

SPRING 2026

# ONTARIO NEIHR


NETWORK ENVIRONMENTS FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH


SHKAAKAMIKWE GCHI TWAA MIIGWEWIN  
(MOTHER EARTH'S GIFTS)





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BOOZHOO  
SEKON  
WACHAY  
HELLO!**

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## AANIIN, BOOZHOO, SEKON, WACHAY, HELLO

Miigwetch to our readers! Thank you for taking the time to review the Spring 2026 edition of Shkaakaamikwe gchi twaa miigwewin (Mother Earth's Gifts)! Be sure to follow us on all our social media platforms for the latest updates. On behalf of the ON NEIHR team, we are delighted to share our recent initiatives and accomplishments with you!

Chi miigwetch to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Ancestors for leading, teaching and trusting us with their wisdom, care and generosity as we walk through life together.

Our events continue to promote Indigenous health and well-being by connecting people with community partners and community-led programs that integrate traditional knowledge with common health practices.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Join us on **May 27** for Pihtikwê: Visits with First Nations Psychologists, **June 11** at The Graphic Novel Launch Party, **July 21-23** at the Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research (NAMHR) 2026 Research Intensive Workshop, **August 03-15** with Red Pepper Spectacle Arts, ON NEIHR and WIIH for Biiskaab Zaa'emaanag Birchbark Canoe Project, and **October 15** at the Connecting Indigenous Policy to Research Forum.

We hope you enjoy reading more about the itineraries for these functions alongside our recent presentations, publications, and webinar events over the past season!

Mahsi cho, Miigwetch, Marsi, Nia:wen, Thank you!



**Sophia Simonovic**  
Co-Editor, Research Assistant

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Co-Editor, Research Assistant

**Shanti Aguilar-Cardenas**  
Co-Editor, Ontario NEIHR Coordinator



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous  
Health Research Webinar Series at the  
Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health

Present

## PIHTIKWĒ: Visits with First Nations Psychologists

with

*Dr. Holly Graham*  
*Dr. Brenda Restoule*

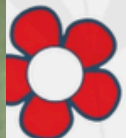


Wednesday 27 May 2026

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Hosted online via Zoom

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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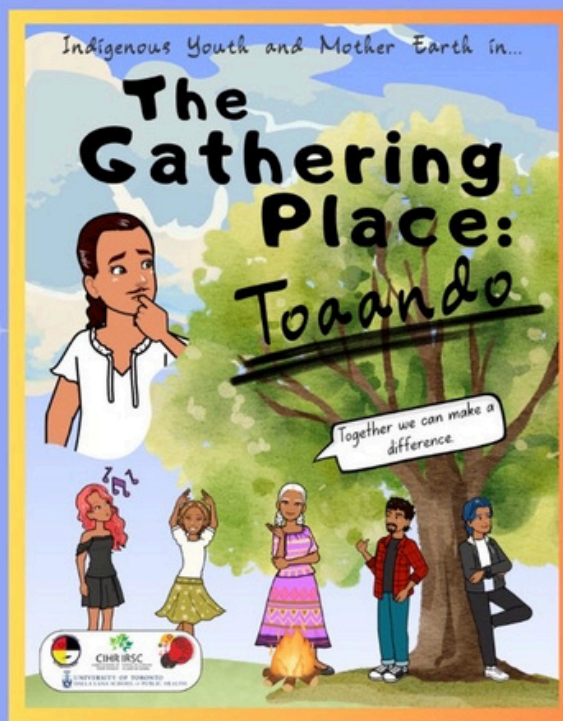
# Graphic Novel Launch Party

### Featuring:

- TALKS FROM ELDER LUANA SHIRT AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPER SIOUX LAMURE
- MEET THE PROJECT TEAM
- GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
- REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS PROVIDED

Date & Time: June 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 -  
11:30 - 1:30PM

Location: Waakebiness Institute  
for Indigenous Health, Suite 400,  
155 College St, Toronto, ON



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research**  
&  
**Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research**  
present...



# Indigenous Research Intensive Workshop



Are you an Indigenous **graduate student** interested in  
mental health?

Are you a worker who supports **Indigenous community**  
members?

The Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research's annual intensive  
workshop is back for its second year at the University of Toronto.

This **free workshop** will feature leading researchers in Indigenous health  
care to cover topics such as:

**Decolonizing** research and evidence-based medicine

**Indigenizing** mental health

**Supporting** community-driven research to drive  
Indigenous health outcomes

**When?** July 21 - 23, 2026

**Where?** [Mother Earth Learning Lodge](#)

University of Toronto & Online  
9:00am - 4:30 pm each day

**Questions?** Contact [mikaela.gabriel@utoronto.ca](mailto:mikaela.gabriel@utoronto.ca) for more details

[Register on  
Eventbrite](#)



Attendees will receive a  
**certificate of completion**  
from the University of Toronto

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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Red Pepper  
Spectacle Arts



Waakebiness  
Institute for  
Indigenous Health



ON NEIHR  
The Ontario Network  
Environments for  
Indigenous Health Research

Red Pepper Spectacle Arts, Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health & ON NEIHR present

## BIISKAAB ZAA'EMAANAG BIRCHBARK CANOE PROJECT


Join us at  
Askaakamigokwewigamig  
(Mother Earth Learning Lodge)  
20 Wilcocks St., Toronto, ON


This 14-day Canoe Workshop focuses  
on the construction of a traditional  
Biiskaabe Zaa'emaanag - Birchbark  
Canoe

Connecting university students and  
community youth with ancestral technology  
and Elder-led teachings with

Master Canoe Builder **Chuck Commanda**

Register on Eventbrite  
**3-15 AUGUST 2026**

 Food and honoraria provided for attendees.

