

ATLANTIC INDIGENOUS MENTORSHIP NETWORK

Final Report • Winter 2022



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Background

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network (Atlantic-IMN) has an overall goal to support Indigenous-led health research in Atlantic Canada. In doing so, we seek to expand research capacity and help meet the needs of Indigenous early career researchers and trainees at all post-secondary levels. Our Network, at its core, is guided by spirit, ceremony, and storytelling.

The Network has laid out four key objectives:

1. Support the next generation of Indigenous health researchers;
2. Leverage the mentoring capacities of our existing network of 60+ researchers and Indigenous community health partners;
3. Integrate a Two-Eyed Seeing framework into research, mentorship, and education;
4. Help create supportive university environments that welcome, encourage, and promote the capacity of Indigenous students and early career researchers in Indigenous health.

The Network has two regional 'branches' – one based in Labrador, at the Labrador Campus of Memorial University (located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay), and the other at Dalhousie University, located in K'jipuktuk (Halifax). Further, the Network has several partners and sponsors including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), St. Francis Xavier University, Mount Saint Vincent University, the Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network (CAAN), and Cape Breton University.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Institut de recherche en santé du Canada



The geographic reach of the Network extends from the southern Maritime Provinces, which we refer to as Wabanaki, meaning 'people of the dawn' (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island), to the sub-Arctic region of northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and all areas in-between. The Indigenous peoples who live in this vast region are incredibly diverse, and includes the Innu, Inuit (Nunatsiavut), Southern Inuit (NunatuKavut), Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey.

Atlantic IMN Student Trainees

Our Network currently involves 146 student trainees, with 100 of them identifying as Indigenous and 46 as non-Indigenous. Although our Network is an Indigenous mentorship network, we have non-Indigenous student trainees engaging in Indigenous health research who are able to take part in our activities despite not being eligible for our funding programs. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about Indigenous health research or Indigenous health more broadly to get involved with our Network.

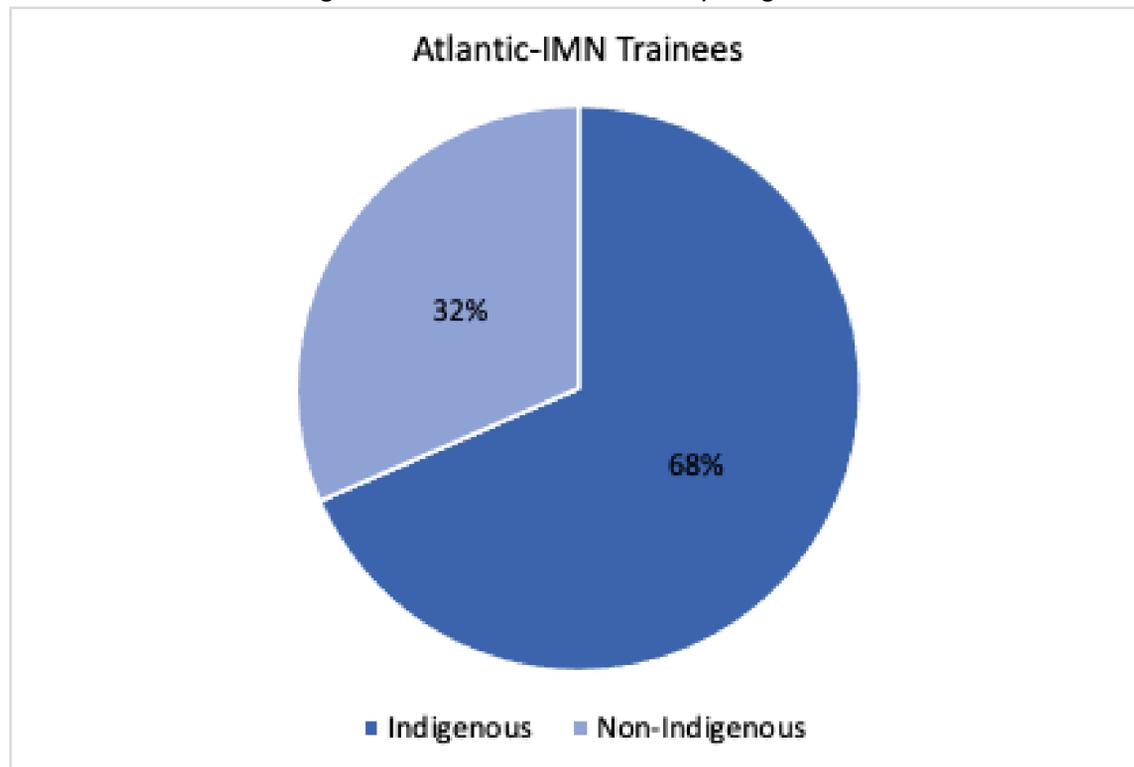


Figure 1.1. Percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous trainees within the Atlantic-IMN

Our 146 trainees are spread across institutions throughout Atlantic Canada and outside of the Atlantic region, with the majority of our trainees attending Dalhousie University.

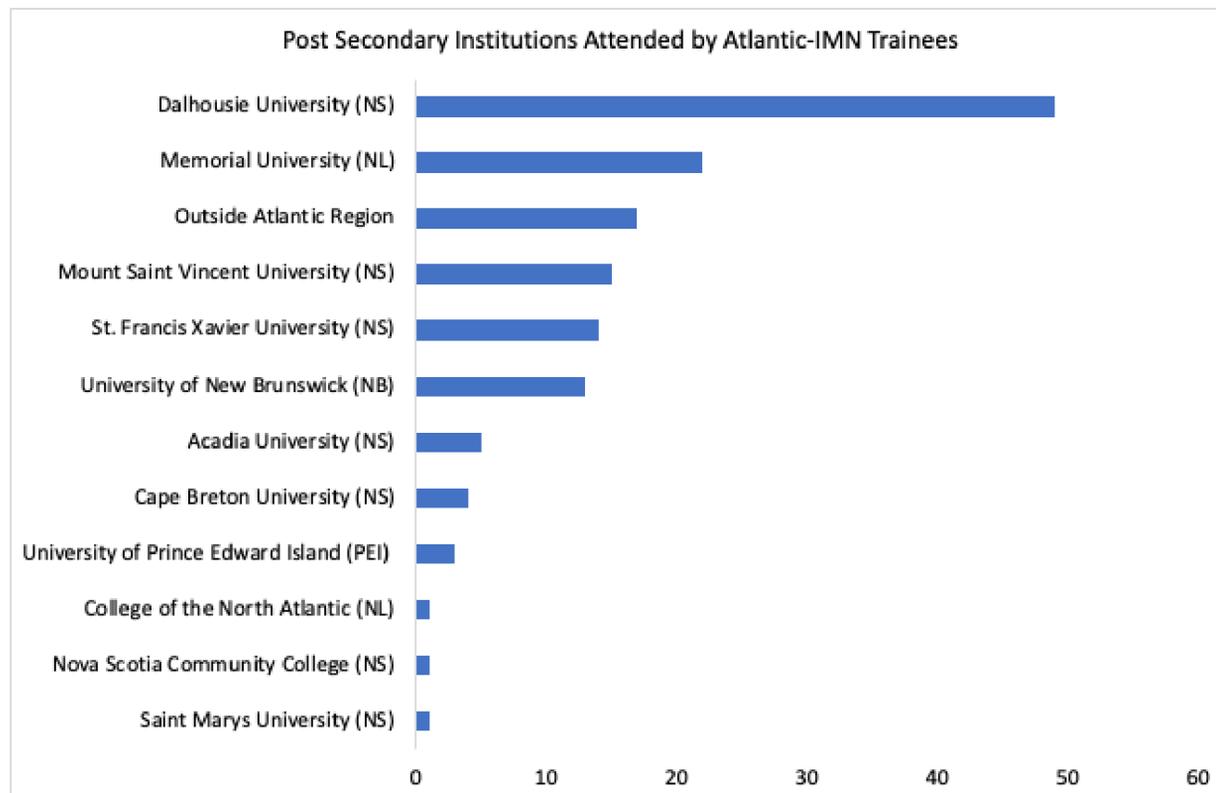


Figure 1.2. Number of Atlantic-IMN trainees by academic institution

Network Growth

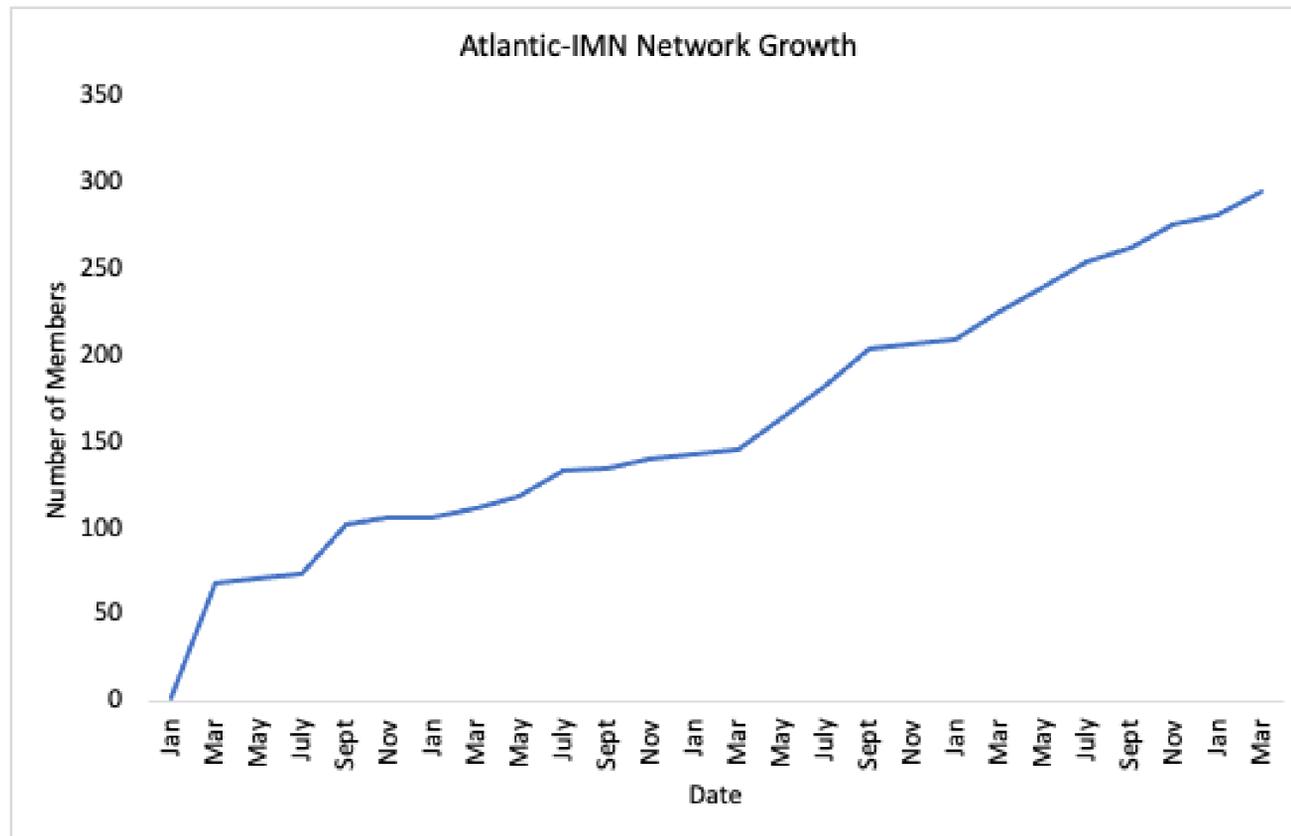


Figure 1.3. Number of Network Members from January 2018 – March 2022

Core Team

Principal Investigators:

