

# Get to know the Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHRs)



The Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) Program, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, is a national network of networks focused on capacity development, research and knowledge translation centred on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. These independent, Indigenous-led networks provide supportive research environments for Indigenous health research driven by, and grounded in, Indigenous communities in Canada.

The NEIHR program is funded by the Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH), with financial support from all 13 CIHR Institutes to support these networks until 2035.

There are nine NEIHRs across Canada, with a tenth in development (Yukon), as well as a NEIHR National Coordinating Centre that facilitates collaboration between the NEIHRs, a national evaluation strategy, the National Gathering of Graduate Students, and national and international research collaborations.



The NEIHR National Coordinating Centre is led by Dr. Robert Henry (Métis, citizen of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan) at the University of Saskatchewan:

The National Coordinating Centre (NCC) acts as a secretariat, supporting the NEIHRs across Canada. The NCC facilitates collaboration between and across NEIHRs, helps fund and co-host the annual National Gathering of (Indigenous) Graduate Students, coordinates a national evaluation strategy, and supports national and international research collaborations.



[neihrcoordcentre.ca](http://neihrcoordcentre.ca)



[iphcpr.ca](http://iphcpr.ca)

Indigenous Primary Health Care & Policy Research Network – the Alberta NEIHR, led by Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe (Blackfoot, member of the Piikani First Nation) at the University of Calgary:

The Indigenous Primary Health Care Policy Research (IPHCPR) network is dedicated to advancing Indigenous primary health and policy research in Alberta. Grounded in five core objectives outlined in its original proposal, the network prioritizes community-based actionable research to improve the wellbeing of Indigenous communities. An evaluation strategy tracks project investments and deliverables to ensure alignment with IPHCPR's guiding principles, with quantitative outcomes and comprehensive overviews of each objective's achievements reported on annually.

NWT NEIHR, led by Anita Daniels-Black (Tłı̨chǫ), at the Institute of Circumpolar Health Research in Yellowknife:

The Northwest Territories Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NT-NEIHR) is overseen by a Governing Council that sets its priorities and strategic direction. Mentorship and nurturing Indigenous culture are at the core of the Governing Council, where Elders and Knowledge Keepers support cultural alignment and guiding values, including sharing, respect, caring, equality, self-respect, pride, and courage.



[ntneihr.ca](http://ntneihr.ca)



[sfu.ca/bcneihr.html](http://sfu.ca/bcneihr.html)

BC NEIHR, led by Dr. Krista Stelkia (Syilx/Tlingit from the Osoyoos Indian Band in the interior of British Columbia) at the University of Victoria:

The BC NEIHR facilitates and supports engagement in Indigenous-led health research, partnerships, training and knowledge translation that is centred in the values, knowledge systems, protocols, priorities, and leadership of Indigenous communities, collectives, and organizations (ICCOs), academic researchers, and students in BC. Our collective mission is anchored in self-determination, Indigenous knowledges, holistic population health and wellbeing, as well as intersectionality, equity, and cultural safety. Our network is supported by our three governance partners: the First Nations Health Authority, Métis Nation BC, and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, who play pivotal roles in spearheading health and wellness research initiatives throughout the province.

Atlantic NEIHR, led by Dr. Debbie Martin (member of Nunatikavut) at Dalhousie University:

The Wabanaki-Labrador Indigenous Health Research Network (WLN) operates as a collaborative effort encompassing Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, Inuit, Innu, and Passamaquoddy community members, health professionals, academics, and allies across Atlantic Canada. Guided by principles of co-learning and relational ethics, the WLN aims to advance Indigenous health through community-led research, focusing on meaningful outcomes for Indigenous Peoples. Key objectives include enhancing research capacity, supporting community health priorities, shifting research power to Indigenous communities, and promoting network sustainability.



[wabanaki-labradornetwork.ca](http://wabanaki-labradornetwork.ca)



[skneihr.ca](http://skneihr.ca)

nātawihowin (“art of self-healing” in Cree) and mamawiikikayaahk (“healing together” in Michif) Research, Training and Mentorship Networks – the Saskatchewan NEIHR, led by Dr. Robert Henry (Métis, Citizen Métis Nation-Saskatchewan), at the University of Saskatchewan:

A Saskatchewan-based consortium fostering community-driven approaches to Indigenous health research, training, and knowledge mobilization, with a focus on facilitating effective allocation of health research funds and championing community needs, SK-NEIHR serves as a conduit between communities, researchers, and funding sources.

