



Video - What is your advice to the next generation of Indigenous health professionals, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers?

Description

Colleagues and supporters of the NCCIH offered advice to the next generation of Indigenous health professionals, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, as they carry out the work of the NCCIH in years to come. This video features the words and wisdom shared by Elder Madeleine Dion Stout/Kētēskwew, Dr. Michael Bird, Dr. Geoff Payne, and Dr. Sarah Hunt/Tlalilila'ogwa. Together, these collective voices offer insight into the value of collaboration and the importance of having diverse forms of knowledge from distinct perspectives and being an influencer and innovator in Indigenous health promotion.

Transcript

Madeleine Dion Stout / Kētēskwew: *[speaks in Cree]* To advise the next generation of public health researchers, practitioners, and decision makers, there is a need to be mindful of continuing to be influencers.

There are at least four quadrants to consider going forward. One, always seeing something of worth by using our imagination. *[Cree]*

Two, recognizing something old is essential. It is new again. *[Cree]* And it's better known as 'tradition' in English, that is.

Three, being mindful of innovation. *[Cree]* Homegrown and transformative activities or positions.

Last but not least, keeping *[Cree]* good turns from changing fortunes, front and center.

Michael Bird: We really need to be supporting each other and pulling each other along, and not view our own folks as competition. Because the world we live in - I know here in the U.S. - is a very competitive environment, and inherently it's easy for university programs to compete for stature, for resources, for faculty. You know that some of that - if we're not careful - can divide us versus unite us.

And if we're clear on our purpose then I think we can see through some of that. We all need to just be kind to each other. We need to be supportive of each other. We need to be honest with each other. And the more we can do that, the more success we'll have, not just for the individual but for our entire community.



Marjolaine Sioui: In a vision that we have as First Nations people, which is often a little different from society as a whole and which belongs to us, in a context like this, I always say to myself that our culture must be the way of everything we do. So for me, this issue is extremely important and it's a message that I'll share with other people who want to get involved in this field.

Geoff Payne: You know, sometimes we get caught up in the day-to-day of what we're doing. And I've been a firm believer always that, you know, we all have our own unique strengths but collectively and collaboratively we can do things that individually we'd not be able to do. And I think the Collaborating Centre has - over the past 20 years - shown the ability to be a convener, a pusher of boundaries, to really make sure that the research goes beyond the four walls of the academy and out in the community. So, I challenge the next generation to continue to learn.

Sarah Hunt / Tłaliłila'ogwa: I would really just encourage people to pay attention to their own interests, their own set of relationships, the gifts that they have, the knowledge that they bring.

Because there isn't one pathway. And I think that's one of the beautiful things about NCCIH -that there's room for artists. There's room for people directly working in the medical field. There's room for people who are organizing at a grassroots level. I think the ability to address Indigenous health in a holistic way means that there's a place for all of us to be part of those conversations and to bring our own unique gifts and perspectives, our own skills.

And so I think that because NCCIH has been one of the networks that is really expanding how we think about and define health and wellness and the ways we can get at that, especially through creative works, kind of breaking out of the some of the solely kind of scientific disciplines and really opening it up to all knowledge systems, to Indigenous knowledge systems. I think that that's really done through people's willingness to take risks and to follow their own intuitions.

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