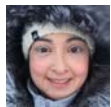


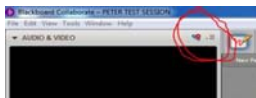
Conducting Research with Indigenous Populations

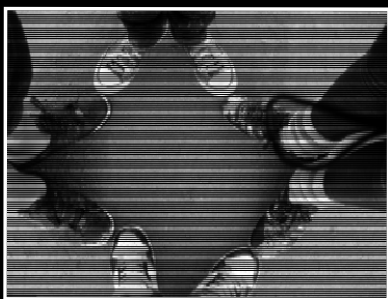
Time: 1:00 to 2:15 PM EST



Presented by: Dr. Gwen Healey, Executive and Scientific Director, Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, Iqaluit

Start the **Audio Setup Wizard** by clicking on the mic icon as shown in the image.





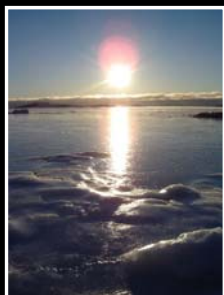
ᐱᓕᓂᓗᓂᓐᓂᓐ Piliqatigiinni Community Health Research Model: Working Together for the Common Good

Dr. Gwen Healey, Executive and Scientific Director, PhD
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Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre
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Assistant Professor, Northern Ontario School of Medicine



Overview

- Introduction
- Goal of this presentation
- What and where is the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre?
- Our story
- Piliqatigiinni Community Health Research Model



Freeze-up, Frobisher Bay, 2005

Our Story

- Qaujigiartiit was created in 2006 out of a need for community-driven research, which addressed health priorities in Nunavut
- We started with 1 part-time staff member and now have 4 full-time staff at our office in Iqaluit and between 6-10 casual staff across the territory working on different projects at any given time
- Our staff have a variety of expertise: public health, nursing, Indigenous studies, and epidemiology.



Inuksuk, Pangnirtung, NU, 2007



Our Story

- Our centre works to build capacity for research in Nunavut by providing training workshops in research methods, interviewing, and ethics.
- Qaujigiartiit does not have core funding (but we need it!) and currently operates on a project-based funding model.
- We have brought more than \$12 million into Nunavut since 2006.
- Between 2006-08 we held public engagement sessions across Nunavut to identify community health priorities for health research



Playground, Arviat, NU, 2009



Our Story

- Participants identified 5 priorities for health and health research in Nunavut
 - Mental health and well-being
 - Physical health and well-being
 - Healthy Family Life
 - Traditional and Spiritual Values
 - Prevention, Education, Support and Livelihood



Stretching/drying seal skins, Cape Dorset, NU, 2007

Our Story

We believe in a community health model that builds on

- the strengths of our knowledge,
- the spirit that is inherent in our way of life,
- the capacity that exists in our communities

to foster a healthy environment for future generations.



Tooook Tyne, Iqaluit, NU, 2010

ᐱᓕᓂᖃᓕᓂᓯᓐᓂᖅ *Piliriqatigiinniq*

Working together for the common good



Photo credit: Apphia Kulluaik, Iqaluit, 2010

ᐱᓕᓂᖃᓕᓂᓯᓐᓂᖅ *Piliriqatigiinniq*

As a research centre created by and for *Nunavummiut*, how are we going to do research??



ᐱᑕᓚᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ Piliriqatigiinniq

De-colonizing research methods

- A decolonizing research approach places Indigenous voices and epistemologies in the centre of the research process (Simonds & Christopher, 2013)
- Critically examines the underlying assumptions informing the research and challenge the widely accepted belief that Western methods and ways of knowing, which have historically marginalized Indigenous methods and ways of knowing, are the only objective, true science, (Kovach, 2009; Thaman, 2003; Wilson, 2008).
- Not a rejection of all Western methods and theories, but opportunity to embrace the different kinds of knowledge that can be shared and created in Indigenous communities when methods and theories, which reflect Indigenous worldviews, are used.

