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TYARA MARCHAND

University of Calgary

Project Title:
Exploring the Context of Indigenous Paramedicine in Southern Alberta (ECIPSA)

ABOUT TYARA

Dr. Tya Marchand is an Indigenous woman and scholar from the Okanagan Nation, currently working as an Emergency Medicine resident physician at the University of Calgary. A CIHR-funded researcher in Indigenous acute care, she has led multiple projects examining health systems equity, Indigenous health within Alberta's acute care spaces, and the intersections between race and health outcomes. Outside of her research and clinical work, Tya is a mother of two who spends her free time keeping up with them.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Access to timely and high-quality emergency medical services continues to be a major health equity concern for Indigenous peoples in Canada. First Nations communities face barriers to care access, including geographical distance, under-resourced health infrastructure, and discrimination in Western healthcare systems. Multiple studies show that Indigenous peoples in Canada, specifically Alberta, have disproportionally higher rates of emergency department (ED) visits, increased discrimination and racism rates when accessing emergency care, and more Indigenous patients vs. non-Indigenous patients arriving via ambulance in Alberta. There has been a movement towards sovereignty in paramedical care in Alberta, with many Nations, such as Nations within the Blackfoot Confederacy, providing their own EMS services to their community. Yet, little research has examined how Indigenous-led paramedicine services perform and their impact on community well-being.

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The proposed study, Exploring the Context of Indigenous Paramedicine in Southern Alberta (ECIPSA), seeks to address the critical gap in research and center community voices to understand the experiences, strength and challenges of on-reserve paramedical care in Southern Alberta First Nations communities.