

Factors influencing the utilization of cancer screening services in Canadian Indigenous peoples: results of the ACCESS project

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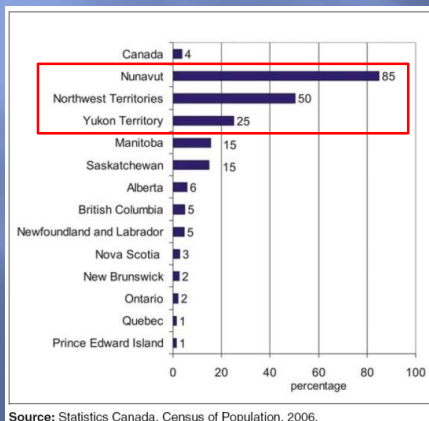
Outline

- ▣ Indigenous peoples in Canada
- ▣ ACCESS project
 - Objectives
 - Methods
 - Preliminary results
 - Discussion



Indigenous peoples in Canada

- Inuit, Métis, and First Nations
- Approximately 1,172,790 people

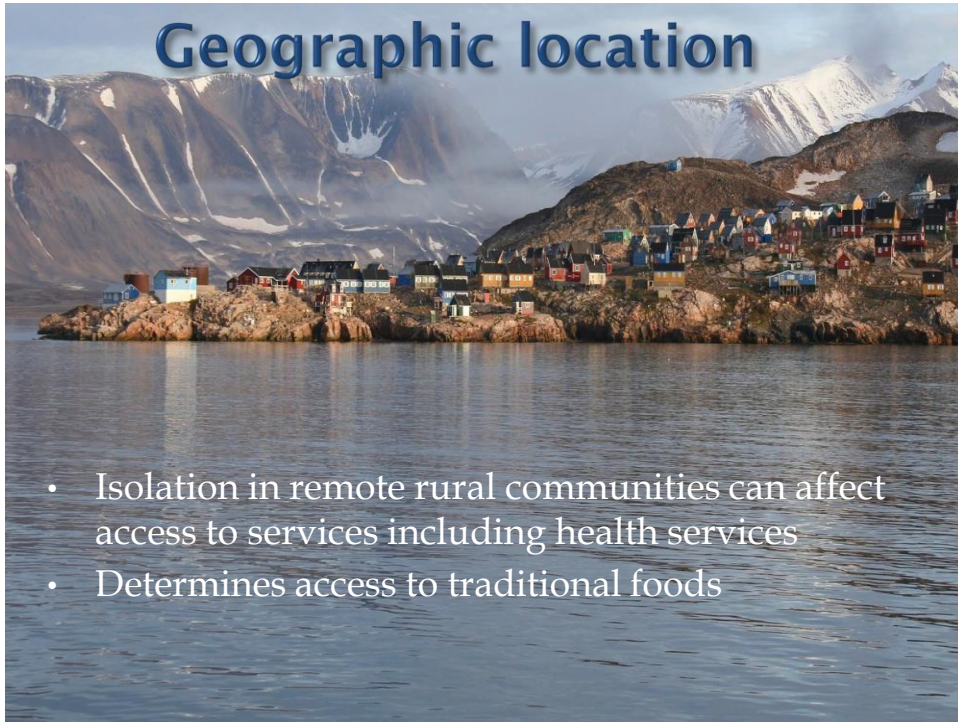


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2006.



Statistics Canada. CYB Overview 2008.

Geographic location



- Isolation in remote rural communities can affect access to services including health services
- Determines access to traditional foods

Arctic Indigenous Lifestyles



Replacement of traditional with
non-nutrient-dense market foods







Arctic Indigenous Lifestyles



•More sedentary



Canadian Indigenous Peoples' health

Compared to the non-Indigenous population:

- ▣ Faster population growth¹
 - 45% vs. 8%
- ▣ Younger¹
 - Median age: 27 vs. 40 years old
- ▣ 3-5 times higher diabetes prevalence²
- ▣ 12 years shorter life expectancy (Inuit)³

Additionally, 90% of Indigenous women in the Arctic (45-54 years) reported being overweight⁴

¹ Statistics Canada. CYB Overview 2008. www.statcan.gc.ca

² Young TK et al. Type 2 DM in Canada's FN: status of an epidemic in progress. CMAJ. 2000; 163(5):561-6.

