# Achako nastakonikewin (Reconnecting our Spirits)

Angie Hutchinson, Sharon Mason, Hilda Anderson-Pyrz, Dana Riccio-Arabe, Jacquie Leader, Renée Hoffart, and Kendra Nixon

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative Conference, May 13, 2021

This research was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Project 895–2015–1025



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada





# Phase 3 & the Manitoba Approach

- CDHPI Phase 3
  - Interviews with survivors of severe domestic violence and individuals close to someone killed within the context of domestic violence.
- The Manitoba Approach
  - An examination of gender-based violence in the Prairies (and Canada more broadly) must take into account the unique circumstances of Indigenous women, girls, families, and communities.
  - Engaging in research with Indigenous communities and organizations is the right thing to do.
    - Congruency with the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
  - In order to conduct research that is methodologically sound, culturally responsive, and safe, Indigenous communities and organizations must be engaged fully and authentically throughout the entire research process.

# Guiding Principles

- Relationships, Relationality, & Collaboration
  - Participation from Indigenous community agencies from various regions in Manitoba. 0
    - Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre (Angie Hutchinson)
    - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (Diane Redsky and Jacquie Leader)
    - Circling Buffalo (Sharon Mason)
    - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (Hilda Anderson-Pyrz)
    - Wahbung Abinoonjiiag (Dana Riccio-Arabe)
  - Alternating the notion of "research subjects" to a collaborative partnership 0
  - Principle of reciprocity 0
  - Honouring and acknowledging survivors as co-creators 0
- Strength-Based Focus
  - Highlight the resilience and expertise of Indigenous individuals and communities 0
- Trauma-Informed Approaches
- Research as Sacred Stories (not "data")

### Phase 3 Launch

- September 25, 2019
- Hosted by Wahbung Abinoonjiiag
- Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck offered a prayer to open the launch
- Speakers:
  - Angie Hutchinson
  - Hilda Anderson-Pyrz
  - Sharon Mason
  - Jenny Layand Gorete Rodriques (survivors)
  - RESOLVE





# Opening Ceremony

- November 25, 2019
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) hosted the Opening Ceremony in Thompson, MB
- Grandmother Marie Ballantyne performed a Pipe Ceremony and offered a prayer to open phase 3 of the CDHPI in a good way Grand Chief Garrison Settee was in attendance at the Opening Ceremony • Feast with Indigenous partners, community members, and RESOLVE staff

# **Trauma-Informed Approaches**

- Ongoing consultation with Indigenous partners about trauma-informed approaches toward interviewing survivors
- Recruitment
  - Importance of relationships 0
    - Indigenous community partners have pre-existing relationships with survivors.
  - Spirit of Peace Program, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre 0
    - Informal presentations about the CDHPI and participation in an interview
- Interviews
  - Care plans for participants before, during, and after interviews 0
  - Availability of an Indigenous interviewer Ο
  - Focus on in-person interviews (pre-COVID) Ο
    - Plans to interview survivors in northern Manitoba

### Indigenous Survivors in Manitoba

- 17 Indigenous participants in Manitoba
  - 16 survivors
  - 1 individual close to someone killed within the context of IPV
  - 5 of the 17 Indigenous participants also identified that they live in a rural, remote, or northern location





# Honoring Survivors

- Chantal Daniels (Red Cedar Gifts) created medicine bags that included sage and a tobacco tie
- Angie Hutchinson smoked her pipe with the gifts and said a prayer for those who contributed to the study
- These gifts were given to Indigenous survivors in Manitoba as a way to honour their stories
- Indigenous Community partners in Manitoba, RESOLVE, and CDHPI Principal Investigators also received a medicine bag

### **Decolonizing Approach**

### Recognition of Systemic Hierarchies

### **Knowledge Translation**

Relationality

Wholism

Survivor Centred

### Data Analysis Framework



### Future Plans

- Closing Ceremony summer 2021 •
- Data analysis
- Collaborative analytic process (Indigenous partners & RESOLVE)
- Publications and presentations

# Contact us:

Renée Hoffart, RESOLVE (Coordinator) - renee.hoffart@umanitoba.ca Kendra Nixon, RESOLVE (Manitoba PI) – kendra.nixon@umanitoba.ca Angie Hutchinson (Community Partner) – angie@survivors-hope.ca Sharon Mason (Community Partner) – smason@mymts.net Hilda Anderson-Pyrz (Community Partner) - hilda.anderson.pyrz@mkonorth.com Dana Riccio-Arabe (Community Partner) – executivedirector@wahbung.org Jacquie Leader (Community Partner) – jleader@mamawi.onmicrosoft.com