Debbie Martin (NPI), School of Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie University

Jane McMillan, Department of Anthropology, St. Francis Xavier University

Ashlee Cunsolo, School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, Labrador Campus of Memorial University

Amy Bombay, School of Nursing/Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University

Network Coordinators:

Iona Worden-Driscoll, Regional Coordinator, Dalhousie University

Tara Pride, Branch Coordinator, Dalhousie University

Jamie Jackman, Branch Coordinator, School of Arctic and Subarctic Studies, Labrador Campus of Memorial University



Kausattumi Grants Program

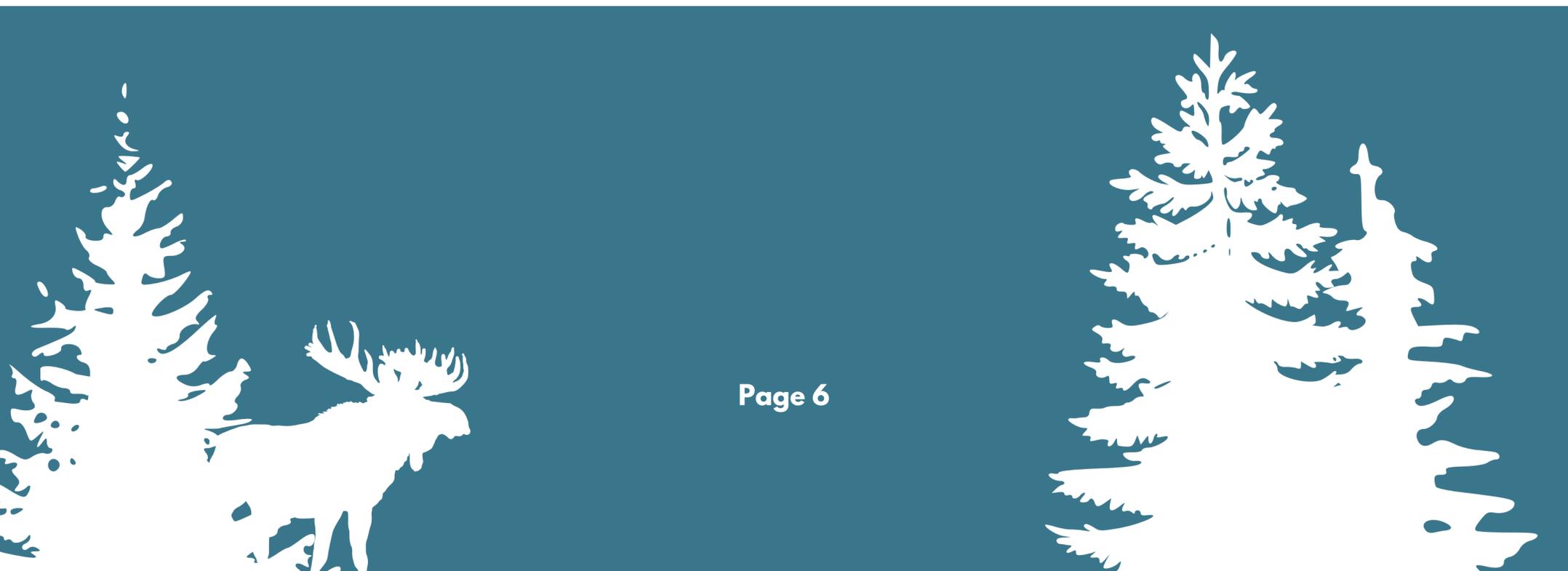
Improving the health and wellness of Indigenous communities begins with capacity-building for students, researchers, and institutions of higher education. The Atlantic-IMN is committed to supporting the research interests of Indigenous communities, and linking them with appropriate students who, in turn, feel supported to conduct this research in the academy.

The Atlantic IMN offers scholarships, seed grants, and travel awards to students and early career researchers through our Kausattumi (Innutitut for 'the dawn') Grants Program. The Kausattumi Grants Program is an initiative of the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network that provides financial support to students who are undertaking or are interested in undertaking community-informed and supported Indigenous health research that serves to benefit Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada. The total amounts available are: \$7500 for Undergraduate, \$10000 for Masters, and \$15000 for PhDs, and \$10000 for post-doctoral fellows and early career researchers.

Table 1. Applications and awards given for our Kausattumi Grants Program, along with details of our evaluation parameters for this program.

	Round 1 - 2018	Round 2 – 2019	Round 3 – 2020	Round 4 - 2021
# of Applicants	7	15	15	20
# of Awards	6 (3 scholarships, 1 seed grant*, 2 travel awards)	13 (6 scholarships, 1 seed grant*, 1 bridge funding, 5 travel awards)	15 (11 scholarships, 1 seed grant, 1 bridge funding, 2 travel awards)	16 (14 scholarship awards, 3 bridge funding)
Evaluation components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year follow-up: formal write-up • Blog posts • Question to recipients: <i>What would you improve about this process for next year?</i> • Increase in numbers 			

*Funds declined or partially declined



Kausattumi Grants Program

The projects we've funded:

2018

Scholarships

- **Amy Hudson** (Interdisciplinary PhD, Memorial University, Yr3) - *How reclaiming Inuit knowledge can create opportunities for a self-determined future amongst Inuit: Privileging Inuit governance and planning for sustainability in NunatuKavut*
 - **Jocelyn Paul** (MSc in Psychiatry Research, Dalhousie University, Yr1) - *Exploring the links between community engagement and belonging, substance use, psychological distress, and racism among Mi'kmaq youth living on-reserve in Canada*
 - **Julie Bull** (Interdisciplinary PhD, University of New Brunswick, Y4) - *Research is relational and reflexive: Peoples, policies, and priorities at play in ethically*
-

2019

Scholarships

- **Amy Hudson** (Interdisciplinary PhD, Memorial University, Yr4) - *How reclaiming Inuit knowledge can create opportunities for a self-determined future amongst Inuit: Privileging Inuit governance and planning for sustainability in NunatuKavut*
- **Danielle Root** (PhD in Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Yr1) - *Exploring Mi'kmaw child rearing practices and caregivers meaning of fostering healthy connections between children and their families in Mi'kma'ki*
- **Erica Hurley** (PhD in Nursing, University of Alberta, Yr2) - *Nkamulamun (My Heart): A community based participatory research study to develop heart wellness interventions for Mi'kmaq women*
- **Jocelyn Paul** (MSc in Psychiatry Research, Dalhousie University, Yr2) - *Exploring the links between community engagement and belonging, substance use, psychological distress, and racism among Mi'kmaq youth living on-reserve in Canada*
- **Leah Carrier** (PhD in Nursing, Dalhousie University, Yr1) - *The impact of cultural connectedness on mental wellness in Indigenous children and youth*
- **Tara White** (PhD in Health, Dalhousie University, Yr1) - *The experiences of Indigenous health care professionals in 3 health professions in Canada*

Kausattumi Grants Program

The projects we've funded (continued):

2019

Travel/Training Awards

- **Gail Baikie** – Social Work PhD Student (Memorial University) – attended the 21st Inuit Studies Conference to present "*Indigenous social work: (De)colonizing praxis in-between worldviews*"
- **John Sylliboy** – Integrated Studies in Education PhD Student (McGill University) – attended the Native American and Indigenous Students Association Conference to present "*Using L'nuwey (Mi'kmaw) worldview to conceptualize two-spirit identity*". Summary report available [here](#).
- **Katie Gloade** – PhD in Health Student (Dalhousie University) - to participate in "*Intergenerational Trauma Treatment Model Training*". Summary report available [here](#).
- **Leah Carrier** – PhD in Nursing Student (Dalhousie University) – attended the 2nd World Indigenous Cancer Conference to present "*The experiences of Indigenous youth in the cancer care system: A scoping review*". Summary report available [here](#).
- **Tara White** – PhD in Health Student (Dalhousie University) – attended the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Conference to present "*Occupational therapy roles in the Indigenous context: An integrative review*". Summary report available [here](#).

2020

Scholarships

- **Aaron Prosper** (MSc in Applied Health Services Research, University of Prince Edward Island, Yr1) – *Creating ethical space for First Nations led biological health research*
- **Chelsey Purdy** (MSc in Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University, Yr1) – *HIV related nutrition programming in Nova Scotia*
- ***Danielle Root** (PhD in Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Yr2) – *Exploring Mi'kmaw child rearing practices and caregivers meaning of fostering healthy connections between children and their families in Mi'kma'ki*
- ***Erica Samms Hurley** (PhD in Nursing, University of Alberta, Yr3) - *Nkamulamun (My Heart): A community based participatory research study to explore what "heart" means with Mi'kmaq women*
- **Jocelyn Paul** (PhD in Clinical Psychology, Dalhousie University, Yr1) – *Social stressors, cultural factors on fear of cancer recurrence in First Nations adults living in Canada*
- **John Sylliboy** (PhD in Education, McGill University, Yr3) – *Strengthening cultural identity through language: A two-eyed seeing approach for building "pride" for two-spirit youth*
- **Kara Paul** (PhD in Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Yr2) – *How do we honour the past, learn in the present and prepare for the future? Exploring Mi'kmaq education standards and assessments that contribute to the revitalization of Indigenous education and wellness with one Mi'kmaw community*
- **Katharine Gloade** (PhD in Health, Dalhousie University, Yr2) – *School readiness from a Mi'kmaq perspective*

Kausattumi Grants Program

The projects we've funded (continued):

2020

Scholarships

- **Neil Forbes** (PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of New Brunswick, Yr2) – *Indigenizing wellness education for urban Aboriginal families through storytelling: A community-based research study*
- **Nicole Blinn** (MSc in Health Promotion, Dalhousie University, Yr1) – *Connection to the land as health promotion for Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people*
- ***Tara White** (PhD in Health, Dalhousie University, Yr2) – *The experiences of Indigenous health care professionals in three health professions across Canada*

Seed Grants

- **Dr. Margaret Robinson** (Early Career Researcher, Dalhousie University) – *How do Indigenous people conceptualize poverty?: A qualitative study exploring the relationship of impoverishment to health*

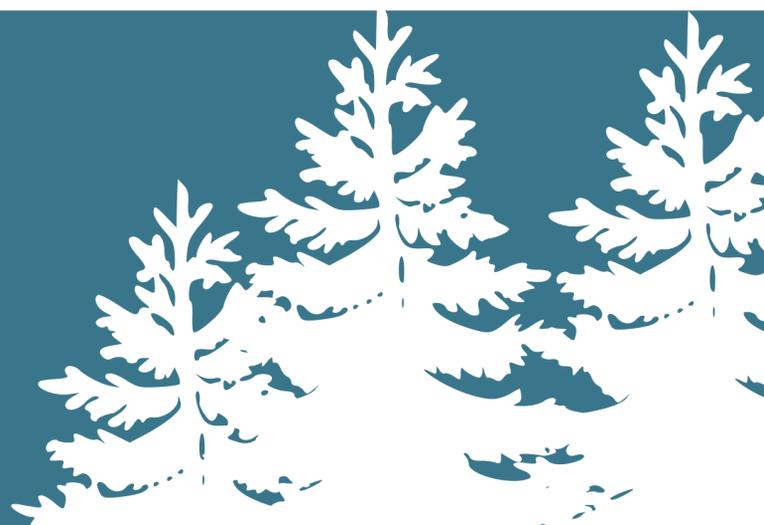
Travel/Training Awards (Winter Call)

- **Jocelyn Paul** - MSc in Psychiatry Research Candidate (Dalhousie University) – attended the McMaster University Indigenous and Community Health and Research Conference to present "*Social stressors, community belonging, and culture-related protective factors among youth and adults in First Nations communities: Links with psychological distress*"
- **Renee Bujold** - MA Health Promotion Student (Dalhousie University) – attended the 2020 Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Conference to present "*Exploring how the integration of land-based and online learning shape youth involvement in Indigenous food sovereignty*". Summary report available here.