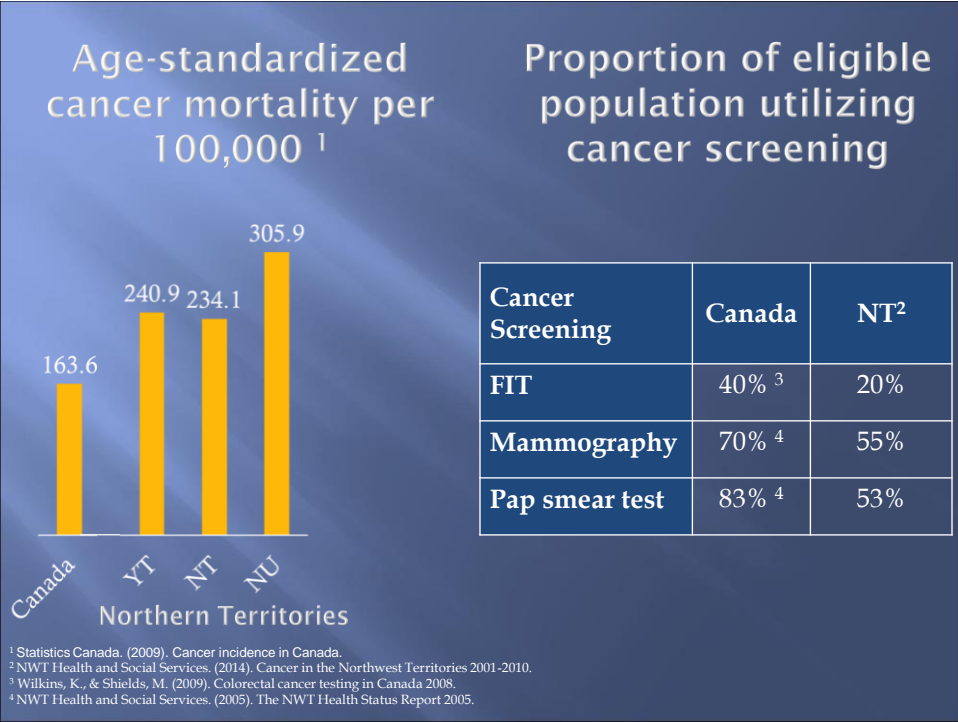
³ Wilkins R, Uppal S, Fines P, et al. Life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada, 1989 to 2003. Health reports / Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Health Information : 2008; 19(1):7-19.

⁴ MacMillan HL, MacMillan AB, Oford DR, et al. Aboriginal health. CMAJ. 1996; 155(11):1569-78; Kuhnlein HV, et al. Arctic indigenous peoples experience the nutrition transition with changing dietary patterns and obesity. J. Nutr. 2004; 134:1447-1453.)

Cancer in Canada ¹

- ▣ In 2007, it was estimated that 41% of females and 46% of males will develop cancer in their lifetime
- ▣ The leading cause of death
 - 1 in 4 Canadians died of cancer in 2009
- ▣ 4th costliest disease (\$17.4 billion)
- ▣ Increase in cancer incidence
 - Aging population
 - Growing population

