

RESEARCHER OF THE MONTH

Derek Wasyliw is a 2nd year Master's student in the Kinesiology and Physical Education Graduate Program at McGill University and is the recipient of the 2018 PHE Canada Research Council Emerging Scholar Award.

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Derek has worked in a plethora of teaching environments, including: public schools, private schools, international schools, federal schools, and as a guest lecturer and teaching assistant within two Canadian universities. Throughout these teaching experiences, his research interests grew organically and have situated him within multiple research streams including community-based Indigenous research, intergenerational mentorship, social justice within PHETE, and diabetes prevention. Amid these experiences, a variety of collaboration and leadership opportunities have presented themselves. Most notably, he has been fortunate enough to sit on the Saskatchewan Physical Education Associate board of directors, as well as share the privilege of being a PHE Canada Canada Research Council Graduate Student Representative.



His current SSHRC funded thesis is entitled Identifying Approaches to Incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing in PHETE: Informed by Mohawk Narratives. The purpose of his thesis is to gain a better understanding of how Indigenous ways of knowing may be both practically and theoretically included within physical health education teacher education (PHETE) programs to attend to culturally appropriate teaching and curriculum. Upon completion of his Master's work in June 2018, he will be pursuing his Ph.D. in Education, under the supervision of Dr. Lee Schaefer, with an emphasis on physical education, at McGill University.

Predominantly, he has worked in both a research and facilitation capacity with Growing Young Movers (GYM) Youth Development Inc. GYM is a non-profit organization co-created by Dr. Brian Lewis, Dr. Lee Schaefer, and Dr. Sean Lessard and is dedicated to enhancing the social, emotional, and physical well-being of youth through programming, knowledge mobilization, and supports. Our primary research interests revolve around the student-centered Intergenerational Urban Indigenous Network that focuses on enhancing the 21st-century living skills of youth through experiential wellness opportunities.

More recently, he has developed a relationship rooted in respect and trust with the Kahnawá:ke community and the Kahnawá:ke School Diabetes Prevention Project (KSDPP). KSDPP is committed to preventing type 2 diabetes in Kahnawá:ke, a Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk) community within Quebec. This is achieved through the development and implementation of intervention activities rooted in Kanien'keha values for schools, families, and community. We aim to empower community members to live healthier lives through the promotion of healthy eating habits, physical activity, and positive attitudes.

Why it's important to be connected to the PHE Canada Research Council?

I would like to thank PHE Canada and all those who have helped me along the way in my teaching and academic journey. I truly stand on the shoulders of giants and I see this nomination as a testimony to what the PHE Canada Research Council can provide upcoming researchers. The mentorship, support, and constant encouragement to be the best individual I can be has come from my PHE and PHECRC colleagues. I am truly grateful to be part of such a passionate and inspirational group of people. Although my research journey is just beginning, I look forward to the memories and lessons ahead. Thank you all.

Derek's most recent presentations:

- **Wasyliw, D.**, & Schaefer L. (2018, March). *Re-Conceptualizing Physical Health Education Teacher Education Informed by Mohawk Narratives*. Oral presentation at the Eastern Canada Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, Montreal, Quebec.
 - **Wasyliw, D.**, & Schaefer, L. (2017, November). *Advantages of Incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Physical Health Education Teacher Education Informed by Mohawk Narratives: A Proposed Study*. Oral presentation at the Association Internationale des Ecoles Superieures d'Education Physique (AIESEP) Conference, Gosier, Guadeloupe.
 - Caron, J. G., Schaefer, L., & **Wasyliw, D.** (2017, November). *A narrative inquiry into a student-athlete's experiences with prolonged concussion symptoms: Implications for coach and teacher education*. Poster presented at the Association Internationale des Ecoles Superieures d'Education Physique (AIESEP) Conference, Gosier, Guadeloupe.
 - **Wasyliw, D.** (2017, May). *Incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing in PHETE Informed by Mohawk Narratives*. Roundtable presented at the Physical Health Education Canada Research Council National Forum, St. John's, Newfoundland.
-