

Proclaiming the Roots and Realities of Indigenous- Black Peoples on Turtle Island: A CBR Approach

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Wilfrid Laurier University

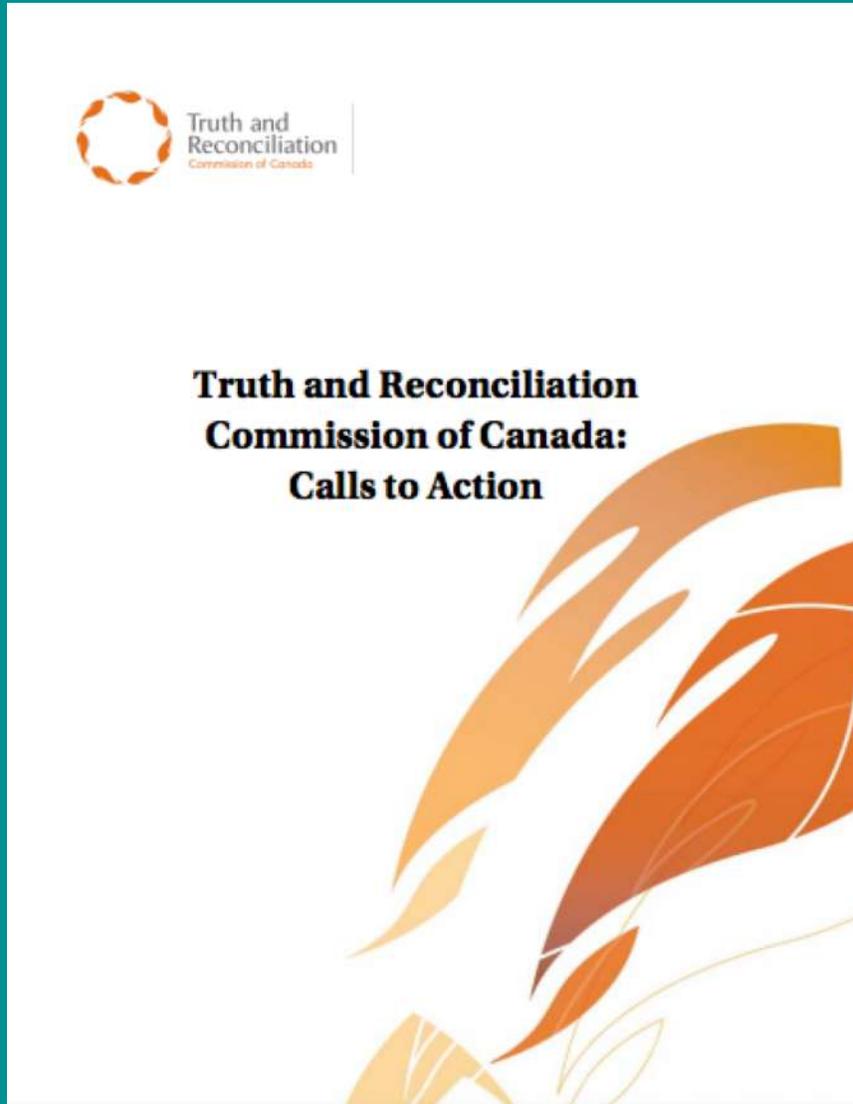
Ann Marie Beals, PhD
Student, Wilfrid Laurier
University

Webinar series brought to you by
Community-Based Research Canada



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Territorial Acknowledgment



Call to Action #62:

“We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:

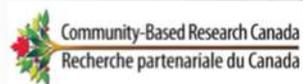
***i.** Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.*

***ii.** Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.*

***iii.** Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.*

***iv.** Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.”*

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@CbrcResearch

Questions and Comments

ClickMeeting Shifting the Narrative: A Health-Focused Approach to Research with HIV-Positive ... Shifting Narrative: A Health-Focused Approach to Research with Indigenous Women who are HIV-Positive Watch later Share



Retreat-Style

- 5-day retreat; on the land
- **TB** = Art boxes, homecoming; **BC** = birch bark baskets, letting go; **SKN** = talking sticks, water ceremony; **AB** = capotes & drums, fashion show
- I feel like every essence of my being from within has been touched. ... I just feel like I'm taking a lot with me, and I feel like I even grew taller. I know I probably didn't, but I feel taller. **I feel stronger and I feel ready for what I have to face at home.**

MORE VIDEOS

AV POD

CHAT

Tracey Prentice
It's fine for me

Centre for Community Based Research
ok thanks Tracey. Monique, would you like to try logging off and back on?

