Reviewer’s report

Title: A Community-Driven and Evidence-Based Approach to Developing Mental Wellness Strategies in First Nations: A Program Protocol

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Sue Wheatcroft

Reviewer's report:

This is, undoubtedly, an important piece of work, not only for the Indigenous peoples of Canada but for society as a whole. My only concern with the article is one of clarity, and I do have suggestions.

Firstly, many of the issues surrounding mental wellness, as discussed in this article, are common to all and it may be worthwhile mentioning the degree of comparison with non-Indigenous communities in Canada. For example, men's health, crisis response time…

Secondly, although explained further into the document, I feel there is a lack of clarity in the abstract. For a subject that may be unfamiliar to the wider audience, it is vital that the reader is clear about the subject matter from the beginning. It may benefit from a Plain English Summary, and/or an excerpt from Article 18 of UNDRIP referring to issues surrounding cultural differences and self-determination.

Finally, I did feel a little confused with regards to 'the wider community', in that it wasn't always clear whether this meant the wider Indigenous community, or the Canadian community as a whole. Likewise, I would like to know a little more about the degree of co-operation between CAC and 'outside' sectors and organisations. Any collaboration with outside agencies should be clearly defined.

These are only minor issues and, on the whole, the article is well-written and relevant.
Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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