

**Ontario NEIHR Leadership Circle  
Minutes**

12:00pm to 1:00pm, September 29, 2021

Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169026734>

**In attendance**

Dr. Suzanne Stewart, Dr. Holly Graham, Dr. Janet Smylie, Dr. Chantelle Richmond, Roy Strebel

**Regrets**

Clay Shirt

**Opening Prayer**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION/ACTION
Clay - Spiritual opening  Individual Check ins		
2. Group Update	<p><b>Chantelle:</b> Spent much of last year working on a committee at Western to develop an Indigenous research strategy. Recommended development of an Indigenous research institute/center. Five hires and one director. It was accepted.</p> <p><b>Janet:</b> Vaccine rates are low in London, can we find out how many people would have gotten vaccinated in surrounding FN communities who did use Covax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing for fourth wave 2-4 hrs/day</li> <li>• 50% of community vaccinated</li> </ul> <p><b>Janet:</b> Those experiencing grants and anti-Metis discrimination, along with National network of Metis scholars. Negative things said about Metis People including Janet's Metis identity. One person has fraudulently identified a Metis kin line which has caused problems (custom adopted?).</p> <p>For future meetings/leadership bring this issue up</p> <p><b>Holly:</b> Also, a challenge in Sask with Metis identification. Meets regularly with president of Metis Nation and are working on MOU with Usask for Metis citizenship. University citizenship requires no proof.</p>	<p>Chantelle to ask Jennifer Walker find out how many Indigenous people would have gotten vaccinated in surrounding FN communities.</p> <p>Make this a leadership issue</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This becomes problems for scholarships and Equity Seeds and faculty positions.</li> <li>• People with power have no lived experience, culture, or genealogy</li> </ul> <p><b>Janet:</b> As a Metis community we have to figure this out, but we need to be respected.</p> <p><b>Holly:</b> A person claims to be a cultural psychologist, people think he’s a clinician. Not raised in his culture, involved in policy making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffalo Circle with Non-Indigenous people</li> <li>• Concerned with the term psychologist – some not clinicians. The university allows if they work there and have PhD in psychology.</li> <li>• Not registered – need to be truthful – identity issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Suzanne:</b> How do we address this within the NEIHR?</p> <p><b>Janet:</b> Have a theme, understanding and respect for Metis People.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating culturally safe environments for Metis scholars</li> <li>• Brenda McDougall agreed would give a seminar</li> <li>• Maria Campbell and Tony Belcourt did webinar UniversityX – Metis identity in Que/Maritimes.</li> <li>• Where they grew up/family kin lines</li> <li>• Chaired by Lynn Lavallee</li> </ul> <p><b>Chantelle:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a webinar</li> <li>• write up a NEIHR statement on Indigenous identity/Indigenous fraud.</li> <li>• write letter to Globe &amp; Mail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Holly:</b> considering writing a paper with group Trauma and Addictions. It was shared in BC that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at library sign out a traditional drum &amp; traditional song</li> <li>• non-Indigenous people sing these song at events</li> <li>• exploiting our sacred practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Suzanne:</b> who is going to draft this statement? Not what identity is but “Our attitude about identity”.</p> <p><b>Janet:</b> We have to draft it together.</p>	<p>Bring in people with knowledge who can share stories, and traditions. Organized by Metis people &amp; monitor the chat</p> <p>Contact Maria Campbell, Brenda McDougall, Tony Belcourt?</p> <p>Write a paper collectively about some of these example’s that are occurring across the country?</p>
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	<p><b>Holly:</b> colonizers claiming identity. Taking this from us.</p> <p><b>Suzanne:</b> will make a rough draft of the statement. Should do the same for “Indigenization” Definitions and understanding of terms that are being used, like “identity”</p> <p><b>Holly:</b> Draft 2 papers, on “Identity”, and “Indigenization”.</p> <p><b>Suzanne:</b> Put statements on our websites.</p> <p><b>Chantelle:</b> Talk about our roles as health researchers/scholars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing health related issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Holly:</b> Concerned about people that don’t have the identity and are stepping into these positions</p> <p><b>Suzanne:</b> Will do up both drafts</p>	<p>Come up with example that is health centred</p> <p>Everyone look over the draft at the next meeting TBD</p> <p>Share at the larger meeting</p>
<p>3. Concluding statements/ next steps and Spiritual Closing</p>	<p>- Next meeting date – Doodle Poll will be sent out</p>	