

# A collaborative approach to supporting an indigenous health curriculum in Canada

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## Purpose

Starting in 2011, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, in collaboration with the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, decided to implement elective courses in all medical schools, specific to indigenous worldviews and philosophies, embracing their traditions and holistic approaches to health. These organizations created a document entitled First Nations, Inuit, Métis Health Core Competencies: A Curriculum Framework for Undergraduate Medical Education, which aims to “increase the admission of and support for indigenous students in Canada’s medical schools and to develop [a] First Nations, Inuit and Métis health competencies curriculum framework” (Rourke, 2009).



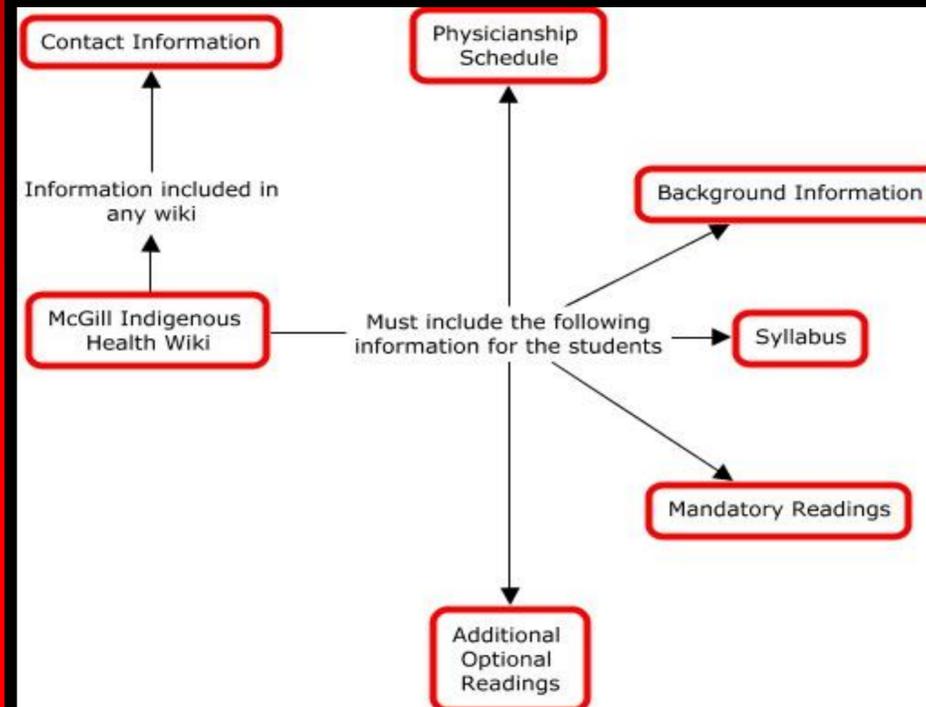
## Library Participation

In order to support this initiative, the **Life Sciences Library** at McGill University has played an important role in both the provision and the maintenance of appropriate resources, such as the creation of a wiki and a subject guide.

The wiki was created to support the first indigenous elective occurring at McGill University during the fourth year of Physicianship.

The subject guide was created to help the general population find different resources specific to indigenous health, including databases, statistics, and government information.

## Wiki Concept Map



## Selected Literature

Larson, B., Herx, L., Williamson, T. and Crowshoe, L. (2011). Beyond the barriers: Family medicine residents' attitudes towards providing Aboriginal health care. *Medical Education*, 45, p. 400-406.

Rourke, J. (2010). How can medical schools contribute to the education, recruitment and retention of rural physicians in their region? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 88, p. 395-396

Zhou, A.W. et al. (2011). Efficacy of a 3-hour Aboriginal health teaching in the medical curriculum: Are we changing student knowledge and attitudes? *Health Education Journal*. DOI: 10.1177/0017896910394544

## Future Directions

One way to support the indigenous medical curriculum, on a national level, would be to create a nationwide wiki, as a Canadian collaboration. Suggested areas could include:

- databases specific to indigenous health  
e.g. Native Health Database  
Native American Ethnobotany Database
- government information and departments
- organizations  
e.g. National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)  
The First Nations Information Governance Centre
- patient information
- statistics and data
- indigenous health news

## Who could participate?

Participants to a national indigenous health wiki could include:

- indigenous communities and organizations
- post secondary institutions
- government organizations
- NGOs
- physicians, librarians, professors
- general population with an interest involving indigenous health

## Contact Information

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