

RWVG ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Living the Reconciliation Journey

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Artwork developed by **Lisa Boivin**, member of the Deninu Kue First Nation in the Northwest Territories, interdisciplinary artist, bioethicist and health care educator

camh



MESSAGE
from
**DIANE
LONGBOAT**
co-chair of the
Reconciliation Working Group



MESSAGE
from
**KRISTEN
YEE**
co-chair of the
Reconciliation Working Group

The world shuddered in 2020. All that we knew to be our usual pattern of life, as human family, shifted to a new reality. The global pandemic claimed the lives of our relatives, friends, colleagues and Canadians from coast to coast to coast. It changed the way we work and also, gave us an unexpected opportunity to reflect on our priorities, and reset agendas.

The Reconciliation Working Group made its own accommodations and instead of hosting virtual events from April to September at the height of the first wave, we focused on internal renewal tactics. The dates for the Speaker Series were realigned, the Terms of Reference was finalized, the application to the Health Standards Organization was accepted designating the RWG as a leading practice, the research on the revision to the CAMH Land Acknowledgement was finalized for the newest iteration and finally, the work on the Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan was accepted by the Board of Trustees of CAMH. The 14 action items in the Plan call for a three-year transformative process in how we care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis patients in a culturally appropriate manner and ensure Indigenous staff members work in an environment free from racism.

By the fall of 2020, we were ready to host virtual events once again in our Speaker Series featuring Dr. Carol Hopkins, Lenape Nation at Moraviantown, Executive Director of Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, grounding our mental health care system in culture and language, Lisa Boivin, Dene Nation and an emerging Bioethicist in doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, digital artist and guide to culturally informed clinical practice and Jesse Thistle, Métis-Cree, Assistant Professor at York University, and award-winning author, bringing us healing messages from his book, "From the Ashes".

Our growing membership from all sectors of the organization enables the seeds of reconciliation to be planted as inspiration, leading to innovation and ultimately to action.

CAMH is changing and we are changing.

