

I-HEITI COLLABORATING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

RESTORING HEALTHY FAMILY SYSTEMS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Hishuk-ish tsawalk – Everything is one, everything is connected.



ALBERTA FNIGC

Overview

The Indigenous Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative (I-HeLTI) Collaborating Centre is housed within the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre (Alberta FNIGC) with Lea Bill as the Co-Principal Investigator. The Centre has supported research infrastructure, team coordination, and cross-provincial collaboration in Alberta and British Columbia. Several initiatives have been put in place to meet evolving needs. Since May 2024, the I-HeLTI Collaborating Centre has continued to make meaningful progress in strengthening Indigenous-led research capacity and data sovereignty while supporting collaboration across three research teams.

Here's a snapshot of our progress so far...

Data Sovereignty in Action.

Alberta FNIGC has launched a data and research platform to support secure data storage, sharing and harmonization for First Nations. This platform has been an option presented to the I-HeLTI team for use. This platform respects First Nations ownership and control over research data.



Communication and Collaboration.

Regular communication remains a cornerstone of the collaborating centre. The following are some of the communication tactics we used.

Meetings That Keep Us Connected.

Monthly strategy meetings with Principal Investigators and team coordinators provide opportunities to align work plans and address emerging issues. Quarterly virtual joint meetings across Alberta and BC promote cross-site learning, celebrate progress and align project-wide goals across Alberta and BC. One-on-one check-ins offer tailored support to each team.

Collaboration Tools and Platform.

The team adopted Microsoft Teams as their main platform that is being adapted to serve as a central location for storing joint key documents securely, streamlining meeting scheduling and enhancing real-time communication; laying the foundation for sustained collaboration throughout the six-year project.



Our New Web Presence.

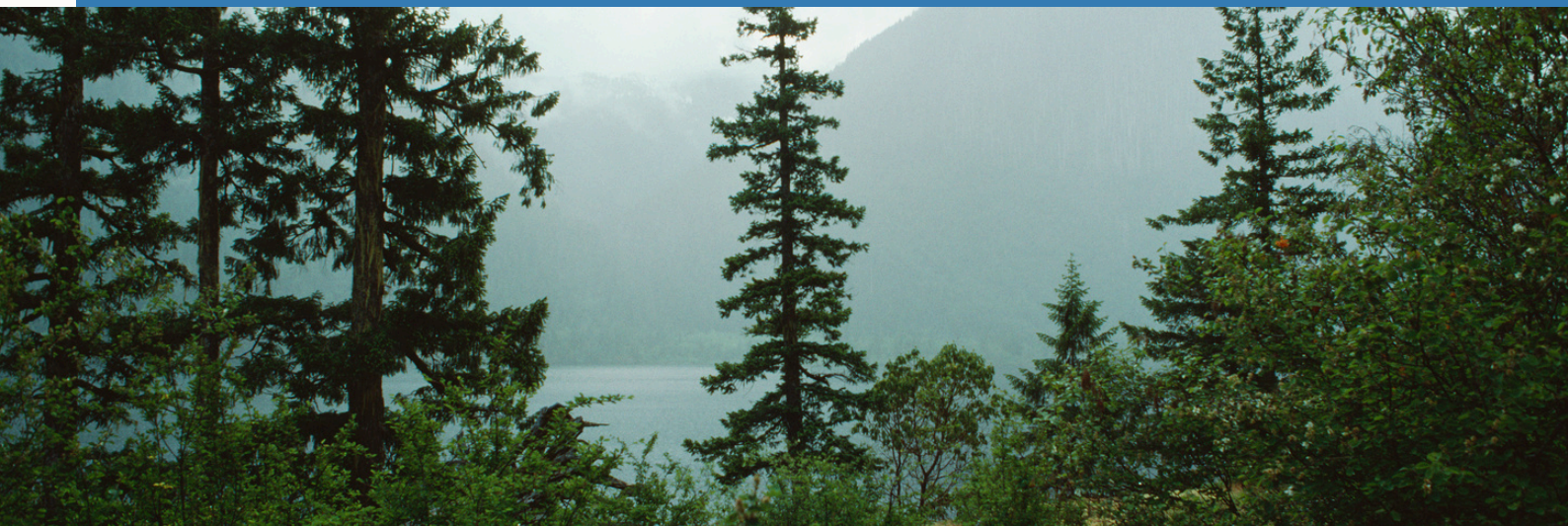
A public-facing webpage at afnigc.ca/i-helti-home, dedicated to I-HeLTI has been launched, highlighting the I-HeLTI goals and partnerships, updates and events, as well as community highlights and resources. It includes project background, team highlights, research updates, and contact info. It serves as a central information hub for policymakers, partners, and the public.

Knowledge Translation & Engagement.

To keep communities and stakeholders informed, the Centre has maintained a regular schedule of communications. We're getting the word out through opportunities such as

- A key engagement with the new CIHR-IIPH Scientific Director deepened partnerships, aligned priorities, and led to I-HeLTI being featured in the CIHR newsletter.
- Active social media updates on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn, including a December 2024 feature summarizing ongoing research.
- Although no peer-reviewed publications have been produced directly by the Collaborating Centre to date, outputs are anticipated through affiliated teams.

afnigc.ca/i-helti-home





Relationship Building on the Road.

The Collaborating Centre has prioritized in-person relationship-building and partnership through site visits: the team met with the

- Wood Buffalo, Edmonton, Alberta: Strengthened collaboration with the University of Alberta's I-HeLTI team.
- University of Calgary: Participated in the Better Beginnings workshop to explore community engagement and data strategies, and
- strategic meetings in Vancouver with BC teams and CIHR representatives.

Staying Connected.

Regular newsletters keep our Board of Directors and community informed as well as plain-language research posts shared on social media. Presentations were delivered at the AFNIGC Annual General Meeting in November and during CIHR engagement sessions in January 2025.

Final Word.

The I-HeLTI Collaborating Centre remains rooted in First Nations priorities and guided by the principle that everything is one, everything is connected. Together, we're weaving stronger support for families, communities, and the next generation.







How do I learn more about I-HeLTI?

Everything is one. Everything is connected.

For more information, visit:
www.afnigc.ca/i-helti

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