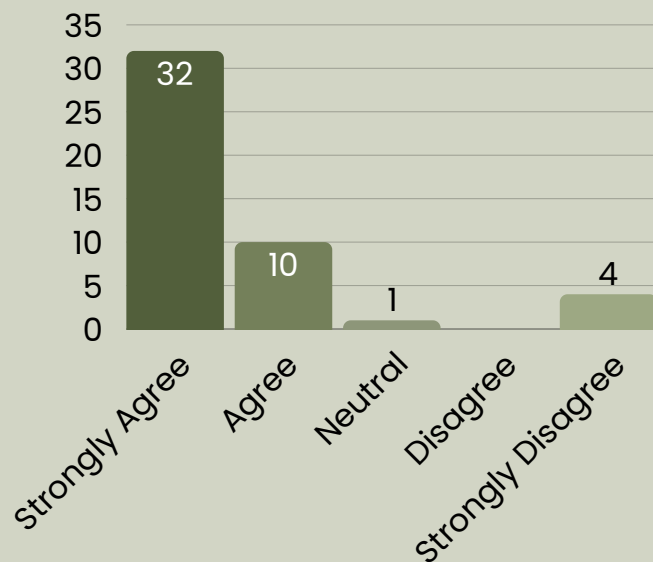
The majority of participants felt that the symposium was well-paced within the allotted time. Thirty-three respondents strongly agreed, and eight agreed. Two participants were neutral, while four strongly disagreed, indicating some variation in perceptions of the symposium's pacing.

Question 6: The speakers were effective communicators.

The majority of participants felt that the speakers were effective communicators. Thirty-nine respondents strongly agreed, and five agreed. Four participants strongly disagreed, indicating a small group who perceived the communication as less effective.



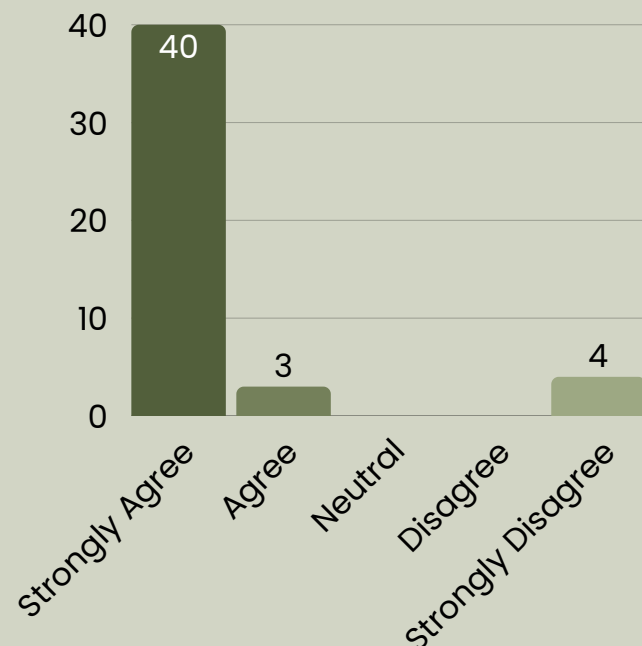
Question 7: The material was presented in an organized manner.



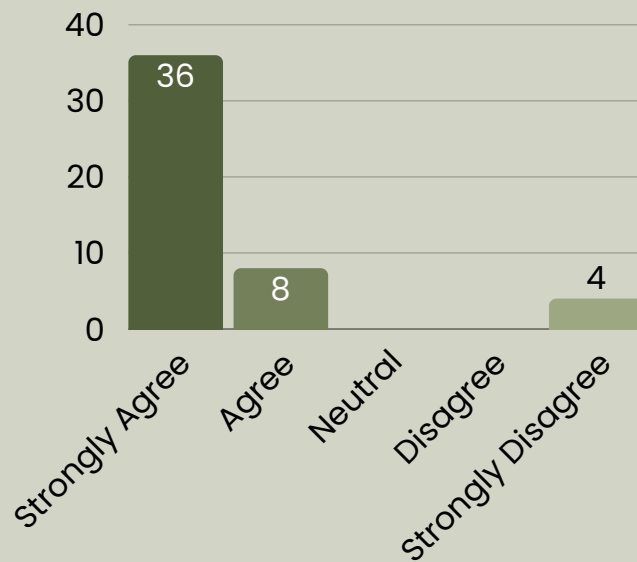
The majority of participants felt that the material was presented in an organized manner. Thirty-two respondents strongly agreed, and ten agreed. One participant was neutral, while four strongly disagreed, indicating some variation in perceptions of the material's organization.

