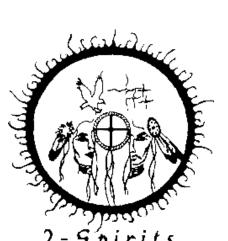


# Creating a Province-wide 2-Spirited Model of HIV Self-Testing, Treatment, Care and Support: Paving the Path Towards Ending AIDS by 2030





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## Territory Acknowledgement

The author acknowledges the Mississauga (Mississauga's of the Credit) and Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) nations, whose territory this research took place. Chi-Miigwech for your continued protection and preservation of the lands upon which McMaster University stands.

### Introduction

Due to colonization, Indigenous peoples make up a large proportion of HIV cases in Canada (Haddad et al., 2021).

Two-spirit people experience disproportionate and intersectional-based pressures on health, including HIV (Dykhuizen et al., 2022). Culturally grounded support for wholistic health is needed to address these inequalities (King et al., 2009).

Indigenous communities are best suited to address health inequalities in their communities, with outside support if desired.

# Community Partner: 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations

2-Spirited People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations is a Toronto-based, Indigenous-led, not-for-profit organization that supports two-spirit people to access culturally supported harm reduction, barrier-free HIV testing, treatment, care, and support and seeks to extend their services across Ontario.

## Research Objective

To learn how to improve current services offered by 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations related to harm reduction and HIV/STBBI prevention, and how best to expand services beyond the Greater Toronto Area to the entire province of Ontario.

## Methodology

Community-Based Research, Decolonizing, and Indigenous Methodologies Sharing circles (Toronto, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay)

Thematic analysis of qualitative data

#### Timeline

May to October 2022: Project development and REB ethics proposal

October 2022: Conducting sharing circles

November 2022 to January 2023: Data analysis and member checking

January to March 2023: Writeup of draft presentation of findings and sharing circle regarding our findings; Writeup of technical and community accessible reports; Prepare applications for grants to conduct a large-scale mixed-methods study across Ontario

## Personal Research Protocols

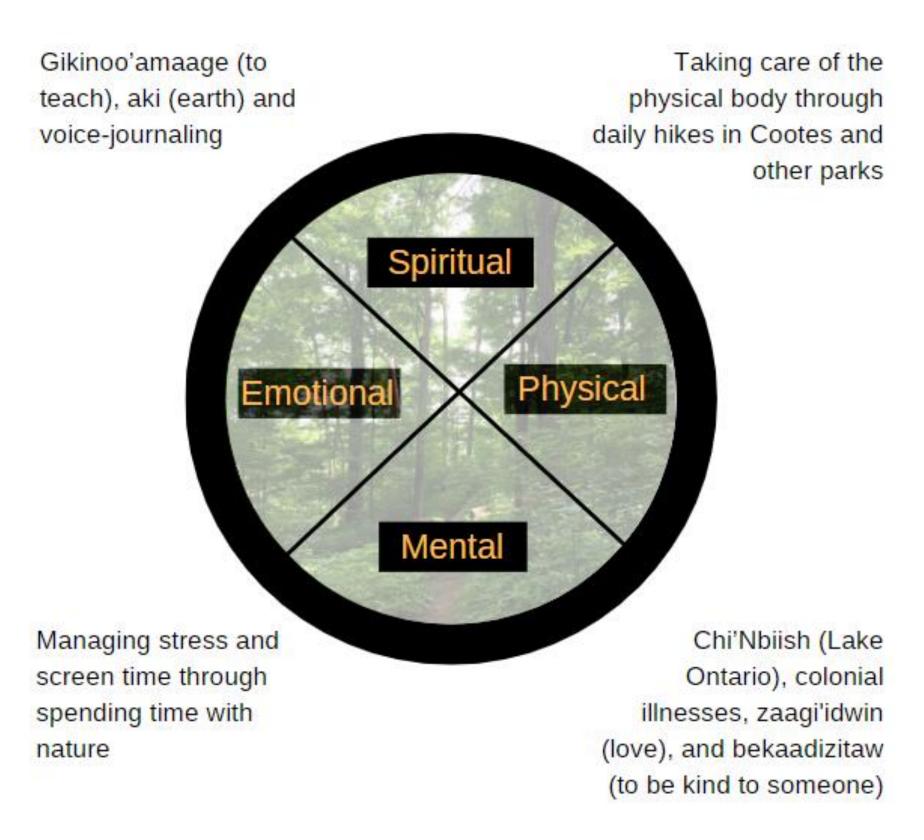


Figure 1. Visual depiction of the personal research protocol of responsibility

Responsibility: Balancing the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of self through reconnecting to my home territory and kin.

