



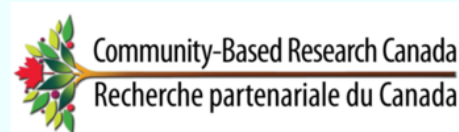
Art by Lisa Boivin, Dene Artist

# Cultural Safety (and a Culture of Safety) in Community- based Research

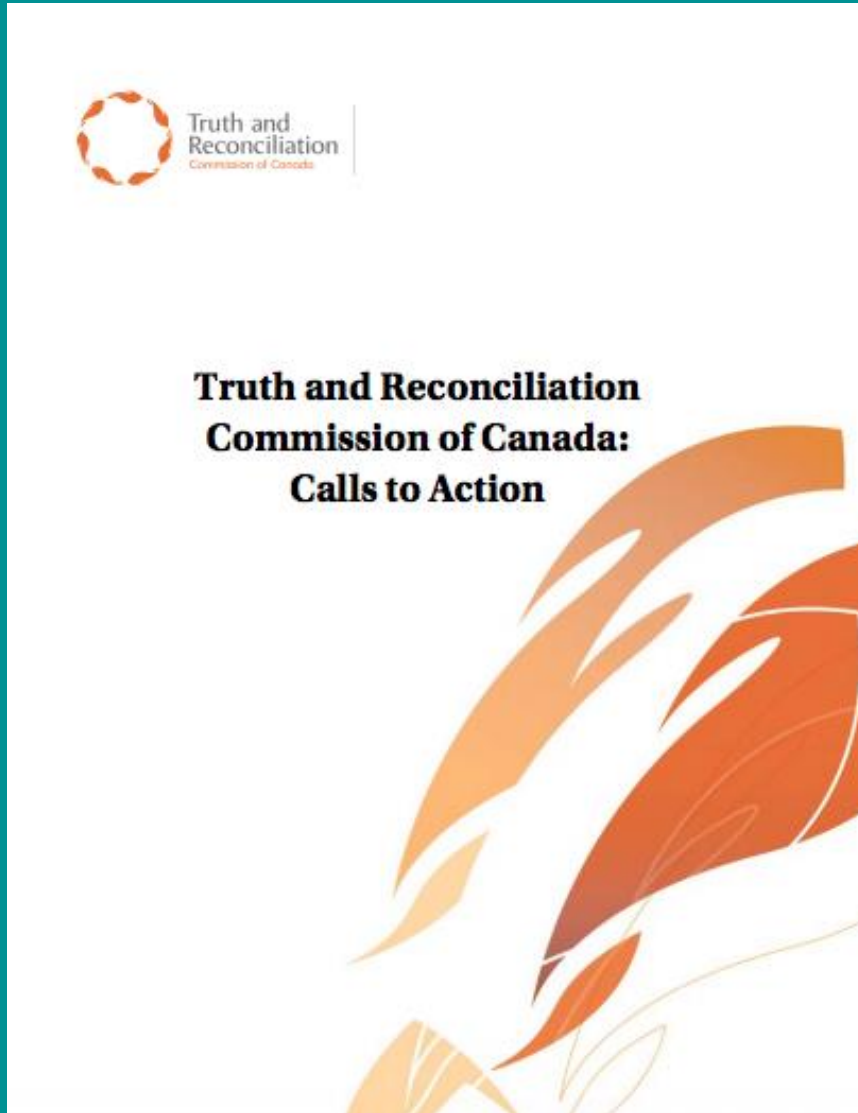
March 2021  
CBRCanada

Mike Standup, Carrie Martin and Renée Masching

Webinar series brought to you by  
Community-Based Research Canada



# Territorial Acknowledgment

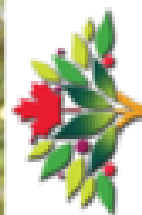


## Call to Action #14:

“We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

- i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
- iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.
- iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
- v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.”





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# Questions and Comments



ClickMeeting


Shifting the Narrative: A Health-Focused Approach to Research with HIV-Positive ...

Shifting Narrative: A Health-Focused Approach to Research with Indigenous Women who are HIV-Positive

Watch later Share

## Retreat-Style

- 5-day retreat; on the land
- **TB** = Art boxes, homecoming; **BC** = birch bark baskets, letting go; **SKN** = talking sticks, water ceremony; **AB** = capotes & drums, fashion show
- I feel like every essence of my being from within has been touched. ... I just feel like I'm taking a lot with me, and I feel like I even grew taller. I know I probably didn't, but I feel taller. **I feel stronger and I feel ready for what I have to face at home.**



Doris Peltier

AV POD

CHAT

Tracey Prentice  
It's fine for me

Centre for Community Based Research  
ok thanks Tracey. Monique, would you like to try logging off and back on?