Monique Fong Howe_1
I am calling in... :)

Centre for Community Based Research
ok, thanks Monique!

Centre for Community Based Research
we're recording, so you can also view this at a later time

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communityresearchcanada.ca/webinars



Presenters



Ann Marie Beals

PhD student, Wilfrid Laurier
University and Storyteller,
ProclaimingOurRoots.com



Dr. Ciann Wilson

Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier
University and Co-Director of the
Centre for Community Research,
Learning, and Action (CCRLA)

Why acknowledging
where we are is
important to us and
our work...





Principles of CBR

1. Community Driven
2. Community Relevance
3. Equitable Partnerships & Collaboration
4. Capacity Building
5. Attending to Process
6. Multiple Forms of Knowledge
7. Action Outcomes

Relationality – From Indigenous Epistemologies to CBR

Sean Wilson, *Research is Ceremony*, 2008

- Relationship with Self
- Relationship with Research
- Relationship with People and Community
- Relationship with Environment/Land
- Relationship with the Cosmos
- Relationship with Ideas

These Relationships → the Accountability of the Researcher



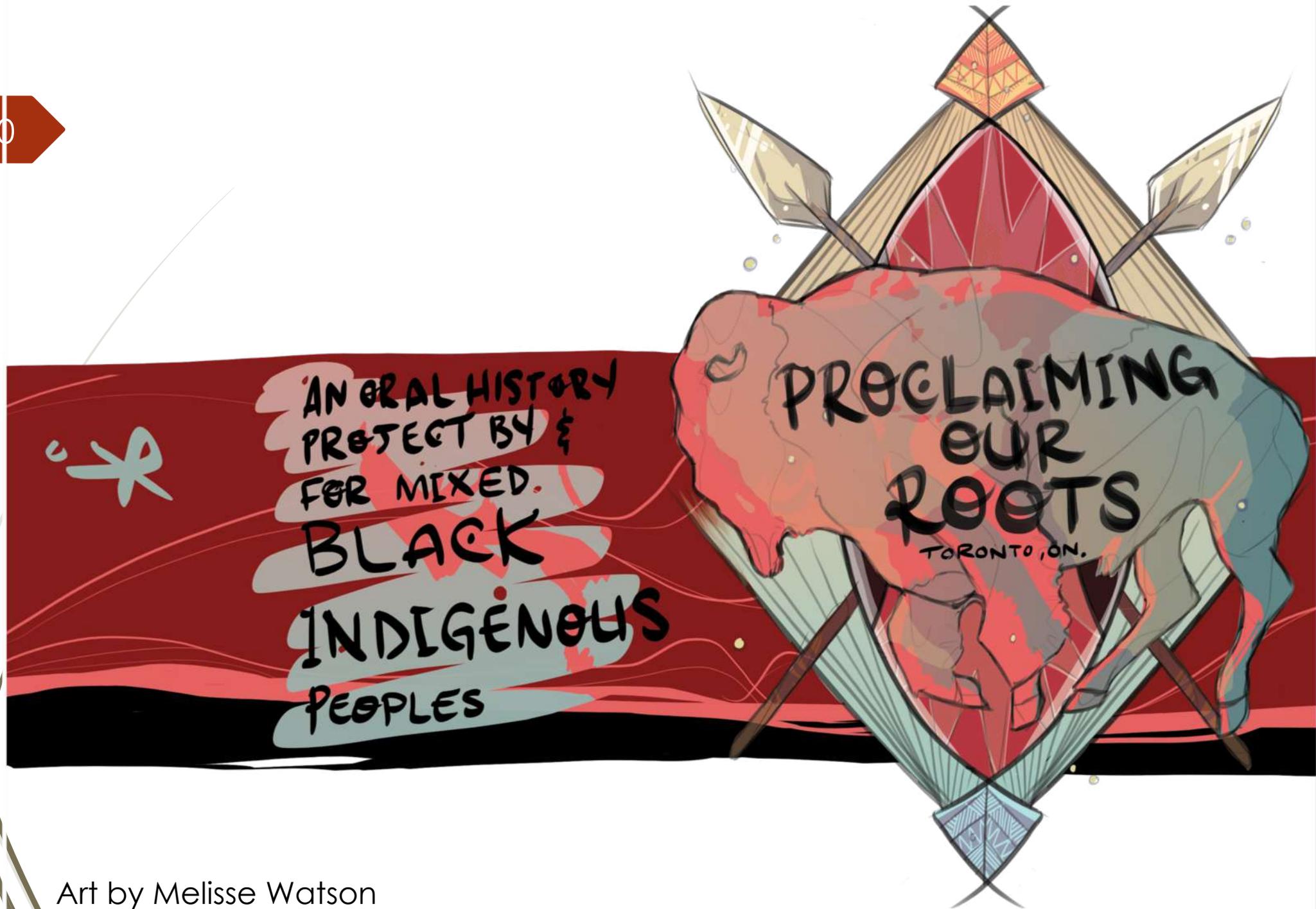


Combahee River Collective

Black Feminist Thought in CBR

If Black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression. CRC

We hold ourselves accountable in understanding that research is a responsibility



Art by Melisse Watson

Proclaiming Our Roots Team

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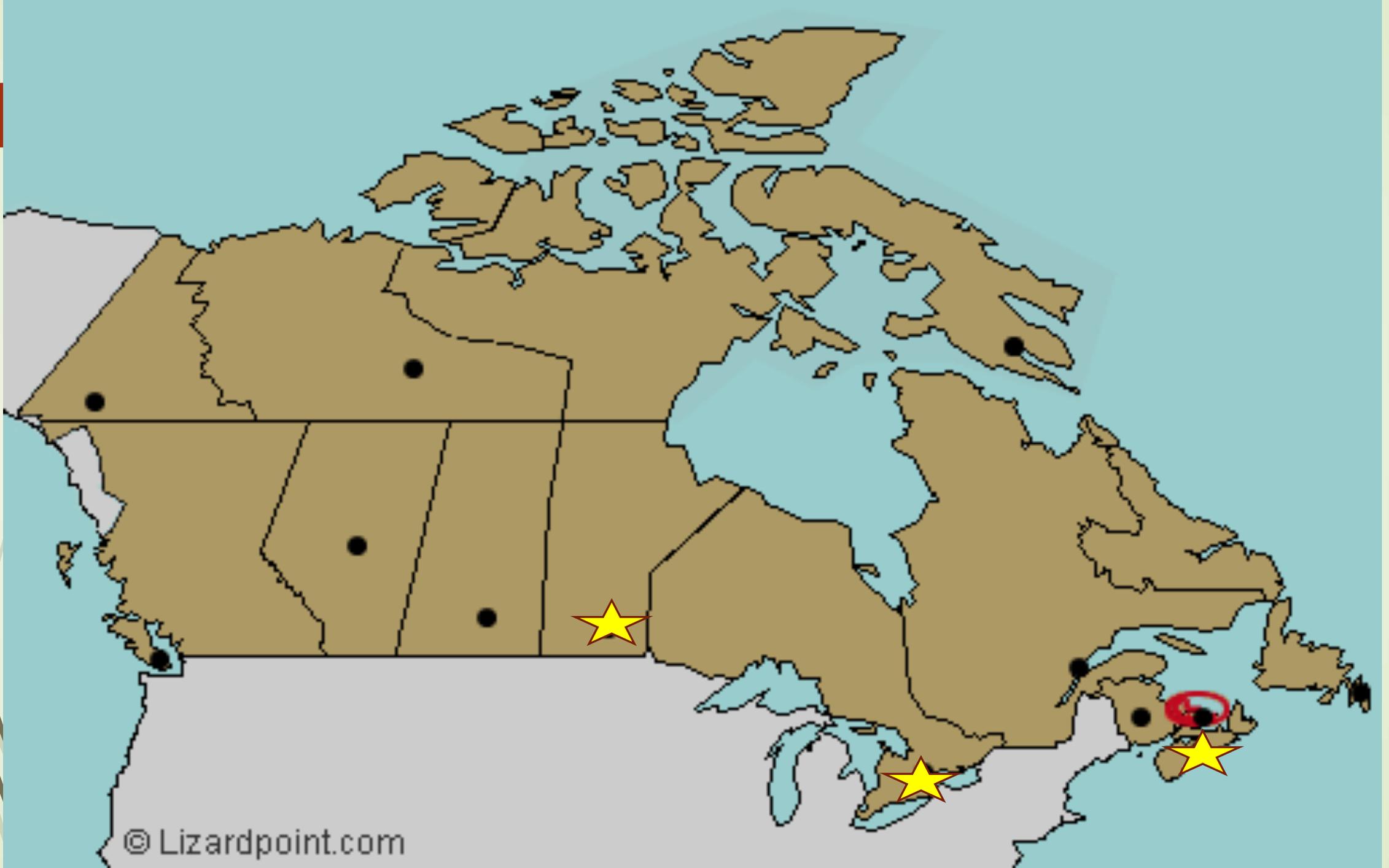




