



BC NEIHR Annual Evaluation Report APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021



The Network is generously supported by Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and is led by our three key partners: First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Métis Nation BC (MNBC) and BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC)



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Our Elders

Role of Elders: In privileging Indigenous voices and lived experience, as well as centering cultural knowledge, Council Elders are actively involved in decision making regarding all BC NEIHR policies, programs and activities. Elders are individuals who are respected and honoured by their communities for their wisdom, traditional knowledge, spirituality, life experience and leadership. The BC NEIHR Governing Council Elders act as teachers and role models as well as advisors, providing guidance and support to all members of the Network.



**Roberta Price – Coast Salish,
Snuneymuxw and Cowichan,
Nations**



Barb Hulme- Métis



**Gerry Oleman- St'at'imc
Nation from Tsal'alh**

Impact:

The presence and leadership of community Elders is essential to the work of the BC NEIHR. Elders entrench culturally appropriate Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing in all network endeavours, enacting one of our principles of centering Indigenous Knowledge. Our Elders share traditional teachings that ground us in core values but also plant seeds for innovation.

"Hy'cha O Siem! As Coast Salish Matriarch & Elder, I am honoured & pleased to be welcomed onto the Governing Council with BC NEIHR, I am pleased that we have all joined together in the works that will honour more Indigenous people to be involved in all the works going forward. Many Kind Thanks! to Tara & Caitlin for keeping us all up to date & sharing in the good works in a respectful way. Many kind thanks to everyone involved, O Siem!" Elder Roberta.

Our Network

The Governing Council

The BC NEIHR Governing Council (GC) includes a gender balanced representation of First Nations, Métis and, when possible, Inuit, including community, organizational, academic and geographic representation. The GC also includes representation from each of the three leading partners (*First Nations Health Authority, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and Métis Nation BC*), as well as Elders, community members and Indigenous graduate students. Through a consensus based decision-making process, the GC is tasked with guiding the BC NEIHR and its team on key research priorities and strategic policies related primarily to a) network membership, b) funding programs, c) capacity bridging/strengthening programs, d) partnerships and e) future funding.

The GC members include: Elder Roberta Price, Elder Barb Hulme, Elder Gerry Oleman, Tanya Davoren - Métis Nation BC (MNBC), Leslie Varley - BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), Shannon McDonald – First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Roberta Stout – National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH), Jonathan Boron – Graduate Student at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Evan Adams - Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and Janene Erickson (FNHA).

Process: The GC formally meets three times a year (both online and in-person when permitted). From April 2020-March 2021, the GC engaged in 10 hours of meetings for Network decision-making and strategic planning. In addition to meeting hours, GC members review key documents and communicate with the operation team via email.

Impact: The guiding values and principles of the BC NEIHR are enacted through our governance structure, with Elders and Knowledge Holders guiding the Governing Council. In doing so, we celebrate Indigenous knowledge systems and approaches. It is our practice to have all potential partners meet with the GC, to convey their intentions and receive approval to engage in relationship and collaboration with our Network. To date, leaders from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) and the BC Academic Health Science Network (who host the BC SPOR) have accepted this invitation.

Indicators:

- Governing Council Terms of Reference (i.e., mission, goal and objectives, as well as guiding values and principles): https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/bcneihr/wp-content/uploads/sites/4766/2021/04/Final-Terms-of-Reference_2020.pdf
- Meet the Governing Council YouTube videos: Short biographically videos of Governing Council members, which includes discussion on BC NEIHR design, outcomes and impacts. (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbN69qByf1N1HAJByCn8tssvpA4icdprg>)
- Visits from funding partners:

- GC meeting held on February 17, 2021 with attendance from BC SPOR leadership (Stirling Bryan, President of BC AHSN and Danielle Lavallee, Scientific Director of BC AHSN/BC SUPPORT Unit).
- GC meeting held on October 13, 2020 with attendance from MSFHR leadership (Bev Holmes, President and CEO, MSFHR and Chonnetia Jones, Vice President of Research, MSFHR).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- draft
We have drafted an MOU to guide our collaborations with the BC SPOR - based on general BC NEIHR principles. This document outlines a common vision for our relationship.

Network Membership

To date, we have 110 registered members in our Network. To become a member, interested participants must complete a *Registration Survey* (available online or by request):

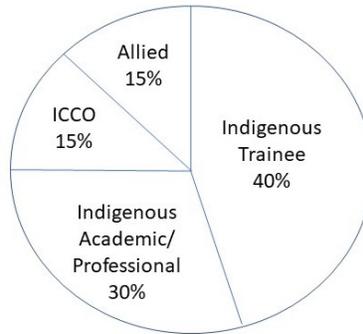
(https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/bcneihr/wp-content/uploads/sites/4766/2021/01/fillable_BC-NEIHR_-_Registration-Survey-3.pdf).

The information collected on the Registration Survey assists us in not only reporting on membership, but also in facilitating relationships as well as finding expertise for peer review and developing resources and supports.

Our membership includes Indigenous academics/professionals, ICCO (*Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations*) members, Indigenous students and trainees as well as allied academics and professionals. Members' network activities vary and include: 1) applying for BC NEIHR funding (*graduate, postdoctoral or ICCO*); 2) reviewing graduate or post-doc funding applications; 3) reviewing ICCO funding applications; 4) developing resources; 5) facilitating and/or participating in training initiatives; 6) partnering on BC NEIHR initiatives, 7) working committees; and 8) international community engagement.

To date, our membership consists of:

- 40% Indigenous trainees (graduate/postdoctoral).
- 30% Indigenous academics and professionals.
- 15% ICCO (*Indigenous community, collective or organization*) members.
- 15% Allies.



We are always looking for ways to increase awareness of our Network. We expect to double our Network membership in 2021 by hosting information sessions, webinars, social media engagements and mentorship opportunities. Specifically, we plan to increase our ICCOs engagement and representation through our Indigenous Research Facilitator Trainee positions (*described below*).

Impact: Our fast growing interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral membership of individuals and organizations are engaged and dedicated to research that is culturally grounded.

