



LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



Changing Mindsets

1.3 Increase the number of organizations providing Indigenous Cultural Safety training

The Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) program is offered Ontario-wide and administered by SOAHAC. Anti-Indigenous racial discrimination and bias have profound negative impacts on the health and wellness of Indigenous communities in Ontario. The Ontario ICS Program is focused on supporting Indigenous Health transformation as part of the overall health and social service systems transformation underway in Ontario. The goal is to improve Indigenous healthcare experiences and outcomes by increasing respect and understanding of the unique history and current realities of Indigenous populations.

SOAHAC facilitates and promotes transformative decolonizing; Indigenous specific anti-racist education using evidence informed and coordinated approaches and strategies. They also work in collaborative partnerships and support organizational change initiatives, seeking to improve awareness about how colonialism is embedded in services, and motivating people with influence to address anti-Indigenous racial discrimination.

There are a number of ways that the Program advances its mission:

- Core online training for health and social service professionals (see below)
- Continued online training modules (post core training)
- In-person workshops, training and meetings convened to support organizational and system level transformation
- Provincial and national knowledge exchange efforts
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and research initiatives related to ICS
- Strategic, collaborative partnerships
- Partnership, coordination and promotion of a National ICS Webinar series ([link](#))

The SOAHAC team supports organizational and system level coordination and planning related to ICS. They are also interested in collaboration and knowledge exchange opportunities with existing Indigenous cultural safety initiatives.

City of London

All senior management and middle management employees at the City of London were offered Inter-cultural training and the Kairos Blanket Exercise.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise explores the history of Canada over 500 years from an Indigenous perspective. The Exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of “Turtle Island” and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. The Exercise was offered at all seven Family Centres in London to over 140 participants including Family Centre staff, partner agencies and members of the community; to build awareness of early Canadian history and the lasting impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples.

Getting to the Roots of Tolerance Workshop

This workshop explores the connection between attitudes and behaviours through a variety of engaging and thought-provoking activities and exercises. Participants explore models of cultural safety, stereotyping, and the Indigenous-specific colonial narratives that inform dominant attitudes in Canada. Participants reflect on their own attitudes and beliefs through an individual activity, and then apply this knowledge and insight to specific scenarios. The scenarios deal with service situations that are relevant to the participants’ experiences.

Participants gain a deeper understanding of the connection between attitudes and behaviours and a greater appreciation for the ways that this can play out differently in relationships with Indigenous families who access services.