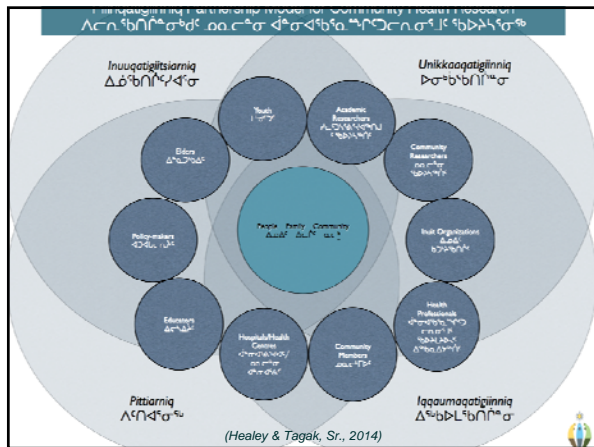


ᐱᑕᓚᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ Piliriqatigiinniq

We developed a community health research model which is rooted in Inuit concepts and perspectives on health, wellness, and research

- ᐱᑕᓚᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ *Piliriqatigiinniq* Working together for the common good
- ᐃᓂᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ *Inuuqatigiittarniq* Being respectful of all living things
- ᐅᓂᖅᐸᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ *Unikkaaqatigiinniq* Story-telling
- ᐃᖅᑲᐅᓚᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ *Iqqaumaqatigiinniq* All knowing coming into 'one'
- ᐱᑕᓚᖅᑎᓪᓂᖅ *Pittarniq* Being good, kind, well, and/or moral





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Piliriqatigiinniq

- Relational knowledge perspective
- The relationships between people are an important aspect of a research framework
- Employs an inclusive approach, rather than rejection
- How is this applied? Anyone and everyone can and should be involved in guiding and implementing health research projects if it means we are all working toward the same goal: **making a positive contribution to the health of Nunavummiut**



Drawing of one person helping another off an ice floe, Qaujigartit Health Promotion Workshop, Iqaluit, NU, 2007

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Piliriqatigiinniq

Inuuqatigiitiarniq

- Being respectful of one another
- Stating intentions and motivations
- Knowing the community context
- Formation of research questions in partnership
- Developing and fostering relationships
- Engagement of community members



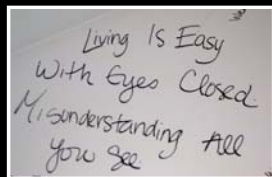
Print etching by Andrew Chapik, Uqurmiut Centre, Panniqtuuq, NU, 2007

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Piliriqatigiinniq

Unikkaaqatigiinniq

- Story-telling
- Value story-telling and the sharing of experiences
- Reflecting on how stories are presented
- Reflecting on the interviewing experience



Youth Mental Health and Wellness Photovoice Project, Qaujigartit Health Research Centre, Iqaluit, NU, 2010

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Piliriqatigiinniq

Iqqaumaqatigiinniq

- Concept of knowing coming into 'one'
- Data analysis
- Immersion and Crystallization (Borkan, 1999)
- Finding meaning and understanding



Sun dogs - full halo
Iqaluit, NU, 2007

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Piliriqatigiinniq

Pittiarniq

- Being good or kind
- Ethics
- Consent
- Protection of the Stories
- Rigour/Accountability of the researcher



'Friendships make us happy'
Photo credit: Apphia Kulluakik, Iqaluit, NU, 2010

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Piliriqatigiinniq

- *Piliriqatigiinniq* is the concept for working in a collaborative way for the common good.
- Developed the Model in the formative years of the centre.
- Governs how research should be conducted, both within the centre and by the researchers with whom the centre engages.



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Piliriqatigiinniq

- Developed in response to community-identified need for health research projects, which explored topics of concern to *Nunavummiut* and where data were collected, analysed and disseminated in a holistic and collaborative way.



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Piliriqatigiinniq

- Model is a representation of the web of relationships we have with each other, and the theoretical origins of our approach.
- Built upon the principle that anyone can be involved in health research in some capacity if we are all working for the common good.
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration
 - strengthens research projects
 - enriches data analysis with additional perspectives
 - fosters a greater sharing of knowledge and implementation of findings across sectors.

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Piliriqatigiinniq

- May not be a representative from every sector involved in every project
- The model serves as a reminder to look beyond the scope of what is commonly defined as 'health' and 'research' to include knowledge-holders and stakeholders from other disciplines and walks of life.
- This model was developed to provide practical organizational and methodological guidance, and the foundations run much deeper into theory and philosophy.

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Reference

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Contact Us!

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