



**GRADUATE STUDIES AND
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS**



**OFFICE OF
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES**

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH COLLABORATION DAY

**"Indigenous Perspectives
on Health"**

Image courtesy of Portia Chapman, "Knowledge"

Friday, 8th November 2024

Presenters



Dr Alex McComber

Professor Family Medicine, McGill University



Dr Lucie Lévesque

Professor, Kinesiology & Health Studies, Queen's



Candice Martin

Medical student, Queen's School of Medicine



Trinity Vey

Medical student, University of Toronto



Victoria Taylor

Undergrad, Health Sciences student, Queen's



Simran Brar

MSc student in Epidemiology, Queen's University



Cameron Hare

Undergrad student trainee in Indigenous Health Promotion



Julia Moreau

PhD student in Clinical Psychology, Queen's University

Friday, November 8th, 2024

Schedule

1:00 – 1:15pm Land Acknowledgement/Welcome to Territory

1:15 – 1:30pm Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to Medicine

Title: Candice Martin, School of Medicine



Candice Martin is a 4th year medical student at Queen's School of Medicine. Cum Laude Honors Graduate of Laurentian Biomedical Biology Degree and Veteran of The Canadian Special Forces as a Medical Technician. She is also an Oji- Cree Anishinaabe Kwe from Morrison and Nagagamisis First Nations enfranchised into Fort Albany First Nations. Candice volunteers on multiple committees and advocates for indigenous rights in many fields which is where the idea of her Two-eyed seeing approach to medicine originated. The idea of Two-Eyed seeing approach to medicine was brought to life through N.C.I.M.E. Developing leaders award and brought local indigenous representation into medical schools across Canada to have their voices heard.

1:30 – 1:45pm Examining the Environmental Impact of Gatherings for the Health of the Seventh Generation

Presenter: Victoria Taylor, Kinesiology & Health Studies



Victoria (she/her/hers) is a fourth-year undergraduate Health Studies student with European settler ancestry. She is currently completing her undergraduate thesis under the supervision of Dr. Lucie Lévesque, working with the Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP). Her research focuses on the environmental impact of Indigenous gatherings and explores opportunities to address these impacts in ways that promote health and sustainability.

1:45 – 2:00pm Walking My Path: My Journey as an Indigenous Trainee in Indigenous Health Promotion Research



Presenter: Cameron Hare, Kinesiology & Health Studies

Cameron Hare (he/him/his), of mixed Scottish, British, and Métis descent, brings the perspective of an undergraduate student trainee at the start of his career in Indigenous health promotion, focusing on community mobilization for chronic disease prevention. With ancestry to the Red River Métis Settlement and membership to the Métis Nation of Ontario, Cameron is completing a science degree in Kinesiology at Queen's University. His research journey started with an exploration of how his identity as a Métis person shapes his understanding of wellbeing. His work with the Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Program (KSDPP) focuses on building relationships with Indigenous community members and supporting their wellness efforts. Cameron is currently being trained as a facilitator of an Indigenous community mobilization program for health promotion and diabetes prevention in partnership with the National Indigenous Diabetes Association.

2:00 – 2:15pm Walking Alongside: Wise practices for allies in Indigenous health promotion research



Presenter: Dr Lucie Lévesque

Dr. Lévesque leads the Community-Engaged Health Promotion Research group in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Her research focuses on program evaluation and implementation science examining community-based physical activity interventions through an ecological approach. A long-time member of the Kahnawà:ke Schools Diabetes Prevention Program (KSDPP) research team, Dr. Lévesque has extensive experience working with Indigenous communities within a community-engaged research framework. Dr. Lévesque's research encompasses both Indigenous and mainstream/Western science approaches and has informed the ways in which respectful and relevant research is conducted with Indigenous communities in Canada (e.g., KSDPP Code of Research Ethics; Canada's Tri Council Policy Statement 2: Module 9 – Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada). In addition to her research with Indigenous communities, she also collaborates with public health researchers in local communities and in Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct program evaluation and research related to physical activity and health promotion.

2:30 – 2:45pm Break

2:45 – 3:00pm Understanding the System of COVID-19 Vaccination in the Indigenous Communities of the James and Hudson Bay region of Northern Ontario: A Study of Leadership and Healthcare Provider Perspectives



Presenter: Trinity Vey, School of Medicine, UofT

Trinity Vey (she/her) completed her MSc in Translational Medicine at Queen's University in 2023, following an undergrad in Life Sciences also at Queen's. Her master's thesis was a qualitative exploration of the healthcare system in the James and Hudson Bay region of Northern Ontario, through the lens of COVID-19 vaccination, in collaboration with researchers at the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA). She is currently a second-year medical student at the University of Toronto, with special interests in health equity and mental health.

3:00 – 3:15pm Cultural Connectedness and Health-Related Quality of Life: Epidemiological Methods and Working with the Métis Nation of Alberta



Presenter: Simran Brar, Public Health Sciences

Simran is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Health Sciences with a specialization in Epidemiology at Queen's University. She previously earned an Honour Bachelor of Science with majors in Life Sciences and Psychology from the University of Ottawa. Her current research focuses on health-related quality of life and cultural connectedness of Métis children living in Alberta. This past summer, Simran traveled to Edmonton to meet with citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta and participates in a Métis gathering with parents of Métis children to learn more about what the community needs to make sure Métis children stay healthy. Simran's previous work has involved child development, including working with children with autism, conducting studies with children and parents, and contributing to research in a childhood development lab. In the future, she hopes to complete a PhD in clinical psychology and continue her work in the field of child development.

3:15 – 3:30pm Indigenous Post-Secondary Transitions Project

Presenters: Julia Moreau, Psychology



Julia Moreau is a third-year Indigenous doctoral student in Clinical Psychology. Her dissertation, in collaboration with the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre, seeks to better understand Indigenous students' transitions to post-secondary education with a focus on holistic wellness. Using mixed methods, her research aims to provide actionable recommendations for decision-makers and school personnel involved in transition programs. Clinically, Julia aspires to contribute to culturally adapted practices that better support marginalized youth.

3:30 – 4:00pm Keynote

Presenter: Dr Alex McComber, Family Medicine, McGill University



Alex M. McComber is Bear Clan Kanien'keha:ka, a husband, father, and grandfather from Kahnawake Territory, Quebec. He is a community health activist, researcher and consultant; and also, an Asst. Prof. with the Dept. of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, McGill University with expertise from experience with cultural safety with Indigenous Peoples and communities in research and practice, Indigenous community-based participatory research, patient participation in research, ethics, health promotion and diabetes prevention, and community mobilization. He has collaboratively developed an Indigenous Program at the Dept. of Fam. Med. that focuses on Indigenous teachings and respectful knowledge exchange, cultural safety education in health research and care, Inuit health, patient participation in health research and other topics. Alex co-leads a SPOR patient partner project and has been a member of various community and national boards; and is an active co-investigator with several Indigenous health and mentorship network projects.

Alex has developed and delivers graduate level courses and lectures on Indigenous health research, Indigenous world view and culture, understanding colonial history and health impacts, and the evolution of control of Indigenous health. He is involved with building a partnership between the Dept. with the Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtia:ke's urban Indigenous clinic. Alex is co-director of the Indigenous Expertise & Indigenous Patient Partner Circle, and a member of the McGill University Data Valorisation Axis of the Quebec SPOR Support Unit/ Unité de Soutien SSA Quebec. He is a co-investigator with the Tahatikonhsontóntie', the Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR); and formerly with the Teionkwaienawa:kon: the Quebec Indigenous Mentorship Network (QIMNP); and the Indigenous Youth Mentorship Project (IYMP).