**NETWORKS FOR CHANGE AND WELL-BEING:**

**Overview**

This is a six year (2014-2020), $2.4 million (CAD) research initiative funded by SSHRC and IDRC as part of their International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies (IPaSS) initiative.

It focuses on learning from the contexts in which indigenous girls and young women are subject to exceptionally high rates of sexual violence.

**Canada**

Self-identified young Indigenous girls/women, including First Nations, Metis, and Inuit, status or non-status, beneficiary, or non-beneficiary, Trans, Two Spirit, or gender-non-conforming

**South Africa**

Girls and young women of a range of sexualities who belong to two of the official government designated groups: Black and Coloured (mixed race), and who live in rural areas

**Objectives**

**1.** To conduct research into:
- the role of girls as knowledge producers in informing the study and eradication of sexual violence; indigenous knowledge (in relation to methodologies, ethics and well-being) in the context of a transnational study of indigenous girlhoods;
- the impact of participatory policy-making in relation to sexual violence on local, national and international communities.

**2.** To develop academic and professional alliances among Canadian and South African partners towards:
- building knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral perspectives on sexual violence;
- conducting digital and other participatory work with girls, particularly in the context of policy dialogue related to sexual violence.

**3.** To build capacity by:
- training and supporting girl-focused community structures to combat sexual violence;
- providing high-quality research training to undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in working with the development of digital tools and youth media, and to girls and community scholars in both local and international contexts through institutes.

**4.** To promote the exchange of knowledge and research findings to:
- advance the application of digital and social media tools in participatory research, and the development of innovations in communication networks in addressing sexual violence;
- engage policy makers in girl-led dialogue on sexual violence through exploring good practices; and
- create a transnational platform for raising awareness and advocacy on sexual violence.

**Partners**

Indigenous partners and other community and government organizations.

40 co-applicants and collaborators from 14 post-secondary institutions in Canada and South Africa. Over 20 local, national and global partners-stakeholders.

**Canada**

McGill University
Native Youth Sexual Health Network
Girls Action Foundation
Mount Saint Vincent University
Dalhousie University
Status of Women Canada
University of Victoria
York University

**South Africa**

University of KwaZulu-Natal
Agenda Feminist Media Project
International Centre of Nonviolence
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
North-West University

**‘From the Ground Up’ Research Methodologies**

- Digital storytelling
- Participatory video
- Cellphilms
- Drawing
- Mapping
- Social media
- Youth-led media making
- Community-based research
- Participatory action research
- Research as intervention
- Research as social change
- Indigenous methodologies

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