



2016

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH GATHERING

**JUNE 23-24, 2016
SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO**

Indigenous Research Gathering Overview

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) Indigenous Research Gathering, which will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is on The Traditional Territory of the Ojibway Peoples of Baawaating, neighboring the community of Garden River First Nation. In addition, there will be Indigenous ceremonial activities that will be facilitated by the Peoples of the traditional territory where the Gathering will take place.

The Indigenous Research Gathering will be an opportunity to review past and current research practices and begin to develop guiding principles that build inclusive and culturally respectful research programs that can have an impact on health in Indigenous communities. The guiding principles will form the basis of a statement of principles to assist researchers in engaging in research that makes a difference and has a positive impact on the community.

The Indigenous Research Gathering is a community consultative process as it relates to the topic of culturally appropriate research practice and Indigenous health.

The Gathering will open with a keynote address, *Acknowledging the Past* by Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, Lakehead University. Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux will provide an opportunity to reflect on inappropriate research practices and lack of engagement of the Indigenous Peoples in the planning and outcomes of research being conducted within their communities. This session will align with information recently provided through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and will be followed by a time to reflect on the experiences of the past. There will be an opportunity to participate in a cleansing ceremony and speak with Elders and Knowledge Keepers on how we move forward in a journey that acknowledges and remembers the past, yet seeks to walk forward together to establish research practices that include Indigenous researchers and respectfully and appropriately integrates Indigenous research practices, including traditional methods.

In the afternoon of the first day, the session will begin with a presentation by Dr. Marion Maar and Ms. Lorrilee McGregor who will speak about Building Research Relationships with First Nation communities. Following will be selected presentations by researchers and community members on *Research That is Having an Impact*. Researchers will speak about the objectives, research plan, and outcomes of specific

research topics and community members will speak about how the community has participated with the researchers to facilitate the research and outcomes in the community. Topics will include: cancer survival, recovery, research infrastructure; maternal health and addictions; tobacco misuse amongst First Nations youth in First Nations across Canada; culturally appropriate health literacy intervention on cardiovascular disease medications; and, culture as an intervention in addictions treatment.

At the end of day, Dr. Marie Wilson will provide a keynote address from her experience with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: *Truth and Reconciliation: Moving Forward*. Dr. Wilson was one of the three Commissioners involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; she is well known for her award winning journalism and contributions through senior executive positions in both federal and territorial Crown Corporations.

On the second day of the Indigenous Research Gathering, delegates from our partner communities, Elders, members of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Indigenous Reference Group, and others will participate in round table discussions focused on two questions:

- *What are the important lessons learned about research practices that will help us move forward in conducting research that is inclusive and respectful?*
- *What are your priorities from lessons learned that will facilitate practical next steps for research?*

Through facilitated group discussion, the gathering will focus on approaches that build inclusive and culturally respectful research programs, with the aim of developing guidelines that will form the basis of a Declaration of Guiding Principles for research that makes a difference.

The closing of the Indigenous Research Gathering will recognize the beginning of the next phase of moving forward to develop and expand meaningful, respectful, and informative health research that will support improved health outcomes in Indigenous communities.

Day 1

Drum Ceremony/Sunrise Ceremony

Opening Blessing: Batchewana First Nation Elder

Opening Welcome and Remarks: Batchewana First Nations of Ojibway Leadership and Garden River First Nation Leadership; Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean; Dot Beaucage-Kennedy, Chair, NOSM's Indigenous Reference Group

- Opening Day Keynote Address: *Acknowledging the Past*. Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, Lakehead University
- Cleansing Ceremony
- Midday Address: *Building Research Relationships with First Nation Communities*. Dr. Marion Maar and Ms. Lorrilee McGregor
- Selected presentations by researchers and community members: *Research That is Having an Impact*. Researchers will speak about the objectives, research plan, and outcomes. Community members will speak about how the community was engaged with the researchers to facilitate the research project and outcomes in the community.
- Topics to be presented:
 - Carol Hopkins: Culture as an Intervention in Addictions Treatment
 - Naana Jumah and Sol Mamakwa: Communities and Research: Delivering Change for Pregnant Women
 - Sheila Cote-Meek and Fern Assiniwe: The Strengths of a Community Based Approach to Research
 - Kristin Jacklin and MaryJo Wabano: The Best of Both Worlds
 - Janet Smiley and Cheryllee Bourgeois: Our Health Counts – Working Together to Advance Urban Indigenous Health Services
- Closing Day Keynote Address: *Truth and Reconciliation: Moving Forward*. Dr. Marie Wilson, Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Day 2

• Facilitated Group Discussion:

- What are the important lessons learned about research practices that will help us move forward in conducting research that is inclusive and respectful?
- What are your priorities from lessons learned that will facilitate practical next steps for research?

