

Creating a Province-wide 2-Spirited Model of HIV Self-Testing, Treatment, Care and Support: Paving the Path Towards Ending AIDS by 2030

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Territory Acknowledgement

The author acknowledges the Mississauga (Mississauga's of the Credit) and Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) nations, whose territory this research took place. Chi-Miigwech for your continued protection and preservation of the lands upon which McMaster University stands.

Introduction

Due to colonization, Indigenous peoples make up a large proportion of HIV cases in Canada (Haddad et al., 2021).

Two-spirit people experience disproportionate and intersectional-based pressures on health, including HIV (Dykhuzen et al., 2022). Culturally grounded support for wholistic health is needed to address these inequalities (King et al., 2009).

Indigenous communities are best suited to address health inequalities in their communities, with outside support if desired.

Community Partner: 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations

2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations is a Toronto-based, Indigenous-led, not-for-profit organization that supports two-spirit people to access culturally supported harm reduction, barrier-free HIV testing, treatment, care, and support and seeks to extend their services across Ontario.

Research Objective

To learn how to improve current services offered by 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations related to harm reduction and HIV/STBBI prevention, and how best to expand services beyond the Greater Toronto Area to the entire province of Ontario.

Methodology

Community-Based Research, Decolonizing, and Indigenous Methodologies Sharing circles (Toronto, Ottawa, and Thunder Bay)

Thematic analysis of qualitative data

Timeline

May to October 2022: Project development and REB ethics proposal

October 2022: Conducting sharing circles

November 2022 to January 2023: Data analysis and member checking

January to March 2023: Writeup of draft presentation of findings and sharing circle regarding our findings; Writeup of technical and community accessible reports; Prepare applications for grants to conduct a large-scale mixed-methods study across Ontario

Personal Research Protocols

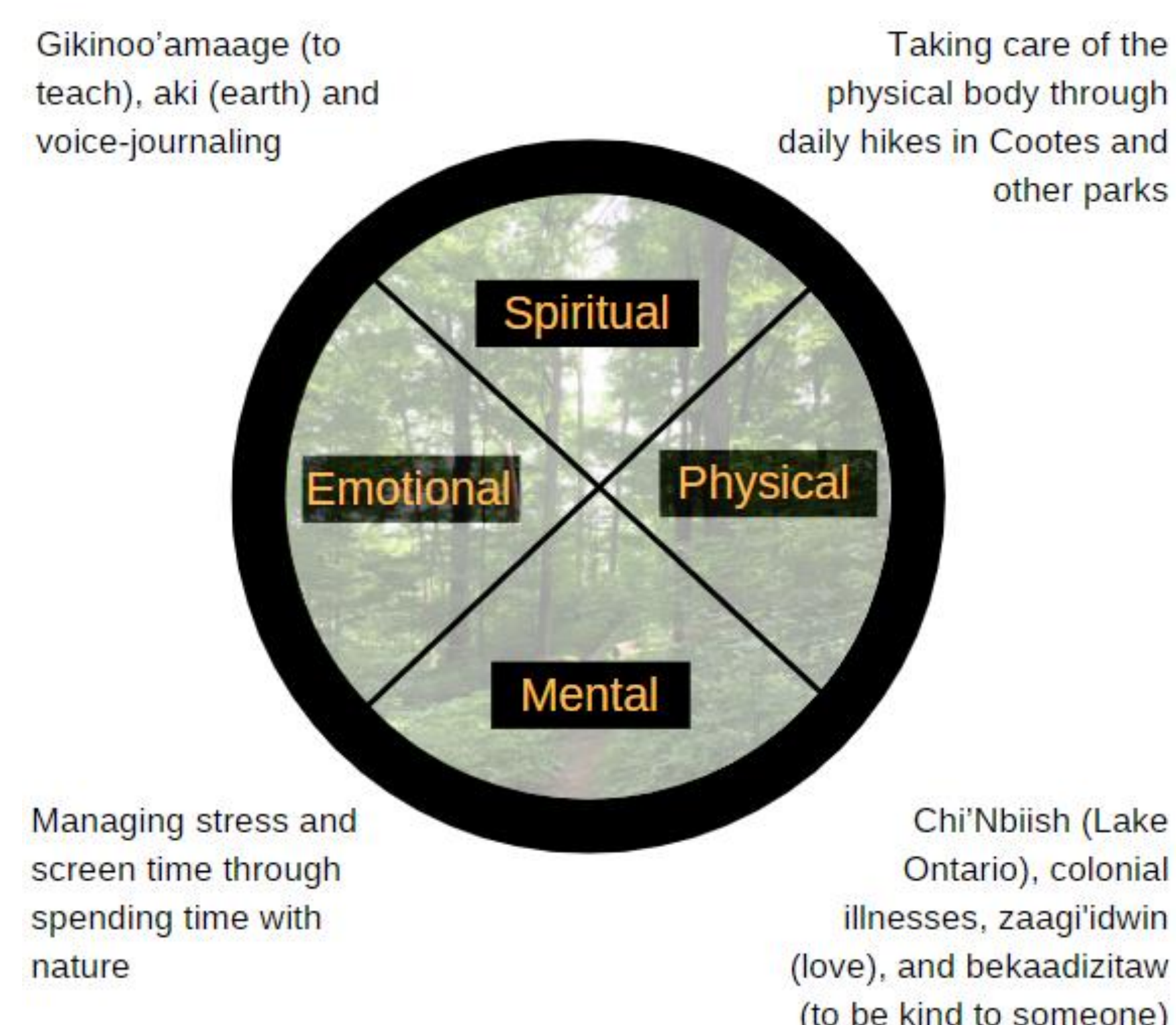


Figure 1. Visual depiction of the personal research protocol of responsibility

Responsibility: Balancing the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of self through reconnecting to my home territory and kin.

Respect: Learning to lead through a 'community of trees' (McMahon & McKnight, 2021) and practicing dabaadendiziwin (humility).

Relevance: Helping to ensure the ethics protocol reflects the envisioned and desired methodology of the community organization.

Reciprocity: Volunteered for 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations at their powwow and assisted community fellow with various personal development requests outside of the project.

Contributions to the Project

Led the development and writing of the Toronto Metropolitan University ethics proposal. Researched and gathered ethics-relevant information (i.e., data storage), ensured the ethics protocol met and reflected the TCPS mandate, Indigenous ethics mandates (i.e., OCAP), and cultural protocols.

Developed the Principles of Research Collaboration Agreement in consultation with 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, developed the Toronto Metropolitan University informed consent form and oral consent script and developed a confidentiality agreement form.

Planned, organized, and co-led meetings with key stakeholders, and created agendas and meeting minutes.

Assisted with the development of the community steering committee by recruiting a two-spirit Elder and Knowledge Holder from Ottawa and Thunder Bay.

Created recruitment material (i.e., recruitment poster).

Researched and wrote an annotated bibliography.

Figure 2. Recruitment material constructed for the project

Figure 3. Principles of Research Collaboration Agreement

Acknowledgements

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References

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