



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Health Sciences Libraries

Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library Collection Development Response to the TRC *Calls to Action* Related to Health

August 2017

Introduction

The Indigenous Health Collection is located at the Bannatyne Campus in an area of the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library known as Kaneé Ga Ni-What Kee-Kandamowin Anishinabeck (First Peoples Place of Learning).

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action¹ were issued in June 2015. A few weeks later, plans were being made to bring together participants from the university's Rady Faculty of Health Sciences as a first step in developing the Reconciliation Action Plan². The Indigenous Health Librarian responsible for the management of the Indigenous Health Collection & Services was one of many participants involved. Motivated by the initiative of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and Dr. Marcia Anderson's inspiring introduction to the development of an organizational response by our faculty in health sciences education, an examination of the Neil John Maclean Library's Indigenous Health Collection and activities to date was carried out³. The TRC Calls to Action related to health (#18 to #24) were consulted to identify strengths and gaps in the collection. The uniqueness of this dedicated Indigenous Health Collection situated in an academic health sciences library and the Neil John Maclean Library's longstanding commitment to supporting Indigenous health services, education, and research highlighted our role in supporting the recommendations made by the commissioners. To that end, the following table, outlining the responsiveness of the Indigenous Health Collection & Services, was further developed to serve as a checklist that can be used as an example by health libraries, organizations, and resource centres to assist in guiding our individual and collective responses to the *Calls to Action*.

Calls to Action Related to Health

Our Response

#18 Call to Action: *We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.*

The Indigenous Health (IH) Collection includes materials and provides access to information on the history of residential schools; the intergenerational effects of colonization; health and human rights; and the treaty right to health specified in Treaty 6.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- Residential schools (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit)
- Transracial adoption (aka *the 60s Scoop* in Canada)
- Impacts of historical and ongoing colonial policies on health status of Indigenous people today
- Traditional healing
- Mental health resources for individuals, families, counsellors, clinicians
- Traditional parenting
- Indigenous social work
- Self-determination, Indigenous governance, transfer of health services from federal to community governance
- Treaty 6, the treaty rights to health, and other treaties between Indigenous people and the Crown/Canada
- Traditional cultural practices and Indigenous languages
- Intergenerational effects of colonization
- Mental wellness emphasizing holistic, Indigenous worldviews
- Suicide prevention & support for communities
- Child welfare
- Family support programs
- Resources for awareness and education about Indigenous history and Indigenous worldviews for post-secondary students, medical, nursing, and allied health students
- The Indian Act and other legislation impacting on the health and welfare of Indigenous people
- Human rights nationally and internationally as they impact on the health and wellness of Indigenous people

#19 Call to Action: *We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps on health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long term trends. Such efforts would focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.*

The IH Collection & the wider UM Health Sciences Libraries collections provide education & materials for evidence-based practice; research methods & evaluation, including Indigenous research methods; health equity; international & Indigenous health indicators & data; and has actively sought to collect materials in all these areas & will continue to add regional health surveys and the accountability reports identified by the TRC.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- Health statistics from a variety of sources
- Health indicators and indexes of well-being and other measures – Indigenous, regional, national, and global
- Reports and regional surveys on health and social wellbeing from multiple sources
- Statistics including standard measures (morbidity, mortality, chronic disease, etc.)
- Surveys identifying community strengths and variables
- Socioeconomic indicators
- Statistics related to social determinants of health such as adequate housing, drinking water and sanitation, educational attainment, employment
- Indigenous research methods
- Research ethics, including guidelines for ethical research with Inuit; ethical principles for Metis research; First Nations Ownership, Control, Access, Possession (OCAP) and materials supporting local, regional or institutional ethics review processes and respectful collaboration
- Materials for evidence-based medicine and evidence-informed practice
- Social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity
- Statistics on access to health care services, homecare, supports for families caring for people living with disabilities, etc.

#20 Call to Action: *In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Metis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.*

Concerted efforts have been made over the past several years to identify & include published information specific to the health status and determinants of health impacting on Indigenous people in urban settings. This includes identifying resources on urban health in Winnipeg for medical students to use in community health settings. The I H Collection includes countless documents on the jurisdictional issues related to Indigenous health in Manitoba and Canada and these issues are highlighted for students and researchers.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- Materials about jurisdictional issues related to health services delivery and to social issues, such as housing and education
- Quantitative and qualitative research, health and socioeconomic surveys about urban Indigenous experience
- Social determinants of health (SDOH)
- Migration patterns for Indigenous people within Canada
- Forced or induced dislocation of families and communities
- Relocating to urban centres to access health services

