Call for Advisory Council Members
Join the IDAEL Partnership: Indigenous-Disability Affirming Early Learning & Care

We are inviting passionate Knowledge Holders to help guide a ground-breaking project focused on dismantling barriers in early childhood education and care.

What is IDAEL?

The Indigenous-Disability Affirming Early Learning and Care (IDAEL) partnership is a collaborative research initiative led by Dr. Kathryn Underwood and Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash. Funded by SSHRC PDG #890-2024-0206, the project brings together disabled, Indigenous, Black communities and other partners to co-develop disability-affirming and culturally grounded training and governance models.

Why Join the Advisory Council?

As a member of the Knowledge Holder Advisory Council, you'll help ensure that the research is rooted in lived experience and community expertise. Your voice will guide:

- The creation of inclusive, culturally safe training for early years educators
- Ethical, culturally affirming research practices
- The development of sustainable governance grounded in equity and relational accountability

Who We're Looking For

- Disabled youth, Elders, caregivers, kin, educators, and community leaders
- Indigenous, Black, and racialized individuals with lived experience of disability and disability services
- People from both Northern and Southern communities (note: participation may be virtual)
- Those with experiences of disability, neurodivergence, Deafness, madness, chronic illness, and more

Membership Principles

- Centering lived experience as critical expertise
- Honoring relational accountability and inclusive participation
- Flexible engagement that respects your capacity and needs

Commitment

- Initial in-person gathering in **September 2025**
- Ongoing **quarterly virtual meetings** through 2027
- Opportunities to learn from, and comment on, previous research with families of disabled children
- Contribute to innovations in community-engaged practice and share feedback with community partners

Honoraria & Supports

- Compensation for your time and contributions
- Accessibility, travel, and technology supports provided
- Family- and youth-friendly participation options available

Interested? Let's connect!

To learn more or express interest, please contact: inclusion@torontomu.ca
Or reach out to: Dr. Kathryn Underwood: kunderwood@torontomu.ca or Dr. Nicole Ineese-Nash: nicole.ineesenash@torontomu.ca

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A Partnership Between

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)
Independent First Nations (IFN)
Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg
Keepers of the Circle (KOTC)
Early Childhood Development Institute (ECDI)
African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC)
Finding Our Power Together (FOPT)
Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)
Peel Region
Wellington County
City of Hamilton
City of Toronto
York University
Queen's University
Brock University
University of Alberta
University of Aukland