

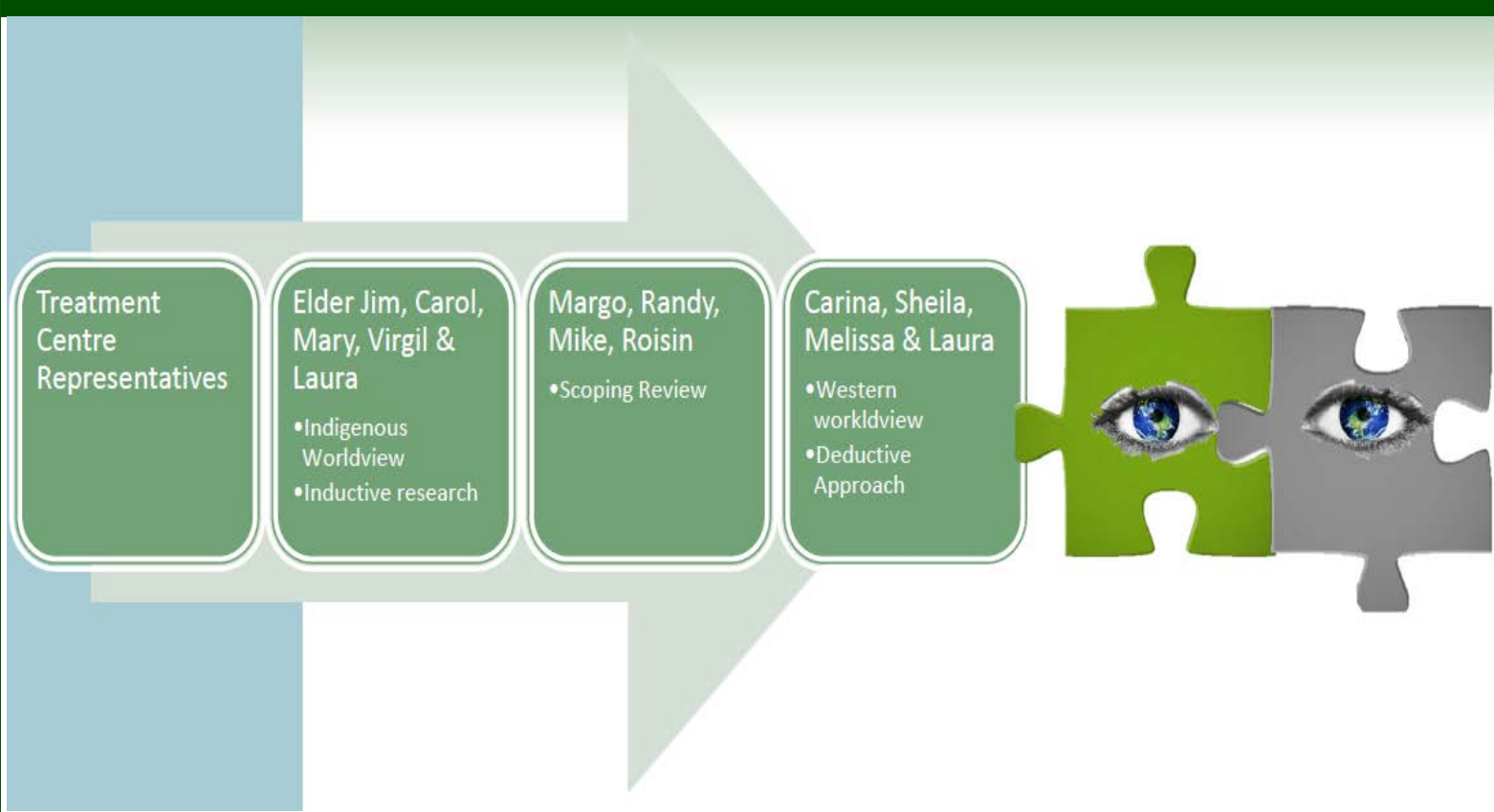
Overview of the Project

Elders, cultural practitioners and knowledge keepers have shared about the important role of First Nations traditional culture as a support for healing and as foundational for holistic wellness. In 2011, the *Honouring Our Strengths: A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues among First Nations in Canada* report was released and recommended the establishment of a culturally competent evidence base to document and demonstrate the effectiveness of cultural interventions as offered by the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) and the Youth Solvent Addiction Program (YSAP) in Canada (National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation et al., 2011). The *Honouring Our Strengths: Indigenous Culture as Intervention in Addictions Treatment* (HOS:CasI) research project was initiated in response to this recommendation, taking form as a partnership between the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation (NNAPF), the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and specifically, the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH) funded the research project for three years (2012-2015) to develop a measure that would demonstrate the efficacy of cultural interventions in NNADAP and YSAP treatment programs.