2021

Scholarships

- ***Aaron Prosper** (MSc in Applied Health Services Research, University of Prince Edward Island, Yr2) – *Creating ethical space for First Nations led biological health research*
- **Angelina Heer** (MSc in Education Counselling, University of New Brunswick, Yr3) - *A holistic perspective on the journey of healing for Indigenous men reintegrating back into community after incarceration*
- **Ashley Julian-Rikihana** (PhD in Educational Studies, Acadia University, Yr1) - *estuun Wiaqi - Elmi'knik Kekina'muemkewey: A community-engaged research approach for accessing linguistic resurgence, revitalization, and reclamation efforts*
- **Danielle Root** (PhD in Education, Mount Saint Vincent University, Yr3) - *Exploring Mi'kmaw child rearing practices and caregivers meaning of fostering healthy connections between children and their families in Mi'kma'ki*



Kausattumi Grants Program

The projects we've funded (continued):

2021

Scholarships

- **Erica Samms Hurley** (PhD in Nursing, University of Alberta, Yr4) - *Nkamulamun (My Heart): A community based participatory research study to explore what "heart" means with Mi'kmaq women*
- **Erika Powell** (MSc in Nursing, University of New Brunswick, Yr2) - *Exploring the experiences of Indigenous women accessing prenatal care in New Brunswick*
- **Jennifer Bent** (Msc in Medicine – Community Health, Memorial University, Yr1) - *Courage, compassion, and connection: The journey to healing: exploring cancer pre-diagnosis for Indigenous peoples in Labrador*
- ***Jocelyn Paul** (PhD in Clinical Psychology, Dalhousie University, Yr2) - *Social stressors, cultural factors on fear of cancer recurrence in First Nations adults living in Canada*
- ***John Sylliboy** (PhD in Education, McGill University, Yr4) - *Strengthening cultural identity through language: A two-eyed seeing approach for building "pride" for two-spirit youth*
- ***Katharine Gloade** (PhD in Health, Dalhousie University, Yr3) - *Early child development from a Mi'kmaq perspective*
- ***Neil Forbes** (PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of New Brunswick, Yr3) - *Indigenous ways of knowing and being as best practice in Indigenous early childhood education for urban Aboriginals*
- ***Nicole Blinn** (MSc in Health Promotion, Dalhousie University, Yr2) - *Connection to the land as health promotion for Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people*
- **Simon Sylliboy** (PhD in Education, St. Francis Xavier University, Yr1) - *Revitalizing Mi'kmaq ways of knowing and being through Land-based education*
- **Tara Pride** (PhD in Health, Dalhousie University, Yr3) - *Exploring the experiences of Indigenous occupational therapists in Canada*

Note: An * appearing before the name of the student denotes a renewal application was submitted for that funding year

Blog Posts from Trainees

All trainees funded by our Grants program are asked to write a blog posting for the Atlantic IMN website and to be shared via our social media links. These blog posts allow students to share their research topic, and a little bit about their own personal research journey. Currently, we have three blog posts up on our website from students who have previously received Kausattumi Grants Program funding. To access the blog posts, visit [here](#).

Kausattumi Grant Recipients



Aaron Prosper



Amy Hudson



Angelina Heer



Ashley Julian-Rikihana



Chelsey Purdy



Danielle Root



Erica Hurley



Erika Powell



Gail Baikie



Julie Bull



Jennifer Bent



Jocelyn Paul

Kausattumi Grant Recipients



Kara Paul



Katie Gloade



Leah Carrier



Margaret Robinson



John Sylliboy



Neil Forbes



Renee Bujold



Tara Pride



Nicole Blinn



Simon Sylliboy

Promise Scholarship Program

Promise Scholarship Program

The Atlantic-IMN launched a Promise Scholarship program for Indigenous high school students who will be graduating high school who are applying to attend a health-related program at a post-secondary institution for the next school year. This program is funded by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and Global Health Office, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. The available funding for our first launch was \$1,500 per promise scholarship, with the following two rounds (2021 – Round 1; 2021 – Round 2) providing \$2,000 per promise scholarship. To date, we have funded 27 high school students.

Table 2. Promise Scholarship recipients' demographic information

Year	# of students funded	Indigenous identity	Home province	Universities attending
2020	15	12 Mi'kmaq 2 Inuit 1 Metis	9 NFLD & Lab 5 NS 1 NB	5 Memorial University 4 Dalhousie University 1 Saint Mary's University 1 St. Francis Xavier University 1 University of New Brunswick 1 Nova Scotia Community College 1 College of the North Atlantic 1 Algonquin College
2021 (Round 1)	7	6 Mi'kmaq 1 Wolastoqiyik	4 NS 2 NFLD & Lab 1 NB	2 Dalhousie University 1 University of New Brunswick 1 Acadia University 1 Queen University 1 University of Toronto 1 University of Ottawa
2021 (Round 2)	5	3 Mi'kmaq 2 Inuit	2 NS 2 NFLD & Lab 1 NB	2 Cape Breton University 1 Dalhousie University 1 U Prince Edward Island 1 Memorial University



Indigenous Trainee Stipends

Indigenous Trainee Stipends

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network is aware that graduate trainees may experience interruptions, delays, or changes while pursuing their post-secondary education and working on their research thesis and/or gaining health research experience. Trainee stipends of **up to \$2,500** were made available for Indigenous graduate trainees enrolled in a 2021/2022 graduate degree program and involved in community-informed and supported health research that serves to benefit Indigenous communities in Atlantic Canada. Funds were limited and subject to budget availability.

Indigenous graduate trainees were eligible to apply if they:

1. Have experienced an interruption, delay, or change while pursuing their post-secondary education and working on their research thesis and/or gaining health research experience during the 2020/2021 academic year.
2. Are enrolled in a graduate degree program in the Fall 2021 and/or Winter 2022 academic terms.
3. Are pursuing the final year of their graduate degree program in a health-related field.
4. Are pursuing health research that is focused on the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples within the Atlantic region.

During our 2021/2022 funding call, we awarded **4 stipends** to support students' ongoing research work.

To access the application form for this stipend, visit [here](#).

Atautsik Nipik Collaborative

Our Network formed the Collaborative to focus on general mentorship and learning opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and researchers. In 2019, we circulated a trainee survey to determine student priorities and planned to utilize this data to guide our processes and keep what we're offering in line with student needs. We asked students to provide information on 1) What specific opportunities they would like to see available; and 2) What these events could offer them in terms of mentorship. This information is being used to guide the mentorship opportunities of the Atlantic IMN.

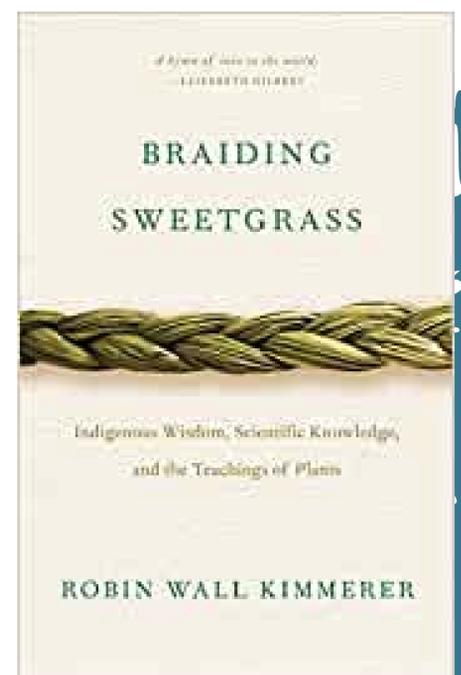
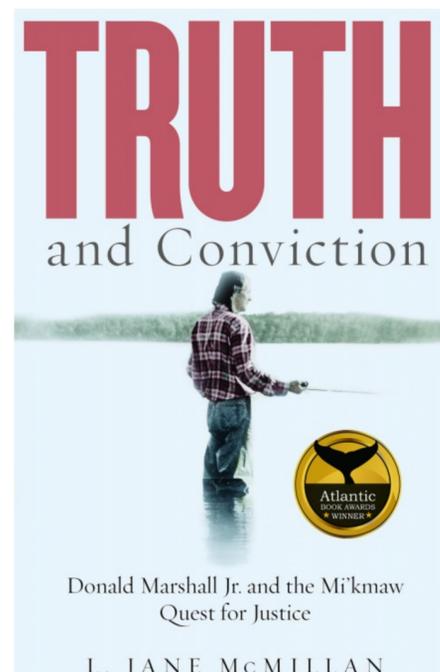
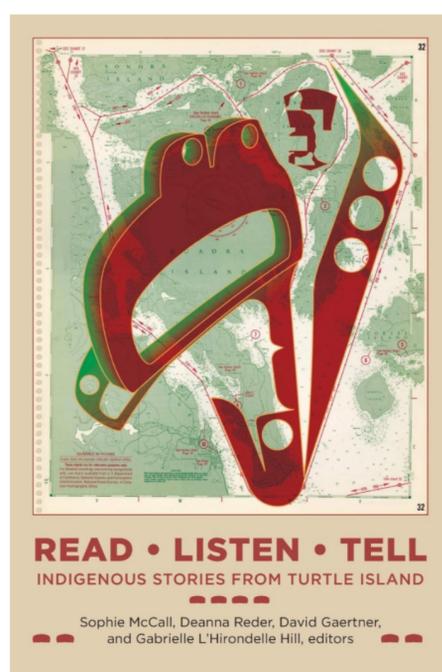
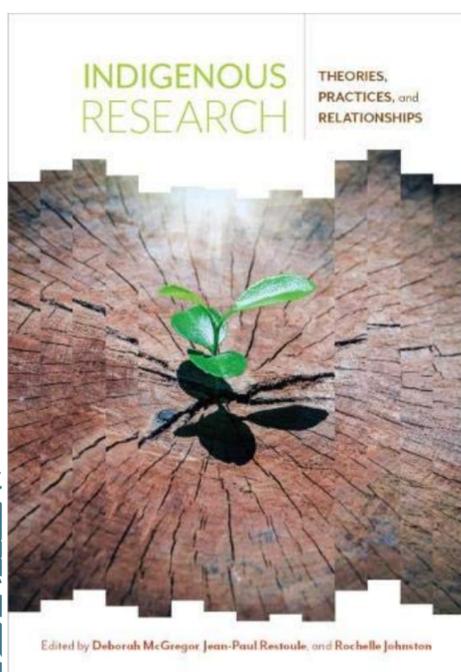
Book Club

One of the first activities that we launched resulting from the survey was the Atlantic-IMN book club. Book club meetings take place on a monthly basis and, prior to COVID-19, were in-person and included refreshments. For the 2019/2020 year, we read Indigenous Research: Theories, Practices and Relationships edited by Deborah MacGregor, Jean-Paul Restoule and Rochelle Johnston. Over 30 trainees and faculty participated in the first iteration of our book club.

We have finished our Summer 2020 book club, which included the following reading: Read, Listen, Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island by Sophie McCall, Deanna Reder, David Gaertner and Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill. We had 19 trainees and faculty participate in this round of the book club.

For the 2020/2021 year, we read Truth and Conviction: Donald Marshall Jr. and the Mi'kmaw Quest for Justice by Dr. L. Jane McMillan, one of the PIs of the Atlantic-IMN. In total, we had 32 trainees and faculty participate in this round of book club. During this round, we worked collaboratively with Dr. Shannan Grant (MSVU) as she hosted an MSVU book club each month. At the final meeting, Dr. Jane McMillan came to speak to the group about the inception and creative process of writing this book, as well as answer any questions.

For the 2022 year, we are reading Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We have 23 trainees and faculty participating in this round.



Atautsik Nipik Collaborative

Book Club

Testimonials from students in Book Club:

"Book club introduced me to the work of many Indigenous authors and researchers that I might never have had the chance to read otherwise." (Participant 1)

"It was a wonderful way to connect with other Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who are engaging both in thought and in practice with Indigenous ontologies, epistemologies, and methodologies. I enjoyed meeting new people and engaging in constructive dialogue with students who were involved in a diverse range of programs and projects. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share our thoughts and experiences, challenge each another, and learn from one another." (Participant 2).

Visiting author Dr. Cathy Martin (November 2019)

The Atlantic-IMN network invited Dr. Cathy Martin, author of the book titled: Strengthening Canadian Indigenous Relationships and Decision-Making Processes to visit the Dalhousie Indigenous Student Center and give a one hour presentation on her book. In total, 11 trainees and faculty attended.

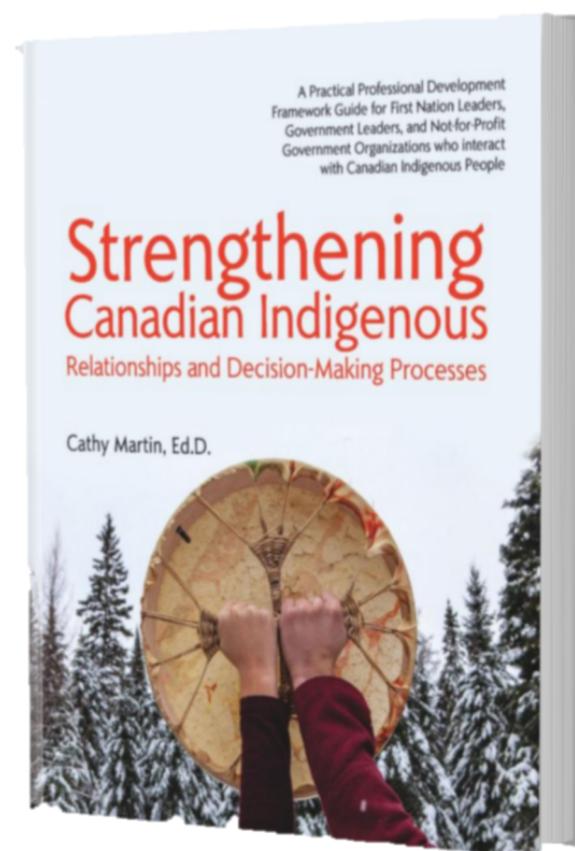


Image caption: A group of students and faculty at the Dalhousie Indigenous Student Centre waiting for Dr. Cathy Martin to begin her presentation.

Atautsik Nipik Collaborative

Film Series (2021)

During the Summer of 2021, we changed our book club to a Film Series. In partnership with Dr. Shannan Grant and her two dietetic intern students (Michelle Levesque and Winta Tesfastion), we offered two film club events over the summer months. Our first event, which was a screening of “There’s Something in the Water” directed by Elliot Page and Ian Daniel took place on June 30th from 6-8pm ADT. At the event, we also had special guest Dorene Bernard, Water Protector. We had 16 attendees at this event. The second event, which was a screening of the film “Feast of Forgiveness” directed by Selina Kemp took place on August 23rd from 6-8pm ADT. During this event, we had special guests Catherine Martin (Knowledge Keeper, Director and Producer) along with Florence Blackett (Indigenous nutrition student). We had 11 attendees at this event.

Treaty Documentary Discussion (October 2020)

Prior to launching our Fall/Winter 2020-2021 book club, we decided to host a small discussion (October 15th, 2020) based on the following two documentaries, given the current events happening in Saulnierville, Nova Scotia with the ongoing fishing dispute:

- APTN News - Trina Roache - Living Treaties Part 1 and Living Treaties Part 2 (24 minutes per part)
- Martha Steigman & Sherry Pictou - In Defense of Our Treaties (20 minutes)

The discussion allowed participants to share their thoughts and perspectives, discuss how the media is framing these issues, and develop action plans as individuals, as a network, and more broadly on a systemic level.

Our collective statement on the fishing disputes can be found [here](#).



THE ATLANTIC INDIGENOUS MENTORSHIP NETWORK PRESENTS
SUMMER FILM CLUB

FEATURE FILM:
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER

SPECIAL GUEST:
**ELDER, DORENE BERNARD,
WATER PROTECTOR**

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS WE CO-LEARN ABOUT WATER AS
A NUTRIENT AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, INSPIRED BY THE
GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF TWO-EYED SEEING.

WHEN: JUNE 30, 2021, | 6-8 PM
WHERE: ZOOM
COST: FREE, ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

REGISTRATION LINK:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/ATLANTIC-IMN-SUMMER-FILM-CLUB-TICKETS-159852470041](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/atlantic-imn-summer-film-club-tickets-159852470041)





The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network and the Two Eyed
Seeing Camp Presents
Summer Film Club

FEATURE FILM:
**W'KUPALTIMK
(FEAST OF FORGIVENESS)**

SPECIAL GUEST:
**KNOWLEDGE KEEPER & AWARD WINNING FILM PRODUCER
& DIRECTOR CATHERINE MARTIN ALONG WITH
INDIGENOUS NUTRITION STUDENT, FLORENCE BLACKETT**

We invite you to join us as we co-learn about Food
Sovereignty and Food Security. Inspired by the guiding
principles of Etuaptmuk (two-eyed seeing)

WHEN: MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021, AT 6-8PM (AST)
WHERE: ZOOM
COST: FREE, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PLEASE VISIT ATLANTIC IMN (ATLANTIC-IMN.CA) & TES CAMP
PROJECT WEBSITE (@TWOEYEDSEEINGCAMP) FOR INFORMATION
ON THE ORGANIZATION AND A LIST OF PARTNERS

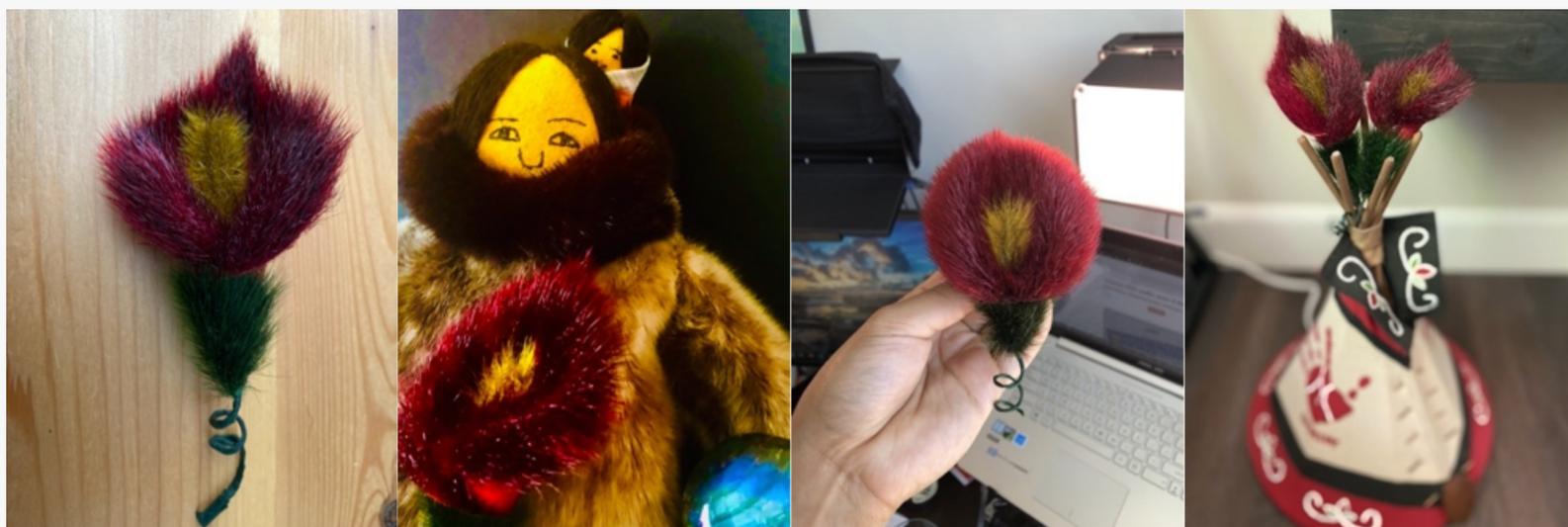
REGISTRATION LINK:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/3XQZR5Y](https://bit.ly/3XQZR5Y)



Atautsik Nipik Collaborative

Seal Skin Broach Making Workshop

In June of 2021, we partnered with Inez Shiwak, seamstress, artist, researcher, and producer from Rigolet, NL to offer a sealskin broach making workshop. This event took place on June 24th from 2-4pm ADT. Attendance at this event was restricted to 25 people given that all materials were provided and mailed out to participants.



Artists (from left to right): Angelina, De-Ann, Erik, Lauren & Haleigh.

Summer Institute 2018

The Wabanaki Branch of the Atlantic-IMN hosted its inaugural Summer Institute from August 7th-11th at St. Francis Xavier University. It was a unique opportunity to begin building a co-learning community within and beyond the Network with students, mentors, and partners. The 5-day learning opportunity, Weja'tu'k kina'masutiminu maqamikewiktuk (We Get Our Education From the Land), was focused broadly on the relationships between the land, food and medicine, and health and wellness. We had 9 participants attend this event. Our second Summer Institute was scheduled to take place during the Summer of 2020 however it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Picture: Day 1 of the Summer Institute



Picture: Group photo taken at Pomquet Trailhead

You can also find out more about our Summer Institute, including a video of the gathering, [here](#).

Labrador Research Forum 2019

The Atlantic IMN was a sponsor for the 2019 Labrador Research Forum which was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in May 2019. This forum brought together diverse researchers from Labrador communities and academic to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing and learning opportunities. This event was a 3-day forum which included workshops, student lightning talks, a keynote address from Dr. Eve Tuck, a book launch by Elder Tshaukuesh Elizabeth Penashue, plenary sessions, oral and poster researcher presentations and many other activities. Networking, relationship-building, and the celebration of Forum partnerships continued later in the evening at a Forum banquet. The Atlantic IMN sponsored the student lightning talks the day before the Forum, adjudicated the awards, and provided prizes for the winners.

The Labrador Research Forum event website can be found [here](#).

