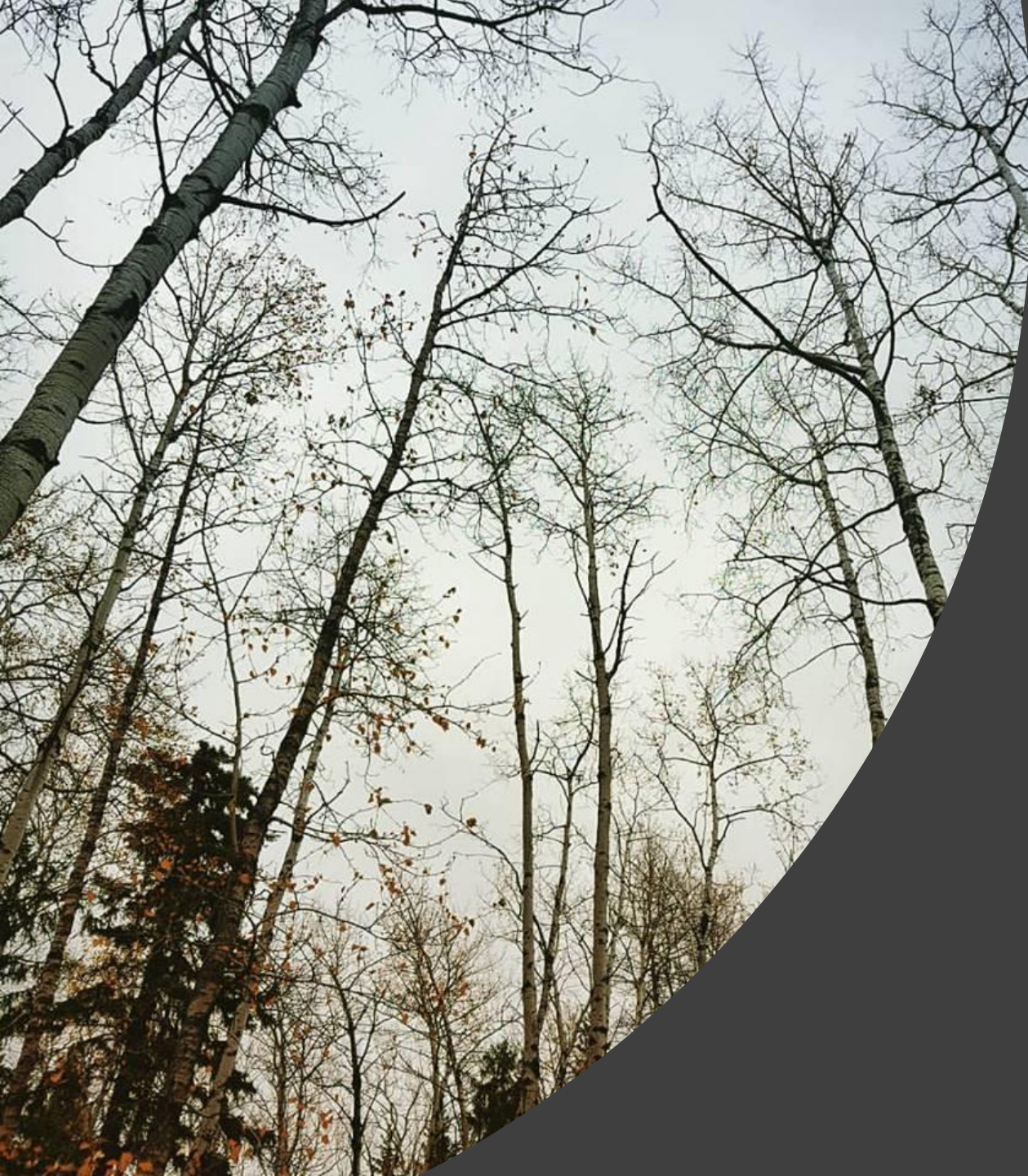




HARM REDUCTION SERIES THE ROAD IN-BETWEEN: HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR FIRST NATIONS

June 12, 2019
10:00-Noon

Presented by:
Audrey Mikkelsen
Indigenous Opioid
Response Coordinator
Northreach Society



Welcome this morning from Treaty
8 territory

I want to acknowledge the
ancestral and traditional territories
of the Beaver, Cree, Dene, and
Metis people,

As a visitor, I want to express my
gratitude for the invitation to share
and work in this territory.



At this time, may we offer up
a prayer that the dialogue we
have with one another today
will benefit all of humanity
and help ease the pain and
suffering in this world.

About us

- Our **mission** is addressing the Social Determinants of Health through innovation, collaboration, education, support and harm reduction
- Our **vision** is a safe and inclusive world, free of discrimination
- Our **idea** is to provide wraparound supports addressing risks related to sexually transmitted and blood borne infections, and to respond to identified community needs
- We **aim** to build a respectful, comprehensive and dignified network of support for all populations



Indigenous Opioid Response Program Objectives

- Creation of a holistic, community centered, harm reduction approach for Indigenous people and communities,
- Culturally safe overdose prevention programming and Naloxone training,
- Address stigma and discrimination associated with substance use,
- Increase culturally safe spaces and supports for individuals using substances leading to an increase in health and wellbeing,
- Increase knowledge and understanding of why a Holistic Indigenous/ Trauma Informed approach is necessary,
- Ongoing community discussions about culture and it's role in prevention and intervention of substance use disorders.



