

Annual Scientific Meeting Series: Day 1

On Tuesday, September 28th, Elder Willie Ermine presented to us the importance of opening conversations around ethical space and reconciliation as it pertains to primary health care. With a focus on the way we nurture people projects, Ermine encouraged the idea of engaging with the heart, using a language of possibility, and creating space for Indigenous knowledges that live within our communities.



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Humanizing Health Care

Position ourselves to come up with ways of doing that **humanize health**.

Health means our happiness, wellness, and overall well-being. Systems in place have dehumanized us as this kind of ownership is just a body of words, policies and regulations that lack a feeling with the heart and soul.

Language of Possibility

Use a language of possibility in conversations about health care to **better envision the future we are working towards**.

Speaking in certainties allows no space for opportunities for change. Indigenous communities are home to a rich supply of knowledges ready to be drawn on. "Our culture says to always speak in a language of possibility, and to never put down your people."

Fireside Chat - Conversations Around the Circle

"Honouring community voices; stepping outside our disciplines and being good relatives; guide our work with our hearts and spirits!"

"To be open and trusting that the protocols and processes that define our cultures will result in thoughts and ideas - the answers are within us"

Ethical Space

Tools are needed to build **ethical space**.

Affirmation maintains and adds value to the space.
Growing relationships affirms it.
Dialogue converses these relationships into being.
New channels of thinking allows us to think outside the boxes that dehumanize us.
Architects of group genius create a new cohort to work on health, humanity and diversity.

People Projects

There is a commonality within our humanness, meaning we share a **common goal towards health**.

We are participating in a people project, meaning that people have to be brought on board to think about traditional health terms as well as their own sources of health. It is important for us to work with our hearts and to recognize the value of humanity.