



**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)

Hi Everyone:

September was another busy month for the project!

***Environmental Scan Focus Groups:***

Laura and Michelle are working with Elder Dumont and the Treatment Centres to schedule the 2 day visits to take place starting next month through January 2013. It is indeed a challenge to schedule these important gatherings with so many people, and our very busy Elder, and we appreciate everyone's flexibility on this. Laura is also organizing the finer details of what each treatment centre requires to take place during the site visits and is in the process of sharing these details. Treatment Centres are also being asked to identify a site coordinator who will help organize the meetings and take detailed notes.

***Systematic Review:***

Planning the systematic review has also been a key priority this month. Carol, Colleen and I met with Bev Shea, our systematic review advisor from the University of Ottawa, to agree on important parameters for the search. There are two main research questions for the search: 1) *To what extent have cultural interventions been used in Indigenous populations to treat addictions?* and 2) *What are the outcomes of cultural interventions on wellness in these contexts?* The timeframe for the search is any research article up to and including September 30, 2012. We are interested in all study designs, including qualitative studies and randomized control trials. We will also be looking for studies that consider, for example, community based or residential environments; whether the cultural intervention is an add on, stand alone, or integrated model/approach; and whether outcomes are holistically focused on First Nations' concepts of wellness or narrowly focused on fewer or single dimensions. A draft logic model has been prepared to assist with the search and is currently under review.

***Ethics Submission:***

We received feedback from the University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board and minor revisions are required on our application. These will be completed in the next few days and our project will then be granted REB approval. Peter Menzies has also submitted an ethics application to CAMH's Research Ethics Board this month.

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We encourage you to share this monthly update far and wide! Should you have any questions about its content please contact myself, Margo Rowan, at [Rowankeon@rogers.com](mailto:Rowankeon@rogers.com) or 613-841-7520 or our project coordinator, Michelle Kushniruk, at [Michelle.Kushniruk@usask.ca](mailto:Michelle.Kushniruk@usask.ca) or 306-966-7894.