



Stollery Awasisak News

A'cimowin, "the Process of Storytelling" in Cree.

VOL.1

2020-2021 Annual Report

June, 2021 | Free

Impact

Served Families

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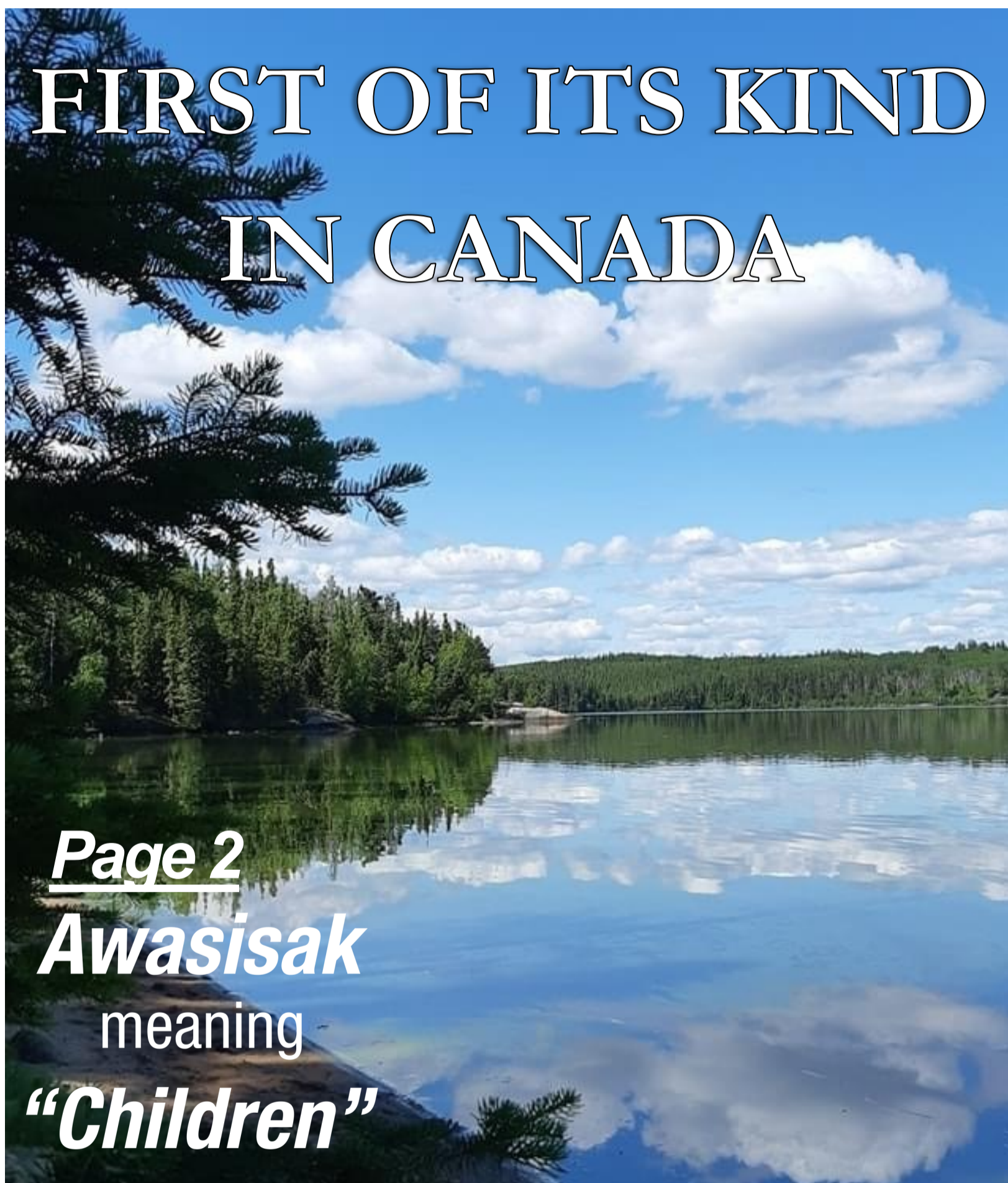
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BREAKING NEWS



FIRST OF ITS KIND IN CANADA

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Awasisak
meaning
"Children"

Turner Lake in Saskatchewan



Presented by the Stollery Awasisak Indigenous Health Program Editor: Shang Dong

Indigenous Voices Provide Indigenous Solutions

Letter from The Stollery Awasisak Indigenous Health Program Manager

“The Awasisak team have become the experts on finding community supports and understanding family needs and real world conditions.”

- Sherri Di Lallo

Thank you, Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation! For your continuous support to the Stollery Awasisak Indigenous Health Program. We continue to grow and expand our services for Indigenous patients, families and communities over the past 5+ years.

