



March 2013

Hello Everyone! March saw the completion as well as the growth of many important project activities for us! Please read more below...

Environmental Scan Focus Group Gatherings: We have successfully completed all twelve of our environmental scan focus groups including (from east to west): Rising Sun Treatment Centre, NB, Wolastoquewiyk Healing Lodge, NB, Wanaki Treatment Centre, QC, Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre Inc., ON, 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, and Nimkee Carrier Sekani Family Services, BC. The next phase of this important work is underway involving three teams (combining Treatment Centre staff and researchers) to review the data. Synthesizing the information obtained by these three teams will be of primary importance before sharing and discussing results at the National Treatment Centre Gathering.

Scoping Study: The Scoping Study Committee met in February to review our workplan, screening results, and draft extraction form. We are working hard toward preparing a summary of findings from the literature for the National Treatment Centre Gathering. To this end, we have verified the screening of 3,885 scientific articles, reaching 94.4% agreement on articles and the selection of 107 of these for further screening. In addition, we reached 90.6% agreement on the screening of 605 grey literature materials, 39 of which were seen as potentially useful for our work. Committee members have been reviewing these articles in more depth to determine if they are a good fit for our study. We have started to extract information from the included articles as part of the testing of our extraction form. Once finalized, we will then extract information from all included articles and develop a table summarizing our findings to take to the National Treatment Centre Gathering.

National Treatment Centre Gathering: This event involving representatives from Treatment Centres and researchers will take place July 23-25, 2013 at the Grande Rockies Resort in Canmore, AB.

Instrument Development: All of our work during this first phase of the Project has been leading up to Phase 2, which will commence sometime after the National Treatment Centre Gathering. This will begin with us starting to construct a culturally competent instrument. The good news is with our well-designed three year project plan, we have been able to start on some of this as it coincided with our other work to date! For example, we are creating a terminology manual to assist those who may not be familiar with the technical terms in instrument development. We are also reviewing the measurement material identified during the scoping review to see what quantitative or qualitative approaches others have used to assess wellness from cultural interventions to treat addictions.

Presentations: We had two team presentations on our project in March: Carol presented the keynote address to the Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum. This was also the official launch of our project videos which are found on our website! (<http://www.addictionresearchchair.ca/?s=Honouring+our+Strengths>) Colleen presented to the Assembly of First Nations Mental Wellness Committee.

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.