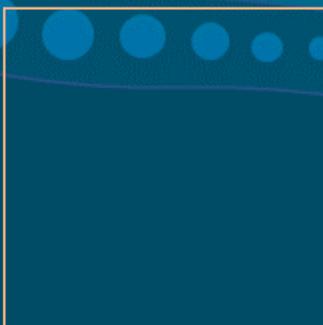
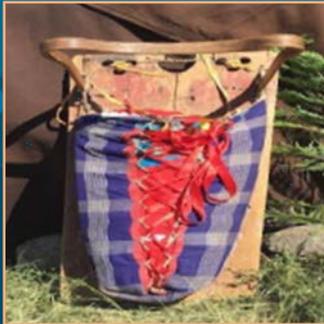


Building Back Better - foraging a post-pandemic social contract that works for all

Spotlight on those at risk of being left behind



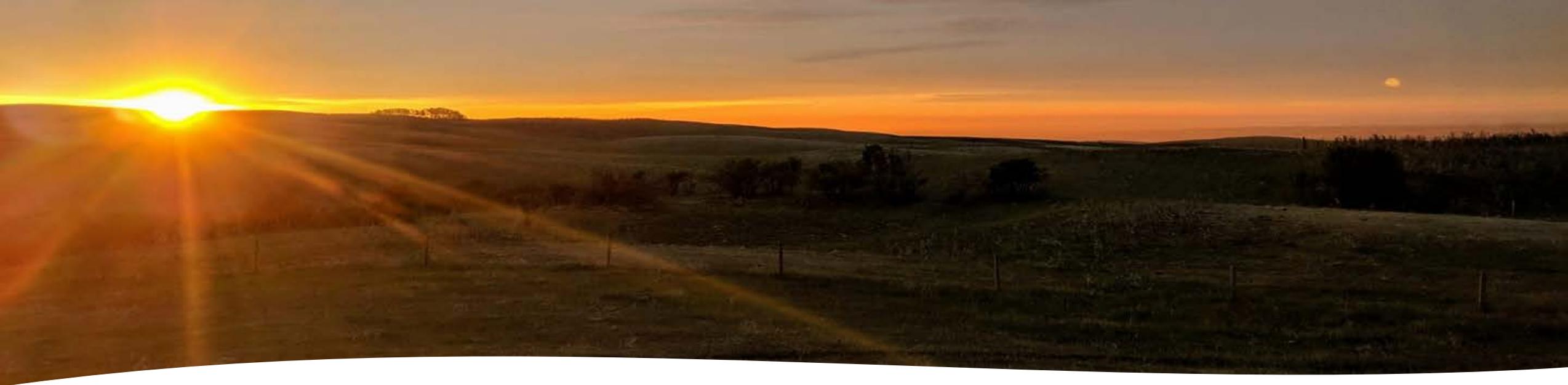
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Outline

- How are Indigenous Communities Impacted by Systemic Racism?
- Social Determinants Impacting Indigenous Peoples
 - Lack of Access to Care
 - Lack of Access to Housing, Clean Water and Food Security
- Recommendations and Strength-Based Ideas

How Are Indigenous Peoples Impacted by Systemic Racism?

- Colonization and historical trauma
- Racism, sexism, colonial policies and ideologies continue to perpetuate inequities (Bourassa, McKay-McNabb, & Hampton, 2004)
- Indigenous Peoples experience the highest poverty rates in Canada. “Poverty is much more than lacking a sufficient source of income. Poverty, especially for Indigenous women, means being vulnerable to violence, to a lack of autonomy and access to services.” (NWAC, 2017, p. 4)
- Systemic racism contributes to limited access to culturally safe resources for Indigenous Peoples
- Systemic racism is exacerbated by a mentality that some of the Canadian population harbours in which Indigenous issues are downplayed or ignored – this mentality is referred to as white fragility – where they are so removed from racial stress that they cannot emphasize or comprehend it, and commonly display defensive behaviour when confronted on racial issues such as denial, deflection, devaluing of racial issues, and racial arrogance (DiAngelo, 2011)

Why Are Indigenous Peoples the Most Marginalized?

- Government policies such as the Indian Act
- Systemic racism
- Deterioration of self-determination and agency through forced assimilation
- Historical trauma and intergenerational trauma
 - Often leads to struggles with addictions, family violence, youth in crisis, high suicide rates, chronic poverty and welfare dependency
 - Many communities are responding with community-based healing programs and facilities (AHF, 2003)
- Despite facing challenges as a direct result of colonization, Indigenous Peoples are resilient and have greater community capacity and direction than ever before

Social Determinants Impacting Indigenous Peoples

- The cycle of poverty for Indigenous Peoples who face multiple layers of marginalization includes:
 - Food insecurity
 - Lack of access to adequate housing and clean water
 - Homelessness
 - Lack of reliable and culturally-safe health care
 - Presence of fear in accessing services
 - Low wages
 - Social exclusion



Lack of Access to Care

- Services with the least reliable access are adult day centres, emergency shelters for homelessness, affordable child care and breakfast programs for school-aged children
- Lack of access to:
 - Culturally-safe health care and services
 - Child care
 - Mental health care/facilities



Lack of Access to Housing, Clean Water and Food Security

- Within Indigenous communities, there is a clear correlation between the prevalence of poverty and access to resources:
 - Underfunded infrastructure
 - Lack of access to affordable, adequate, safe housing
 - Overcrowded conditions
 - Lack of access to clean water and food security
- COVID-19 has exacerbated inequities and Indigenous communities are calling for increased resources and supports to communities, based on needs and equity (AFN, 2020)
- This includes sustainable funding for culturally-safe services and resources

Why Have We Moved Onto the Land?

