

Carrier, Leah

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Summary Report for World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC) – Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
*“The experiences of Indigenous children and youth with cancer: A scoping review proposal”*  
<https://www.WICC2019.com>

### **Description of the conference**

The World Indigenous Cancer Conference (WICC) was a multidisciplinary gathering of researchers, allied health professionals, advocacy groups, Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Holders, traditional practitioners and community groups, and leaders from around the world to discuss innovations and advancements in cancer research with Indigenous peoples. The theme of the 2019 conference was ‘Respect, Reconciliation, and Reciprocity: Connecting Across Knowledge Systems’.

The conference provided a forum for sharing new insights and improvements in cancer research with Indigenous people globally. Events and workshops focused on the critical challenges of improving cancer outcomes among Indigenous peoples. Additionally, cultural programming and opportunities for land-based learning grounded the events and activities of the conference in Indigenous perspectives and understandings of health and wellness.

### **Relevance of the conference**

Our research presentation was presented in addition to my PhD dissertation and degree requirements. It was a collaboration between an undergraduate honours student (Nicole Blinn), myself, and other members of the Indigenous Health Interest Group at Dalhousie. Although not a direct degree requirement, acting as a reviewer on this scoping review study with an undergraduate student allowed me to practice my research mentorship skills and to build connections with other students interested in health research. Attending the conference provided an opportunity to build on our presentation skills, network with world leaders and experts in the area of Indigenous peoples who live with cancer, and to share our scoping review results for feedback from colleagues and experts. As a health researcher working with Indigenous children and youth on mental wellness topics, learning about the impacts of cancer on this population allows me to understand another health experience of this population and expands my perspective on holistic health indicators and outcomes.

### **Realized/expected outcomes of attending the conference**

#### **My realized learning objectives:**

1. To learn more about Indigenous people’s experiences of cancer and cancer care and how this can be applied in my nursing practice.
2. To learn about creating partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to promote improved health outcomes for Indigenous peoples with cancer.
3. To gain valuable experience presenting and networking with experts in Indigenous cancer experiences and cancer care.

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This conference also aided in my professional development by teaching me about creating authentic community partnerships in the area of Indigenous cancer care. As a registered nurse, this will be an invaluable asset to bring back to inform my nursing practice. I disseminated knowledge gained from this conference to other students by creating a presentation for the Indigenous Health Interest Group to share information with Indigenous students and allies who are interested in this clinical and research area. However, I was unable to attend the event.

**Next steps (1-2 tasks you plan to undertake within the next year)**

1. Incorporate the feedback we received from experts in the field of Indigenous cancer care into our scoping review protocol and subsequent research study.
2. Continue relationship building with the Mi'kmaq Cancer Care Strategy team, who we were able to connect with and discuss collaborating with at the conference. Members of this team will be involved in our project going forward.