

# **EXPLORING MULTIPLE IDENTITIES AND MULTIPLE OPPRESSIONS: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

Qualitative, community-based project on the lived realities of mobility/migration among Aboriginal peoples in Canada, with a particular focus on the intersection of sexual, gender, and cultural identities.

## **COMPOSITION OF THE PROJECT TEAM**

### 1. Chair

- Janice Ristock, Ph.D., Full professor, Faculty of arts, University of Manitoba (Manitoba)

### 2. Co-researchers

- Art Zoccole, E.D, Two-Spirit People of the First Nations in Toronto and member of Rainbow Health Coalition

### 3. Collaborators

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### 4. Graduate students

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### 5. Research assistants

- Lisa Passant (Winnipeg)
- Jonathon Potskin (Vancouver)

### 6. Community participation

#### Winnipeg Advisory Committee:

- Marjorie Beaucage, Aboriginal Women Responding to the AIDS Crisis,
- Kani Kanichihk
- Rosa Colavito-Palao, Mental Health Therapist,
- Nine Circles Community Health Centre
- Cathy Denby, Aboriginal Sexuality Educator,
- White Wolf Speaking,
- Sexuality Education Resource Centre
- Albert McLeod
- Carrie McCormick – Executive Director
- Kali Shiva, AIDS Services
- Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo – Two-Spirit Outreach Worker, Nine Circles
- Rath Pranteau – Youth Care Worker

- Ndinawe Youth Shelter

#### Vancouver Advisory Committee

- Ken Clement, Co-Chair Executive Director, Healing Our Spirit BC Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Society
- Karen Joseph, Co-Chair Community Advocate, Independent Aboriginal Contractor
- Raigen D'Angelo, Member Trans Alliance Society of BC
- Tia Eagles Claw, Member BC Persons with AIDS Society
- Lynda Gray, Member Urban Native Youth Association
- Robert Hong, Member Four Feather Society, and Aboriginal Wellness Program Vancouver Coastal Health
- Sarah Hunt, Member Community Advocate, Independent Contractor

## **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

### **UPDATE**

**Data gathering completed: 25 interviews completed in Vancouver, 24 interviews completed in Winnipeg.**

**Main focus of work has been data analysis and checking findings with advisory committees**

#### **October -December 2009: Data Analysis**

Completed preliminary data analysis of focus groups and interviews at each site. Jonathon, Lisa and Janice had bi-weekly skype meetings to discuss process and findings for each site (Winnipeg and Vancouver). We also teleconferenced with Art for his input. Prepared summary and presentation of findings for the SVR seminar in November. Completed the analysis of demographic questionnaires used at each site. Questions included information about family, education, employment, Aboriginal cultural practices, violence, and residential schools. Submitted an abstract to the International Congress of Applied Psychology being held in Melbourne in July 2010—they had a special call for lgbt issues. Jonathon Potskin is attending graduate school there so he and Janice can present the paper.

#### **December – February 2010 Data analysis and KT planning**

Meetings with advisory panels:

Organized and held a half day meeting with our Winnipeg advisory panel to present the preliminary findings. The meeting was very productive and they asked us to do some further analysis re: any gender differences, any differences between Metis and Aboriginal experiences, and how the degree of 'outness' impacts on experiences.

We are in the process of completing this additional analysis.

We also worked with the advisory committee to begin plans for two or three local KT events (listed below).

#### **March-April 2010**

We will complete the final written report for both sites. We will begin to identify academic papers to write.

We will have an advisory committee meeting in Vancouver to present the final report and to plan for dissemination activities there.

Lisa Passante's thesis: as part of her MSW Lisa will be writing a report that combines the findings from both Winnipeg and Vancouver. She will be addressing the themes of home, belonging and community. This will be another research report that will be of use to communities.

### **Knowledge Dissemination Plans**

Winnipeg: we are organizing an event for April 1, 2010 to present our results to service providers and the two-spirit community.

This event will also allow for feedback and further refinement of our analysis. In addition we will be asking service providers for feedback on what resources might be helpful to them that we could develop based on our project.

We have been invited to present at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Two Spirit Gathering September 2010 which is being held in Winnipeg. A member of our advisory panel is organizing the event and has asked us to present our findings.

We will work with the Rainbow Resource Centre (local lgbtt organization) to host an event that will screen a new NFB film on two spirit issues (made in Winnipeg) as well as Present our findings. It will be an open event for the community.

Development of resources for service providers: may include bibliography, research report and checklist for making services more responsive.

Vancouver: we still need to determine the slate of local KT activities.

### **Joint Knowledge Exchange Plans**

#### **March-June 2010 (this will be dependent on our remaining budget)**

Have a joint meeting with Shari, Janice and their teams: discuss knowledge dissemination plans including plans for journal articles (sexualities, qualitative health, lesbian and gay social services)

Plans for joint conference presentations

Explore knowledge exchange activities that combine findings from the two projects (video, joint meeting with advisory meetings for both groups)

Explore possibility of applying for knowledge exchange funding through CIHR in the spring

Continue to provide opportunities for training to our graduate student RA's (Lisa Passante who has begun her MSW and Edward Lee who has begun his PhD as both students are committed to working on the exploration of issues which have emerged from the project)