¹ Canadian Cancer Society. (2013). Canadian Cancer Statistics



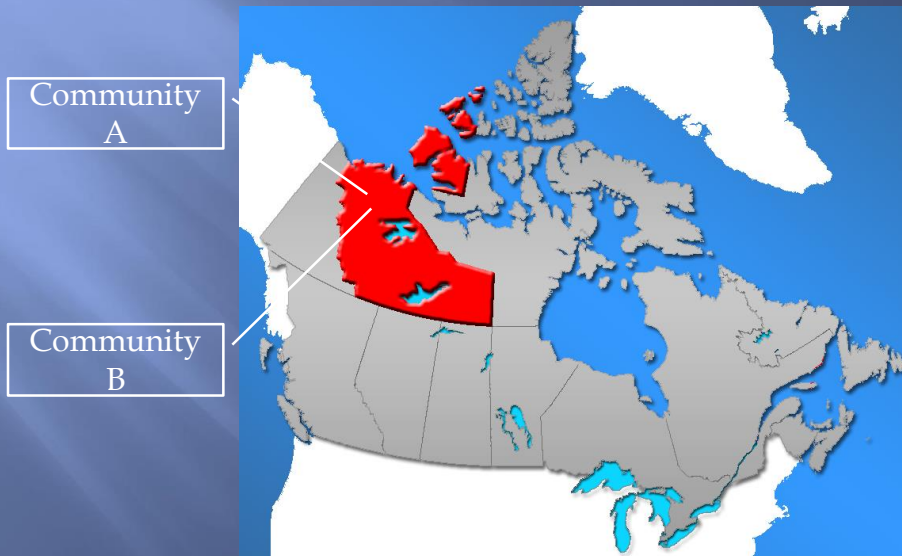
Objectives of the ACCESS project

- ▣ For cervical, breast, and colorectal cancers, determine:
 - Knowledge and attitudes toward cancer and cancer screening services
 - Uptake of cancer screening services
 - Predictors of utilization of cancer screening services
 - Barriers to, and opportunities for, improving the utilization of cancer screening services

Outcomes of the ACCESS project

- ▣ From the communities' perspectives, we identified:
 - Perceptions of participants towards healthcare services
 - Positive and negative factors influencing the uptake of cancer screening services
 - Strategies to promote the uptake of cancer screening services

Study Setting: two Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories



Study Setting

COMMUNITY A

- ▣ Population = 3,321
- ▣ Languages: English, Inuvialuktun, Gwich'in, North Slavey
- ▣ 1,265 private dwellings

COMMUNITY B

- ▣ Population = 559
- ▣ Languages: English, North Slavey
- ▣ 175 private dwellings
- ▣ All season access is by air. Road access only in winter.



December vs. April

10:45 AM



Method

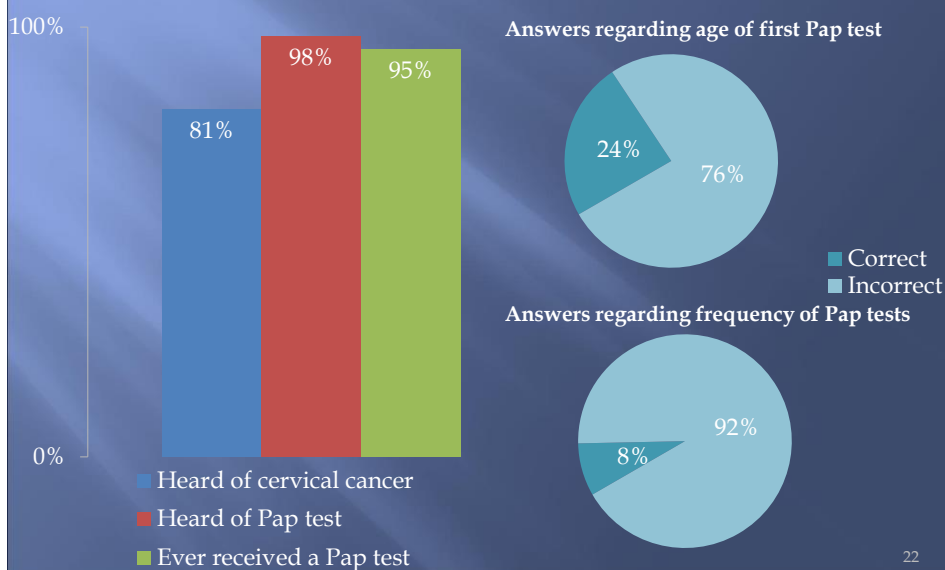
- ▣ **Eligibility:** All self-identified Indigenous women and men who have resided in either community for over 6 months.
 - Cervical cancer (women ≥ 20 yrs), breast cancer (women ≥ 50 yrs), and colorectal cancer (men and women ≥ 50 yrs)
- ▣ **Data collection:** Interviewer-administered questionnaires.
 - Demographic indices
 - Knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards cancer screening services
 - Experiences in utilizing healthcare services
- ▣ **Participants:** 366 total
 - 251 in Community A and 115 in Community B

