DEVELOPING A NORTHERN BC KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS CENTRE

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No affiliations with commercial organizations (financial or otherwise) to disclose.
1. Why a KS Centre? – Background & Vision
2. Development Process
3. Our Goals & Principles
4. Core Functions
5. Working Model
6. Current Projects
KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS

“The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic. A synthesis must be reproducible and transparent in its methods, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods.

- Canadian Institute of Health Research
WHY IS KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS IMPORTANT?

- Summarizes evidence to make sense of results from many different studies on a specific question
- Improves understanding of conflicting or inconsistent results
- Statistically combines the results of multiple studies (systematic reviews & meta-analyses)
- Contextualizes evidence
- Develops context relevant recommendations
- Provides best evidence for clinical practice and program decisions
- Justifies need for new studies
WHY A KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS CENTRE IN NORTHERN BC?

• Capacity building
• Rural and northern applicability
• Visible and explicit structure and processes to assist decision makers and researchers
Development Process

Environmental Scan
Scan of infrastructure, processes, and services at existing centres

Review of previous UNBC-NH KS Projects
Strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities

Preliminary Framework
Draft logic model of general framework for organization structure and operations

Consultations
UNBC & NMP Faculty Northern Health Leads

IDC Brown Bag Presentation • Sept 26, 2019
VISION

Evidence-based research syntheses contextualized for rural, remote, and northern health issues, services and programs.

DESIGN WITH USERS IN MIND

Expanding the capacity of both NH and UNBC to ask and answer questions using synthesis methods, enhance rural and northern applicability of the evidence, and set up knowledge to be translated into action in policy and practice.
### Goals of Northern Knowledge Synthesis Centre

1. Provide timely, contextualized, evidence-based syntheses to inform the optimal management of patient care, resources, services, and development of policy and programs.

2. Support researchers in conducting high quality, rigorous, health related knowledge syntheses with rural and northern applicability.

3. Involve patients, partners and decision makers in meaningful ways in the synthesis and contextualization process.

4. Offer training and mentorship opportunities to students, researchers, and partners.

5. Make syntheses more visible and obtainable.

6. Inform the design and conduct of new health research attentive to the needs and realities of northern British Columbians.
PRINCIPLES OF NORTHERN KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS CENTRE

- Collaboration
- Capacity Building
- Contextualization
- Actionable Evidence
- Research Development
• Situated as an initiative within the UNBC Health Research Institute
• Guided by the NH-UNBC Memorandum of Understanding
• NH-UNBC Knowledge Mobilization Chair to serve as the inaugural Academic Director of the Centre
• Day to day governance, financial oversight and management of the KSC provided by the Academic Director with the support of the Health Research Initiatives Manager
CORE FUNCTIONS

COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS PROJECTS
Respond to knowledge user needs for synthesis contextualized for rural, remote, and northern health issues, services and programs

METHODOLOGICAL SERVICES & SUPPORT
Support health researchers conducting knowledge synthesis projects

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING
Build capacity among students, researchers, and partners
# Range of Syntheses & Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Synthesis</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Synthesis</td>
<td>3 days to 2 months (evidence brief or review of key articles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Scan</td>
<td>3-6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Review</td>
<td>3-6 months (scoping, integrative, or systematic with tight parameters to reduce time needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid Realist Review</td>
<td>3 to 6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realist Review</td>
<td>12 to 24 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoping Review</td>
<td>6 to 24 months (depending on scope)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systematic Review*</td>
<td>12 to 24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Review</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of Reviews/Umbrella Review</td>
<td>12 months or less</td>
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PROCESS FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Intake & Consultation
- Identify synthesis needs
- Response time
- Determine how organization anticipates using findings
- Identify personnel who need to be involved
- Identify methods
- Discuss expectations
- Common agreement of objectives

Question Refinement → Protocol & Work plan → Literature Search

Appraisal & Quality Check → Extraction → Screening

Synthesis & Contextualization → Reporting, KT, & Dissemination

OUTPUTS
- Project Plan/Protocol
- Project database
- Written deliverable/report
- KT Plan & Activities
- Theoretical & Practical Publications
• Provides a place for those conducting health related syntheses and knowledge users requiring syntheses to access services and supports.

• Provides opportunities for multi-stakeholder collaboration and meaningful partnership across the north.

• Knowledge users gain relevant, actionable evidence and contextualized recommendations in a timely manner for optimal management of patient care, resources, services, and development of policy and programs.

• Informs the design and conduct of new health research attentive to the needs and realities of northern BC.
CURRENT PROJECTS

Hermeneutic Approach to Implementation Science
UNBC – Northern Health

Community Response to Critical Incidents

Exploring Physical Literacy in the Context of Healthcare
UNBC - Northern Health - WINBC

Health Impacts & Mitigation of Occupational Exposure to Wildfires
UNBC - BC Wildfire Service
QUESTIONS