

TEAM 20

Issues in Dementia Care for Indigenous Populations

Fall/Winter 2018

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Wayne Warry
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University of Calgary

Laura Warren
Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Elder Betty McKenna

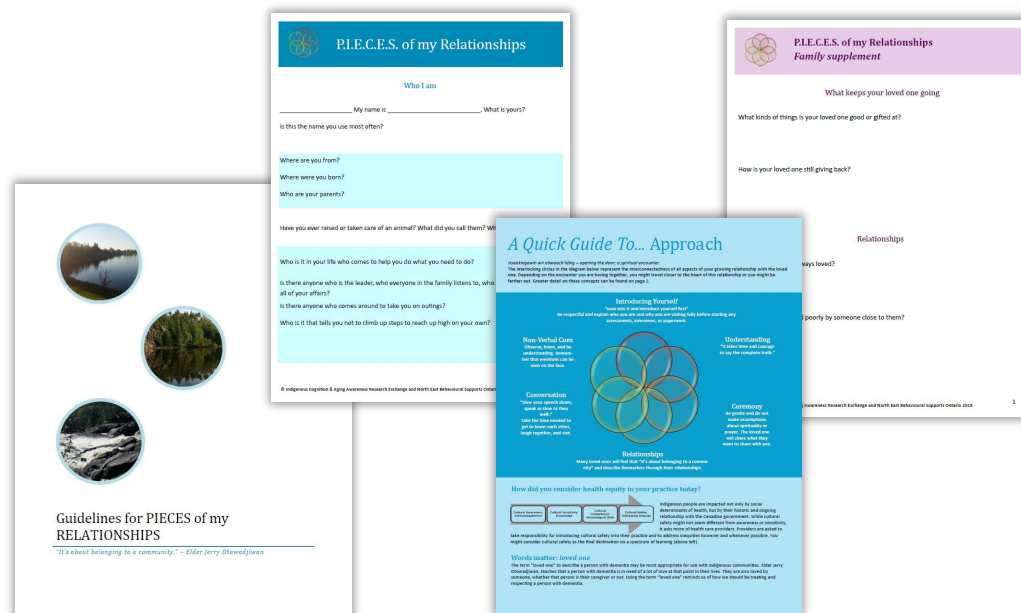
Elder Jerry Otowadjiwan

Melissa Blind
University of Minnesota
Medical School, Duluth

New practice tools available now

We are very excited to share that we have new practice tools available for health care providers working with loved ones and caregivers! These tools were created in collaboration with North East Behavioural Supports Ontario (NE BSO), the Anishinaabe Language Expert Group, and focus group participants in Serpent River, Sudbury, and Cochrane. These are meant to be used as guides for getting to know the loved one and their family, and offer a culturally safe and grounded alternative to mainstream practice tools used by NE BSO.

PIECES of my Relationships, Guidelines to PIECES of my Relationships, PIECES of my Relationships Family Supplement, and A Quick Guide to... Approach are now available at www.i-caare.ca/practicetools.



The CICA works!

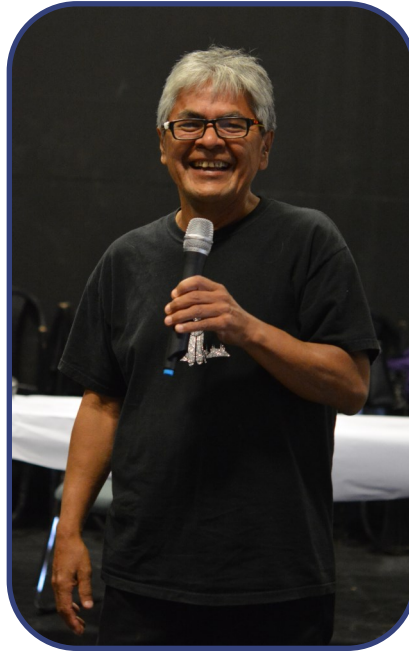
In our last newsletter, we shared stories about the many people involved in the development of the Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (CICA). "Cognitive assessments" are used to figure out if older people are experiencing memory loss. For a long time, we have known that these don't work well with Indigenous people, so we began work adapting an assessment on Manitoulin in 2015. Jennifer Walker spent quite a bit of time crunching the numbers, and we are able to say confidently that the CICA works! For more information on the CICA development process, visit www.i-caare.ca/cica, or see our Spring 2018 Newsletter (www.i-caare.ca/newsletters).