• Guiding Principles:

- Report from groups
- Building inclusive and culturally respectful research programs, with the development of specific guidelines that will form the basis of a Declaration of Guiding Principles for research that makes a difference

• Closing Blessing and Ceremony:

- Batchewana First Nation Elder

The Indigenous Research Gathering is open to all conference participants, however there will be limited seating available to general ICEMEN attendees. This is to ensure seating is available to invited Indigenous guests. Please respect the *Reserved Seating* signage.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH GATHERING ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Tina Armstrong

Erica Perkins

Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek

Dr. Sheldon Tobe

Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett

Indigenous Research Gathering Agenda

Wednesday, June 22, 2016	
14:00	Lighting of the Sacred Fire and Sacred Pipe Ceremony Blessing of the water and berries.
15:30 - 15:45	Meet at Delta (<i>Transportation to Algoma University will be provided.</i>)
16:15 - 17:15	Tour of Shingwauk Residential School and Archives
17:15 - 18:00	Welcome and Presentation from Shingwauk
18:00 - 19:30	Traditional Dinner
19:45	Transportation to Hotels and Whitefish Island
20:00 - 22:30	Sweat Lodge, Whitefish Island
22:30 - 22:45	Transportation to Hotels
Thursday, June 23, 2016	
06:00	Sunrise Ceremony (Drum Ceremony, Pipe Carriers) Chief Dean Sayers Batchewana First Nation; Mike Hodgson, Batchewana First Nation; and, Chief Paul Syrette, Garden River First Nation
08:00 - 08:10	Opening Blessing Elder Harvey Bell
08:10 - 08:50	Opening Welcome and Remarks Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation Chief Paul Syrette, Garden River First Nation Ernie Gatien, Provincial Council of Métis Nation of Ontario Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean of Medicine, NOSM Dot Beaucage-Kennedy, Chair, Indigenous Reference Group, NOSM
08:50 - 09:00	Outline for the Gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information on past and current research and identify strategies and partnerships in order to plan for future research. • Declaration of Guiding Principles for research that positively impacts the health of Indigenous people and their communities.
09:00 - 10:00	Keynote Address Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, Lakehead University <i>Acknowledging the Past</i>
10:00 - 11:00	Cleansing Ceremony, Smudging Ceremony Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation
11:00 - 12:00	Health Break and Lunch
12:00 - 13:00	Engaging with Community: Dr. Marion Maar and Lorrilee McGregor <i>Building Research Relationships with First Nation Communities</i>
13:00 - 15:30	Research that is Having an Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Hopkins - <i>Culture as an Intervention in Addictions Treatment</i> • Dr. Naana Juma and Sol Mamakwa - <i>Communities and Research: Delivering Change for Pregnant Women</i> • Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek and Fern Assinewe - <i>The Strengths of a Community-Based Approach to Research</i> • Dr. Kristin Jacklin and MaryJo Wabano - <i>The Best of Both Worlds</i> • Dr. Janet Smylie and Cheryllée Bourgeois - <i>Our Health Counts – Working Together to Advance Urban Indigenous Health Services</i>

Thursday, June 23, 2016	
15:30 - 15:45	Health Break
15:45 - 16:45	Keynote Address: Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Truth and Reconciliation: Moving forward
16:30	Closing Prayer: Elder Harvey Bell
18:30	Participants of the Gathering are welcome to join NOSM's 10th Anniversary celebration banquet
Friday, June 24, 2016	
06:00	Sunrise Ceremony: Mike Hodgson, Batchewana First Nation
07:30 - 08:00	Opening Prayer: Elder Harvey Bell
08:00 - 10:00	Facilitated Group Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the important lessons learned about research practices that will help us move forward in conducting research that is inclusive and respectful? What are your priorities from lessons learned that will facilitate practical next steps for research?
10:00 - 10:15	Health Break
10:15 - 11:15	Guiding Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report from groups. Building inclusive and culturally respectful research programs, with the development of specific guidelines that will form the basis of a <i>Declaration of Guiding Principles</i> for research that makes a difference.
11:15 - 11:45	Gifting ceremony, white pine seedlings and significance Concluding remarks Committee
11:45 - 12:00	Closing Prayer: Elder Harvey Bell

Notes

Indigenous Research Gathering Keynote Speakers

Thursday, June 23, 2016 | 09:00 - 10:00

Acknowledging our Past



Dr. Cynthia
Wesley-Esquimaux

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux is the Vice Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University and serves as a member of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Indigenous Reference Group. She also serves as an adjunct Assistant Professor for the Faculty of Anthropology and Research Affiliate of the Centre for Health Care Ethics. Her research and academic writing is directed toward understanding the continuing transmission of unresolved intergenerational trauma and grief primarily within the Indigenous community of Canada.

