

Expanding Interprofessional Pediatric Rehabilitation in Northern First Nation Communities with a Community-Directed, Team, and Technology Approach

Indigenous children have poorer health and face greater health inequalities than non-Indigenous children in Canada. Access to health care in remote Northern First Nation communities is a significant barrier compared to urban Canadians due to lengthy geographical distances between Indigenous communities and the closest specialized healthcare centre. The absence of tailored rehabilitation specifically for Indigenous children and high turnover of health care professionals contribute to inadequate care.



Indigenous children do not receive the same quality and amount of rehabilitation as non-Indigenous children. Lack of access or delayed services result in detrimental consequences for the children's development and parent's quality of life. High-quality early intervention can positively impact children's cognitive, emotional, and social development.

This project will expand on the upcoming physical therapy hybrid care pilot in Pelican Narrows to include the communities Deschambault Lake and Southend as well as the addition of speech language pathology (SLP) and occupational therapy (OT). Needs assessments and clinical pilots will continue to inform community-directed, culturally responsive interprofessional pediatric hybrid care services in the three Northern Cree communities.



Team Members: Dr. Stacey Lovo (NPI), Chief Karen Bird, Hailey Brown, Dr. Chantal Camden, Carlene Custer, Karen Diedrich-Clossen, Dr. Tanya Holt, Rachel Johnson, Kiandra Linklater, Dr. Laureen McIntyre, Dr. Veronica McKinney, Dr. Ivar Mendez, Dr. Jaris Swidrovich, and Tami Turner.