Truth and Reconciliation in Practice:
Creating a culturally safe environment for Indigenous community members, health professionals and learners

A Bicentennial panel event organized by
the Indigenous Health Professions Program

November 2, 2021, 4:30 – 6 pm

Watch the panel event

During this timely discussion, our panel of Indigenous experts in a variety of health-related fields will explore the current context and why it is imperative that universities and health care institutions offer spaces where Indigenous patients, health professionals and students feel culturally safe. Sharing their own varied professional and personal experiences, they will reflect on what must change if we are to transform our institutions for the better, for everyone.
Moderator: Richard Budgell

Richard Budgell was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine in 2020. He is a Labrador Inuk and lectures, writes and does research on Inuit health. Prior to joining McGill he was a federal government public servant in First Nations and Inuit health and other Indigenous fields for more than 30 years. Has was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for exemplary public service in his role in the creation of the Aboriginal Head Start program, an early childhood development program for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and families. He has an MA in Canadian Studies (Aboriginal concentration) from Carleton University and began doctoral studies in History at McGill in 2021. He is involved in a variety of research projects, including Inuit cultural safety in health care and the Inuit community in southern Quebec.

Elder: Calvin Jacobs

Calvin Jacobs is from Kahnawake. As a young child, Calvin was introduced to the Culture and the Medicines by his aunt. For the last 25 years Calvin has worked with Traditional Elders and Medicine People gaining knowledge about the traditions and culture of the Haudenosaunee people. He has been working at the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre for the last 37 years as a
Rehabilitation Assistant, 15 years as Language Culture Coordinator and Traditional Medicine Helper. He is also a Faithkeeper in the Longhouse of the Haudenosaunee. Calvin is a proud father of two, a traditional drummer and singer. He also helps to perform ceremonies and traditional healings.

Panellists

Elaine Kilabuk

Elaine Kilabuk is an Inuk physician from Pangnirtung, Nunavut. She graduated from McGill’s medical school in 2015 and completed her General Internal Medicine training and fellowship in Ottawa. She currently works at The Ottawa Hospital in Ottawa, ON, and Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, Nunavut. She has a special interest in point of care ultrasound, social determinants of health and Indigenous health.

Alex M. McComber
Alex M. McComber is Kanien’kehá:ka Bear Clan from Kahnawake Territory near Montreal; he is a husband, father and grandfather. He was teacher and principal at the Kahnawake Survival School from 1978 to 1994 and has worked with the Kahnawake Schools Diabetes Prevention Program since 1994, currently as a community advisor and researcher. Alex is Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, and lecturer in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education. Alex’s areas of expertise include Indigenous research methodologies, decolonizing strategies, cultural safety education, community ethics, patient participation in health research, health promotion, community mobilization, personal empowerment and diabetes prevention.

Glenda Sandy

Glenda Sandy, RN, MSc, is a Naskapi-Cree Nurse from Kawawachikamach, QC. Her Master’s in Community Health was on an exploration of Naskapi Miyupiimaatisiiun, a Naskapi meaning of health. She is a Nurse Advisor for the Nunavik Public Health and is an Indigenous Nursing Consultant for McGill’s Ingram School of Nursing.

A special Bicentennial edition of the Andrew F. Holmes VP-Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences Distinction Lectures

McGill Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences