

UAKN November 2016 Newsletter - Volume 4: Number 5

UAKN – Research for a Better Life



uakn.org



UAKN NETWORK DEVELOPMENTS

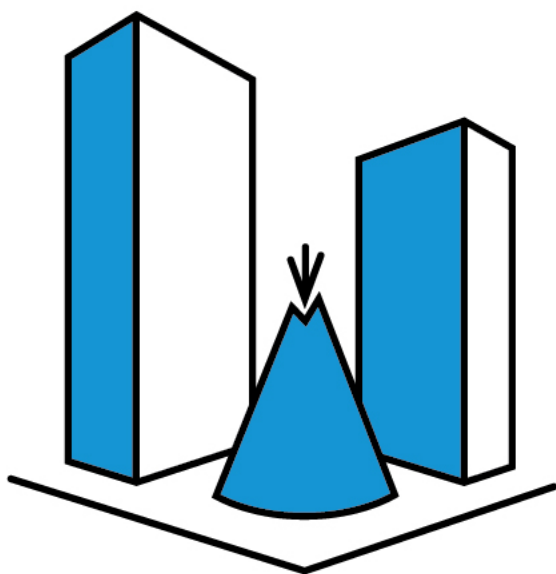
The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) is a research network built on partnerships with urban Aboriginal communities, policy makers, academics and student researchers engaging in community driven research aimed at fostering “mino-biimaadiziwin” – a phrase meaning the good life. This goal is achieved through funding high-quality, policy –relevant research that brings together perspectives from academia, government and the urban Aboriginal community. Through the work of over 80 formal partners and countless other supporters, we have over 60 projects occurring across the regions.

The UAKN will be hosting its 2016 UAKN Aboriginal Circle meeting on November 29th 2016 at the NAFC national office. The UAKN Aboriginal Circle has two new community representatives that they are happy to welcome: Coreen Roulette will be replacing Adam Blanchard representing Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres and Leslie Varley will be replacing Carl Mashon / Amanda Engen from the British Columbia Association of Friendship Centres. To see a full member list visit [here](#). The Aboriginal Circle will discuss

the national legacy project and next steps, a project developed that asks the question what does the UAKN leave behind for communities? Following the Aboriginal Circle meeting the UAKN Network Council will be meeting November 30th to December 1st, 2016 in Ottawa at the Hotel Indigo. The Network Council will provide regional updates to one another, discuss evaluation of the UAKN and the Secretariat led project, moving forward and future of the UAKN. As the UAKN enters its fifth year themes such as evaluation, national research and discussions about what the UAKN will leave behind for communities will continue.

Building from the success of the UAKN Webinars the UAKN has added the production of 3 podcasts to highlight the key findings, impacts of community driven research and to generate on further dialogue on what it's like to be an urban Aboriginal person. One podcast has been conducted in September 2016 and we are looking to book two more interviews with interested community members and researchers of UAKN projects. Any interested projects can contact, Jennifer Rankin at jrankin@nafc.ca.

The UAKN Secretariat is beginning to plan for the creation and release of the UAKN Annual Report on research and activities to be released March 31, 2017. Steps leading to this will be the release of a survey to seek out the current status on the over 60 project, track community impacts, knowledge mobilization activities, student involvement and much more. Stay tuned and visit, www.uakn.org



National Association
of Friendship Centres
Association nationale
des centres d'amitié

NAFC Welcomes new Executive Director, Erin Corston new co-chair of the UAKN Network Council!

Erin was born and raised in Treaty 9 Territory, is an active member the Chapleau Cree First Nation (CCFN) located in Northeastern Ontario. She has dedicated her professional

career to Indigenous specific issues and is a passionate advocate for Indigenous women's equality rights and ending violence against women and children.

Erin is a highly motivated senior manager with a proven track record for building and leading successful research and policy and program development initiatives intended to build capacity, educate, and inform. Possess expertise in Executive Administration, Program Management, Community Based Research, Policy Analysis, Cultural Competency, Knowledge Translation, Strategic Planning, Advocacy, and Communications. Grounded by a deep understanding of the complex array of issues that perpetuate health and socio economic disparities that exist among the Indigenous population in Canada.

We are excited to have Erin join us and apply her skills and passion for research. Erin looks forward to meeting the UAKN Network Council during the face to face meeting hosted by the UAKN Secretariat November 30-December 1, 2016.

UAKN Atlantic: Wi'kupaltimk (Feast of Forgiveness) Project Film Released!

Many Canadians go hungry. Tragically Indigenous Canadians are twice as likely as other Canadians to experience hunger and want in their lifetimes. Wi'kupaltimk - Feast of Forgiveness, looks at the experiences of Urban Indigenous people residing in Kjiptuk (Halifax). Salina Kemp, a Masters student, mother and Mi'kmaq from the Millbrook First Nation, takes us on a journey through all aspects of the "food security" issue - both historically and in the present.