2020-2021 Operational Budget

Staff salaries: \$114,000 (*91,200 + 22,800 – includes salary + 14% benefits*)

Elder honorariums: \$2,350

Gifting items: \$78.56

Video editing: \$485

Computer hardware and software: \$1,355.15

Promotion: Logo design (Indigenous artist): \$1000

Network Coordinator attendance at online Indigenous Evaluation Workshops (presented by Johnston Research Inc): \$1,496

Total: \$120,764.71

In-kind

To support our Network Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and one of our Indigenous Research Facilitator Trainees, the University of Victoria's *Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement* (CIRCLE) committed in-kind support in the form of two offices, three desks and three file cabinets, as well as access to a high-quality printer/scanner, communal kitchen and large meeting space. The University of Victoria also committed in-kind phone, internet and video-conferencing services. CIRCLE is housed in the same building as UVic's state-of-the-art Print Centre and, as a

faculty member at UVic, Dr. Loppie had access to in-kind, post-grant research accounting support as well as technical support for BC NEIHR computers, website and internet.

Indigenous Graduate and Postdoctoral Funding

Our scholarship and fellowship programs are generously supported by CIHR. In order to address the BC NEIHR's sustainability, so that it does not rely exclusively on CIHR funding, we have secured additional financial support to increase the funding available through our scholarship and fellowship programs, which includes funding from our affiliated institutions the University of Victoria (UVic) and University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), as well as funds from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR).



Submissions (2020-2021):

- 15 Master's; 18 Doctoral
 - 4 from University of Victoria (UVic)
 - 14 from University of British Columbia (UBC)
 - 7 from Simon Fraser University (SFU)
 - 5 from Royal Roads University (RRU)
 - 2 from Thompson River University (TRU)
 - 1 from University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

Total Graduate Funding Allocated (2020-2021): \$367,500

Doctoral Scholarship (one-year, \$35,000/each):

- Tracy Underwood, UVic
- Lucy Bell, SFU
- Chenoa Cassidy-Matthews, UBC
- Corrina Sparrow, UBC
- Cheryl Inkster, UBC
- Justin Turner, UBC
- Penina Sara-Lynn Harding, UNBC

Master's Scholarships (one-year, \$17,500/each):

- Shannon Field, UBC
- Jilleun Tenning, UVic
- Marion Erickson, TRU
- Brandi Berry, SFU
- Jessica Key, UBC
- Jacob Tourand, RRU
- Riley Bizzotto, UBC

Process: Eligibility to apply for a BC NEIHR scholarship or fellowship includes: identify as Indigenous (*First Nations, Métis or Inuit*), be studying at a British Columbia institution, and be conducting research either with an ICCO (*Indigenous community, collective or organization*) or on the topic of Indigenous health and wellness (broadly defined in wholistic terms). All application materials, including detailed overview and instruction documents, as well as answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), were available on our website (www.uvic.ca/bcneihr) or by request. The Call for Applications (November 1st, 2020) was announced and widely distributed by e-blasts, newsletter, social media pages, connecting with mentors and other networks, and reaching out to departments and centres of institutions.

We ensured that applicants had appropriate mentorship in the preparation of their submissions by offering an on-line Zoom seminar on how to apply for BC NEIHR scholarships and fellowships. This seminar provided an overview and instructions, as well as an opportunity for students to ask questions. Additionally, short online video-based resources, such as learning modules on proposal writing and navigating funding agencies, were created and made available through the BC NEIHR YouTube Channel: @ BC NEIHR. Applicants were also linked to our Network Coordinator and to the Indigenous Mentorship Network of the Pacific Northwest (IMN PN) for further support.

Each submission was reviewed by the Operational Team for eligibility and completeness before moving forward to the review committee. The review committee consisted of 16 Indigenous and allied academics/professionals and ICCO members. Each submission was reviewed and scored by two reviewers. Additionally, we followed an *iterative, developmental review process* whereby applicants submitted their proposal for initial review and either (a) received recommendations for improvement, revision and immediate resubmission, or (b) received approval for full review.

Impact:

Indigenous students and post-doctoral fellows across BC face additional burdens related to financial, family, community and cultural responsibilities. Support, in the form of scholarships and fellowships, can ease some of these burdens and ensure that students and trainees experience a more equitable foundation upon which to complete their studies and research.

The BC NEIHR scholarship and fellowship program represents a strategic investment in high quality, culturally and contextually-relevant, Indigenous-led health research and capacity strengthening that will contribute to new knowledge and draw more Indigenous students into the research process.



Penina Sara-Lynn Harding, Funded UNBC doctoral student, UNBC campus



Lucy Bell, Funded SFU doctoral student, inlet of Old Massett

Indicators (3-minute open-ended questionnaire by email)- BC Graduate student voices:

“It’s an honour to receive the 2020-2021 BC NEIHR Doctoral Scholarship. This award comes at the data collection and analysis stages of my doctorate, and it will allow me to spend more meaningful time with my peers in research and study participants, and focus my energy on delivering important findings to community and leadership in the province. The BC NEIHR Doctoral Scholarship has gifted me time and space to grow. Time to spend on my professional development, and space to develop meaningful recommendations to move forward from the pandemic for Indigenous young people who use drugs in British Columbia.” Funded Doctoral student.

“I am honoured to be a NEIHR scholarship recipient. This award is meaningful to me and I am so touched that NEIHR also sees the connection between museums, reconciliation and healing. This award gives me the opportunity to focus and develop the Haida museology practice by, for and with my Haida community. I recently presented my dissertation research proposal to my academic advisory and the Haida Repatriation Committee. My proposal was accepted by the Committee and my Advisory. Presenting to both my Academic Advisors and my Haida Advisors to me was an act of reconciliation. With the support of NEIHR, I am able to reconnect and ground my dissertation on Haida Gwaii. Ham.aa!”

