

Emily MacLeod, PhD Nursing Student (Queen's University) – CDNN Abstract Submission

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**Listening to and Learning from the Experiences of Mi'kmaq Women and Two-Spirit
Survivors of Sexual Assault Using Narrative Inquiry: PhD Thesis Proposal**

Presenter: Emily MacLeod, RN, MN, PhD Nursing student, Queen's University

Tel: (902) 304-6662, E-mail: 19erm5@queensu.ca

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Listening to and Learning from the Experiences of Mi'kmaq Women and Two-Spirit Survivors of Sexual Assault Using Narrative Inquiry: PhD Thesis Proposal

Background: Sexual violence is a form of gender-based violence and a violation of basic human rights. The most recent statistics suggest that in Canada in 2014, more than one in five young Indigenous women reported being sexually assaulted, accounting for victimization rate for Indigenous Peoples three times than that of non-Indigenous people. My research will seek to address conditions such as the continuation of colonialist control; historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma; societal and gender-based inequities; social and economic marginalization; and the lack of recognition of the expertise and independent capacity of Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people that contribute to the violence Indigenous Peoples continue to experience. **Objective:** The objective of this oral presentation is to share my doctoral thesis proposal in which I aim to generate a detailed description and deeper understanding of the experience of Mi'kmaq women and Two-Spirit survivors of sexual assault. The primary research question for my study is: *What are the stories of living through a sexual assault as an adult as told by Mi'kmaq women and Two-Spirit survivors?* **Methodology and Methods:** Using narrative inquiry (NI) as the methodology, I will study how individuals experience the world and make sense of those experiences. In this presentation I will give an overview of NI. I will also describe and provide the rationale for the elements of my proposed study such as participants, recruitment, data collection, data analyses, and ethical considerations. **Implications:** My research will be significant for positioning the creation of a transformative, culturally-sensitive sexual violence response to be actioned by healthcare providers. More specifically, I will explain how my study can be leveraged for strengthening prevention education, practice, and future research strategies.