

Additional file 1. Positionality Statement

The research team was composed of settler allies and the Indigenous community. It included five clinicians and clinician scientists, eight researchers and student researchers, a research assistant, three community leaders, and an administrator. The team includes two WSCC spine care clinician-researchers delivering chiropractic care in Cross Lake, an anthropologist (MA-G) now residing in Cross Lake, and an Indigenous chiropractor (JW) with over 20-years' experience working in Opaskwayak, a nearby community. Our final draft was written and then revised following teams self reflection and from feedback received from the community partners.

NR is a white settler, and a mixed-methods researcher trained in the academic disciplines of kinesiology, recreation management, and applied health sciences. She resides in and received her formative education and academic training in Winnipeg on Treaty 1, territory on original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis.

EB is a white settler and a quantitative researcher in the disciplines of kinesiology and applied health sciences. She received her formative education in Germany and for the past 4 years has been residing and receiving her academic training on Treaty 1, territory on original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis.

SM is a white settler, a chiropractor and a qualitative health researcher with advanced training in health services research. He received his training and resides in Tkaronto/Toronto on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples.

MAG is a white settler, and a qualitative health researcher trained in the academic discipline of social anthropology. She received her training in Tkaronto/Toronto on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. At the writing of this manuscript, she currently resides on Treaty 5, territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene and Metis people.

JW is an Indigenous clinician and PhD student from Natoaganeg, NB. She practices full time for the past 21 years in Opaskwayak, MB where she has been a guest on Treaty 5 territory, home of the Swampy Cree, Anishinaabe, Oji-Cree, Dene and Metis people. Her practice encompasses the holistic model of the medicine wheel and seeks to apply the principles of Etuaptmumk in her academic career.

MS is a Cree woman, a research assistant, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program worker for Cross Lake Health Services in Cross Lake, Manitoba. She is dedicated, driven, and passionate individual who is committed to achieving excellent results for her community. She believes in being honest, fair, and transparent in all her endeavours.

practical skills in executive management, nonprofit organizations, negotiation, budgeting, analytical thinking, and office administration. Chief Monias' dedication extends beyond professional endeavors to the health and well-being of family, community, and Nation. Through Chief Monias' positionality, he aims to contribute a perspective rooted in empathy, understanding, and a steadfast commitment to positive change.

HH is an Indigenous woman who's two most important roles are as a Mother and a Grandmother, and is deeply rooted in continued learning of her Indigenous roots. She began her journey in Health Pre-Transfer in 1987 and has remained committed to the health and well-being of our people. She has served in various roles, each one a stepping stone towards her current position as Health Director for the Cross Lake Band of Indians Health Services Department. Having such a long tenure in health provides her first-hand knowledge and understanding of the needs and priorities of the community. In her role, she has championed initiatives that honor traditional values and teachings while also integrating Western approaches where necessary. She firmly believes that by combining the traditional ways with elements of Western medicine, we can enhance our collective well-being. Her commitment to improving health for Indigenous peoples is not just a professional obligation – it is a reflection of her love and dedication to her community and the promise of a healthier future.

DM is a Cree Indigenous person, an Executive Councillor for his Nation, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, and responsible for health since 2004 with his roles on the Council, and his previous role of Executive Director for the Band. He holds a degree in Business Administration and in his leadership roles he concentrates on health, employment, and training and believes that training for home and adult care workers, spinal therapy, and massage therapy is needed to bring health services closer to home. He is well-known and an influential voice for his community, raising awareness on spinal care and its role in addressing the health needs of his community in Cross Lake, MB.

RS is a white settler, with European roots of Ukrainian and Polish decent, a Registered Nurse originally from Manitoba and is currently residing in the Ottawa are, which is the land of the un-ceded Anishinabe Algonquin Territory

SH is a genetically multinational European male neurologist currently residing in the United States. He received training in South Africa, Canada, and the United States in the fields of chiropractic, medicine, neurophysiology and electrodiagnosis. He is the founder of the World Spine Care charities and chairs the Global Spine Care Initiative.

AB is a white settler, a chiropractor, health service and implementation science researcher trained in the academic discipline of Population Health. He received his training in Ottawa on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation. He is project lead of the World Spine Care Canada and Global Spine Care Initiative implementation project, and is dedicated to increasing equitable access and use of rehabilitation services to improve people's health. At the time of this writing he currently resides on Nitassinan (Innu) and Wendake-Nionwentsio territories.