International Indigenous Mentorship Network Attendance - New Zealand

Our NPI, Dr. Debbie Martin, along with two Atlantic-IMN trainees attended the International Indigenous Mentorship Workshop held in New Zealand in December 2019. This workshop included international speakers and mentors from Australia, Canada and New Zealand, including academics, elders and knowledge holders who spoke on various mentorship topics and was hosted by the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH), in collaboration with the Health Research Council (HRC) of New Zealand and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia.



Image caption (from left to right): Dr. Debbie Martin (NPI), Carolyn Gaspar (PhD in Health Student), Leah Carrier (PhD in Nursing Student)

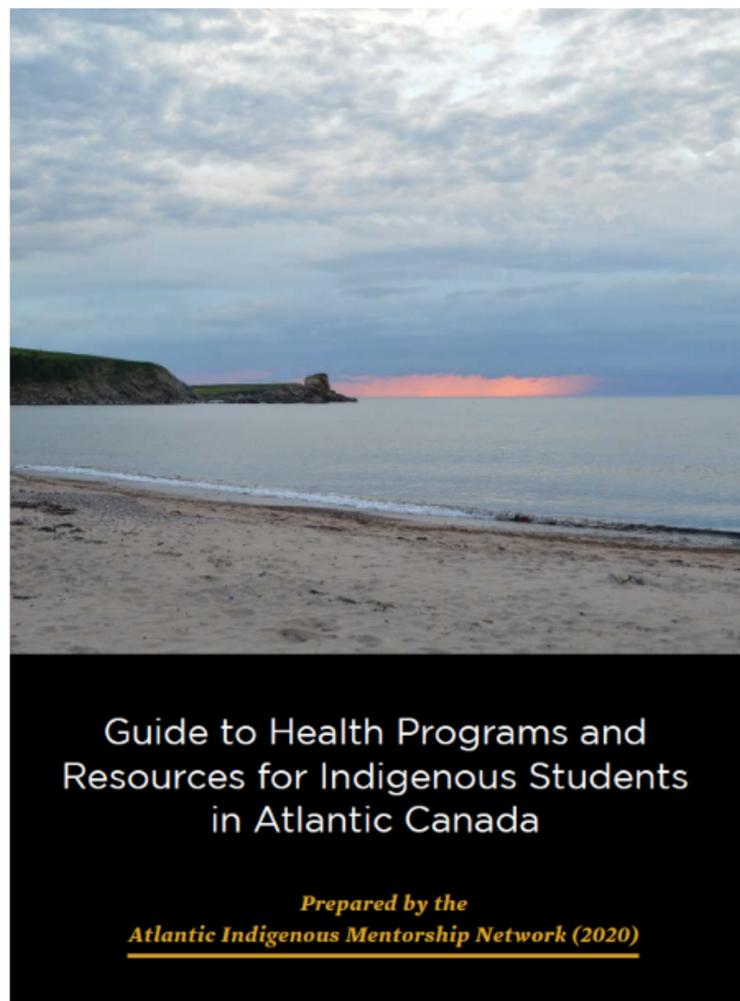
Atlantic- IMN Resource Guide

Atlantic-IMN Resource Guide

This resource guide was developed by the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network (Atlantic-IMN) and supported by the [Johnson Scholarship Foundation](#), [the Global Health Office](#), [the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University](#), and [the Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#).

The guide is intended for Indigenous youth and adults who are interested in pursuing a health professional or health-related program at a post-secondary institution in the Atlantic region. It includes information about different health professional and other health programs offered at colleges and universities in the Atlantic, as well as specific Indigenous resources and supports offered by each. The concept of health is conceptualized broadly within this guide, as health is inherently interdisciplinary due to the holistic lens used to view health.

To access the guide, visit our web page for [student resources](#).



Indigenous Mentorship Network Program (IMNP) Online Gathering 2020

The National Online Gathering of Indigenous Mentorship Network Program (IMNP) which happened August 12th-14th was an opportunity to bring together students researching health and wellness from across the country. With over 170 attendees, 19 of whom were from the Atlantic region, this gathering brought together a diverse group of people for 3 days of knowledge sharing and co-learning. Three students from the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network presented at this event - check out the presentations from our students below! Links to the entire conference proceedings can be found [here](#).



Erica Samms Hurley presented an oral presentation titled: Kamulamun (Heart): A community based participatory research study to explore what 'heart' means with Mi'kmaw women. See her presentation [here](#).



Jocelyn Paul presented a poster with a project titled: Social stressors, community belonging and participation in cultural events among First Nations youth and adults living on-reserve in Canada. See her poster [here](#).



Neil Forbes presented an oral presentation titled: Indigenizing wellness education for urban Aboriginal families through storytelling: A community driven research study. See his presentation [here](#).

National Gathering of Graduate Students (NGGS) 2021

The National Gathering of Graduate Students (NGGS) is a national annual gathering that brings together Indigenous graduate students doing research on Indigenous health and well-being. The NGGS is meant to foster belonging and support for Indigenous graduate students, as well as a place for skill and capacity building and knowledge transfer. By learning with and from other graduate students, Indigenous faculty, and allied scholars from across the country, the NGGS is a culturally relevant and scientifically rigorous meeting.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Indigenous Mentorship Networks moved forward with a virtual format for the 2021 year, with events taking place throughout the month of June. Recognizing that this pandemic has been difficult for our students, the theme of NGGS 2021 was “Nurturing our Whole Selves” with a focus on events for self-care and relationships.

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network offered two events during the 2021 NGGS. The first event took place on June 9th from 2pm-4pm and focused on academic writing. Facilitators for this event were Dr. Debbie Martin (NPI of the Atlantic-IMN) and Dr. Jane McMillan (PI of the Atlantic IMN). There were 16 students at this event. The second event took place on June 11th from 2pm-4pm and was a three-minute research presentation competition. This event was facilitated by Neil Forbes (WLN Coordinator) and Tara Pride (Atlantic-IMN Coordinator). Judges were recruited from our Network, and we had 7 students present at this event, but 18 total students attended. All students who presented were provided with a certificate of completion, and prizes were awarded from the Ontario-IMN for the top three presentations as scored by our judges. Finally, our network sent out “care packages” to students to congratulate them for their hard work during this event.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 NGGS Opening Event 10:00am - 1:00pm PDT	8 Bingo! 10:00am - 12:30pm PDT	9 Academic Writing 10:00am - 12:00pm PDT	10 Painting with Kevin Peeace 9:00am - 11:30am PDT	11 Three Minute Research Competition 10:00am - 12:00pm PDT	12
13	14 Adventure-A-Day *complete on own time	15 Networking Workshop #1 11:00am - 12:00pm PDT	16	17 Adventure-A-Day Participant Gathering TBA	18 Cooking Workshop 12:00pm - 2:00pm PDT	19
20	21 Happy Solidarity Day!	22 Guided Meditation 3:00pm - 5:00pm PDT	23 Beading Workshop 9:00am - 12:00pm PDT	24 Cedar Rose Workshop 10:00am - 12:00pm PDT	25 Networking Workshop #2 11:00am - 12:00pm PDT	26
27	28 Humour and Humility 9:00am - 10:00am PDT Networking Workshop #3 11:00am - 12:00pm PDT	29 Conway Kootenay 10:00am - 11:00am PDT NGGS Closing Event 11:00am - 12:30pm PDT	30	1	2	3

On-The-Land Field School

In Spring 2019, Atlantic-IMN hired a coordinator to travel to two land-based camps in Mi'kmaq communities to assess their interest in co-hosting a Land-based Course. The course was being developed and was proposed to Dalhousie University's Academic Review committee, however, COVID-19 had placed further course planning on hold until this past Summer. Currently, we are actively working on this initiative, so stay tuned for more updates as they become available.

Brief course description:

We are proposing an innovative cross-disciplinary, multi-institutional, credit-based course ground wholly in Indigenous pedagogy. The course will start with a small number of approximately 15-20 students from Dalhousie University and St. Francis Xavier University.

Delivering a land-based learning course in Mi'kmaq communities enables students to learn from the wisdom of Mi'kmaq and Indigenous knowledge holders about health in the context of their traditional and cultural homelands. Hosting this course in Mi'kmaq communities builds capacity in Indigenous knowledge revitalization and demonstrates to students and communities that Dalhousie recognizes the inherent value in developing and maintaining long-term relationships with, and the critical need to learn from, Mi'kmaq and Indigenous communities. Of the Mi'kmaq and Indigenous community members we have engaged, there has been a great deal of enthusiasm in being able to provide students an opportunity to be engaged in revitalizing Indigenous knowledge both on the land and in the classroom setting.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

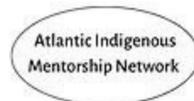
Healthy Populations Journal Special Issue on Indigenous Health

We are very excited to announce that we are partnering with the Healthy Populations Journal (HPJ) to facilitate a special issue on Indigenous health. This special issue is anticipated to be released in the Spring of 2023.

The Healthy Populations Journal (HPJ) is a multi-faculty, student-led, open-access, peer-reviewed journal housed at the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI) at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Their mission is to identify and disseminate research that mobilizes evidence to improve population health and global health equity.

For this partnership, we are adopting a mentorship model of peer review. Mentor reviewers with experience conducting peer-review will provide mentorship to student reviewers, enabling students to provide robust and thoughtful reviews for student submissions while building capacity for peer review.

We are accepting submissions for this special issue beginning **March 4th, 2022**. Visit here to access the submission portal and for more details regarding submission guidelines.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

SPECIAL ISSUE ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Open call for submissions related to Indigenous health and/or health equity. We are especially interested in articles sharing community-engaged and emergent Indigenous methodologies.

We Welcome:

- Academic-style articles (e.g. original research, literature review)
- Commentary
- Book reviews
- Visual artworks (photography, sculpture, beadwork)
- Stories
- Poetry

**SUBMISSIONS OPEN:
MARCH 4, 2022**

**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE:
AUGUST 31, 2022**

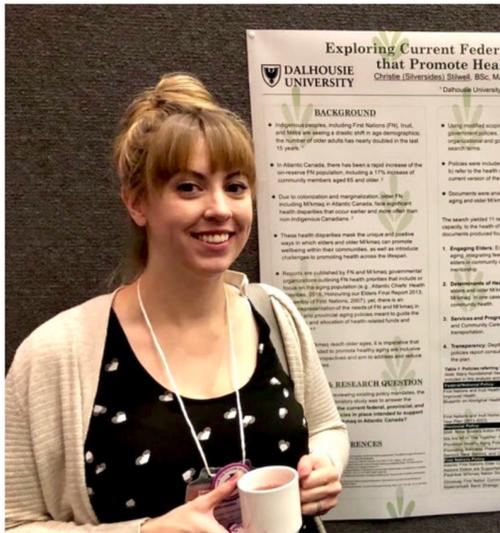
STUDENT RUN | OPEN ACCESS | PEER REVIEWED

SPECIAL ISSUE: IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
ATLANTIC INDIGENOUS MENTORSHIP NETWORK

for more information: www.atlantic-imn.ca AND <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/hpj/>

Healthy Populations Journal Special Issue on Indigenous Health

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Healthy Populations Journal Special Issue on Indigenous Health

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Healthy Populations Journal



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Dr. Angela Riveroll
Research Scientist
Atlantic Veterinary College



Dr. Adele Vukic
Assistant Professor (Retired)
Dalhousie University



Dr. Debbie Martin
Professor
Dalhousie University

COVID-19 Supports

Wellness Workshop

During the 2020 year, it was identified that wellness was of major importance to Atlantic-IMN members during the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with Diane Obed, we launched two sessions of a Wellness Workshop for members; one in July, 2020 and the other in December, 2020. Each session we had 7 members sign up, for a total of 14 participants across both sessions.