#21 Call to Action: *We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.*

The IH Collection includes materials and provides access to information on the diversity of models incorporating traditional healing practices for First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples and models from Indigenous peoples globally to heal from the traumas of colonization. The UM Health Sciences Libraries has a long history of collecting materials and disseminating research in support of self-determination; ethical community-driven research practices for program development; healing and wellness for Inuit and other Northerners.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- **Models for Indigenous healing centres and programs from across Canada, the US, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the circumpolar communities**
- **Information on healing ceremonies**
- **Materials to enhance spiritual growth**
- **Screening and assessment tools**
- **Materials and evidence for programming, e.g. art therapy, traditional land-based activities, etc.**
- **Circumpolar health**
- **Evaluation models for mental health and addictions programs and facilities**
- **Innovative models, including family-focused models**
- **Aftercare programs and community supports**
- **Inuit specific models**
- **Telehealth and other programs supporting remote care**
- **Community-based and evidence-based models that incorporate social media**

#22 Call to Action: *We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.*

We continue to create resource lists and bibliographies highlighting the diversity and value of Aboriginal healing practices and traditional medicines for Indigenous and non-Indigenous health care providers, researchers, policy makers, patients, and students. We gratefully acknowledge with respect the knowledge that is shared by Indigenous teachers, healers, and Elders. The UM Health Sciences Libraries has been diligent in identifying and acquiring a collection of books, videos and websites of quality materials created by and for First Nations, Metis and Inuit who are on a healing journey, including traditional practices, biographies, and self-help materials.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- Efficacy of traditional medicines for physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being
- Profiles of health care providers who acknowledge, value, and incorporate traditional practices in their clinical care and for personal wellness
- Personal stories of patients for inclusion in the curricula of medical, nursing, and allied health programs
- Biographies of Elders and traditional healers
- Respectful publications and videos on traditional healing ceremonies and practices
- Books and audiovisual resources showing the diversity of traditional healing practices and medicines
- Medicinal plants and traditional foods from across North America
- Resources on cultural protocols, and working with Elders
- Examples of Indigenous health programs, both those outside mainstream institutions, based in Indigenous controlled services, and those within non-Indigenous health care facilities and systems

#23 Call to Action: *We call upon all levels of government to:*
i) *Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health care field*
ii) *Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health care providers in Aboriginal communities*
iii) *Provide cultural competency training for all health care professionals*

The IH Collection includes examples of cultural competency training materials; actively acquires materials to support training students and practitioners to enhance cultural safety; has collected documents and statistics to assess change and track trends in all of these areas. Having a dedicated space and collection and accessible staff enhances the educational continuum from pre-university to undergraduate programs to the Faculty of Health Sciences, graduate, post-graduate and specialist programs that Indigenous students might pursue.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- Demographic and workforce statistics for evaluating effectiveness of programs focused on recruitment and retention of Indigenous peoples in health careers
- Materials on core competencies related to Indigenous health for medical schools
- Literature on medical education models that challenge the status quo (e.g. admissions, medical school interviews, etc.)
- Works and perspectives written and produced by Indigenous people
- Biographies of Indigenous health care providers
- Materials for use in curriculum to develop skills in cultural safety and cultural competency
- Anti-racist pedagogy and models for curriculum development
- Culturally relevant materials supporting healthy living for Indigenous students, faculty and Elders

#24 Call to Action: *We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.*

The IH Collection includes materials supporting all aspects of curriculum change and professional development for healthcare providers identified by the TRC. We have actively collected such materials for supporting the curriculum for many years. Several web based subject guides and resource guides have been created to support an Indigenous health focused curriculum for health sciences students at the UM and healthcare providers in Manitoba. Guided by Elders and academics, these resources continue to be added to, and can be used as models for medical, nursing and allied health schools and programs throughout Canada.

Checklist of Subject Areas Covered in the Indigenous Health Collection

- **History of Indigenous peoples in Canada including treaties, residential schools, colonization, disenfranchisement, relocation and destruction of communities, underfunding of health, education, and housing services, systemic racism, etc.**
- **Methods and materials to support reflective practice, active learning, anti-oppressive practice, empathy building, and the necessity of contributing to a culturally safe environment in the clinical encounter, research, administrative, and policymaking environments**
- **Examples of courses and curricula from post-secondary institutions, medical, nursing and allied health programs**
- **Curriculum models to develop an anti-racist pedagogy**
- **Trauma informed care materials and guidelines**
- **Models for decolonizing institutes of higher learning**
- **Videos and published resources for inclusion in the curriculum**
- **Evaluation models for adult education and education of students and practitioners in the health sciences**

While the assessment focused on the seven Calls to Action related to health (#18 to #24), subject areas related to all 94 Calls to Action were identified and it was noted that the Indigenous Health Collection includes a good selection of materials in each of the following areas:

- Justice
- Reconciliation & Human Rights
- Histories of Survivors
- Child Welfare
- Language & Culture
- Residential Schools
- Education

The Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library has also incorporated many books and DVDs on health and healing by First Nations, Metis, and Inuit authors into the library's Consumer Health Collection.

¹Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015a. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada : Calls to Action*. Available at: http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

²Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba. Reconciliation action plan. Winnipeg, MB: University of Manitoba, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences; 2017. 16 p. Available from https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/indigenous/media/TRC_Action_Plan_Full.pdf

³Linton, J. and Ducas, A. A new tool for collection assessment: One library's response to the Calls to Action issued by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *Collection Management*. 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2017.1344596>

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