Awasisak has had a tough but rewarding year with the Covid pandemic. The Awasisak team organizes innovatively to create solutions for multifaceted situations when working with complex Stollery patients and families. Since resources are limited in the

communities, some of our complex patients cannot go home in a safe way. Families find it very hard and gut wrenching to make choices for their child based on their own experiences and now dealing with their child’s trauma. The Awasisak team have become the experts on finding community supports and understanding family needs and real world conditions to assist Stollery teams, physicians and other professionals. The main goal is to have healthy happy families during the Covid pandemic, to look at all the options and come up with the best solutions that fits the family

and community. Sometimes these are the hardest solutions to implement when the family is too scared to make those conclusions that could affect the quality of life for their child. Every parent would want the most done for their child towards a healthy and happy life which may not fit within the healthcare systems processes. As we continue to explore opportunities to best support our Stollery patients and families journey, we need to continue collaborating with our Stollery teams, families and communities with open communication to provide all the information for fami-

lies to make a decision that best suits their lifestyle. The Awasisak team does an amazing job at putting the western medical views and Indigenous world views in parallel to help families make the best decisions with the most positive outcome for their child. We have been doing an in-depth exploration on Outreach Services. I am very excited about this opportunity. The Outreach team, contracted by Jordan’s Principle, has been in Fox Lake to assess the community needs which includes a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist and a speech language pathologist to support our Stollery patients. The goal is to have a Stollery Awasisak Outreach Ambulatory Clinic on the continuity of care spectrum and expand interdisciplinary team and services to John D’Or, Garden River, Fox Lake, Chateh, and other

northwestern communities in Alberta for 2021.

Marsi,
 (“Thank you” in Dene)
 Sherri Di Lallo



Sherri Di Lallo
Stollery Awasisak Indigenous Health Program Manager

Stollery Children’s Hospital Awasisak Indigenous Health Program

The Stollery Children’s Hospital Awasisak Indigenous Health Program (Awasisak program) is the first of its kind in Canada, ensuring Indigenous children and families receive adequate physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual support in a healthcare setting. The Awasisak program is based on a holistic care model that incorporates both Indigenous worldview (for example, the teachings of

Medicine Wheel and Seven Sacred Teachings) and western worldview, such as the Alberta Health Services Values and Strategies. The Awasisak program continues to improve their services to meet community needs. Some Awasisak services and supports include: ceremonial support, medical teachings,

appointment companion, discharge planning, and referrals to resources. The Awasisak team

provides learning opportunities to different populations to help them better understand the Indigenous worldview and Indigenous people’s needs. The team also builds and maintains partnerships with different organizations and communities to better serve Indigenous

communities in the healthcare setting and contribute to a more culturally-responsive environment. With the Awasisak Program’s work, the complex needs of Indigenous families have been better met and a more culturally-responsive environment has been created, contributing to holistically improved Indigenous families’ well-being.

Our goal is to build bridges for Indigenous Children and Families.



**Once An Awasisak Kid,
Always An Awasisak Kid**

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**Service Impact
Highlights**

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**Indigenous
Teaching**

North/Mental/Mind/Elder

The teachings, we give our learnings back to others, evoking people's thinking.

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Learning

East/Spiritual/Spirit/New Born

The new beginning, we believe we need to learn from our culture, heritage, communities, and past to guide our program.

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Impact

West/Physical/Body/Adult

The impact, we changed historical Indigenous hospital experience and improved Indigenous children and families' well-being.

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Our Work

South/Emotional/Feeling/ Youth

The process, we work from our heart, and have emotional journeys with Indigenous children and families.

**The
Awasisak Program
Was Honoured with
Children's Miracle Network Hospitals
Impact Award of Canada**

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IMPACT

From September 2020 to March 2021,

The Awasisak Program served **274** Families from

80 Indigenous communities in **6** Provinces

(Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan).

The Awasisak team provided **1004** in-Person visits,

601 telephone calls, and **488** visit attempts to Indigenous families;

as well as **839** consultations to service providers.

An Awasisak child with his family

HONOURED WITH CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS IMPACT AWARD OF CANADA



The Awasisak team with the Award. From left to right: Shawna Marcel, *Administrative Assistant*, Audrey Thomas, *Pediatric Social Worker*, Sherri Di Lallo, *Manager/Team Lead*, Dale Awasis, *Elder/Advisor*, Chrystal Plante, *Child and Family Engagement Coordinator*, Shang Dong, *Research and Evaluation Coordinator*, and Morilynn McRann-McLean, *Pediatric Social Worker*.

Sherri Di Lallo and the Awasisak Indigenous Health Program at the Stollery Children's Hospital was honoured with the 2020 Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospital's Impact Award for Canada at Children's Hospital Week 2021. This Award honours a front-line health care worker or team who have made a significant impact on the care provided to children in their hospital.

“I work from my heart, and I just want to serve and do the best that I can to support our families.”

