

UBC NEXUS CONFERENCE
APRIL, 2009

**KNOWLEDGE MOBILITY—RESEARCHER/COMMUNITY AGENCY
COLLABORATION: PRAGMATIC EXAMPLES ABOUT
RECIPROCAL INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS**

Donna Hill - Hon. BA, MA, PhD Student
Faculty of Education,
University of British Columbia



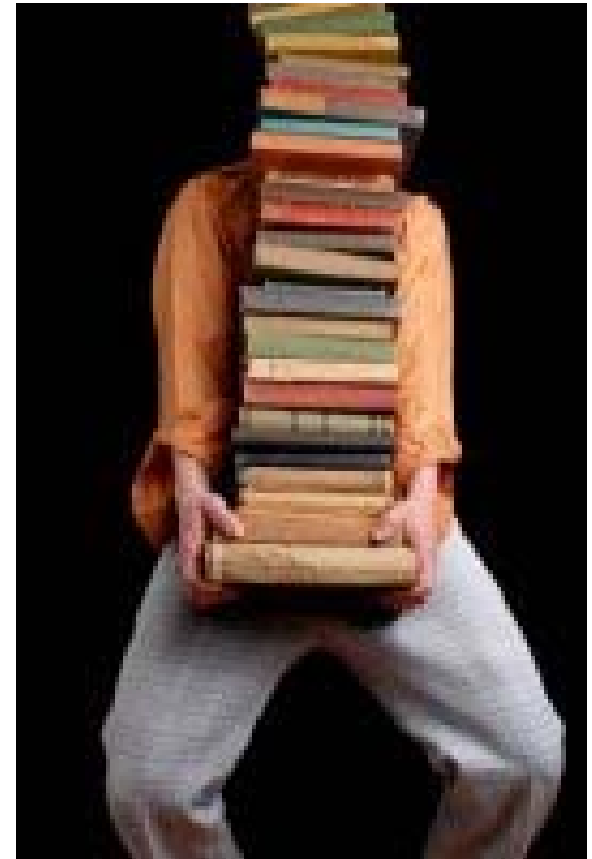
Presentation Objective



- To briefly explore three Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization projects as an example of how academic knowledge can be made accessible and relevant to community agencies and their clients.

What is Knowledge Mobilization?

- A synthesis of key concepts from academic literature and making them useful to a community and/or community agency ...
- Purpose: to *mobilize knowledge* to a community setting



What is Indigenous Knowledge?



- **Indigenous Knowledge includes:**
 - Intergenerational
(Elders' teachings)
 - Hands-on, experiential
 - Relationship with the environment
(specifically, land and one another)
 - Physical, mental, emotional, spiritual aspects of life are interconnected
 - Dynamic and fluid
 - Holistic, balanced, and harmonious

What is Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization?

- Developing a summary of key concepts in the literature about *Indigenous Knowledge* and presenting it in ways useful to Indigenous /Aboriginal community organizations