Learn more at  
 @NEIHR\_  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Connecting Indigenous Research To Policy**

Join **ON NEIHR** and **CIHR-Funded** Researchers for a **DROP-IN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**


**10:00AM - 3:00PM: Drop-in knowledge sharing with researchers**

**3:00PM - 4:00PM: Sharing Circle Led by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers**

Join Ontario's leading Indigenous health researchers to translate high-impact data into sustainable policy. This event provides a direct channel to policy-makers to access community-led evidence, addressing critical gaps in provincial and national health frameworks.

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Event location to be shared with registration

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This in-person Research-to-Policy Forum event at the University of Toronto will present research findings from across the CIHR Funded Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (ON NEIHR) community, to further discuss information on Indigenous mental health policies and policy decisions grounded in wellbeing and health. The intended audience for the event is policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and representatives from urban and rural, and reserve First Nations, Metis, and Inuit governments and organizations, as well as municipal, provincial, and federal settler governments.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT ABSTRACT](#)

## 2026 National Gathering of Graduate Students

November 24-26, 2026  
The Westin Harbour Castle  
Toronto, Ontario

Hosted by the Ontario Network Environments  
for Indigenous Health Research

The National Gathering of Graduate Students (NGGS) is a national annual gathering that brings together Indigenous graduate students doing research on Indigenous health and wellness. It is an opportunity for Indigenous students to network, relationship-build, knowledge share, build capacity, and participate in cultural activities.

*Call for abstracts  
NOW OPEN!*

[Submit Abstract HERE](#)



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The ON NEIHR team is excited to announce that we are hosting the 5th Annual National Gathering of Graduate Students in Toronto! Masters and PhD students affiliated with the NEIHR Program and the Indigenous Mentorship Networks are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submission is

**June 19, 2026.**

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTATIONS

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, (2026, April 24). CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA) Dialogue Series, Toronto meeting [Dialogue series meeting]. SickKids Patient Support Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Gabriel, M. D. (2026, January). Intergenerational Injustice: Colonization, Environmentalism, and Impacts to Indigenous Youth Homelessness. CHL8010H S1: Justice for the Next Generation: Global Climate Health, Youth Homelessness, Diversity and Equity. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Gabriel M. D. (2026, January). Strengthening Our Foundations: Redesigning Indigenous Connections to Healthcare Research & Supporting New Directions. MitoRevolution Mito2i, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Gabriel, M. D., & Hedderson, E. (2026). Bridges and Barriers: Exploring healthcare access and services for Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Health Research Symposium, Population Health and Applied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada.

Hardy, B., Whitinui, P., & Stewart, S. (2026, January). Lessons learned: Designing impact measures to assess the effects of climate change on the mental health of Indigenous youth [Conference presentation]. Hawaii, United States.

Henry, B., Phillips-Beck, W., Erb, T., Gabriel, M.D., Qashu, L., Rand, J., Nielsen, R. & Bergeron, D. (2026, March). Building Trust In Turbulent Times: A Community-Driven Rapid Research Response To Wildfires And Indigenous Displacement. Canadian Public Health Association National Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED...

Liu, T., & Gabriel, M. D. (2026). Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Indigenous Women in Canadian Cities: An Environmental Scan. Indigenous Health Research Symposium, Population Health and Applied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada.

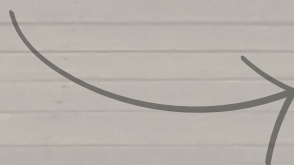
Mirza, S., Brown, M., Apt'sqi'gnn, Faulk, E. (2026, May 06). Impacts of Climate Crisis on Indigenous Youth Mental Health. Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health presentation, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Muscat, M., & Gabriel, M. D. (2026). The Role Of Community In Supporting The Mental Health Of Two-Spirit Peoples: An Environmental Scan. Indigenous Health Research Symposium, Population Health and Applied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada.

### PUBLICATIONS

Liu, T., & Gabriel, M. D. (2026, accepted). Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Indigenous Women in Canadian Cities: An Environmental Scan. BMC Reproductive Health.

Stewart, E., & ON NEIHR Team. (2026). Ontario Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research: Annual report 6.



Click [HERE](#) to view!



# PAST WEBINARS

## Developing a Culturally-Based Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Program for Young People in Prison



April 29, 2026

Watch [here](#) on YouTube



**Dr. Michael Doyle & Kaiwarr Clancy**

## From Harm to Healing Evidence-Based Pathways for Traditional Healing Spaces in Healthcare Settings

January 29, 2026

Watch [here](#) on YouTube



**Dr. Vanessa Ambtman-Smith**

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webinar events, scan the  
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(MOTHER EARTH'S GIFTS)

**MIIGWETCH, MAHSI CHO,  
MARSI, NIA:WEN, THANK YOU**

Without you, our community and our partners,  
this work would not be possible. We hope you  
enjoyed the Spring 2026 edition of  
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(Mother Earth's Gifts)!

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