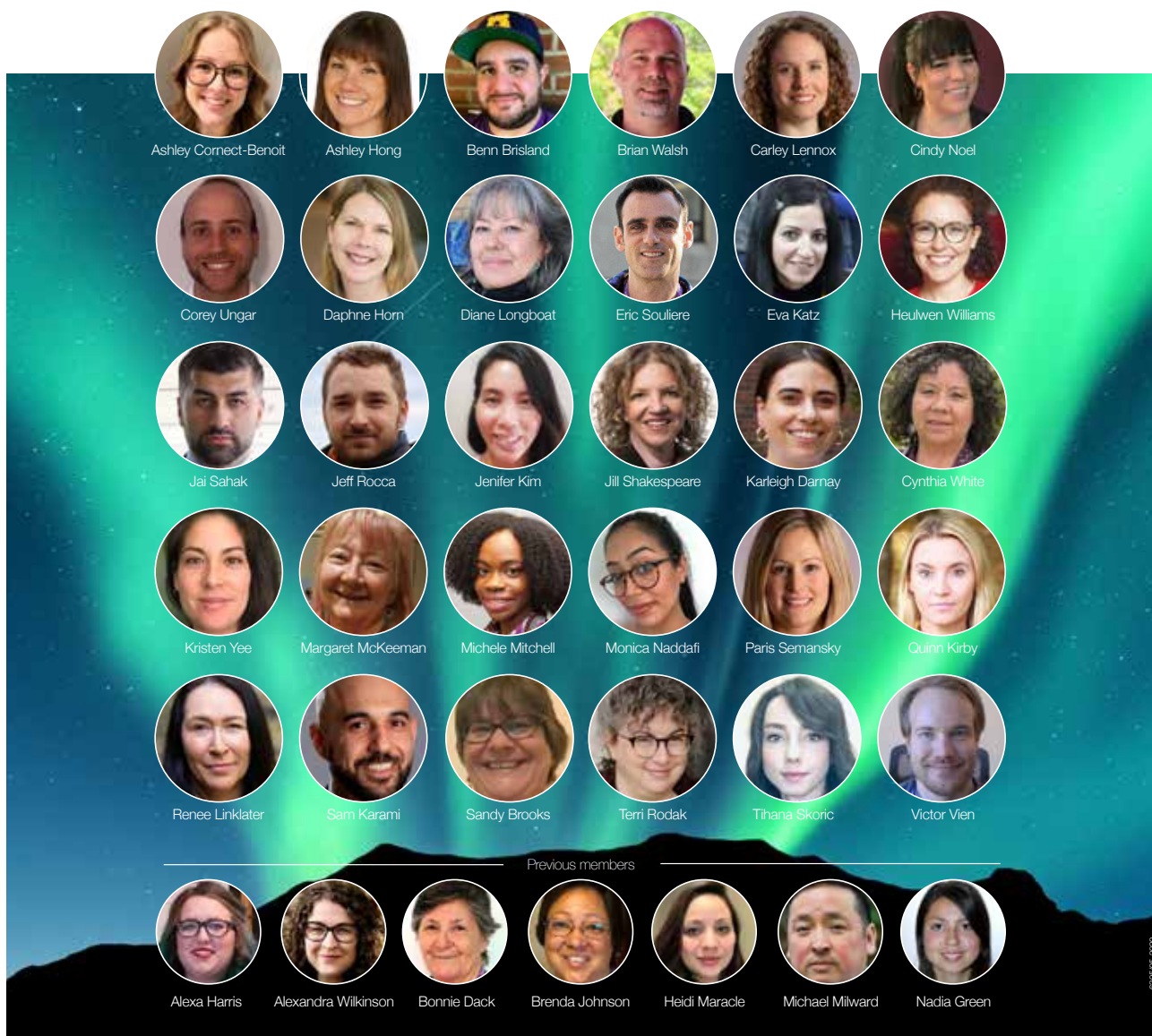
This year has been unprecedented in many ways – multiple pandemics have unevenly ravaged our communities, and those least impacted by racism and other oppressions have begun to wrestle with the realities of colonialism and white supremacy many of us know all too deeply. Yet, this has also been a year filled with hope and action.

For the RWG, it was a year of loss, grief and sadness, but also one of compassion, collective healing and action. While we said goodbye to almost half our membership over the course of the year, the RWG's membership has almost doubled by the time this report was written. Despite these changes to our group, we were able to maintain one of the most compassionate and action-oriented communities I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of.

As outgoing co-chair of the Reconciliation Working Group, I want to honour and thank all our current and former members who have brought their full selves to the group, and to particularly lift up the contributions of Diane Longboat and Terri Rodak, who has stepped into the role of co-chair alongside Diane. With these two powerful humans gently guiding the work of the RWG forward, I am hopeful that the group and our efforts will further be a model under which we can all come together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to right relations and walk together into a brighter future.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

CAMH Reconciliation Working Group June 2021



Looking back to June 2017, our Senior Vice President, Lori Spadorcia, SVP Public Affairs, Partnership & Chief Strategy Officer, created an opportunity for staff members to convene to talk about the Calls to Action in the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and to examine our responsibility to enact change within our system. We examined Calls 18-24 relating to the health sector and decided to meet monthly beginning in December 2017. Since that time, our membership doubled and then tripled. Today, our 34 members come from all parts of the organization in Clinical Services, Research, Provincial System Support Program, Education, Public Affairs, CAMH

Foundation, Enterprise Project Management Office, Library, Shkaabe Makwa, and our regional offices in Toronto and throughout Ontario.

The members are active volunteers for all of our reconciliation efforts, especially during National Indigenous History Month and throughout the year for tours, panel discussions, book club, film club, Lunch & Learns, preparing articles, developing reconciliation resources lists, and the hosting the webinars for the very special Speaker Series. Above are our current and past members seeding change throughout CAMH.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH 2020

During June 2020, CAMH recognized National Indigenous History Month (NIHM) through various activities and utilizing a variety of communication platforms. The RWG had a part in many of these initiatives but there were other groups within CAMH who played a vital role in supporting the recognition of NIHM, including the Aboriginal Caucus and Shkaabe Makwa.

