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waniska

## ***Pewaseskwan* at USask signs MOU with FSIN to create research alliance**



(FSIN Vice Chief Pratt and Dr. Alexandra King (MD) presenting gifts to one another after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Photo: Kristen McEwen)

The FSIN and *pewaseskwan*—the Indigenous Wellness Research Group (IWRG) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask)—have signed a memorandum of understanding to commemorate the start of a research alliance. They are collaborating in developing health-related projects of mutual interest, including research to support the development of a First Nations primary and public health care system in Saskatchewan. More info can be found [here](#).

## **2Spirit Transgender Remembrance Full Moon Ceremony**

Hosted by Ka Ni Kanichihk, Two-Spirited Peoples of Manitoba and Manitoba Moon Voices, the event was to remember murdered and missing transgender people on November 19, 2021 in Winnipeg, MB. The diverse crowd of attendees gathered around the sacred fire at the Rainbow Resource Center and recited more than 400 names of Trans and Two-Spirit people who were murdered worldwide in the previous year.

## **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Assistant Research Manager for the *waniska* Centre at USask to assist with the development of program objectives, project grants and implementation, and reporting regarding the Centre's goals. Details available [here](#).

Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) in land- and culture-based Indigenous healing and wellness. The fellow will undertake independent research on land-based research for Indigenous health and wellness as it relates to HIV, HCV and STBBI and other related comorbidities. That posting, can be found [here](#).

Research Assistant – *pewaseskwan* – the Indigenous Wellness Research Group is looking for an RA to join its team in Vancouver to work on projects on HIV/HCV, wellness and healing in the DTES. Apply [here](#).





## ***Waniska* Guidance Council**

The *waniska* Guidance Council is now complete! Four Knowledge Holders and four youth from Saskatchewan and Manitoba form the intergenerational council to guide the Centre on research and initiatives. The Council will meet as a group for the first time in February. The members of the Council are:

- Memphis Nonaime, Gordon First Nation, SK
- Audrey Eyahpaise, Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation, SK
- Calvin Racette, Indian Head, SK
- Shayla Sayer-Brabant, Regina/Poundmaker Cree Nation, SK
- Nadine Ross, Manto Sipi Cree Nation/Winnipeg, MB
- Gayle Pruden, Little Saskatchewan First Nation/Winnipeg, MB
- Leslie Spillett, Wekusko/Winnipeg, MB
- Tyson Peters, South Indian Lake/Winnipeg, MB

## ***Mâmâwihitowin***

*Mâmâwihitowin* means a “gathering of people” and the term has been given to us by Knowledge Holder Harvey Thunderchild. People with lived/living experience, community researchers, Knowledge Holders, youth, etc. that will form Community Guiding Circles for *waniska* projects will be given the opportunity to increase their research skills through curriculum for their involvement in Indigenous-led research.

We will be creating an Advisory Committee to assist with adopting appropriate curriculum and understanding what needs to be developed for people with lived experience, Elders, Knowledge Holders, community researchers, etc. to confidently partake in Indigenous-focused research projects.

If you or someone you know would like to join the Advisory Committee, take part in training and/or share your voice in our research projects, please contact us!

- Dallas Montpetit: [dmontpetit@allnationshope.ca](mailto:dmontpetit@allnationshope.ca)
- Melissa Morris: [mmorris@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:mmorris@kanikanichihk.ca)

## **We want to hear from you!**

One of our aims is to provide networking opportunities and learn from organizations on their programs, projects and initiatives.

Please let us know about your programs, projects and initiatives so that we can learn and share these wise practices with other organizations.

## **Contact us**

[www.waniskacentre.ca/contact](http://www.waniskacentre.ca/contact)

[info@waniskacentre.ca](mailto:info@waniskacentre.ca)

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# Research Updates

## Research Projects supported by *waniska*

### *CanHepC Prairie Region Roadmap*

The Prairie Roadmap team will be joined by Taylor Bassingthwaite (TB) Consulting Group. The Advisory Committee has provided guidance on the Core Planning Group's project plan. Meetings with TB Consulting and the National Coordinator to solidify the plan and develop a letter of agreement. The project is funded by the CanHepC Network.

### *CanHepC National Indigenous Roadmap*

The National Indigenous Roadmap team will create guiding principles to inform the approach for the implementation of strategies with Indigenous people in Canada for hepatitis C. We are in pursuit of a consultant for this project. The project is funded by the CanHepC Network.

### *Keeping Our Fires Together*

Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, this five-year project will develop and deliver a tele-monitoring program for HIV/HCV peer support workers across Saskatchewan. Using *etuaptmumk* (Two-eyed Seeing approach), it will provide a community of care that offers peers ongoing support and wellness training, culturally responsive activities and case management.

