

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Knowledge Translation (KT) is an umbrella term for the activities entailed in **putting knowledge into action**. Sometimes, other terms such as knowledge mobilization or knowledge transfer are used. KT is a “dynamic and iterative process”, that involves many people, including:

The **Researcher**: someone who generates new knowledge. This is not necessarily an academic, it can be anyone in community. Researchers can be, and often are, knowledge users too!

The **Knowledge User(s)**: someone who will likely be able to use the new knowledge (ie. the audience for the KT resource). This can be individuals, communities, health practitioners, or policy makers - all have different ways of using knowledge.

WHAT DOES KT LOOK LIKE?

Any activity or action with the goal of helping research knowledge be used in the real world is part of knowledge translation. This can take many forms, such as:

- Articles
- Infographics and social media posts
- Videos
- Flyers (like this one!)
- Policy advocacy
- Practice recommendations
- Training and events

4 ELEMENTS OF KT:

- ✳ **Synthesis:** placing and considering new knowledge within the larger body of what is already known.
- ✳ **Dissemination:** getting the message out to the audience, using a format and messaging that will connect with them.
- ✳ **Exchange:** supporting two-way dialogue and mutual learning between the researcher and the audience. This ensures new knowledge is continually created and used.
- ✳ **Application:** knowledge is put into practice (is used to make changes, inform decisions, new policies, etc.).

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Creating new knowledge (through research, or other means) is not enough to make a difference. To be meaningful, it must also reach the people who can use it. KT helps bring awareness of knowledge to people who can use it, in a way they can understand and put into practice. It is an essential part of conducting ethical and effective research, and should be considered and prioritized at the outset of any research project.

Hotì ts'eeda proudly offers KT services to partners, and supports northerners to build skills in KT.

References

1. <https://fnigc.ca/what-we-do/knowledge-translation/>
2. <https://www.cihir-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>
3. https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/policies-politiques/knowledge-mobilisation-mobilisation_des_connaissances-eng.aspx



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KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION IN ACTION

During the first years of the Covid-19 pandemic, national public health guidance focused on safety measures (such as social distancing). This messaging often used inaccessible language, and advice was irrelevant or unrealistic for small northern Indigenous communities in the NWT. Community members voiced that better resources were needed for the NWT.

Hotì ts'eeda's public education work during the Covid-19 pandemic provides a rich example of KT in the northern context.

In partnership with the GNWT and Fostering Open eXpression among Youth (FOXY), Hotì ts'eeda developed **a series of posters** that were translated into all official NWT Indigenous languages and placed in health and government centres in communities across the NWT. **Online sharing circles** featuring NWT Elders and Indigenous health providers were also held to provide opportunities for sharing, dialogue, and knowledge building.

By contextualizing public health guidance in a way that made sense for northerners and centered Indigenous Elders and health experts, Hotì ts'eeda was able to present critical health information in a way that was actionable and relevant for northern individuals and communities.

This is knowledge translation in action!