Introduction to NIHM Article
by **Renee Linklater**
posted on **CAMH Intranet**



Jun. 1
2020

Land Acknowledgments and
“**Why They Matter**” Article
posted on **CAMH Intranet**



Jun. 8
2020

Indigenous Peoples Resiliency Factors
Fact Sheet

JUNE IS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?

“Lacrosse was first declared the National Game of Canada in 1859 Jean de Brebeuf recorded observations of a Lacrosse game in 1683 in what is now Southern Ontario, Canada Lacrosse was a game to be played for their Creator, for the Native people to show their gratitude to the Great Spirit for living a full life.”

[Source: Canadian Lacrosse Association: Lacrosse: Canada's National Summer Sport](#)

“Among Aboriginal people living both on and off reserve, those who did experience a mental health problem were much more likely to seek professional help—a positive step towards healing. In some groups, the number of Aboriginal people seeking help was as high as 17%—compared to the Canadian average of 8%.”

[Source: *How to Help: Aboriginal Mental Health: The national reality*](#)

“The original ride share service in Canada was at the mouth of the Humber where Indigenous people left canoes for anyone travelling upriver to use. People coming downriver in turn left canoes for others to use.”

[Source: *11 of 7 News: National Aboriginal Day: 12 things you need to know*](#)



Jun. 12
2020

CAMH Land Acknowledgement

CAMH is situated on lands that have been occupied by First Nations for millennia; lands rich in civilizations with knowledge of medicine, architecture, technology, and extensive trade routes throughout the Americas. In 1860, the site of CAMH appeared in the Colonial Records Office of the British Crown as the council grounds of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, as they were known at the time.

Today, Toronto is covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty No. 13 of 1805 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Toronto is now home to a vast diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis who enrich this city.

CAMH is committed to reconciliation. We will honour the land through programs and places that reflect and respect its heritage. We will embrace the healing traditions of the Ancestors, and weave them into our caring practices. We will create new relationships and partnerships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis and share the land and protect it for future generations.

Jun. 18 2020

Release of CAMH Land Acknowledgement

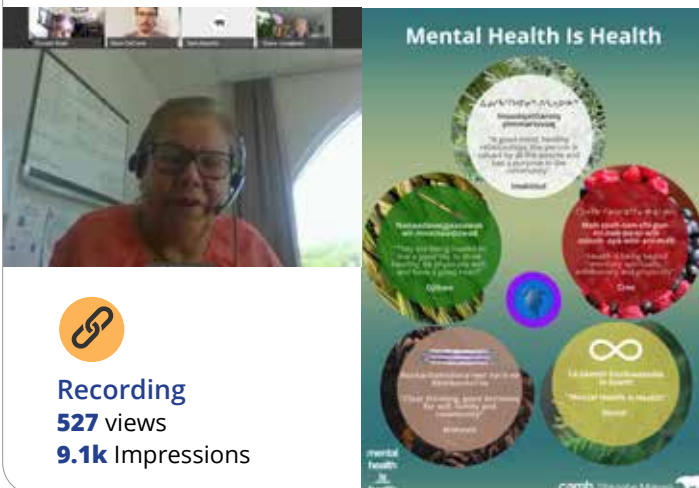
 114 downloads


mental health is health



Recorded Webinar:
Mental Health is Health by Ojibway and Mohawk Language Speakers with Don Ense, Loretta Assinewai-Fox and Ryan Decaire, moderated by Kahontakwas Diane Longboat

Recorded Webinar:
Cultural Values and Care Concepts during the Pandemic with Lisa Wabange and Walter Lindstone, moderated by Kahontakwas Diane Longboat