Question 8: The speakers were knowledgeable about the topics.

The majority of participants felt that the speakers were knowledgeable about the topics. Forty respondents strongly agreed, and three agreed. Four participants strongly disagreed, suggesting a small group who felt the speakers' expertise did not meet their expectations.



Question 9: I would be interested in attending a follow-up session on this topic.



The majority of participants expressed interest in attending a follow-up session on this topic. Thirty-six respondents strongly agreed, and eight agreed. Four participants strongly disagreed, indicating a small group who did not wish to pursue additional sessions.

Question 10: What did you most appreciate, enjoy, or find most valuable about the symposium? Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

- The most valuable and generous knowledge sharing of the U of T Indigenous community. All details, content, food, ceremonies, teachings... forever indebted to Dr Stewart and her team for organizing and offering this opportunity
- Having attended the symposium in previous years, the symposium being on the land this year was so incredibly valuable and made it so much more impactful and meaningful. I felt the learnings were more grounded, and I was able to be more present and benefit from all the knowledge shared. I also appreciated all the breaks throughout the day, the flexibility of the agenda, and the absolutely delicious and abundant food that was provided to us. It was also such an honour and gift to be able to participate in ceremony, as a non-Indigenous person, and I am so grateful for how I was welcomed into such sacred spaces. The Knowledge Keepers were a gift to have present and to learn from. The only possible thing I could suggest would be to build in some activities at the beginning to help everyone connect with new people – as a shy person, this would definitely help to break the ice with forming new connections! Chi miigwetch to all those who made this symposium possible – the organizers, the fire keepers, the helpers, the knowledge keepers, the cooks, the speakers, and everyone who I had the honour of meeting and learning from.
- This is the best conference/ knowledge sharing symposium I have been to in over a decade. The humanity of the approach, the humility of being on the land, and the generosity of the hosts.
- This was one of the best conferences I have attended. The environment was very conducive to learning and connecting. The speakers were knowledgeable, authentic, and well-spaced over the two days. I did not feel overloaded with information or that anyone was rushed. I appreciated that the speakers often referenced each other's presentations, tying the learning together. The topics covered were of a wide variety and gave me lots to think about. I truly appreciate being a part of this learning opportunity.
- I'm deeply grateful to have attended the Indigenizing Health Symposium! The stories, knowledge, and teachings shared throughout were powerful and humbling. I left with a renewed sense of responsibility and a deeper understanding of how to center Indigenous voices and ways of knowing in healthcare. The sessions offered practical insights and critical reflections that will directly inform my work, especially in advancing more culturally safe and equitable care. I want to thank the organizers, speakers, and knowledge keepers for their generosity in sharing their time, wisdom, and experiences. It was an honour to learn in this space. I look forward to attending again next year. Miigwetch!



Attendee Quotes

The following quotes and reflections were shared with the ON NEIHR team after the gathering.

"I wanted to say Miigwetch and extend my deep gratitude to all the organizers, helpers, caterers, fire keepers, singers, drummers, and community who made this symposium possible. It was incredibly nourishing to be surrounded by so many community members who are actively working towards creating safer and more intentional spaces and places for people to seek care and connect. It was inspiring and grounding to hear all the good work that is being done in and with community, and created space for my own reflections on how to deepen how I exist in relation with one another. I am deeply grateful for the generosity and care that was shared, through energy, medicine and ceremony, and stories."

"Dear WIH team,

I am so honoured to have been a part of this year's symposium. Thank you for bringing together such a wonderful community of people, ideas and energy. The symposium was no less than inspiring. I wanted to say miigwetch to Suzanne, Clayton and the entire team for having me and I sincerely hope to continue learning, giving and being part of the community. Congrats on creating something special."

We encourage those to come out to, learn, teach, and connect at our annual symposiums. So you can build lasting knowledge, and relationships, while connecting with the land. In a safe, and supportive setting."

Conference Recordings

To preserve the interpersonal nature of the discussions and to encourage open dialogue among keynote speakers and attendees, the two-day event was tech-free and not recorded. As such, no recordings are available for future reference. All sessions took place live and in person in the Teaching Lodge.



Evaluation Summary & Next Steps

The Spring 2025 Indigenizing Health Symposium centered the invaluable knowledge and insights of many speakers and scholars on the theme of Being Safe With Our Culture Again. Recognizing that in-person, land-based gatherings are essential to Indigenous Ways of Being, the two-day event offered a unique venue fostering the strong connection to land at Hart House Farm. Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous scholars, students, community members, and leaders from across Turtle Island came together in the spirit of collaboration, listening, and learning.

Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers continue to play a vital role in maintaining Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Ways of Being, carrying deep teachings about holistic wellness and community healing. Through their reflections on the cultural, spiritual, emotional, and ethical challenges of academic life, the keynote speakers invited participants to reflect on what it truly means to be safe with culture again.

Hosted by the ON NEIHR, the WIIH and IMN-ON, the event affirmed that working together, welcoming spirit, balancing mind and heart, and embracing forgiveness can cultivate the kindness and respect required for lasting, meaningful change.

Feedback from participants reflected a profound and memorable experience. Many attendees emphasized the importance of the land-based setting and the presence of ceremony, both of which grounded the learning in a way that felt deeply authentic and impactful. The speakers were commended for their expertise and the wide range of engaging, thought-provoking topics they addressed. The event's organization was also praised, particularly the welcoming environment, nourishing meals by Nookomis Kitchen, and strong sense of community built over the two days.

The inclusion of ceremony was especially meaningful, allowing participants to connect more deeply with the teachings and with one another. Suggestions for improvement included offering more opportunities for informal connection and dialogue, and ensuring greater access to ceremony for those who wished to participate. These reflections underscore the value of relational and experiential learning within Indigenous health gatherings. Overall, the 2025 symposium was widely seen as an enriching, transformative event—one that will inform and inspire the planning of future ON NEIHR/WIIH and IMN-ON initiatives.



The ON NEIHR/WIIH Symposium Planning Committee would like to extend a heartfelt Chi Miigwetch to all our collaborators for making this gathering possible.

Dr. Ethsi (Suzanne) Stewart
Knowledge Keeper Clayton Shirt
Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel
Dr. Michael Hart
Dr. Janet Smylie
Dr. Paul Whitinui
Nookomis Kitchen
Spirit Wind
Hart House
The University of Toronto



Appendix I

Student Posters

Master's and PhD Students submitted and presented posters, each addressing a distinct topic within Indigenous health research. The poster descriptions are included below.

Poster Title: Homelessness, Systemic Racism, and Colonization: The Barriers to Holistic Health Faced by Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Peoples.

Names: Gonsalves, Marc; Liu, Tina and Gabriel, Mikaela Daria

Abstract: Indigenous individuals are faced with several societal, systemic and colonial barriers within cities across Canada, leading to a disproportionate rate of representation among the homeless population. While Indigenous Peoples comprise less than 4% of the total population in major cities, they represent at least 15% of the visibly homeless population within Toronto (City of Toronto, 2021; Bureau of Statistics, 2021). Among this population, Indigenous women (IW) and Two-Spirit (2S) Peoples are especially vulnerable due to sexual violence and housing segregations, exacerbated by a tremendous lack of mental health services and under-representation within existing health care models, housing, services and policies. Additionally, IW and 2S Peoples experience higher rates of trauma and compounding vulnerabilities than non-Indigenous populations across all provinces, in conjunction with educational and employment barriers that contribute to homelessness. Current understandings do not reflect the unique risk factors that contribute to the mental health disparities IW and 2S Peoples face. To appraise literature and identify knowledge gaps for these populations, a scoping review will be conducted using several databases (e.g. JSTOR, I-Portal, CPI-Q). To include Indigenous community voices, grey literature will also be explored. Expected results include insights regarding factors contributing to IW & 2S Peoples homelessness and their impact to holistic health (i.e., physical, mental, emotional, spiritual domains). Our analysis aims to identify further barriers contributing to Indigenous homelessness; highlight Indigenous voices across existing literature; critically determine prevailing knowledge and service gaps; and contribute considerations to the academic and service literature for future study.

Poster Title: “What is a heart?” – Decolonizing Anatomical Pedagogy in Health by Exploring Erased Histories and Knowledge from Diverse, Indigenous Perspectives

Names: Brody McLellan, Mahnoor Moin, Nicole Kim, David Shen, Jenny Wang, Yasmeen Mezil

Abstract: The Renaissance is often credited as the origin of anatomical art, implying that the appreciation of anatomy was pioneered by Eurocentric perspectives. This view homogenizes anatomical artwork and reinforces ongoing marginalization in the health sciences by excluding diverse cultural perspectives and contributions to anatomical knowledge. The historical-artistic contributions from Indigenous and racialized communities remain largely overlooked, limiting the breadth of anatomical knowledge that learners engage with today. Anatomical artwork is more than just a visual aid; it is a powerful pedagogical tool that shapes learners’ understanding of the body.

