

I-HEITI COLLABORATING CENTRE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

RESTORING HEALTHY FAMILY SYSTEMS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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





Supporting Stronger Connections Across the I-HeLTI Network

Over the past year, the I-HeLTI Collaborating Centre has continued to support collaboration, communication, and Indigenous-led research across Alberta and British Columbia. While our core role remains unchanged, much of this year's work focused on supporting the transition of research administration responsibilities for one of our I-HeLTI teams, ensuring a smooth handover of processes, roles, and ongoing project activities between partner organizations.

This important transition required extensive coordination among partners, community leadership, researchers, and health organizations to ensure research activities continued uninterrupted while respecting community priorities and governance processes.

At the same time, the Collaborating Centre continued to strengthen relationships, support data governance initiatives, and create opportunities for collaboration across all I-HeLTI teams.

"Strong relationships remain the foundation of everything we do."

Community Connections in Action

Throughout the year, the Collaborating Centre participated in several events that strengthened relationships and supported family wellbeing.

Highlights included:

Deadly Dads Dance

The Collaborating Centre was proud to support the Deadly Dads Dance, a culturally grounded event that brought fathers, children, and families together in celebration, connection, and community wellness.

Spring Fest in Maskwacîs

Attendance at Spring Fest provided opportunities for informal relationship-building and meaningful conversations with community members.

Better Beginnings Workshop

Participation in the Better Beginnings Workshop created opportunities to strengthen collaborative partnerships and explore new ways of connecting research and community priorities.



Supporting First Nations Data Governance

The Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre, which houses the Collaborating Centre, launched a secure data platform designed to support First Nations ownership, control, access, and possession of data.

This platform offers:

- Secure data storage
- Community-led data analysis
- Permission-based data sharing
- Alignment with OCAP® principles
- Opportunities for collaboration across research teams

During the past year, I-HeLTI teams were introduced to the platform and explored how it could support both local research needs and future cross-site collaboration.

The platform represents an important step toward strengthening Indigenous data sovereignty while supporting high-quality, community-driven research.

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Keeping Teams Connected

Strong communication remains essential to the success of I-HeLTI.

Over the past year, the Collaborating Centre continued to:

- Participate in Joint Collaborating Meetings
- Support Methods Team discussions
- Coordinate targeted meetings around specific project priorities
- Maintain collaborative workspaces through Microsoft Teams
- Develop shared tracking and reporting systems

As project activities continue to mature, communication approaches have evolved from regularly scheduled meetings toward more focused, purpose-driven discussions that support efficient decision-making and collaboration.

Did You Know?

The Collaborating Centre maintains a centralized project tracking system that helps monitor activities, milestones, and shared priorities across the I-HeLTI network.

Advancing Knowledge and Capacity

Several exciting initiatives are underway for the coming year, including:

- Completion of the team transition process within the partner community
- Continued exploration of Indigenous-led data solutions
- Development of a First Nations Community Research Guideline
- Expansion of knowledge sharing activities
- Exploration of a learning management system focused on data literacy, governance, research methods, and health promotion

The Collaborating Centre also continues to work with academic, community, and health system partners to ensure that knowledge generated through I-HeLTI remains accessible, relevant, and grounded in First Nations priorities.

In Closing

Guided by the principle of Hishuk-ish tsawalk ("everything is one, everything is connected"), the I-HeLTI Collaborating Centre remains committed to strengthening healthy family systems through collaboration, Indigenous data sovereignty, and community-led research.

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Everything is one. Everything is connected.

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