Objectives of the POR Project

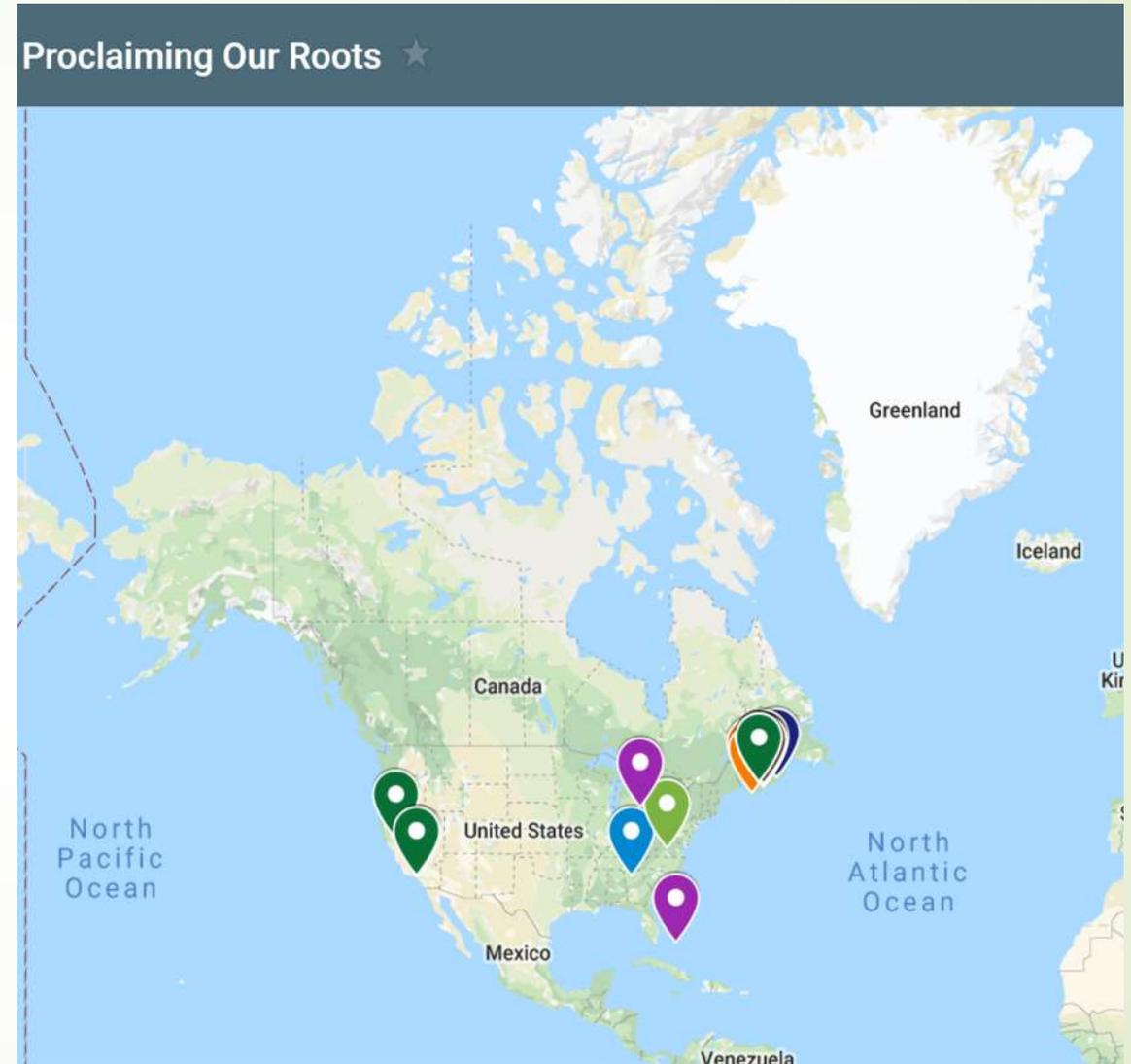
- 1) Gain an understanding of the forms of violence and erasure faced by people of Mixed African and Indigenous ancestry, and how this relates to their service access in Toronto and Halifax
- 2) Situate their lived experiences in national discussions about truth and reconciliation and imagine new models for support
- 3) Create a written, visual and narrative website archive of the histories, realities, and geographies of people of both African diasporic and Indigenous ancestry in Canada

