



UAKN

Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network

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Reseau du Connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu Urbain

Overview

In 2007 the National Association of Friendship Centres and what is now called Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) came together around the need for research that better served the needs of the urban Aboriginal population. Their first attempt at a SSHRC Partnership Grant was not successful but after a significant re-investment and resubmission, SSHRC, in May of 2012, awarded the UAKN 2.5 million/five years. The title of the UAKN project is “Research for a Better Life”.

The Goal of the UAKN is to be a durable research network that focuses attention on urban Aboriginal innovations and contributes to a better quality of life for Aboriginal peoples by:

- Funding high-quality, policy-relevant, community-driven research undertaken by Regional Research Centres focusing on local, regional or national issues that bring together urban Aboriginal community, academic and government perspectives; and by
- Engaging government, academic and Aboriginal community stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue on policy priorities and research needs.”

The UAKN consists of a National Secretariat located in the National Association of Friendship Centres’ Head Office in Ottawa and four regional research centres located across the country. There is the Western Research Centre located at the University of Northern BC; the Prairie Research Centre, co-located at University of Saskatchewan and University of Winnipeg; the Central Research Circle co-located at Trent University and University of Sudbury; and the UAKN Atlantic, representing NL, PEI, NS

and NB which, is located in the Faculty of Education at University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB. Presently, there are 35 participants from Atlantic Canada on the UAKN SSHRC Partnership Grant.

The UAKN Atlantic's activities include: an open call for research proposals and student/community researcher support; leveraging research funds, co-hosting "Meet & Greets"; creating and sharing a database of urban aboriginal researchers, community partners and government representatives; connecting and building local, regional and national research teams; mentoring urban Aboriginal students and community-based researchers; and finally, and arguably most importantly, sharing the findings generated by our research so they can inform policy and practice.

Research Themes and Priorities

The UAKN has identified the following broad research themes:

- 1) **Human development:** needs and outcomes of individuals and families;
- 2) **Social cohesion:** community well-being, education, justice;
- 3) **Economic development:** economic participation, education & skills development, employment, entrepreneurship, income; and
- 4) **Civic engagement:** urban Aboriginal councils and/or urban Aboriginal community organizations role in the city and with other local organizations.

The UAKN Atlantic supports community-driven research conducted by teams that include academics, elders, community partners, students and community researchers as well as government representatives.

Research supported by the UAKN Atlantic must comply with the UAKN's Guiding Ethical Principles (posted on UAKN.org), any resident urban Aboriginal community's REB requirements, as well as the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2 (TCPS 2)*. A TCPS 2 Research Agreement amongst participating parties on a research project is required.

Successful UAKN Atlantic Research Proposals for 2012 - 2014

Four submissions have received approval and each project has been awarded \$15,000.

1) Fostering Educational Success for Off-Reserve Aboriginal Learners on Prince Edward Island

Dr. Jane P. Preston (Co-Applicant/Principal Investigator): UPEI Faculty of Education,

Darrell DesRoches (Collaborator): Provincial Department of Education,

Alanna Taylor (Collaborator): Cox and Palmer Law Prince Edward Island,

Carolyn Taylor (Partner): Native Council of Prince Edward Island

2) Urban Aboriginal Wellbeing, Wellness and Justice: A MicMac Friendship Centre Needs Assessment Study for Creating a Collaborative Indigenous Mental Resiliency, Addictions and Justice Strategy

Dr. Leslie-Jane McMillan (Co-Applicant/Principal Investigator): SFXU Faculty of Anthropology

Pamela Glode-Desrochers (Community Partner): MicMac Friendship Centre

Collaborative Research Network: Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, Tawaak Housing, Department of Community Services, Halifax Policing Services, IWK Health Centre Maternal/Child Mental Health, Recovery and Reintegration Services, Corrections Services and the Mi'kmaq/Nova Scotia/ Canada Tripartite Forum Health Committee

3) Navigating Government Services: The "Lived Experience" of Young Urban Aboriginal Families Residing in Fredericton, NB