 Recording
527 views
9.1k Impressions



 Recording
685 Views
8.2k Impressions

Faces of CAMH

Faces of CAMH is a regular feature that highlights staff across the organization. During the month of June, two RWG members were featured on the CAMH intranet, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



"The Indigenous People of Turtle Island, are the people of Spirit and the Land. As a Traditional Healer, I create a sacred environment for the people I work with at CAMH to meet Spirit. At the Sacred Fire, on the Ceremonial Grounds of CAMH, people can connect with the land and feel the presence of Spirit. Indigenous Wisdom provides the tools for healing and transformation to discover one's true self. I feel blessed to be able to use my gifts working in Aboriginal Services at CAMH. Life is beautiful and full."

Kawennanoron Cynthia White

 camhnews



Jun. 23
2020



"To me, being Métis means understanding balance, the balance between two opposing sides that live within. I believe that this balance has helped me through difficult times of understanding/ accepting my culture, my identity, my spirituality, my place at Aboriginal Services and my place at CAMH."

Alexa Harris

 camhnews



Jun. 26
2020



UPDATE

RWG SPEAKER SERIES **Culture Heals**

During F2020/21, we pivoted to virtual formats for hosting the Speaker Series events due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. We had the opportunity to host three Speaker Series events including one marking the official launch of the new Shkaabe Makwa Centre.

This event included opening remarks from members of Shkaabe Makwa including Senior Director Renee Linklater, Dr. James Makokis, Medical Director of Shkaabe Makwa, and an opening ceremony from Diane Longboat, Senior Project Manager, Guiding Directions Implementation. A keynote presentation was also delivered by a member of the newly formed Leadership Circle for Shkaabe Makwa, Dr. Carol Hopkins, Executive Director, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation.

Formerly known as Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach, Shkaabe Makwa plays a key role connecting with First Nations, Inuit and


Métis communities and service providers across the province. Shkaabe Makwa is the first hospital-based Centre in Canada designed to drive culturally relevant system initiatives to achieve health equity and community wellness. The team's official launch was one of this year's key objectives highlighted in CAMH's new Strategic Plan, *One CAMH 2020-2023*.


In February 2021, Lisa Boivin, member of the Deninu Kue First Nation in the Northwest Territories, interdisciplinary artist, bioethicist and health care educator, joined CAMH for a virtual presentation with staff and clients titled *Arranging Pretty: Piecing Together Meaningful Clinical Relationships*.


In Lisa's presentation, she explored:

- how Dene perspectives of healthy clinical relationships offer a wider notion of wellness
- how Dene teachings can open up dialogue about Indigenous perspectives of cultural safety
- how the Indigenous methodology of collage addresses and offers solutions to colonial problems that arise in clinical settings
- how image-based storytelling can be used in clinical and academic spaces

Launch of Shkaabe Makwa – Centre for First Nations, Inuit and Métis with Keynote Speaker **Carol Hopkins**


 **Live broadcast**
193 peak concurrent live viewers

 **Lifetime stats**
2.3k 3-second video views
328 1-minute views
63 total shares
174 total comments
146 total reactions


 "Yes - this work embodies kindness - such an important value to give and receive, and so needed within the institutions"



Arranging Pretty: Piecing Together Meaningful Clinical Relationships with **Lisa Boivin**

 **Live broadcast**
48 total viewers

 **Lifetime stats**
84 CAMH staff accessed the recording

 "What a wonderful presentation! You have opened my eyes and my heart. I have much to learn"



Nov. 2020

Feb. 2021

UPDATE ON RWG SPEAKER SERIES

Culture Heals

In April 2021, the RWG invited Métis-Cree author and York University assistant professor **Jesse Thistle** for a virtual discussion. In anticipation of the event, the RWG invited staff to read his award-winning memoir, *From the Ashes*, in early March and then to join for facilitated discussions in small groups via Webex.

