



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Education and Research
on Aging & Health



CENTRE FOR Education and Research on Aging & Health

Knowledge | Collaboration | Action

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

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1. HUMAN RESOURCES

1.1 Core Staff Members

Name	Current Title	CERAH Tenure
Kathy Kortés-Miller, MSW, PhD	Director, Division Lead	July 1, 2021 - present
Idevania Costa, RN, NSWOC, MN, PhD	Associate Director	June 2024 - present
Kassandra Fernandes, MPH, PhD (Cand.)	Knowledge Mobilization Lead, Curriculum Developer	August 2017 - present
Marcie Hampson	Education Events Coordinator	May 1, 2025 - present
Stephanie Hendrickson, MSW	Knowledge Broker	December 15, 2011 - present
Jiaqi Li, BA, MA, M.Ed	Research Coordinator, Knowledge Mobilization Lead	July 2, 2024 - present
Carlina Marchese, MHSc	Knowledge Broker	June 24, 2019 - present
Holly Prince, MSW, PhD	Senior Project Manager, Division Lead	September 1, 2007 - present
Maydena Remenda, RSW, MSW	Knowledge Mobilization Lead	October 2023 - present
Trisha Wilson, RSW	Knowledge Mobilization Lead	February 13, 2025 - present
Jessica Wyatt, BEd., MA, PMP	Knowledge Mobilization Lead	May 6, 2008 - present

1.2 Other Staff Members

- Margaret Bannon, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator, April 1, 2021 - present
- Marlene Benvenuto, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator, April 1, 2021 - present
- Holly Cowan, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator, February 26, 2024 - present
- Sherri Henderson, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator, April 1, 2021 - present
- Jill Marcella, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator, September 24,

2020 - present

- Shevaun Nadin, Evaluation Senior Scientist, April 1, 2026 - present
- Daniel Peganos-Juando, Dementia Gardens Program Staff, June 2026 - present
- Gabrielle Prince, Knowledge Translation General Assistant, January 19, 2024 - present
- Kimberly Ramsbottom, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator - September 24, 2020 - present
- Jacob Rapai, Dementia Cafe Assistant, August 2024 - present
- Jacob Sargent, Dementia Gardens Program Staff, June 2026 - present
- Maaja Sepa, Dementia Café Coordinator, April 2024 - present
- Melissa Stevenson, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator - April 1, 2023 - present
- Joanna Vautour, Palliative Care Knowledge Mobilization Lead and Educator - September 24, 2020 – present
- Kay-Lynn (KC) Woilford, Education Facilitator, May 6, 2025 - March 31, 2026

1.3 Students

- Abbey Hunter, Master of Public Health (September 2024 - present)
- Myles Benc, Honour Bachelor of Social Work (September 2025 - April 2026)
- Maaja Sepa, Master of Health Sciences, Specialization in Gerontology (September 2023 - August 2025)
- Mikalea Green, Master of Public Health, Specialization in Gerontology (September 2025 - present)

1.4 Research Affiliates

The following individuals are listed as CERAH Research Affiliates:

- Joan Braun, PhD, Bora Laskin School of Law
- Ide Costa, PhD, School of Nursing
- Kristen Jones-Bonofiglio, PhD, School of Nursing
- Taryn Klarner Read, PhD, Department of Kinesiology
- Anna Koné Péfoyo, PhD, Department of Health Sciences
- Kathy Kortess-Miller, PhD, School of Social Work
- Lynn Martin, PhD, Department of Health Sciences
- Nisha Sutherland, PhD, School of Nursing
- Elaine Wiersma, PhD, Chair & Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Division Lead

2. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES (APRIL 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026)

2.1 Education Contracts

Since 1993, CERAH has organized and delivered gerontology education related to aging, seniors' mental health, palliative care, and other aging-related issues. Annual funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) and the North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) (now Ontario Health) has been allocated to CERAH since the 1990s as base funding, meaning that while funding contracts are annual, CERAH does not need to reapply for this funding.

In addition to this annual funding, in 2025-2026, CERAH received additional base funding from Ontario Health for two programs: Community Behavioural Supports funding (\$18,000 annually) and Dementia Café (\$28,019 annually). CERAH looks forward to welcoming funding for their new initiative, Dementia Gardens, in the next fiscal year. An ongoing agreement also continues with St. Joseph's Care Group to organize and facilitate education for the Regional Behavioural Supports Program (recently increased to \$50,000 annually).

The following outlines project and education contracts held at CERAH from April 1, 2025– March 31, 2026:

2025-2026	Ministry of Health/Long-term Care (Palliative Care Education - base funding)
2025-2026	Ontario Health (Community Behavioural Supports funding)
2025-2026	Ontario Health (Dementia Café: A Place to Belong)
2025-2026	Ontario Health (Geriatric Mental Health Education - base funding)
2025-2026	St. Joseph's Care Group (Regional Behavioural Supports Education contract)

One-Time Special Project Funding

In terms of special project funding, 2025-2026 saw contracts from Indigenous Services Canada Ontario Region and the PetroCan Care Makers Foundation. In addition, there was a continuation of initiatives funded by Indigenous Services Canada's Health and Social Services Sector and Dilico Anishinaabek Family Care to deliver palliative care education to frontline health and social care providers working in Indigenous communities. CERAH also completed an education service agreement with the North West Regional Palliative Care Program, St. Joseph's Care Group.

The following outlines project and education contracts held at CERAH from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026:

2025 - 2029	Indigenous Services Canada (Ontario Region: Palliative Care Education for Indigenous Communities: Supporting Capacity Development for Palliative Care Services)
2025 - 2026	PetroCan Caremakers Foundation (Walking Alongside Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill: Education for Community Caregivers)
2025-2027	Indigenous Services Canada, Health and Social Services Sector (Palliative Care Education for Indigenous Communities: Responding to the Educational Needs from the Advancing Indigenous Policy and Practice Knowledge Translation Event)
2025-2026	St. Joseph's Care Group (NW RPCP) (Education Service Agreement)

2.2 Overview of Education Initiatives

CERAH works diligently to respond to educational needs by making educational events accessible via videoconference and/or by delivering education in regional communities. Planning for education activities is done in conjunction with community partners, and the types of education provided are a direct result of our community collaborations.

Planning for seniors' mental health and aging is conducted in partnership with the North West Dementia Working Group, the North West Regional Geriatric Education Collaborative, St. Joseph's Care Group, the Regional Behavioural Supports Program and other collaborative initiatives.

Planning for palliative care education is conducted in partnership with the North West Regional Palliative Care Program and the lead agency for the program - St. Joseph's Care Group. CERAH co-leads the Palliative Care Education Collaborative, a working group of the Regional Palliative Care Program comprising individuals and organizations with palliative care education as part of their mandate.

The Indigenous Peoples' Health & Aging division responds to community needs by developing, implementing, and evaluating curricula and resources through culturally and contextually relevant research and knowledge translation. The planning is led by Anishinaabe scholar Dr. Holly Prince, in collaboration with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Carriers, Indigenous organizations and communities, and government and organizational program funders.

CERAH's educational initiatives also included the inaugural *Aging Across the Life Cycle* conference, held in October 2025. Bringing together nearly 300 participants from across Canada and internationally, the conference marked the first time CERAH's four areas of focus, Dementia & Seniors' Mental Health, Palliative Care, Indigenous Peoples' Health & Aging, and Aging in Place, were integrated into a single event. The conference provided a forum for

interdisciplinary learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange on issues related to aging, health, and well-being across the lifespan.