Sherri Di Lallo

Awasisak Program Manager/Team Lead

Upon the announcement of the award, CEO & President of Children's Hospital Foundations stated the following: “We value the Awasisak program because it meets a short and long-term need, helps to overcome immense challenges relating to accessibility, and is highly innovative while focusing on children, families and communities. Thank you Sherri for all that you do for kids and marginalized groups to increase access to culturally safe and eq-

uitable services”.

“Thank you so much, I work from my heart, and I just want to serve and do the best that I can to support our families,” says Sherri. “I'm honoured to be a part of this process, and I'm so glad that I'm making a difference for these families that so deserve the best care.”

Thank you, Sherri, and the entire Awasisak team, for providing a culturally safe space for Indigenous children and families in the Stollery's backyard.

Find more information from the video below. You can also access the video by clicking: [2021 CMN Hospitals Impact Award - Sherri di Lallo - YouTube](#)



Click the play button to play the video.

The Awasisak Program Was Featured on CBC News and Global News

Sherri Di Lallo, the Awasisak Manager/Team Lead was invited to be featured on Global News, while Sherri and Dale Awasis, the Awasisak Elder/Advisor were invited to be interviewed by CBC News.

During the interviews, Sherri and Dale shared the way they supported Indigenous children and families in a healthcare setting. These interviews helped the general public to learn about the importance of providing high quality care to Indigenous children and families.

Find more information from the video below. It can also be accessed by clicking: <https://globalnews.ca/video/7648841/awasisak-indigenous-health-program-at-the-stollery-childrens-hospital/>



Click the play button to play the video.

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OUR WORK

We work from the heart and strive to support Indigenous children and families.



An Awasisak family from Chateh, Alberta

ONCE AN AWASISAK KID, ALWAYS AN AWASISAK KID.

Imagine living in a community 982 kilometres away from Edmonton, where there is no train or buildings taller than three storeys. Your child is sick, but the community nursing station cannot provide the level of care needed and your child needs to be transferred to a hospital in Edmonton as soon as possible. You travel to that city and you stay at your child's room for days without leaving or eating anything, because you do not know where you can go to eat or sleep. What is worse is that you do not completely understand your child's situation, because of the medical terms your child's care team uses and you do not know how to ask questions.

This is a common case the Awasisak team works with. By understanding the unique and complex healthcare needs of Indigenous children and families, the Awasisak program provides services and support to help to decrease barriers to accessing healthcare and ensure equitable healthcare, no matter where they are from.

The program provides services and support in a holistic, culturally-responsive way. Being dis-

Holistic Services And Support Are Provided to Indigenous Children and Families

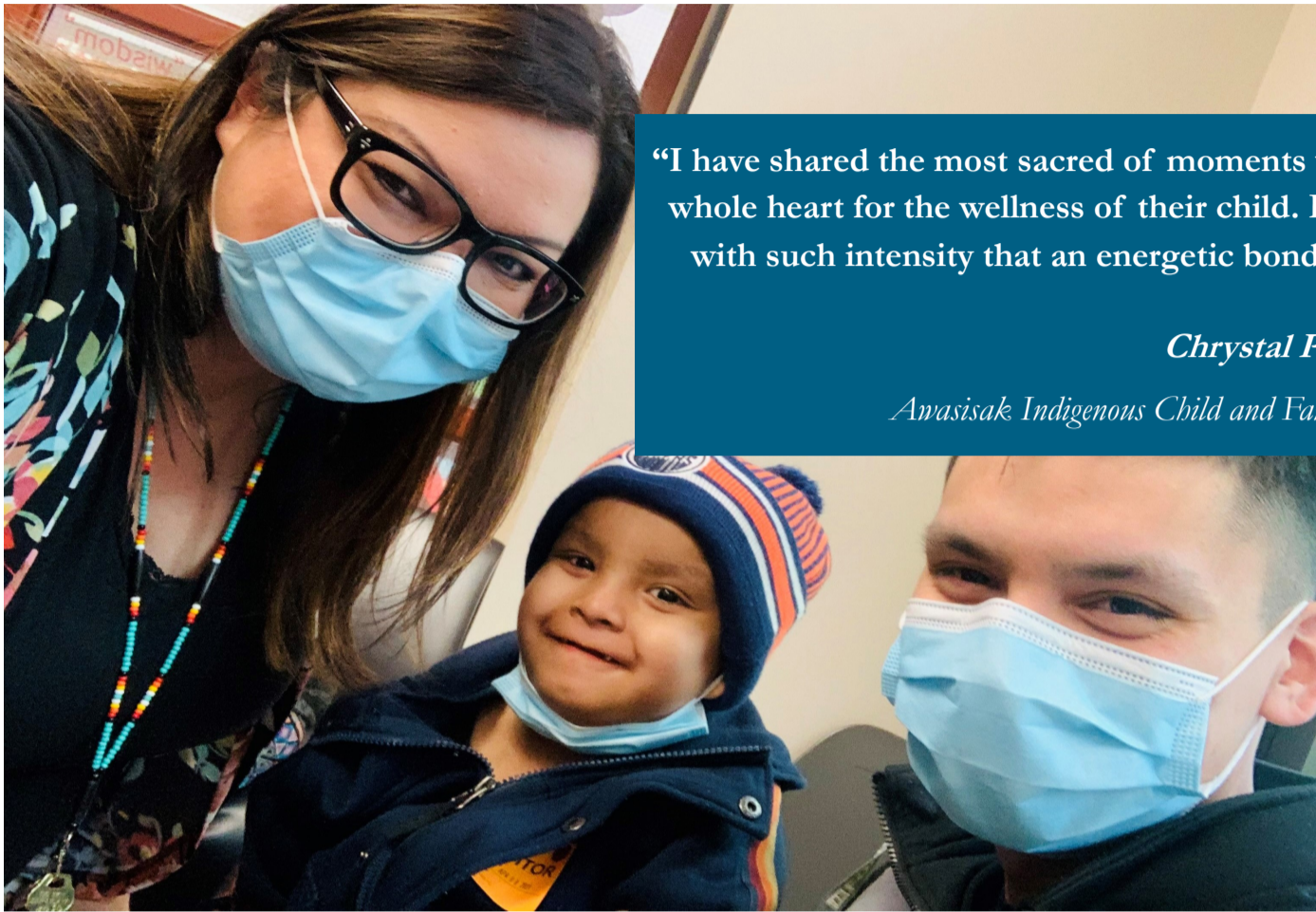
charged from the Stollery Children's Hospital does not mean the end of the program's support. Many families that the Awasisak team supported years ago still connect with the team to this day.

