



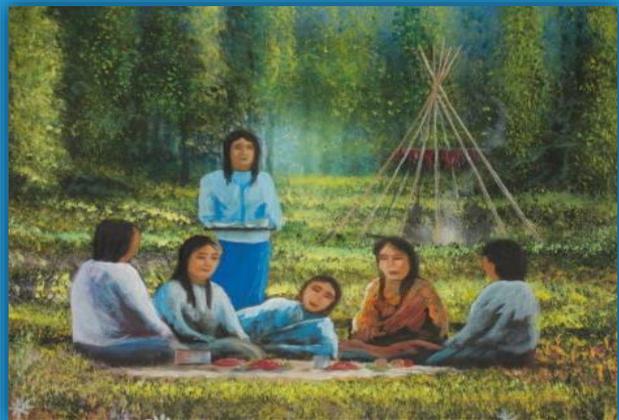
Charting Our Course: Northwest Territories Cancer Strategy 2015-2025

Crystal Milligan, MSc
Manager, Strategic Cancer Initiatives
Government of the Northwest Territories
Canada

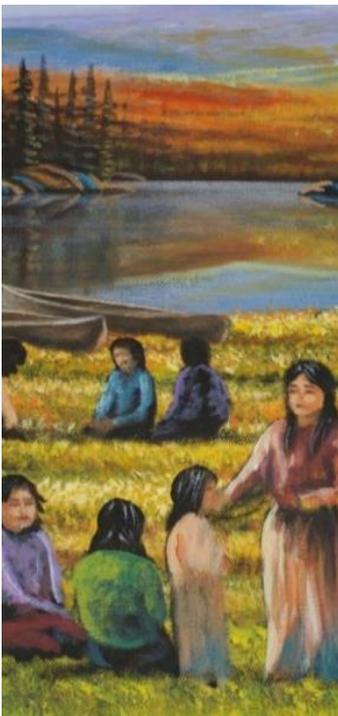
Best health | Best care | Better future

World Indigenous Cancer Conference | Brisbane, Australia | April 14, 2016 | www.hss.gov.nt.ca

Northwest Territories (NWT)



Strategy Development



Goal One: Healthy Living

- Information & support for healthy living
- Traditional activities & time on the land

We need to get back to a happy medium between the traditional and modern worlds and lifestyles.

- Investigate social determinants of health
- Support cancer sharing circles in all regions
- Integrate Indigenous knowledge and ways into tobacco cessation services
- Promote culture

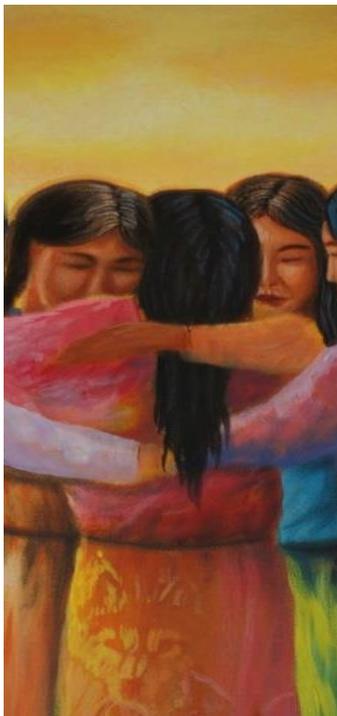


Goal Two: Screening

- Limited awareness
- Discomfort or embarrassment
- Mistrust

We need to get people invested in their health. We need to get people over the awkwardness of some tests, and encourage people to take advantage of the medical services we have.

- Investigate barriers to screening
- Increase availability of information
- Use community champions
- Collaborate with Aboriginal organizations



Goal Three: Transitions

- Information & support at diagnosis
- Language barriers
- Need for escorts and navigators

You can't just be on an assembly line.

- Best practices/standards in diagnosis delivery
- Cancer terminology development
- Navigation resource
- Support cultural orientation and capability

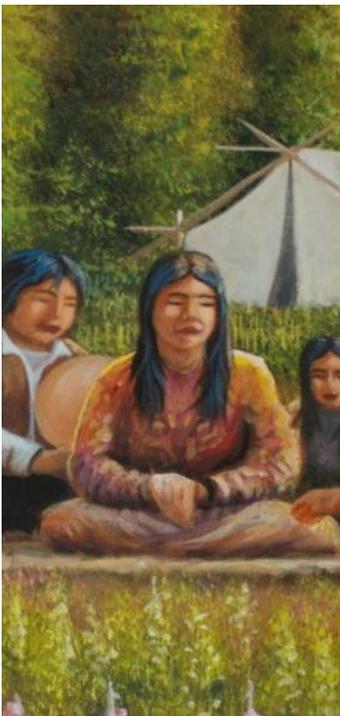


Goal Four: Communication

- Fight for information
- Poor communication
- Cultural sensitivity

My doctor would phone me every morning from Yellowknife on his own. That really touched my heart and kept me going.

- Develop tools to assist provider-patient communication
- Informatics and data flow
- Move toward a culturally capable system



Goal Five: Quality of Life

- Limited support
- Desire to stay home
- Desire to integrate traditional medicine
- No after care

I went to a spiritual person and sat with him. He told me that when you believe in something it helps. There is a lot of medicine on the land we can use to heal ourselves: spruce gum, caribou bones, and marrow.

- Improve the accessibility of holistic support
- Link with emotional support
- Enhance palliative and end-of-life services
- Enhance care and support for survivors

Let's Talk About Cancer

