

“I Honoured Him Until the
End”: Storytelling of
Indigenous Female
Caregivers for a Loved One
with Alzheimer’s Disease
and other Dementias
(ADOD)

Recognition

Of

Place





(Hello)



Rates of Dementia on Turtle Island



Devotion by Daphne Odjig, 1978.

Why did
you choose
to pursue
this
research?



Continuity of Care

Long Term Care

Although there, “are currently over 630 First Nation communities in Canada, very few First Nation communities have their own long-term care facilities. According to information provided by Indigenous Services Canada, only 53 long-term care facilities are managed by First Nations across the country” (Report of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs, 2018:26).

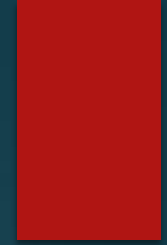
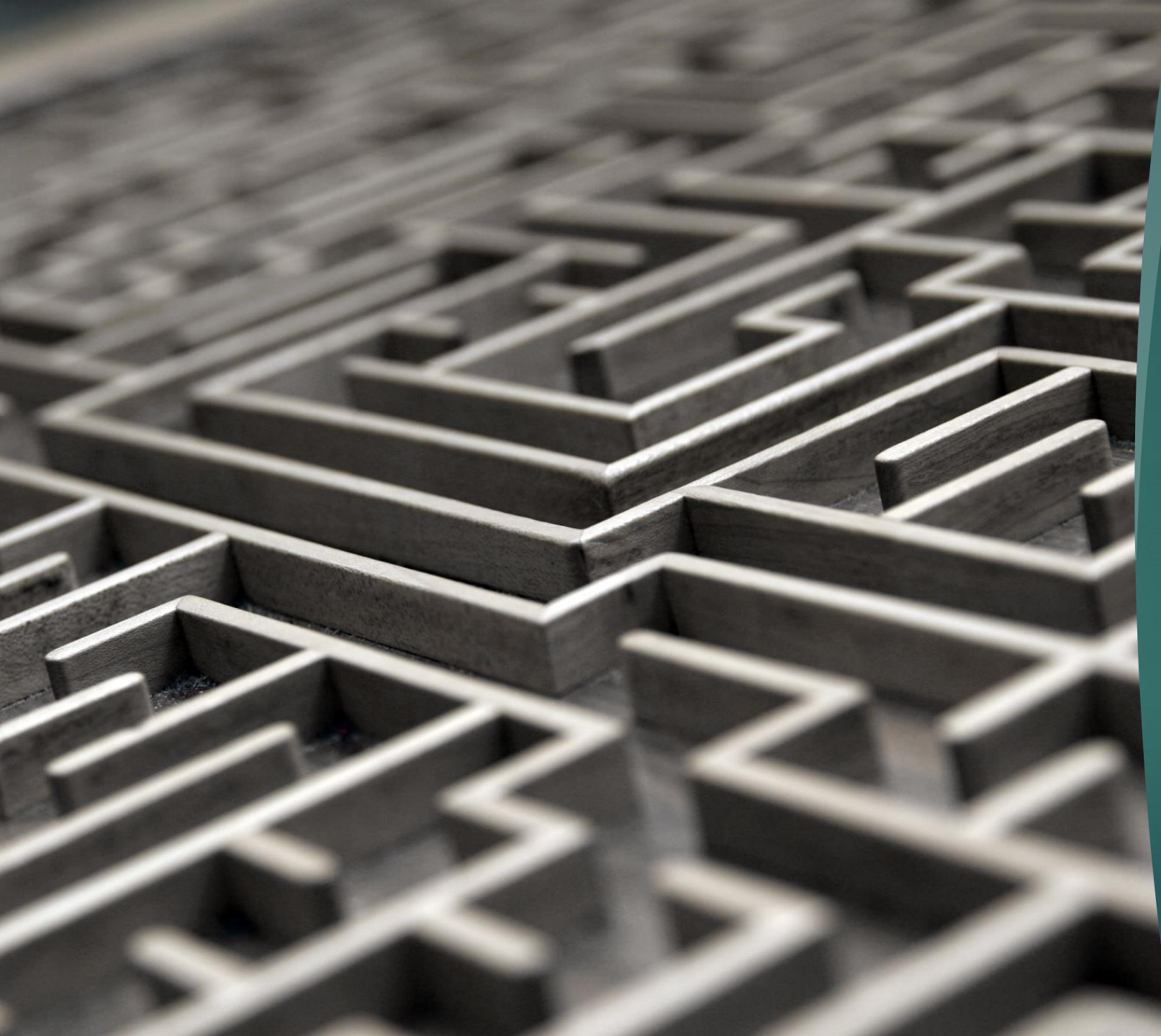


Stories

“they are vehicles by which isolated subjects invite others to imagine themselves into their experience” (Doerfler, Sinclair and Stark, 2013:69).

Gendered Caregiving

“The majority of these caregivers are female, most commonly female intimate partners and daughters. Caregivers spend 20 hours a week caring for and supporting a person living with dementia” (Canada Public Health Agency, 2019:2).