The film celebrates of the resilience of the Mi'kmaq, and Indigenous people in general; the rich landscape and resources which were available to them prior to colonization, the medicines and wild food that are still available and the sacredness of the food that sustains human beings spiritually, culturally, and physically. See the full video below and to find out more information on this project visit [here](#)





UAKN Atlantic Project: Wi'kupaltimk - Feast of Forgiveness Full Film Available!

Funded by the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network - Atlantic Research Centre and the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Post CINSA 2016 Update and CINSA 2017 Moving Forward

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) was pleased to co-host with First Nations University of Canada the 2016 Canadian Indigenous/Native Studies Association (CINSA) Reconciliation through Research: Fostering miyo-pimatisiwin conference held June 22-24, 2016 at First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) in Regina, Saskatchewan. The event was a great success gathering over 200 participants made up of Elders, community members, scholars, volunteers and vendors that took part in the event over the three days. 47 sessions took place with over 94 presentations on topics surrounding education, Indigenous women, research ethics, truth and reconciliation, oral history, food security, identity, service delivery, youth, Indigenous two spirit, land, housing, social economy, community driven research approaches and processes and much more! All the presentations were presented in a variety of ways including individual paper presentations, panel sessions, roundtables, workshops, film screenings and performances that highlight community-driven research and pathways to achieving reconciliation. The CINSA steering committee is in planning process of gathering all the final papers presented at CINSA 2016 for a publication. Stay tuned!



Outdoor Workshop held at Cinsa 2016 at First Nations University of Canada

CINSA 2017 Call For Papers/Proposals:

Beyond Borders: Indigenous Thought and Mobility in a Contentious World

CINSA 2017 will be held on June 14-16 2017 at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico. All French, English, and Spanish proposals (between 200 - 250 words) should be accompanied by a brief CV (or a brief statement of relevant experience in relation to your proposal) of a single page. These must be submitted to the Organizing Committee (cinsa2017@gmail.com) by **15 December 2016**. There is a possibility of graduate travel support for students overseas.

More information and the full call for papers/proposals can be found on the CINSA Puebla 2017 Facebook page [here](#)

The Urban Aboriginal Service Delivery Landscape: Themes, Trends, Gaps and Prospects National Report Now Released!

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network, in partnership with the National Association of Friendship Centres, completed a multi-site research project to assess the urban Indigenous service delivery landscape. This research project was completed in two phases: the first was a national overview of the existing services and organizations for urban Indigenous communities and the second is an in depth examination of urban Indigenous organizations and services at a regional level.

This report represents the first phase of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network's National Project on The Urban Aboriginal Service Delivery Landscape. Phase 2 of the study, led by each of the UAKN's four regional research centres, will involve a more in-depth study in the regions, including interviews and community perspectives from the ground. In terms of community-based values, the inventory and theme framework for the Phase 1 project was developed from the perspective of Indigenous-based research frameworks and paradigms.

Phase two summarizes the reports submitted by each UAKN region, Western, Prairie, Central and Atlantic. Each region consists of two provinces, with the exception of the Atlantic region.

The project's main goals were to:

Examine the invisible infrastructure of urban Indigenous service delivery organizations by developing an inventory of organizations and their service areas with a view toward identifying gaps for increased service improvement;

Examine organizations that facilitate urban Indigenous people's participation in the economy;

Explore improvement options for urban Indigenous economic participation, for enhanced services in underserved areas and enriched relationships between urban Indigenous organizations, non - Indigenous organizations and First Nations, Métis, Inuit organizations;

Highlight services that enhance participation in the economy, innovative partnerships, and positive relationships between various stakeholders.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the National Report and the Regional Reports can be found [here](#)

UAKN Western Research Centre: Giving Voice to Urban Aboriginal Families Project Releases Video!

Experiences in early childhood are fundamental determinants of lifelong well-being. In this project we will give voice to urban Aboriginal families and caregivers on what they believe is important to the well being of their young children. A methodology adopted from social psychology, called 'echo' enables the values and beliefs of the population of interest to be articulated. The population of interest is individuals working with or raising young urban Aboriginal children (ages 0-6 years) in the Greater Victoria Capital Region. The outcome is a unique and important perspective to inform early childhood services and practice.

