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| **Pathway to reclaiming Cree birth knowledge and practices** |
| **Background/Objectives**Historically First Nation children were born on the land, delivered by the women in our communities. However, in the 1970s the efforts to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity in the general population lead to a move towards hospital deliveries for all women. During this time, policies were established for evacuating mothers with high risk pregnancies to tertiary centres, but by the 1980s essentially all deliveries occurred outside of the community. Currently traveling for birth is a typical experience for many First Nation women in Canada from remote and rural communities which includes leaving the community two weeks to one month prior to giving birth. This has resulted in many negative effects for the mother, child and her family.  **Methods**A multidisciplinary all Indigenous team partnered with two Cree communities, Pimicikamak Cree Nation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, in Manitoba to develop a pathway to return birth to First Nation communities. Two land-based gatherings were hosted with knowledge keepers, Indigenous Doulas, researchers, Indigenous midwives and families. The gatherings were video recorded, and the discussions focused on restoring traditional knowledge around pregnancy and birth, developing Cree based wellness indicators and development of the path to return birth to First Nation communities. **Results**Key themes from the discussions at the land-based gatherings are ceremonies to support wellness, lifelong connections, language and connection to land and waters. The vision is *a* return to First Nation children who are born on their ancestral land, surrounded by family, language and ceremonies which will start their life off in a good way with culture as the foundation. **Discussion**By revitalizing ceremony at birth, and reestablishing and strengthening family connections we hope to set children on a lifelong journey and path led by spirit. By returning to our original/cultural teachings and stories that have sustained us for generations at the onset of life, we acknowledge the wisdom of our knowledge keepers that have told us that we must start at the beginning of life, at conception and birth to address the root causes of ill health and disease. **Keywords**Birth, Indigenous knowledge |