The various educational initiatives that CERAH organizes and delivers are listed below:

Conferences

- *2025 CERAH Conference: Aging Across the Life Cycle*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 2-3, 2025.
 - Aging Across Canada: Key Issues
 - How to Become an Advocacy Rockstar: It's Really Not That Hard
 - A Changemaker in the Parks: Promoting Social Health Through Story Sharing
 - Confronting Inequity: Improving Access to Palliative Care
 - Crucial Conversations at the End of Life
 - Thriving in Complexity: Supporting Dementia and Geriatric Mental Health Clinicians
 - Aging Mouths: Pt. 1 - Changing the Narrative
 - Aging Mouths: Pt. 2 - Hands on Palliative Oral Care
 - Palliative Care Clinical Coaches: How Clinical Coaches are Building Community Capacity Through Model of Care Implementation
 - A Duo-Ethnography on an Emancipatory Approach to Teaching Nursing Students to Support Older Persons on Their Aging Journey
 - COVID in the House of Old: Pandemic Podcast Stories from an Indigenous Nursing Home
 - A Spirit-Led Journey to Relational Accountability- A Visiting Approach to Understanding Interconnections Between Substance Use, Healing Pathways, and Mino-Bimaadiziwin: Conversations with Anishinabek
 - A Spirit-Led Journey to Relational Accountability- A Visiting Approach to Understanding Interconnections Between Substance Use, Healing Pathways, and Mino-Bimaadiziwin: Conversations with Anishinabek
 - Métis Priorities for Long-Term, Palliative, and End-of-Life Care
 - The Anishinabek Brain Aging in Older Adults' Study: Perspectives on Dementia Prevention, Assessment, and Post-Diagnosis Care Among Indigenous Peoples in Northwestern Ontario
 - Anticipatory Grief and Coping: Subjective Experiences With Young-Onset Dementia
 - The Family Picture: A Collection of Family Case Studies Exploring Roles, Relationships, and Identities After a Dementia Diagnosis and a Transition into a Long-Term Care Home
 - Lightning Talks - Caring in our Communities: Can We Curb a Crisis?
 - Mindfulness Wrap-Up
 - Building Supportive Communities: Reimagining Aging Across the Continuum - Panel
 - There's Always Room at the Table: Food for Thought About Aging in Place
 - Belonging and Purpose: The Experiences of People with Dementia and Care Partners in Participating in Research
 - Development of a Novel Approach to Identifying Home Care Clients who Could Potentially Benefit from a Palliative Approach to Their Care

- Empathic Leadership and Healthy Workplaces: Frontline Nurse Perspectives in Palliative and End-of-Life Care
 - Metamorphosis To Date: The Implementation of an Emotion-Based Approach to Care in a Northwestern Ontario Long-Term Care Home
 - Safer Supply Programs are Palliative Care: Digital Stories by Safer Supply Participants
 - What We Heard: Indigenous Perspectives on End-of-Life Care, Including Medical Assistance in Dying
 - Supporting the Sexual Health of People with Dementia: Building Knowledge and Skills along with Practical Strategies for Care Teams
 - Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care Homes across Northwestern Ontario
 - Insights and Impacts of the Essential-Care-Partner Support Hub: Building a Caregiver-Inclusive Culture in Healthcare
 - TimeSlips Storytelling: Unleashing Imaginations for those with Dementia and Caregivers
 - Listening, Learning, Respecting: Wise Relational Practices in Engaging with Indigenous Peoples in Healthcare
 - Responding to Elder Abuse: An Examination of Laws, Policies, Advocacy and Effective Response
 - From Stories to Systems: Extending Aging in Place to Dying in Place through Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities
 - Exploring the Experiences of Métis Caregivers in Ontario Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Using Visiting
 - Facilitating Community Conversations about Medical Assistance in Dying using Digital Stories and a Podcast
 - Co-designing Health Professions Education for Integrated Stroke Care for Older Adults to Support Aging in Place
 - COURAGE: An Impact Networks Model for Advancing a National Strategy to Support Canadians Aging in Place
 - Building a Community Coalition for a Palliative Approach in Rural Ontario
 - Call to Action & Next Steps: Aging Across the Life Cycle
- *MAiD: Options & Opportunities at End of Life - A Panel Discussion*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 2, 2026

Workshops/Courses

Multi-Day Workshops

- *Palliative Care for Front-Line Workers*, 2 days x 2 workshops in Thunder Bay, Ontario
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) Long-Term Care*, 2 days x 1 workshop in Kenora, Ontario
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) for Indigenous Communities*, 2 days x 7 workshops in Six Nations of the Grand River, Thunder Bay (x2), Sudbury, Winnipeg, London, and Sioux Lookout
- *Palliative Care for Front-Line Workers in Indigenous Communities – Beginning the Journey* (Modules 1-8), held in-person over 2 days delivered in-person in Ottawa,

Thunder Bay (x4), Yellowknife

- *Palliative Care for Front-Line Workers in Indigenous Communities – Continuing the Journey* (Modules 9-12), held virtually over 4 sessions x 2 workshops
- *Palliative Care Community Capacity Development Workshop*, held in-person over 2 days in Yellowknife
- *Palliative Care for Front-Line Workers in Indigenous Communities – Introduction* (Modules 1-8), held virtually over 4 sessions x 1 workshops

One-Day Workshops

- *Building the Circle of Care: Education for Providers Supporting Indigenous Community Caregivers* workshop, held in-person over 1 day x 2 workshops in Ottawa and Thunder Bay
- *Equity in Care: Palliative Care for People Living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* 1 day x 1 workshop in Thunder Bay, Ontario (hybrid)
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) Mini*, 1 day x 1 workshop in Geraldton, Ontario
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) Paramedic*, 1 day x 1 workshop in Kenora, Ontario
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) Paramedic*, 1 day x 1 workshop in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Half-Day Workshops

- *Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest* - Primary Care Provider Event in Thunder Bay, Ontario, September 24, 2025
- *Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest* - Community Event in Thunder Bay, Ontario, September 25, 2025
- Primary Care Event - Guiding Patients through Serious Illness and Addressing Suffering: The Evolving Role of Primary Care in Advancing Illness & MAiD in Thunder Bay, Ontario, March 19, 2026
- Seed Collection Event, September 26 & October 24, 2025
- Seed Cleaning Event, November 21, 2025
- Winter Sowing Workshop, February 6, 2026
- Creative Communication Practice Session-Timeslip Storytelling with the Dementia in the Outdoors Project Team, February 19 & 26, 2026

Seminars

- Through Our Eyes Presentations, 45 min. x 3 sessions:
 - Presentation #1: at Nursing school, Lakehead University, May 8, 2025
 - Presentation #2: Gerontological Nursing Association Ontario North West Chapter, Oct 23, 2025
 - Presentation #3: Undergraduate Class 'Overview of Dementia Studies', Lakehead University, Feb 6, 2026
- Dementia Gardens Speaker Series, 60 min.
 - Native Pollinators, April 24, 2025
 - Replacing Colonization Through Community, May 22, 2025

