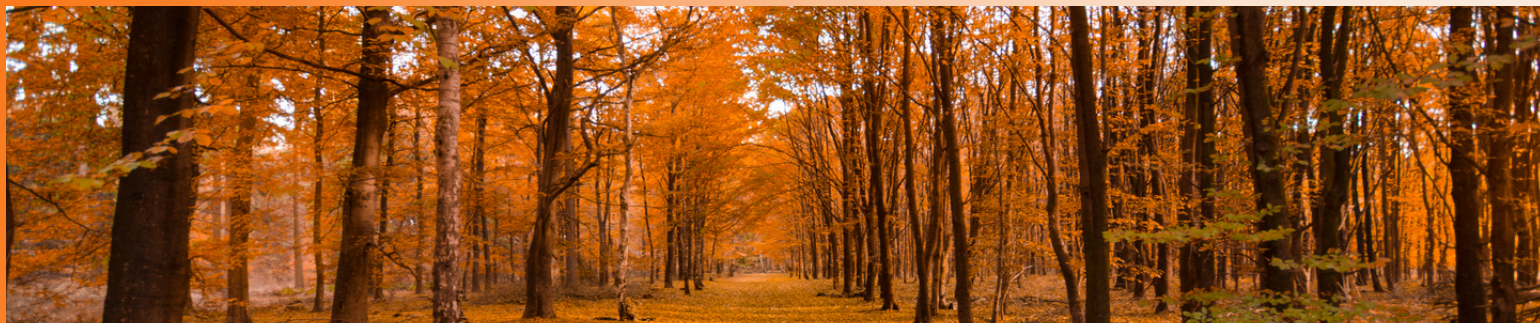


Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research

Fall Newsletter



Aaniin, Boozhoo, Sekon, Wachay, Hello

The Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (ON NEIHR) at the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health (WIIH) welcomes you to the Fall 2025 edition of the Shkaakaamikwe gchi twaa miigwewin (Mother Earth's Gifts) newsletter.

We are grateful for the lands, waters, and relationships that make our work possible. Chi miigwetch to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers, readers, and partners for their guidance and support.

As autumn begins, we invite you to explore recent highlights and upcoming plans, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

With gratitude,

Hugo Purdon, Co-Editor, Research Assistant

William O'Hare-Rennie, Co-Editor, Research Assistant

Shanti Aguilar-Cardenas, Co-Editor, Research Officer & Ontario NEIHR Coordinator



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

Ontario Network Environments For Indigenous Health Research

Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

155 College Street, Suite 400, Toronto, ON, M5T 3M7

ontarioneihr.dlsph@utoronto.ca

Upcoming Events

Drum Circle Led by Spirit Wind

The Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health invites you to join them on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the *Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Teaching Lodge, 20 Willcocks St., Courtyard, University of Toronto)*. All are welcome! Bring your drum or use one available on site. Food and refreshments will be served.

[Click this Link to register and for Fall Schedule](#)

Lodge Learning and Ceremony with Dr. Deb Danard

The Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health welcomes you to join Dr. Deb Danard at the *Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Teaching Lodge, 20 Willcocks St., Courtyard, University of Toronto)* for teachings and ceremony. These are held most weeks, even throughout the winter, with no need to sign up! Food and refreshments are provided.



SHARING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES IN ACADEMIA
Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health invites you

Drum Circle Led by Spirit Wind

First and Third Wednesdays
at
Askaakamigokwewigamig (Mother Earth Teaching Lodge)
20 Willcocks
(New College Courtyard)
Toronto, ON M5S 1C6

Wednesday October 1
Wednesday October 15
Wednesday November 5
Wednesday November 19
Wednesday December 3
Wednesday December 17

All are welcome! Bring your own drum, or use the drums provided. Food and refreshments will be shared. For more information scan the QR code or contact: wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca



SHARING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES IN ACADEMIA
Hosted by WIIH, and ON NEIHR

Lodge Teaching and Ceremony

Led by Elder Dr. Deb Danard & Knowledge Keeper

Life Teachings (Teaching Lodge)
Tuesday, September 23 (5-7 pm)
Thursday, October 16 (11 am-2 pm)
Tuesday October 21 (5-7 pm)
Thursday November 13 (11 am-2 pm)
Tuesday November 18 (11 am- 2 pm)

Weekly at
Askaakamigokwewigamig
(Mother Earth Learning Lodge
20 Willcocks St., Courtyard,
University of Toronto)

Full Moon Ceremony (Teaching Lodge)
Tuesday October 7 (5-7pm)
Tuesday November 4 (5-7 pm)
Thursday December 4 (5-7 pm)



For more information please contact:
researchofficer.wih.dlsph@utoronto.ca or wbiih.dlsph@utoronto.ca
This event is open to Indigenous community members.



