

# Facilitator Guide

*(Although the Dialogue and Storywork videos and guides were developed with First Nations people, they may also resonate with experiences of Inuit and Métis people.)*

**This facilitator guide provides some background on the Transition Support Resources and how they were developed in partnership with First Nation cancer survivors, families and communities and with primary care and oncology care providers. It also provides some ideas about the people and groups who can be engaged in discussions about improving cancer journeys – and in moving to action.**

## What you should know

- Eight Transition Support Resources are available to increase the availability of information for Primary and Oncology health care systems about the cancer journey experiences of First Nation people, and to spark improvements in the cancer journeys in the future.
- The Transition Support Resources were developed as part of a *Dialogue and Storywork* project, funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. The project was carried out by the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services, Cancer Control Alberta, Alberta Health Services, CancerCare Manitoba, the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, and First Nation communities in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba.

## How were the Transition Support Resources developed?

- To develop the Transition Support Resources, the project used Storywork Indigenous methodology<sup>1</sup> in brokered or facilitated dialogues. This approach unleashed the power of sharing stories to help facilitate safe, meaningful and respectful conversations between healthcare professionals and First Nation communities. Cancer survivors, those still on their cancer journey and caregivers came forward with the support of community champions, to share their personal stories and talk about the challenges and barriers they experienced when transitioning through different levels of care. Healthcare professionals then watched the videos and responded on video, giving their professional opinions and thoughts on the issues and concerns shared. The healthcare professionals' video

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<sup>1</sup> Archibald, J. A. (2008). *Indigenous Storywork: Educating the heart, mind, body, and spirit*. UBC Press.

responses were then brought back to participants to continue the dialogue. Participants had an opportunity to respond on video to the health care professionals, in turn closing the loop on the dialogue in a way that was supportive and meaningful to each participant.



## How the project evolved

For you as a facilitator, knowing something about the experiences of the Dialogue and Storywork Project Team will help you know what you might expect as you help others engage in the issues and stories in the Transition Support Resources.

The Project Team believes that time and effort for careful recording of the dialogues and Storywork, repeated visits to communities, and the deep engagement with people telling and sharing the stories of their cancer journeys was worth more than they had originally imagined.

One result was that the cancer agencies, and the specific people involved in listening to and recording the dialogue and Storywork, gained considerable credibility in the communities and with the primary care and oncology providers because of the care and attention to taking time, listening deeply, and ensuring participatory editing and sharing of the dialogue and Storywork back with participants. In the estimation of the Project Team members, the investment in engaging so deeply with the communities has provided a secure foundation for continued joint work with the cancer agencies as new trusted partners.

In December 2014, in the first community to engage in Storywork, the principal listener, a cancer agency jurisdictional lead, and the project videographer held an open community session, and only 2 people and an elder and the community champion appeared. The principal listener and the jurisdictional lead were at first disheartened, but explained why they were in the community, and what they proposed to do, including coming back to the community with health care providers' responses and listening to community members again. Soon after, as word got out with the support of the community champion about the purpose and commitment to the community to come back with the video recordings of the Storywork, people started showing up, very ready to tell their stories. Once they knew it was a process they could trust, there was an outpouring of stories, many of which were told publicly for the first time in this first session. When indeed the preliminary videos were brought back to the community, there were many, many people in attendance to see them, and they were very proud and joyful to see

themselves, breaking the silence about cancer and telling their stories – even though some of the stories were heartbreaking. By the end of the evening, there were questions about when “the cameras” would be coming back!

In one community the principal listener and videographer had the honour of video recording a participant during the final part of her cancer journey. The participant was clear that she wanted to make sure her story was recorded so that others might learn from her experiences. As an Elder and Traditional community leader, the participant brought many of her ceremonial items with her to be placed around her during the recording. This was a highly emotional and deeply touching experience for all involved. At the end of the recording the principal listener walked with the participant to a waiting car and the participant shared “I feel so good about this, it’s the first time I shared those experiences.” The teachings shared during this time are being carried forward with reverence, respect and admiration for the courage and grace of this participant.

Project Team members also report that the deep and positive impact on them personally was not expected, but they feel honoured and grateful for having had the opportunity to learn deeply about the experiences of cancer journeys – and the lives of the people they were fortunate enough to encounter – and for the opportunity to carry those stories to primary care and oncology providers for review and reaction and change.

### **Different ways to use the Transition Support Resources**

This document is intended to provide tips on how these resources may be used depending upon your role or the setting.

- Community Based Workers might use these resources in the following ways:
  - Sharing with clients who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families
  - At cancer education events
  - At health and wellness events
  - In sharing circles or community talking circles
  
- Primary Care Providers might use these resources in the following ways:
  - Sharing with patients who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families
  - Supporting the provision of culturally safe care
  - Sharing with colleagues
  - In lunch and learn sessions
  - Sharing with other care providers, e.g., patient navigators
  
- Oncology Care Providers might use these resources in the following ways:
  - Supporting the provision of culturally safe care
  - Sharing with colleagues
  - In lunch and learn sessions
  - Sharing with patients who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families

- Sharing with other care providers, eg, patient navigators
- Government and Non-government Organizations might use these resources in the following ways:
  - Support better understanding of cultural safe care
  - Support policy development
  - Support proposal development

**Tips on how to get the most of the resources:**

- Anyone can benefit from viewing these videos. Share with everyone!
- Provide viewers with the guides specific to the topics your viewing.
- If you have a time constraint: Preview videos beforehand and find the topics most relevant.