



DATA ANALYSIS UPDATE

Following consultation with our communities, our Steering Committee submitted an Applied Health Research Question (AHRQ) Request to the Institute of Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES) in 2017. The AHRQ request was accepted. We went back to our communities to determine which communities would be interested in having their data included in the AHRQ request for an analysis of mortality and chronic diseases present at the time of death.

Earlier this year we completed this opt-in process with our communities and

we were excited that 59 of our 74 communities decided to participate in the analysis. This represents about 80% of the communities served by Mamow Ahyamowen partners and about 89% of the population served by Mamow Ahyamowen partners.

One of the unique aspects of our mortality and chronic disease analysis will be the linkage of several existing datasets that capture data on deaths, hospital visits, in-patient hospital care, and Ontario Health Insurance Plan

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(OHIP) billing. This data is collected about events that occur anywhere in Ontario and in some cases across Canada. We will use the Indian Registry System data to identify members of the communities who have chosen to participate in this analysis.

Many of our communities already understand the health of community members who live on reserve and receive care in the local health centre or nursing station. This analysis will allow us to return data to our

communities that is captured wherever community members need to go for their care.

We now have all the approvals and privacy assessments in place and initial analysis work has begun. We are aiming to look at the preliminary data together at our face to face meeting in Thunder Bay in January 2019. From there we will make some revisions and then start the challenging process of communicating the data back to our communities in meaningful ways. The questions our communities ask during this process will inform our next round of data analysis.



Welcome Christina!

Christina Vlahopoulos recently joined Dr Jen Walker's team at Laurentian University as a Knowledge Translation Specialist. Christina will work with Mamow Ahyamowen to take numbers from spreadsheets and present them as meaningful information that our communities can use to improve health equity.

Christina joins the team from De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre (DAHC). At DAHC she was the Project Manager for the local Healthy Kids Community Challenge. Her work included facilitating focus group discussions, program evaluation, planning, reporting, and budget management responsibilities.

Christina's previous work experience has included a Masters placement at Hastings Prince Edward Public Health and ten years working as a Naturopathic Doctor.

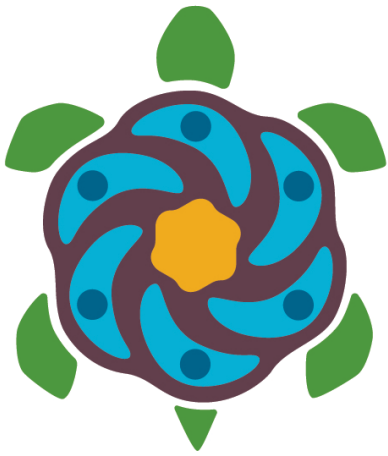
Christina has returned to Sudbury for this work. Welcome back Christina!

Child Health Status Report

As a partnership Mamow Ahyamowen plays a regional role to support epidemiology work across Northern Ontario First Nations. Our work complements work done at the provincial level by organizations like Chiefs of Ontario, work done across Canada by organizations like the First Nations Information Governance Council, and work done more locally by our partners or our communities.

We are excited to share the [Child Health Status Report](#) that was recently completed by the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. SLFNHA is one of the founding partners of Mamow Ahyamowen and this report is the first of its kind in over 30 years. SLFNHA negotiated unprecedented access to several important datasets to complete this analysis. We encourage you to read the report and we look forward to continuing to learn from SLFNHA's experience as they begin to work with the communities they serve to take action on some of the report's findings.

Available at: <https://www.slnha.com/health-services/approaches-community-wellbeing/roots-community-wellbeing/data-collection-analysis>



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Mamow Ahyamowen PARTNERSHIP

OUR NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE

We are pleased to be able to share Mamow Ahyamowen’s new logo with you. Over the last few months we have been working with the Sudbury based, Indigenous owned, graphic design company Design de Plume to develop a logo and visual identity for our partnership.

Mamow Ahyamowen reached its two year anniversary this year. Interest and enthusiasm for the partnership remains high. We are in the process of completing our first analysis of data for mortality and chronic disease present at the time of death. These developments allowed us to formalize our identity through a logo for the partnership. It was also

important that we shift our thinking from existing informal communication through ad hoc email updates to having a website where partners can readily find the information they need whenever they need it.

Our logo emphasizes partnership and the ties that bring us together. Our strength comes from working together and that is important to our current and future success. The turtle represents turtle island and reminds us of our land and our shared origins. The strong colours are inspired by the Woodland School of Art. This art style reminds us of our shared Anishinaabe culture. The stylized people within the turtle shell represent the partners in

our partnership coming together.