The Awasisak team can start providing support for Indigenous children and families even before they get admitted in the hospital. The team collects the patient's information from different sources, such as local nursing stations, partnered healthcare professionals, and community members, to better develop the patient's care plan.

When the patients and families are in the hospital, the Awasisak team provides them with mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual support through

activities such as smudging, daily check-ins, facility tours, appointment navigation, services referrals, and medical teachings. The team actively communicates and collaborates with service providers from different areas to provide high quality care to the patient and their family. The team also assists the patient's care team to develop a discharge plan to transition back to community, bridging the gap between cultural professional understanding and real world condition in rural and remote communities. Outpatient follow-up services are provided after the children being discharged, such as phone call check-ins and family case conferences between the family, the Awasisak team, the local nursing station, and different healthcare providers. Occasionally, some children get readmitted to the hospital, and their families always let the Awasisak team know beforehand, because of the trust built with the team. The Awasisak program provides Indigenous children and families with support at different stages of their hospital stays, hoping to provide them a comfortable and safe environment, improve their hospital experience, and better their well-being.

WE SHARE LAUGHTERS AND TEARS TOGETHER



“I have shared the most sacred of moments with parents who are praying with their whole heart for the wellness of their child. I have shared tears, laughter and relief with such intensity that an energetic bond is created through these moments.”

Chrystal Plante

Awasisak Indigenous Child and Family Engagement Coordinator

Chrystal Plante, the Awasisak Indigenous Child and Family Engagement Coordinator with an Awasisak family

All Awasisak team members have experienced emotional moments with their patients and families. Audrey Thomas, the first Indigenous social worker at the Stollery Children’s Hospital (Stollery), has been working with Indigenous children and families for 15 years. Having Indigenous heritage and being a fluent Cree speaker, she can help in a way that other non-Indigenous social workers can’t. “As soon as I speak Cree to them, I see their barriers go down. Sharing a language opens so many doors. Suddenly the hospital isn’t so terrifying because they’ve connected with someone who understands their ways and life experiences. It’s like they’ve

found a friend or family member to help them through,” says Audrey.

To meet the needs identified by different communities and organizations, Chrystal Plante was hired

“As soon as I speak Cree to them, I see their barriers go down. Sharing a language opens so many doors.”

Audrey Thomas

Awasisak Social Worker

to be the first Awasisak Indigenous Child and Family Engagement Coordinator. This position was designed to be a host for the Indigenous children and families when they first come to the Stollery. By providing hospital tours, appointment navigation, and casual meetups to the Indigenous families, she aims to create a safe and comfortable environment for them and reduce their stress level.

Aside from providing mental and emotional support to the patients and families, Chrystal also provides them with cultural support. “I have shared the most sacred of moments with parents who are praying with their whole heart for the wellness of their child;” says Chrystal, “I have shared tears, laughter and relief with such intensity that an energetic bond is created through these moments.”

Tyler Morin is the Awasisak Registered Nurse Case Manager who works at both Stollery sites, the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH) and the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH). She says, “I have been acting as a bridge for communication and connecting resources for families at the RAH Stollery Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). I have been able to connect families that are transferred from the RAH Stollery NICU to the UAH Stollery site to the Awasisak team for support. I have been able to follow families in the community and ensure continued connection and support through different healthcare agencies.”

