



**Abstract Title:** Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in cervical cancer prevention and treatment among Inuit communities

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## Introduction

The incidence of cervical cancer for Canadian Inuit is much higher than the national average (Hamlin-Douglas, Coutlée, Roger, Franco, & Brassard, 2008; Healey, et al., 2001). HPV rates coupled with limited services and reluctance of Papanicolaou (Pap) screening put Inuit women at risk for cervical cancer. Ensuring that Inuit are knowledgeable about cervical cancer and comfortable with screening could potentially help improve health outcomes, yet little is known about how Inuit knowledge can also be used to prevent cervical cancer.

## Objectives

This project aims to investigate current state of knowledge regarding cervical cancer in the context of Inuit wellness in northern Canada as it relates to cervical cancer. It will identify research priorities through the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (*IQ*) framework which is synonymous with Inuit traditional knowledge, culture and philosophy. Findings will support development of a future operation grant submission in collaboration with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, which will build evidence to better understand factors and concepts related to Inuit wellness as it pertains to cervical cancer prevention and treatment while utilizing novel ideas that promote wellness among Inuit communities.

## Methods

This project will undertake a systematic, scoping literature review (using the Joanna Briggs method) of current northern and traditional Indigenous literature within Canada and internationally, with a specific focus on cervical cancer, wellness, *IQ*, traditional knowledge and culturally safe/competent practices. The review will include searching databases for publications using key words such as PAP, HPV, cervical cancer, Inuit, northern hemisphere, Indigenous and more. Grey literature and unpublished works will also be included.

## Results

The proposed review will provide an environmental scan on current cervical cancer resources and Inuit knowledge. This information will be used as the background piece for a future grant submission. Based on findings of this project, the research team will engage key knowledge users, create new and strengthen existing partnerships between Inuit communities and network among identified stakeholders bringing together Inuit and government organizations, academics, youth, Elders, community members, public health and others engaged in this issue.

## Conclusion

This review will map existing resources and determine areas for future research that will increase understanding of Indigenous wellness as it pertains to cervical cancer. Findings will inform a broader collaborative, interdisciplinary IQ research program guiding the development of education and prevention tools and treatment modalities that are culturally safe and competent for Inuit communities.

## References

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