Reflecting on Inuit Healthcare and Research

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Professor of Practice
Inuit Nunangat
Here for a while

- Four Inuit cultures – Pre-Dorset (2000-500 BCE) Dorset (500 BCE to 1000-1500 CE), Thule (200 BCE to 1600 CE) and modern Inuit - have inhabited northern North America
- **Inuit Nunangat** is the contemporary term used to describe the Inuit homeland in Canada: Inuvialuit region in the western Arctic; Nunavut; Nunavik (northern Quebec); and Nunatsiavut (northern Labrador)
- Canadian Inuit population 2016 was 65,025, which includes Inuit who live permanently or semi-permanently in southern Canada, such as in St. John’s NL, Montreal, Ottawa and Edmonton
Indigenous... but not First Nations

- The 1876 Indian Act has never applied to Inuit; Inuit do not have “status” and our communities are not on “federal” or “reserve” land.
- Inuit were nevertheless deemed a federal responsibility under the 1867 Constitution Act because of a 1939 Supreme Court of Canada decision known as Re: Eskimo.
- Inuit pursued recognition of their rights and lands through land claims negotiations that resulted in modern treaties, beginning with the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which covers the Eeyou (James Bay Cree) and the Nunavik Inuit.
- The most recent Inuit modern treaty is the 2005 Labrador Inuit Final Land Claims Agreement, which created the Nunatsiavut Government, of which I am a beneficiary.
- Suggested resource: How to talk about Indigenous people, YouTube.
Where we ended up
Breaking stereotypes

• Lydia Brooks Blake Campbell (1818-1905) was my great-great-great-grandmother (r, in photo)

• In 2009, she was recognized as a “Person of National Historical Significance” by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

• Her Memoir Sketches of Labrador Life was published in a Newfoundland newspaper in 1894; she was the first Labradorian, and probably the first person of Inuit ancestry, to have written work published in Canada

• She describes herself as “a native of this country, Labrador’s Hamilton’s Inlet, Eskimaux Bay.”
Breaking stereotypes

**Labrador Inuit Nurses**

Rhyna McLean
1936-2017
North West River/Labrador
City, Labrador

Millicent Blake Loder
1915-2003
Rigolet/North West River,
Labrador
Some concepts

- **Inuit Qauqimajatuqangit** (IQ): that which has long been known by Inuit; Inuit traditional knowledge, institutions, or technology
- **Inuuqatigiitsiarniq**: respect and care for others
- **Cultural humility**: (Tervalon and Murray-Garcia, 1998)

*Suggested resource: “What is Cultural Safety and Humility? ‘Creating a Climate for Change’”, [www.fnha.ca](http://www.fnha.ca)*
Question for discussion

• My closest colleague in my work (medical practice; research project) is an Indigenous person.

• How does this change the way I work?