



Honouring Our Strengths: Indigenous Culture as Intervention in Addictions Treatment
Supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

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February 2013

Somewhere between the near completion of the environmental scan focus groups and finishing the literature review screening, February has flown by us! Here's what we have accomplished this month.

Environmental Scan Focus Group Gatherings: We have almost completed our environmental scan focus groups! We held eleven gatherings to-date: at Rising Sun Treatment Centre, NB, Wolastoquewiyk Healing Lodge, NB, Nelson House Medicine Lodge, MB, White Buffalo Youth Inhalant Treatment Centre, SK, Ekweskeet Healing Lodge, SK, Leading Thunderbird Lodge, SK, Saulteaux Healing & Wellness Centre, SK, Nenqayni Wellness Centre, BC, Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society, BC, Nimkee NumiGawagqan Healing Centre Inc. , ON, and Carrier Sekani Family Services, BC. We owe much of our accomplishments to the wise leadership of Elder Dumont, the enthusiasm and flexibility of Laura Hall, and to everyone who helped organize the sessions, took notes, observed and shared their wealth of knowledge and meaningful stories with us. We have all been inspired, moved and educated. Many people have expressed their extreme honor and gratitude for being part of the process. We are looking forward to the final gathering at Wanaki Treatment Centre, QC on March 1-3.

Scoping Study: As you learned in the last newsletter, we have collectively agreed to change our focus from a systematic review to a scoping study in response to the type of literature that emerged during our initial screening of abstracts. This gives us a little more flexibility in our work and is in keeping with our concept of two-eyed seeing whereby the knowledge of two world views come together. We have built on the work completed during the systematic review so no time or effort has been lost. In the future we may revisit the opportunity to conduct a systematic review, but for now we are moving full steam ahead with the scoping study. All of the 3,884 articles have been screened along with the grey literature consisting of over 600 articles. Although our primary emphasis is on articles of value to the scoping study, we are also collecting and storing articles that we think will be useful to help design our measurement instrument and to provide general background information on Indigenous healing and wellness.

Video Release: We are pleased announce the release of two videos stemming from the work of our project. The link to the HOS project trailer is: <http://youtu.be/5Py7KjfyfIU> and the video of Elder Dumont explaining the purpose and approach of the environmental scan focus groups is: <http://youtu.be/H7VbMMUBysE>. Carol presented these publically on March 1, 2013 at the Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum. We encourage you to share them far and wide!

Please be in touch at anytime to share your input and ideas about these or any other aspects of the project going forward by emailing or calling me, Margo Rowan at Rowankeon@rogers.com or 613-841-7520, or Barb Fornssler, at barb.fornssler@usask.ca or 306-966-7894.