Upcoming Events



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research
Pop Up Research-to-Policy Event
10:00am to 4:00pm, 20 November 2025
155 College Street, 7th Floor Lounge, Toronto, ON M5T 3M7**

This Research-to-Policy Forum is an in-person **drop-in event** at the University of Toronto where research findings from across the CIHR Funded Ontario Network Environments in Indigenous Health Research (ON NEIHR) will be presented and discussed with the aim of informing healthy Indigenous mental health policy decisions.

The **intended audience** is policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and representatives from urban and rural, and reserve First Nations, Metis, and Inuit governments and organizations, as well as municipal, provincial, and federal settler governments.

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



From 2019 to currently the ON NEIHR has produced hundreds of research results in:

- **Land-Based and Planetary Health Solutions;**
- **Healing from Trauma and Reducing Addictions;**
- **Indigenous Life Promotion and Complex Crisis Support (for suicide)**
- **Indigenous Mental Health Knowledges Translation**
- **Indigenous Homelessness/Houselessness Prevention**



Event Schedule

10:00am to 3:00pm

20+ research project booths for drop-in knowledge sharing with researchers.
Spirit Wind Drummers in attendance.

3:00pm to 4:00pm

Sharing Circle to discuss knowledge translation and policy. Led by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Youth

Hot and cold beverages will be provided all day, and a light breakfast and lunch.

For more information please contact: ontarioneihr.dlsph@utoronto.ca or suzanne.stewart@utoronto.ca

Upcoming Webinars

Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research Webinar Series at the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

Presents

Policy & Practice Prescriptions from the People: Healing & Health for Indigenous Peoples Accessing Primary Care Settings

With Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel, PhD

Tuesday 21 October 2025
11:00am – 12:00pm EDT

[Online via Zoom](#)

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

[Register Here](#)

Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research Webinar Series at the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

Presents

**Indigenous Youth Mental Health & The Climate Crisis:
Recent Findings and Next Steps**

**With Sabina Mirza, Michael Brown
& The Climate Crisis Team**

Tuesday 25 November 2025
12:00PM – 1:00PM EDT

[Online via Zoom](#)

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

[Register Here](#)

NEW COURSE

COMING SOON TO DLSPH!

Course Title:

Justice For The Next Generation: Global Climate Health, Youth Homelessness, Diversity and Equity

When: Winter 2026

Who can register: Graduate Students ONLY

Seats are Limited!

**For more information, please email the course director
Dr. Sabina Mirza at sabina.mirza@utoronto.ca**



Past Events

Melbourne Poche Group Visit



The Waakebiness Institute warmly welcomed the Melbourne Poche Group—an Indigenous-led initiative from the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health that supports emerging Indigenous health leaders and researchers. The visit began with a Welcoming Ceremony, followed by a Yarning Circle and a shared community dinner. These gatherings created a meaningful space to exchange knowledge, experiences, and diverse perspectives. It was a powerful opportunity to build friendships and strengthen professional relationships grounded in culture, respect, and collaboration.

2025 Na-Me-Res Pow Wow

The Waakebiness Institute held an information booth at the Na-Me-Res Pow Wow & Indigenous Arts Festival. The team welcomed everyone to the stand and shared about all the amazing research projects and programs hosted by the WIIH! It was an incredible opportunity to make connections with new people and support Indigenous culture and community.

Past Webinars

May -Hybrid Event

Joseph P. Gone (Aaniiih-Gros Ventre)

American Indian Traditional Healing: Expressions of
Alter-Native Psy-ence

Watch Now on YouTube

June

Dr. Cornelia (Nel) Wieman

Achieving Greater Cultural Safety in Mental Health
Services through Research and Traditional Knowledge

Watch Now on YouTube

July

Constance Simmonds, Traditional Knowledge
Keeper

Health and Wellness Teachings

Watch Now on YouTube

Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings

The Land Remembers the Teachings of the
Ancestors

Watch Now on YouTube



Click this **link** to catch up on
all our past webinars.

