

**Craig Settee and Catherine Turner**

*on behalf of the Can-SOLVE CKD Network Indigenous Peoples' Engagement and Research Council*

## INTRODUCTION

- Kidney disease has a strong impact on the health of Indigenous communities; therefore, a national strategy to improve kidney health must include meaningful, culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous peoples.
- The Can-SOLVE CKD Network is a patient-oriented kidney research initiative that is working to improve the health of all Canadians and bring Indigenous ways of knowing into health research.

## METHODS

- As part of the Can-SOLVE CKD Network, Indigenous patients, caregivers, researchers, and community leaders created an Indigenous Peoples' Engagement and Research Council (IPERC). This council sits at the centre of the network (Figure 1) and supports collaboration grounded in traditional values and partnerships with Indigenous communities.
- Using an ethical framework that encompasses the principles of ownership, control, access and possession and the elements of participatory research, IPERC guides Can-SOLVE CKD research projects in respectful engagement of Indigenous communities.
- A key component of this work is the creation of a new training pathway, *Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj*, that aims to enhance researchers' knowledge of racial biases, Indigenous voices and stories, the impact of colonization, and culturally safe health research practices. *Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj* will help patient partners and researchers build respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples.

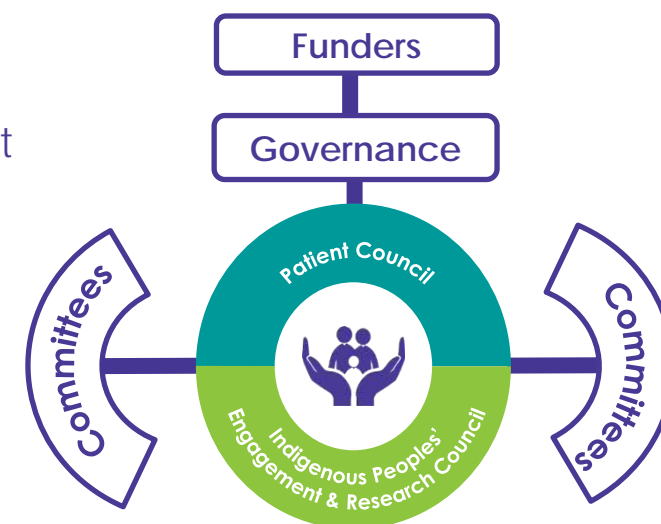


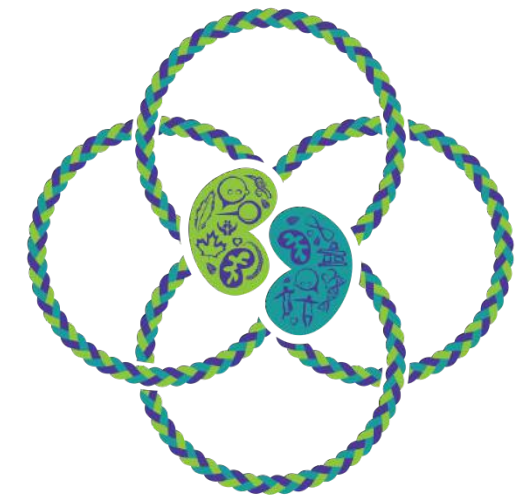
Fig. 1: Can-SOLVE CKD Network organizational structure, with the Indigenous Peoples' Engagement and Research Council situated at the centre.



Fig. 2: *Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj* Learning Pathway logo

## OUTCOMES

- The Can-SOLVE CKD Network has created a culturally safe space for Indigenous individuals to participate in all aspects of patient-oriented kidney research.
- IPERC has instituted guidelines on ceremony and Elder participation that ensure recognition of traditional knowledge and territories.
- *Wabishki Bizhiko Skaanj* represents a novel learning platform for Indigenous cultural safety in Canadian health research. By enhancing knowledge and strengthening cultural competency, this learning pathway is enabling all partners in health research to ultimately close the gaps in kidney health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Feedback from a pilot of the components has been very positive.



**INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES'  
ENGAGEMENT &  
RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**I P E R C**

## CONCLUSIONS & DISCUSSION

- Through IPERC, the Can-SOLVE CKD Network offers a model for respectful engagement of Indigenous communities in health research.
- By adopting Indigenous ways of knowing and fostering cultural competency, the network is working to close the gaps in kidney health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research through the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research.

Correspondence to [csettee@cansolveckd.ca](mailto:csettee@cansolveckd.ca)