The Decolonizing Anatomical Art of the Past and Present (DAAPP) project is an ongoing collaboration that challenges the historically normative approaches to anatomical representation by synthesizing diverse perspectives in the format of an open educational resource (OER). The OER is created in collaboration with interdisciplinary experts and Indigenous knowledge keepers.

The project pertains to Indigenous health as it aims to address the marginalization of Indigenous perspectives within health sciences and anatomy. The OER seeks to educate future healthcare providers and educators about the diversity of anatomical artwork and medical exploration in history, including Indigenous views on anatomy and wellness. In this way, it serves to mitigate the impact of medical and scientific racism faced by Indigenous patients in healthcare and learners in the health sciences.

Poster Title: Restoring the Sacred: Integrating Indigenous Spiritual Practices in Canadian Health Care

Name: Deyowidron't Teri Morrow, RD, PhD Student, Department of Nursing UofT

Abstract: Introduction/Background: Haudenosaunee teachings emphasize the interconnection of body, mind, emotion, and spirit. Despite their central role in well-being, Indigenous spiritual practices such as smudging, ceremonies, and Elder-led care are often marginalized within Canadian health systems. Structural inequities and colonial legacies continue to limit the recognition and integration of Indigenous knowledge in mainstream care.

Purpose/Objectives: This integrative literature review explores the role of Haudenosaunee and broader Indigenous spiritual practices in Canadian health care delivery. The central question guiding the review is: How have Indigenous spiritual practices been integrated into health systems, and what are the implications for Haudenosaunee-centered care?

Methods: A multi-database integrative review was conducted using MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, the Indigenous Studies Portal, and the Native Health Database, covering literature from 2015 to 2025. Search terms included Haudenosaunee identity, Indigenous spirituality, and health services. Inclusion criteria focused on peer-reviewed articles addressing spiritual care involving First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or Haudenosaunee peoples within health systems.

Findings:

Emerging themes include:

- The resurgence of ceremony within clinical spaces
- The critical role of Elders as spiritual care providers
- Trauma-informed, culturally safe care models
- Persistent barriers: policy gaps, systemic racism, underfunding
- Few studies directly addressed Haudenosaunee contexts, revealing a significant gap in the literature.

Conclusion/Next Steps: Spirituality is foundational to Haudenosaunee wellness but is insufficiently recognized in healthcare. These findings will inform the next phase of doctoral research, which will involve co-developing a framework for culturally safe, spiritually inclusive care in partnership with Haudenosaunee communities.

Appendix II

Conference Evaluation Form

April 23 & 24, 2025

Your feedback is critical. We appreciate your feedback and will use it to improve next year's event.

| | |
|---|--|
| This form is for (check one): | <input type="radio"/> Day 1 <input type="radio"/> Day 2 <input type="radio"/> Day 1 & 2 |
| The content was as described in materials | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| The presentations were applicable to my work | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| I will recommend this conference to others | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| The conference was well paced within the time | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| The speakers were good communicators | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| Material was presented in an organized manner | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| The speakers were knowledgeable on the topics | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |
| I would be interested in attending a follow-up session on this same subject | <input type="radio"/> Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/> Disagree <input type="radio"/> Neutral <input type="radio"/> Agree <input type="radio"/> Strongly Agree |

Appendix III

Indigenizing Health Symposium 2025 Poster and Call for Student Posters



HOSTED BY ONTARIO NEIHR & WIIH:
INDIGENIZING HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2025:
BEING SAFE WITH OUR CULTURE AGAIN

23-24 APRIL, 2025
HART HOUSE FARM
TERRA COTTA, ON

[REGISTER HERE ON EVENTBRITE](#)

TO REQUEST MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
CONTACT ONTARIONEIHR.DLSPH@UTORONTO.CA





✱ ON NEIHR & WIIH @ DLSPH, UofT

Call for Student Posters
Indigenizing Health Symposium 2025

The Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) at the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health (WIIH) invite students to present research posters at the annual **Indigenizing Health Symposium: Being Safe With Our Culture Again**. This is a land-based gathering fosters dialogue on Indigenous health, cultural safety, and policy grounded in Indigenous Knowledges. Held at Hart House Farm's Teaching Lodge, the event includes keynote speakers, workshops, ceremony, and cultural activities.

Deadline to Submit: April 11, 2025
To submit or request more information please contact: ontarioneihr.dlsph@utoronto.ca

Event Date: 23 & 24 April, 2025
Location: Hart House Farm, Terra Cota, ON

 To register [click here](#) or scan the QR code.