In plain language, our project team wanted to develop an assessment that centered and reflected the culturally-based programming offered to clients at NNADAP and YSAP treatment centres. Evaluating outcomes with deficit-based assessments did not demonstrate the efficacy of these programs or meet the needs of clients. Embracing a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, the HOS:CasI project resulted in the development of the strengths-based and culturally consistent Native Wellness Assessment (NWA™) along with other resources that emphasize the importance of Native culture for wellness. NNAPF changed the organization name to the *Thunderbird Partnership Foundation* in June 2015.



Threading Our Data Collection and Analysis



Our Team is Our Project



Working from Indigenous and Western Worldviews

Our research community is made up of Elders, Treatment Centres, researchers, service providers and decision makers. We are bringing together multiple worldviews in our research process, and putting into practice what the Canadian Institutes of Health Research define as *two-eyed seeing*, as taught by Elder Albert Marshall. Central to doing this is accounting for everyone's voice in *the space that relates*, as explained by Te Pou (2008).

Nominated Principal Investigator: Colleen Anne Dell (University of Saskatchewan) **Co-Principal Investigators:** Carol Hopkins (National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation), Peter Menzies (Independent, formerly Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), Jennifer Robinson and former designate Jonathan Thompson (Assembly of First Nations) **Co-Applicants:** Sharon Acoose (First Nations University of Canada), Peter Butt (University of Saskatchewan), Elder Jim Dumont (Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre), Marwa Farag (University of Saskatchewan), Joseph P. Gone (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor), Rod McCormick (Thompson Rivers University, formerly University of British Columbia), Christopher Mushquash (Lakehead University), David Mykota (University of Saskatchewan), Nancy Poole (BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health), Bev Shea (University of Ottawa), Virgil Tobias (Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre) **Knowledge Users:** Mary Deleary (Independent, formerly Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre), Renee Linklater (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), Mike Martin (National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation), Kasi McMicking (Health Canada), Brian Rush (Independent, formerly Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), Sarah Steves and former designate Darcy Stoneadge (Health Canada) **Collaborators (Treatment Centres):** Willie Alphonse (Nenqayni Wellness Centre), Ed Azure (Nelson House Medicine Lodge), Christina Brazzoni (Carrier Sekani Family Services), Patrick Dumont (Wanaki Centre), Cindy Ginnish (Rising Sun), Yvonne Howse and former designate Hilary Harper (Ekweskeet Healing Lodge), Karen Main (Leading Thunderbird Lodge), Zelda Quewezance (Saulteaux Healing and Wellness Centre), Yvonne Rigsby-Jones (Tso-w-Tun Le Lum), Ernest Sauve (White Buffalo Youth Inhalant Treatment Centre), Virgil Tobias and former designate Mary Deleary (Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre), Norma Saulis (Wolastoqewiyik Healing Lodge) **Contributors (Treatment Centres):** Iris Allen (Charles J. Andrew Youth Treatment Centre), Rolanda Maniowabi (Ngwaagan Gamig Recovery Centre Inc. [Rainbow Lodge]), Susan Thomas (Sagkeeng Mino Pimatiziwin Family Treatment Centre), Sadie Greenway (Kackaamin Family Development Centre), Yvonne Olivier (Siksika Medicine Lodge), Delena Tikk (Three Voices of Healing Society), Jordan Head (St. Paul's Treatment Centre), John Dixon (Dilico Adult Residential Treatment Centre) **Collaborators (Leadership):** Chief Austin Bear (National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation), Debra Dell (Youth Solvent Addiction Committee), Val Desjarlais and former designate Janice Nicotine (National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation), Rob Eves and former designate Rita Notarandrea (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse), Elder Campbell Papequash (Saskatchewan Team for Research and Evaluation of Addictions Treatment and Mental Health Services) **Contractors (Methodology):** Elder Jim Dumont (Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre), Randy Duncan (University of Saskatchewan), Carina Fiedeldey-Van Dijk (ePsy Consultancy), Laura Hall (University of Saskatchewan), Margo Rowan (University of Saskatchewan) **Management:** Barbara Fornssler and former designate Michelle Kushniruk (University of Saskatchewan)

Working as a Team

To work collaboratively foremost means to our team that we must effectively *communicate* both internally and externally. That is, we all must share and listen. Ways we have undertaken this within our team include:

- Being guided by the knowledge and wisdom our project Elders share
- Publishing a monthly project newsletters, committing to weekly core team meetings and bi-monthly full team meetings.
- Beginning the project with a traditional sweat, encouraging participation in ceremony for all team members. And practicing culture, such as prayer, in our process.

Sharing Outside Our Team

Project Summary Video & Project Process Series



Watch It Now!



More Innovative Resources:

- Recipe Cards for *Cooking with Culture*
- Client Activity Book & Facilitator Manual



Join the Conversation!

www.tinyurl.com/cultureasinterventionresearch



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