

**Title :**

Recognizing First Nations and Inuit expertise and knowledge in the development of university courses: a story of the co-construction process of the course Social Work in Indigenous Contexts at Laval University

**By :** Lisa Ellington, PhD (Social Work), Assistant Professor, School of Social Work and Criminology, Université Laval

**Abstract**

Over the past decades, it has been recognized that social work has contributed to the oppression and marginalization of Indigenous peoples, particularly through its participation in various assimilative policies. Solutions proposed or imposed by the dominant society do not meet the increasingly complex needs of Indigenous peoples and have not had a significant impact on their well-being.

Researchers across Canada and internationally recognize the importance of incorporating Indigenous worldviews and knowledge into professional practice. In order to achieve this, a growing number of universities have begun to reflect on how to “indigenize” their academic environments. In pursuit of this goal, the School of Social Work and Criminology at Laval University has decided to develop a course entitled Social Work in Indigenous Contexts. This presentation will outline the process of co-construction and development of this course, which is based on the participation of fifty (50) professionals and "experts by experience" (Elders, Indigenous social workers and stakeholders, Indigenous students and non-Indigenous social workers in Indigenous organizations). We will detail the consultative process that took place, and then explain how the worldviews of the participants were integrated into the various course modules. Finally, we will highlight the relevance of integrating First Nations and Inuit experience and expertise into the training curriculum of future social work professionals.

**References**

- Baskin, C. (2006). Aboriginal world views as challenges and possibilities in social work education. *Critical Social Work*, 7(2), 1-16.
- CERP (2019). *Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics : écoute, réconciliation et progrès. Rapport final*. Gouvernement du Québec.
- Ellison, C. (2014). *Savoir autochtone et synthèse, application et partage des connaissances (SAPC)*. Centre de collaboration nationale de la santé autochtone.
- Hart, M. A. (2002). *Seeking Mino-Pimatisiwin: An Aboriginal approach to helping*. Fernwood Publishing.
- Hart, M. A. (2010). Indigenous worldviews, knowledge, and research: The development of an Indigenous research paradigm. *Journal of Indigenous Voices in Social Work*, 1(1), 1-16.

Kennedy-Kish, B., Sinclair, R., Carniol, B. et Baines, D. (2017). *Case critical. Social services and social justice in Canada (7e éd.)*. Between the Lines.

Wenger-Nabigon, A. (2010). The Cree medicine wheel as an organizing paradigm of theories of human development. *Native Social Work Journal*, 7(1), 139-161.