The work of reconciliation takes many forms and is an ongoing process of raising consciousness, learning together, challenging bias and confronting racism. Our hope was that by reading, reflecting on and discussing *From the Ashes*, CAMH staff can grow its understanding of the ongoing impacts of trauma faced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis, witness powerful personal and cultural resilience, and consider the responsibility towards reconciliation that we all share as Canadians and people working in mental health care.

Join us for Book Club! *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle

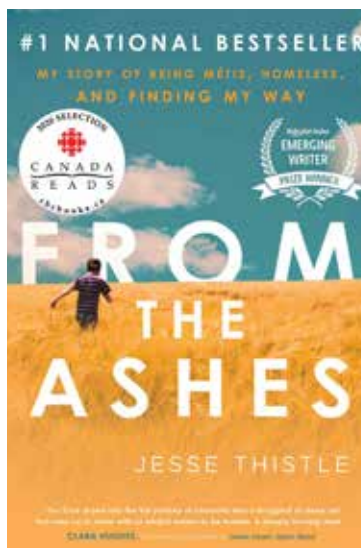


"I was amazed at the thoughtful, wonderful and insightful comments from my book club group. I gained a lot of additional insight from them and it really broadened my experience of the book."

"The chance to reflect on Jesse's story and hear others' experiences of reading it and reflecting on it helped me look at some of his experiences differently than I had initially seen them."



2 60-90 min book club sessions on March 3rd and March 5th
29 participants
10 copies purchased for CAMH Library



From the Ashes: A conversation with Jesse Thistle



"Thank you for this sharing. Intergenerational trauma is theme in my life. I don't have indigenous heritage but find a lot of hope in your words and ideas on healing."



Live broadcast

168 peak concurrent live viewers



Lifetime stats

3.3k 3-second video views

397 1-minute views

28 total shares

118 total comments

245 total reactions



Mar.
2021

Apr.
2021

RECOGNIZING EVERY CHILD MATTERS/ORANGE SHIRT DAY AND MMIWG2S+

During Fall 2020, the RWG along with other areas of CAMH planned activities to recognize Every Child Matters/Orange Shirt Day, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirit Peoples in the spirit of reconciliation.

CAMH Intranet Article: Collage of CAMH staff in orange shirts for Every Child Matters/Orange Shirt Day

camhnews



CAMH Intranet Article: Honouring the MMIWG2S+



Four Virtual Tours of the Mohawk Institute Residential School

Total participants:
Sept: 83
Feb. 29



CAMH Library Spotlight on Every Child Matters/Orange Shirt Day

14 downloads

CAMH Library Spotlight on: Orange Shirt Day Sept 30, 2020

Please wear an orange shirt on September 30 to honour and commemorate the First Nations, Métis and Inuit children who attended residential schools in Canada. For more information about Orange Shirt Day, visit www.orangeshirtday.org

An overview

Orange Shirt Day Activities

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/resources-supplies.html>

It's Our Time: Education Toolkit

The Assembly of First Nations

<https://education.afn.ca/afntoolkit/learning-modules>

Residential Schools Timeline



CLOSING MESSAGE



The year 2020-2021 was busy with the development of the CAMH Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan, which lays out a path toward stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people at CAMH over the next three years. As 2021 unfolds, we look forward to teams across the hospital beginning the work of the Action Plan. Stay tuned for the final plan in next year's annual report.

Here's a sneak preview of the work that will be underway next year:

- A Reconciliation Review Committee will be appointed to oversee and support the work of the CAMH Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan
- People and Experience and CAMH Education will ensure that new staff orientation materials are updated to include a presentation on the work of First Nations, Inuit and Métis initiatives throughout the organization in Clinical Services, Education and Research; the advancement of Shkaabe Makwa as a Centre for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Wellness; the achievements of Guiding Directions: A Plan To Strengthen Our Practices and Partnerships With First Nations, Inuit and Métis; the CAMH Truth & Reconciliation Action Plan; the unique work of Aboriginal Services; and the Aboriginal Caucus

