



July 2021

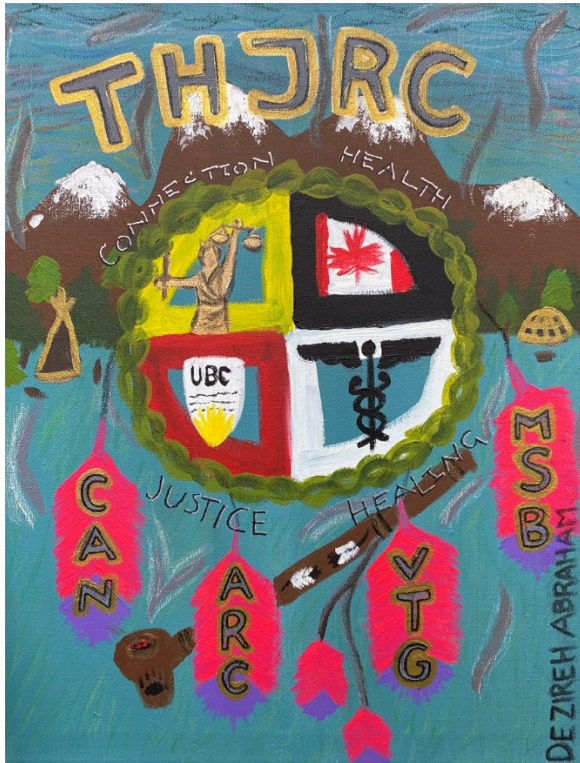


New THJRC Logo! Created by: Mo Korchinski, 2021

Cluster Activity Updates

2021 started off with THJRC members and affiliates publishing a paper

“Supporting people leaving prisons during COVID-19: perspectives from peer health mentors” by: Katherine E. McLeod, Kelsey Timler, Mo Korchinski, Pamela Young, Tammy Milkovich, Cheri McBride, Glenn Young, William Wardell, Lara-Lisa Condello, Jane A. Buxton, Patricia A. Janssen and Ruth Elwood Martin.



In February 2021, our cluster member Nicolas Crier, along with insights from co-authors Kelsey Timler, Patrick Keating, Pam Young, Elder Roberta Price, and Helen Brown; submitted **“The Transformative Community: Gathering the Untold Stories of Collaborative Research and Community Re-integration for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, Post-Incarceration and Beyond,”** to Turtle Island Journal of Indigenous Health. The paper is currently under revision before publication in the upcoming issue. An illustration was also created to go along with the writing, by Dezireh Abraham

ARC member Jenn McDermid interviewed Unlocking the Gates/THJRC Cluster members Pam Young and Mo Korchinski, for Megaphone Magazine. **“Lighting the Way out of Prison,”** published in June 2021.



On May 31st, cluster member Elder Roberta Price received her Doctorate of Laws from UBC. You can watch her video here: [\(1\) Elder Roberta Price - UBC Vancouver 2021 Honorary Degree Recipient - YouTube](#)

For over 30 years, Elder Roberta Price has actively shared her leadership, wisdom and teachings at UBC and throughout the Lower Mainland to assist both Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to achieve improved outcomes in health care. A member of the Coast Salish Snuneymuxw and Cowichan Nations, she has been instrumental in helping to create shared spaces for both Indigenous and Western approaches to healing and health. Her ongoing involvement and leadership in research projects have been key to the continued work of decolonizing health care and creating cultural safety and equity for Indigenous patients.

On June 25th, we held our first THJRC Virtual Feast, showcasing the amazing works of our cluster members. Thank you to all that attended.

If you are interested in having a *Spotlight Interview* featured on our Website or want to inquire further about the work mentioned above, please email our Project Coordinator, Samantha Young (Samantha.young@ubc.ca). Thank you to cluster members who have already been interviewed! They will be featured on the website this month – stay tuned! <https://transformhealthjustice.ubc.ca/>

THJRC Graduate Trainees

The Cluster's Graduate Students have established a community of practice to discuss opportunities to support one another in their academic pursuits and career goals, forming the Health & Justice Applied Research Collective (ARC)

The ARC is a community providing support for students and early-career researchers to engage in knowledge mobilization, program and policy development, social justice action, community leadership, and interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral networking. All activities are grounded in a shared commitment to social justice, participatory methods, and equity, with the ultimate goal of mobilizing academic privilege and collaborative knowledge development towards innovative, community-driven knowledge sharing and advocacy. [Graduate Trainees: ARC | Transformative Health and Justice Research Cluster \(ubc.ca\)](#)

