

Samson Cree Nation

Health Innovation & Cancer Prevention (HICP)

PROJECT SYNOPSIS: Conduct a needs assessment to gain a better understanding of cancer treatment & management, and the community's willingness to use tradition medicine/healers to treat cancer

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Outcomes/Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong problem-solving skills • Staff demonstrated tenacity and strong teamwork • A total of 137 surveys were completed
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockdown forced cancellation of in-person survey • Telephone survey was second attempt • Third attempt using a snowball sampling didn't work • Faced numerous personnel issues on fourth attempt
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 50% of cancer was detected during regular check-up/screening • 30% Samson cancer survivors decline Western treatment • Big barriers for cancer survivors include worrying about their health, dealing with the emotional issues at the same time, scare of physical pain, not having access to Indigenous support network, and not getting enough help from community • Higher percentage of female cancer survivors experienced "big" challenges • Barriers faced by caregivers include worrying about family with cancer, nobody is available to teach them how to provide care, don't know what to expect about illness or outcome • Both cancer survivors and caregivers consider traditional medicine as "important" or "very important"
Next Step(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Recommendation(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SFN develop a psychosocial intervention program to support the psychological well-being of Cancer Survivors and Caregivers 2. SFN provide home and community care 3. Hire a registered nurse 4. Provide transportation services 5. Build partnerships and collaborations between First Nation, cancer agencies and care providers in Edmonton 6. Increase access to traditional healers/medicine 7. AHS to integrate traditional healing with mainstream health services 8. Secure ongoing funding to study long-term effects of COVID-19

