



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

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[tinyurl.com/CultureAsInterventionResearch](http://tinyurl.com/CultureAsInterventionResearch)

February, 2015

Greetings, Research Team!

February brought with it some exciting news in our journey together. After extensive psychometric testing, our culturally rooted Native Wellness Assessment (NWA) has been found to be psychometrically valid. What this means is that the instrument we all worked so intently to inform and build, retains the cultural foundation throughout all aspects of the assessment and meets the standards for statistical validation.

Thank you to all the Treatment Centers for making this work happen in such a meaningful and substantial way!

On February 2-3 the Indigenous Knowledge Group (IKG) met with other team members to further revise the NWA as a result of pilot testing. The IKG will meet again to finalize meanings of assessment outcomes as well as what the final reporting template will look like upon completion.

The NWA will then be transitioned to NNAPF for integration with the Addictions Management Information System (AMIS). This will move our paper and pencil assessment into an electronic format. This will help to address concerns about the length of the survey raised during the pilot testing. For example, demographic information will be automatically integrated without the client or observer needing to input this information because it is already in the AMIS system.

Our project is officially completed as of March 31, 2015, but some work will continue during the month of April. We have publications to finalize, the wellness activity guide and facilitators' handbook to complete, along with other documentation for treatment centres and various reports to file with our funder, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, describing our achievements as a team.

We are also having discussions about the project closing celebration. Everyone is invited to share ideas and contributions about the way they can celebrate this immense achievement!

We will send more information about these ideas as they take form, so please keep an eye on your email.

Many thanks again and enjoy the coming Springtime!

Please be in touch at any time to share your input and ideas about these or any other aspects of the project going forward by emailing or calling Barb Fornssler, at [barb.fornssler@usask.ca](mailto:barb.fornssler@usask.ca) or 306-966-7894.