Highlights

NAMHR 2025 Research Intensive

The Ontario NEIHR, in collaboration with the Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research (NAMHR), hosted the Research Intensive Workshop at the WIIH. The workshop was a collection of presenters discussing Indigenous Health, Medicine and Decolonialism. The event was open to everyone, and a certificate was awarded to those who attended all four days!

The event was an amazing opportunity to learn and discuss with colleagues. With a variety of speakers, participants gained diverse perspectives on Indigenous health and decolonial practices.

About NAMHR

In 2001, the NAMHR was developed as a collaboration between Indigenous communities and academic researchers. The network aimed to expand its research capabilities through additional pilot projects, research training and networking.

The NAMHR organizes many activities, workshops, and conferences to obtain feedback on recent research. These events include the yearly NAMHR Research Intensive.



Poster design by Tina Liu

Click this [link](#) or scan the QR code to learn more about NAMHR



Highlights



Poster design by Tina Liu

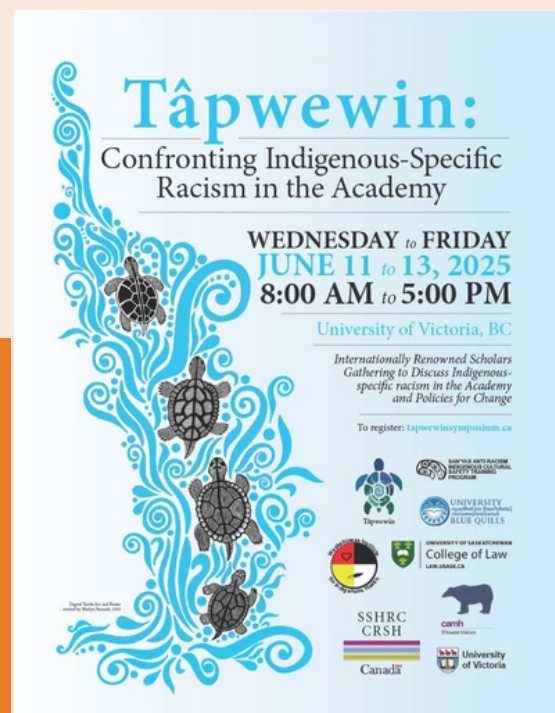
2025 Tâpwewin Symposium

June 11-13 2025

Members of the Ontario NEIHR team and from 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nation attended the Tâpwewin Symposium conference hosted by the University of Victoria. The event brought diverse speakers and aimed to address Indigenous-specific racism in the academy.

New NAMHR Lead - Dr. Mikaela Gabriel

The NAMHR is excited to join the Ontario NEIHR in welcoming Dr. Mikaela D. Gabriel as the new lead! Dr. Gabriel is a Research Scientist at Unity Health Toronto and holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Women & Two-Spirit Mental Health and Homelessness. She brings a wealth of experience and vision, with many upcoming plans to grow NAMHR and advance its goals. Together with the ON-NEIHR, NAMHR remains committed to supporting Indigenous health, culture, community, and healing.



Poster design by Dr. Marlyn Bennett

The Work of Dr. Mikaela Gabriel

Dr. Mikaela Gabriel, NAMHR Workshop and Presenter & Lead

- Gabriel, M. (2025, July). *NAMHR introduction to Indigenous mental health research & applications* [Workshop]. National Summer Research Workshop Intensive, Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research & Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Gabriel, M. (2025, July). *Applied Indigenous mental health research methods* (with J. Smylie) [Workshop]. National Summer Research Workshop Intensive, Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research & Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Gabriel, M. (2025, July). Exploring & establishing safety for Indigenous women & 2-Spirit peoples [Workshop]. National Summer Research Workshop Intensive, Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research & Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Research Publications

- Gabriel, M. D., Gonsalves, M., & Liu, T. (2025). *Bridges and Barriers: Exploring Healthcare Access and Services for Indigenous Peoples*. Wellesley Institute. ISBN: 978-1-998595-08-2
- Giulianelli, A., & Gabriel, M. D. (2025). *Supporting Agency, Facing Equity: An Environmental Scan of Indigenous Cultural Safety Training for Primary Care Providers*. Wellesley Institute. ISBN: 978-1-998595-09-9

Executive summaries for policy makers

- Gabriel, M. D., Giulianelli, A., & Noordermeer, J. (2025). *Supporting Agency, Facing Equity: An environmental scan of Indigenous cultural safety training for primary care providers*. Executive summary.
- Gabriel, M. D., Gonsalves, M., Liu, T., & Noordermeer, J. (2025). *Bridges and barriers: Exploring healthcare access and services for Indigenous Peoples*. Executive summary.

