

The Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund in Context: People, Positioning, Pandemic, Potential

KDE Hub Annual Symposium, January 25-27, 2021

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Hub's intentions are to create a welcoming and inclusive environment and ensure all people and places are visible; that we're actively working against colonialism and for cultural safety, inclusiveness, and reconciliation. One way to do so is to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet today on a virtual platform, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people that call this land home.

The Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund is one vehicle for moving forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. With the Hub, one of our core commitments is honouring multiple ways of being, knowing and doing, with specific reverence to 2-eyed seeing. In the Symposium program, we have done our best to honour this commitment through an inclusive design process for the event, through seeking guidance from Indigenous colleagues, through invitations we extended to speakers and guests, through valuing and supporting relationships/connections between people and places, through encouraging open dialogue and debate including and especially on topics that may make us feel uncomfortable, through welcoming any and all ways of being present in this event. We are finding our way, and we thank you for your forgiveness and your feedback on ways our intentions were met, on our missteps, and suggestions for how we can do better the next time. We also thank you for the numerous ways you will bring this spirit of reconciliation and collaboration to the event.