A film depicting these themes, *Echoes of First Nations and Métis Values*, can be viewed below and more information on this project can be found [here](#)



UAKN Western Research Centre project film *Echoes of First Nations and Metis Values* available [here!](#)

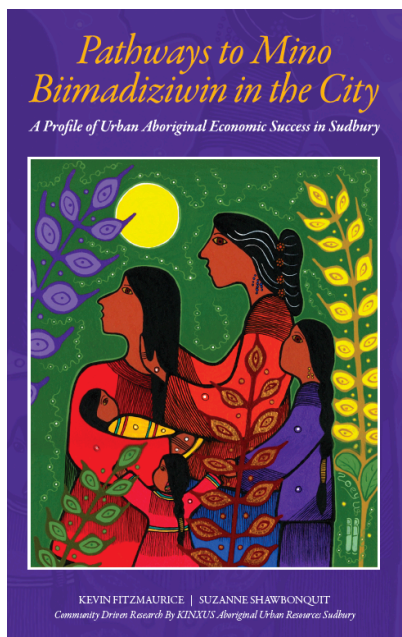
UAKN Central Research Circle Project Releases Book, *Pathways to Mino Biimadiziwin in the City: A profile of Urban Aboriginal Economic Success in Sudbury*

Urban Aboriginal Community Building and the Basis of Aboriginal Economic Success in Sudbury

In spite of the growth of urban Aboriginal economic success in cities across Canada, there has been very little research in this area to date. Initiated by KINXUS Aboriginal Urban Resources, this community driven research project has sought to better understand and support Aboriginal economic success and the development of a community network of Aboriginal professionals and community leaders in Sudbury. It has been designed to build directly upon the 2007 Urban Aboriginal Task Force which identified the emergence of an ‘outsider’ urban Aboriginal middle class who ‘appeared to be moving away from the Aboriginal social service community’. To this end, this research focuses on Aboriginal people experiencing economic success outside of the social services, while exploring the following topics:

- Demographic profiles of Aboriginal people experiencing economic success in Sudbury
- Perceptions of home and community in Sudbury

- Aboriginal cultures in the city
- Racism and internal discrimination in Sudbury
- The path to a professional life: key supports and challenges
- Economic and political relations
- Defining success and future aspirations



To view the full book publication titled, *Pathways to Mino Biimadiziwin in the City: A profile of Urban Aboriginal Economic Success in Sudbury* visit [here](#)

For more information on this project and other central research circle projects visit:
<http://uakn.org/research-centre/central-research-circle/>

THE OTHER

URBAN **ABORIGINALS** IN CANADA

UAKN Atlantic Project: Episode One: The Other Urban Aboriginals in Canada

Researcher and community member Neil Forbes releases the first episode of his podcast

series. The goal of this project is to establish an urban Aboriginal focused podcast that provides one on one in depth and frank conversations about individuals experience with growing up or becoming an urban Aboriginal. With one podcast uploaded a month, this show would be able to provide 12 original conversations in one year. Also, the podcast would have its own website (hosted by square-space), Facebook page, and YouTube channel in order to have a discussion forum so that the podcast could encourage conservation connections to urban aboriginals across the country. Stay Tuned and visit [here](#) for more information on this project!



UAKN
Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

rcdu
Réseau de connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu urbain

CURRENT UAKN CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

See the below links for the regional call for proposals for the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network through the research centres.

Western Research Centre:

<http://uakn.org/western-research-centre-october-2016-call-for-proposals/>

UAKN Atlantic Open Call for Proposals:

<http://uakn.org/uakn-atlantic-research-centre-call-for-2016-2017-open-call-for-proposals/>

Prairie Research Centre:

<http://uakn.org/uakn-prairie-research-centre-call-for-proposals-fall-2016/>

Stay Tuned for more call for proposals from the other regions by visiting www.uakn.org!

Regional Research Centres are hosted at the following universities:



Would you like to contribute or share something with the UAKN Newsletter?

The UAKN Secretariat is happy to accept all submissions related to community driven research and topics surrounding urban Aboriginal health and wellness.

Please submit to: Jennifer Rankin, UAKN Secretariat Research Officer at jrankin@nafc.ca

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN UAKN RESEARCH?

We are pleased to announce that as we enter year four of the five year SSHRC partnership grant that we have over 60 UAKN research projects with 15 final papers submitted that are available on the UAKN website. We are excited to be able to share the research results with communities, policy makers, academics and others to demonstrate the impacts that community driven research can have.

At the UAKN, we believe community driven research is truly innovative and we are always looking to expand this network. Our best partners are Friendship Centres and other Aboriginal community based organizations. We encourage you to contact us if you would like to learn more about UAKN research.

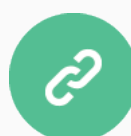
To learn more or to discuss community opportunities please contact Pamela Ouart, Director of Research and Special Projects at pouart@nafc.ca



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National Association
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National Secretariat



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



Indigenous and
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones
et du Nord Canada

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