



URBAN ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

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NEWSLETTER

December 2014 - Volume 3, Number 4

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UAKN Network Developments

Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network—Research for a Better Life

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) is a national network comprised of urban Aboriginal communities, policy makers and academics, engaging in community driven research with the goal of contributing to a better quality of life for urban Aboriginal people. The UAKN national network provides a different type of partnership by developing stronger relationships, through a community driven process.

The UAKN Aboriginal Circle held a meeting on Wednesday November 26, 2014 in Ottawa. The Aboriginal Circle provides guidance to the Network Council on ethics and cultural relevancy. The Circle focused on discussions about ownership and intellectual property rights in community driven research (see page 4), and key research priorities for the Network Council. Many important areas for research were discussed, and an idea for a major UAKN – community project was discussed. The project will work with communities to document Indigenous Knowledge Systems and protocols. Over the coming months a working group will come together to plan this project, that we believe has great potential for impact!

The UAKN Network Council held a 2 day meeting on Thursday November 27 to Friday November 28, 2014 in Ottawa following the Aboriginal Circle meeting. Network Council members gathered to provide regional updates to one another, discuss knowledge mobilization activities, implementation of national research pro-

jects and future national research projects and direction. Currently the UAKN has two major national research projects un-



UAKN Network Council Meeting, Ottawa 2014

derway, the first titled, “The Urban Aboriginal Service Delivery Landscape: Themes, Trends, Gaps and Prospects” explores service delivery across the country, at national and regional levels. The second project, is focused on sharing Statistics Canada data for select communities in Canada. The Network council also discussed key research priorities when envisioning the future work of the UAKN, including the project presented by the Aboriginal Circle and ranging on a variety of topics from youth and leadership, the needs of Elders, masculinities, and also looking into issues surrounding racism found in today’s society. Finally, the UAKN will be sponsoring urban themes at CINSA, June 2015 in Montreal (see page 5).

The meetings held were a great success and the UAKN Secretariat is very excited in implementing the direction that was provided.

UAKN Regional Research Updates

Western Research Centre Update

In mid-October the Western Research Centre hosted a one day workshop at the University of Northern British Columbia to share the results of projects that it has funded through the UAKN. The workshop was attended by 45-50 people and included urban Aboriginal organization representatives, faculty, students, and members of the public. The day opened with a welcome from the Lheidli T'enneh on whose traditional territory UNBC stands.

The rest of the day's program consisted of eight presentations of research projects. The projects spanned a wide variety of topics relevant to urban Aboriginal people and included research on urban Aboriginal research protocol development, structural violence and youth homelessness in the context of the southern Alberta flood in 2013, youth experiences with homelessness, Aboriginal healing and wellness in urban contexts, financial exclusion, and three projects on various aspects of Aboriginal education, for more information on these great projects visit <http://bit.ly/120wSxN>. The partnerships which formed the basis of the projects clearly enhanced the research and the policy relevance of each of the projects was another feature of the presentations.



A 20 minute video on the one of the projects - investigating the factors that keep Aboriginal youth in school - is available on the UAKN website at:

<http://uakn.org/youtube-video-on-the-conference-at-the-university-of-bc-funded-by-sshrc-and-the-uakn-western-region-research-centre/>.

The dissemination of the research went beyond those attending the workshop. A local media report of the event is available at:

<http://ckpg.com/urban-aboriginal-knowledge-network-conference-at-unbc> .

How to get involved in UAKN Research?

We are pleased to announce that as we enter year three of the five year project the UAKN has over 27 Research Projects to report on. We are excited to highlight these projects on our new and improved website. The UAKN Secretariat is busy working on making new abstracts and final papers available online as they start coming in and also working on creating research briefs for all the completed research projects.

At the UAKN, we believe community driven research is truly innovative and we are always looking to expand our network, to partner Aboriginal organizations with academics and to include government decision makers as best possible. Our best partners are Friendship Centres and other Aboriginal community based organizations. We encourage you to contact us if you have any research you wish to conduct, or if you would like to learn more about the role of research in community organizations.