The Awasisak program also plays an important role in creating an Indigenous-safe space in a healthcare setting. “I have been able to create safe spaces for Indigenous families in the NICU,” says Tyler, “including introducing smudging in areas that it has not been done before.”

The Awasisak team hopes every Indigenous family who accesses the Stollery can receive high quality of care. As Sherri Di Lallo, the Awasisak Team Lead said, “We are here to support you”.

“I have been acting as a bridge for communication and connecting resources for families.”

Tyler Morin

Awasisak Registered Nurse Case Manager



Dale Awasis, Awasisak Advisor/ Elder

An Elder Was Hired to Provide Further Cultural Support And Services

Dale Awasis comes from Thunderchild First Nation, Saskatchewan but has been in Alberta for years now. Dale is a teacher by trade and has worked in the area of education for many years. He is involved as a practitioner of the Nehiyaw Ways. He also participates

and conducts some of the traditional ceremonies. With Dale’s knowledge and experience, the Awasisak program is able to provide a wider range of cultural services to different populations and communities.

Some supports and services Dale can provide are: Morning Prayer and Smudge, Weekly Virtual Prayer Cir-

cles, Feast, Monthly and Annual Cultural Ceremonies. He is also available for patient and/or family consults and can provide cultural teachings for interested focus groups. Different from many existing Indigenous training sessions, Dale’s focus is to help people better understand the Indigenous culture and history through

sharing real-life examples and experience.

You can contact Dale Awasis, Elder/Advisor at:

Cell: 587-926-3533

Office: 780-407-6911

Pager: 780-445-2278, or

Email: dale.awasis@ahs.ca



Far left: Awasisak team members and the food table (from left to right: Shawna Marcel, Administrative Assistant, Chrystal Plante, Child and Family Engagement Coordinator, Audrey Thomas, Pediatric Social Worker)

Middle: Chrystal Plante, the Awasisak Child and Family Engagement Coordinator handed out food to a Stollery Children's Hospital staff

Left: Awasisak team and the program information desk (from left to right: Shawna Marcel, Administrative Assistant, Sherri Di Lallo, Team Lead/Manager, Chrystal Plante, Child and Family Engagement Coordinator, Audrey Thomas, Pediatric Social Worker)

GOOD TIMES TODAY!

Building a culturally-responsive environment

The Awasisak Team has organized different events to help people understand the Indigenous culture and increase Indigenous presence in a healthcare setting.

While providing consultation services and training workshops to healthcare professionals, the Awasisak team also came up with some innovative ways to build a culturally-responsive environment. The Awasisak team recognized that a culturally-responsive environment goes beyond the healthcare setting. So the Awasisak team organized the following events for people from different backgrounds, communities and organizations, including healthcare providers, community-based service providers, non-clinical staff, and the general public. Some events the Awasisak program hosted in 2020

are: Allyship in Action Initiative Talking Circle, Indigenous art contest and information desk on National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21, 2020), as well as orange shirt sale and photo shoot on Orange Shirt Day (September 30, 2020). The purpose of these activities is to educate people and promote awareness in the healthcare facilities about the history, culture, traditions and contributions of Indigenous People, as well as barriers and challenges they face. These activities were designed with the consideration of the pandemic restrictions. For example, physical distancing and/or constant masking were followed and the information desk was sanitized often.

Lots of people participated in these events; and most participants expressed their appreciation for the events. They said, through these events, they gained some knowledge and understanding about the traditions and values of Indigenous people and communities as well as the barriers they experience. Considering these events were successful in helping people better understand Indigenous culture and the current situation of Indigenous people, the Awasisak team will continue organizing similar events to address this need in the future.



Above: The Awasisak team and leadership on Orange Shirt Day



Far left: First-ever Indigenous Day Art Contest winners and their artwork

Middle: First-ever Indigenous Day Art Contest winners and their artwork

Left: Artwork submitted for the First-ever Indigenous Day Art Contest



WE BRING SERVICES TO YOU

Teddy Bear Fairs were held in remote Indigenous communities, where multi-disciplinary teams attend annually to provide children and families with resources and healthcare services, such as maternal child health, special education, and dietitian services. Its main purposes are to make healthcare services accessible and fun for Indigenous children and families living in rural and remote communities, and help the families become more aware of available resources and services.

The Awasisak team joined Teddy Bear Fairs in different Indigenous communities in 2019. Some of the communities are: Little Red River Cree Nation, Tallcree First Nation, and Fort Chipewyan. The team also assisted to connect the Teddy Bear Fair Coordinator with additional partners, such as Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, hoping to provide a broader range of services to Indigenous children and families.

At the Teddy Bear Fairs, the Awasisak team provided children and families with information on available resources and services in the hope of the families being able to access them in the future. They also had the chance to build and strengthen their relationships with local health centres and allied healthcare professionals.

