

Oct 6, 8 & 10, 2025
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
CST
Online | Free
Live interpretation



Partnering with Indigenous Communities to Develop and Evaluate Pediatric Rehabilitation Strategies – Pan-Canadian Perspectives



Université de
Sherbrooke



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN



HI THERE!



We are honored to welcome all of you to this week of learning and dialogue. This pan-Canadian event brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, practitioners, community partners, and decision-makers from across Canada to reflect on and advance collaborative approaches in pediatric rehabilitation.

Each day will showcase work from different regions of Canada, highlighting diverse perspectives, innovative practices, and community-driven initiatives. This event will be bilingual (French and English). Simultaneous interpretation will be available for anyone who requires it.

In the following pages, you will find:

- A detailed program for each day of the webinar, including session times and formats (pages 3,4,5), and details about the short presentations (page 11).
- Dedicated pages introducing our main speakers, highlighting their work and expertise (pages 6 to 14).
- Profiles of our panelists, so you can get to know the individuals who will guide and enrich our discussions (pages 15 and 16).
- Specials thank you to everyone who contributed to this event (pages 17 to 19)

We hope this guide helps you navigate the week with ease and enhances your experience.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of learning !

Program Monday October 6th

TIME	WHAT
9H30	Opening prayer by Elder Sally Sewap Scientific opening
10H	Decentering the 'Expert Self' by Dr Alison Gerlach University of Victoria <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
10H25	RIVER: Recognizing Indigenous Voices in Early Rehabilitation By Tiffany Morin (Kihew Maskihkiy Iskewew), MSc, CTRS <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
10H50	Short Break- 10 minutes
11H	Panel : Allyship and relationship building This panel brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, alongside an Elder, to reflect on their experiences building relationships with Indigenous communities. Panelists will share their personal journeys, lessons learned, and insights gained over time. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jaris Swidrovich • Dr Alison Gerlach • Dr Stacey Lovo • Elder Sally Sewap The panel will be moderated by Dr Chantal Camden.
12H	Closing remarks

**This event will be bilingual (French and English). Simultaneous interpretation will be available for anyone who requires it.*

Program Wednesday October 8th

TIME	WHAT
9H30	Opening prayer by Elder Sally Sewap Scientific opening
9H40	Short presentations : After a national call for abstract submissions, five presentations about various research initiatives and community programs in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations were accepted. Presenters will have 10 minutes allowed to their presentation and period of questions.
10H40	Short Break- 10 minutes
10H50	Walking Together: Decolonizing the F-Words for Pediatric Rehabilitation By: Grandmother Mary Wilson and Grandmother Helen Robinson-Settee <i>A 30-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
11H25	Family, Culture, Community: A Northern First Nations Community-Directed Needs Assessment & Piloting a Co-designed Hybrid Pediatric Physical Therapy Clinic By: Hailey Dunn*, Carlene Lafontaine, Sally Sewap*, Jaris Swidrovich, Chantal Camden, Stacey Lovo <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
11H50	Movements toward culturally relevant rehabilitation services for Inuit children in Nunavut By: Janna MacLachlan and Diana Neil <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
12H15	Closing remarks

**This event will be bilingual (French and English). Simultaneous interpretation will be available for anyone who requires it.*

Program Friday October 10th

TIME	WHAT
9H30	Opening prayer by Knowledge Keeper Sally Sewap Scientific opening
9H40	Mapping early intervention as decolonial practice by Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash and Dr. Kathryn Underwood <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
10H05	Elevating Mental Wellness with and for Indigenous Children: A Clinician's Unexpected Journey By Dr. Nancy Young, Senior Scientist at CHEO <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
10H30	Labyrinths of Care: How Jurisdiction and Policy Shape Access to Services for First Nations Children By Rosalie Dostie*, Justine M'Sadoques-Plourde*, Jean Volland, Jenny Caron, Hélène, Corriveau, Chantal Camden, Stacey Lovo <i>A 20-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute question-and-answer session.</i>
10H55	Short Break- 10 minutes
11H05	Panel: Actions towards reconciliation This panel brings together three accomplished Indigenous scholars to explore meaningful ways to move forward on the path of reconciliation—both in our research journeys and in our personal lives. Panelists will discuss how to advance person-centered care, design and deliver health services, and build anti-oppressive systems. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Angie Phoenix • Dr Nicole Ineese-Nash • Dr Veronika McKinney <i>The panel will be moderated by Stacey Lovo.</i>
12H05	Closing remarks Finishing in a good way with Elder Jean Volland

**This event will be bilingual (French and English). Simultaneous interpretation will be available for anyone who requires it.*

About our main speaker from British Columbia

JOIN US
MONDAY
OCTOBER 6TH



Decentering the 'Expert Self'

Alison will discuss how and why decentering professional identity is foundational to providing effective, relationally accountable, community-based pediatric rehabilitation with Indigenous communities and families. Buckle up for shifting your mindset, power, and practice !