The Manitoba NEIHR, co-led by Dr. Josée Lavole (settler) and Dr. Linda Diffy (Cree, member of Peepeekisis Cree Nation), at the University of Manitoba:

Dedicated to advancing Indigenous health research and education in Manitoba, Canada, the Manitoba Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (MB NEIHR) spearheads collaborative efforts between Indigenous scholars, organizations, and academic institutions. Anchored at Ongomiizwin Research at the University of Manitoba, the MB NEIHR integrates community and academic expertise to drive Indigenous health research forward.



[umanitoba.ca/ongomiizwin/research](http://umanitoba.ca/ongomiizwin/research)



[dlsph.utoronto.ca/institutes/wiih/research-initiatives/network-environments-for-indigenous-health-research-neihr-ontario/](https://dlsph.utoronto.ca/institutes/wiih/research-initiatives/network-environments-for-indigenous-health-research-neihr-ontario/)

Shkaakaamikwe gchi twaa miigwewin (Ojibway for Mother Earth's Gifts) —the Ontario NEIHR, focused on Indigenous mental health and wellness, led by Dr. Ethsi (Suzanne L.) Stewart (Dene, member of Yellowknife Dene First Nation), at the University of Toronto:

The network actively engages with Indigenous community partners, researchers, and policymakers, fostering ongoing learning and discovery to better serve Indigenous Peoples globally. Notable achievements include the completion of the NWRCT report, marked by a community feast and policy forum, and the initiation of a research project with UHN exploring COVID-19 vaccine experiences among individuals experiencing homelessness. Additionally, knowledge exchange events with international partners at the Poche Centre in Sydney contributed to expanding research partnerships globally.

Tahatikonhsontóntie' (Kanien'kéha for “the faces that are coming”) – the Quebec NEIHR, led by Dr. Treena Delormier (Kanien'kehá:ka [Mohawk] from Kahnawake Territory) at McGill University:

The Tahatikonhsontóntie' (the faces yet to come) Quebec Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research (QcNEIHR) is a community-based health research network. The QcNEIHR vision is that all Indigenous communities and organizations in Quebec have the self-determination to sustain health research for the wellbeing of future generations. The QcNEIHR mission is to provide a space for Indigenous communities, elders, youth, researchers, and knowledge users to unite for health promotion, community-led participatory research, and training.



[errsaqc-qcneihr.ca](http://errsaqc-qcneihr.ca)



[qhrc.ca/services/nuneihr/](http://qhrc.ca/services/nuneihr/)

Nunavut NEIHR, led by Dr. Gwen Healey Akearok (settler, born and raised in Nunavut) alongside Executive Director Ceporah Mearns (Inuk from Pangnirtung, Nunavut) at the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre in Iqaluit:

The projects undertaken by all hubs focus on developing best practices for community-based and Inuit-led research. They include weekly engagement sessions on community radio, workshops on leading discussions of historical timelines, and piloting youth programs for enhancing life skills and wellbeing. Additionally, mentorships, training partnerships, and engagement in land-based learning strategies are prioritized. The annual Qaujisarnirmut Pilimmasarniq Qaujigiartiit Research Week features workshops on various topics, including ethics, community research methods, storytelling, and the role of Inuit drumming. Various training initiatives are implemented, such as one-on-one drone operation training, a full-time harvesting-hunting instructor program, and mentorship with hunter-instructors. Academic-focused support includes skills in community-based research, academic writing, and knowledge sharing through interviewing elders and translation.





[yukonneihr.ca](http://yukonneihr.ca) (coming soon)

Yukon NEIHR is in development and is being overseen by One Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, and Yukon University.

Led by a Yukon First Nations advisory team and supported by the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon University, and One Yukon Coalition, the Yukon NEIHR is currently in development—the only region in Canada without a funded NEIHR. Rooted in the vision of Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow, the initiative seeks to strengthen Indigenous-led health research capacity, support health system transformation, and uphold Yukon First Nations' sovereignty over research and data. Guided by YFN values and governance, the team is engaging communities to define health, wellbeing, and research priorities for a future Yukon NEIHR.

The NEIHR Program is supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is Canada's federal funding agency for health research. Composed of 13 Institutes, we collaborate with partners and researchers to support the discoveries and innovations that improve our health and strengthen our health care system.



[cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37792.html](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37792.html)