Due to the Covid restrictions, the Teddy Bear Fairs were paused in 2020; however, this initiative will be continued in the future.



Picture 1: Awasisak team members and healthcare providers in Little Red River Cree Nation
Picture 2: Staff members and families at Teddy Bear Fairs in Little Red River Cree Nation
Picture 3: Staff members and families at Teddy Bear Fairs in Little Red River Cree Nation
Picture 4: Picture of Fort Chipewyan Airport from an airplane
Picture 5: Temporary playground set up by Teddy Bear Fairs in Fort Chipewyan
Picture 6: Teddy Bear Fairs venue in Fort Chipewyan





ALLIED SERVICES BLASTS THE NORTH

The Awasisak program has been implementing Allyship in Action Initiative since 2020. The Awasisak team has built meaningful relationships with professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds by engaging them through Talking Circles and other events, leading to better care for Indigenous children and families in healthcare facilities and in their local communities. Collaboration with the Tamaca Services team was captured in the picture above.

Together We Work Better

The Awasisak Program collaborates with different organizations to provide outreach services for rural Indigenous communities.

Upon hearing the concerns coming from Indigenous communities, one of the priorities the Awasisak program identified is to improve the accessibility of healthcare for Indigenous children. An Outreach Model was developed to guide the Awasisak team to provide high-quality outreach services. This model has four steps: (1) collaborate with different organizations and communities, (2) establish Stollery Awasisak Indigenous Health Program, (3) implement Telehealth in both hospitals and Indigenous communities, and (4) develop Stollery Pediatric Ambulatory Clinic and Trav-

el Team to discuss the implementation of outreach clinics in rural and remote Indigenous communities.

The program has already completed the first three steps and is working on Step 4. Some partnered organizations and communities are: First Nations Health Consortium, Treaty 8 Urban Office, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Settlement General Council, Stollery Children's Hospital, and Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

Outreach services provided by the Awasisak program include: on-site direct consultation services, phone and virtual consultation services, consult to nursing, and program development. The

Awasisak team has been supporting many local nursing stations and vice versa. For example, the team is able to provide consultation to local health centres, and these centres provide the team with a brief overview of their patients who will be admitted to the Stollery Children's Hospital.

In 2021, the Awasisak team aims to establish connections with more service-providing organizations and Indigenous communities, more importantly, to start implementing outreach clinics in rural and remote communities.



Little Red River Cree Nation

LEARNING

The Awasisak team learns from people with different backgrounds. First of its kind, the Awasisak Program also strives to build the evidence base for others to learn.

WE LEARN FROM THE COMMUNITIES

Identifying Community Needs through Talking Circles

Understanding The Importance of Cultural Ceremonies

The Awasisak team attended a Ribbon Skirt Teaching Workshop (August 15, 2020) and a Drumming Ceremony (September 25, 2020) to gain further understanding of the importance of Indigenous traditional cultural ceremonies.

Through the teachings provided by the workshop instructors, the Awasisak team members said that they had gained a better understanding of culturally-centred processes and content. They also expressed they were able to explain Indigenous cultural ceremonies to other people more clearly, which would help them better bridge Indigenous and western worlds.

Because of the success of these two events, online cultural events (such as Prayer Circle) facing the public will be delivered in 2021.



Tyler Morin, the Awasisak Registered Nurse Case Manager, sewing a ribbon skirt.

Talking Circles were held in different Indigenous communities to ensure their voices are heard. Talking Circles were conducted across northern Alberta communities from 2017 to 2019. In 2019, Talking Circles serve two main purposes: (1) to invite leadership from northern healthcare to hear stories from community members, and (2) to help brainstorm ideas to help Indigenous people overcome systematic barriers that prevent equitable access to health services.

In 2019, Talking Circles were held in six cities: Grande Prairie, Slave Lake, High Level, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, and Cold Lake. Indigenous people and representatives from different organizations participated in these Talking Circles. There were 61% of participants self-identifying as Indigenous.

During these Talking Circles, participants sat in a circle and passed a sacred object to show who is speaking. The hosts ensured all participants had the chance to voice their



A sacred item, beaded turtle, and a microphone were held by the speaker.



Talking Circle Held at the Stollery Children's Hospital

concerns and thoughts. Relationships and connections were also built between participants from different healthcare organizations.

With the support from the Health Systems Evaluation & Evidence (HSEE) team, the information collected from the Talking Circles was analyzed and presented in a report format every year. Despite the fact the participating communities and participants were different, the emerging themes in 2019 align with the ones from 2017 and 2018, which were categorized into: (1) healthcare challenges experienced by Indigenous communities and (2) priority action items to improve healthcare services access as voiced by Indigenous community members.