- Education will partner with Shkaabe Makwa to undertake fundraising efforts to secure Indigenous Cultural Safety Training and Anti-Indigenous Racism training for all staff and physicians, including ongoing mentoring and coaching
- The Office of Health Equity and Performance & Analytics will ensure that Action Plan indicators are included within wider organizational performance metrics
- Clinical Services will grow culturally and linguistically safe care that is patient focused, inclusive of family, and trauma centered
- CAMH policies and practices will be reviewed by an internal committee through a lens of anti-Indigenous racism, cultural safety and reconciliation supported by guidance from external consultants

Change is a process requiring the determined efforts of us all to create a workplace that is inclusive, free of racism and equitable as we navigate our collective future.

Our Hawaiian relatives share “aloha”, the sacred breath of life, and teach us that loving is the practice of an awakened mind. May the coming year find all of us reaching out with encouragement and empathy as we strive to cultivate and deepen our relationships of love, respect and compassion in this great work leading to mental well-being.

CAMH TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The CAMH Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan will be a major focus starting in F2021/22. This image captures the story of how CAMH plans to advance truth and reconciliation over the next three years.

- 1** Leadership clearly supports the Action Plan.
- 2** Land acknowledgment in all buildings.
- 3** Staff orientation materials reflect reconciliation.
- 4** Indigenous Cultural Safety and anti-racism training for all staff and physicians.
- 5** Resources to support staff and physicians while undertaking their training.
- 6** Internal information hub on reconciliation.
- 7** A confidential way to report incidents of racism across Toronto hospitals mandated to investigate and respond to all incidents.

8 All policies and practices reviewed with a lens of anti-racism, reconciliation and Indigenous Cultural Safety.

9 Race-based data collection and methods of collecting data expanded.

10 Healing programs that are culturally and linguistically-based, and patient and family centred.



Safe work environment

Safe services for patients and families

Accountability for meeting targets

Reconciliation Review Committee that reports annually to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team.

Integration of monitoring and evaluation of reconciliation actions within wider performance metrics.

Pursuit of joint initiatives and mutually supportive work amongst internal committees and working groups.

New camh.ca webpage about our reconciliation agenda, including publicly tracking our progress.

One CAMH: Strategic Plan 2020-2023 **camh**

RECOGNIZING OUR KEY PARTNERS

Donor

We are especially grateful to **Janis Rotman** through the CAMH Foundation in November 2019.

The Reconciliation Working Group received a very generous gift of **\$25,000** from **Janis Rotman** to offer a Speakers Series of Indigenous healthcare professionals, scholars, authors, and Indigenous health leaders.

This generous donation allowed us to secure extraordinary speakers throughout 2020-21:

Don Ense and **Loretta Assinewai-Fox**
for *Traditional Anishinaabe Worldviews of Mental Health and Addiction*

Dr. Lisa Richardson
for *Wise Practices: Pathways for Reconciliation in Healthcare*

Mohawk Institute
for offering virtual tours of the residential school to CAMH staff and physicians, through the eyes of a survivor

Dr. Carol Hopkins
for bringing Indigenous knowledge systems into healthcare and a keynote address during the launch of Shkaabe Makwa

Lisa Boivin
for *Arranging Pretty: Piecing Together Meaningful Clinical Relationships*

Jesse Thistle
for *From the Ashes: A conversation with Jesse Thistle*

The Speaker Series has been one of the most widely watched and well-attended events of the year at CAMH and through Facebook Live. Over half of our participants have been those with lived experience. We know we are reaching those who need this knowledge the most.

Artist

Seeking the clinical knowledge embedded in the digital art produced by **Lisa Boivin**, the Reconciliation Working Group engaged Lisa to develop an art piece that the RWG could feature on its materials reflecting both clinical knowledge and traditional medicine knowledge of First Nations. This stunning art form is filled with images that draw the emotions and exhibit harmonizing medical practice and traditional Indigenous healing. Lisa created an essential companion to the art form that embodies the teachings of the wolf, bear, hummingbird, rabbit, squirrel and the many people on the road journeying to wellness. Art raises our consciousness and enables the mind to travel unhindered.