1. Class Assignment: An Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Project

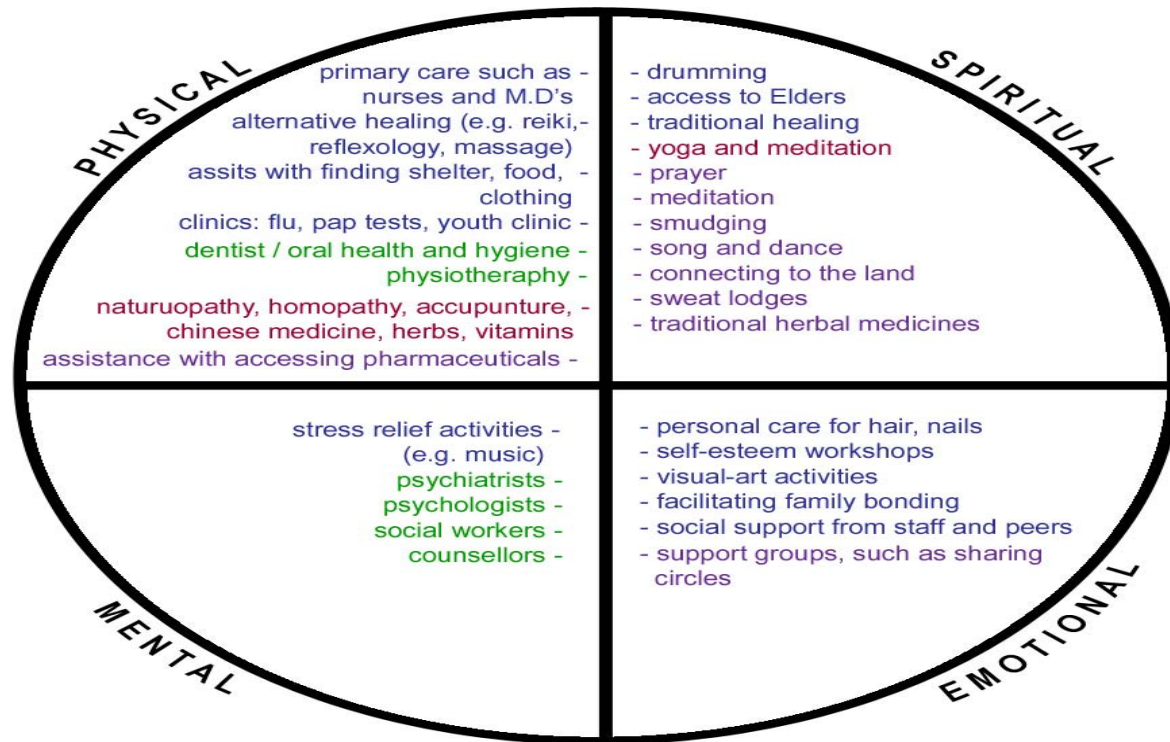
Project Overview:

1. Summarize key concepts in the academic literature about Indigenous women's health
2. Apply Indigenous health knowledge literature to a local Indigenous Women's Wellness program
3. Make recommendations for the Indigenous Women's Wellness program based on our findings in the literature
4. Written Report (cut, copy, paste for future proposals)

{Co-author: Alycia Fridkin, PhD Student}

Application to an Indigenous Women's Wellness program

Women's Wellness and Biomedicine and Alternative / Complementary Knowledge Systems and Indigenous Knowledges



2. Creating Collaborative Relationships Between Researcher and Community

{Doctoral Study: Honouring Relationships}

- Reciprocity: giving back more than you took away
- Assisting *Warriors Against Violence Society*

(focusing on community needs and expertise, not researcher “expertise”)

- Surveying Literature
(Domestic Violence, Correctional Services Canada, Fund-Raising, Women/Ministry Relations)
- Grant Writing, Funding Proposals,
- Policy Awareness and Possible Improvements



3. UBC Learning Exchange: Community-Student Relationships

- Reading-Week Project with Vancouver Native Health Society's ADAPT Program (Aboriginal Diabetes Awareness Prevention and Teaching)
- My Role? – Student Project Leader
- Project Aim and Outcome: 7 food and nutrition students made an artistic and interactive display board and put on a luncheon for 30 staff members

“We finally get it—it’s not about the poster...”



“It’s about the people!”



Knowledge Mobilization: Benefits

- Building relationships
- Making research relevant and accessible
- Communities and researchers benefit from research
- Power Shift (Community as Expert)
- Emphasizes community-based academic literature
- Attempts to avoid misappropriation of knowledge



Knowledge Mobilization: Challenges



- Not always complete collaboration (re: Project #1 was a class assignment and not community-led)
- Ownership of literature remains within university libraries and secured online journals
- Inconsistent concepts/key terms used between scholars, their literature, and community agencies

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, UBC Associate Dean of Indigenous Studies
- Colleague, Alycia Fridkin
- UBC Reading-Break Team
- UBC Funding Opportunities for Students
- Vancouver Native Health Society
- Warriors against Violence Society

Thank You!
Comments ?

Questions and