Although I had to isolate for 2 weeks, I feel like being able to travel home to HaIda Gwaii helped bring my thinking to another level. I can better think like a Haida scholar when I'm home on HaIda Gwaii doing the deep thinking! I will slowly and carefully reach out to community members I wish to interview and make a future plan for my archival research on HaIda Gwaii for when I have both my vaccinations and when I know my interview participants are fully vaccinated and comfortable with face-to-face interviews. NEIHR funding helps make this important connection to my homeland!

I was invited to a Haida Health Centre to learn about the second edition of the HaIda birth story book. I was looped into doing a little research into traditional ways of childbirth and midwifery and I am going to help look for Haida belongings in museums that refer to children, childbirth and origin stories. I am thrilled to participate and give back in a small way to the community.”
Funded Doctoral student

“Receiving the award will benefit my research and community. Having the award allows me to take the important necessary time to build meaningful and respectful relationships in my research process with the Métis community. The award supports me to be able to focus on my research and community engagement. Thank you for this opportunity and support.” Funded Doctoral student

“This doctoral scholarship means that I can start my field work in the Fall 2021 semester. The dissertation proposal I am working on finalizing started as my approved Master’s thesis proposal in December 2019. It has been a challenge to find any funding which supports research in the field of Indigenous Environmental Planning, and I have been searching since January 2018. The BC NEIHR Doctoral Scholarship will provide the funds I need to pay my honorariums, research travel expenses, feasts, virtual transcription training and work for a few of my community members. I will be able to employ Esk’etemc artists for the final creative aspects of my research.

This funding also provides me with a personal income supplement which means I do not need to work 2-3 jobs to cover my family expenses. I am a mother of 4, and while 3 of my children are now young adults, they are each pursuing post-secondary studies and still need my financial backing. My youngest child is now 8 years old and has spent 6 years of her life on the UNBC campus with me as I progressed through my bachelors, Master’s, and now my PhD.

Thank You BC NEIHR and the UNBC for your financial support and the encouragement this funding gives to me as an emerging Indigenous researcher.” Funded Doctoral student

“The BC NEIHR Master’s Scholarship Program was a huge honour to receive. The funding will allow me to complete my graduate program and dive deep into Indigenous employee inclusion for the betterment of future generations of Indigenous employees. This funding allows me to focus on my education by removing some of the financial burden. It will make my graduate experience so much better without the additional pressures. I am extremely grateful.” Funded Master’s student.

*“O SIÁM NE SCÁLEĆE,
I am ecstatic about receiving the British Columbia Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (BC NEIHR) scholarship. This award will help me as a University of Victoria PhD student, in the school of Child and Youth Care. It will also facilitate my research that will bring a healing framework that documents trials of healing*

through story first to my children, grandchildren and then also to my community. I also feel heard and supported that what I presented is on its way to becoming a reality.

HÍSWĪKE SI, IEM (Thank you to all you Highly respected ones)". Funded Doctoral student.

"I am most excited that this funding also connects me with other new Indigenous researchers and builds a community. I'm excited that there is so much space being held for Indigenous knowledge!" Funded Master's student

"It is such an honour to receive a BC NEIHR Doctoral Scholarship. The support from BC NEIHR gives me confidence to pursue a research path and be a role model to other people in my family and community. The scholarship will also allow me to fully devote myself to my research without worrying about paying my bills, and the funds will enable me to travel home to see my family.

Being a BC NEIHR scholarship recipient makes me confident that my doctoral research is valued by other Indigenous researchers. I will bring this confidence to working hard on my research project.

For my Indigenous research partner organization Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS), my success in the BC NEIHR scholarship competition is a testament to the excellent research environment CSFS facilitates. For my own Métis community, I know there is a ripple effect; when one Métis person succeeds, it uplifts the whole Métis Nation.

I'm so excited to gain skills during my PhD which will hopefully build towards a long career in Indigenous community-focused research. Receiving an award like the BC NEIHR Doctoral Scholarship will make me more likely to receive additional funding in the future, such as research grants, which will not only help me in my goals, but also help the communities with whom I partner. I want to extend a big maarsii (thank you in Michif) to BC NEIHR and the funders of its Indigenous graduate student scholarship program." Funded Doctoral student

Future Graduate and Postdoctoral Funding (2021-2022):

The next Call for Applications will be November 1st, 2021 (deadline February 1st, 2022).

ICCO Funding

Our collective **goal** is to increase and enhance ICCO-led (*Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations*) health research in BC and Canada through the following **objectives**: 1) facilitate ICCOs in leading health research and Knowledge Sharing and Mobilization (KSM) that reflects their values, priorities and approaches; and 2) provide funding to support ICCOs who undertake Indigenous health research and KSM in BC.

At the request of BC ICCOs and in response to restrictions on research resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020-2021, the BC NEIHR launched the Community Health or Research Needs Assessment Fund (CHRNA). The objective of the CHRNA was to support BC ICCOs to undertake a rapid needs assessment of their current health priorities or research capacities.

Total ICCO Funding Awarded (2020-2021): \$67,860

Recipients of ICCO Funding (2020-2021):

- Kwakiutl First Nation
- K'omoks First Nation
- Ekw'í7tl Indigenous Doula Collective
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Klahoose First Nation
- Snuneymuxw Hulit Lelum
- Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty COVID 19 Care Committee

Process: The CHRNA applications were reviewed and scored internally by the Operational Team.

Impact: Communities are calling for ICCO leadership in research – so that knowledge about Indigenous health will not continue to be possessed exclusively by mainstream institutions, creating the potential for further marginalization and stigmatization of Indigenous peoples. Our focus on local Indigenous knowledge systems, cultures and contexts, provides an excellent foundation for balanced health research that supports ICCO self-determination.

Indicators (3-minute open-ended questionnaire by email):

“We receive a lot of requests from institutions and organizations to participate in research, but until now we have not had the resources to undertake a formal process of strategic visioning for how we partner on these requests. We are excited about receiving the CHRNA funds because it will enhance our capacity for participating in research projects on our own terms, according to our own values and vision as Indigenous birth workers.” Danette Jubinville, Director of Research and Education, Ekw'í7tl Indigenous Doula Collective, BC NEIHR funded ICCO.