We are deeply grateful to Lisa for sharing her gifts with us!



Glossary for Lisa Boivin's Art Piece

	First Nations Teachings	Clinical Teachings
<p>Deer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches us about generosity. Giving us their bodies for sustenance, bones for tools and hooves and antlers for ceremony. • Deer's generosity inspires gratitude in people. • Teaches us about kindness. • Teaches us to be gentle and to navigate our world quietly as we participate in the ecosystem. • Deer moves through thorn bushes and does not give up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be generous, use your energy to help people. Let Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) patients know that you respect and support their wellness, cultural beliefs and ceremonies. • Be grateful for your knowledge and experience as a clinician. Your patient is being generous with you by allowing you to participate in their journey to wellness. • Be kind and open-minded to embrace other ways of knowing and being in the world that are equal to your beliefs. • Be gentle in caring for patients. This includes listening to patients quietly as they tell you about how they experience their illness.
<p>Butterfly</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolizes the vitality and knowledge of youth. • Teaches us the value of motion and playfulness. • Demonstrates the miracle of transformation, joy and freedom. • Shows us that we need to work to fulfill our life's dreams just as the new butterfly works its way out of the cocoon to dry its wings in order to take first flight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the vitality and knowledge of young people. Engage their perspectives in your work. • Avoid ageist models of patient care. Youth are knowledgeable and carry tender wisdom. • Feel your own freedom and self-worth in the workplace and be playful when appropriate. • Young people and their gifts will transform our healthcare system and our world.
<p>Bear Medicine</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear represents the gift of fearlessness, courage or bravery. • Bear has the gift of physical healing, carrying the knowledge of medicines and the body. • Bear teaches us not to fear being alone, is contemplative and enjoys his time alone. • Bear works with the natural cycle of weather and the movement of the Earth to den in the winter and bring new life into the world in spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinicians must take time alone to heal themselves. Self-care is very important and critical to high functioning in the healthcare setting. • Give patients time to heal. Everyone's healing journey is different. Some people need more time and require the help of allied health professionals and Traditional Healers. • Be self-reflective, as well as reflexive in your clinical practice.
<p>White Squirrel</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White squirrel appears and signals a new time for humanity to unify and live simply on the earth. • Squirrel teaches us to be prepared and collect things that are necessary for survival. • Squirrel shows us how to read natural signs of weather and prepare ahead of time for changes in our environment. • When squirrel appears, she encourages us to learn about and store the treasures in our environment, to be grateful for life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared and collect pieces of knowledge that will help you in your practice. • Treasure what you learn as you collect knowledge, navigating your clinical/working environment. • See all human beings as valuable with gifts to contribute to the world and a reason to be alive in this era.
<p>Wolf</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolf teaches us humility. They are well organized in the family and know their roles in their community. • Wolf is loyal, family-oriented and protective. • Wolf is tenacious. • They are good citizens, don't mind a scrap or two and work out squabbles amongst themselves. • They listen and communicate carefully. • Family is everything. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be humble in your clinical relationships as a servant leader. • There will be challenges in clinical relationships and sometimes failures. Lessons learned are jewels. • Be a good citizen, you are a guest in communities. • Listen and learn to communicate carefully. • Include family in clinical plan, if possible.



Hummingbird

- Defies the laws of physics by flying with great speed in multiple directions.
- Has the ability to hover and observe, and back up when necessary.
- Helps mother earth flourish.
- Cross pollinates flowers with precision.
- Hummingbird is adaptable to multiple environments.