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Dbaajmowaanhsan (Small Stories)

"Guidelines to PIECES of my Relationships" is shaped by dbaajmowaanhsan from participants involved in various dementia research projects related to aging in Indigenous communities. Available at i-caare.ca/practicetools

Art and research in action with... Leland Bell and the Advisory Council



On August 22, 2018, we arrived early in the morning at the Debajehmujig Creation Centre in Manitowaning and worked with their staff to set up a room for a special Advisory Council meeting. A focus of our work is "Access to culturally safe and relevant dementia care for Indigenous people in Canada."

To explore this, Karen Pitawanakwat and Melissa Blind visited with seven traditional knowledge keepers from all areas of Manitoulin. The knowledge keepers graciously agreed to be filmed, and shared many stories and teachings during these visits. These teachings will be used to inform recommendations for culturally safe dementia care and much more.

Karen and Melissa then brought these recordings to artist Leland Bell, recommended by the Advisory Council. He made an original painting to visually describe each of the six visits. This meeting brought together Leland and the Advisory. Speaking in English and Anishinaabemwin, Leland described each painting in detail, as well as the process he went through to bring each knowledge keeper's words to life on the canvas. This arts-based, group analysis will inform recommendations, writings, and more work that we are doing to promote and increase access to culturally safe and relevant dementia care.

This fall and winter, each of the paintings are being gifted back to the knowledge keepers in a manner of their choosing. A copy of each painting will be placed on display in community.



L-R: Karen Pitawanakwat, Bonita Bebamash, Roseanne Debassige, Roselinda Peltier, Jean McGregor-Andrews, Joe Peltier, and Bill Antoine listen carefully. Other photo, above left: Leland Bell.

Photo credit: Linda Roy.

Right: Jules Osawamick examines "Healing Step." Also pictured: Rose Shawanda, Kristen Jacklin, and Melissa Blind.

Below: Bill Antoine smiles while getting a closer look at "Linkages." Also pictured: Jean McGregor-Andrews and Joe Peltier.

Photo credit: Linda Roy



*"The song goes,
'When that time
comes, when my hair
turns white,*

*silver, silver hair, will I
be able to sound like
they sound?' That's
how the song goes.*

*'I wonder if I'm going
to sound how they
sound, now, when I
get there.' "*

*(Elder Jerry
Otowadjiwan)*

Baamaapii and Chi-Miigwetch, Thecla Pheasant



We were deeply saddened when we heard that Thecla Pheasant transitioned to the spirit world this fall. In addition to her many beautiful roles in her community and her family, Thecla was a member of the Anishinaabe Language Expert Advisory. She was one of the original translators of the Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment and influenced many of the paths our research work has taken. We are deeply honoured to have learned from her. Baamaapii, Thecla. Chi-Miigwetch for all that you shared with us.

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Words to consider...

Gmoozh'aa gego e-zhiyaad

you feel and you know you are in the presence of the
loved one's energy.



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On the road... *Sharing our work*

Karen Pitawanakwat and Emily Piraino presented at the Indigenous Health Conference on May 24, 2018 in Mississauga, Ontario, on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit about the practice tools featured on the first page of this newsletter.

Melissa Blind presented "Technology for the way that we are" at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Chicago. This was one of only three presentations selected, and there were almost 200 people in the audience. This work was based on focus groups to explore technology for aging in place in Indigenous communities.



The International Indigenous Dementia Research Network met at the Alzheimer Association International Conference on July 26 in Chicago. The IIDRN connects researchers from several countries, including Canada, the United States, Brazil, and Australia who share a commitment to research concerning Alzheimer's disease, dementia and healthy aging in Indigenous peoples.



Next Steps

We are working with the Community Advisory Group on what the next phase of our research with Manitoulin could look like. The Advisory Group has generously taken on the role of Advisory Council and is directing the next phase of funding applications. Kristen, Karen, and Melissa will be presenting Indigenous perspectives in dementia care to health care providers in Thunder Bay in November. We are planning training and implementation for the newly validated Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment.

Get in touch...

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Meet Kristen



Dr. Kristen Jacklin has been working with the First Nations on Manitoulin Island since 1999. She is a medical anthropologist who began her career responding to First Nations community health needs on Manitoulin.

She conducted her Ph.D. research with the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian reserve and then began as an Assistant Professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as part of their founding faculty in 2005.

Kristen recently moved to Duluth, Minnesota to start a new position as Associate Director of the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Kristen continues to lead many of our CCNA related projects on Manitoulin and visits often.

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