“We are very excited to be able to focus on collecting feedback from our Youth living locally both on and off reserve. The information collected will allow us to recreate our Youth Program based on current day needs and interests of our youth! I enjoyed working with Stephanie! I was so excited about all the ideas popping into my head and she was able to help me organize them on paper! Looking forward to this work.” BC NEIHR funded ICCO

“I can only speak for myself, but from my research standpoint; working with community led groups such as the ICCO & Indigenous Food Sovereignty group sustains my passion to continually center communities’ voices in upholding research by and for Indigenous peoples led by Indigenous women who are engaged in rematriation of Indigenous knowledge systems. Leaders like Dawn and her team are firmly rooted in disrupting colonial approaches to health and wellness that show us the power of working in the collective.” ... “I share Lisa's sentiments and expressions of gratitude in the way this funding will help our Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty to appreciate and inquire into the strengths of working in a collective land-based approach to health and wellness during times of multiple overlapping crises of coloniality, climate change and COVID-19.” BC NEIHR funded ICCO

Future ICCO Funding (2021-2022):

The BC NEIHR is currently creating the application materials for its Research Development Grants, Knowledge Sharing and Mobilization (KSM) Grants and Pilot Project Grants. These funding calls will be launched in the summer and fall of 2021. Total funding budget is \$165,000. These funding calls will directly support culturally relevant and community-led research activities.

Indigenous Research Trainee/Facilitators (IRTFs)

The IRTFs' facilitative role is integral to developing and promoting Indigenous-led health research within BC and building ICCO success in major funding applications to external agencies. The IRTFs provide guidance and support to ICCOs with the following activities: a) determining appropriate funding opportunities, b) completing applications for BC NEIHR funding, c) completing external health research grant applications, c) developing research budgets, d) connecting with appropriate academic and other research partners, e) communicating research ideas in grant applications, and f) innovative and integrative KSM strategies. They also enhance their own knowledge and experience of ICCO-based research through their local engagement.



Stephanie Day is Haudenosaunee from Oneida Nation of the Thames, English and German. She is currently finishing her MA in Counselling Psychology at UVic on the traditional territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples.

Process: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we hired just one IRTF during our first year, during which Steph supported ICCO capacity bridging, provided information and resources about various research initiatives within BC, partnered with the BC SUPPORT Unit, built relationships with national and provincial Indigenous organizations (e.g. *Indigenous Works*, *BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society* and *Native Women's Association of Canada*), and developed extensive training materials for future IRTFs.

Steph and the Network Coordinator employed several formats for facilitating ICCO capacity bridging including telephone, email, Zoom meetings, resource lists, and online learning modules

hosted on our YouTube Channel (@BC NEIHR). In-person capacity bridging activities were not permitted given COVID-19 restrictions.

Impact:

As a result of Steph's activities, we increased awareness of BC NEIHR supports among ICCOs across BC. In collaboration with Steph, seven ICCOs submitted successful grant applications to the BC NEIHR. In addition, Steph contributed to learning among research facilitators within the BC SUPPORT Unit about engaging with ICCOs about research.

Indicators:

- Steph attended bi-weekly meetings with the BC SPOR Regional Centre Team in which the regional team provided supportive information and resources pertaining to Island Health research initiatives and patient-oriented research within BC.
- Steph circulated Community Health or Research Needs Assessment (CHRNA) funding call in the BC AHSN newsletter to ensure the information had a broad reach.
- Steph facilitated the application process and CHRNA fund information outreach to 200+ First Nations communities and ICCOs in BC.
- Steph supported Dr. Theone Paterson and colleagues at UVic (Clinical Psychology) by successfully connecting them with the total number of participants they were seeking for an Indigenous working group to inform the *Impacts of COVID-19 of Canadian's Mental Health – Survey Creation Working Groups* Development.
- Steph attended research navigator meetings with the BC SUPPORT Unit every three weeks as of February 2021.
- Steph continues to form relationships with ICCOs in BC and raise awareness of the presence of the BC NEIHR via email and phone introductions.
- Steph regularly updates an employment and training manual for future Indigenous Health Research Trainees/Facilitators for the five regional health hubs in BC, which the BC NEIHR is hoping to recruit in 2021.
- Steph participated in BC NEIHR Governing Council meeting on February 17th to provide an update on completed activities to date.
- Steph wrote a blog post to post on the BC NEIHR website and social media channels related to Indigenous student experience of graduate school and mental health; relatable for many Indigenous graduate student trainees.
- Steph connected with the Native Women's Association of Canada and acted upon their request to share information throughout our networks regarding participants sought out for Indigenous Maternity Sharing Circles they were conducting.
- Steph and the BC NEIHR Network Coordinator are developing PowerPoint slides and meeting agendas for monthly Zoom support meetings with all successful applicants to the CHRNA Fund. These meetings are intended to build a sense of community support, and to ensure her accessibility and that of the BC NEIHR Network Coordinator to provide useful information, advice, feedback, networking, and materials that can support the proposed work by each ICCO. Potential topics of these meetings include survey development and design, ethics processes, qualitative interviewing, data analysis, et. These meetings are optional for the ICCOs.
- Based on ICCO feedback, Steph and BC NEIHR Network Coordinator conducted an environmental scan of Indigenous data sovereignty (IDS) research to create a helpful document

for ICCOs seeking guidance on IDS. They also interviewed Indigenous trainee Danette Jubinville, an Indigenous doula, MSc. Health Sciences, PhD candidate, to create a video learning module on the topic of IDS.

- Steph was contacted by First Nations Health Authority and Gynecological Cancer Initiative (GCI) to support the GCI in building relationships with ICCOs, Indigenous academics, and allied academics and organizations in BC. Steph emailed relevant people regarding this proposed engagement and will be circulating GCI promotional materials within our networks when received.
- The GCI expressed interest in forming a paid internship for an Indigenous graduate student/trainee within their organization. The IMN PN has offered to pay up to \$2,000 in a Research Experience Stipend for an Indigenous graduate student. We are exploring whether the GCI may match these funds for a paid internship.

