



Separate Beds: A History of Indian Hospitals in Canada, 1920s – 1980s

A Public Health and Preventative Medicine (PHPM) webinar hosted by the National Collaborating Centres for Aboriginal Health (NCCAHA) and Infectious Diseases (NCCID).

December 4, 2018
11:00-12:30 PST / 2:00-3:30 EST

POST-WEBINAR RESOURCE LIST

If you're experiencing emotional distress and want to talk, contact the toll-free [First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) at **1-855-242-3310** or the online chat at hopeforwellness.ca open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additional mental health resources and services can be found through the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) and the [Peer Support Canada](#) web sites.

Q&A Suggested Resources

Question 1:

“Your book is different from Gary Geddes’s *Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care* (2017) in that your research involved access to government documentation. Have you been approached by those who are contemplating suing for treatment in the in the 'Indian hospitals'?”

Answer 1 suggested resources:

- Geddes, G. (2017). *Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care*. Victoria: Heritage.
- Lux, M. K. (2016). *Separate beds: A history of Indian hospitals in Canada, 1920s-1980s*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.



Question 2:

“Can you comment at all on the kind of health care and service that communities received where there were not Indian hospitals? Did your research look into that?”

Answer 2 suggested resources:

- Research the Charles Camsell Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Komarnisky, S., Hackett, P., Abonyi, S., Heffernan, C., & Long, R. (2015). “Years ago”: Reconciliation and First Nations narratives of tuberculosis in the Canadian Prairie Provinces. *Critical Public Health*, 26(4), 381-393. doi:10.1080/09581596.2015.1067672

Question 3:

“Why do you think there was a different approach in Alaska in the planning against TB, compared to Canada’s approach?”

Answer 3 suggested resources:

- Agency Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.ihs.gov/aboutihs/overview/>
- Drees, L. M. (2010). Indian Hospitals and Aboriginal Nurses: Canada and Alaska. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 27(1), 139-161. doi:10.3138/cbmh.27.1.139

Question 4:

“Could you please comment upon the involuntary sterilization of Indigenous women in Canadian hospitals today?”

Answer 4 suggested resources:

- Dyck, E. (2013). Facing eugenics: Reproduction, sterilization, and the politics of choice. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Indianz. (n.d.). Erika Dyck: Canada's shameful history of sterilizing Indigenous women. Retrieved from <https://www.indianz.com/News/2018/12/07/erika-dyck-canadas-shameful-history-of-s.asp>

Question 5:

“Did your research uncover ways that people with mental health difficulties were "treated" or managed? Is it true that Indigenous people at Residential Schools who were not compliant with the regime were transferred to Indian Hospitals for management?”

Answer 5 response: (abbreviated)

- Residential schools and Indian hospitals worked in tandem.



Question 6:

“Is there any estimation of the number of children who suffered physical abuse or sexual abuse in the Indian Hospitals? Can you also provide an estimate of how many individuals went through the Indian hospitals?”

Answer 6 response: (abbreviated)

- There is a lack of access to those types of records, if they exist. Most documented sources come from the survivors of abuse.

Question 7:

“BC wasn't covered by numbered treaties, and on Vancouver Island we had some Douglas Treaties. That said, do you know the location or number of Indian Hospitals that operated in BC or was there only the one in Nanaimo?”

Answer 7 response:

- Nanaimo Indian Hospital, Nanaimo, BC
- Miller Bay Indian Hospital, Prince Rupert, BC
- Coqualeetza Industrial Institute, Sardis, BC (about 5 kilometres south of Chilliwack)

Question 8:

“Can you briefly share what has led you to study this topic?”

Answer 8 suggested resources:

- Lux, M. K. (2001). *Medicine that Walks: Disease, Medicine, and Canadian Plains Native People, 1880-1940*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Question 9:

“When the Apprehension Order was introduced, was it limited to infectious diseases, such as TB, or was it more broadly applied?”

Answer 9 suggested resources:

- See Form 7018 (c) Indian Health Regulations, part of the Indian Act, which construed illness as a crime for Indigenous people, and was not limited to TB.
- Lux, M. (2018, January 31). Indian Hospitals in Canada. Retrieved from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indian-hospitals-in-canada>



Question 10:

“As an Indigenous person I would say that Indigenous people are still being treated differently within the health care system, even without Indian hospitals. How do you think this history can be used to invoke change at all health care levels? Is it through policies? Or simply education?”

Answer 10 suggested resources:

- McCallum, M.J., & Perry, A. (2018). *Structures of Indifference an Indigenous Life and Death in a Canadian City*. Winnipeg, MB: University of Manitoba Press.

Question 11:

“Did you find any evidence of early drug testing within the Indian Health Services, specifically tuberculosis vaccination and early antibiotic testing?”

Answer 11 suggested resources:

- See the history of the Ft. Qu’Appelle Indian Hospital in Saskatchewan.
- Lux, M. (1998). *Perfect Subjects: Race, Tuberculosis, and the Qu’Appelle BCG Vaccine Trial*. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 15(2), 277-295. doi:10.3138/cbmh.15.2.277

Question 12:

“In your research, have you come across traditional ways of knowing, or approaches, used by Indigenous people for TB treatment?”

Answer 12 response:

- Sweat lodge use was important.

Question 13:

“What was the care like for Indigenous peoples beyond hospitals at this time? Example for primary care? Did any health care infrastructure or system exist for public health?”

Answer 13 response: (abbreviated)

- Nursing stations were often on reserves.



Question 14:

“Can you elaborate on the role of Aboriginal employees in terms of being patient liaisons, particularly for paid translators and being cultural brokers and supports for patients?”

Answer 14 response: (abbreviated)

- Information is limited, but the positions in the hospitals were important for both individual income and access to community health services.

Question 15:

“In writing the book, have you had a chance to work with local systems or local peoples regarding how they can use your history to inform their, hopefully better, practice in TB management and care?”

Answer 15 response: (abbreviated)

- Influencing current care was not a focus, but rather sharing knowledge about the history of Indian hospitals to create a greater understanding regarding the reluctance of Indigenous patients to seek care.

Question 16:

“Do you have any information about the difference in services that are covered by provincial health plans vs "Indian Health"?”

Answer 16 response: (abbreviated)

- It can be a source of frustration.

Additional Resources

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). *Agency overview*. Retrieved from <https://www.ihs.gov/aboutihs/overview/>

Drees, L.M. (2010). [Indian hospitals and Aboriginal nurses: Canada and Alaska](#). *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 27(1), 139-161. doi:10.3138/cbmh.27.1.139

Dyck, E. (2013). [Facing eugenics: Reproduction, sterilization, and the politics of choice](#). Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Geddes, G. (2017). [Medicine unbundled: A journey through the minefields of Indigenous health care](#). Victoria, BC: Heritage.



- Dyck, E. (n.d.). Canada's shameful history of sterilizing Indigenous women. *The Conversation*, December 5. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/canadas-shameful-history-of-sterilizing-indigenous-women-107876>
- Komarnisky, S., Hackett, P., Abonyi, S., Heffernan, C., & Long, R. (2015). “Years ago”: Reconciliation and First Nations narratives of tuberculosis in the Canadian Prairie Provinces. *Critical Public Health*, 26(4), 381-393. doi:10.1080/09581596.2015.1067672
- Lux, M. (2018, January 31). Indian hospitals in Canada. *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (online) Retrieved from <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indian-hospitals-in-canada>
- Lux, M.K. (2001). Medicine that walks: Disease, medicine, and Canadian Plains Native people, 1880-1940. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.
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