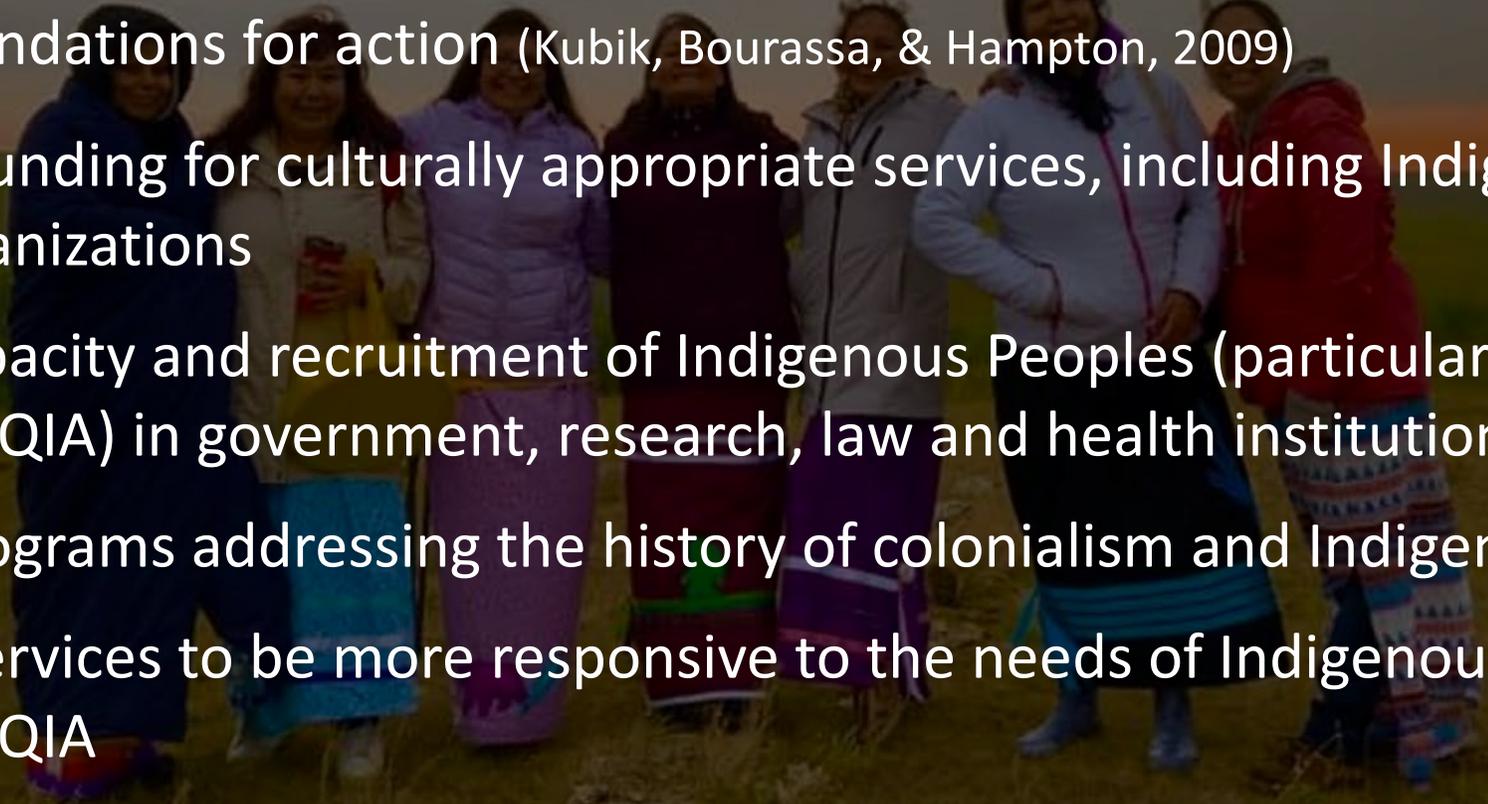
- Food security is a priority for Indigenous communities and they are taking action towards food sovereignty and engaging in traditional practices and projects such as:
 - Gardening
 - Traditional food gathering
 - Hunting and fishing
 - Access to affordable, healthy foods
 - Connection to traditional teachings and practices

Recommendations and Strength-Based Ideas

- Increased participation for Indigenous Peoples in the labour market is imperative to fostering growth, especially for those who face additional barriers such as those who live with disabilities or are a part of the 2SLGBTQQIA community
- Programs and services need to be more holistic and culturally safe
- Provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centred programs and services that are accessible, culturally safe, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous Peoples
- Ensure that all Indigenous communities receive immediate and necessary resources, including funding and support, for the establishment of sustainable, permanent, no-barrier, preventative, accessible, holistic, wraparound services

Recommendations and Strength-Based Ideas

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), Amnesty International and the Sisters in Spirit campaign have made several recommendations for action (Kubik, Bourassa, & Hampton, 2009)
 - Sustainable funding for culturally appropriate services, including Indigenous women's organizations
 - Increased capacity and recruitment of Indigenous Peoples (particularly women and 2SLGBTQQIA) in government, research, law and health institutions
 - Education programs addressing the history of colonialism and Indigenous Peoples
 - Re-align all services to be more responsive to the needs of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA
 - Uphold international human rights instruments relevant to the prevention of violence against women



Miigwetch/Thank you!

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