



NEWSLETTER

Transformation of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD):
Community-driven Innovations and Scale-up Toolkits

ISSUE 1, JULY 2013

FORGE AHEAD RANKED #1!

The FORGE AHEAD CIHR Community-based Primary Healthcare Team grant application was approved in April 2013. Congratulations to the entire team on the success of our application! A total of 12 applications were approved for funding with FORGE AHEAD ranked as #1 in both the general and the Indigenous People's Health pools. Our final rating score was 4.58 out of a maximum score of 4.9.

Key strengths identified by reviewers were:

- Highly original and innovative with clear objectives and research activities
- Relevant with the potential for high impact
- Strong community, team and organizational support
- Participatory research principles with strong community and stakeholder input and inclusion of community readiness model
- Emphasis on mentoring & training for both students and young career scientists, and capacity building of community personnel
- Very strongly articulated knowledge transfer plans
- Alignment of budget with research activities

CIHR EMBARGO LIFTED

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, made an official national announcement of the 12 CBPHC Innovation Teams at an event in Surrey, BC on June 26th. The announcement can be seen by visiting <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47018.html>. The announcement featured speeches by Minister Aglukkaq, Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, (Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research and co-lead of the Signature Initiative in CBPHC along with Dr. Nancy Edwards, Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health), Dr. Diane Finegood (CEO of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and valued partner on the CBPHC Innovation Teams), and Dr. Sabrina Wong (Nominated Principal Investigator of one of the 12 CBPHC Innovation Teams).

A fact sheet provides information about the total investment, partners involved and profiles of each team and can be found by visiting <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47019.html>. The embargo on individual team announcements is now lifted! CIHR has authorized the use of the information contained in the news release and fact sheet noted above for announcements, newsletters, and other communication activities. Please ensure that where appropriate, all funding partners are mentioned in any announcements.

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FORGE AHEAD GOVERNANCE

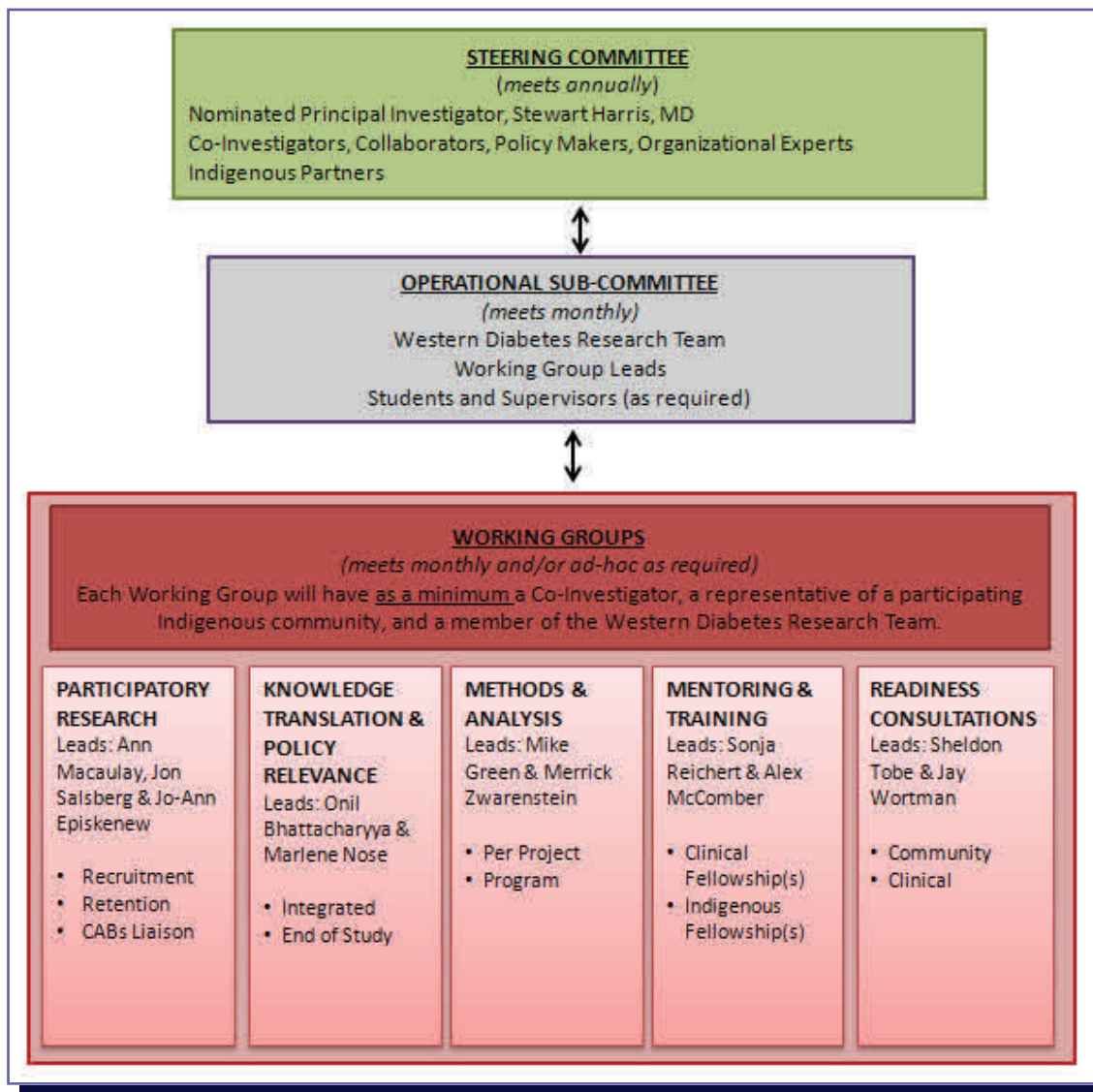
A Steering Committee, Operational Sub-Committee, and Working Groups have been established as part of the governance structure for the FORGE AHEAD program. These groups will be responsible for overarching decisions after all relevant stakeholders have provided input.