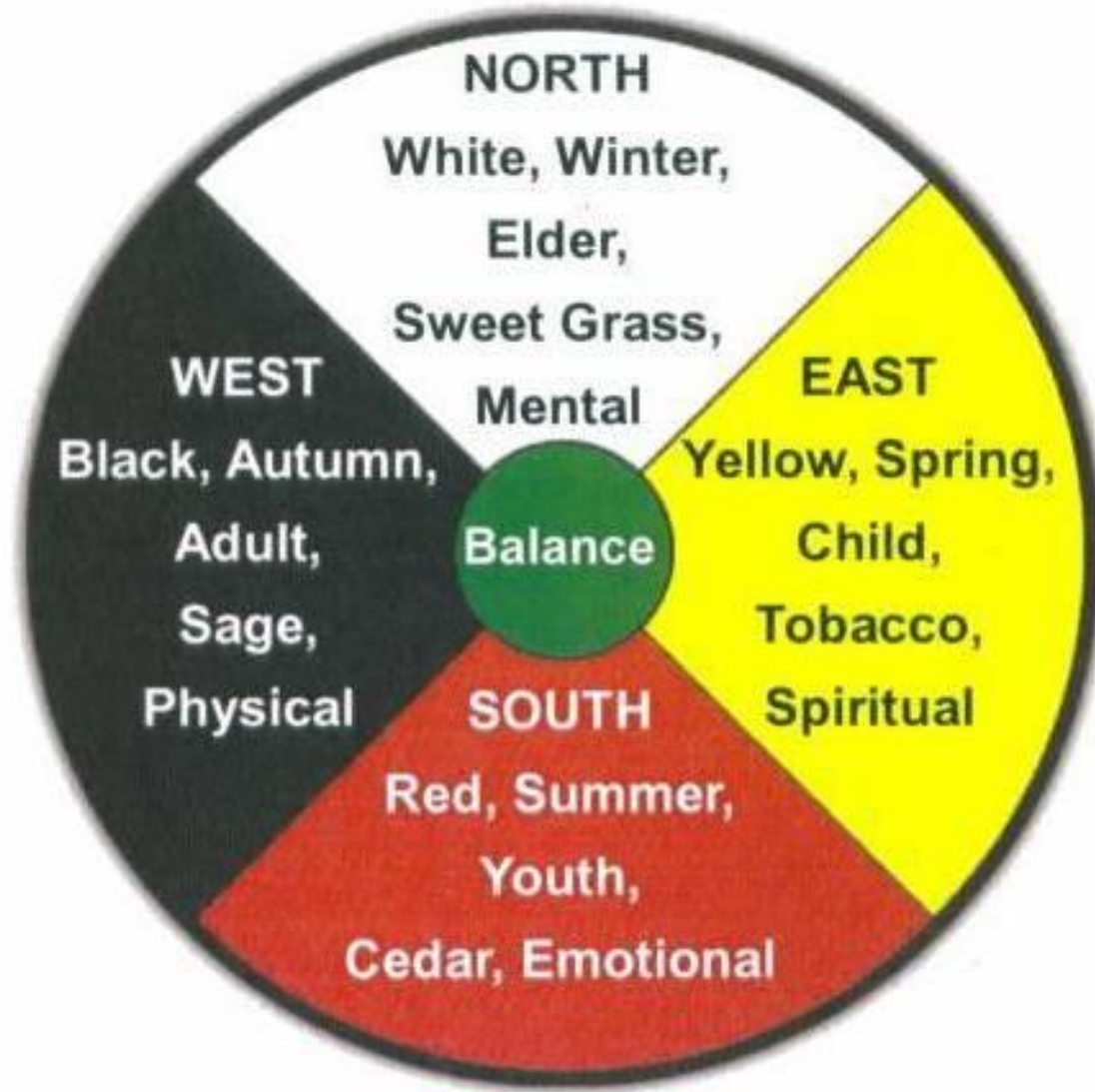


Jurisdictional Barriers



Racism

Ojibwe Medicine Wheel



Life cycle

MIDDLE STAGE

- The changes in the persons with dementia are now obvious to people close to them.
- Daily life and relationships are affected.
- Mostly unable to do everyday tasks.
- Frustration, anger, mood swings, and conflicts are common.
- Suspicion or uncooperativeness.
- This is often a stressful and busy period for caregivers.

General symptoms ZZZ   



LATE STAGE

- There is extensive damage to the brain by this stage.
- Dementia now affects almost all aspects of the sufferer's life.
- The physical changes are usually severe.
- They become dependent for all activities as mobility decreases.
- Their ability and willingness to talk reduces.
- Their health worsens on multiple fronts.

General symptoms ZZZ   



Progression of dementia



We are all
connected



Rewards of Caregiving







Educating everyone

Cultural Safety Resources

- ▶ **KAIROS Blanket Exercise**
- ▶ **San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training**
- ▶ **Cancer Care Ontario**
- ▶ **'The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness' online course offered through the University of Saskatchewan**
- ▶ **'Indigenous Canada' course from the University of Alberta**

Dementia Specific Resources

- ▶ Dementia fact sheets-Indigenous Cognition & Aging Awareness Research Exchange
- ▶ Canadian Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (CICA) Toolkit
- ▶ Native Women's Association of Canada



QUESTIONS