- Dementia Gardens: Related Presentations, 60 min.
 - Dementia Gardens Signage Presentations, 60 min., Nov 25, 2025
 - Dementia gardens presentation at Age-Friendly Partnership Meeting, December 10, 2025
- Care Partner Speaker Series, 60 min.
 - Presentation #1: *Navigating the dementia diagnosis Presentation* at the 55 Plus Centre, April 17, 2025
 - Presentation #2: *Navigating the dementia diagnosis Presentation* at Hospice Navigating the River Conference, Oct 21, 2025
 - Presentation #3: *The Journey after the Dementia Diagnosis Presentation* at the Chartwell Hilldale, Jan 23, 2026
 - Presentation #4: *The Journey after the Dementia Diagnosis Presentation* at the 55 Plus Centre, Feb 5, 2026
 - Presentation #5: *The Journey after the Dementia Diagnosis Presentation* to the Lakehead University, undergraduate class 'Overview of Dementia Studies', March 4, 2026
- Palliative Care Lunch and Learn (TBRHSC), 20 min. x 3 sessions x 2:
 - Substitute Decision Markers, Consent & Capacity: What you need to know, February 6, 2026
 - Integrating a Palliative Approach into your Role, February 11, 2026

Webinars/Videoconferences

- National Advance Care Planning Day webinar, 1 hour x 2 sessions
- CERAH Speaker Series, 45 min. - 1.5 hour x 7 sessions:
 - Webinar #1: Evaluating 'Keep Moving': Assessing and Expanding the Impact of Community-Based Exercise for Older Adults with Brain Injury, April 25, 2025
 - Webinar #2: Indigenous Cultural Safety & Humility (ICS&H) & Systemic Racism: Connecting the Dots for Deeper Understanding to Strengthen Health Providers & Practice, May 15, 2025
 - Webinar #3: Elder Abuse and the Law: Updates and Perspectives on Canadian Laws, Policies and Response, June 18, 2025
 - Webinar #4: Zhiitaa-ook waa-ni onj-kijig: Re-activating Anishinaabe Gikendaasowin (Knowledge) for Caregiving at the End of Life, September 24, 2025
 - Webinar #5: Disenfranchised Grief: Exploring the Importance of Spiritual Processing for Culturally Diverse Personal Support Workers in Canada, November 12, 2025
 - Webinar #6: The family picture: A collection of family case studies exploring roles, relationships, and identities after a dementia diagnosis and a transition into a long-term care home, January 19, 2026
 - Webinar #7: End of Life Explained - Understanding what Happens When We Die, February 19, 2026
- North West Grief & Bereavement Community of Practice Virtual Education Series, 1 hour x 6 sessions:
 - Webinar #1: Grief Literacy, November 13, 2025
 - Webinar #2: Grief During the Holidays, December 3, 2025
 - Webinar #3: Acknowledging Care Provider Grief, January 15, 2026

- Webinar #4: Sitting with Grief - Supporting Patients and Families, February 26, 2026
- Webinar #5: Pregnancy and Infant Loss - Awareness Matters, March 12, 2026
- Webinar #6: Grief & Spirituality, March 26, 2026
- Palliative Care ECHO Session:
 - Palliative Assessment Tools, 1 hr., October 8, 2025
- Dementia Gardens Speaker Series (virtual)
 - Native Pollinators, April 24, 2025
 - Replacing Colonization Through Community, May 22, 2025

Centre Programs

Dementia Café

Dementia Café: A Place to Belong was created as a space to foster and maintain a safe and inclusive social environment with opportunities for social connection and interaction for people with dementia, regardless of age or stage, and their care partners. It is a social program that provides a safe and inclusive environment for social interaction and provides opportunities to decrease social isolation that can occur with a diagnosis of dementia. Specifically, the goals of Dementia Café: A Place to Belong include:

- To create and maintain a safe and inclusive social environment with opportunities for social connection and interaction for people with dementia (regardless of age or stage of dementia) and their care partners
- To engage and involve willing people with early dementia and care partners on the advisory committee and as volunteers with the Dementia Café: A Place to Belong
- To provide resources and information to people with dementia and care partners

The Dementia Café continues to be held in person post-pandemic (three times per month) and has grown in numbers since. The Dementia Café ran 34 times over the 2025 - 2026 period.

The Friendship Café (Rural Dementia Café)

The Friendship Café (formerly the Rural Dementia Café until January 2026) is a vital community initiative launched in April 2025 in Kakabeka Falls through a partnership between NorWest Community Health Centres and CERAH, with support from ASTB. Held on the fourth Friday of every month at the Rural 60 Plus center, this free program has recently expanded its scope from dementia-specific care to a fully inclusive model open to all community members since January 2026. In addition to offering social activities like music, games, and arts to reduce isolation, the Café now incorporates broader educational and community-centric programming, including Advanced Care Planning and "Our Communities, Our Stories" storytelling sessions, further strengthening rural support systems.

North West Dementia Working Group

The North West Dementia Working Group (NWDWG) is an independent grassroots advocacy group in Northwestern Ontario and has been in existence since 2014. Comprised of people living with dementia and care partners, the group is supported by CERAH. The mission and vision of the NWDWG is to be a voice for people living with dementia to ensure they are treated with respect and dignity and afforded their human rights. As a group, they work to challenge stigma and advocate for meaningful inclusion of people living with dementia by promoting

awareness, education, and influencing policies and services. Post-pandemic, they have resumed their monthly meetings to be in-person, and the group has since grown to be just over 20 people living with dementia and their care partners. In 2026, the NWDWG celebrated its 12-year anniversary. During the 2025-2026 period, the NWDWG held 10 meetings, one per month, each lasting 2.5 hours.

Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow

Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow was developed by the North West Dementia Working Group (NWDWG) in partnership with the City of Thunder Bay and Lakehead University. Inspired by the Green Care Farm model, the initiative was designed to provide people living with dementia with meaningful opportunities to connect with nature, build relationships, and participate in sensory-rich activities centred around gardening and the outdoors. The program also created opportunities for care partners, students, volunteers, and community members to connect through community and intergenerational programming.

In July 2026, Dementia Gardens is set to launch its first Adult Day Program at the Lakehead University Greenhouse. The weekly Friday program will provide six hours of engaging, nature-based activities for up to 10 people living with dementia while offering a full day of respite for care partners. The inaugural season will run throughout July, August, and September and help lay the foundation for the program's future permanent home at the Centennial Botanical Conservatory.

Dissemination of Information

- CERAH Monthly Newsletter E-Blasts, CERAH Website, Social Media
- Dementia Gardens Events
 - Seed Collection Event, September 26 & October 24, 2025
 - Seed Cleaning Event, November 21, 2025
 - Winter Sowing Workshop, February 6, 2026
 - Dementia Gardens Speaker Series, 60 min.
 - Native Pollinators, April 24, 2025
 - Replacing Colonization Through Community, May 22, 2025
 - Dementia Gardens Signage Presentations, Nov 25, 2025
 - Dementia gardens presentation at Age-Friendly Partnership Meeting, December 10, 2025
- Compassionate Thunder Bay Death Cafes
- CERAH Booth Displays
 - *55 Plus Centre Lunch & Learn*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, April 17, 2025
 - *Thunder Bay's legislated Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan*, August 20 & September 10, 2025
 - *Hope For The Best Plan For The Rest - 7 Keys For Navigating A Life-Changing Diagnosis*, September 25, 2025
 - *2025 CERAH Conference: Aging Across the Life Cycle*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 2-3, 2025.
 - *The Caregiver Conference hosted by Hospice Northwest Services*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 21, 2026
 - *Age-Friendly Halloween Health Fair*, October 31, 2025, Thunder Bay, Ontario