Dr. Alison Gerlach

Alison is a White settler who originates from the west of England. Her work as an OT and researcher for the past 25 years in BC has focused on transforming community pediatric rehabilitation with and for Indigenous communities and families who can find these services hard and/or harmful to reach and/or ineffective.



About our main speaker from Alberta

JOIN US
MONDAY
OCTOBER 6TH



RIVER: Recognizing Indigenous Voices in Early Rehabilitation

In collaboration with Indigenous communities across Canada, this on-going study aims to learn about available rehabilitation services for young children who have cerebral palsy. We are listening to stories from parents of Indigenous children with cerebral palsy. In this presentation we will share our research process, including community engagement initiatives and plans for knowledge mobilization

Tiffany Morin (Kihew Maskihkiy Iskwew), MSc, CTRS

Tiffany Morin (Kihew Maskihkiy Iskwew), MSc, CTRS, is a member of the Metis Nation of Alberta, with family connections to Flying Dust First Nation, a recreation therapist, and an instructor at the University of Lethbridge. She is interested in Indigenous health research and supporting inclusive recreation



About our main speakers from Manitoba

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8TH



Walking Together: Decolonizing the F-Words for Pediatric Rehabilitation

In this invited and featured talk, Grandmother Helen Robinson-Settee and Grandmother Mary Wilson will present a co-created and decolonized adaptation of the 'F-words for Child Development' framework (Fun, Family, Friends, Fitness, Functioning, Future; referred to as 'Our Favourite Words' in Manitoba) for use in a Winnipeg, Manitoba, pediatric rehabilitation centre. They will highlight the collaborative efforts from a diverse team in Manitoba and Ontario, and graciously share their own knowledge and teachings that led to the development of the decolonized F-words (Turtle Illustration and Our Favourite Words). Next steps include reflecting on, and exploring how, the decolonized F-words example can be applied in rehabilitation contexts.

Grandmother Mary Wilson

Mary Wilson (Ogemow Ke Pemotet Neya Hiskanawa, or "Leader of People on Their Path in the Four Directions and Runs with Wolves") is a Spiritual Teacher, Spirit Walker, Healer & Knowledge Keeper. Affiliated with the International Spiritual Directors, she has been a Psychotherapist for more than 20 years. She has provided therapy for residential school abuse and trauma survivors and has worked with countless families and individuals to help rebuild communities. She has contributed widely to research projects and committees (e.g., CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health; ENRRICH, Manitoba) and has been working with the F-words team for over 3 years providing cultural guidance, wisdom, and leading as a co-principal investigator. She focuses on rebuilding community and individual strength and independence through a wide range of therapies, practices and guided spiritual programs to ultimately create a better life and place for everyone.



Grandmother Helen Robinson-Settee

Helen is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) from Dauphin River First Nation in the interlake region of Manitoba. She currently resides in Winnipeg, Treaty 1 territory and homeland of her Nation the Anishinaabeg. Helen's first language is Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) and is honoured that her parents spoke their language in their home. Helen is a lifelong educator and is retired from the Province of Manitoba. She has a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education from the University of Manitoba. Helen is also active on a number of committees such as Chair of the Shawane Dagoosiwin-Aboriginal Education Research Forum, Co-Chair of Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards, Executive and Board member for End Homelessness Winnipeg, Boldness Stewardship Group and Rehabilitation Center for Children as Executive and Board member. She also is a Kookum with a number of organizations of which she is so honoured to sit with other Knowledge Keepers and Grandmothers/Grandfathers. She has been working with the F-words team and co-leading this project for over 2 years, providing essential cultural guidance, wisdom, and knowledge sharing.



About our main speakers from Saskatchewan

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8TH



Family, Culture, Community: A Northern First Nations Community-Directed Needs Assessment & Piloting a Co-developed Hybrid Pediatric Physical Therapy Clinic

Since 2022, Pelican Narrows, a Cree community within the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN), has collaborated with the University of Saskatchewan on research focused on the experiences and needs of families with children who have rehabilitation needs. This presentation will highlight the findings from the 2023 community needs assessment, which guided the co-creation of the pilot pediatric physical therapy clinic. The model of care is a culturally responsive, family-centered, hybrid approach, harnessing remote presence technology to improve access to care for First Nations children and their families in the community. Further, the partnership has resulted in the expansion of interdisciplinary services to additional PBCN communities.