To learn more or to discuss community opportunities, please contact Pam Quart at (613) 563-4844 ext 328, toll free at 1-877-563-4844 or by email at to pouart@nafc.ca



UAKN Regional Research Centres:

For more information on the RRC projects, contact information, and research summaries please visit our Regional Research Centres webpage at:

<http://uakn.org/research-centres/>

UAKN Atlantic Research Centre Update

In addition to managing its nine funded research projects, this fall the UAKN Atlantic has engaged in a number of outreach activities. On October 16th the UAKN Atlantic and Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre, Halifax, NS, co-hosted "Nova Scotia's Urban Aboriginal Community: Sharing Our Research Priorities". Representatives from urban Aboriginal groups, students, community-based researchers, academics and government attended. Pam Glode, presented the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre's research priorities focused on Justice, Communication & Culture, Social & Community Services, Health, and Education & Training.



UAKN Atlantic Legacy Project Participants
Photo Credit: Anthea Plummer

On November 18 and 19, the UAKN Atlantic brought together two representative students/community researchers from each of the four Atlantic Provinces to launch a UAKN Atlantic legacy Project. Participants in this project will use new media to explore the following questions – As urban Aboriginals, "Who are we?, How did we get here?, Where are we going?, and How are we getting there?". Project participants also had the opportunity to have dinner with Professor Eve Tuck, who was giving a guest lecture at UNB on de-colonizing research methodologies.

On November 28, Cinema Politico and UAKN Atlantic co-hosted the screening of "Be Smile: The Stories of Two Urban Inuit", 2006. Members of the UAKN Atlantic Executive Committee, Professor Josephine Savarese STU, and Lisa Jodoin, UNB, facilitate a discussion following the screening. On December 3rd, at the "Circle of Understanding Program Celebration of Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq Culture.", Lisa Jodoin, an emerging Aboriginal scholar and PhD Candidate at UNB, screened her award winning film titled, "Tracing Blood". Her short film explores issues around urban Aboriginal identity. On December 9th, the UAKN Atlantic, Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Institute WI & UAKN Atlantic & Faculty of Educa-

tion will co-host a presentation by Dr. Fred Metallic, Senior Policy Analyst, Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government on indigenizing post secondary education. The title of his lecture is "Maintaining Intellectual Integrity Within and Beyond Academe".

For more information on the Atlantic Research Centre visit: <http://bit.ly/1w5Oh5Y>



New UAKN Brochure Now Available Online!

The UAKN is pleased to announce that the new resource titled, UAKN Brochure - Research for a Better Life is now available online at: <http://bit.ly/12IYhVT>

This brochure further explains the great work of the UAKN and is an accessible resource for future community partners, researchers, government partners and much more!



To subscribe to the UAKN newsletter:

Send an email to: uakn@nafc.ca

UAKN Atlantic Research Centre Update

Spotlight on the Community:

Women's Narratives from the St. John's Native Friendship Centre: Using Digital Storytelling to Inform Community-based Healing & Violence Prevention Programs

Authors: Ashley Hong, MSc Candidate, Memorial University and Breannah Tulk, Community Lead, St. John's Native Friendship Centre

As the month of July came to a close with remarkably humid weather on the Atlantic coast, down at the St. John's Native Friendship Centre (SJNFC) a three-day Digital Storytelling workshop on the topic of violence against Indigenous women was held. The purpose of the project is to better understand what specific strategies and services women find useful at the Centre, and why. Those engaged in the workshop included: researcher Ashley Hong (MSc Candidate, Memorial University), Breannah Tulk (Community Lead, SJNFC), two SJNFC staff facilitators, and five women who are "regulars" at the Centre. For all, it was an emotional and empowering journey that included an abundance of caffeine, tears, laughter, writing, storytelling, and filming. The room was scattered with Inuit and First Nations drums, soap stone carvings, photos, and other meaningful objects belonging to all of us.

