



# Anishnawbe Health Toronto

Rapid Access to  
Addiction Medicine



\* Sheryl Lindsay MSW

\* No Relationships with the following:

\* Financial sponsor

\* Grants/research/support

\* Speakers bureau/honoraria

\* Consulting Fees

\* Patents

\* Anishnawbe Health Toronto-RAAM



- \* AHT's RAAM program opened November 2018
- \* First RAAM based in an Indigenous organization in Toronto
- \* 110 referrals since opening

**Anishnawbe Health Toronto- RAAM**



- \* Downtown Overdose Prevention and Supervised Consumption sites 40% of service users identify as Indigenous
- \* Urgent need to respond in a culturally safe way
- \* RAAM's in downtown core hospital based
- \* Provide challenges to Indigenous clients that have experienced stigma, discrimination and racism within hospital settings
- \* Racism in the health care system is so entrenched Indigenous people expect and plan for it; or avoid care altogether ( Allan & Smilie 2015: Kurtz et al, 2008;Tang &Browne, 2008)

## Toronto context



- \* Cultural Safety-cultural sensitivity and competence focus on learning about culture of the service user
- \* Cultural Safety pays explicit attention to the power relations between the service user and provider
- \* Analyzes power imbalances in society
- \* Combined with trauma informed care that understands the impact of historic, collective and intergenerational trauma

**\* Cultural Safety as a response to systemic racism/discrimination**



- \* Research paper: Mamakwa 2016
- \* Six Indigenous Communities in northwestern Ontario
- \* 526 participants in opioid dependence treatment program
- \* After one year 78% remained in treatment compared to overall provincial average of 50%

\* Northern Research



- \* Community designed and implemented
- \* Welcoming back to community, families and roles
- \* Traditional teachings and events
- \* Ceremony
- \* Harmonized approach

**\* What makes the difference?**



- \* How to translate to the urban Indigenous experience
- \* AHT mission: To improve the health and well being of Indigenous people through Traditional Healing within a multi-disciplinary health care team
- \* Access to healers, elders and knowledge keepers
- \* Access to traditional medicines
- \* Access to ceremony: smudge, sweat lodge, shake tent

**\* Urban based Indigenous led**  
**RAAM**



- \* Harmonized approach
- \* Community based and welcoming space
- \* Use of medicines, access to traditional healers, ceremony
- \* Intensive outreach, community support and follow up
- \* Access to day treatment program
- \* Close collaboration with community/medical partners

\* **Key elements**



- \* Nurse Practitioner lead
- \* Addiction medicine physician one half day a week
- \* RN
- \* Two community support workers
- \* Coordinator

\* **Anishnawbe Health Team**

# \*Miigwetch!