We worked on offering activities and/or connection with an Elder through two means:

- Bi-weekly Atlantic-IMN student check-ins (7 in total held)
- Teaching from an Elder



Rekindling our inner sacred fire: maintaining our wellness in academia as Indigenous learners and educators

Led by Diane Obed on behalf of the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network

THIS WORKSHOP IS OPEN TO INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND FACULTY

REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT [HERE](#).

DIANE CURRENTLY WORKS AT DALHOUSIE'S CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING AS AN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPER. DIANE'S PASSION AND RESEARCH AREAS ARE IN EXPLORING HOW THE PROCESSES OF CULTURAL RECLAMATION AND REVITALIZATION ENABLES US TO REMEMBER AND REKINDLE OUR ANCESTRAL MEMORIES OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HOLISTICALLY WELL AND BALANCED IN OUR MODERN DAY LEARNING AND TEACHING ENVIRONMENTS.



Emergency Bursary

Our COVID-19 Support includes an Emergency Bursary for trainees (this includes undergraduates, masters, PhD, and post-doc students), along with early career investigators who have been impacted by the current COVID-19 Pandemic. We launched two rounds of this COVID-19 Emergency Bursary, one during the Summer of 2020 and the other during the Fall/Winter of 2021. Funding amounts of \$1,000 were available for Indigenous trainees and early career investigators who express a financial need through the current pandemic. During the first round, we awarded 21 trainees with a COVID-19 Emergency Bursary, and 20 trainees with a COVID-19 Emergency Bursary for our second round.

COVID-19 Supports

Virtual Indigenous Graduate Student Recruitment Fair (2021)

During COVID-19, the Indigenous Mentorship Networks across the country identified a need for students to have access to potential research opportunities. Given that no one was able to gather in person, the Coordinators of the IMNPs organized a Virtual Indigenous Graduate Student Recruitment Fair on January 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2021. In the Atlantic region, we had 6 researchers interested in participating in this event. Students were asked to register and then were able to join in and listen to potential research opportunities for Masters, PhD, and Post-docs. See photos below of the 6 researchers who participated from the Atlantic region and their respective projects.

Potential researchers seeking Indigenous graduate students were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What level of students are you seeking?
2. Do your potential students have the opportunity to work on a funded project?
3. Is your program/work interdisciplinary?
4. Are there any prerequisites for admission?
5. Is student/family housing available? Moving costs?
6. Do you have a website?
7. A fun fact about yourself.

The image displays six circular promotional cards for the Virtual Indigenous Graduate Recruitment Fair, arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card features a researcher's photo, name, affiliation, recruitment levels, funding availability, event date and time, and a registration link.

- Card 1 (Top Left):** Meet Dr. Margot Latimer, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS. Recruiting: Masters, PhD, & Postdocs. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair
- Card 2 (Top Middle):** Meet Dr. Kathy Snow, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown PEI. Recruiting: Masters & PhD in Education. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair
- Card 3 (Top Right):** Meet Dr. Lisa Binkley, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS. Recruiting: Masters, PhD, Postdocs. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair
- Card 4 (Bottom Left):** Meet Dr. Anita Benoit, University of Toronto, Toronto ON. Recruiting: Masters, PhD, & Postdocs. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair
- Card 5 (Bottom Middle):** Meet Dr. Heather Carnahan, Memorial University, St. John's NL. Recruiting: Masters (primarily), PhD. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair
- Card 6 (Bottom Right):** Meet Dr. Debbie Martin, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS. Recruiting: Masters, PhD, & Postdocs. Friday, Jan 8, 2021, 2-3:30pm [AST]. Register: bit.ly/IMN_Grad_Fair

COVID-19 Supports

Moccasin Making Workshop

This event was developed based on feedback from trainees who expressed a desire to engage with others' and learn new creative skills while being under COVID-19 restrictions. As such, this workshop was driven by a desire to maintain connection during the pandemic through co-learning activities. We had over 30 trainees and researchers participating in our moccasin making workshop being facilitated by Dr. Lisa Binkley, an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University. This workshop occurred between January-May of 2021.



Facilitator of this workshop, Dr. Lisa Binkley



Artists (from left to right, top to bottom): Example pair by Lisa, Cassandra, Lauren; Christie, Holly.

Atlantic Indigenous Graduate Student Seminar Series

This initiative was developed by the Atlantic-IMN in partnership with Dr. Jason Hickey (UNB) and his Project Coordinator (Mike Crawford) and PhD student (Neil Forbes) for the 2021 year. Both the 3 Minute Research Presentations and the Atlantic Indigenous Graduate Student Network emerged from this initiative.

3 Minute Research Presentations / Research Sharing Event

The first event from this Seminar Series was 3-minute research presentations. This event offered an opportunity for students to share and learn with other graduate students (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) doing Indigenous health research in the Atlantic region. As part of this initiative, participants are given gift cards for their time. This event will be ongoing on a monthly or bimonthly basis depending on student interest and availability



Atlantic Indigenous Graduate Student Network

The Atlantic Indigenous Graduate Student Network was developed in early 2021 and derived from conversations with Indigenous graduate students in the network who were requesting a safe space to gather. These conversations stemmed from efforts on behalf of our Atlantic Indigenous Graduate Student Seminar Series partnership with Dr. Jason Hickey (see above). This group is co-facilitated by Tara Pride & Diane Obed, both Indigenous graduate students. This group began with a call for members and has grown each month since its inception. We are currently at over 20 members. Activities of this network are guided and driven by Indigenous graduate students and will include the following:

- Webinars and skill building
- Direct mentorship
- Connection and co-learning
- Writing support

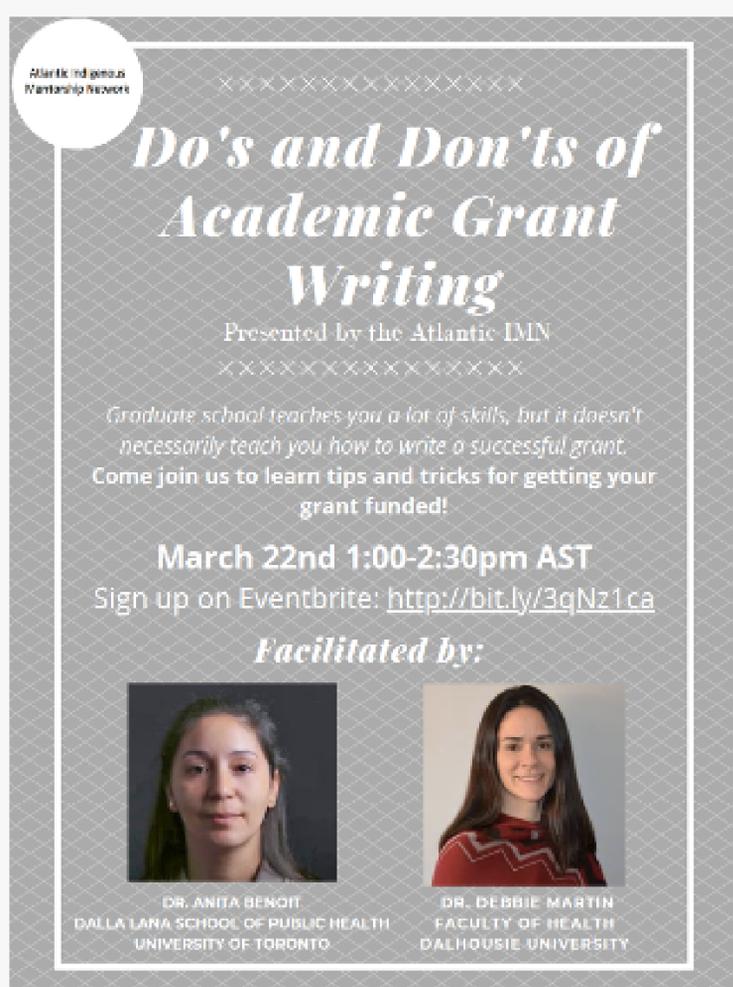
This network meets monthly and has an active Google Drive which includes mentorship resources, writing tools, Indigenous knowledges literature as well as administrative information. These meetings are often informal – allowing a space for Indigenous students to share concerns and brainstorm solutions with a group of like-minded students. To date, we have hosted 1 workshop titled “Navigating White Academia” with Dr. Benita Bunjun. We are currently planning both an in-person (Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador) and virtual gathering, however, efforts have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hidden Curriculum Series

Grant Writing Workshop

This grant writing workshop, titled "The Do's and Don'ts of Academic Grant Writing" was hosted by Dr. Debbie Martin and Dr. Anita Benoit. We had 26 attendees from across the Atlantic region, with a few attendees joining from other parts of Canada. Participants consisted of students, faculty, staff, and community members.

This workshop is the first of a planned series of events and workshops titled "The Hidden Curriculum Series."



Mentorship, Identity Development, and Support for Indigenous Graduate Students A Workshop for Faculty

This workshop explored how to most effectively mentor Indigenous students as they navigate their own pathways into research. Grounded in the literature on mentorship in higher education, and in almost two decades of research on student pathways into research, this interactive virtual workshop discussed perspectives on (and models of) effective mentorship, and explored the mentor's role in supporting Indigenous graduate students' success and identity development. The workshop was hosted by Brad Wuetherick, Associate Provost, Academic Programs, Teaching and Learning at University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus. Of Métis and European ancestry, Brad is an internationally recognized scholar of teaching and learning, with a particular focus on undergraduate research, student pathways into research, and mentorship in higher education. Brad is a co-investigator with the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network.

Social Media and Communications

The Atlantic-IMN is active on social media, but also shares a weekly e-digest, and a quarterly newsletter.

Twitter: @Atlantic_IMN

Facebook: Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network (@AtlanticIMN)

Our Twitter and Facebook pages feature job and funding opportunities, upcoming events and learning activities, along with general news and events happening that relate to Indigenous health.

Website: <http://www.atlantic-imn.ca/>

Our website features general information about our Network, including our team members and mentors. Further, we share our funding opportunity information, including recipients of our funding for each year on our website as well. All of the activities we are undertaking are featured under the mentorship tab, and we have a resources page for students to access our student resource guide and COVID-19 page.

Weekly E-digest

At the beginning of every week, the Atlantic-IMN provides a report of the current fellowships, employment opportunities, awards and funding that have upcoming deadlines. Along with this, the e-digest also share knowledge sharing, networking, learning, mentorship and training opportunities (upcoming webinars, conferences, activities, calls for journal articles, etc.).

Newsletter

Bi-annually we share news about the Network, including internship and job postings, upcoming events and conferences, funding opportunities, and resources to support learning and knowledge sharing. For access to our most recent newsletter from the Spring of 2021, visit [here](#).