At the end of day three, five personal films emerged, created by each woman with the support of the project facilitators. Digital storytelling was chosen as an appropriate arts-based decolonizing method to explore their lived experiences of violence in everyday life. The process was not only about gaining rich data; it was equally about using digital media to function as a potential healing tool for Indigenous women who have been impacted by different forms of violence. The workshop provided a safe environment for these women to address the meaning of violence in the context of their lives.

The process included follow-up interviews with the participants, including supplementary individual discussions with other staff members and clients from the SJNFC. At this stage, data analysis is on-going and, as a group, we are working on an event in which the participants will be presenting their films to the wider community of St. John's by year's end.

To stay informed please visit: <http://uakn.org/research-project/womens-narratives-from-the-st-johns-native-friendship-centre-using-digital-storytelling-to-inform-community-based-healing-and-violence-prevention/>

Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights

UAKN Ethical Principles are being updated by the Aboriginal Circle and Network Council to discuss how the UAKN approaches 'ownership.' Moving forward all UAKN research will respect that ownership and intellectual property rights will be with those communities or individuals who provide the information. This is a key principle of community-driven research, where communities and Indigenous knowledge holders are the experts, and must be recognised as such. This is one way the UAKN is working to influence the systems of research within institutions!

Watch for the updated Ethical Principles document on the website in the new year!



Photo from the three-day Digital Storytelling workshop, July 2014

Does your community want to get involved with UAKN Research?

We will also come to your community and present on the UAKN through coordination with our Regional Partners.

To learn more or to discuss community opportunities, please contact Pam Quart at (613) 563-4844 ext 328, toll free at 1-877-563-4844 or by email at to pouart@nafca

Upcoming Events: CINSA 2015 Conference

Survivance & Reconciliation: 7 Forward / 7 Back

The Canadian Indigenous/Native Studies Association (CINSA) Conference 2015 will be hosted by the First Peoples Studies Program (FPST) at Concordia University June 11-13, 2015.

The conference's theme borrows from the Anishinaabeg vision that asks all people to consider themselves from the standpoint of Seven Generations Back and Seven Generations Forward. Our peoples have endured much over the last Seven Generations, but through our ancestors efforts we have resisted and survived. Now the current generation is looking forward Seven Generations to ensure our continued survival as peoples. As part of the process we have embarked on a path of reconciliation with ourselves and settlers. We hope that such efforts will help ensure our collective survivance through reconciliation.

The UAKN sees this conference as a great opportunity to highlight the work of the UAKN and urban Aboriginal health, well-being and research as a whole. A Call for Proposals to present has been released.

All French or English proposals (between 200 - 250 words) should be accompanied by a brief CV (or a brief statement of relevant experience in relation to your proposal) and be submitted to the Organizing Committee (cinsa@concordia.ca) by 31 January 2015.
For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/1wl6gom>



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@TheUAKN



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C²UExpo Calling for Abstracts Deadline December 12, 2014!

C²UExpo is a Canadian-led international conference designed to showcase the best practices in community-campus partnerships worldwide; create a space for collaboration around key issues; and foster ideas, connections, and frameworks with the purpose of strengthening our communities.

Held every two years, the conference allows community members, universities, colleges, government, and nonprofit organizations to work together to create an innovative learning environment where research, knowledge, and relationships can be shared and cultivated over the 3-day conference program. Activities and sessions are diverse, ranging from workshops to art activities, deliberative dialogue to mobile tours, and everything in between.

This year's conference will take place at Carleton University, Ottawa, ON from May 26 – 29, 2015. Befitting its location, the conference will seek to explore citizen solutions for a better world by delving into the array of policy work being done to advance solutions in areas such as health, environment, food security, and employment. **For more information visit:** <http://cuexpo2015.ca/>

Happy Holidays from the UAKN

*Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season
and a happy New Year!*

*In Friendship,
Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) Secretariat*

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National Secretariat



National Association
of Friendship Centres
Association nationale
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