THJRC Support

THJRC supported Unlocking the Gates Services Society (UTG) in receiving a \$50,000 grant, awarded by the Community Action Initiative (CAI), through the Canadian Mental Health Association to support the important work that UTG is doing to address the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Overdose Crisis. UTG works alongside Prince George Regional Correctional Center (PGRCC) to support individuals upon release. One of the biggest barriers for individuals leaving PGRCC is the lack of bus services to return people to their rural and remote communities. The CAI grant has funded trips for UTG clients to get back to their communities, access to housing and also to help them access harm reduction supplies that cannot be found in some remote and rural communities. By providing transportation, resources and essential supplies; UTG prevents the risk of relapses(re-offenses) or overdoses of Clients in Prince George. Once individuals have re-offended, it becomes much harder for clients to get home, as corrections only give transportation money for where offenders were arrested. UTG has supported 27 individuals so far, in returning home to their communities, since April 1st, 2021. PGRCC staff have been very supportive of the CAI grant program to support these individuals in getting home and are thankful for the work that UTG is doing. UTG hopes to continue supporting these individuals' long term, across BC, by securing more funding in the future.



Photo by Jeff Topham

THJRC supported the digitization of *Inside/Out: A Prison Memoir*, written and acted out by THJRC's Patrick Keating. It will be included as part of "EAST VAN TO EDINBURGH" a Digital Showcase curated by the East Van Cultural Centre at the 2021 Edinburgh Fringe Festival from August 8 - 28th. The play will also be going on tour across corrections facilities in BC this year. [East Van to Edinburgh | Online Performances | The Cultch](#)

Big thanks to the amazing women at Unlocking the Gates, Pam Young and Mo Korchinski, and the Deputy Warden at OCC, as *Inside/Out* will be shown at the Oliver Correctional Centre.

THJRC will be sponsoring MMIWG2S 2021 Healing Retreat a 3-day wellness retreat organized to support families and survivors who have been affected by the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It is being organized by THJRC's Chas Coutlee of IRSSS for the fall of 2021. This \$2,500 contribution will go towards emotional, spiritual, physical, and mental health modalities. Participants will engage with the land, water, and one another through activities such as drumming, singing, dancing, storytelling, sharing circles, sharing meals, and a variety of cleansing ceremonies. At the end of the retreat, the women will be honoured for their healing journeys in a blanketing ceremony.

Areas of Interest

The Downtown Eastside Research Access Portal (DTES RAP) provides access to research and research-related materials relevant to [**Vancouver's Downtown Eastside \(DTES\)**](#). You can [**browse by topic**](#) or [**search for items**](#) about the DTES, including academic materials such as scholarly articles and research summaries, as well as community materials such as reports, historical documents, and more. The DTES RAP is led by the Making Research Accessible initiative (MRAi), a partnership at the University of British Columbia (UBC) between the Learning Exchange and the Library. [**Learn more. DTES Research Access Portal \(ubc.ca\)**](#)

SFU CERi hosted a webinar on April 21st that included our cluster member Nicolas Crier, "**Funding Community-Engaged Research and Paying People Equitably.**" You can view the webinar here: [Funding Community-Engaged Research and Paying People Equitably - Community-Engaged Research Initiative - Simon Fraser University \(sfu.ca\)](#)

Harm Reduction International ([Home | Harm Reduction International \(hri.global\)](#)) has published a paper on "**The Harms of Incarceration,**" you can view the paper here: [HRI Briefing Prisons June2021 Final1.pdf](#)

HRI will be holding an online festival on drugs & harm reduction from November 16-24, 2021. Through panels, interviews, town halls, poetry readings, art and music, we will bring a new way for our community to gather and connect, to explore innovative solutions, to have urgent conversations and to redefine what harm reduction is and what it can be. You can sign up here: [Constellations \(hri.global\)](#)

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) will be holding a Virtual 2021 Justice Health Conference from November 3-4, 2021.

The theme for this two-day, virtual Conference is: **Evidence, Accountability, Action.**

The virtual Conference will have high quality national experts presenting various aspects of justice health. It is an opportunity to present the latest research and evidence, to share ideas and experience of working in or on the system, and to connect with colleagues across the country and internationally. Find out more here: [HOME | JusticeHealth2021](#)

Our banner image was created using a graphic illustration produced by Corrina Keeling of *Love Letters for Everybody* at Workshop 3 (Dec 3rd, 2019).



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Transformative Health & Justice Research Cluster
Research Excellence Cluster

On behalf of Cluster co-Leads, Dr. Helen Brown and Dr. Amanda Slaunwhite.