

## Manitoba's First Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing *Mentoring the Next Generation of Nursing Leaders*

June 25, 2020 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Today Research Manitoba announced \$258,500 in research funding to support Manitoba's first Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing: Wanda Phillips-Beck, Seven Generations Scholar, RN, MSc, PhD(c) and the project titled '***Mentoring Nurse Leaders and Researchers in Indigenous Health Grounded in Culturally and Equity Informed Approaches to Research and Education***'.

Ms. Wanda Phillips-Beck is associated with the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) and the project is supported in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF). Together the investment totals \$985,000:

- Research Manitoba: \$258,500
- CIHR: \$699,500
- CNF \$27,000

*"We are excited to partner with CIHR and CNF so Ms. Phillips-Beck can advance the fields of Indigenous health and nursing and train Manitoba's Indigenous nursing students," said Ms. **Christina Weise, CEO of Research Manitoba**. "As one of a handful of Indigenous Research Chairs in Nursing across Canada, Ms. Phillips-Beck's research will advance culturally and equity informed approaches to mentor current and future nurse leaders and researchers to have a positive impact the health of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba, First Nation communities, and the healthcare system. Congratulations Ms. Phillips-Beck!*

*"Now is the time to support more Indigenous content into education and research programs. Ensuring all nurses and nursing students are supported and educated to deliver culturally safe care is of utmost importance to improve the health of First Nations in Manitoba. This education must recognize the transgenerational effects of colonialism and the historical events that have impacted Indigenous peoples' current health and healthcare experiences. We must build this workforce by supporting them at the beginning of their educational journey and onwards - in pursuing further education to continue to inform our education and practices." Ms. **Wanda Phillips-Beck, Seven Generations Scholar, RN, MSc, PhD(c), First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba**.*

*"This is the first time that a First Nation community-based research organization such as FNHSSM has been awarded a CIHR Research Chair – and to an Anishinaabekwe scholar within our organization. We celebrate this significant accomplishment and an important time in our history – as we, First Nation people, the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Dene and Anishinew in Manitoba are making great strides and moving toward self-determination in research. We are developing our own PhD prepared scholars that value our Indigenous Knowledges, Knowledge Keepers and Indigenous ways of doing research. We are doing research in our own way and are working on our own identified priorities. As such, this research must be of benefit to our communities and address racism in all systems head on". Miigwetch. **Chief Sheldon Kent, Chair, First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba**.*

*"Since 2009, the Canadian Nurses Foundation, in partnership with other organizations, has funded nursing education and research in Indigenous health care. CNF is very pleased to partner on the Indigenous Health Research Chairs in Nursing initiative to support training and capacity development of Indigenous nurses to work in collaboration with other Indigenous health researchers. Ms. Wanda Phillips-Beck's research project truly aligns with CNF's commitment to Indigenous nursing and communities to help improve the health and*

*wellbeing of Indigenous people and increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of Indigenous nurses to help meet current and future health care challenges.” Ms. Christine Rieck Buckley, CEO, Canadian Nurses Foundation.*

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## **Contacts**

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## **Background**

### **Research Manitoba:**

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence and innovation in health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. Research Manitoba supports local talent development by providing research support to early career researchers and graduate students, along with fostering strategic partnerships to strengthen research and innovation in Manitoba.  
<https://researchmanitoba.ca/>

### **First Nations Health & Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM):**

The goal of the First Nations Health & Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM) is to work toward a unified health system in Manitoba and increase First Nation’s opportunities to participate in regional and national health policy, health systems and program development in areas including, but not limited to: health consultation, Maternal Child Health, e- Health/Panorama, youth suicide, mental health, inter-governmental health, health & social determinants of health, health research, web-based home & community care training and health governance. The FNHSSM research department is at the forefront in research initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of all First Nation citizens in Manitoba.  
<https://www.fnhssm.com/>

### **Canadian Nurses Foundation:**

For more than 50 years, the Canadian Nurses Foundation has helped nurses learn, investigate and advance nursing best practices. CNF awards scholarships to promising nursing students and nurses across the country at all educational levels, and funds nursing research that enhances the quality and efficacy of patient care. Registered nurses work with Canadians at every age and every stage of life — in clinical settings and in education, research, administration and policy across the country. Since 2009, the Canadian Nurses Foundation, in partnership with other organizations, has funded indigenous nursing education and research to advance innovation and leading healthcare practices in response to the needs of indigenous communities. To date, more than 200 indigenous nurses and nursing students have received support from this partnership. CNF’s commitment to Indigenous nursing and communities helps improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people and increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of indigenous nurses to help meet current and future health care challenges. <https://cnf-fiic.ca/>

### **Canadian Institutes of Health Research:**

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is Canada's federal funding agency for health research. Composed of 13 Institutes, they collaborate with partners and researchers to support the discoveries and innovations that improve our health and strengthen Canada’s health care system. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html>

CIHR’s Chair in Indigenous Research Chairs in Nursing Program aims to define and promote the development, the practice and the attributes of professionalism of Indigenous health nursing, fostering health systems that are characterized by culturally safe care without racism and gender-responsive approaches.