“I have deeply appreciated engaging with ICCOs in BC through my role as a Community Research Liaison with the BC NEIHR. I have enjoyed fostering relationships with ICCOs and responding directly to their community health, wellness, and research needs, as well as progressing my own knowledge, skills, and abilities in my personal, professional, and academic journey in the sphere of Indigenous holistic health and wellness research, practice, and teaching.” Steph Day

Future of IRTFs: We are deeply grateful to Steph for all her work and happy that she has been accepted to undertake doctoral training at the University of Toronto. In 2021 the BC NEIHR will be hiring and training a full complement of five IRTF positions that will be regionally based (hosted within Health Authorities) and co-funded by our partnership at the BC SPOR.

Partnerships/Collaborations

With close links to the *Indigenous Mentorship Network of the Pacific Northwest* (IMN PN) and meaningful engagement with diverse partners, we offer myriad opportunities for ethical and impactful partnerships between Indigenous communities and health researchers, scholars, research administrators, policy and decision makers, and other parties with an interest in respectful Indigenous health research. Through dynamic collaborations, our diverse team of researchers, communities, collectives, organizations, and students contribute to an effective response to the most relevant health issues facing Indigenous Peoples in BC.

Micheal Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR):

- Collaborations on resources for students. YouTube learning module (https://youtu.be/U9S3l_RxwLc): Navigating Graduate and Postdoctoral Funding Applications- An Insider Look into a Funding Agency. 129 views.
- Funding: \$133,900+ per year to top-up Master’s, Doctoral and Postdoctoral funding to CIHR levels. Total contribution over five years: over \$669,500.
- MSFHR and BC NEIHR are currently developing a self-reflective dialogue on what Indigenous culturally safe relationships between research organizations looks like based on

their experiences together. It is hoped that this dialogue will make an important contribution to the Indigenous culturally safety literature.

- Facilitated relationship between MSFHR and Indigenous Cultural Safety Consultant Harley Eagle.

Indicator:

“We feel immense gratitude for the opportunity to nurture and grow our relationship with BC NEIHR through the process of collaboration, getting to know one another, and being together in this work. As BC’s health research funding agency, we are humbled by the privilege of being among the partners on BC NEIHR’s important scholarship program for Indigenous graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Yet this partnership is just one part of our story, as it is through our relationship with BC NEIHR that we are experiencing the most transformational impacts. The team at BC NEIHR have been patient and generous teachers for us in our ongoing journey of learning and practicing what Indigenous cultural safety looks like in action for us as a health research funder. We are deeply appreciative of our relationship with BC NEIHR and are committed to tending and strengthening this relationship over the long term, in ways that will contribute to realizing their vision of providing supportive research environments for Indigenous health research led by, and grounded in, Indigenous communities in BC.” Zena Sharman, Director, Strategy (on behalf of MSFHR).

BC Support Unit (SPOR): Contributed funding for the 2020-2021 part-time IRTF position (\$25,000/year). They will top-up funding for all 5 IRTF positions from 2021-2026 (totaling \$125,000/year). The BC NEIHR has funds for half-time positions, this contribution will make it possible for us to offer these positions at full time.

University of Victoria (UVic): The University of Victoria has committed \$200,000 over five years to Indigenous Master’s and Doctoral scholarships (students must be attending UVic): \$20K per year x 5 years from the Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Development, with matching funds from the Office of the Vice President of Research.

University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC): \$15,000 contribution toward a UNBC Doctoral scholarship for 2020-2021.

Other Partnerships:

- IMN PN: Collaborating on supports for Indigenous trainees, such as monthly Zoom Talks and Indigenous Graduate Student Research Showcase (*described below*).
- Island Health: Collaborated to create a Research Experience apprenticeship for an Indigenous MPH student to contribute to the Evidence Guided Anti-racism and Cultural Humility Strategy at Island Health (leveraged funding for this student from the IMN PN).

Indigenous Sex & Gender (ISG)

The BC NEIHR is committed to promoting and integrating Indigenous Sex and Gender (ISG) considerations throughout the life of the Network. Some of these considerations include: training modules/resources on ISG theories and methods for our members; advice on filling out CIHR and other organizations application sections on Sex and Gender; ISG in research design, methodology and analysis, including how ISG can be interpreted and understood; and gender and inclusion advocacy.



Justin Brooks is Sitansisk (St Mary's First Nation) and a graduate student at Royal Roads University. Justin is a recipient of an IMN PN Research Experience Award to help develop ISG materials and resources for BC NEIHR and IMN PN network members, including resource lists, learning modules and webinars.

Process: Beginning in 2021, using a community engagement strategy that engages Elders, youth and community leaders and members, Justin will assist us in creating materials to inform membership, stakeholders, and allies around ISG topics. Community engagement will be the pivotal venture to ensure that the documents and media created through this project reflect the diversity of BC Indigenous peoples.

Impact:

Justin will help develop, evaluate and reflect on the advancement of ISG equity in training, mentorship and funding applications.

Indicators (ISG Journal):

"My life's passion is to support and hold up my people whether or not it's my Wolostogiyik nation or other Indigenous groups. I am a firm believer in "two-eyed seeing" and finding a way to be a strong Indigenous person grounded in ceremony, language, and the land, but to also be highly educated in the Western way. My hope in this Sex and Gender research and project is for it to be an opportunity to hold up Indigenous peoples and communities through education and information." Justin Brooks

Monthly Zoom Talks

Our Monthly Zoom Talks represent a BC NEIHR-IMN PN collaboration in which Indigenous graduate and early career researchers formally share their work with peers, mentors, community

members and other researchers. The presentations are hosted on our YouTube Channel (@ BC NEIHR).



Julianne Barry



Christina Chakanyuka
beading



Christina Chakanyuka

Impact:

The Monthly Zoom Talks represent capacity bridging for viewers as well as professional development for presenters as it provides an opportunity to strengthen Indigenous graduate students' and new investigators' presentation skills. Furthermore, it highlights/showcases their health and wellness research work to our network and a broader research audience.

