

# Elective: Public Health & Preventive Medicine – Aboriginal Health (Traditional Teachings and Traditional Knowledge)

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## OVERVIEW

The Traditional Teachings and Traditional Knowledge Elective opportunity for medical students will provide an experiential learning opportunity to enhance the learners' ability to engage in culturally safe approaches to medicine and healing within the Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) communities.

\*This elective is available during elective periods for Canadian Medical Schools with the exception of the month of December (also subject to the availability of staff). Elective duration is a minimum of 2 weeks.

## INTRODUCTION

### Contact Person:

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CanMEDS)

Learning Objective	CanMEDs Role
1. Describe of the spectrum of cultural teachings and ceremonies within the Anishinabe community in Manitoba.	Health Advocate Communicator
2. Explain the role that traditional and cultural practices play in supporting physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual wellness and well-being	Communicator Health Advocate
3. Examine the role that historical policies and legislation plays in the traditional and cultural approaches to spirituality today.	Scholar Health Advocate

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## INFORMATION

### Required Reading

Cameron, A. (1981). *Daughters of Copper Woman*. Harbor Publishing.

Ellerby, J. (2001). *Working with Aboriginal Elders*. Native Studies Press.

Helin, C. (2006). *Dances with Dependency*. Ravencrest Publishing.

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St. Pierre, M. and Long Soldier, T. (1995). *Walking in the Sacred Manner*. Simon & Shuster.  
Bopp, J. (1992). *The Sacred Tree: Reflections on Native American Spirituality*. Lotus Press.

## Evaluations

Student and Preceptor will complete a FITER at the conclusion of the elective.

## Call Responsibilities

No call is required.

## First Day Instructions

On the first day of the rotation, unless advised otherwise, the student should come to the Centre for Aboriginal Health Education at A101 Chown Building (753 McDermot Avenue).

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## ROTATION ACTIVITIES

### Expectations

The learner will engage in many activities and opportunities throughout the course of the elective period that will allow the learner to meet the above noted learning objectives.

The learner will be expected to engage in the following activities:

- Two day cultural awareness workshop that is focused on the Aboriginal culture and other workshops as identified as relevant to the learning objectives.
- The traditional/cultural ceremonies and related activities held at the Centre for Aboriginal Health Education during the scheduled elective timeframe. This may include sweat lodge ceremonies, full-moon ceremonies, traditional teaching sessions, smudge ceremonies and sharing circles at the Centre.
- Clinical experiences in a range of settings within the Manitoba Aboriginal community that focus on the integration of traditional knowledge with clinical practice. Settings may include urban, community-based programs and remote/rural contexts.

The student will participate fully throughout the elective period in all activities planned and delivered by the Elder-in-Residence of the Center for Aboriginal Health Education, Faculty of Medicine, and University of Manitoba. This may involve attendance at meetings and gatherings requiring involvement by the Elder-in-Residence. These activities will focus on the requirement for cultural relevance and content for the many reports and activities supporting the University or the Aboriginal community, and may include curriculum development opportunities, conference planning, program supports or student teaching

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opportunities. The learner should utilize this opportunity to connect with additional resources (human and literary academic) that will further enhance this elective experience.

The student is expected to complete the following during the elective:

1. **Daily journal** will be maintained that documents the following:
  - The insights or impressions of the learner as a result of the daily experiences and opportunities;
  - Reflections on the impact of the teachings:
    - On a personal level, and
    - How this experience/knowledge could be integrated into your professional life and practice.

Reflections from the journal will be used as a basis for discussion between the student, clinical supervisor(s) and Elder-in-Residence throughout the elective.

2. **Final presentation:** The student will develop and deliver a brief presentation using PowerPoint (approx. 20 minutes + time for discussion) that addresses the following:
  - An overview of the activities and experiences from the elective period;
  - A brief literature review on the application of traditional and cultural approaches to wellness in clinical practice;
  - A summary and personal reflection of a key teaching experienced during the elective period; and
  - Discussion of how the learner may integrate traditional knowledge and approaches to health in their practice as a physician.

An electronic and printed copy of the presentation will be provided to the supervisor / Elder-in-Residence at the conclusion of the elective.

The student will be provided with a schedule of activities at the beginning of the elective. Opportunities for self-directed learning will be provided and will provide an opportunity for self-reflection.