Monique Fong Howe\_1  
I am calling in... :)

Centre for Community Based Research  
ok, thanks Monique!

Centre for Community Based Research  
we're recording, so you can also view this at a later time

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# Presenters



Elder Mike  
Standup



Renée  
Masching



Carrie  
Martin

# Acknowledging and Honouring

## RENÉE

- Our loved ones who tend our home fires
- First Nation adoptee
- Academic training in Social Work, community training in Mi'kmaq territory
- Mother, sister, (great) Auntie



# CAAN





# Self-Position - Carrie

- Mi'gmaq from Listuguj
- PhD student
  - Social and Cultural Analysis
- Mother of a beautiful toddler



CAAN





# Some Context\*

- Colonization and colonial practices continue to this day
  - Internalized within our populations and processes
  - Entrenched in law and policy in Canada
  - Reinforced by stereotypes, education and the ongoing benefits to the colonial enterprise

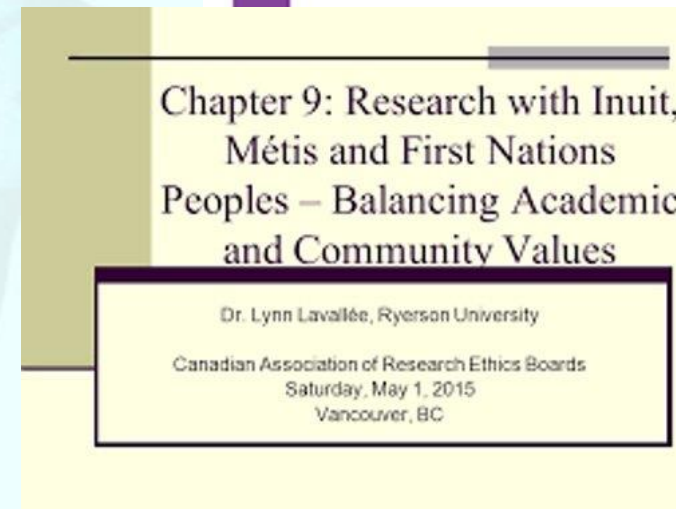
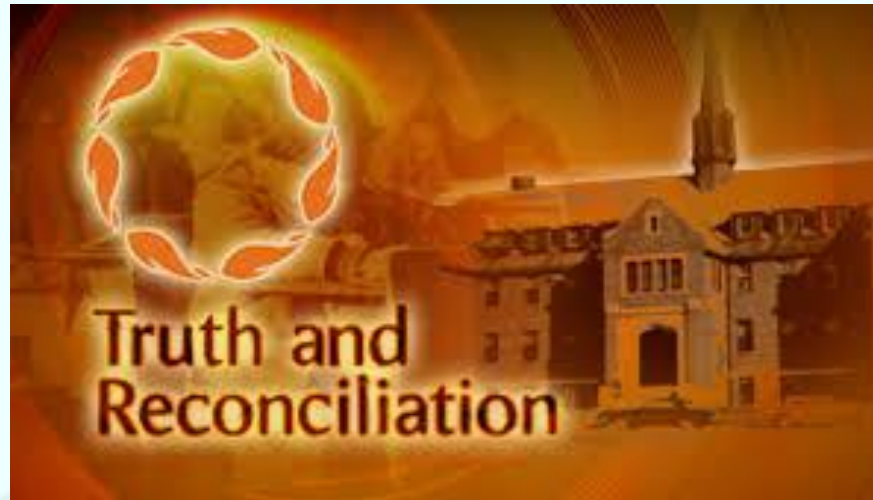
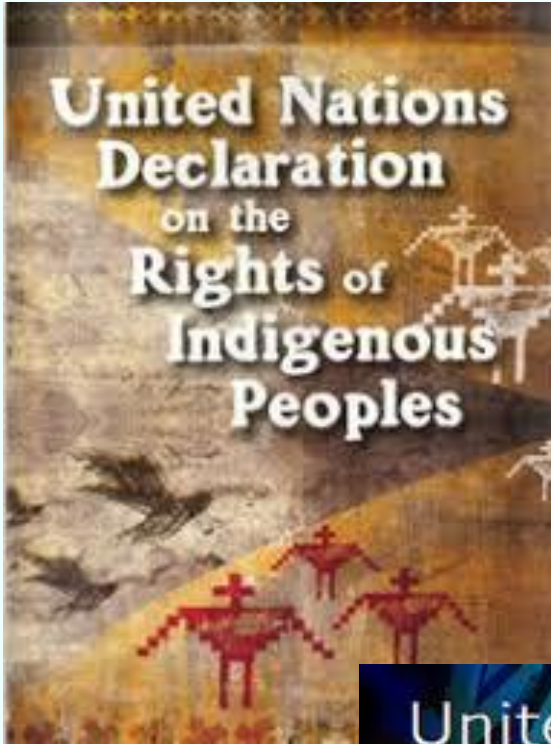
BUT