*This project was funded by SSHRC



Methods Employed

- **Digital storytelling**
(personal videos of experience layering text, image, voice, sound, etc.)
- **Community mapping**
- **Individual semi-structured interviews**
- **Group dialogue**





Part of our process ...

Toronto DS
workshop
Aug. 2017

Halifax DS
workshop
April, 2018

Community
launches
summer, 2018

Community launches:

Toronto – July 31st, 2018

Dartmouth – August 22nd, 2018

Halifax – August 23rd, 2018

Youth Action Network



The Black Residential School: The Former Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children

Photo taken by the Proclaiming Our Roots Team



YMCA
Grosvenor
St, Toronto



Black Cultural Centre
Dartmouth



The Bus Stop Theatre
Halifax

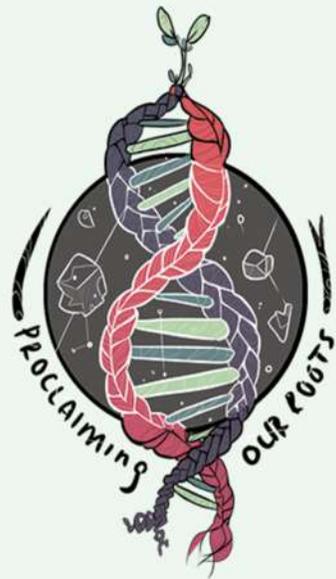


Website – ProclaimingOurRoots.com

Proclaiming Our Roots

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OUR MISSION:

Resist.

[Learn More](#)

We live and breathe on the unceded, ancestral and occupied traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island. We give thanks to the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for and protected the land and the water, and we hold fast to the strength of the Peoples in the resistance of colonial violence on these sacred territories.

Roots and Rivers



Watch later



Isaac's Story - The Lost Feathers



Watch later



VIDEOS



The Digital Stories

A HIDDEN HERITAGE

22

BLACK INDIANS

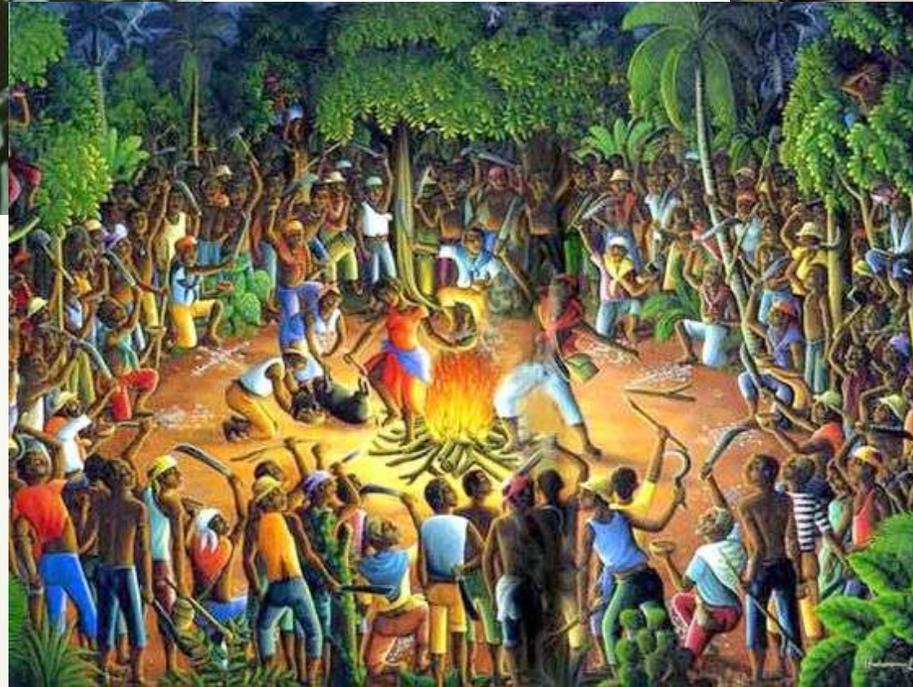
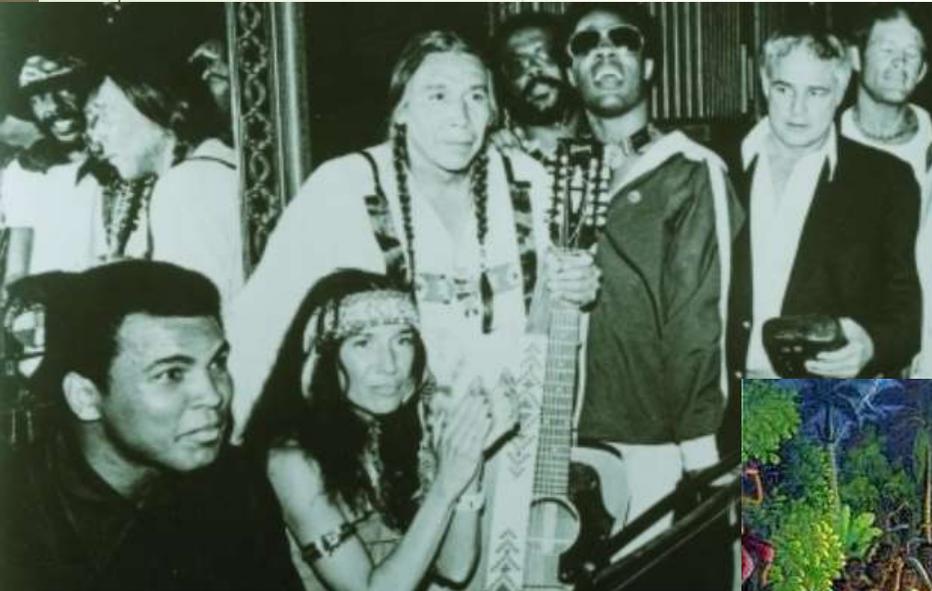
✧ WILLIAM LOREN KATZ ✧



