MAKING THE PATH BY WALKING IT: A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S HEALING AND RECOVERY PROGRAM

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Making the Path by Walking It: A Comprehensive Evaluation of the Women and Children’s Healing and Recovery Program (WCHRP) Pilot. A review prepared by the Four Worlds Centre for Development Learning examines the outcomes of a 3-year pilot project focused on addressing the therapeutic needs of Northern women. Specifically, the evaluation looked at whether or not the Program met the needs of the women they intended to serve, whether the models and strategies used by the program were aligned with best practice, and whether or not the partnership and management structures were effective and appropriate.

The WCHRP was created to assist women who have suffered the impact of trauma as a result of colonization and ongoing violence with their journey to greater wellness. The vision which shaped this initiative called for a program which would be especially for women, would work on the underlying trauma which perpetuates self-destructive behaviours such as addictions, would offer longer-term options than the traditional twenty-eight day treatment cycle, would have strong roots in the communities it serves, and would be sensitive to the cultural values, worldviews and experiences of the Aboriginal peoples of the North. The implementation of this vision brought together two agencies with a long history of working for the well-being of women and their families—the Yellowknife Women’s Centre and the YWCA of Yellowknife. This dynamic partnership was designed to maximize impact through building on existing institutional strengths.


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