Social Media Statistics

Newsletter

Table 2. A comparison of statistics from our Newsletters released on Mailchimp

	Number of subscribers	Number of opens
Winter 2019	122	100
Spring 2020	155	204
Fall 2020	192	243
Winter 2021	207	345
Fall 2021	259	325



Social Media and Communications

Social Media Statistics

Facebook

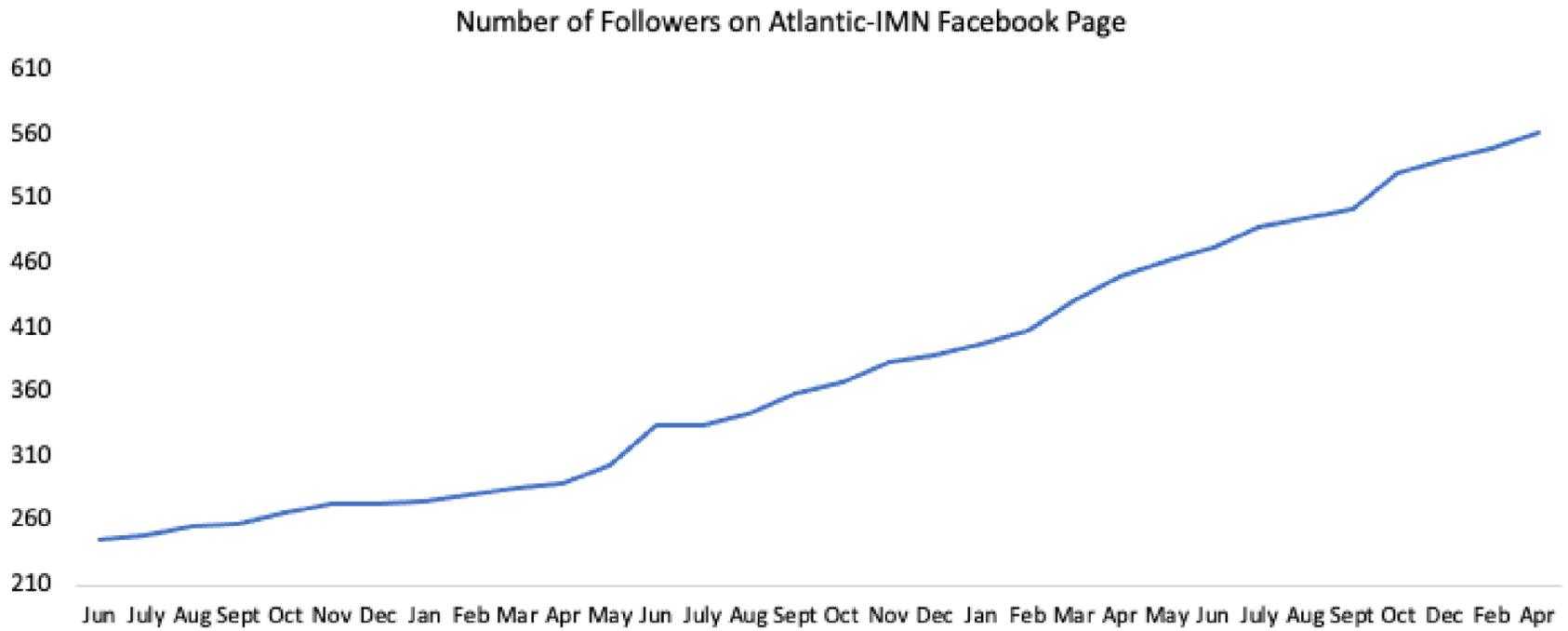


Figure 1.3. Number of followers on the Atlantic-IMN Facebook page from June 2019 – April 2022

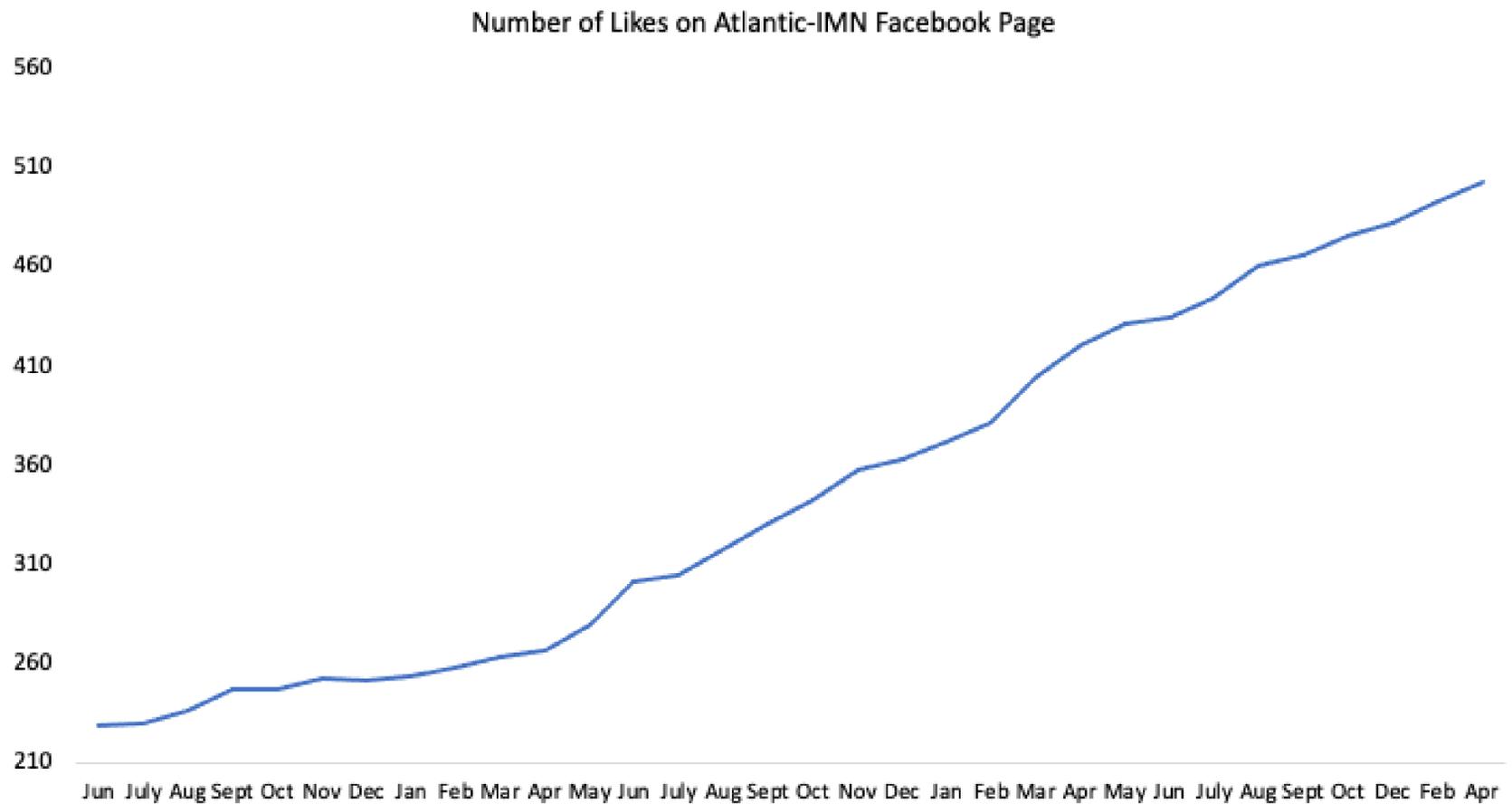


Figure 1.4. Number of likes on the Atlantic-IMN Facebook page from June 2019 – April 2022

Social Media and Communications

Social Media Statistics

Twitter



Number of Followers on Atlantic-IMN Facebook Page

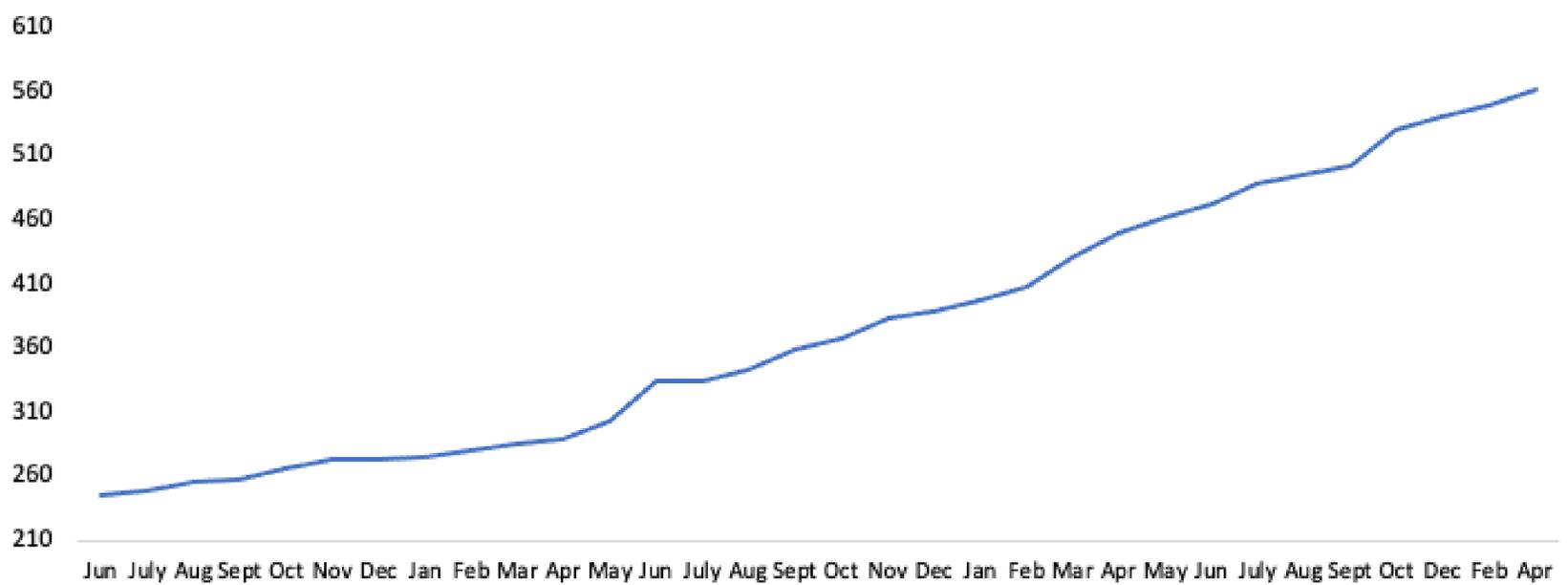


Figure 1.5. Number of followers on the Atlantic-IMN Twitter page from June 2019 – April 2022

