

## **Indigenous Network stemming from ACCESS Open Minds Indigenous Council receives funding from Government of Canada to develop wise practices for youth mental health services in Indigenous contexts**

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett (Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health) announced at the end of November 2022 that an Indigenous integrated youth services (IYS) network drawn from [ACCESS Open Minds](#) (AOM), will be part of a \$1 million investment, along with three other provincial networks ([Aire ouverte](#), [Foundry](#) and [Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario](#)), to lay the foundation for the [Integrated Youth Services Network of Networks \(IYS-Net\)](#).

In collaboration with stakeholders and partners across the country, this network will support research and knowledge mobilization efforts to inform policies and practices that will improve the outcomes for youth in Canada.

Currently, many youth programs and services do not meet the needs of Indigenous youth due to top-down approaches and a failure to consider the context of colonization and assimilation within Canada. Designing, developing and implementing culturally relevant health care is particularly important for Indigenous youth to achieve health equity. With this in mind, Indigenous communities within the AOM network have been transforming their youth mental health service delivery towards community-based and culturally centred care that is anchored in a holistic model of healing and wellness.

As such, this project aims to: 1) Build on the knowledge and experiences from the six Indigenous communities within the AOM network and partner networks and 2) Develop a guide on wise practices and recommendations to implement context-specific and culturally relevant youth mental health systems change in Indigenous contexts.

This project is supported by an interdisciplinary team, including all six Indigenous community partnered sites at ACCESS Open Minds (i.e., Eskasoni First Nation, Elsipogtog First Nation, Cree Nation of Mistissini, Puvirnituk, Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Ulukhaktok), Elders and Indigenous youth, scholars, knowledge users and community members, along with support from allied non-Indigenous decision-makers, health researchers/clinicians and other IYS leads.

### **Team members**

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### **ACCESS Open Minds Indigenous Council representatives**

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**Other team members**

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