

Indigenous First Aid Initiative Q&A sheet

What is meant by the term 'cultural safety'?

Cultural safety refers to an environment in which an individual from another culture feels supported and reassured. In order for Indigenous people to learn effectively, they must feel culturally safe. For many Indigenous students, having an Indigenous instructor goes a long way to providing them with the necessary cultural safety. First aid knowledge is universal, but the way in which it is taught must be adapted to the specific cultural context.

Why does it cost \$15,000 to train an Indigenous First Aid Instructor?

Indigenous first aid instructors will be trained to the same standards as non-Indigenous instructors. This requires a block of uninterrupted time of at least a week's duration, in a centralized location. The best way to achieve this is to conduct all the training in Ottawa, in partnership with the Wabano Centre. Most of the cost of training goes towards travel and accommodation expenses for the instructor candidates.

Who will do the training?

All training will be conducted by volunteers from St. John Ambulance.

To what level will the Indigenous instructors be trained?

St. John Ambulance offers a range of courses that are appropriate for Indigenous communities, such as the New Parent Workshop, Emergency First Aid, Standard First Aid with CPR and AED, and Mental Health First Aid. Some courses don't require the same level of instructor training as others. The level to which individual instructor candidates will be trained will vary depending on which courses they wish to teach.

Will the Indigenous instructors be trained in mental health first aid?

All St. John first aid courses include a mental health component to some degree, however, St. John now offers a separate mental health first aid course, and is also working to develop a better mental health module in its standard first aid course.

How will the teaching of first aid be adapted to Indigenous communities?

Indigenous first aid instructors will be encouraged to adapt the St. John curriculum so that it is appropriate for their community, and so that their students feel culturally safe, without compromising the core content of the course. This requires a partnership approach with Indigenous communities, which is itself an act of reconciliation.

Where will the instructor candidates come from?

Candidates typically come from existing Indigenous health authorities, such as the Kenora Chiefs Advisory (Kenora, ON). Many are already integrated into the healthcare systems of their communities. St John is also developing collaborative relationships with other Indigenous health authorities, such as the First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia. The scope of this initiative is national.

What will be the cost of first aid instruction to Indigenous communities?

St. John aims to provide free first aid instruction to Indigenous communities. We feel that there should be no financial barriers to first aid education in these communities, where the need is so great.

Who will cover the cost of the Indigenous instructors' salaries?

First aid instructors earn a small salary, and this will be initially covered by the St. John Canada Foundation.

How will the Indigenous instructors be monitored?

Indigenous first aid instructors will be monitored by local St. John Ambulance offices. The number of students they teach will be tracked. This is the best way to demonstrate the multiplier effect of building first aid capacity in Indigenous communities.

Who will pay for the dinner in Toronto on September 28th, 2017?

Dr. Michael Dan has offered to cover the costs of the exclusive dinner with Paul Martin on September 28th, 2017. That way funds raised in this campaign will go entirely towards the training of Indigenous first aid instructors, and donors will get a tax receipt for the full amount of their donation.