



Video - The importance of the NCCIH

Description

Colleagues and supporters of the NCCIH shared their thoughts on having an organization such as the NCCIH to strengthen public health policies and practices concerning Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This video features their collective views and opinions on the NCCIH as a valuable distinctions-based knowledge hub for advancing culturally relevant, timely, and appropriate information about the health of First Nations people, Inuit, and Métis people at provincial, national, and international levels.

Transcript

Sarah Hunt / Tłaliłila'ogwa: I think NCCIH is important because Indigenous people's lives have been framed through lenses that are not our own for so long. So how our health is understood, how well-being is understood, how our needs and realities are understood, has for so long been determined through frameworks that are introduced by others.

And so, I think at the national level and at the local level, having Indigenous perspectives on our health determinants, the priorities, the needs, the approaches, I think is an essential part of our self-determination and our ability to shift and transform the lenses that have been introduced by others. So, I think that a centre like NCCIH really powerfully provides a space for all of us who are concerned about our health and well-being, about our future, [and] the current state of our communities and families, to come together and to kind of put our minds together and to take up those issues in a collective way. So, to me one of the main reasons why NCCIH is so important is to have that kind of hub.

As a Kwakwaka'wakw person, we've always been people who gather. We come together to look for answers to the big questions facing our communities. And so, I think this is like another iteration of that.

Madeleine Dion Stout / Kētēskwew: NCCIH was an act of bringing Indigenous people, communities and nations home - journeying us on to a collective lodge.

[Cree] Why the NCCIH Is important: It's focused on [Cree], proving the ability for breaking barriers down and for forging ahead.

This art was accomplished by founders like Senator Margo Greenwood; grounders like Albert Marshall, Don Fiddler, Dr. Tom Dignan, and many other advisory committee members – and the pounders, like Donna Atkinson and Sarah de Leeuw and other staff. They worked tirelessly to



produce useful health and well-being documents to communicate findings for dispensation far and wide.

This 20-year celebration is a time for triumphant outcries of victory [*Cree*] over poverties and pathologies of all kinds that plague Indigenous peoples, communities, and Nations.

Michael Bird: It's critically important because, you know, be it in the United States, in Canada or even South America, there's just been such a lack of attention paid to our communities historically. And I moderated a session last year at APHA and everyone talks about social determinants of health. Well, we came up with a new phrase: it's really *historical determinants of health*, because the first Americans are the last Americans to this day by any measure.

Geoff Payne: Although the Collaborating Centre is based here at UNBC [University of Northern British Columbia], there's no doubt that its impact is far-reaching, both provincially, nationally and internationally. And it's so great to see.

Marjolaine Sioui: The important thing about this work is precisely its mission to work with primarily Indigenous peoples to influence public policy, to influence the work of governments, to help them better understand the realities, as well as the diversity that there can be among our peoples.

Marilee Nowgesic: And when we went to these gatherings where the Collaborating Centre had the information available to the people, it was almost like birds coming to feed. They would all descend on the tables and all of a sudden, all your reports - the written reports - were all gone.

What that then told me was: people are shopping. They're interested in what it is that you're producing and finding it as a necessity to further research and development of their particular organizations.

Geoff Payne: And now, being president, I've had the opportunity to really work with and also see from the seat I'm sitting in the impact that they've had working with communities making that far-reach impact into the health of Indigenous communities as well as elevating the role of research.

But really, fundamentally, the importance of respectful relationships and how universities such as ours can learn from the Collaborating Centre and see what they do. It's been truly tremendous.

Sarah Hunt / Tłaliłila'ogwa: I really just want to celebrate and congratulate everyone at NCCIH who has been part of the work over these decades. You know, for me as a Two-Spirit and queer, Indigenous person, as a Kwakwaka'wakw and as a woman in particular, you know, there's not always a willingness to look at some of the challenging questions around equity, around kinds of



marginalization within our own communities. And so, I really appreciate the room that the NCCIH has made and the leadership of everyone who's a part of that team in being responsive to and being happy to have those conversations - to host webinars, to publish papers to ensure that these questions are front and center instead of being kind of pushed to the side or treated as uncomfortable or not important.

I'm just really appreciative of the work that that takes institutionally - the work that that takes at policy tables. And just to really say how much it means to me personally to be a part of this community. So congratulations and I look forward to the work ahead.

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