

Saskatchewan Palliative Care Conference Abstract

The First Nation population is aging, and the incidence of chronic and terminal disease is increasing. First Nation people are dying of illnesses where they could benefit from palliative care; however, there is currently little research evidence about death and dying and the palliative care needs within these communities to guide the development of local palliative care programs.

This presentation will describe a research project, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (2010-2015) and conducted by a research team based out of Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario. This program of research is a partnership involving four First Nations communities from Ontario and Manitoba: Nootkamegwanning First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Peguis First Nation. The goal of this research is to improve the end-of-life care in First Nations communities by developing community-based palliative care programs and teams.

The presentation will offer participants a framework for culturally relevant research and a specific methodology for conducting an environmental assessment that lays the foundation for developing palliative care programs in First Nations communities. It will present the results of the environmental assessments that include First Nations' participants' understandings of end-of-life care, their experiences in providing palliative care, perceived barriers and supports in the community, the educational needs of community caregivers and the available resources inside and outside the community.

Brief Summary (72 words)

The First Nation population is aging, and the incidence of chronic and terminal disease is increasing. First Nation people are dying of illnesses where they could benefit from palliative care; however, there is currently little research evidence about death and dying and the palliative care needs within these communities to guide the development of local palliative care programs. This research provides original data and an approach to addressing these gaps in knowledge.