Indicators:

- YouTube total views to date: 167
 - (December 19, 2020). *Can Blending Together Traditional and Western Knowledge Improve Diabetes and Obesity Outcomes in Urban Indigenous Communities? Point of Care Project* by Julianne Barry- postdoc at UBC Okanagan 33 views. <https://youtu.be/t4yztK2bQ-w>
 - (January 20, 2021). *Anxiety Symptoms and Theory of Mind in Healthy Younger and Older Adults* by McKenzie Braley- Master's student at SFU 104 views. <https://youtu.be/4xWPwiNuLHg>
 - (March 29, 2021). *Experiential Encounters: How Indigenous-led Mentorship Promotes Indigenous Health Research and Leadership* by Christina Chakanyuka- UVic doctoral student 30 views. <https://youtu.be/XvOIkcgz3Qw>
- 5-minute feedback surveys:

"It was a great experience. I felt comfortable and respected throughout the full process. I appreciate meeting in advance and knowing what would happen during the presentation and after. The organizers were so great and so friendly."
Zoom Talk Participant

“[I liked] the experienced facilitation, opportunity to share insights/experience with Indigenous-led health equity research, and the audience engagement/continued feedback... Such a great series! If your team is interested/able to support Indigenous-led research programs in training or offering advice on how you organize these events so smoothly, it would be awesome!” Zoom Talk Participant

Indigenous Graduate Student Research Showcase

On January 1, 2021, the BC NEIHR and IMN PN collaboratively launched an interdisciplinary **Indigenous Graduate Student Research Showcase** of papers focused on Indigenous wellness. For this special showcase, we invited Indigenous Master and Doctoral students from British Columbia universities to submit their work. In addition to printed copies, the BC NEIHR and IMN PN will host the showcase on their websites in August 2021. Audiences will include: the campus community, Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations, as well as funding agencies and government agencies. Eligible submissions included:

- Novel theoretical papers (e.g., applying Indigenous theories in research)
- Indigenous methodology papers
- Indigenous community-led research protocols
- The findings of Indigenous student research

Students whose work is presented in the showcase will receive a \$200 stipend (funded by the IMN PN).

Submissions: We received six submissions that moved on to peer review. Those included submissions from the University of British Columbia, Royal Roads University, and Simon Fraser University.

Editorial and Peer Review process: Working closely with our Indigenous Editor, Robline Davey, who is an Indigenous Doctoral student from SFU, students received one-on-one mentoring about how to properly format a submission for a peer reviewed publication. Robline’s position represents our practices of cascading mentorship, in which she (a doctoral student) was provided the opportunity to gain experience as an Editor (*with mentorship and support from the BC NEIHR operational team*), as well as mentor more junior students in preparing manuscripts for publication.

The peer reviewers include six senior doctoral students from BC as well as members from the Operational Team. A short YouTube learning module was created to guide the peer reviewers through the process; as well, they were provided with a written document on tips for reviewing. Following an iterative process, the role of each reviewer was to provide comments and suggestions on the content as well as offer ways to strengthen written presentation of the work. Each submission was assessed by two reviewers. Both the Editor and peer reviewers received a stipend for their time (funded by the IMN PN).

Impact: The showcase (to be published August 2021) will provide a forum for BC Indigenous graduate researchers’ work and was an opportunity for them to receive peer mentorship and strengthen their writing skills. The Editor and peer reviewers were provided with mentorship on how to review manuscripts from a strength-based, Indigenous perspective.

Indicators: In August 2021, we will host a webinar to launch the publication, when each student and the Editor will be invited to share their experience and how it impacted their training.

Committees and Network Engagements

BC NEIHR Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee was formed in 2020 to create the BC NEIHR Evaluation Framework. Membership includes: Rob Hancock (UVic), Robline Davey (SFU), Pat Camp (UBC) and Bev Pomeroy (Fraser Health), as well as Tara Erb and Charlotte Loppie from the Operational Team. The Evaluation Framework (including model/approach, data gathering tools, outcomes and indicators) is in its final draft and will be publicly shared in 2021.

The BC NEIHR Evaluation Framework: The BC NEIHR is guided by Indigenous values emerging from many culturally and geographically diverse communities in BC; these values are the foundation of our work. Through intensive collaboration, we have developed a useful and culturally relevant framework, which will allow us to appropriately measure and illustrate the processes, outputs and outcomes of BC NEIHR values, relationships, resources, programs and activities.

Process: The Evaluation Committee meets monthly or bi-monthly. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Evaluation Committee engaged in nine hours of meetings to develop the framework. In addition to meeting hours, there is ongoing operation teamwork and communication via email. To ensure the validity, useability and cultural appropriateness of our framework, we commissioned Reciprocal Consulting (<http://www.reciprocalconsulting.ca/>), an Indigenous-led organization that specializes in culturally responsive program evaluation and research, to provide feedback on our objectives, tools, indicators and outcomes.

Indigenous Cultural Safety in Research (ICSR) Committee

The ICSR Committee was formed in late 2020 and is tasked with designing and piloting ICS initiatives and resources specifically for research settings (*e.g., Research funders, Research Ethics Boards, peer reviewers, etc.*). Membership includes: Cheryl Ward (PHSA), Billie Allan (UVic), Jessica Humchitt (FNHA), and Dion Thevarge (FNHA), as well as Charlotte Loppie and Tara Erb from the Operational Team. The ICSR Framework for BC NEIHR trainings and programs draft is in progress.

Context: During the development of the BC NEIHR proposal to CIHR, Dr. Loppie and colleagues hosted a series of events that brought together approximately 100 community members, Elders/Knowledge Holders, students, researchers and institutional partners for day-long discussions about Indigenous research in BC. Participants strongly recommended that University Research Ethics Boards (REBs) become more committed, responsive and trained to assess: (a) the nature and strength of Indigenous community-academic research partnerships, (b) strategies to mitigate power imbalances, (c) measures to ensure community ownership and control, and (d) researchers' cultural safety, competency and accountability. They also recommended that academic researchers receive training to better prepare

them to engage in ethical research with Indigenous communities, which is supported in the literature (Moore et al., 2017; Morton Ninomiya & Pollock, 2017). The ICSR Committee is building on these recommendations.