- We are ALL 'treaty' people, and we are in this together and must find a way forward together

\* See Drs Charlotte Loppie and Jeff Reading - [CBRCanada Webinar: Elements of Colonizing Research - YouTube](#)



# What has informed our work ...



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# Cultural Safety

- Introduced in Aotearoa (New Zealand) by Maori nurse Irihapeti Ramsden
- Requires attention to social justice, equity and power dynamics between self and the 'other'
- Multiple cultures are involved in our interactions at all times – personal, professional, institutional, and social for example

*The goal of cultural safety is for all people to feel respected and safe when they interact with the health care system. Culturally safe health care services are free of racism and discrimination. People are supported to draw strengths from their identity, culture and community.*

– [Cultural Safety | Indigenous Health \(indigenoushealthnh.ca\)](http://indigenoushealthnh.ca)



# The research partners and participants are not the only people who bring their culture

- A **personal** culture with a worldview, values, norms, and an attitude towards cultural difference
- A **professional** culture that includes representation as a stakeholder, organizational mandates, and professional standards
- **Social** cultures including poverty, education, gender
- The research **institution** and the system too
- These contexts are not "neutral"

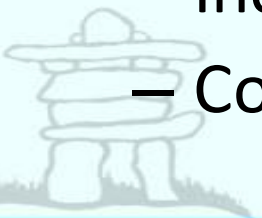
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# Cultural Safety in Research

- Research is ceremony (see Shawn Wilson's work!)
  - The process can matter as much as the outcome(s)
- Relationships are the heart of the work
- Ethical considerations underpin relationships
  - Collective ownership of information
  - Indigenous control of Indigenous data
  - Community involvement at all levels in all decisions



# Cultural Safety in Research Practice

- Plan for relationship building. Invest time from the beginning to establish a respectful rapport.
- There can be large cultural variations between (and within) Indigenous communities
  - Observe, ask questions, do not make assumptions.
- Negative experiences with research can have a profound effect on future interactions with research
- Recognize that when Indigenous people are not listened to, it is a continuation of oppression.

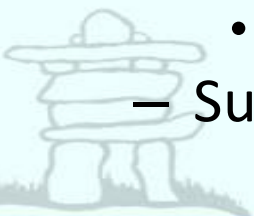
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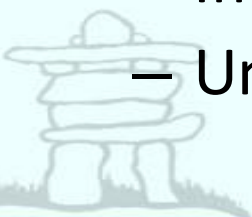
# Research Design Considerations

- Role(s) of Elders
- Community-based Research principles
  - Role of community leaders and those with living and lived experience
  - Choosing questions that relevant to the community
  - Nothing about us without us
- Building in community supports
  - Support individuals in research
    - Peer Navigators
    - Indigenous support workers
  - Support community led initiatives



# Linguistic Considerations

- Many Indigenous people speak their Indigenous language as their first language
  - French/English is a second language
  - Comprehension of questions and instructions can be difficult and may take more time to process
- Other sources of misunderstanding
  - Importance of non-verbal communication
  - Importance of silence and not interrupting
  - Uneasiness with "intrusive" questions





# Culture Saves Lives

Our research has reinforced

- HIV as a path to reconnecting with culture
- Family support - family of origin and/or family of choice – improves health
- Creating Safe Spaces starts with anticipating the needs of the people we engage with – language, childcare, transportation, finances, food, a quiet space to rest....

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# What we have learned ...

- How valuable context is e.g. the TRC
  - To learn the history, acknowledge the horrors and recognize the ongoing legacy
  - To make a path by walking and being self-aware
    - Reconciliation is personal and professional
- There are many things about the world that we don't know and that we look forward to learn ... research offers powerful opportunities

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# What might it mean to create a "culture of safety" in research?

*Concept introduced to us through Dr Karen Hill,  
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory*

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# Thank You

[reneem@caan.ca](mailto:reneem@caan.ca)

[carriem@caan.ca](mailto:carriem@caan.ca)

[www.caan.ca](http://www.caan.ca)

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Q&A

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**Wed., Mar. 31**

Live Discussion: Cultural  
Safety in Indigenous  
Community-Based  
Research

**Register**



**Register:** [www.communityresearchcanada.ca/events](http://www.communityresearchcanada.ca/events)



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# Awards Gala:

Stories of  
Community-Based  
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Excellence

MAY 6, 2021 at 4pm ET



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