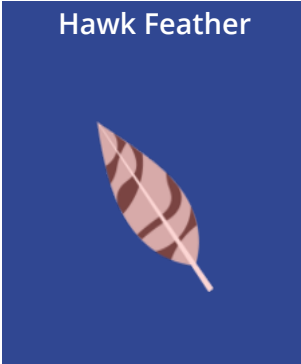
- Observe quietly.
- Be a part of a good health plan. Put patients in a position to flourish.
- Translate information between healthcare institutions carefully and with precision.
- Be adaptable in clinical plans.



Rabbit

- The rabbit is a gift from the Creator and must be respected.
- The rabbit gave the gift of dance. Dancing helps us heal.
- Rabbit helps us keep track of time.

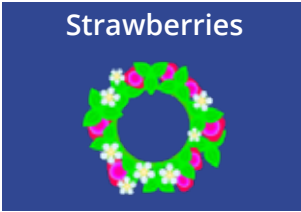
- All people are gifts from the Creator regardless of difference and culture. They must be respected.
- The rabbit gave the gift of dance. A clinical relationship is a healing dance.
- Rabbit helps us keep track of time. Spend time with patients/clients. Trusting relationships take time.



Hawk Feather

- Hawk can see everything.
- Reminds us to open our gaze to take a wider view.
- Recognize the gifts you have received.
- Open yourself up to future gifts.
- When we hold hawk feather when we are speaking it helps us to speak clearly and with kindness, reminding us to take a wider view and to consider the view of the people we are speaking with. Even when there are difficult things to say and discuss we can speak with kindness and with love.

- Take a wider view. Clinicians must consider everything in the life of the patient. Look out of the four walls of the clinic to be effective in clinical relationships.
- Understand the history of colonialism and how it impacts the health and mental health outcomes of Indigenous people and populations.
- Clinicians must open themselves up to new knowledge systems. They are gifts.
- Speak with kindness and love.



Strawberries

- Strawberries are little hearts.
- Wild strawberries almost became extinct and returned to remind us that we are loved by the land.
- All parts of the plant are used for medicine to clean the digestive system and nourish the blood.

- Strawberries heal the heart and our emotions.
- They are found on the trail to the Sky World that we all walk as we return to the Place of Peace where we originated.
- Strawberries are the head of the medicine plants and have great responsibilities as leaders.

Quotes from the Artist Lisa Boivin



Timer

- The timer is strategically placed in front of the Elder who is leading the people down the path. It represents the measure of knowledge of the ancestors. Indigenous people have carried medicine teachings for centuries.
- The timer also represents that the time is now. This is the time when things must change.
- The time is now to harmonize traditional medicine ways with medical practice.



Clipboard

- Clipboard represents the sacred ceremony of informed consent between clinician and patient.
- This is a non-hierarchical relationship. Patient and clinician build a relationship of mutual respect and equality. Both parties understand each other's role in the relationship with the objective being the best clinical path/plan to wellness for patient.
- I put the hawk feather and clipboard side by side because they are equally important.

Teachings from CAMH Elder, Kahontakwas Diane Longboat



People on the Path, Walking Together

- The journey of life is meant to be shared with respect for one another.
- The Woman Elder leads with wisdom, generosity, and compassion.
- Mother and Baby follow, new life has entered the world and Mother is sacred as a vessel carrying three generations within.
- Doctor is a helper, a servant leader.
- Young man with a drum sings spirit calling songs to nourish and heal.
- Indigenous Elder and 2 Spirit person widens the circle of care to include everyone.
- Non-Indigenous transgender health care provider is an essential part of the team.
- Young man with the guitar shows his gifts to bring joy into the world as healing.



“I am grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with this outstanding team to develop image-based teachings for this annual report. As a Dene image-based storyteller, I situate Indigenous animal teachings in images to inspire clinicians to create meaningful relationships with their patients. I also draw upon my education in bioethics and healthcare to create images designed to address clinical barriers caused by colonialism. I have translated these knowledge systems in an appendix format in order to make the teachings more accessible and to provide additional information on the topics explored in the contents of the report. In this way, I seek to honour the traditions of our ancestors and Elders to promote healing and wellness in our communities.”

Lisa Boivin