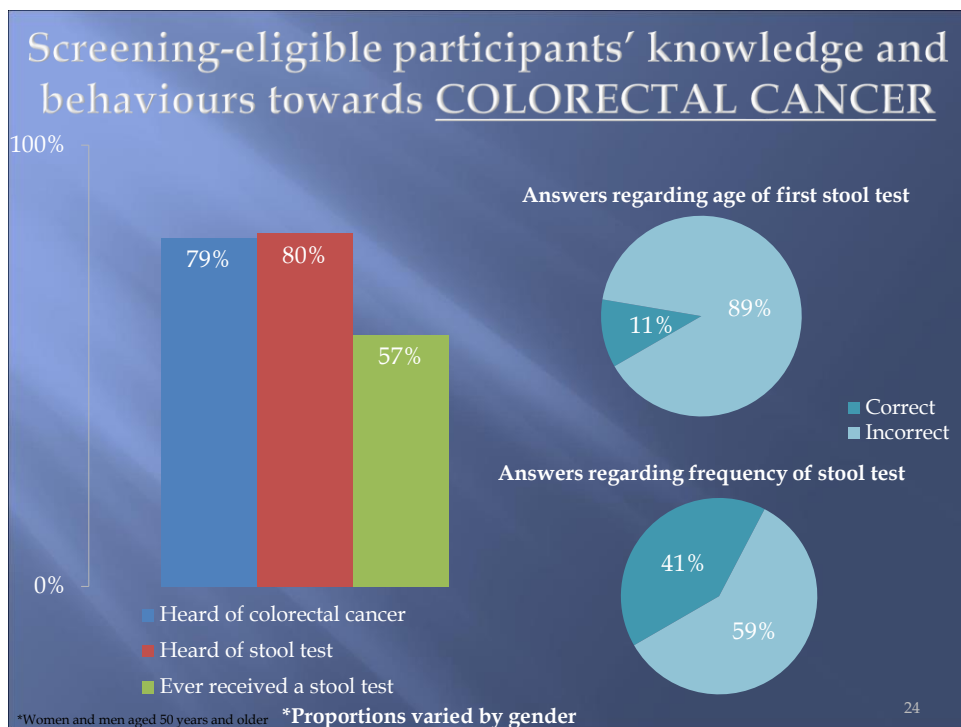
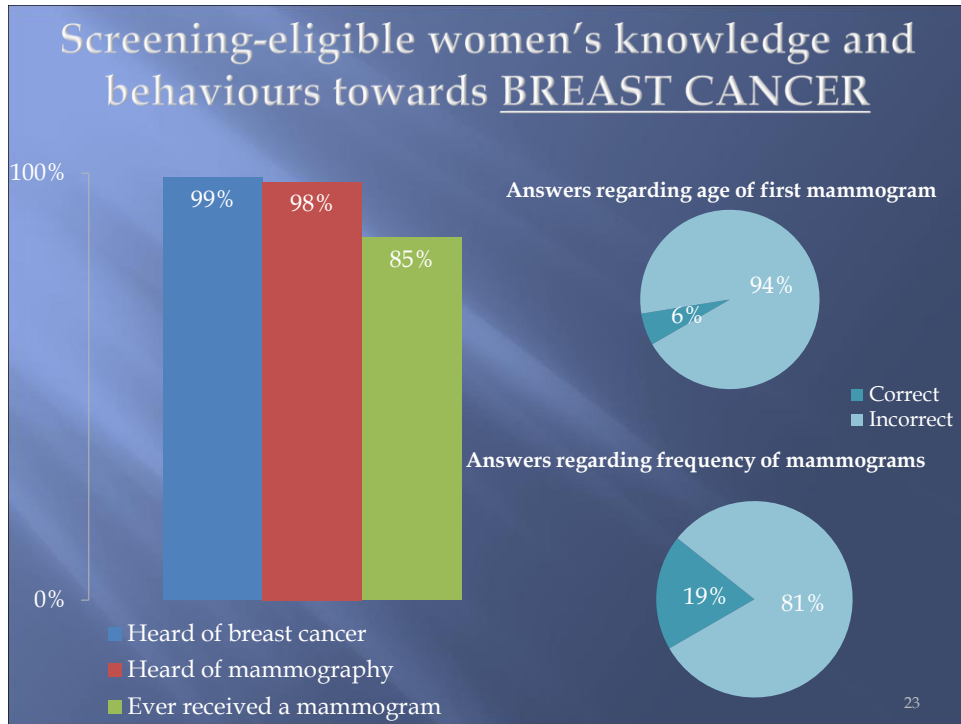
Method

