

Alberta ACADRE Network

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Monthly UpDate
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Training Advisory Group

Creating pathways to health through circles of learning based on shared teachings, mutual respect and trust.

The Training Advisory Group has been meeting on the second Tuesday of each month since the beginning of the New Year. Their mandate is to create training opportunities in health research, aimed at Aboriginal students and communities. The first course will raise consciousness about health research through Aboriginal literature as a pathway to Aboriginal ways of knowing about health. This course in Health Literacy is being prepared for January 2005, to be offered through the Centre for Health Promotion Studies. The instructors for this course will be Faye Fletcher and Cheryl Suzack. The draft philosophy is as follows:

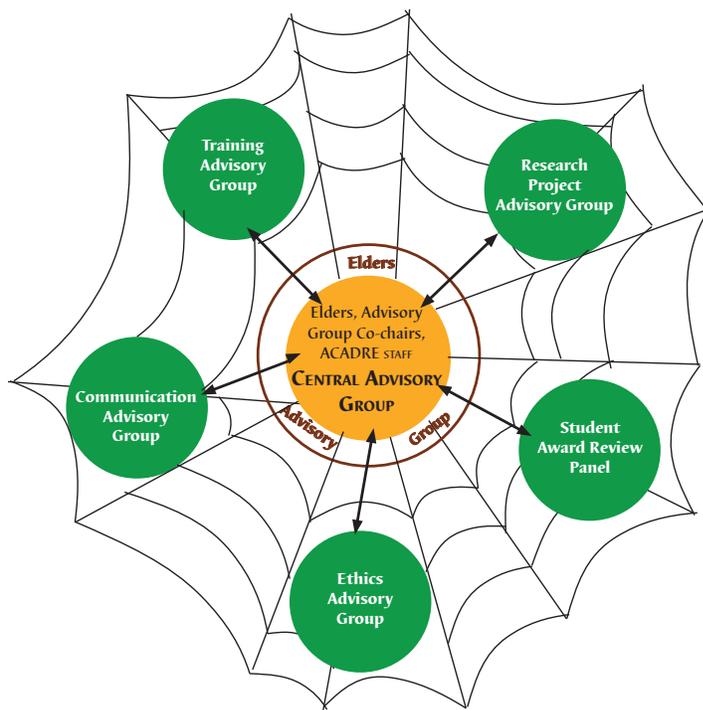
This course will foster the development of health literacy both within Aboriginal communities and within the mainstream population of health care providers and student health policy makers by exploring how health determinants in Aboriginal communities are discussed in fiction and non-fiction stories written by Aboriginal authors. It will adopt an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to health research by linking key health indicators of Aboriginal wellness and well-being to the voices of health experience expressed through Aboriginal storytelling and in life experiences. Rather than positioning Aboriginal peoples as passive receptacles in need of health learning and literacy, this course will foreground the issues and needs of health awareness documented in writings of Aboriginal people so as to illuminate how Aboriginal people engage with and propose resolutions to health concerns raised in their communities.

The next meeting of the Training Advisory Group is June 8, 2004

Elders' Advisory Group Meeting

The Elders' Advisory Group met last on April 27, 2004. Their first order of business was to welcome a new member, Winston Wuttanee, who was promptly asked to chair the meeting.

A number of helpful suggestions were made. Elder Cecil Nepoose recommended that the ACADRE circle diagram, included in the last issue, be placed within a spider web. In a spiritual sense, this demonstrates that ACADRE and its work is protected, rather than open to negative forces. This is an initial representation of the concept, subject to approval by the Elders:



In reviewing the preliminary Evaluation Report produced from the CIHR evaluation of all 8 ACADREs, the Elders noted that only the Alberta ACADRE Network makes explicit mention of the role Elders play in their work. Within the Alberta ACADRE Network, the role of the Elders is as follows:

Within each Advisory Group, they

1. begin and finish each meeting with appropriate prayer and/or ceremony;
2. mediate differences of opinion where they are affecting the group's ability to work harmoniously;
3. bring cultural insights to the work of the group where appropriate. These insights may include knowledge, language issues, differences in viewpoint or values.

The Elders spoke of their concern for the younger generations and wanted to provide an opportunity for younger people to "shadow" the Elders. This teaching and learning must be a voluntary commitment.

Several issues around the role of Aboriginal Elders in Capital Health hospitals were also explored. While Capital Health has a program which provides some Aboriginal Elder services, they are currently very limited. The primary limitations are: a need to be more proactive; accessibility of the Elders to patients who need them; recognition of Elders by medical staff; a scarcity of women Elders in the current program.

The next meeting of the Elders' Advisory Group will be June 18, 2004 at Alumni House. It will be followed by a barbecue.



Central Advisory Group

The Central Advisory Group is composed of the co-chairs of each Advisory Group, the Elders' Advisory Group, and the staff of the Alberta ACADRE Network. It meets once or twice a year. The Central Advisory Group reviews and refines ACADRE foundation principles, vision, and strategic planning issues. The next meeting of the Central Advisory Group is the afternoon of June 18, 2004 at Alumni House.



National Student Gathering

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health is sponsoring the 4th National Graduate Student Gathering. It will

be held in Edmonton June 3-5. Alberta ACADRE Network graduate students Josie Auger, Angeline Letendre, Micaela Brown, Norry Kaler, Jason Klinck, Vera Caine and Kim van der Woed have been working very hard to organize and coordinate this event. Dr. Jeff Reading, Director of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, will welcome all participants. The keynote address at the banquet will be given by Dr. Stanley Vollant. Dr. Vollant was the first Aboriginal surgeon in Canada and served as the president of the Quebec Medical Association from 2001-2003. In 2004, he was one of the people honoured at the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Friday will be a day of student presentations, and Saturday a day cultural events. The students are hosting a Round Dance and feast outside in the University Quad on Saturday, June 5, at 5:00 pm.



ACADRE Funding Renewal

As some of you may already be aware, the Alberta ACADRE Network's first round of funding ends in September 2004. We will be submitting our Renewal Report to CIHR and IAPH in August 2004. We will receive notification of our renewal for funding for the next 3 years by the end of September 2004.



Student Award Review Panel

The Student Award Review Panel met in April. They had twelve submissions to consider, of which seven were fully or partially funded.

The Masters students who received awards are:

Micaela Brown

Norry Kaler

Shelby Mitchell

Tanis Twiddy

The PhD students who received awards are:

Josie Auger

Heather Castleden

Angeline Letendre

We are proud and pleased to be able to assist these students in their journey of Aboriginal health research.