



DECOLONIZING INTERVENTION: BUILDING SAFETY WITH INDIGENOUS STREET POPULATIONS

Objectives

- Understand **individual, structural, and historical factors** that shape the **dynamics of substance use and mental health challenges** within Indigenous communities.
- Examine how **Indigenous ways of knowing and being** differ from non-Indigenous frameworks, highlighting the significance of cultural context in intervention work.
- Reflect on the complexities of **navigating power dynamics** as an ally, **building awareness of one's own perceptions and privileges** and how they influence intervention practices.
- Develop **trauma-informed and harm-reduction practices** adapted to address the nuanced and unique challenges faced by Indigenous street populations.
- **Foster cultural humility** as a way to engage in a more **collaborative, relational, and inclusive approach to care** that promotes autonomy and empowers **the client in their own healing**.

Contents

This one-day workshop examines the complex legacy of colonization, cultural disconnection, intergenerational trauma, and institutional exclusion in the context of Indigenous homelessness, mental health, and substance use. Participants will deconstruct settler approaches to social work and explore how Indigenous and non-Indigenous concepts of home and health differ. Practical case studies and role-playing activities will be used to engage participants in culturally safe models of care and trauma-informed, harm-reduction approaches that favour autonomy and community. Participants will learn to manage crises, build trust, and navigate the nuanced ethical challenges of maintaining boundaries and addressing power dynamics. Through sharing circles and group discussions, participants will also learn to identify and address their own prejudices in order to better support Indigenous populations in a relational, non-paternalistic manner.

Target audience Non-Indigenous, aspiring health professionals, social workers, and community intervention workers. No prerequisite knowledge is required. A basic understanding of the nuances of addiction and trauma are helpful.

Trainers : **Lucie-Catherine Ouimet** IPSPL (Médecins du Monde) et **Kody Crowell** (I.S.W.P and Exeko)

Date Friday **April 10 th 2026 (in English)**

Hours : 9 am to 4 pm (check-in from 8 : 30 am)

Endroit : Webdiffusion (Zoom)