Elder Sally Sewap

Sally Sewap is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation from Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. She has many years of experience working with families in various roles and has guided many community-directed research initiatives. Further, she carries on the Cree language (TH-Dialect) through assisting with translation, ensuring the longevity of her traditional language.

Hailey Dunn MPT, PhD Candidate

Hailey Dunn is a white settler. She is a mother, student, and physiotherapist. She lives in Treaty 2 territory, home to many First Nations and Métis ancestors. Hailey is collaborating closely with three Cree communities in Northern Saskatchewan to enhance access to culturally-responsive rehabilitation services.



About our main speakers from Nunavut

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8TH



Movements toward culturally relevant rehabilitation services for Inuit children in Nunavut

Two community-based clinicians and researchers working in Nunavut will present about their work in advancing culturally relevant services for Inuit children. Diana will discuss plans for her doctoral research to develop an Inuktitut speech and language assessment. Janna will share findings from her research that explored how to foreground Inuit ways of knowing in rehabilitation for children, including the need to resist inequitable power dynamics that privilege Eurocentric perspectives.



Diana Neil

Diana is Inuk from the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut, turned Urban Inuk now living on the traditional territories of the Yellowknife Dene First Nation in Samba K'e (Yellowknife), Northwest Territories. She has been working as Speech Language Pathologist across Nunavut and Northwest Territories since 2015.

Janna MacLachlan

Janna MacLachlan is a White woman of European settler ancestry who grew up in rural Mi'kma'ki. She has been working as an occupational therapist in Nunavut periodically since 2006.



Short presentations

JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8TH



After a national call for abstract submissions, five presentations about various research initiatives and community programs in partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations were accepted. Presenters will have 10 minutes allowed to their presentation and period of questions.

9H40	Mots d'enfants : Intervenir précocement en stimulation globale du langage dans une approche de sécurisation culturelle; By : Marie Vézina & Mireille De La Sablonnière-Griffin
9H50	Co-creating a process of decolonizing the 'F-words for Child Development' framework: Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives By: Melanie Sheldon & Vanessa Tomas
10H	Social pediatric center : Minnie's Hope By : Mrs. Marianne Martin
10H10	Social pediatric center : Saralikitaaq By : Jennifer Lee
10H20	Bridging Services for Indigenous Families – Summer Family Fun Gatherings. A community partnership between Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Sweetgrass Aboriginal Headstart in Northern MB By : Kara Plamandon & Jeremiah Herrmann Garay

**This event will be bilingual (French and English). Simultaneous interpretation will be available for anyone who requires it.*

About our main speakers from Ontario

JOIN US
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10TH



Mapping early intervention as decolonial practice

This presentation will draw on work done through the Inclusive Early Childhood Service System (IECSS) project, a 10-year longitudinal Institutional Ethnography. The IECSS project interviewed parents and family members about their experiences interacting with bureaucratic, clinical, and professional spaces to gain access and support for their children.

We will discuss how these service systems function as sites of regulation, surveillance, and resistance, particularly for families navigating multiple forms of oppression. The presentation will share insights from both academic and community perspectives on how early intervention practices can reproduce colonial and ableist logics, or be reimagined as part of broader movements toward decolonial and disability-affirming systems of care.

The IECSS project is a partnership between university, municipal, Indigenous, and community partners who are funders and providers of early childhood services. Guided by the District of Temiskaming Elders Council, the project is focused on disabled children's lived experiences.



Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash

Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash is a mixed Anishinaabe and French Canadian-Irish, cisgender, able-bodied woman from Constance Lake First Nation. She is an Assistant Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University and the Executive Director of Finding Our Power Together, a national Indigenous-led organization supporting youth wellness and suicide prevention through land-based healing. Her research focuses on Indigenous governance, disability justice, and relational approaches to early childhood and youth systems.

Dr. Kathryn Underwood

Dr. Kathryn Underwood is a cisgender, white woman of European heritage. She is a professor at Toronto Metropolitan University whose work is grounded in partnerships with communities seeking to create early childhood education and care systems that affirm all children, including disabled children. Her research focuses on disability, inclusion, and systemic change in early childhood systems.



