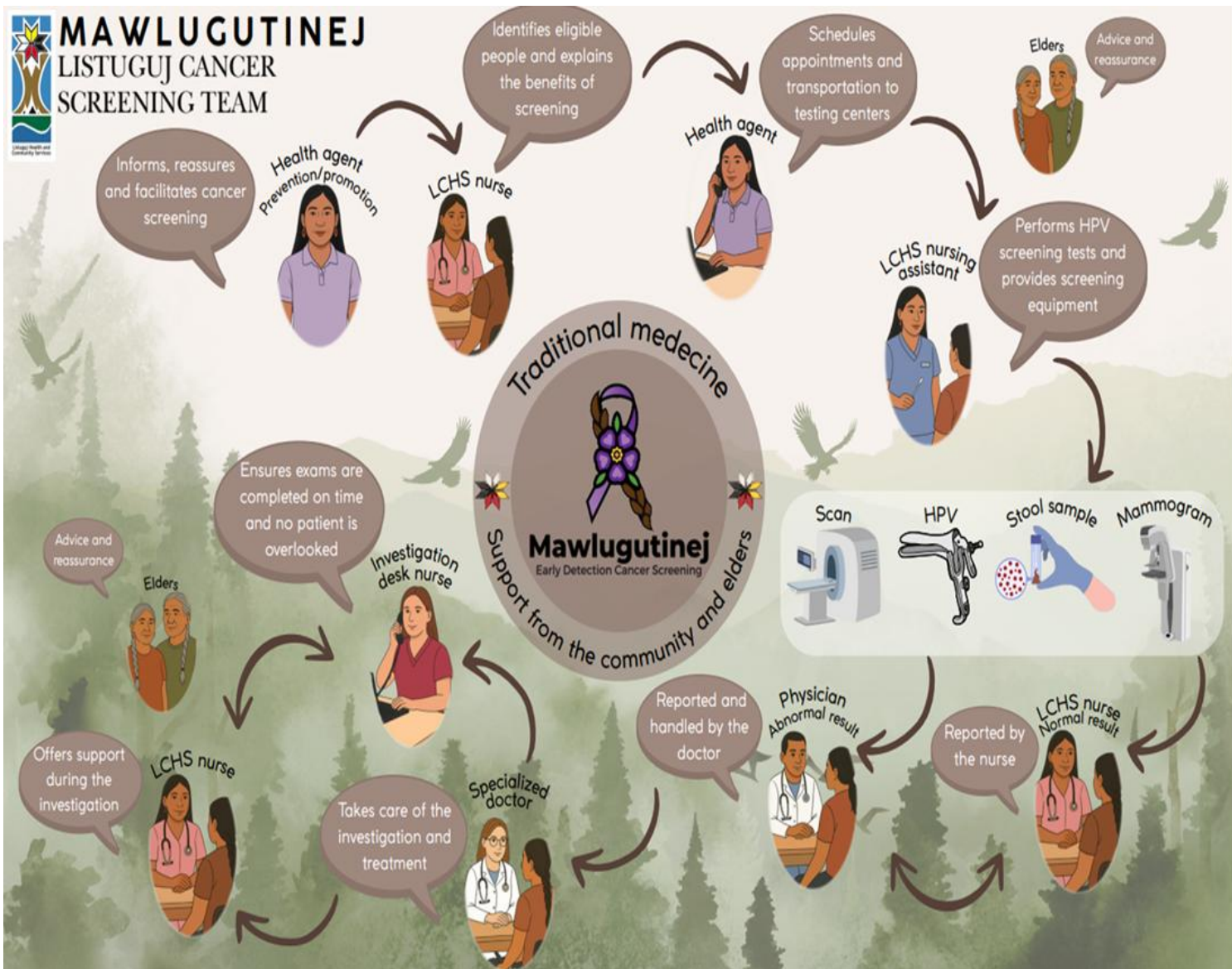


REFERENCE FRAMEWORK
LISTUGUJ MI'GMAQ COMMUNITY
CANCER SCREENING TEAM



Roles, Responsibilities and Guiding Principles
Mawlugutinej Project – "Working Together"
March 2025



INTRODUCTION

This document serves as a reference framework for the cancer screening team of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq community. It outlines the team's vision, mission, values, and organizational structure, as well as the roles and responsibilities of each member.

This framework aims to ensure a shared understanding of all team members' responsibilities, promote effective interdisciplinary collaboration, and provide accessible, culturally safe cancer screening and diagnostic services tailored to the realities and needs of the Mi'gmaq community.

It also serves as a reference document to support the development of similar initiatives in other First Nations communities.

VISION

An Indigenous interdisciplinary team provides safe cancer screening and diagnostic services tailored to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq community, integrating evidence-based medical practices, traditional medicine, and the guidance and support of Elders.

This team contributes to making Listuguj a healthy community where a culture of cancer screening is an integral part of community life, empowering each member to take an active role in their health while respecting Mi'gmaq traditions and values.

TEAM FOUNDATIONS AND VALUES

Communication, active listening, and dialogue are at the heart of the therapeutic relationship. Community members and Elders are consulted before any major decisions are made, and traditional Mi'gmaq knowledge enriches every stage of the screening process, complementing modern medicine.