Process:

We are in the process of finalizing a framework for developing and implementing ICS initiatives within research system and structures. The ICSR Committee meets monthly or bi-monthly. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the ICSR Committee engaged in three hours of meetings for developing the ICSR approach. In addition to meeting hours, there is ongoing operational teamwork and communication with the Committee via email.

Operations Team (OT)

With guidance from the Governing Council, the Operations Team (OT) is responsible for implementation of BC NEIHR policies, programs and activities. The OT includes Dr. Loppie (NPI), Jeff Reading (SFU), Evan Adams (Indigenous Services Canada), Shannon McDonald (FNHA), Amanda Ward (FNHA), Margo Greenwood (UNBC, NCCIH) and Nadine Caron (UNBC, UBC), as well as the Tara Erb (Network Coordinator). With support from the IRTFs and partners, the OT collaborates to fulfill the following responsibilities: policy implementation, program development and implementation; partnership and funding development. The OT meets monthly via teleconference as well as during the annual GC in-person meeting.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, the OT engaged in 15 hours of meetings for Network implementation of policies, programs and activities. In addition to meeting hours, there is ongoing work and communication via email.

Social Media Engagement

To broaden our reach, BC NEIHR Facebook (@BC.NEIHR), Twitter (@BCNEIHR), Instagram (@BCNEIHR) and YouTube Channel (@BC NEIHR) have been developed and a monthly e-newsletter (via Adobe Spark) is circulated to the Network as well as posted and archived on the web pages/social media accounts.

Process: In terms of appraising the success of our communication strategy, we track online use through a variety of approaches (e.g., *Google, Twitter, and Facebook tracking, etc.*). Using document review framework and analytics, we review: network updates/news-blasts, email strings, Twitter feeds, Facebook postings, and other communication materials.

Impact:

Social media engagement broadens our reach and raises awareness of our Network and its opportunities as well as other opportunities that would benefit ICCOs and Indigenous trainees.

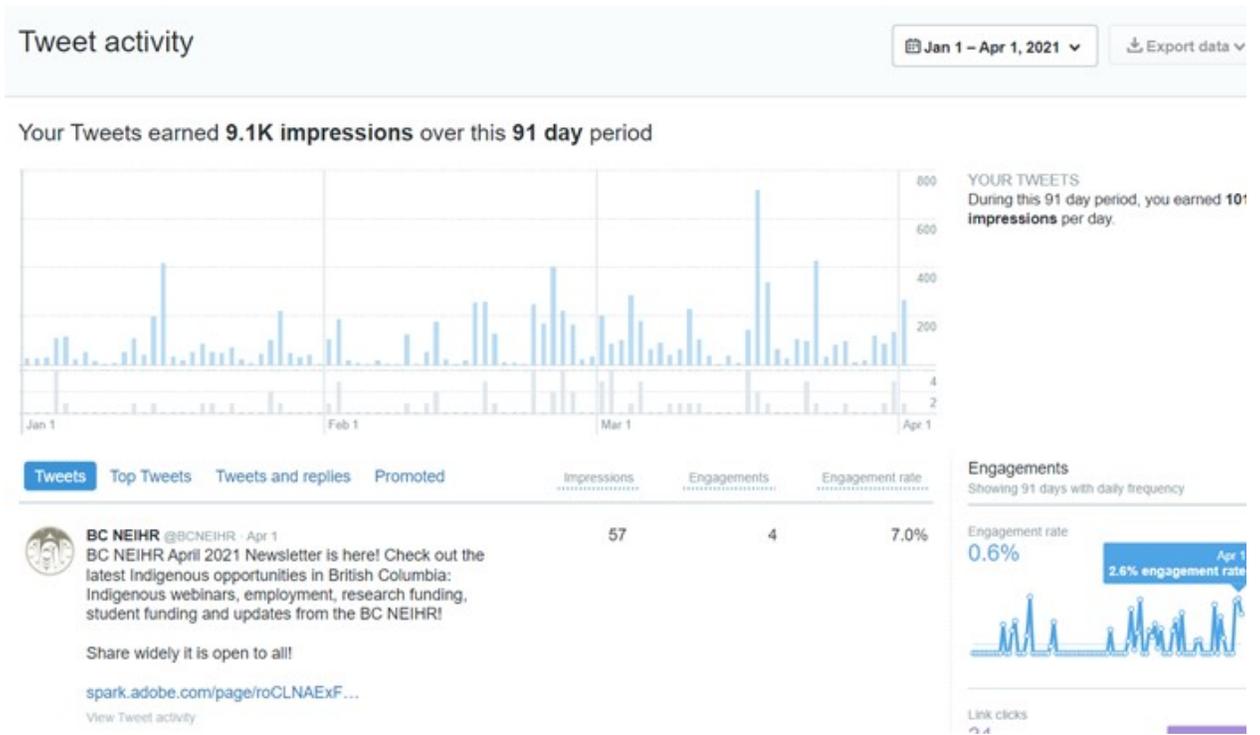
Indicators:

Twitter Analytics:

- Twitter followers: 55
- Significant increase in Tweet impressions and profile visits in 2020.



- High Tweet activity maintained in 2021.



Facebook Analytics:

- Facebook followers: 95
- Significant increase in Facebook page reach in 2020



- High post engagement and people reached on posts related to Indigenous graduate student supports.

E.g., 640 People Reached on December 4, 2020.



E.g., 675 People Reached on January 4, 2021.



E.g., 356 People Reached on March 29, 2021.