Now that we have a logo and visual identity we have started work to develop a website for Mamow Ahyamowen. This website will give us a place where our communities and partners can go to learn more about the partnership and our work. We anticipate transitioning our newsletters into more real-time updates on our website. As we complete our data analyses we plan to post partnership level results on our website. This will keep our partners informed of progress while ensuring that individual community level data is shared with and controlled by our communities.



CONFERENCES

It was great to see many of our partners at two conferences we presented at in May 2018. We were invited to present panel discussions at the Indigenous Health Conference in Mississauga and the Canadian Public Health Association Conference in Montreal. Many thanks to our panelists Fern Assinewe, Rob Gibbens-Tenneriello, Penny Carpenter, Cai-lei Matsumoto, Janet Gordon, and Jen Walker for their contributions.

Discussions focussed on how to work respectfully with First Nations data. Our panel members enjoyed the interaction with conference participants on topics such as data governance or how to appropriately share data with communities on sensitive topics such as mortality.

We were pleased by the number of people who attended the sessions and the discussion and participation by audience members. It was wonderful to interact in person with so many people that we often only know from conference calls or emails.

Progress Updates

The Mamow Ahyamowen Steering committee has been quite busy. Some of the activities we have been working on include:

- Engaging communities in an opt-in process to determine which communities would like to be part of the analysis of data on mortality and chronic diseases present at the time of death.
- Beginning the data analysis
- Submitting the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant application and receiving Bridge Grant funding for one year.
- Collaborating on Dr Jen Walker's successful Planning Grant submission for the Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research.
- Developing our logo and starting work on a website.
- Beginning planning for our next face to face meeting in Thunder Bay in January 2019.

We look forward to more productive work ahead!

RECENT FUNDING UPDATES

Over the last few months we have received good news about several funding applications. Indigenous Services Canada provided \$185,000 through its contribution agreement with the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority for the 2018/19 fiscal year. This funding will support Mamow Ahyamowen's ongoing work in several areas including:

- Our logo
- The Mamow Ahyamowen website
- Continued project management to coordinate communications, planning, and analysis work.
- Some Knowledge Translation and Exchange work
- A face to face planning meeting

Dr Jen Walker submitted an application for an Early Researcher Award Grant in late 2017. The application was for about \$100,000 over five years (or about \$20,000 per year). It was submitted to provide initial support Mamow Ahyamowen's Knowledge Translation and Exchange work. Dr Walker's application was successful. In combination with the Indigenous Services Canada funding we hope to be

able to make some real progress on converting numbers in spreadsheets into meaningful information that our communities can use to inform their management of health services.

In March 2018 we submitted a Project Grant application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. We were excited to hear that we were awarded a one-year Bridge Grant for \$100,000. This grant is designed to allow us to continue our work and resubmit a Project Grant application in the 2019 round of applications if we choose to do so. Project Grants can provide up to 5 years of funding which would be the kind of medium-term funding needed to support the next phase of development of Mamow Ahyamowen's epidemiology work.

Dr Jen Walker submitted an application for a Planning Grant to conduct consultation in advance of possibly establishing a Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research. Mamow Ahyamowen was one of several collaborators that supported Dr Walker's successful application. We will be doing some consultation and planning at our face to face meeting

in January to determine if some or all of the Mamow Ahyamowen partners would like to be part of an application to CIHR for a full NEIHR Grant.

We are encouraged by the continued support and enthusiasm for Mamow Ahyamowen that is demonstrated by the success of our recent funding applications. Our upcoming work to deliver mortality and chronic disease data back to our communities will involve preparation of 59 community level reports, nine partner level reports, and one partnership level report. It will also involve bringing together our communities for data interpretation workshops. The scale of this work and the costs associated with travel for our remote fly in communities in Northern Ontario means we still have a considerable amount of fundraising work to do. We will continue to seek medium and long-term funding for the partnership that will allow us provide our communities with the initial mortality and chronic disease data and also begin a next round of analysis based on the questions our communities ask when they begin to see their data.

LOOKING FORWARD

At our face to face meeting in Thunder Bay in January we plan to review the preliminary data for mortality and chronic diseases present at the time of death. We will continue planning how to get community data back to communities in meaningful and respectful ways. We will explore whether the partnership would like to participate in a Northern Ontario based Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research and what such a network would look like. We will continue to seek funding to support the partnership's ongoing work. We will launch our website so that we have a mechanism to share information with our communities and our partners.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND
SUGGESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

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