

A COMMUNITY-INFORMED TEAM AND TECHNOLOGY APPROACH TO CHRONIC BACK PAIN MANAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN CREE FIRST NATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The overarching goal of this project is to design, implement and evaluate a Cree culture-informed interprofessional spine clinic using remote presence robot (RPR) technology in partnership [Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation](#) and the community of Pelican Narrows. The project objectives include:

1. Build and strengthen relationships within our partner Cree First Nation community.
2. Engage key stakeholders (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Council, community members, local health care providers, and decision makers) to inform priorities related to chronic back disorder (CBD) management in the Cree community.
3. Design and pilot a person-centered interprofessional process for managing chronic back pain in ways that are meaningful to community and culture, using RPR technology;

In this project, physical therapists will use remote presence robot technology combined with in-person care to link with other care providers and supports in the community. A community needs assessment was undertaken alongside Pelican Narrows community members to capture community needs related to CBD management through community experiences with CBD; community preferences regarding the use of RPR technology to support CBD care, and; community perspectives on relevant and meaningful health service evaluation measures. Using a Two-Eyed Seeing framework, within a community based participatory action research approach, semi-structured interviews and an Elder sharing circle were undertaken to capture community perceptions of CBD.




Sally Sewap (Traditional) Knowledge Keeper and her father, Elder Elias Sewap, being interviewed in Pelican Narrows via remote presence robot November 2019

This needs assessment is informing an ongoing implementation and evaluation of an interprofessional team and virtual model of CBD care using RPR in Pelican Narrows. This project will inform how technology-assisted models of care may be adapted for enhancing access to culturally relevant services in underserved communities in Saskatchewan and beyond.



Sprout research team meeting (Jan 30th, 2020) From left to right. Top: Brenna Bath, Stacey Lovo, Veronica McKinney, Alison Irvine. Bottom: Sally Sewap, Rose Dorion, JB Dorion



The technology portion of this [research project](#) is in partnership with, and supported by, [Remote Presence](#) at the University of Saskatchewan

STUDY PUBLICATIONS

Lovo Grona S, Bath B, Bustamante L, Mendez I. [Case Report: Use of a Remote Presence Robot to Improve Access to Physical Therapy for People with Chronic Back Disorders in an Underserved Community.](#) Physiotherapy Canada. 2017; 69 (1): 14-19.

Lovo, Grona S., Oosman, S., & Bath, B. (July 2018). [Teams, Technology, and Two-Eyed Seeing: Bridging Health Care Access Gaps in a Remote Indigenous Community.](#) Physiotherapy Practice. Vol 8 (4): 17-22.

PROJECT VIDEO

[Remote Presence Robotics in Rural Saskatchewan: Patient Oriented Research on Chronic Back Pain.](#) SCPOR Video. Dec 11, 2019

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