Indigenous and Black History



Representations of Black and Indigenous Resistance





#IndigenousSolidarity with
#BlackLivesMatter
#SayTheirNames

Jessica Wood // Tea&Bannock



Impact of the CBR Work

- Isaac has gone on to document the history of his people, the Ojibwa of Anderdon
- Carson is pursuing further education
- Tonya incorporates her culture and history in her art
- Larissa is a mover and shaker who wrote an article for the Huff Post
- Keisha has started her own arts-based project

Art by Tonya Paris



HUFFPOST

PERSONAL

I Grew Up With My Métis Roots. I Dug Deep To Find My Black Ancestry.

My family gave me a strong sense of Indigeneity, but virtually no immersion in Black communities. Here's how I changed that.

© 07/11/2019 16:42 EDT | Updated 07/31/2019 10:01 EDT



By Larissa Crawford, Special To HuffPost

There is so much power and healing that can be found in understanding intergenerational trauma. Being of both Métis and Jamaican ancestry, both my bloodlines know it well.

My Métis mother raised me. I grew up on Indigenous land and have been brought up in community and with elders. Because of this, I had an early awareness of how residential school systems, genocide and racism have impacted — and continue to impact — Indigenous people. This awareness shaped my attitude, for the better, towards my Indigenous family members with whom I grew up.





The impact of the work...

- ▶ “I’m tired of this anti-black racism. I’m fucking tired of it. So, that’s telling me that I need to go out and do my own thing, so it’s helping my mental health in dealing with fuckin work, and I’ve treated this as a retreat for myself So, in my heart, I feel better now, because this is my community, after this, I don’t have one, it’s just my family. So often times its very lonely, I don’t get time not having to be on guard” (Toronto, participant).



The impact of the work...

- “The workshop had me, I really thought about myself as an individual and things that I have been blocking for a long time. But it allows me to be more vocal about this identity and it allows me to, like what else can we do as a collective for people to know this because it is constantly, erase and erase and erase. And it puts Black and Indigenous people as outsiders, and they have been outsiders for a long time” (Halifax participant).



The impact of the work...

- “I felt like I couldn’t go through this and then this research project came along and it was super validating to have a lot of people with commonalities and to just share and like you have been through something that was messed up in the past, same! Me too! Ok. You don’t know how to navigate some of your identities? ... So yeah, I appreciated the opportunity to come together as a family to talk about as a community what we’ve been through ... It’s always good to share your story. It is something very healing” (Toronto participant).