Dr. Ann Sherman (Co-Applicant/PI): UNB Faculty of Education,
Lisa Jodoin (Urban Aboriginal Student Lead): UNB PhD Candidate,
Carla Gregan-Burns (Collaborator): STU Faculty of Social Work/ NB Department Social Development,
Patsy McKinney (Community Partner): Under One Sky Head Start,
Shelley Germain (Community Partner): Gignoo Transition House Inc.,
Tamara Polchies (Community Partner): Fredericton Native Friendship Centre,
Gary Gould (Community Partner): Skigin-Elnoog Housing Corporation,
Carol LaBillois-Slocum (Community Partner): NB Aboriginal People's Council,
Bill MacKenzie (Government Partner): NB Department Social Development,
Carla Gregan-Burns (Government Partner): NB Department Social Development,
Blake McNeil (Government Partner): NB Department Social Development,
Louise Hale Finley (Government Partner): NB Department Social Development
Donna Wahienha:wi Lahache (Government Partner): NB Department Education & Early Childhood

4) Creation Stories: Urban Aboriginal Early Intervention and Literacy Intervention

Neil Forbes (PI/New Scholar): Director of Education for Lennox Island First Nation, PEI
Greg McKenna, PhD (Co-Applicant) Applied Health Research Department, Holland College, PEI
Basil Favaro (Collaborator) Professor of Education UPEI, Creator of Aboriginal focus BEd program
Alaina Roach-O'Keefe (Collaborator) Early Literacy Specialist, Dept of Education & ECD, PEI
Sharon O'Brian (Off Reserve Collaborator) Executive Director Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre, PEI
Marilyn Sark (on reserve Elder) Chair PEI Provincial FASD task force & public health nurse
Jolyssa Kilbride (Student) UNB Fine Art
Katelyn Young (New Scholar) Research Assistant, Holland College Applied Research, PEI
Kara Acorn (Collaborator) Young Aboriginal Mother's Program & Supporting Aboriginal Families Effectively, Native Council of PEI

Regional Research: Spring 2013, the UAKN Atlantic Executive Committee launched a regional research project focused on "Urban Aboriginal Peoples and Duty to Consult".

National Research: Summer 2014, the UAKN Atlantic anticipates holding a Call For Proposals for a national research project. The total amount available is \$100,000.

Current UAKN Atlantic CFPs 2014 - 2015

The **UAKN Atlantic** has launched an open call for urban Aboriginal community-driven **research projects** (\$5k and \$15k funding envelopes). Applications are adjudicated quarterly (March 31, June 30, Sept 30, Dec 31). Please reference www.UAKN.org for additional information.

The **UAKN Atlantic** has also announced its 2014 – 2015 CFP **supporting student/community researchers**. For additional information on this opportunity please reference (www.UAKN.org).

Once funds have been fully allocated (60k for research projects and 18k for students), a notice will be posted on the UAKN.org website. For more information on CFP teams, proposal criteria, funding and submission, please contact Anthea Plummer (antheaplummer@gmail.com).

Staying in touch

If you would like to be added to the UAKN Atlantic researcher database and or mailing list or if you would like to have a conversation regarding urban Aboriginal research or a UAKN Atlantic event, please contact Dr. Verlé Harrop (vharrop@gmail.com) or the UAKN Atlantic's Research Associate, Anthea Plummer (antheaplummer@gmail.com).

UAKN Atlantic Executive Committee Members 2014 – 2015

Verlé Harrop, Chair UAKN Atlantic Executive Committee, UNB Faculty of Education, Fredericton, NB

Wendy Wettelands, President & Chief, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), Fredericton, NB

Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Executive Director, Micmac Native Friendship Centre, Halifax, NS

Christopher Sheppard, Special Projects Officer, St. John's Native Friendship Centre, St. John's, NL

Jula Hughes, Professor, UNB Faculty of Law, Fredericton, NB

Carolyn Taylor, Director of Tripartite, Native Council of PEI, Charlottetown, PEI

Carla Gregan-Burns, Regional Director, Department of Social Development, Fredericton, GNB

Patsy McKinney, Executive Director, Under One Sky Head Start, Fredericton, NB

Josephine Savarese, Associate Professor, STU Faculty of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Fredericton, NB

Steven Foulds, Lawyer practicing Aboriginal law and criminal law in New Brunswick & Nunavut, Fredericton, NB

Diane Hawkins, Senior Consultant Employment and Continuous Learning Services, Fredericton, GNB

Lisa Jodoin, PhD Student, Department of English, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB

Miigam'agan, Elder, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick

UAKN Atlantic Director

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