- *Collaboration, Excellence, Innovation*, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, Toronto, Ontario, June 7-10, 2025
- The Friendship Café (Rural Dementia Café), 120 min, fourth Friday every month
 - April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28, December 12, 2025; January 23, February 27, March 27, 2026
- Disrupting Death Podcast features conversations about Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada. Hosts Kathy Kortes-Miller and Keri-Lyn Durant lead with curiosity as they interview a wide range of guests who know MAiD intimately.
 - Episode 29: MAiD Rites & Ceremonies with Kelley Korbin
 - Episode 30: MAiD in Canada with Paul Magennis
 - Episode 31: A Child Life Specialist talks Dying, Death, and MAiD with Ceilidh Eaton Russell
 - Episode 32: Statistics and Safeguards with Dr. James Downar
 - Episode 33: Both Sides of the MAiD Bed with Kim Carlson
 - Episode 34: Grief Matters with Susan Cadell & Mary Ellen MacDonald
 - Episode 35: Artistry, Advocacy & Hope with April Hubbard
 - Episode 36: Ethics & MAiD with Eric Mathison
 - Episode 37: Arts-based Knowledge Translation with Sarina Isenberg
 - Episode 38: Suffering, Track Two, and Finding Common Ground in the Grey with Barb Pesut
 - Episode 39: Systems and Saying Goodbyes with Cindy Lang
 - Episode 40: Autonomy, Safety, and Social Suffering with Dr. Ramona Coelho
 - Episode 41: Dignity, Equity, and Justice-oriented Healthcare with Dr. Naheed Dosani
 - Episode 42: The Alberta Episode with Dr. Stacy Hume, Dr Tracy Powell, and Tania Stilson

Curriculum/Teaching Manuals

- *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers in Indigenous Communities: Continuing the Journey* curriculum developed in 2025. Piloted, refined, and finalized September 2025.
 - *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers in Indigenous Communities: Continuing the Journey*. (2025). [Facilitator Manual].
 - *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers in Indigenous Communities: Continuing the Journey*. (2025). [Facilitator Manual].
- *Building the Circle of Care: Education for Providers Supporting Indigenous Community Caregivers* curriculum. Piloted and revised January through March 2026.
 - *Building the Circle of Care: Education for Providers Supporting Indigenous Community Caregivers*. (2026). [Participant Manual]
 - *Building the Circle of Care: Education for Providers Supporting Indigenous Community Caregivers*. (2026). [Facilitator Manual]

2.3 Plans for 2026-2027

Continual education initiatives planned:

Conferences:

- *2026 Palliative Care Booster, The Common Thread: Weaving a Palliative Approach Across Care Settings*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 2, 2026
- *2026 Behavioural Supports Ontario Retreat*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, October 6, 2026

Workshops/Courses/Series:

- *NWDWG Caregiver Speaker Series—The Journey after the Dementia Diagnosis*, Elizabeth Court Apartments, May 6, 2026, Thunder Bay
- *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers* x 2 courses (1 virtual, 1 in-person)
- *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP) for Indigenous Communities*, 2 days x 3 workshops in Ontario
- *Beginning the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers* held in-person over 2 days delivered in-person x 4 workshops in Atlantic Canada (2) and Ontario region (2)
- *Continuing the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Intermediate Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers*, held virtually over 4 sessions, x 3 workshops for Ontario region
- *Beginning the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers* held virtually over 4 sessions x 3 workshops for provinces and territories across Canada
- *Beyond the Textbook: Realities of Palliative and End-of-Life Care*, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Campus, October 1, 2026.

Videoconferences (Zoom):

- CERAH Speaker Series
 - Webinar #1: *The Journey after the Dementia Diagnosis*, June 24, 2026
 - Webinar #2: *Walking Alongside Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill*, October 1, 2026
 - Webinar #3: *Palliative Care Is...*, October 27, 2026
 - Webinar #4: *Opioid Use and Palliative Care*, November 17, 2026
 - Webinar #5: *Traditional Medicine in Palliative Care*, Date TBD
 - Webinar #6: *CERAH Conference Announcement*, Date TBD
- North West Grief & Bereavement Community of Practice - 4 sessions
- North West Pain & Symptom Management Community of Practice - 3 sessions

Dissemination of Information:

- CERAH website, monthly e-blast, social media, articles
- CERAH Booth Displays
 - *Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, June 8-10, 2026
 - *Brain Health Fair*, Thunder Bay, Ontario, June 18, 2026
 - *Indigenous Service Provider Gathering*, September 24, 2026
 - *Northwestern Ontario Palliative Care Conference Booster*, Thunder Bay & Virtual, October 2, 2026
 - *IDEA@Work Conference*, Thunder Bay, June 22, 2026

- o *EPID@Work Conference, Thunder Bay, October 20, 2026*
- Disrupting Death Podcast
- Compassionate Thunder Bay Death Cafes
- Compassionate Thunder Bay Book Club
- Dementia Gardens Project
 - o Dementia Gardens Open House, June 12, 2026, Thunder Bay, Ontario
 - o Dementia Gardens Adult Day Program, Every Fridays at July 2026 - September 2026, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Age Friendly Thunder Bay Partnership Committee Meeting, October 8 & December 10, 2025; February 11, 2026; May 13, 2026

Curriculum/Teaching Manuals:

- *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers*, Revised April 2026 [Participant Manual]
- *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers*, Revised April 2026 [Facilitator Manual]
- In the coming 2026/2027 year, the Indigenous Peoples' Health & Aging division curricula will undergo significant review, rebranding, and revision:
 - o *Beginning the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers* curriculum (formerly *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers in Indigenous Communities*)
 - *Beginning the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers*, Revised January 2027 [Facilitator Manual]
 - *Beginning the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers*, Revised January 2027 [Participant Manual]
 - o *Continuing the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Intermediate Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers* curriculum (formerly *Palliative Care for Frontline Workers in Indigenous Communities: Continuing the Journey*)
 - *Continuing the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers*, Revised January 2027 [Facilitator Manual]
 - *Continuing the Journey - Caring for Indigenous Peoples: Introductory Palliative Care Education for Health and Social Care Providers*, Revised January 2027 [Participant Manual]
 - o *Re-claiming our ways of Caring: Strengthening Capacity for Community-Led Approaches to Palliative Care*, new curriculum
 - o *Preparing for the Journey: A Manual to Support Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill*, (formerly *Preparing for the Journey: Caring for Indigenous Peoples Who Are Seriously Ill*, Revised 2025), Revised January 2027
 - o *Walking Alongside Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill: Education for Community Caregivers*, Revised June 2026
 - *Walking Alongside Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill: Education for Community Caregivers: Caregiver Pathway Guide*, June 2026
 - *Walking Alongside Indigenous Peoples who are Seriously Ill: Education for Community Caregivers: Resource Website*, Updated June 2026

3. RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS (JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026)

3.1 Project Summaries

Dementia in the Outdoors

Dementia in the Outdoors: Exploring the Mechanisms of Engagement is a multi-site, participatory research project led by CERAH in partnership with the University of British Columbia and the University of the Fraser Valley. The project explores how nature-based initiatives, including gardening programs, outdoor clubs, and trishaw rides, can support the social, relational, and environmental citizenship of people living with dementia.

During 2025–2026, the project continued across three case study sites: Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow in Thunder Bay, the Fireweed Club in Vancouver, and the Trishaw Rides Program in Chilliwack. People living with dementia, care partners, students, and community partners were engaged as collaborators in the research. Findings from the project will help inform guidelines and resources for developing meaningful and inclusive nature-based programs for people living with dementia.