Cynthia is a Board Member for Healthy Minds Canada and the newly formed Teach for Canada Non-Profit. She is a member of the Governing Circle of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba and was inducted as a "Honourary Witness" by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Interested in environmental and humanitarian causes she is actively engaged in a variety of initiatives across Canada and is an active and engaging media representative. Cynthia is a member of the Chippewa of Georgina Island First Nation in Lake Simcoe, Ontario and has dedicated her life to building bridges of understanding between people. She sees endless merit in bringing people from diverse cultures, ages, and backgrounds together to engage in practical dialogue and applied research initiatives, and is deeply committed to public education and active youth engagement.

Cynthia co-founded and chairs a youth project called Canadian Roots Exchange, supported by the University of Toronto, the University of Saskatchewan and Lakehead University.

Description

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux navigated the intergenerational storm so many Indigenous peoples found themselves with a firm conviction life could offer more. Out of respect for her parents, both Indian Residential School (IRS) survivors, she walked back into the annals of history and learned about the impacts of an unconscionable past. Inspired by this knowledge and with a new compassion, she forgave and moved into a life of learning, sharing, and service. Healing is a deliberate act, it takes courage, forgiveness, remembrance, and an acknowledgement we have all been touched in a multitude of ways by those who walked before. We must choose what we carry forward and what we put down, unnecessary burdens of pain and loss, not to be forgotten, but to lighten our steps towards a better future. The story of Indigenous peoples in Canada is a tapestry of broken hearts, despair, stifled rage, and an incredible survivance, but it also depicts love, hope, and an enduring reminder reconciliation and relationships cannot happen without acknowledgement of our past as individuals, as peoples, and as a country.

Thursday, June 23, 2016 | 15:30 - 16:30

Truth and Reconciliation: Moving Forward



Dr. Marie Wilson

Dr. Marie Wilson has more than 30 years of professional experience as an award-winning journalist, trainer, and senior executive manager. She has also been a university lecturer, a high school teacher in Africa, a senior executive manager in both federal and territorial Crown Corporations, and an independent contractor and consultant in journalism, program evaluation, and project management. She has lived, studied, and worked in cross-cultural environments for almost 40 years, including Europe, Africa, and various parts of Canada.

As a journalist, Dr. Wilson worked in print, radio, and television as a regional and national reporter, and later as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's senior manager for northern Quebec and the three northern Territories. She was the first television program host of northern Canada's flagship weekly information program, Focus North. Her reports tackled complex issues, from the Quebec sovereignty referendum and national unity debates to the national Constitutional talks of the 1980s; from the settlement of historic Indigenous rights agreements to the state of health in First Nations and Inuit communities; from Papal visits to centennial celebrations of the Riel Rebellion.

As a Regional Director for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Wilson was a pioneer. She launched the first Daily Television News service for northern Canada, against a back-drop of four time zones and ten languages: English, French, and eight indigenous. She developed the Arctic Winter Games and True North Concert series to showcase northern performing artists and traditional indigenous sports for audiences in southern Canada. She fought for the recruitment and development of Indigenous staff and their on-air reflection. She acknowledged staff excellence with the CBC North Awards. She acknowledged the community with program initiatives to support and promote literacy.

A career highlight was to deliver training through the South African Broadcasting Corporation as part of that country's transition to democracy, coinciding with the start-up of South Africa's own Truth and Reconciliation Commission. For several years, she served as an associate board member of what was to become the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). Over the years, she has worked with various other boards and agencies committed to social justice; journalism and civic engagement; community, spiritual and international development; and the well-being of children and youth.

Dr. Wilson is the recipient of a CBC North Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Northerner of the Year Award, and various awards and recognitions for journalism, writing excellence, and work-place safety initiatives. In May 2012, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by St. Thomas University of Fredericton, New Brunswick, in recognition of a professional career "marked by public service and social justice." Dr. Wilson speaks English and French, with some knowledge of Spanish and Sahtu Dene. She and her husband, Stephen Kakfwi, are the proud parents of Kyla, Daylyn and Keenan, and are blessed with four grand-children.