Number of Impressions on Atlantic-IMN Twitter Page

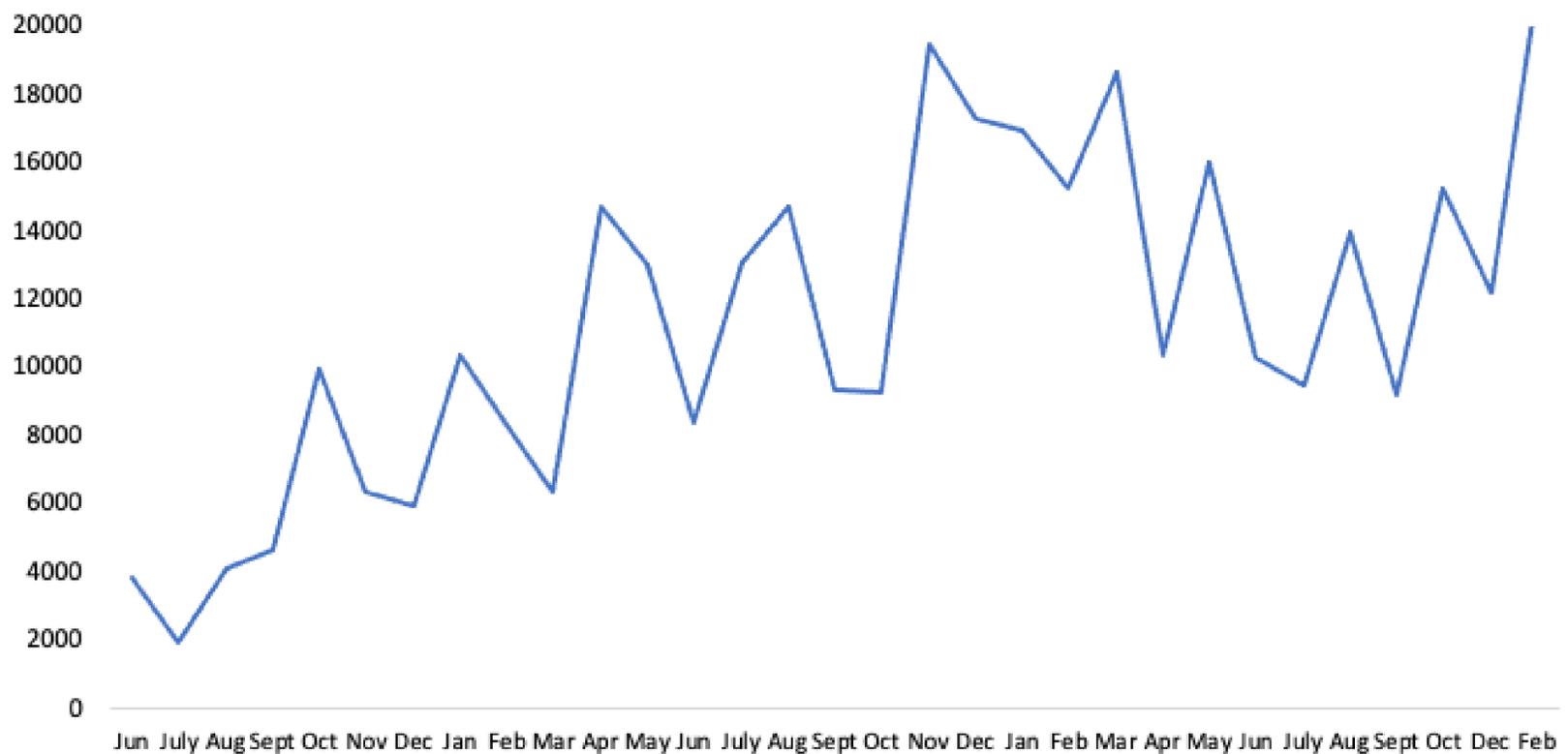
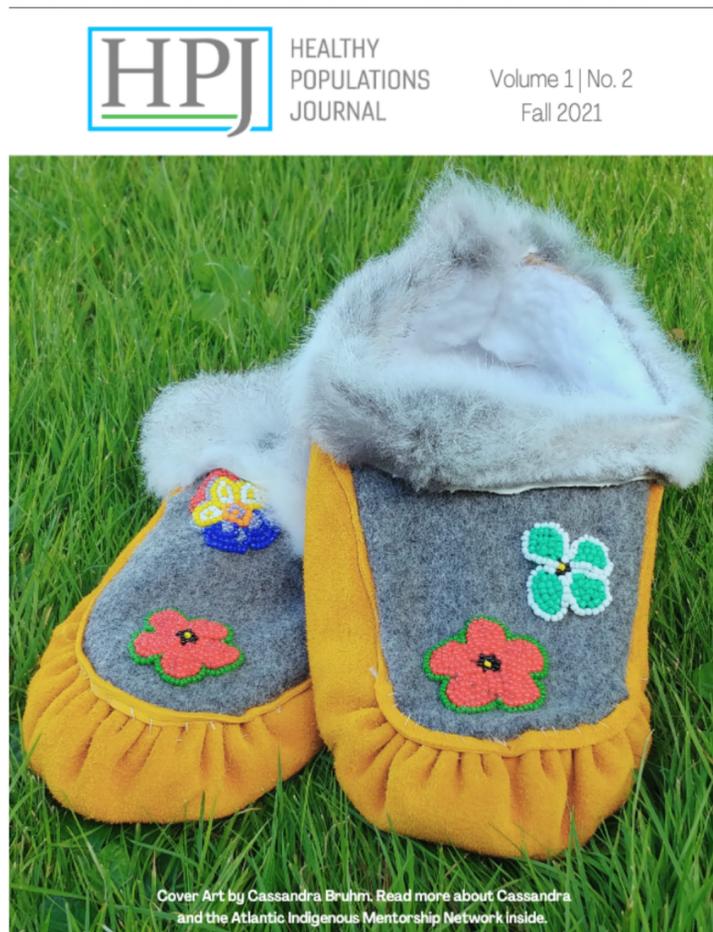


Figure 1.6. Number of impressions on the Atlantic-IMN Twitter page from June 2019 – February 2022

Social Media and Communications

In collaboration with the Healthy Populations Journal, Atlantic IMN student artwork is featured on the cover and inside covers of the Fall 2021 issue. The full issue (open access) can be found here: <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/hpj/issue/view/981>



Cover Artwork

Moosehide Moccasins

Cassandra M. Bruhm
Mount Saint Vincent University
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15273/hpj.v1i2.11194>

About the Artist



Cassandra M. Bruhm is an undergraduate student entering her 3rd year at Mount Saint Vincent University completing a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Studies. Cassandra is from the South Shore of Nova Scotia where she lives with her parents, 2 sisters and 3 cats. She was trying to find more ways to get involved on campus when she came across The Indigenous Mentorship Network during her first year of university and has loved every moment of it. Cassandra started making moccasins just over a year ago in March of 2020 when the pandemic first started. She also recently started to learn how to bead by taking the Moccasin making course with the Indigenous Mentorship Network.

About the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network (Atlantic-IMN) is a regional network that offers mentorship, learning opportunities, and financial support to Indigenous students and early career researchers pursuing Indigenous health research and health professional programs. It is a collaboration among universities, communities and community-based organizations, and Indigenous governments across Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Our goal is to support Indigenous-led health research in the Atlantic region.



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Artwork

Sealskin Flower by the Water

Angelina Heer¹
¹University of New Brunswick
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15273/hpj.v1i2.11195>



About the Artist



My name is Angelina Heer and I am a member of Sucker Creek First Nation. I am living and working as a guest on the unceded and unsundered traditional lands of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq People. I am also a graduate student in the MEd Counselling Program at the University of New Brunswick. My thesis is focused towards a holistic perspective on the journey of healing for Indigenous men reintegrating back into community after incarceration. The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network (IMN) has become an important part of my journey as graduate student. The IMN provides a safe space to navigate the journey of Indigenous research in academia. I made this seal skin brooch in a workshop offered by IMN. Working on my thesis has inspired me to reconnect with my creative side which got lost in the busyness of life.

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Artwork

Sealskin Flowers in the Forest

Lauren Young¹
¹Dalhousie University
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15273/hpj.v1i2.11196>



About the Artist



I am a second-year undergraduate student at Dalhousie University, and I am doing a Bachelor of Medical Sciences. I am a Mi'kmaq woman and I became a member of the Atlantic-IMN in my first year of university. They have given me opportunities to become more connected to my culture which has included creating these seal skin brooches as well as making my first pair of moccasins. I have always been an artistic person and have enjoyed visual arts using mediums such as paint, chalk, pencils, charcoal, and ink; performing arts in music playing piano, guitar, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone. Having the opportunity to work on making brooches and moccasins has enabled me to explore a new form of art that made me feel more connected to natural elements within our world that are provided to us. The IMN gives a chance to step away from academics and connect with a community of people who share similar values and culture but varied life experiences. Despite COVID-19, they still offered an opportunity to connect virtually, and share knowledge and learnings. It is a great group and I look forward to future events as well as the chance to meet other members in person!

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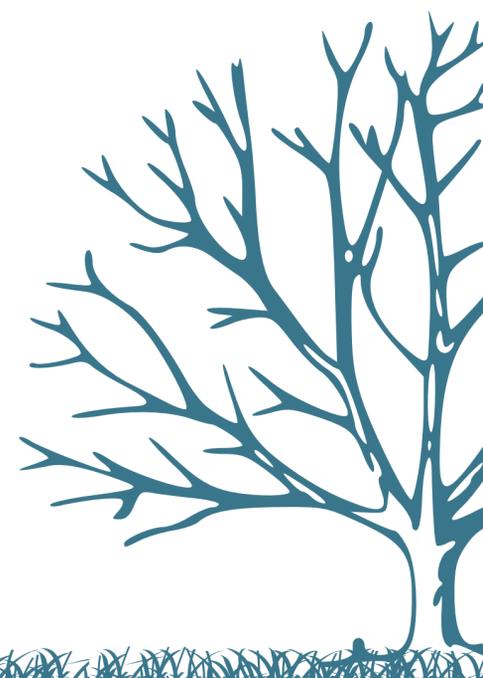
Pictures. (Clockwise from top left): Cover featuring moccasins by Cassandra Bruhm, inside cover with Atlantic IMN description, Sealskin flowers by Lauren Young, Sealskin flower by Angelina Heer.

Social Media and Communications Member Testimonials

"I want to thank you for putting together such a comprehensive and clear E-Digest. Almost every one of them has led me to webinars and other opportunities which have been educational and full of meaningful connections and deep work. These have deeply enriched my very isolated pandemic experience." (Network Member 1)

"I really appreciate the work and emotional input you put into this weekly update. I really enjoy seeing all the opportunities for Indigenous folkx." (Network Member 2)

"I want to say thanks for always sharing great information such as the information to participate in the NGGS this year. I found it such a great experience to participate in the 3 minute research competition!" (Network Member 3)



Atlantic-IMN and the Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR)

The PI for the Atlantic-IMN, Dr. Debbie Martin, along with Co-PIs of the Atlantic-IMN Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo and Dr. Jane McMillan, and new PIs of the NEIHR Network John Sylliboy and Dr. Margot Latimer recently applied for, and were successfully granted, the NEIHR grant for the Atlantic region, which is called the Wabanaki-Labrador Network. The Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) Program was conceived and developed to address a wide range of needs in relation to capacity development, research, and knowledge translation for Indigenous trainees, communities and organizations across Canada (Government of Canada, 2019). With the knowledge that the NEIHR within this region will eventually absorb the activities and initiatives of the Atlantic-IMN, a partnership within these two Networks has allowed for successful planning for each of these Networks to operate independently for the time being and allow for a smooth transition into one large Network.

The development of the Wabanaki-Labrador Network was supported by a CIHR-IIPH Development Grant, which allowed for outreach activities and funding support in order to submit a full proposal to create a NEIHR Network within the Atlantic region. Through this development grant, a Co-Learning Health Research Summit was held at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in K'ijipuktuk (Halifax) June 13th and 14th, 2019. The purpose of the Co-Learning Health Research Summit was to better understand how the proposed Wabanaki-Labrador Network can support the health research priorities of Indigenous communities within the Atlantic region and create collaborative plans to transform how health research is done within the region to reflect community priorities. This event was well attended by Atlantic-IMN team members and invited collaborators and supporters of the proposed Wabanaki-Labrador NEIHR.



Picture: Attendees at the Co-Learning Health Research Summit held at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

Reference: Government of Canada. (2019). Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR). Retrieved from: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51161.html>

