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The health disparities faced by North America's Indigenous peoples are well-known to the research and policy community. The gap between the health status of Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people has been the subject of much research, policy development, and collaboration, aimed at improving the health status of Indigenous people. As a result, the health of Aboriginal people in Canada, American Indians, and Alaska Natives is starting to improve, although there is still a great deal of progress to be made.

Discovering pathways to better health for Indigenous peoples is multi-faceted. Not only does this involve targeting the determinants of health, lowering chronic diseases, improving access to health care services and implementing effective health promotion; it also involves incorporating Indigenous knowledge into efforts in these areas. Indigenous culture, values, and traditions regarding health must play a prominent role in health research and policy development, in order for research and policy to be effective and relevant to Indigenous peoples.

Also fundamental to improving the health of Indigenous people is ensuring that research and knowledge generated reaches Indigenous people in a format that is appropriate. Knowledge Translation is the essential tool for ensuring that this happens. Commonly defined as: the way that information is taken up and shaped by users, knowledge translation strives to make health research more useful to researchers, policy makers, health practitioners and the public.

In the field of Indigenous health, knowledge translation has an especially important role to play. It is the means by which researchers, policy makers, and Indigenous people can come together and share ideas regarding Indigenous health. Knowledge translation is a tool that policy makers and researchers can use to bridge the gap between western science and Indigenous knowledge, in a way that is respectful, meaningful, and relevant.

This presentation will discuss the importance of knowledge translation in the field of Indigenous health research and policy development. This will include discussion of Indigenous and western knowledge, defining knowledge translation, the differentiation between content and process in knowledge translation, and the impacts of effective knowledge translation in the field of Aboriginal health research and policy development. The presentation will also include several case studies of successful knowledge translation initiatives in Canada. These case studies will highlight the effectiveness of innovation, integration, and adaptation in successfully conducting knowledge translation initiatives. Finally, the presentation will discuss some of the key challenges inherent in knowledge translation, and will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss strategies to conquer these challenges in their respective fields.