3.2 Research Grants

Date of Grant	Name and Role of Faculty Member	Granting Body	Research Title
2023-2026	Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Principal Investigator, Dr. Nisha Sutherland Collaborator	SSHRC	LivEDem: Centring the Lived Experience of Dementia within Policy, Practice & Community Development
2024-2027	Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Principal Investigator (Nominated), Dr. Nisha Sutherland Co-investigator	CIHR	Dementia in the Outdoors: Exploring the Mechanisms of Engagement
2024-2027	Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Principal Investigator, Dr. Nisha Sutherland Collaborator	The City of Thunder Bay's Clean, Green & Beautiful (CGB) Grant	Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow
March 31, 2026	Dr. Idevania Costa, Principal Investigator	SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant – The Arts Transformed.	The Arts Transformed: A Scoping Review of Digital Storytelling as a Tool to Illuminate Lived Experiences and Amplify Voices of Equity-Deserving Populations
March 31, 2026	Dr. Idevania Costa, Principal Investigator	SSHRC SIG Community-Engaged	Co-Creating Community-Driven Strategies to Reduce Chronic

		Research Grant (CERG) Program	Wound Inequities in Rural and Remote Northern Ontario
Oct 28, 2025	Dr. Idevania Costa, Principal Investigator	SRC CIHR Research Development Fund	Mapping the 2025 Canadian Drought and Exploring Associated Climate-Related Health Risks.

*Please note the grants listed here include active involvement with staff and research affiliates of CERAH on topics aligned with our Centre's mission and vision. Not all research funding listed here flows through or is received directly by CERAH.

4. PUBLICATIONS (JULY 1, 2025– JUNE 30, 2026)

4.1 Refereed Journal Articles

- Banner, A., Williams, N., & **Martin, L.** (2026). Palliative needs among home care clients from underserved groups: A cross-sectional study. *Journal of Palliative Care*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08258597261436078>
- Bernardes, R. M., Guimarães, C. S., Rabeh, S. A. N., Caliri, M. H. L., Pieper, B., & **Costa, I. G.** (2026). Effectiveness of an educational website to enhance knowledge and satisfaction about pressure injuries: A quasi-experimental study. *Journal of Wound Management*, 27(1), 98–104. <https://doi.org/10.35279/jowm2026.27.01.05>
- Brandão, M. G. S. A., Meneguetti, M. G., Filho, R. B., Mendonça, L. R., Gomes, A. C., **Costa, I. G.**, & Rabeh, S. A. N. (2026). Antimicrobial photodynamic therapy in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers: A pilot randomized clinical trial. *Journal of Biophotonics*, 19(5), e70278. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jbio.70278>
- **Braun, J.** (2025). Legal Frameworks Intended to Protect Marginalized Older Adults: Should the Concept of Vulnerability be Abandoned or Re-envisioned? *Vulnerability, Inequality, and Justice (VIJ) Special Issue, Dalhousie Law Journal* [Forthcoming].
- **Braun, J.** Adult Protection and Dementia: Role of (In)Capacity Assessment in the Legal Response in eds, G Cohen, F Shen, NA Kohn & S Baruch, *Law, Health Care, and the Aging Brain and Body* (Cambridge University Press, 2027). [Forthcoming].
- **Braun, J.** (2025). Public Health Law and Aging in Jacob Shelley, C. Tess Sheldon & Ubaka Ogbogu, eds, *Public Health Law and Policy in Canada*, 5th ed. Markham: Lexis Nexis Canada.
- Bryson, M., Bédard, M., & **Martin, L.** (2026). Prevalence of pain and receipt of pain management among persons receiving inpatient psychiatric services. *Health Psychology*

Open. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20551029261458472>

- Concepcion Bachynski, J., Duhn, L., **Costa, I. G.**, & Camargo-Plazas, P. (2025). Breaking through the glass ceiling—Having that conversation: A constructivist grounded theory study exploring the experiences of nephrology nurses' practice in kidney supportive care in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 58(2), 141–155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08445621251395378>
- **Costa, I. G.**, Levine, D., Phillips, C., Schoales, C., & Camargo-Plazas, P. (2026). Patient bill of rights and responsibilities in wound prevention and care (PBoRR-WPC). *Wound Care Canada*, 24(1, Suppl.). <https://doi.org/10.56885/861701gspubh>
- **Costa, I. G.**, Philips, C., Stevens, K., Schoales, C., Bajnok, I., Botros, M., Strachan, R., Santorelli, S., & Camargo-Plazas, P. (2026). A patient bill of rights and responsibilities for wound prevention and care in Canada: Grounded in stories and guided by co-design and community-based participatory principles. *International Wound Journal*, 23(6), e70962. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.70962>
- **Costa, I. G.**, Strachan, R. K., Levine, D., Kuper, I., Santorelli, S., Camargo-Plazas, P., Botros, M., Bajnok, I., & Philips, C. (2025). Our voices, our stories: A multi-method knowledge translation strategy for advancing inclusivity and creating trauma-informed wound care. *International Wound Journal*, 22, e70698. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.70698>
- **Costa, I. G.**, & Woo, K. (2025). Healing without harm: Advancing antimicrobial stewardship in Canada with gentian violet methylene blue dressings. *Wound Care Canada*, 23(2), 51–59. <https://doi.org/10.56885/207982bamjrl>
- Duhn, L., Robertson, M., **Costa, I. G.**, Alvarado, B., Paré, G. C., & Camargo-Plazas, P. (2025). “I am not alone”: A photovoice exploration of diabetes self-management for older persons in rural Ontario, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 57(2), 242–255. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08445621251313500>
- Durant, K. L., & **Kortes-Miller, K.** (2025). Exploring medical assistance in dying (MAiD)-related grief and bereavement through virtual digital storytelling workshops. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 24, 16094069251371464.
- Er-raji, N., Tahir, M., & **Martin, L.** (2026). A cognitive accessibility review of national palliative care resources with people with cognitive disabilities. *BMC Palliative Care*, 25, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-026-02067-3>
- Jyothi Kumar, S., Bishop, V., Bainbridge, D., Kilbertus, F., **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Winemaker, S., & Seow, H. (2026). Primary care providers' perceptions of the CAPACITI palliative care education trial: A qualitative study of experiences with self-directed and facilitated modalities. *Journal of Palliative Care*, 41(2), 197–204.
- **Kortes-Miller, K.**, & Durant, K. L. (2026). Disrupting death and medical assistance in dying (MAiD): Podcasting as public scholarship and knowledge mobilization. *Canadian Journal of MAiD*, 26–31.