- ▣ 4 sharing circles and 2 semi-structured one-on-one interviews (total n=6)
- ▣ Local healthcare providers, health promotion professionals, community stakeholders and Elders (n=11 in each community, total n=22)

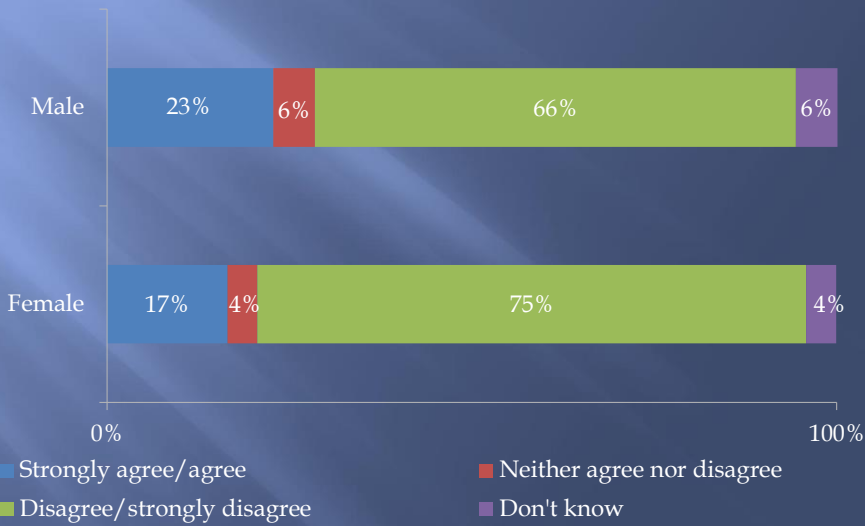


Screening-eligible women's knowledge and behaviours towards CERVICAL CANCER



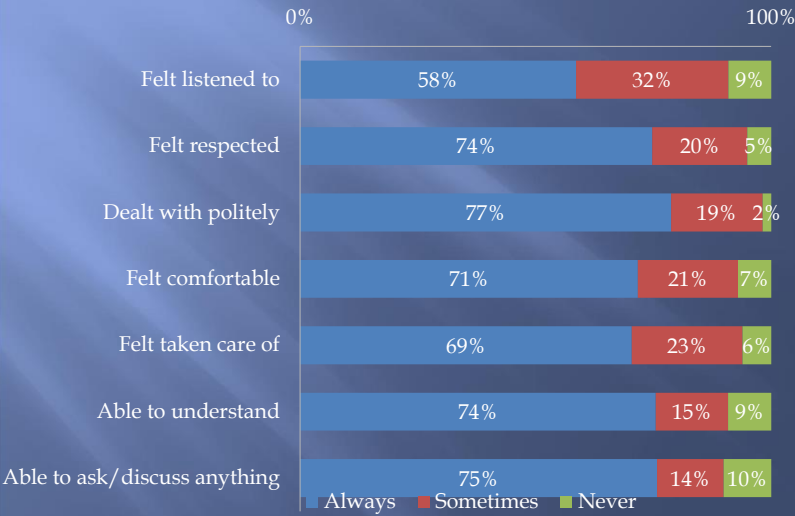


Stool Test “more trouble than it’s worth.”