The **Steering Committee** will meet annually to provide independent advice and recommendations to strengthen the research program and promote public relations by improving relationships with Indigenous communities and policy/organizational partners.

The **Operational Sub-committee** will meet monthly to provide high level oversight of the research program progress and solve program problems as they arise.

The **Working Groups** will inform implementation of the program by developing tools and methods, advising on challenges encountered with community partners, and encouraging meaningful engagement from all stakeholders. Working Groups will meet on a monthly and ad-hoc basis. Five working groups have been established with focused responsibilities relating to program-wide issues:

1. Participatory Research
2. Knowledge Translation & Policy Relevance
3. Methods & Analysis
4. Mentoring & Training
5. Readiness Consultations



COMING SOON! FORGE AHEAD WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The National Diabetes Management Strategy (TNDMS) website (www.tndms.ca) will include key information on the FORGE AHEAD program. The TNDMS website is under the leadership of Dr. Stewart Harris and is a joint effort between Western University and the Canadian Diabetes Association. The website will be used as a central site to store key documents such as project materials, newsletters, meeting and conference presentations etc. that all team members can access at any time. Program and specific project materials will be placed on the website as well. Links will be provided under the FORGE AHEAD program to our governance structure, partnering community websites and contact information to all team members. We hope to launch the website in July-August 2013. As well we will be opening a Facebook website where we will also share key announcements and hope to connect team members to one another for increased engagement. We anticipate the Facebook site to be launched in July-August 2013 as well.



FORGE AHEAD LOGO



Based on input and suggestions received at our June 10th Steering Committee meeting where four draft logos were presented to the team, additional logos were developed for consideration. Those logos were distributed to the team for voting in June 2013. Based on a majority vote, the logo that was selected for our program can be seen to the left. The logo incorporates the blue diabetes ring used and promoted by the International Diabetes Federation and the United Nations, the Aboriginal medicine wheel colours of black, yellow, white and red, and states the program name.

The goal of the logo was to develop a simple logo that could be used on all templates and communication avenues such as the website, brochures, business cards etc. As such, it was decided that the logo would not include an image that would be difficult to copy and ensure proper resolution on all documents.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 10, 2013

Thank you to all those attended the June 10th Steering Committee meeting in Toronto as the 1st face-to-face meeting to officially launch the FORGE AHEAD program. It was a great turnout with 36 team members from coast to coast, including , Co-Investigators, Community Partners, Collaborators, Policy Makers, and the team at Western all coming together for a day of presentations, discussions, and planning as we move forward in implementing the FORGE AHEAD Program. Working groups met during morning and afternoon breakout sessions to begin development of materials and methods for project #1: Survey of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Capacity and Delivery Models, and the community readiness tool. In addition, progress was made to determine community recruitment plans including inclusion and exclusion criteria, student recruitment, and to advise on data to be collected to facilitate the economic analysis.



Photograph taken in Toronto at the meeting on June 10, 2013

FORGE AHEAD PROGRESS UPDATE

We have been busy with program and project developments over the last few months. The Working Groups met in July 2013 to develop, refine, and discuss project #1 survey, community recruitment plans, and student mentoring & training. Key progress updates include:

- A draft of the survey for project #1: Survey of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Capacity and Delivery Models has been developed and will be distributed this summer to the entire team for feedback. Implementation is scheduled for this fall.
- Community research agreements, inclusion/exclusion criteria and a recruitment plan have been developed and will be sent out for review to the entire team this summer. Recruitment is scheduled to begin in the fall.
- We had good interest from students with a total of 6 CVs submitted to the FORGE AHEAD program. Final decisions on student selection will be made in July 2013. We hope to fund two graduate students and one undergraduate student.
- Ethical approval for the program has been obtained at Western. We will be in touch soon to begin Co-I institutional ethics submissions.

WESTERN NEWS

Mariam Naqshbandi Hayward will be starting her maternity leave August 1, 2013. Jann Paquette-Warren will be taking the lead on the FORGE AHEAD program while Mariam is on maternity leave until September 2014. Contact information for Mariam and Jann can be found below in the "For More Information" section.

We will also be moving to a brand new building. The move-in date is August 19, 2013. We have new e-mail addresses (see below) but our telephone and fax numbers will remain the same.

Our **new mailing address** will be:

Centre for Studies in Family Medicine
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University
Western Centre for Public Health and Family Medicine
1151 Richmond St
London, ON N6A 3K7



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information or questions regarding the program contact:

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