About our main speaker from Ontario

JOIN US
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10TH



Elevating Mental Wellness with and for Indigenous Children: A Clinician's Unexpected Journey

Nancy Young began her career as a Physical Therapist. Relationships with scientists and later Indigenous health leaders reshaped her path in a good way. She will describe a shared journey that led to the co-creation of a self-reported wellness tool for Indigenous children (8 to 18 years of age), which is now being extended to younger and older. Data is power, and thus they co-developed a process to ensure each community owns the resulting data. Through this journey, she was guided by Indigenous health leaders and Elders. Together, they learned that while geography is a challenge, relationships are key and lead to capacity building for all (a win-win). They are actively sharing this work as a foundation for others to build on.



Nancy L. Young, BScPT, MSc, PhD

Dr. Young is a Senior Scientist at the CHEO Research Institute, specializing in child health measurement science. She leverages research to elevate the voices of children in health assessments and leads the ACHWM Team. Through collaboration, the ACHWM Team has improved access to high-quality local data that informs health services planning within rural and remote Indigenous communities.

About our main speakers from Quebec

JOIN US
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 10TH



Labyrinths of Care: How Jurisdiction and Policy Shape Access to Services for First Nations Children

Based on data from a multi-case study conducted in two First Nations communities in Quebec, this presentation examines how jurisdictional overlaps, standardized provincial policies, and fragmented funding models create a labyrinth of access to rehabilitation services for Indigenous children. Families, clinicians, and community-based staff often encounter dead ends and unclear pathways, as federal and provincial programs—designed primarily for non-Indigenous populations—fail to reflect the realities of First Nations communities. These “grey zones,” where responsibilities and resources intersect or conflict, result in delayed or denied services, limited flexibility, and administrative burdens. Presenters will share insights from key stakeholders, highlighting opportunities to reimagine policies and practices that support Indigenous-led, culturally responsive rehabilitation services and help all those navigating the system to find clearer pathways to care.

Justine M'Sadoques-Plourde (on the right)

Justine is a W8banaki from Odanak. Since 2014, she has worked with W8banakiak youth and non-natives as an intervener and teacher. She has been Jordan's Principle coordinator for her community since 2023.

Rosalie Dostie MPT, MSc PhD Candidate (on the left)

Rosalie Dostie is a white woman of French descent. The place she considers home is located on the traditional and unceded lands of the Wabanaki Nation. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Sherbrooke and works in collaboration with several First Nations communities to improve access to culturally responsive services for children and their family.



Introducing our Monday panel speakers

Allyship and relationship building

In addition to Elder Sally Sewap & main speaker Dr. Gerlach, we would like to welcome:

Dr Jaris Swidrovich

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich is a queer, Two-Spirit, Saulteaux and Ukrainian pharmacist from Yellow Quill First Nation (Treaty 4 territory, Saskatchewan). As an Assistant Professor and Indigenous Engagement Lead at the University of Toronto's Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Swidrovich is dedicated to advancing Indigenous health through collaborative research that prioritizes the needs, voices, and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples. His research areas span across Indigenous health, pain management, HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders, and 2SLGBTQ+ health, with a focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice. With a deep commitment to fostering meaningful and respectful relationships in research with Indigenous communities, Dr. Swidrovich integrates his intersectional perspective as a Two-Spirit, First Nations, and disabled individual to shape research that reflects the complexities of identity, culture, and lived experience.



Dr Stacey Lovo

Dr. Stacey Lovo is an Associate Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science at the University of Saskatchewan and Director of Virtual Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation at Saskatchewan's Virtual Health Hub. Deeply rooted in community collaboration, her work focuses on co-development of innovative virtual care models that respond to the expressed needs of Indigenous communities, including musculoskeletal and pediatric rehabilitation. Her work centres on culturally responsive care built on trust, relationships, and community leadership.



Elder Sally Sewap (see bio p. 8)

Dr Alison Gerlach (see bio p.6)



Introducing our Friday panel speakers

Actions towards reconciliation

In addition to Dr Nicole Inees-Nash, we would like to welcome:

Dr Angie Phoenix

Angie Phenix is a mother, Métis woman, scholar, educator, and occupational therapist. She has spent most of her career working in rural, remote, and often Northern regions of Canada, across both health and education. She co-chaired both the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists' (CAOT) Occupational Therapy and Indigenous Health Network (OTIHN) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Taskforce. Since the beginning of her career, Angie noticed the tension and problematic nature of using a Western-based model of practice in Indigenous communities.