The team works collaboratively across disciplines to ensure timely access to services that are fully centered on community members' needs. This collaboration aims to strengthen the community's trust in the healthcare system.

Through a partnership between the Listuguj Health Centre and Santé Québec's clinical services, with the support of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) Oncology Department, members of the Mi'gmaq community benefit from continuity of care that fully respects cultural safety.

The team operates under the leadership of the Director of the Listuguj Community Health Centre. The team's day-to-day operational management is overseen by the Head Nurse.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Team members are committed to:

- Placing community members at the heart of decision-making;

- Respecting Mi'gmaq values, traditions, and knowledge;
- Promoting cultural safety;
- Fostering a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach;
- Recognizing the complementary nature of traditional and scientific knowledge;
- Supporting community self-determination;
- Continuously improving the quality of services;
- Building relationships based on trust, respect, and active listening.

TEAM STRUCTURE

Community Support

- Mawlugutinej Program Coordinator
- Community Elders

Clinical Services

- Physician
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Midwife
- Manager, Listuguj Community Health Centre
- Registered Nurses (RNs)
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Mawlugutinej Program Coordinator

Primary Role

The coordinator serves as a key resource person for the community.

They facilitate access to cancer screening and diagnostic services, support individuals and their families, and act as a liaison between the community and healthcare system partners.

Through their presence, active listening, and ongoing support, the coordinator helps build trust and foster a positive, culturally safe healthcare experience.

Responsibilities

Access to Services

- Organize screening activities;
- Coordinate appointments;
- Facilitate transportation;
- Accompany community members;
- Assist with administrative procedures;
- Monitor wait times and ensure timely follow-up.

Awareness and Education

- Promote cancer screening;
- Develop culturally appropriate educational tools reflecting Mi'gmaq culture;
- Organize community activities;
- Use social media, radio, and cultural events to raise awareness;
- Raise awareness of available traditional healing resources.

Community Support

- Provide cultural and emotional support;
- Identify barriers to accessing services;
- Promote cultural safety;
- Work collaboratively with Elders.

Coordination

- Act as a liaison with healthcare professionals;

- Maintain screening lists;
- Coordinate communications;
- Ensure follow-up throughout the diagnostic investigation process.

2. Community Elders

Primary Role

Elders contribute to the physical, emotional, spiritual, and community well-being of individuals by sharing traditional Mi'gmaq teachings, values, and knowledge.

Responsibilities

- Provide cultural guidance and support;
- Support community members;
- Advise team members;
- Participate in community activities;
- Promote the integration of traditional knowledge;
- Accompany community members who wish to receive their support throughout their healthcare journey.

3. Physician, Nurse Practitioner, and Midwife

Primary Role

The physician, nurse practitioner, and midwife (for HPV screening) contribute to cancer prevention and early detection through clinical assessments, ordering screening and diagnostic tests, and providing patient follow-up.

Responsibilities

Health Promotion

- Raise awareness among community members;
- Encourage participation in screening programs.

Clinical Assessment

- Assess risk factors;
- Determine eligibility;
- Perform clinical assessments and diagnostic tests.

Test Ordering and Follow-up

- Order screening and diagnostic tests;
- Interpret results;
- Ensure clinical follow-up;
- Guide further diagnostic investigations.

Coordination

- Refer patients to specialists;
- Collaborate with the interdisciplinary team;
- Support community members.

4. Registered Nurse (RN)

Primary Role

The registered nurse plays a central role in clinical assessment, cancer screening, patient education, clinical follow-up, and care coordination.

Responsibilities

Screening

- Identify eligible community members;
- Conduct clinical assessments;
- Perform interventions in accordance with established protocols.

Patient Support

- Provide health education;
- Support community members;
- Communicate test results.

Coordination

- Coordinate diagnostic investigations;
- Maintain accurate clinical documentation;
- Collaborate with community and traditional healing resources.

5. Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Primary Role

The licensed practical nurse actively participates in cancer prevention and screening activities within their professional scope of practice.

Responsibilities

- Collect clinical information;
- Perform authorized specimen collection;
- Participate in vaccination activities;
- Provide information to community members;
- Contribute to community activities;
- Offer practical and emotional support;
- Collaborate in the follow-up of test results;
- Document clinical interventions;
- Maintain and update professional competencies.

Shared Responsibilities of the Cancer Screening Team

All team members:

- Respect Mi'gmaq cultural values;
- Promote cultural safety;
- Protect confidentiality;
- Work collaboratively within an interdisciplinary team;
- Recognize the complementary nature of traditional and scientific knowledge;
- Contribute to continuous quality improvement;
- Participate in knowledge development and sharing;
- Strengthen community trust in healthcare services.

CONCLUSION

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Community Cancer Screening Team represents an innovative model of collaboration between a First Nations community and Quebec's healthcare system.

By bringing together traditional knowledge, clinical expertise, and community values, the team helps improve access to cancer screening, reduce health inequities, and provide culturally safe care.

This reference framework is intended to be a living document that will evolve over time. It will support the ongoing development of the Mawlugutinej project and may inspire other First Nations communities seeking to implement a similar approach grounded in partnership, trust, and self-determination.