Guest Lectures

Guest Lectures:

- Auksi, M. (2025, June 17). *Perspectives on Indigenous physical wellness and education health determinants* [Guest lecture]. Master of Public Health, Indigenous Stream, University of Toronto.
- Auksi, M. & Brown, M. (2025, July 7). *What it means to practice cultural safety*. Master of Public Health, Indigenous Stream (MPH-IH). Guest lecture at Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- Brown, M. & Shirt, C. (2025, March 4). *Impacts of climate crisis on Indigenous young adults mental health*. Global Health (CHL5700), Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Guest lecture at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- Gabriel, M. & Stewart, S. *Indigenous Mental Health*, Invited Speaker for Mental Health & The Law LAW266H1S, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, 4 March 2025.
- Mirza, S., & Brown, M., (May 29, 2025). Guest Lecture. *Impact of Climate Crisis on Indigenous Youth Mental Health*. Indigenous Health and Social Policy (land-based) course, Master of Public Health - Indigenous Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada.

Conferences Presentations and Workshops

Conference Presentation:

- Gabriel, M., & Stewart S. (2025) *Indigenizing Psychology for Systems Change: Reviewing the Need and Reclaiming Approaches for Indigenous Mental Health Training and Interventions*. Paper presentation at The Canadian Psychology Association 86th Annual National Convention. St. John's, NL.
- Mirza, S., Brown, M., & Stewart, E. (2025, March 27). *Impacts of climate crisis on Indigenous young adults mental health* [Conference Presentation]. 2025 Indigenous Health Research Symposium. Memorial University, Faculty of Medicine.
- Stewart, S. (2025, May). *Indigenous Psychology*. Keynote Panel. Inaugural Conference on Critical Social Justice, University of British Columbia, BC
- Stewart, S. (2025, September). *Indigenous Reconciliation and Mental Health*. Keynote Address. National Day for Truth & Reconciliation at Strides Toronto, Ontario.

Workshop:

- Brown, M., & Mirza, S. (2025, July 4). *Research as ceremony* [Workshop]. Student Mentorship Program, University of Toronto.

Published Articles and Reports

Published Articles and Reports:

- Apt'sqi'gnn. (2025). Is multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC) more effective at reducing externalizing behaviours exhibited by youth in foster care than group or institutionalized care? *International Journal of Indigenous Health*, 20(2).
- Hazra, M., Ranasinghe, T., Apt'sqi'gnn., Brown, M., Mirza, S., Shirt, C., & Stewart, E. (2025, in press). Hemp as a Sustainable Solution for Climate Crisis Action: A Review of Literature. *Journal of Global Indigeneity*.
- Jenkinson, J.I.R. & Wigle, J. & Richard, L. & Tibebu, T. & Orkin, A.M. & Thulien, N.S. & Kiran, T. & Gogosis, E. & Crichlow, F. & Dyer, A.P. & Gabriel, M.D. & Hwang, S.W. (2025). Structural violence as a driver of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and low vaccine uptake among people experiencing homelessness in Toronto, Canada: A qualitative study. *Social Science & Medicine, Elsevier, vol. 365(C)*.
- Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research, Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health Research, & Indigenous Mentorship Network of Ontario. (2025). *Indigenizing health symposium 2025: Being safe with our culture again* [Conference report].
- Stewart, E., Mirza, S., & Brown, M. (2025). The Climate Crisis and Indigenous Youths' Mental Health: The Pilot Project. *Mental Health: Global Challenges Journal*, 8(1), 36–47.



Thank You

To our readers and partners,

Since Fall is here, we welcome you to our upcoming events and hope you enjoyed our past ones! As the days grow shorter and colder, we hope you continue to enjoy our Mother, the Earth.

We thank you so much for all your amazing support,

See you this winter!

Contact Us

Follow Us On Social Media!

For the latest news, upcoming events and other updates!

Facebook: @ Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

Instagram: @neihr_on | @wbiih

**LinkedIn: @ Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health,
University of Toronto**

Youtube: @Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

**Website: Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health at the Dalla
Lana School of Public Health**

Email us ontarioneihr.dlsph@utoronto.ca



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