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ANNUAL
REPORT

*Indigenous Health Initiatives
Program*

19



ABOUT US

our history

The Indigenous Health Initiatives Program (IHIP) was established in 1988 with the mandate to address the underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in health professions.

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD) was the first medical school in Canada to support this mandate by reserving 5 seats for admission to the MD Program for Indigenous students.

Over the last 30 years, the IHIP has supported close to 200 Indigenous health professionals as they enter into and graduate from any one of the 5 faculty programs. Indigenous graduates of these programs go on to make significant contributions to the health system and take on important leadership roles in their communities of origin and throughout the system.

in a nutshell....

The Indigenous Health Initiatives Program (IHIP) is a distinct & unique program that provides holistic wrap around supports and services to Indigenous students in any one of the 5 faculty programs in addition to supporting the FoMD in responding to the TRC Calls to Action, and meeting the priority needs of the communities we serve.

The IHIP works directly with partners across the health system, faculty, staff and Indigenous students to foster a sense of community and belonging, and to strengthen students' distinctions-based identities by connecting students to each other and their communities of origin.

The IHIP are honoured to serve the FoMD, Indigenous communities and most especially Indigenous students along their journeys!



THE 5 PILLARS

1

Indigenous Health Professionals

1. Outreach and engagement with Indigenous communities/organizations
2. Distinctions-based supports & services
3. Opportunities for Indigenous children/youth to engage in health sciences

2

Spaces & Places

1. Create safe, welcoming and responsive environments -- "See Yourself Here"
2. Indigenize FoMD space and place to foster dialogue, collaboration and partnership.

3

Relationships

1. Build and strengthen relationships with partners in Indigenous Health.
2. Establish mechanisms for reciprocal accountability.

4

Commitments & Partnerships

1. Outward facing commitment to advancing the priority health needs of the communities we serve.
2. Advance the TRC Calls to Action (CTA) 18-24 in meaningful ways.
3. Work in partnership with Indigenous peoples and communities to better meet their identified needs.

5

Learning & Development

1. Implement Indigenous Health Course TRC CTA 24
2. Build faculty, student, staff capacity and knowledge re: Indigenous peoples and health.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Indigenous Health Professionals

1. MD Admissions Initiative for Diversity and Equity (MD AIDE)
2. Heritage Youth Research Summer Studentship (HYRS)
3. Science is Kool - Outreach and Engagement
4. Responsive Program Materials "See Yourself Here"
5. Local Officers of Indigenous Health (LOIH) + Indigenous Medical Dental Students Association (IMDSA)
6. Health Horizons Days (Northern communities)

Spaces and Places

1. Indigenous Gathering Space (MSB 2-02)
2. Indigenizing the Academy (art installations)
3. Health Sciences Indigenous Information Learning Commons (HSIILC)

Relationships

1. First Nation and Metis Organizations (in progress)
2. Awasisak, Indigenous Wellness Clinic
3. First Nation Education Authorities
4. Indigenous health organizations
5. Elders & Knowledge Keepers
6. Across faculty programs, departments etc.

Commitments and Partnerships

1. TRC - CTA 23, 24 + 18...
2. AFMC Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health (JCTA)
3. Exploratory discussions with partners in NWT, Treaty 8 territory re pathways to medicine.

Learning & Development

1. Implemented the KAIROS Blanket Exercise for all incoming students during O-Week as part of their foundational learning in Indigenous Health.
2. Implemented the Indigenous Health Course across all 5 programs - designed & delivered by Indigenous peoples.
3. Delivered a Lunch & Learn Series in Indigenous Health in partnership with LOIH.
4. Delivered KAIROS Blanket Exercise to faculty, students, and staff across the FoMD.



THE FUTURE

2019 & Beyond

Indigenous Health Professionals

1. Distinctions-based outreach to First Nations students on-reserve, Metis settlements, and in Northern communities.
2. Dedicated staff to support students entering into, graduating from, and completing residency training.
3. Enhanced and distinctions-based funding supports that redress the legacy of colonialism (ie. TRC CTA 18)

Space & Place

1. Advance Health Sciences Indigenous Information Learning Commons (HSIILC) to completion.
2. Locate and transform additional space(s) for Indigenous students, faculty and staff through FoMD.

Relationships

1. Deepen direct relationships with Indigenous organizations as key rights-holders and partners in shaping the future of Indigenous Health in the faculty.
2. Advance relationships with First Nation Education Authorities to expand outreach, engagement in health sciences.

Commitments and Partnerships

1. Advance the commitment to the AFMC Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health + report on progress annually.
2. Advance partnership discussions with partners in NWT, Treaty 8 territory re pathways to medicine.

Learning & Development

1. Work with partners in post-graduate medical training to build residents knowledge, skill and capacity to work safely and respectfully with Indigenous Peoples.
2. Advance online, in-person and experiential learning opportunities for all students, staff, and faculty in anti-racism, cultural safety, and trauma-informed care.