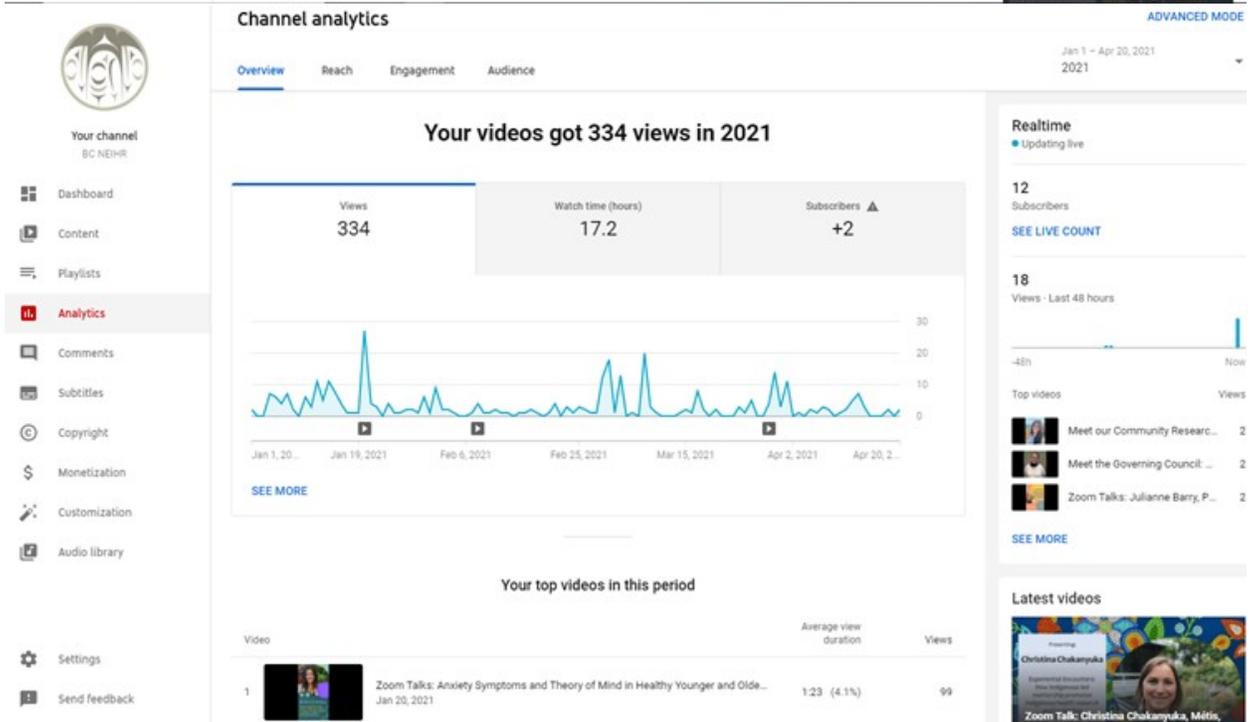
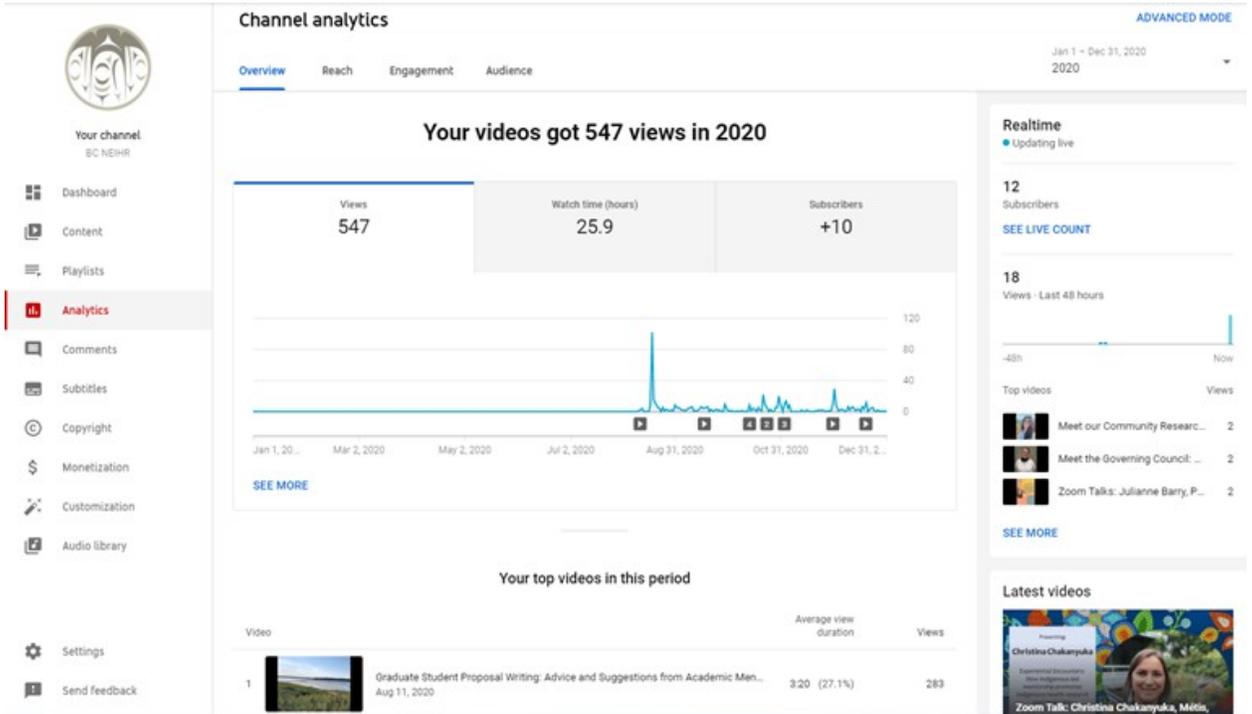


E.g., 308 People Reached on April 28, 2021.



YouTube Analytics

- YouTube subscribers: 13
- High number of video views in 2020 and 2021.



Newsletter Analytics

- Monthly newsletter views in 2020

June	141
July	89
August	101
September	193
October	157
November	205
December	172

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