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Participants' perceptions towards healthcare services



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Preliminary Results

What does cancer mean to you?

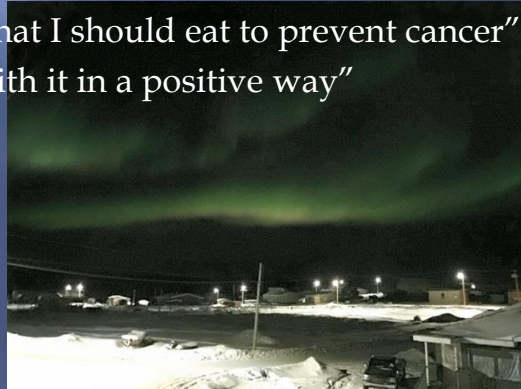
- “Death”
- “Incurable disease”
- “Once you get it, you die”
- “A seed that grows poison in your body”
- “Sickness that never ever heals”
- “Treatable illness, it’s common to a lot of people”
- “It has changed. Cancer can be treated, now they have treatment. When I was young it was almost terminal. Now a lot of times I can find treatments”



Preliminary Results

What were the positive things about cancer experience?

- ▣ “Closeness of family”
- ▣ “It puts families together”
- ▣ “Learn more about it, what I should eat to prevent cancer”
- ▣ “Learned how to deal with it in a positive way”



Preliminary Results

What were the negative things about cancer experience?

- ▣ "Always catch it too late"
- ▣ "Lack of communication. Auntie had TB scar, doctor thought it was cancer and suggested chemo. She refused it."
- ▣ "People treated as if they were lepers. When my sister passed away, nobody showed up for the funeral"
- ▣ "Your taste changes-foods don't taste good and you have to take pills."
- ▣ "I used to go to the bush, but I can't anymore"

Preliminary Results

Can you tell me about your experience with the stool test?

- ▣ "It wasn't uncomfortable, but almost embarrassing"
- ▣ "Embarrassing but it helps"
- ▣ "I don't mind since its for my health"
- ▣ "Embarrassing"
- ▣ "I refused when they asked me to do one I thought they were going too far."

Preliminary Results

Why would you not go for a stool test?

- ▣ “The thought of the putting or handling of my poop. I would not go. Poop is ok but collecting is not good.”
- ▣ “Out of the question. I would go, no doubt about it.”

Preliminary Results

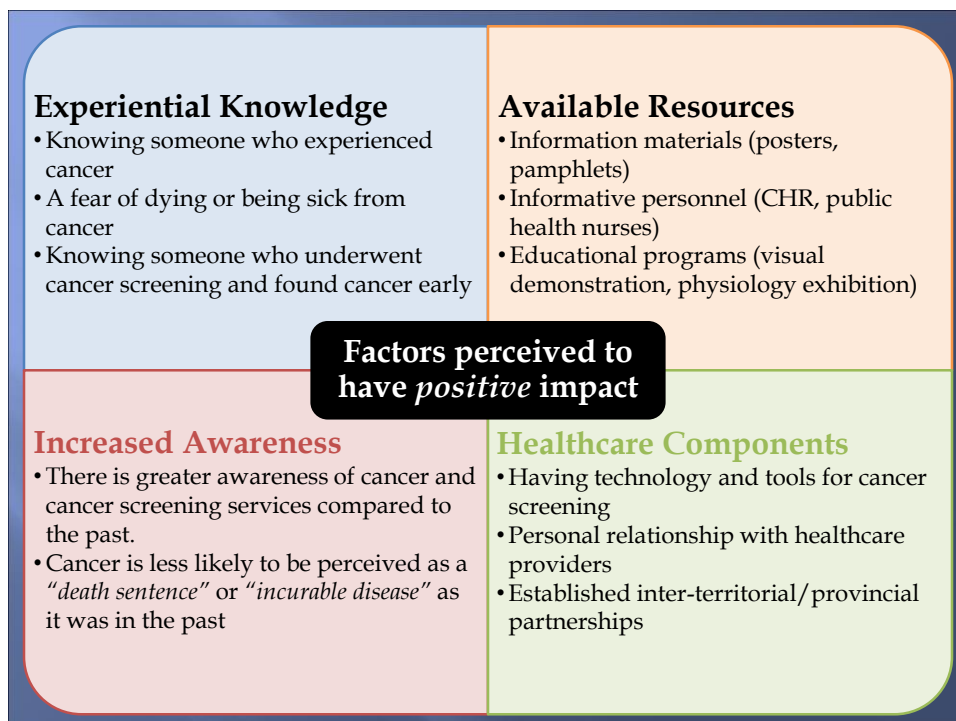
Can you tell me about your experience with mammography?

