

Rooting Ourselves in the Land, Responsibility, and Story:

Transformative Learning and Two-Eyed Seeing in the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network

ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network is a CIHR-funded project that involves a collaboration among universities, communities, and Indigenous organizations and governments in four Canadian provinces (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador). The Network brings together more than 60 Elders, scholars, community leaders, and trainees from across the region. The goal of the Network is to support Indigenous-led health research in the Atlantic region.

ETUAPTUMUK // TWO-EYED SEEING

Two-Eyed Seeing is fundamental to our work in Indigenous health. Two-eyed seeing is about “learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all” (Elder Albert Marshall and Dr. Cheryl Bartlett).

Atlantic Canada is the birthplace of Two-Eyed Seeing, as put forward by Elder Albert Marshall and Dr. Cheryl Bartlett, and is home to diverse knowledge systems that emerge from Inuit, Innu, Mi’kmaq, and Wolastoqey perspectives. With the Two-Eyed Seeing framework, we recognize the importance of place-based, community- and culture-specific knowledge that promotes and centres Indigenous languages and ways of knowing, being, and doing. Through an innovative program of mentorship, the Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network is creating space for students, communities, and educational institutions to transform the Indigenous health research environment in Atlantic Canada.

Nathaniel Pollock,¹ Amy Bombay,² Ashlee Cunsolo,¹ Catherine Hart,² Jane McMillan,³ Iona Worden-Driscoll,² and Debbie Martin²

¹Labrador Institute of Memorial University, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada; ²Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada; ³St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

REGIONS

The geographic reach of the Network includes the four Atlantic provinces. We refer to the territory of the Maritime provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island) by the Mi’kmaq term, **Wabanaki** meaning *people of the dawn*. In the sub-Arctic regions, our network includes Labrador and Newfoundland. The Indigenous peoples who live in the Atlantic region are culturally, linguistically, and epistemically diverse, and include the Innu, Inuit (Nunatsiavut), Southern Inuit (NunatuKavut), Mi’kmaq, and Wolastoqey.

OBJECTIVES

The Atlantic Indigenous Mentorship Network is guided by four main objectives:

- ① Support the training and development of the next generation of Indigenous health researchers
- ② Leverage the mentoring capacities of our network of researchers and community health partners
- ③ Deepen the transformative impact of the Network by embedding each of our activities within Two-Eyed Seeing
- ④ Facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges within research and post-secondary institutions in Atlantic Canada

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

For the duration of this grant, the Network’s main activities include the following:

- ✓ **Atautsik Nipik Collaborative** // Connect students, community members, Elders, and scholars to foster mentorship
- ✓ **Network Portal** // Increase access to research support and resources, and promote connections between Network members
- ✓ **Co-Learning Initiative** // Deliver Indigenous health-focused field schools and summer institutes
- ✓ **Kausattumi Grants Program** // Provide scholarships and seed grants to students and early career researchers
- ✓ **Community Needs Assessment** // Identify regional and community research priorities in Indigenous health

NETWORK CONTACTS & LOCATIONS

We invite students, community members, scholars, and others in Atlantic Canada and beyond who are interested in Indigenous health to get involved with the Network. To find out more about our upcoming summer institute, how to apply for a scholarship, or to sign up for our newsletter, find us online or in person:

www.atlantic-imn.ca
t @Atlantic_IMN
f @AtlanticIMN

K’jipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia, Canada
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada
Nathaniel Pollock // npollock@mun.ca