- Magyar, N., **Kortes-Miller, K.**, & **Martin, L.** (2026). Palliative care in rural, remote, and northern communities: A scoping review. *BMC Palliative Care*, 25(1), 117. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-026-02071-7>
- Phillips, C., Powell, E., Camargo Plazas, P., & **Costa, I. G.** (2025). Living with hard-to-heal wounds: A global health challenge explored through analytic sketches. *Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634593251407058>
- Rodericks-Schulwach, A., Gokani, R., & **Martin, L.** (2025). Palliative care access and use among homeless individuals: A scoping review. *BMC Palliative Care*, 24, 203. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-025-01835-x>
- Stewart, A., Bitschy, A., **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Smith, K., Premji, Z., Grillo, A., & Stajduhar, K. (2026). Exploring the factors that prevent or facilitate palliative care at 'home' for adults experiencing structural vulnerability: A scoping review. *International Journal for Equity in Health*.
- Yohuno, E., Bédard, M., & **Martin, L.** (2026). Access to palliative care by home care clients with severe and persistent mental illness: A retrospective study of health administrative data. *BMC Palliative Care*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-026-02164-3>
- Zanchetta, M. S., **Costa, I. G.**, Lucchese, S. P., Blotta, M. G. M. M., Paula, C. M. de, Maciel, T., Medeiros, M., Barbosa, R., Santos, W. S., Vedana, K. G. G., Fracazzo, V., Silva, K. L. da, & Pereira, M. O. (2025). Emotional experiences and coping styles of Brazilians in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic facing stressful situations with their family and friends in Canada and Brazil. *Revista de Enfermagem UFPE on Line*, 19(2). <https://doi.org/10.5205/1981-8963.2025.263903>
- Zanchetta, M. S., Medeiros, M., Santos, W. S., Silva, K. L. da, **Costa, I. G.**, Vedana, K. G. G., Lucchese, S. P., Blotta, M. G. M. M., Barbosa, R., Pereira, M. O., & Paula, C. M. de. (2025). Impacts of COVID-19 on Brazilians living abroad and the social determinants of their emotional health. *Revista de Enfermagem UFPE on Line*, 19. <https://doi.org/10.5205/1981-8963.2025.260520>

4.2 Book Chapters

- Bachynski, J. C., & **Costa, I. G.** (in preparation). Early memo-writing in grounded theory studies. In G. Hadley & A. Bryant (Eds.), *Grounded theory in action*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Guthrie, D., **Martin, L.**, Sinnarajah, A., Anderson, L., Aucoin, J., Bagaragaza, E., Brooks, R., Declercq, A., Graves, E., Heckman, G., Hirdes, J. P., James, M. L., Meehan, B., Morris, J. N., Vadeboncoeur, C., Sultan, H., & Williams, N. (2026). *interRAI Serious Illness Collaborative Action Plan (CAP)*. interRAI.

4.3 Technical Reports

- Adams, P., Cory, S., **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Rattner, M., & Thompson, M. (2025). *A strategic approach to grief literacy and grief support in Canada*. Health Canada.
- **Costa, I. G.** (2026). *Patient bill of rights and responsibilities in wound prevention and care (PBoRR-WPC)*. Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH) & Wounds Canada.

4.4 Conference Presentations and Posters

- Bishop, R., Roche-Nagle, G., Saleh, A., **Costa, I. G.**, et al. (2025, October 2–4). *Healing Hard-to-Heal Diabetic Foot Ulcers Using an Advanced Regenerative Matrix: A Large Multi-Site Case Series*. [Oral presentation]. Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Braun, J. (2026, June). *Article 12 of the Convention and supported decision-making: Questions when the adult has dementia* [Conference presentation]. World Congress on Adult Capacity, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Braun, J. (2025, October). *Elder abuse: Laws, policies and advocacy approaches* [Conference presentation]. CERAH Conference: Aging Through the Life Cycle, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.
- Braun, J. (2026, June). *Older adults with dementia at risk of harm: A rights-focused discussion of legislative options for response* [Conference presentation]. International Academy on Law and Mental Health Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Braun, J. (2025, October). *Vulnerability and the impact of laws on marginalized older adult populations* [Workshop presentation]. Vulnerability, Inequality and Justice Workshop, Peter A. Allard Hall, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- Cadell, S., Levac, S., Wright, D., Macdonald, M. E., Aoun, S., Arya, A., Breen, L., Cherblanc, J., Dosani, N., **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Sequeira, L., Anthony, K., Boudreau, C., **Prince, H.**, & Thompson, M. (2026, June 14–16). *Who Needs Grief Support In Canada?: Testing the Public Health Model of Bereavement Support* [Conference presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, Toronto, ON.
- Camargo-Plazas, P., Bhatt, K., Snow, R., Bleah, P., Bachynski Concepcion, J., Alvarado, B., **Costa, I. G.**, & Duhn, L. (2026, February 10). *Diabetes Self-Management Education for Older Adults in Rural Settings: A Participatory Knowledge-Exchange Event to Listen, Share, and Co-Create*. [Oral presentation]. 10th World Conference on Qualitative Research.
- Camargo-Plazas, P., Bhatt, K., Snow, R., Bleah, P., Bachynski Concepcion, J., Alvarado,

- B., **Costa, I. G.**, & Duhn, L. (2026, February 26). *Reimagining Diabetes Self-Management Education for Older Adults in Rural Communities: Evidence, Lived Experience, and Design*. [Invited oral presentation]. North West Diabetes Community of Practice.
- Canham, M., Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, Sinnarajah, A., Vadeboncoeur, C., Saari, M., Boscart, V., & Guthrie, D. (2026, June 14–16). *New and upcoming interRAI tools to support care planning and decision-making in palliative care*. [Conference presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Annual Conference, Richmond Hill, ON.
 - Cates, M., **Costa, I.**, & **Jones-Bonofiglio, K.** (2025, October). *A duo-ethnography on an emancipatory approach to teaching nursing students to support older persons on their aging journey*. [Conference presentation]. Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH) Conference: Aging Across the Life Cycle, Thunder Bay, ON.
 - **Costa, I. G.**, Brandão, M. G., Santorelli, S., Strachan, R., Camargo-Plazas, P., & Luctkar-Flude, M. (2026, April 24–28). *Stigma, Struggle, and Strength: Understanding the Daily Realities of Living with Diabetic Foot Ulcers—A Qualitative Synthesis*. [Poster presentation]. WCET®–NSWOCC® 2026 Biennial Joint Congress, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
 - **Costa, I. G.**, Santorelli, S., Strachan, R., Camargo-Plazas, P., & Phillips, C. (2026, April 24–28). *Amplifying Voices: A Multi-Modal Knowledge Translation Initiative to Promote Inclusive, Equitable, and Trauma-Informed Wound Care*. [Poster presentation]. WCET®–NSWOCC® 2026 Biennial Joint Congress, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
 - **Costa, I. G.**, Brandão, M. G. A., Strachan, R., Santorelli, S., Camargo-Plazas, P., & Phillips, C. (2025, October 2–4). *Beyond the Wound: A Qualitative Review of How People Live with and Manage Diabetic Foot Ulcers*. [Oral presentation]. Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
 - **Costa, I. G.**, Levine, D., Camargo-Plazas, P., Spadoni, M., Schoales, C., & Phillips, C. (2025, October 2–4). *Voices into Action: Co-Creating a Patient Bill of Rights to Advance Equity in Wound Care*. [Oral presentation]. Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
 - **Costa, I. G.**, Stoesz, S., & Gratzner, P. F. (2025, October 2–4). *Decellularized Dermal Matrix as a Solution for Recurrent Pilonidal Sinus Wounds: Two Case Reports*. [Oral presentation]. Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
 - Er-Raji, N., Tahir, M., Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, & Cobigo, V. (2026, May 21–23). *Centering lived experience: a two-phase evaluation of the cognitive accessibility of Palliative Care Resources*. [Poster presentation]. Canadian Community Psychology Conference, Waterloo, ON.