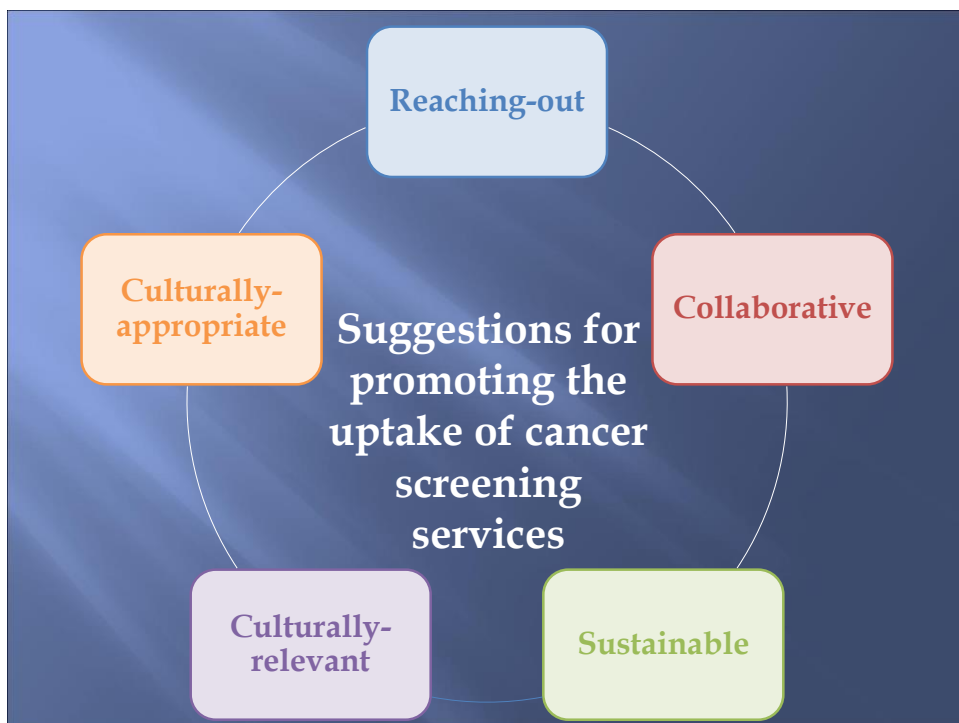
- ▣ “Uncomfortable”
- ▣ “First time it was uncomfortable, after it was ok, I got used to it”
- ▣ “Felt shy. I thought there were cameras in the room”
- ▣ “Scared the first time but after I did it wasn’t scared anymore. I tell my family to go have one”

Preliminary Results

What can you tell me about the Pap smear test?

- ▣ “Check for sickness (disease). Check to see if you have cervical cancer, UTI or any kind of disease in there.”
- ▣ “Check for cancer, and other diseases.”
- ▣ “Get it done when you have a bladder infection.”





Further Directions:

- Impact of increasing awareness of individual susceptibility to cancer regarding unmodifiable and modifiable risk factors on the uptake of preventive actions
- Impact of gender on cancer-related health behaviours
- Effective and culturally-appropriate strategies for delivering cancer-related messages to remote Indigenous communities in Canada
- Ways to enhance frontline healthcare providers' cultural sensitivity
- Ways of harmonizing the traditional Indigenous and Western approaches to prevent cancer

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Thank you



Source for some of the photos: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/14/travel/canada-tuk-northwest-territory.html?hp&action>