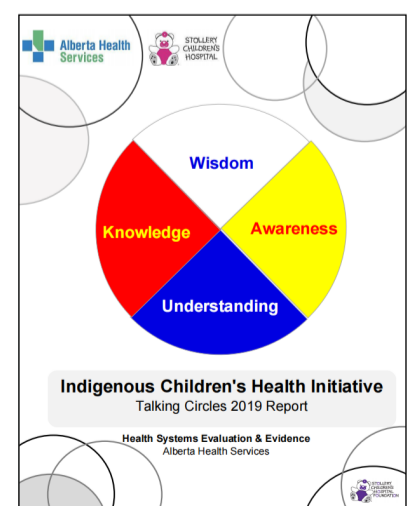
The Awasisak team hopes the Talking Circle reports can

benefit leadership's decision-making process by providing them with the evidence from grassroots organizations and Indigenous communities.

The Awasisak program used the findings from the Talking Circles on different levels. For their program development, the Awasisak team identified four work priorities: (1) capacity building, (2) continuity of care, (3) culturally-responsive care, and (4) increased communication. Taking immediate actions to improve Awasisak services, the position of Child and Family Engagement Coordinator was designed to be the host for Indigenous families at the Stollery Children's Hospital.

There is limited information and evidence on how to provide culturally responsive services to Indigenous children in a healthcare setting. Shar-

ing the Awasisak experiences and distributing the Talking Circle reports provide community-based evidence for interested organizations and communities, as well as researchers. Article "Talking Circles: A Culturally Responsive Evaluation Practice" is now published in Volume 41, Issue 3 of American Journal of Evaluation. In 2021, the team aims to continue using the findings for program development.



Front page of the 2019 Talking Circle Report

WE LEARN FROM OUR HERITAGE

The Awasisak program embraces both Indigenous worldviews and western medical views such as Alberta Health Services (AHS) Values and Strategies to best support Indigenous children and families.



WE LEARN FROM OUR PAST

The Awasisak program started the evaluation process to better their practices and measure its success.

The Awasisak program started evaluating their program to better their services and measure the program's effectiveness. A Research and Evaluation Coordinator was hired to support the evaluation process. A logic model, to depict program activities and intended effects or outcomes, was developed and has been utilized by the Awasisak team.

The logic model was developed based on the program priorities, the Talking Circle findings, existing program documents, evaluator's field observation, and meetings with key team members. To ensure the logic model respects and represents Indigenous culture and values, interviews with the Awasisak Elder and Indigenous people were conducted for cultural teachings.

Instead of a traditional, linear western logic model or theory of change, this model is inspired by the

worldview and values of Indigenous communities, a holistic, non-linear approach. The program itself as well as the evaluation process are not still; instead, they are constantly moving and evolving. This model is a snapshot of the "real-world situation, like pressing a pause button".

The program intended effects (outcomes) and the activities constantly influence each other. By implementing activities, outcomes can be achieved; and by evaluating the program effects, both intended and unintended, the team can change their practices accordingly to provide better support.

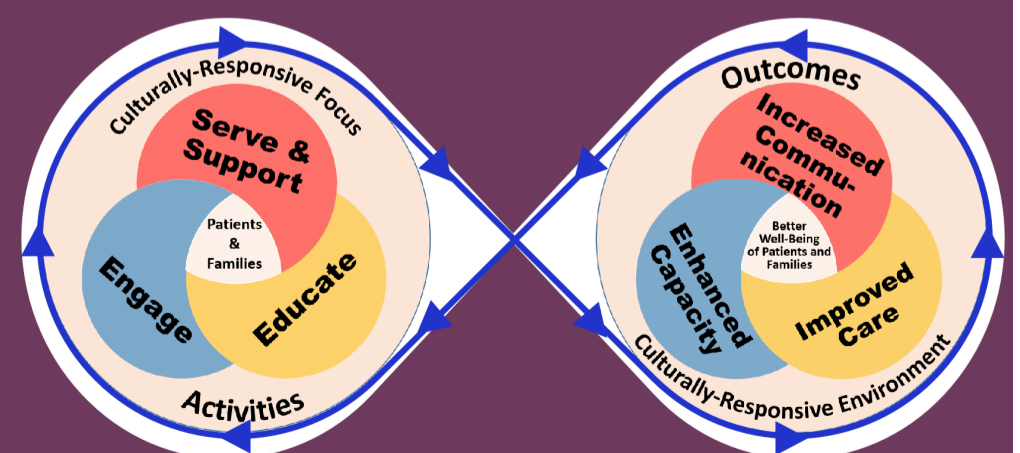
Based on this logic model, a list of questions were designed to help the Awasisak team better understand the relationship between their practices and the program's intended effects. These questions were regularly discussed with real-life complex cases during team meetings, helping the

team to recognize their successes, the program's impacts, and areas of improvement.

A questionnaire was also developed to measure the effects of family case conferences for Indigenous children and families. The questionnaire was sent to attendees who are service providers after the conference. The collected information shows that the presence of the Awasisak team members: (1) helped the service providers to better understand the family's situation and (2) improved the commu-

nication between the families and non-Indigenous service providers.