- Er-Raji, N., Tahir, M., Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, & Cobigo, V. (2026, February 6). *Evaluating cognitive accessibility in palliative care resources: a participatory study with adults with cognitive disabilities*. [Poster presentation]. 2026 Showcase of Health Research, Centre for Applied Health Research at St. Joseph's Care Group, Thunder Bay, ON.
- Er-Raji, N., Tahir, M., Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, & Cobigo, V. (2026, February 4–5). *Evaluating Cognitive Accessibility in Palliative Care Resources: A Participatory Study with Adults with Developmental Disabilities*. [Poster presentation]. The Annual Canadian Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities Conference [Virtual].
- Er-Raji, N., Tahir, M., Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, & Cobigo, V. (2025, September 1–2). *Breaking Barriers in Palliative Care: A Multi-Phase Study on Accessibility and Cognitive Inclusion*. [Conference presentation]. International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Health Issues Special Interest Research Group Conference, London, UK.
- **Fernandes, K., Wyatt, J., & Prince, H.** (2025, June 10–12). *Re-Shaping palliative care education through Indigenous-led, culturally safer approaches*. [Poster presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference.
- Ganesh, V., Heckman, G., Fearon, D., & **Martin, L.** (2026, April 23–25). *Effect of the pandemic on the rate of Do-Not-Resuscitate orders among Ontario long-term care residents*. [Poster presentation]. Canadian Geriatrics Society 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting, Montréal, QC.
- **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Martin, K., Wilson, K., & Stinchcombe, A. (2026, July 5–8). *From Policy to Personal: Digital Stories as a Pedagogical Tool for Understanding MAiD in Canadian Universities*. [Conference presentation]. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Amsterdam, NL.
- **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Wilson, K., & Stinchcombe, A. (2026, July 5–8). *The Use of Digital Stories to Better Understand Caregiving and Assisted Dying*. [Conference presentation]. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Amsterdam, NL.
- **Kortes-Miller, K.**, Wilson, K., & Stinchcombe, A. (2025, October 22–25). *Disrupting Death: Why MAiD should matter to gerontology*. [Conference presentation]. Canadian Association for Gerontology, Montreal, Quebec.
- **Kortes-Miller, K.** (2025, October 2–3). *Facilitating community conversations about Medical Assistance and Dying using Digital Stories and a Podcast*. [Conference presentation]. CERAH Conference, Thunder Bay, ON.
- **Li, J.**, Gibbons, C., & Doughty-Smith, S. (2026, October 21). The Caregiver Conference

[Conference presentation]. Hospice Northwest Services, Thunder Bay, ON, Canada.

- **Martin, L.**, Williams, N., Guthrie, D., Hirdes, J. (2025, October 2–3). *Development of a novel approach to identifying home care clients who could potentially benefit from a palliative approach to their care*. [Conference presentation]. CERAH Conference: Aging across the life cycle, Thunder Bay, ON.
- Phillips, C., Powell, E., Camargo-Plazas, P., & **Costa, I. G.** (2025, October 2–4). *Hard-to-Heal Wounds as a Global Public Health Challenge: An Arts-Based Qualitative Study Using Digital Storytelling and Analytic Sketches*. [Oral presentation]. Wounds Canada National Hybrid Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- **Prince, H.** (2026, June 10–12). *Strengthening culturally safe-r grief and bereavement support in Indigenous health services*. [Workshop presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference.
- **Prince, H.** (2026, April 21–23). *Caring across the cancer journey: Re-activating Indigenous Knowledges for caregiving at the end of life*. [Oral presentation]. World Indigenous Cancer Conference.
- **Prince, H.** (2026, April 21–23). *There is medicine in diversity: Creating spaces and places to honour Indigenous knowledges in palliative care*. [Oral presentation]. World Indigenous Cancer Conference.
- **Prince, H., Fernandes, K., & Wyatt, J.** (2026, April 21–23). *Developing accessible and culturally safe-r palliative care education for Indigenous communities*. [Oral presentation]. World Indigenous Cancer Conference.
- **Prince, H., Fernandes, K., & Wyatt, J.** (2025, October 23–25). *Walking alongside Indigenous Peoples who are seriously ill: Collaborative curriculum development for community caregivers*. [Workshop presentation]. Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference.
- **Remenda, M.** (2025, June 10–12). *Decolonize Long-Term Care: Culturally Safer Dementia Care for Residential School Survivors*. [Poster presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference.
- Sprakes, A., & **Kortes-Miller, K.** (2026, January 19–22). *Digital Storytelling More than a Method for Research and Advocacy*. [Conference presentation]. World Conference on Qualitative Research, Madrid, Spain.
- **Wiersma, E.** (2025, November). *Humour and laughter: Creating Community in the Dementia Context*. [Conference Presentation]. Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR) Summit, Saskatchewan.

- **Wiersma, E., Sutherland, N., Li, J.,** and the North West Dementia Working Group. (2025, October). *Belonging and Purpose: The Experiences of People with Dementia and Care Partners in Participating in Research*, [Conference Presentation]. CERAH Conference: Aging Across the Life Cycle, Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- Williams, N., Guthrie, D., Hirdes, J., & **Martin, L.** (2025, October 21). *Who are we missing? An innovative way to recognize people who could benefit from a palliative approach to their care*. [Conference presentation]. Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association National Conference, Pre-Conference Symposium, Nanaimo, BC.
- Williams, N., Guthrie, D., **Martin, L.**, Hirdes, J. (2025, October 22–25). *Development of a novel approach to identify home care clients who could potentially benefit from a palliative approach to their care*. [Conference presentation]. Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association National Conference, Nanaimo, BC.
- Williams, N., **Martin, L.**, Hirdes, J. P., & Guthrie, D. (2026, June 14–16). *Exploring transitions in home care and long-term care using the new interRAI serious illness CAP*. [Conference presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Annual Conference, Richmond Hill, ON.
- **Wyatt, J., Fernandes, K., & Prince, H.** (2026, June 10–12). *Walking alongside Indigenous Peoples who are seriously ill: A wholistic, community-based approach to education for caregivers*. [Workshop presentation]. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference.
- **Wyatt, J., Prince, H., & Fernandes, K.** (2025, October 23–25). *Culturally safer palliative care education for Indigenous communities*. [Poster presentation]. Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference.

4.5 Other Scholarly Activities

Idevania Costa

- Associate Director, Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH).
- Continued leadership of the EQUIP@action Research Hub.
- Led the national launch and dissemination of the *Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities in Wound Prevention and Care* in partnership with Wounds Canada.
- Delivered invited national and international workshops, keynote lectures, webinars, and professional education activities in Canada, Portugal, and Brazil.
- Completed an international academic mobility program in Portugal funded by the Lakehead University Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI), establishing new collaborations with Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa, and the University of Porto.

- Strengthened international research collaborations in Brazil through the Global Link Program with Universidade Federal do Ceará and Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira (UNILAB).
- Established new international partnerships to support future collaborative research, student exchanges, and grant development, including initiatives focused on digital storytelling, health equity, and chronic wound care.
- Continued development of the *Our Voices, Our Stories* international digital storytelling initiative and the planned international digital storytelling repository.
- Served as reviewer for peer-reviewed journals and graduate research activities.
- Supervised graduate students and research trainees affiliated with CERAH and EQUIP@action.