Respect: Learning to lead through a 'community of trees' (McMahon & McKnight, 2021) and practicing dabaadendiziwin (humility).

Relevance: Helping to ensure the ethics protocol reflects the envisioned and desired methodology of the community organization.

Reciprocity: Volunteered for 2-Spirited People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations at their powwow and assisted community fellow with various personal development requests outside of the project.

## Contributions to the Project

Toronto, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay
Community Member Call Out!

"Creating a Province-Wide 2-Spirited Model of HIV Self-Testing, Treatment,
Care, and Support: Paving the Path Towards Ending AIDS by 2030"

Are you First Nations, Métis, Inuit, 18+, and are 2-Spirit or LGBQT+ or a friend or family
member of someone who is 2-Spirit or LGBQT+?
Do you currently live in or near Toronto, Thunder Bay or Ottawa?

You will be asked to attend a town hall and a 2-3 hr. sharing circle virtually or inperson to share your experiences as it relates to accessing HIV & STBBI testing
and treatment services and support in Ontario. In appreciation for your time, you
will receive a \$50 and a medicine bundle.

If you are interested in participating in this study or would like more information, please
contact: Shiva Acharya (educator@2Spirits.org) or (416) 944-9300

\*The primay investigators for this project are Keith McCrady, Dr. Trevor Hart, and Dr. Randy, Jackson

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\*\*This research study has been reviewed and approved by the Toronto Metropolitan Research Ethics Board [Insert REB protocol number | and at the Indeed by the McMatater University Foreactic Center for Indigenous STBBI Research & 2-

Figure 2. Recruitment material constructed for the project



Principles of Research Collaboration

Between
2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations
And
Toronto Metropolitan University and McMaster University

Parties
This document constitutes Principles of Research Collaboration (PRC) between Toronto Metropolitan University and Two-Spirited People of the 1st Nations

This document constitutes Principles of Research Collaboration (PRC) between Toronto Metropolitan University, McMaster University and Two-Spirited People of the 1st Nations. 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations is a community-led organization for the Two-spirit community of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit, who are living with or at risk for HIV and related co-infections in Ontario. 2- Spirited People of the 1st Nations have envisioned seeing robust, healthy, and independent Two-spirit communities where HIV is rare, and Two-spirit people live with pride in their Indigenous heritage. Adhering to its Strategic Plan, 2- Spirited People of the 1st Nations is providing programs and services under its five different service delivery areas (SDA) that include a) Indigenous Harm Reduction Services, b) Positive Living and HIV/AIDS Education, HIV, Self Testing Prevention and Support Program, c) Cultural Practices and Community Building d) Community Development e) Crosscutting and referral services.

Figure 3. Principles of Research Collaboration Agreement

# Acknowledgements

Miigwech to Dr. Trevor Hart and Dr. Randy Jackson for their help and guidance. Miigwech to 2-Spirited People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations for welcoming me into this important and exciting work. Miigwech to Katelyn, Kathy, Savage, Bonita, and Sara for helping and guiding me in so many ways.

Led the development and writing of the Toronto Metropolitan University ethics proposal. Researched and gathered ethics-relevant information (i.e., data storage), ensured the ethics protocol met and reflected the TCPS mandate, Indigenous ethics mandates (i.e., OCAP), and cultural protocols.

Developed the Principles of Research Collaboration Agreement in consultation with 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, developed the Toronto Metropolitan University informed consent form and oral consent script and developed a confidentiality agreement form.

Planned, organized, and co-led meetings with key stakeholders, and created agendas and meeting minutes.

Assisted with the development of the community steering committee by recruiting a two-spirit Elder and Knowledge Holder from Ottawa and Thunder Bay.

Created recruitment material (i.e., recruitment poster).

Researched and wrote an annotated bibliography.

## References

Dykhuizen, M., Marshall, K., Loewen Walker, R., & Saddleback, J. (2022). Holistic health of two spirit people in Canada: A call for nursing action. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/08980101211072645">https://doi.org/10.1177/08980101211072645</a>

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King, M., Smith, A., & Gracey, M. (2009). Indigenous health part 2: The underlying causes of the health gap. *The Lancet*, 374(9683), 76–85. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60827-8">https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60827-8</a>

McMahon, S. & McKnight, A. (2021). It's right, wrong, easy and difficult: Learning how to be thoughtful and inclusive of community in research. In V. Rawlings, J. Flexner & L. Riley (Eds.), Community-led research: Walking new pathways together (pp. 55-72). Sydney University Press.