The impact of the work...

- “This project was really transformative and empowering” (Halifax participant).
- “This space has been a very safe space...it was a safe space and I felt extremely comfortable...I appreciate the unity, and the sense of family that was established” (Halifax participant).
- “It was just such a great opportunity for black/indigenous people to come together and it was just great to have people come up to me and talk and say, you look like my cousin” (Halifax participant).
- “Just keep on doing what you’re doing....because what you are doing, I think it’s very good” (Halifax participant).
- “I am like crying. Everyone is like timing, of this project, like it’s time. Everybody is like it’s time (together), it’s time” (Toronto participant).
- “We have been waiting for you, and this project for a very long time” *Elder at the Toronto Community Launch, July 2018*

What's Next?

- Analyzing data using thematic coding and a grounded theory approach
- Third phase - Retreat 2021
- Applying for funding to build-upon the great work across Canada
- Forming curriculum that includes the website and digital stories as e-resources

Presented: Indigenous Gender Wellness Idea Fair. Montreal, QC. June, 2019.
(Ann Marie, Kayla, Tonya and Teresa)

Publishing:

- 1. Beals, A. M., & Wilson, C. L. (2020). Mixed-blood: Indigenous-Black identity in colonial Canada. AlterNative.
- 2. Beals, A. M., Wilson, C. L., & POR Team. (Forthcoming). Mixed-blood Indigenous-Black women: Identity, intersections, and mental health.
- 3. Wilson, C. L., & Beals, A. M. (2019). Proclaiming our Indigenous-Black roots at a time of Truth and Reconciliation. In S. Wilson, A. V. Breen, & L. DuPré (Eds.), *Research and reconciliation: Unsettling ways of knowing through Indigenous relationships* (pp. 29-45). Toronto: Canadian Scholars.

"I'm feeling very grateful. I want to say thank you to you Ciann, and everyone. You know, sometimes shit gets started and shit ends real quick... So I think it's taken a very special - your superpower of keeping it going. To the benefit of all of us, so very appreciative of that" (Toronto participant).

Why this project was successful...

Lessons for community-based researchers

- CBR needs to be community-driven in order to be transformative. This means communities need to drive the priorities of the project because ultimately they know what they need and will be the ones to incorporate and address project findings after the life of a project.
- A researcher's role is to garner the resources to support the process, and work alongside community members to guide the process since researchers know how to navigate research and academic systems.
- Whiteness and power need to be decentered in order for CBR to be transformational. This is especially true when working with equity-seeking communities, racialized or Indigenous communities, etc.
- Community members will be more involved and engaged in a process if they can see the benefit of expending their limited time to partake in a project. The role of the researcher will be to continuously demonstrate the benefit, to power-share, and to be accountable to communities.



The End

Thank you!

Questions??



Webinar Recordings

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Learning Together

Approach
Publications
Learning Together

CBR Canada hosts webinars and live online discussions to bridge community-based research excellence. Below are webinar recordings and event summaries, organized from the most recent to earlier.

2020 2019 2018 Earlier

JUNE

Shifting the narrative: A health-focused approach to research with HIV-Positive Indigenous women in Canada

Doris Peltier and Tracey Prentice

↓

Introduction / Opening

presentation slides

PDF



<https://www.communityresearchcanada.ca/learning-together>

Question and Answer



Upcoming Events – Next Week

Thu., Oct. 29

Live Discussion: Researcher
identity and privilege

[Register](#)

A group of people are gathered around a round table, looking at a large circular graphic. The graphic is a network of colorful icons connected by lines, representing various aspects of technology and research. The icons include a laptop, a gear, a magnifying glass, a padlock, a Wi-Fi symbol, a mail icon, a person icon, a star, a document, and a speech bubble. The people are seen from above, and their hands are visible as they interact with the table.

Register: www.communityresearchcanada.ca/events

Upcoming Events - November



Fri., Nov. 20

Webinar: Decolonizing and racing research: Critical perspectives on research with racialized communities

Register

Fri., Nov. 27

Live Discussion:
Decolonizing research systems

Register



Presenter: Dr. Rhonda Hackett

Register: www.communityresearchcanada.ca/events

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you think!"



Feedback Form:
Proclaiming the Roots and Realities of Indigenous-Black Peoples on
Turtle Island: A CBR Approach

2 min to complete

Start

press Enter ↵



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Thank You!

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