Aboriginal Health SWG Minutes:

Participants: Riley (U of A), Josh (NOSM), Scott (U of M), Neil (UWO), Sarah (Queen’s)

1. Aboriginal pre-clerkship electives:
   - NOSM – good partnerships
   - U of A – not a lot of content outside core curriculum. A pre-clerkship clinical elective would be appreciated. 40% (?) of the patients seen are Aboriginal – good to have experience.
   - U of M – The dean has a lot of experience up North. 3 lectures on cultural safety, 1 on Aboriginal health + a rural week at the end of the year.
   - AHL survey will hopefully be useful to see what’s out there already.
   - U of M – Northern elective exists but physicians don’t confirm early enough.
   - NOSM – v. proactive in getting electives established.
   - The global-local exchange idea – feasibility questions
     - Challenges:
       - Funding and logistics → lack of time
       - Placements should be interrelated
       - Issues with having electives in clerkship → difficulty getting CARMS letters.
       - Pre-clerkship → is there value? Ethical issues?
   - Tie to pipeline project → bring high-school students down to participate
     - Emphasize this part of project when asking for funding.
   - Partner with NOSM?
   - Funding for high-school student from CFMS?
   - Work with other faculties that have ties/partnerships in Aboriginal communities.

2. Aboriginal Health Advocacy:
   - Every year, a crisis in Aboriginal health in the news → CFMS response to these events could be good opportunity for advocacy → be proactive
     - Letters, press-statements
     - Lobby day in consultation w/ IPAC → do we have a right to speak?
       - We have a credible voice to add to the voice of IPAC or similar organizations
   - **U of A- would like to see AHL highlight non-Aboriginals in Aboriginal communities. How have they built successful partnerships?