

Elliott Young – University of Alberta

Project Title: Exercising Sovereignty of Indigenous Communities through Health Economics Evaluation



Background

When it comes to determining whether a health and wellness program, initiative, policy, or strategy is successful in Indigenous communities, the default is to either measure them using an existing evaluation method or framework to determine its value and impact. Most of these perspectives are not Indigenous informed or, at the very least, are not collaboratively developed with Indigenous communities or Peoples. There is a need for evaluation methods or frameworks to be informed, developed, and implemented by Indigenous communities. This can begin by being informed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

or by working directly with the Indigenous communities to collaborate on a new or adapted evaluation framework. Nonetheless, by developing Indigenous evaluation frameworks there would be potential to transform the way Indigenous people interact with the health system and the way the health system measures success in improving the health of Indigenous peoples. My research will explore the development of an evaluation framework that would be informed by Indigenous communities and epistemologies.

Bio

Elliott Young is a member of Ermineskin Cree Nation; which is one of the four First Nations that make up Maskwacis. His father is from Ermineskin and he has family from Louis Bull Tribe and Samson Cree Nation. His mother is from Tsuut'ina Nation; which is located just west of Calgary. He is a husband, a father of two children, and has been calling Edmonton home for the past 21 years.

Elliott is a PhD student at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta. Elliott has 13 years of experience in Indigenous relations, community engagement, and policy development within government, non-profit and education. Elliott was selected as a Top 40 Under 40 by Edify Magazine in 2020.