Katherine Kortes-Miller

- Co-editor, *Oxford Textbook of Public Health Palliative Care* (2025–present).
- Editorial Board member, *Palliative Care and Social Practice*.
- Reviewer, *Journal of Palliative and Social Care* (2 reviews).
- Reviewer, *Journal of Interprofessional Care*.
- Reviewer, *Geriatrics*.
- Executive and Founding Member, Canadian Grief Alliance. Led the writing and development of a concept paper for Health Canada for additional funding; presently under review.
- Member, MAiD Death Review Committee, Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario (2024–2026).
- Member, Scientific Committee, Public Health Palliative Care International Conference (2026).
- Participated in a Health Canada meeting on MAiD, December 11, 2025.
- Participated in the National Hospice Research Round Table, June 16, 2026.
- Invited guest speaker at a CIHR-funded Implementation Science one-day conference at Nipissing University. Presentation: *Translating Knowledge and Experiences of MAiD using Digital Stories and a Podcast*.
- Organizer and panel facilitator, Healing Through Grief Conference, hosted by Hospice Northwest, November 2025.
- Invited presentation to Hospice Windsor, February 25, 2026: *Talking About Death Won't Kill You; The Importance of communicating care*.
- Keynote speaker, Dryden Palliative Care Day.

Lynn Martin

- **Martin, L.** (2026). *Using evidence to identify people who could benefit from a palliative approach in home care and long-term care* [Invited presentation].
 - North West Regional Palliative Care Program, Long Term Care Community of Practice. March 25, 2026 (virtual).

- Central Region Palliative Care Collaborative, Ontario Health Central. March 4, 2026 (virtual; 20+ in attendance).
- Ontario Health, Provincial Palliative Care Program Joint Table meeting. February 19, 2026 (virtual; 40+ in attendance).

Elaine Wiersma

- Assisted in organizing the *Dementia Gardens Speaker Series*, including *Native Pollinators*, April 24, 2025, and *Replacing Colawnization Through Community*, May 22, 2025.
- Assisted in organizing the *Dementia Gardens Signage Presentations*, November 25, 2025.
- Presented on *Dementia Gardens* at the Age-Friendly Partnership Meeting, December 10, 2025.
- Invited Katz Lecture, Baycrest Academy for Research & Education, February 9, 2026. Presentation: “*Humour helped to build a community*”: *Bridging Research and Practice in the Dementia Context*.
- Presented *Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow* to the Newfoundland Centre for Applied Health Research, Memorial University, April 7, 2026.
- Presented *Dementia Café: A Place to Belong* and *Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow Overview* to Ontario Health at Home, April 28, 2026.
- Presented *Dementia in the Outdoors: Moving Dementia Out from Behind Closed Doors* to the Lakehead University Board of Governors, May 1, 2026.
- Presented *Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow Overview* to the Regional Seniors Care Program Advisory Committee, June 25, 2026.

5. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY (JULY 1, 2025– JUNE 30, 2026)

In 2025-2026, CERAH staff and research affiliates were involved in the community in the following ways:

Local:

- Age Friendly Thunder Bay Partnership Committee
- EQUIP@action Research Hub
- NorWest Community Health Centres (Kakabeka Falls)
- Age-Friendly Thunder Bay Partnership Committee
- BIG Stories: Age on Stage
- Compassionate Thunder Bay Committee
- Dementia Café: A Place to Belong
- Dementia Gardens: A Place to Grow
- Palliative Advocacy Care Team (PACT)
- Oasis (Senior Supportive Living) Thunder Bay
- Roots Community Food Centre Vice Chair

- Thunder Bay Counselling Board

Regional:

- FNIMul Palliative Care Partners
- North West Regional Palliative Program, SJCG, Advisory Committee
- North West Palliative Care Education Collaborative
- North West Grief & Bereavement Community of Practice
- North West Pain & Symptom Management Community of Practice
- North West Regional Palliative Care Program - Long-Term Care Palliative Care Early Identification Community of Practice
- Ontario Health North West Palliative Model of Care Partners Team
- Rural and Remote Northern Ontario Community-Engaged Research Partnership

Provincial:

- Accredited Wound Care Champion Program (AWCCP)
- Gerontological Nursing Association of Ontario (GNAO)
- MAiD Death Review Committee, Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario
- Northeast Palliative Care Conference Scientific Planning Committee
- Ontario Nursing Informatics Group (ONIG)
- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO)
- Wound Care Champion Program Scientific Planning Committee

National:

- Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses (CAFCN)
- Canadian Grief Alliance
- Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association Abstract Review Committee
- Patient Journey Initiative – *Our Voices, Our Stories*
- People with Lived Experience Advisory Group – *Our Voices, Our Stories*
- Wounds Canada
- Wounds Canada Institute

International:

- Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa (Portugal)
- Montreal International Palliative Care Conference Scientific Planning Committee
- Public Health and Palliative Care International Conference Abstract Review Committee
- Sociedade Brasileira de Enfermagem em Dermatologia (SOBEND)
- Sociedade Brasileira de Estomaterapia (SOBEST)
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)
- Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira (UNILAB), Brazil
- Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)
- Universidade Federal do Ceará (Brazil)
- University of Porto (Portugal)

- World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET)
- Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN Society)

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Expenditures

The majority of expenditures are on human resources. During 2025-2026, CERAH employed ten core staff on annual contract renewal. The funds for salaries come from education contracts. CERAH also employs research assistants, project assistants and education facilitators on a fixed-term basis, depending on the project or research grant.

External grants and contracts fund all office and program delivery expenditures. Accounting is done project by project. Audits are conducted annually on MOHLTC and Ontario Health contracts. Funding for release time for the CERAH Director's administrative role, as well as funds for key activities such as travel and meeting expenses, is supported by an identified budget line allocation or by overhead generated from grants and contracts.

6.2 Revenues

CERAH receives no operating budget from Lakehead University. The university provides in-kind support in the form of office space, Information Technology services, accounting, human resources and research administration. CERAH highly values this in-kind support. The Director of CERAH is a full-time senior faculty member and is not financially compensated for this role. The Director receives one full course buy-out through non-university revenues of the Centre.

The primary ongoing revenue for CERAH is from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Ontario Health, which provides funding to support education for healthcare professionals. These contracts have been in effect since 1992 and 1997, respectively. Annual service plans are made for each contract, regular financial statements are provided, and annual audits are submitted. All funds are allocated to staff salaries and benefits, as well as program expenses.

Many CERAH staff members are part-time or hired on a fixed-term basis to accommodate additional contracts. Generating income can be quite challenging, as most CERAH contracts are with non-profit organizations or government-funded groups that do not, or cannot, pay any overhead fees.

7. MOVING FORWARD

2025/2026 was an important year for CERAH. In October, we hosted our first ever CERAH Conference: *Aging Across the Life Cycle*, welcoming nearly 300 participants from across the country to Thunder Bay. It was an opportunity to show the breadth of work happening at the Centre, and to learn alongside others who share in their commitment to this field. The turnout and the response made it clear that there is real value in creating opportunities like this, and we are looking forward to building on it in the years ahead.

Following the success of the conference, we are currently planning the Palliative Care Booster Conference; happening in October of 2026 in Thunder Bay. This will be a smaller, more focused event built around the theme *The Common Thread: Weaving a Palliative Approach Across Care Settings*. We plan to continue the larger CERAH Conference every two years, with the next one taking place in September of 2027.

The coming year will also bring a change in leadership at CERAH. As of July 1, 2026, Dr. Kathy Kortés-Miller will step down as Director and move into the role of Associate Director, while Dr. Idevania Costa will become CERAH's new Director. We are grateful that Kathy will continue to be part of CERAH and look forward to this next chapter under Ide's leadership.

CERAH's reach continues to grow. More people from across the country are taking part in our education, and we are seeing growing interest in our programs and training beyond our region. It has been encouraging to see CERAH become more widely known for the education we provide and for the expertise our team brings to this work. We look forward to continuing the momentum of growth in the coming year.