FROM PATTERNS 2 PATHWAYS TO RESPECT:
ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO RESPECTFUL CANCER CARE FOR FIRST NATIONS IN MANITOBA (CANADA)

RESEARCH EFFORTS TO OVERCOME INEQUALITIES IN CANCER CARE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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OBJECTIVES

• Situating the efforts of a Canadian provincial cancer agency to measure, monitor, maintain, and restore the health of First Nations people.

• Making transparent the efforts of First Nations communities to make transparent the racism they continue to experience when cancer surveillance, programming and care are still structured within a post-colonial structure.
LESSON 1: SITUATING, UNDERSTANDING, TRANSPARENCY
First Nations: Why is there so much cancer?

Cancer Agency: We don’t know if there is, we don’t have an Indigenous identifier in our cancer agency.
LESSON 2: TO ANSWER THE WHY, MOVE BEYOND THE BIOMEDICAL ... KNOW YOUR HISTORY
### BNA Act 1867
- Section 91(24) Legislative Jurisdiction over "Indians and lands Reserved for Indians"

### Date Province Entered Into Confederation
- ALTA Sept. 1, 1905
- BC July 20, 1871
- MB July 15, 1870
- NB July 1, 1867
- NFDL March 31, 1949
- NWT July 15, 1870
- NS July 1, 1867
- NVT April 1, 1999
- ONT July 1, 1867
- PEI July 1, 1873
- QUE July 1, 1867
- SASK Sept. 1, 1905
- YUK June 13, 1898

### Natural Resources Transfer Act 1930
- Retroactive transfer back to the date the province entered Canada

### Canadian Bill of Rights 1960
- Sec. 35 "Direct Constitutional Protection"
- Sec. 25 "Does not diminish aboriginal rights"

### Constitution Act of 1982
- "Does not diminish aboriginal rights"

### Several Significant Court Cases
- Majority Supporting Rights

### UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights 2007
- Canada Signatory 2010

### A history of making Indigenous people disappear,
A history of indigenous people resisting containment and disappearance
A HISTORY ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION:
CANADA’S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Truth: A history of colonial, post-colonial Intergenerational trauma.
Reconciliation & the Struggle: What is the reconciliation?
LESSON 3: KNOW THAT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF
MANITOBA: PHOENIX SINCLAIR INQUIRY 2012

Phoenix Sinclair was beaten, neglected and eventually killed in June 2005, at the age of five.

Child fell through the cracks in the child welfare system.

- A lack of a Child Family Service tracking system,
- A lack of surveillance, monitoring, maintaining, and restoring
- A lack of First Nation Control
In 2008 Brian Sinclair, 45, died in a Winnipeg emergency room after waiting 34 hours without being seen.

A lack of monitoring, measuring, maintaining, and restoring.
Drianna Ross Inquiry (2014)

Drianna Ross died of pneumonia after parents took her to the community nursing station three times, she was sent home each time, she then went critical, was flown out by air ambulance, died upon arrival at hospital.

Family’s concerns not acknowledged.
FN family opted out of chemotherapy for their daughter, sought alternative treatment. Physicians resisted, sought child welfare custody to treat, went to court.

Supporters celebrate a supreme court ruling that said aboriginal parents have a constitutional right to seek out “traditional native” treatments.
LESSON 4: IN RESPONSE, CHANGE MANAGEMENT WHILE GOOD STILL OCCURS IN A POST-COLONIAL ENVIRONMENT
Need to shift the post-colonial to become accessible, to be safe.

Change management is linear, not wholistic.

We have much work to do.
Consultations have occurred, but alas it is still a post-colonial environment.

We have work to do.
LESSON 5: MAKING ROOM FOR INDIGENOUS VOICES, IN THEIR SPACES, FOR PREVENTION, CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND SURVIVORSHIP
Shared circle, where we came together to share in the spirit of the journey.

Why is there so much cancer now, we know this, we want to know why, we don’t want to be blamed, we want to make the difference. Will you do this with us?

Elder Denechezie

The gift of sharing