In 2021, more information collection tools will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the Awasisak program. The collected information will be summarized to identify the program's success, help improve the program's effectiveness, and inform programming decisions.



The Awasisak Program Logic Model

WE PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Awasisak program provides cultural teachings to healthcare professionals, non-clinical staff and the general public, as well as teachings to Indigenous children and families for their well-being.

The Awasisak Program provides cultural learning opportunities in many ways, including service consultations, training workshops, cultural teaching sessions, conference presentations, and publications. Since the program is the first of its kind in Canada, the Awasisak team is able to provide a unique perspective on Indigenous children healthcare in Canada. By sharing their experiences, they hope to increase people's knowledge of Indigenous culture and how to support Indigenous people, especially children, in a culturally responsive way.

Unlike many existing cultural teaching opportunities, the Awasisak Program provides teachings on Indigenous culture and history with a twist of using real-life examples. By doing this, the team aims to help people better understand how Indigenous history and culture

impact Indigenous people's daily life. Some teaching topics include: The Importance of Traditional Indigenous Ceremony, Generational Impacts on Indigenous Health due to Government Indian Policy, and Realities of On-Reserve Life.

Considering different populations have different learning interests, the Awasisak team tailors their training workshops to best meet different groups' needs. For example, the team provides training sessions on how to deliver culturally responsive care in a healthcare setting



An Elder playing the drum during a drumming ceremony

to clinical staff. By sharing the Awasisak experiences in plain language through conference presentations and publications, the information becomes more accessible and digestible to the general public.

The team believes that empowering the Indigenous children and families is a sustainable way to better their well-being. So they offer a wide range of teachings to Indigenous children and families, such as medical teachings, how to search and access available resources and services, and how to



Audrey Thomas (left), Awasisak Social Worker, providing teachings on Talking Circles

advocate for themselves.

In the future, the Awasisak team will collect more information from different com-

munities to understand their learning interests, in order to provide them with better cultural teaching support.

The Awasisak Team Presented at A National Conference

Sherri Di Lallo, the Awasisak Health Program Team Lead and Chrystal Plante, the Awasisak Child and Family Engagement Co-

ordinator presented at the 2020 Children's Healthcare Canada Annual Conference—Building Bridges: On the road to healthcare equity. The presentation, Stollery

Awasisak Indigenous Health: Bridging the Gap, described their way to support Indigenous children and families and focused on five learnings: understanding rural and remote communities, bridging the gap between cultural understanding and real world condition in remote communities, recognizing the importance of ceremonial integration, Indigenous voices to provide Indigenous solutions, and how Awasisak Health has managed to complement a cultural shift with the Stollery Children's Hospital.



Presented by: moms & kids, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Signature Sponsor: JIM PATTON

Poster of Building Bridges: On the road to healthcare equity

CLASSIFIEDS

PRAYER CIRCLES ARE NOW ONLINE!

The Awasisak Elder/Advisor, Dale Awasis hosts online Prayer Circles every Monday to provide Indigenous and non-Indigenous healthcare staff members with Cultural and Spiritual support. For more information, please contact the Awasisak office at 780-407-2313 or Awasisak@ahs.ca.

We Provide TOBACCO TIES!

Traditional Nehiyaw protocol requires the offering of tobacco first. Tobacco Ties are provided for those who wish to have prayers and/or requests.

Tobacco Ties can be picked up and dropped off at the following locations:

Stollery Children's Hospital
Awasisak Office 4H2. 36
Family Room 4H2. 02



OUR TEAM



Sherri Di Lallo
Manager/ Team Lead



Shawna Marcel
Administrative Assistant



Dale Awasis
Elder/ Advisor



Audrey Thomas
Social Worker



Morilynn McRann-McLean
Social Worker



Chrystal Plante
Child and Family Engagement Coordinator



Tyler Morin
Registered Nurse Case Manager



Shang Dong
Research and Evaluation Coordinator

Our Team are the people who care, share and dream!

Seven Sacred Teachings



TRUTH

The turtle teaches to acknowledge that racism and prejudice still exists within healthcare.



WISDOM

The beaver teaches to raise awareness to leadership to help Indigenous people.



LOVE

The eagle teaches to invest in children by providing more services and resources.



RESPECT

The buffalo teaches to advocate for holistic care and hostility free environments.



HUMILITY

The wolf teaches to promote Indigenous awareness training to avoid misconceptions.



HONESTY

The sable teaches to participate in Talking Circles to increase communication.



COURAGE

The bear teaches to build trust by encouraging collaboration and addressing trauma.



On behalf of the Stollery Children's Hospital, we want to extend our gratitude to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and to the numerous donors for all their support in helping us achieve world class care!

Hai Hai (Cree)

Marsi Chok (Dene)

Nitsiniyi'taki (Blackfoot)

Isniyes (Nakota)

Thank You (English)

Contact Information

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