

Land Acknowledgement



Laurentian University is located in Sudbury, Ontario, the unceded territory of the **Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg** peoples

Manitoba Possible is located Winnipeg, Manitoba the **Treaty One Territory**, the traditional territory of **Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota**, and on the homeland of the Métis **Manitoba Possible.**



The Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op is located Edmonton, Alberta on **Treaty 6 territory**, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the **Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe** and Inuit peoples.



Umbrella Co-op is located in New Westminster, British Columbia, the traditional and unceded territories of the **Qayqayt First Nation** and the **Coast Salish** peoples



**Cultural Brokering in a
Digital World: Cultural
Brokers Supporting
Newcomers During
COVID-19**

FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS ? NEWCOMER FAMILIES' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING DURING THE PANDEMIC

DR. SARA TORRES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK,

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY, SUDBURY

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY 2020 NATIONAL CONFERENCE,

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVE

To discuss...

- Cultural Brokers' responses supporting newcomer families and providing culturally appropriate services in new and multiple ways across the country

THE CHW NETWORK OF CANADA

An emerging pan-Canadian organization of Community Health Workers/Cultural Brokers and allies. These workers are known as:

- cross cultural health brokers
- community health brokers, multicultural health brokers
- multicultural health navigators
- cross-cultural health promoters
- community outreach workers
- peer educators
- diversity liaison workers and
- lay health educators



(Najafizada et al., 2015; Torres et al, 2013; CHW Network, 2020)

CULTURAL BROKERS' SOCIAL LOCATION

- "CHWs' social location places them on the margins (or at the periphery) of the health system and the health human resources workforce. Regarding the work they do and the populations they serve, this social location at the margins is an asset because it entails an intimate connection with and commitment to advancing the health and well-being of their communities. However, their power as workforce is negatively affected by this peripheral status."

(Torres et al., 2017, p. 2)

OPPORTUNITIES



- **Cultural Brokers :**
- Are trusted members of the communities they served
- Are liaison/link/intermediaries between health/social services and the community
- Build individual and community capacity
- Increase health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counselling, social support and advocacy”

(APHA, 2009; CHW Network, 2020, Torres, 2023; Torres et al., 2017)

Exploring the role of cultural brokers as intermediaries between immigrant and refugee families and child welfare

workers



ONGOING RESEARCH

(2018-2022, FUNDED BY SSHRC)

➤ 5 Canadian Universities

- Sara Torres, **Laurentian University**
- Sophie Yohani, **University of Alberta**
- Henry Parada, **Ryerson University**
- Nancy Ross, **Dalhousie University**
- Caroline Andrew, **University of Ottawa**

➤ 2 Community Partners

- Kathy Campbell, **the Edmonton Region Child & Family Services (CFS), Children's Services**
- Yvonne Chiu and Monique Nutter, **the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB-Coop), Edmonton**

CONCLUSION

- Cultural Brokers responses to support newcomer families during the COVID-19 pandemic become crucial as the crises exacerbates the vulnerability of families
- Cultural Brokers: Agents for Health and Wellness Equity for Newcomers, Along the Full Continuum of Settlement, Integration and Social Inclusion. A national Cultural Brokers' project funded IRCC (2022-2025)

(CHW Network of Canada, 2019; 2020)

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Questions

storres@Laurentian.ca

CHW Network of Canada

infochwnetworkcanada@gmail.com

Thank you

