



October 2012

Hello Everyone!

Since my last communication the project has moved quite quickly on a number of fronts.

Environmental Scan Focus Groups: Michelle, Laura, and Elder Dumont have been working with Treatment Centres to coordinate days and times for our 2.5 day visits. Our focus groups will begin mid-November. Dates have been confirmed with six Treatment Centres and with others soon to be scheduled. How will we record the valuable information that will be shared at the Centres? Laura will be recording some of it on flip charts while Elder Dumont is facilitating the groups. To help ensure that we don't miss any valuable information, we are also asking each Treatment Centre to identify two additional note-takers.

Systematic Review: The search is on! Jessie has identified over 3,000 potential articles in the first round of literature searching. The abstracts from these articles will be reviewed to see if they are suitable for our study and if they are then they will be screened in more detail by members of our systematic review team. This team consists of Randy Duncan, Joseph Gone, Carol Hopkins, Jessie McGowan, Nancy Poole, Brian Rush, Bev Shea, and me. Our first meeting will be held on November 8, 2012.

Ethics Submission: We received approval from the University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board and are just waiting to hear from CAMH's Ethics Board any day now!

Elk Ridge Gathering Report: We are very pleased to announce that the final editing has been completed on this important report and we expect it to be on our website by early November 2012.

OCAP Compliance: Carol and Colleen discussed our project with the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) on October 2, 2012. FNIGC is meeting with its Board of Directors in mid-November to approve the formal process for a research project to apply to be OCAP compliant. Consequently, we are starting to work on the necessary documentation to be ready for our project to apply as soon as possible.

Project Structure: As a result of our discussion at the Elk Ridge Gathering we have developed a variety of teams and committees to help people stay involved, steer the research in the right direction, and keep us on track. A draft project structure has been developed along with a 'flexible' description of the groups that compose the project structure. These groups range from a Communications Group to the Treatment Centres Working Group. Team members are welcome to sign up for any group that interests them, change the group(s) they are in, and take on a co-leadership role in a group(s). Over the next month or so we will be encouraging groups to plan and start their activities while seeking feedback on how we can best facilitate this work.

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 our project coordinator, Michelle Kushniruk, at Michelle.Kushniruk@usask.ca or 306-966-7894.