

Connections to culture, wellness, social justice, hope and healing; Why framing matters

Facilitators:

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Kate Dunn is an Indigenous woman from Mississaugi First Nation in Canada and combines her Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Being, Doing and Connecting with her background in Nursing, Public Health and Social Sciences in co-creating culturally connected hepatitis C solutions.

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Discussion Space Abstract:

Indigenous Peoples worldwide continue to live within and experience disparate systems. These historical and current interconnected systems of power resulting from colonization continue to influence our bias, perspectives, and how we enter into and interact with health supporting structures, spaces, policy and programming. It is vitally important to continue conversations on intention, placement, decolonization, reconciliation, reciprocity, collaboration and reflective engagement. Connections are key to these conversation and purposeful framing of the language around disparity, disease and disruption is needed. We know that rates for hepatitis C infections are higher among Indigenous Peoples in many countries, but in focusing on priority populations have we facilitated a significant bias and an understanding of the connection between colonization, racism, social justice and living experience within the structures leading to higher rates?

Objectives:

This discussion space cannot guarantee a safe space because we all have different experiences and different triggers, but we seek a brave space where we increase our understanding of the need to be more comfortable with being uncomfortable, to better understand the connections between living experience and rising rates. This discussion space seeks to shape heart-engaged conversation and thought-provoking reflections on topics that may include but are not limited to: Realizing unrecognized bias as experienced by those around us; How defending current structures of healthcare can sacrifice relationality and trust; Indigenous Knowledge connections to hepatitis C and liver wellness; Awareness of connections and actions supporting Indigenous perspectives, good intentions and allyship.