



UAKN
Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

RCdU
Réseau de connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu urbain

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

Prairie Research Centre

Name of Project:

Comparing the Lived Experiences of Urban Aboriginal Peoples with Canadian Rights to a Quality of Life

Research Start-up Summary and Abstract:

Despite government recognition of the importance of improving Quality of Life (QoL), significant barriers to QoL remain for Aboriginal peoples. Although the 2010 Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study showed strong aspirations toward improving their QoL, urban Aboriginal people felt that access to education, income gaps, and government policy impeded their progress. Building on long-term studies of QoL by Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), this study will assess the lived experiences of urban Aboriginal peoples as they relate to their QoL. The research will devote attention to Aboriginal understandings of treaty, constitutional, statutory, and normative frameworks that may be significant for dealing with QoL issues. The outcomes of the research may serve as a catalyst for renewed discussion about the obligations of various levels of government to maintain the rights laid out in treaties for urban Aboriginal peoples. The study will establish baseline information about QoL for urban Aboriginal peoples using the mixed-methods research approach of CUISR's QoL research iterations, integrating CUISR's collaborative community-based research approach.

Name of Principal Investigators:

- Dr John G. Hansen, Dr. Isobel M. Findlay, and Dr. Joseph Garcea, University of Saskatchewan

Collaborating Friendship Centre and/or other urban Aboriginal organization:

- Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy(UAS) (Brad Bird, Coordinator)
- Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) (Darlene Lanceley, Employment Consultant)

Engagement objectives:

This study is designed by, with, and for Aboriginal peoples. CUISR's 3R principles of community engagement—research, relationships, and reflexivity—will promote community partners' and participants' knowledge, expertise, and active engagement throughout for mutual learning, relationship building, and collaborative reflection. A steering committee will select the Aboriginal graduate student researcher and design and fine-tune the survey instrument and methodology. Researchers will conduct an online survey, focus groups, and in-depth face-to-face interviews with participants in selected neighbourhoods. A community forum, one of diverse dissemination forms, will share results and get feedback on important themes and findings impacting policy and program development.

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