

CRISM Indigenous Engagement Platform Application: One Page Summary

Indigenous Peoples in Canada are disproportionately impacted by substance misuse and addictions. The disproportionate representation of Indigenous Peoples and communities impacted by substance misuse is linked closely to colonization, colonialism, and settler colonialism. Addressing the disproportionate experiences to substance use of Indigenous Peoples requires a concerted effort that provides opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, communities, researchers, knowledge keepers, youth, and those with living/lived experience to come together to inform broader research initiatives, programs, and knowledge mobilization outcomes. The CRISM Indigenous Engagement Platform (IEP) is designed as a national consortium of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit through an intergenerational framework and one that engages in geographic representation. The IEP is designed to enhance the engagement with Indigenous researchers, stakeholders and partners with CRISM researchers across the research life cycle, and to increase Indigenous students within the CRISM network by providing space and opportunities to come together. Such engagement will position Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners, stakeholders, and allies within CRISM to build national and international networks that look to improve Indigenous lifeworlds and substance use research methods and methodologies that are for and with Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Key activities of the Indigenous Engagement Platform will include five core pillars: 1) *Knowledge translation and mobilization* will support the co-creation and translation of Indigenous specific KT/M outcomes and activities; support Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action regarding language for translation to local Indigenous languages; contribute to the CRISM website and newsletter. 2) *Training of Indigenous students* will work in partnership with the Networks Environment for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) and the National NEIHR Coordinating Centre (NCC) to improve, encourage, and enhance opportunities for Indigenous graduate students focused on substance use research. 3) *Indigenous research priorities* will be designed with Indigenous community partners to develop specific Indigenous research priority areas to be carried out by the different nodes. 4) *Improving Indigenous methodologies for CRISM* where the development of research methodologies will be created to improve distinctions-based substance use research across CRISM nodes. 5) *Development of an Indigenous evaluation framework* to examine how Indigenous distinctions-based research is implemented throughout CRISM nodes and platforms.

The purpose of the IEP is setup to build relationships with other Indigenous health research networks that are currently established regionally and nationally. Utilizing the networks will provide support to Indigenous research initiatives, support Indigenous graduate students in the field of Indigenous health and wellbeing broadly, and not overburden communities with research. To accomplish this, the IEP will create an intergenerational advisory board consisting of youth, adults, seniors, and elders/knowledge keepers, where diversity within regional representation and experiences will be sought.

CRISM's existing relationships with Indigenous community partners has been limited, however significant steps have been made to improve Indigenous engagement across the CRISM nodes. This IEP plan will continue the important work of CRISM and improve Indigenous engagement and high-level training for Indigenous students and trainees to become global leaders in Indigenous substance research.