As an attempt to put words to these feelings, better address health and educational inequities, and become a better OT, she pursued a second degree Masters in Indigenous Education at the University of Saskatchewan. Her life, educational, and career experiences have helped to identify a lens to critically analyze how political, social, moral, historical and economic structures co-exist to create different realities for those who live on these lands, creating privilege/empowerment or oppression/disadvantage. Angie has (co)authored several publications, co-created the new Canadian OT competencies, and with the aim of shedding a critical light on the occupational therapy profession she has helped to develop the new COTIPP process model. She is currently attending Queen's University and completing a doctorate degree in Rehabilitation and Health Leadership.

Dr. Veronica McKinney

Tansi. Nehiyaw niya. Dr. Veronica McKinney is a Cree woman whose family originates from northwest Saskatchewan. She was brought up in her traditional culture, and is the Director of Northern Medical services, which provides medical care to approximately half of the northern geographical area of Saskatchewan where the majority of the population are Indigenous. She provides leadership in health development, teaches, conducts research and works with numerous rural and remote communities, various health organizations, Bands and Tribal Councils. She continues to practice Family Medicine and is the proud mother of two teenage boys.



Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash (see bio p.12)

Many thanks to

This event would not be possible without **Elders**

We are grateful for the guidance of Sally Sewap (Pelican Narrows), an Elder and member of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, and Jean Vollant, an Innu Elder from Pessamit. They have shared their wisdom throughout the planning of the webinar, including contributing to the design, the selection of panel themes, and the framing of discussions. Their guidance will continue throughout the event, with opening prayers and closing reflections that honor their teachings.

Elder Jean Vollant

Jean Vollant is a member of the Innu community of Pessamit and holds a master's degree in school management from the University of Sherbrooke. Until September 2025, he served as director of the Odanak Abenaki Community Health Center. Under his leadership, and thanks to the work of his team, the facility was awarded HONOR status by Accreditation Canada in May 2025.

With solid experience in health management, Mr. Vollant has been involved in numerous regional bodies, including the CIUSSS-MCCQ and the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC). For the past few years, he has also been working as a cultural safety consultant for the Office of Social Responsibility at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Sherbrooke. In this capacity, he actively contributes to the work of the First Peoples Health and Wellness Consultation Group and the Leadership & Partnership subgroup.



Elder Sally Sewap

Elder Sally Sewap is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation from Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. She has many years of experience working with families in various roles and has guided many community-directed research initiatives. Further, she carries on the Cree language (TH-Dialect) through assisting with translation, ensuring the longevity of her traditional language.

Many thanks to

This event would not be possible without

Our co-organizers : Rosalie Dostie & Hailey Dunn

Rosalie and Hailey are the brains and organizers behind this webinar. They coordinated the schedule, reached out to partners, and led the promotion — driving the vision and making sure everything came together seamlessly.

Here's what they want to tell us about why they got involve in this work :

We are PhD students working with First Nations communities to improve access to rehabilitation services that support children's development in culturally responsive ways. As white women working in these spaces, we are constantly reflecting on our own journeys in reconciliation. This work reminds us of the responsibilities we carry: to listen, to learn, and to approach our research and collaborations with humility and respect.

When the opportunity to organize a webinar arose, we jumped at it. At conferences, we rarely see presentations on this very specific topic — rehabilitation services for Indigenous children. We wanted to create a space to bring together the incredible people we admire and learn from them. This webinar is an opportunity to continue learning, reflect on our own journeys in reconciliation, and support community-driven, culturally responsive approaches. It's a chance to connect, share knowledge, and grow together.

For us, this event is more than sharing knowledge: it is a space to reflect on our roles, recognize the limits of our understanding, and engage with the work of Indigenous-led, community-centered approaches in ways that are thoughtful, ethical, and respectful.



Rosalie Dostie picking berries
in Kangiqsualujjuaq



Hailey Dunn caring for her animals at home
(Treaty 2 Territory)

Many thanks to

This event would not be possible without

Scientific committee

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the scientific committee and our mentors, who have guided our work, provided advice, and connected us with key people. Without their support and expertise, a webinar of this scope would not have reached so many participants or had the same impact.



Dr Stacey Lovo



Jade Berbari



Dr Karen Hurtubise



Dr Chantal Camden

Technical support team

We would also like to thank the Continuing Education in Rehabilitation Science (CERS), School of Rehabilitation Science, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Special thanks to Joy Richards and Kendra Usunier, who as the technical support team managed subscriptions and oversaw all technological aspects of the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly.



Joy Richards



Kendra Usunier

**Many
thanks
to**



This event would not be possible without the
financial support from



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