## Do you have ideas for research projects?

We are always looking for guidance on community-based, Indigenous-led research projects that help individuals at risk, or with lived experience, of HIV, hepatitis C or other STBBI. We want to prioritize land-based research that promotes healing and wellness for Indigenous communities. Please contact Jaida at [jaida.beaudin@usask.ca](mailto:jaida.beaudin@usask.ca) if you would like to work with us to develop a research project.

## Requests for proposals

We are looking for a consultant for our Canadian Hepatitis C Network Roadmaps to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030. Please click here for more information: [Consultant for CanHepC National Indigenous Roadmap](#)





## ***Waniska* Guiding Oversight Council**

Alexandra King, Chair, Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness, USask

Malcolm King, Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research, USask

Laverne Gervais, Ka Ni Kanichihk, MB

John Kim, Public Health Agency of Canada, MB

Alexandria Wilson, Aboriginal Education Research Centre, USask

Linda Larcombe, Manitoba HIV-STBBI Collective Impact Network, UofM

Albert McLeod, Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, MB

Mike Payne, Nine Circles Community Health Centre, MB

Margaret Kisikaw-Piyesis, All Nations Hope Network, SK

Leona Tootoosis, All Nations Hope Network, SK

Jaqueline Flett, Sisters of Fire, MB

James Whitehawk, Cote First Nation, SK

## **Our Community Partners**

All Nations Hope Network (ANHN) ([www.allnationshope.ca/](http://www.allnationshope.ca/))

Ka Ni Kanichihk ([www.kanikanichihk.ca/](http://www.kanikanichihk.ca/))

## **Research Team**

Rebecca Zagozewski, Research Manager, USask

Cydney Leibel, Clerical Assistant, USask

Dallas Montpetit, Community Coordinator for All Nations Hope Network, SK

Melissa Morris, Community Coordinator for Ka Ni Kanichihk, MB

Jaida Beaudin, Grant Coordinator, USask

Creeden Martell, Communications Assistant, USask

Sarah MacDonald, Communications Officer, USask

Harvey Thunderchild, Project Officer, USask

Kehinde Ametepee, Project Officer, USask

Taiwo Ametepee, Research Associate, USask

## **Our Partner Organizations**

Manitoba HIV Collective Impact Network (CIN), Winnipeg, MB

National HIV and Retrovirology Laboratories, Winnipeg, MB

Communities Alliances And Networks (CAAN), Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

Institute for Global Public Health, University of Manitoba, MB

Ongomiizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, University of Manitoba, MB

Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC), Montreal, QC

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), Saskatoon, SK

The Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Ottawa, ON

Canadian HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE), Toronto, ON

Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM), Edmonton, AB

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI), Saskatoon, SK

Canadian Observational Cohort Centre (CANOC), Vancouver, BC





## Save the Date! 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis, June 22-25, 2022, Saskatoon, SK, Canada



Viral hepatitis impacts Indigenous peoples throughout the world at much higher-than-average rates, harming their physical, spiritual, emotional, social and economic health. Join Indigenous people, including those with lived and living experience of viral hepatitis, Elders/Knowledge Holders, allies, clinicians, researchers and policymakers in Saskatoon this June for a gathering to address this issue. The conference will feature presentations from Indigenous people and organizations who are using traditional approaches to wellness, sometimes in tandem with Western medicine, to treat hepatitis, as well as medical and frontline experts sharing their latest developments. There will also be land- and culture-based activities in the outdoor Kanata Indigenous Village. Visit [www.wipcvh.org](http://www.wipcvh.org) for more information on upcoming abstract submission and registration dates.

### Knowledge Exchange Opportunities

*Waniska* Community Coordinators, Melissa Morris and Dallas Montpetit, have submitted abstracts and scholarship applications for both the Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR) Conference (April 27-29, 2022) and the 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (July 29–Aug 2, 2022). We hope that they are successful so they can share the great work that they have been part of with our Centre and also bring back information to share with our team.

The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research, the Communities Alliances And Networks (CAAN) and *waniska* personnel are working together to host an Indigenous-led and interactive workshop to guide our partnership and common research endeavors. It will be an ancillary event held in conjunction with the CAAN Wise Practices Conference in Winnipeg, MB on May 16-18, 2022. The date and time of the event will be confirmed and shared.

### *Waniska!*

[www.waniskacentre.ca](http://www.waniskacentre.ca)

*Waniska* is a command used in the Cree and Saulteaux languages, which means wake up, or arise. It is a concept filled with optimism for the new day, which we greet with renewed energy and passion. It is a verb, reflecting that as Indigenous people, our knowledge is action oriented.

### 'Wake up': a command, a call to action, a name

The *waniska* Indigenous Centre for HIV, HCV and STBBI Inequities will develop partnerships with communities and community-based organizations that will help tackle HIV/HCV/STBBI inequities using *etuaptmumk* (a Two-eyed Seeing approach). *Etuptmumk* brings together Indigenous and Western world views or forms of knowledge; we privilege Indigenous ways and interweave relevant Western ways and ensure that the best practices from both cultures are employed.