NORTHREACH

This session will encourage participants to...



NORTHREACH

- Examine the harms of stigma and discrimination
- Think openly about which harm reduction services may be appropriate for specific community contexts
- Review some current models of Indigenous harm reduction being used throughout the country
- Think of ideas for engaging leadership and community members

The Red Road

“When walking the Red Road , one is living as instructed by the Creator. The person who walks the Red Road lives a life of truth and charity – values handed down through generation to generation”

(Jean, 2003)

“The Red Road is the good way, the good side, and the right choice”

(Thunder Horse, 2010)

The Black Road

“This is a path of non-spirituality and greed. A person is never satisfied for desires are insatiable and this road ultimately leads to an early death”
(Sina Win, 2011)

“The Black Road is the bad way, the bad side, the wrong choices”
(Thunder Horse, 2010)



Harm Reduction as the Road In Between

The Road In Between
is not....

“Right or Wrong”

“Good or Bad”

“Dark or Light”



The Road in Between...

Accepts that an individual's readiness to change varies,

Acknowledges that stigma and discrimination are real barriers to change,

Recognizes the serious harms associated with substance use,

Approaches without judgement, with compassion,

Promotes connection to culture and ceremony, as a form of harm reduction,

Recognizes intersecting social identities,



Why consider this approach?

The past 400+ years, indigenous societies throughout Turtle Island have experienced similar patterns of colonial oppression.

While the details may be different, the impacts of colonization, conquest and attempted or successful assimilation are nearly the same.

Diminished life expectancy, disproportional burden of chronic disease and communicable illness, substance misuse and social violence have all been linked to an **overarching** colonial structure



Harm Reduction Delivery Models

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

“Walk With Me Pathways to Health:
Harm Reduction Service Delivery Model”

Native Youth Sexual Health Network

“Indigenizing Harm Reduction: Four Fires
Model”

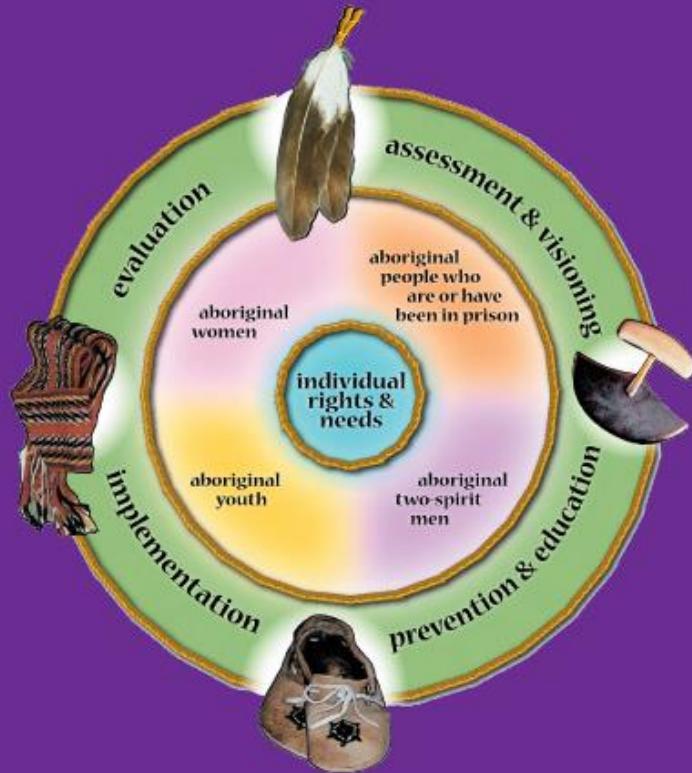
Portland Hotel Society

“Culture Saves Lives”



Walk With Me Pathways to Health

Harm Reduction Service Delivery Model



For Aboriginal Women, Aboriginal Youth, Aboriginal People
who are or have been in Prison and
Aboriginal Two-Spirit Men

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

“Walk With Me Pathways to Health: Harm Reduction Service Delivery Model”

Retrieved from <https://caan.ca/en/assessing-community-readiness/walk-with-me-manual/>



Native Youth Sexual Health Network

By centering community wellbeing and the restoration of different Indigenous knowledge systems, life ways, ceremonies, culture and governance structures Indigenous peoples of many Nations and cultures can reduce the harm we experience in our lives.

Retrieved from

<http://www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com/indigenizingharmreduction.html>

“Indigenizing Harm Reduction: Four Fires Model”



What would these fires look like on the ground while understanding the importance of the central home fire?



Culture Saves Lives

An awareness campaign to reconnect all people with their culture as a harm reduction and life saving health intervention, especially First Nations people oppressed by mechanisms of colonization such as residential schools and the foster care system, including those who are traditionally left out of the circle.

Retrieved from <https://www.phs.ca/project/culture-saves-lives/>



Questions and Discussion

Thank you for taking the time this morning to listen and participate. Please comment, and ask questions.

Or contact Northreach Society for more information on training opportunities

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