Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance

Knowledge Translation and Mobilization Working Group | Member Profile



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Biography

Meagan works as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) in Pikangikum First Nation for Indigenous Services Canada. As a strong advocate for women's cardiovascular health, Meagan assists in informing and disseminating tools, guidelines, and knowledge about cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women to remote and First Nations communities. She graduated from the Master of Nursing, NP-Adult program with a Collaborative Specialization in Resuscitation Science at the University of Toronto (UofT) in June 2021. Prior to graduate school, Meagan completed an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology from the University of Western Ontario in 2012 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at UofT in 2014. Her nursing experience involves working in research, education, step down/intensive care, perioperative care, and both urban and rural emergency departments (ED) across Canada.

Meagan started to gain interest in cardiovascular (CV) health after being diagnosed with familial hypercholesteremia (FH) at age 14. The diagnosis of FH combined with her own personal battle of advocating to receive appropriate primary prevention treatment ignited a passion to empower other women by increasing awareness about women's unique risk factors and presentations of cardiac pain at large.

During her undergraduate studies, she volunteered on many research projects that concerned bettering CV outcomes for women (e.g., smoking cessation and relapse prevention in women, exercise in pregnancy). In her early career as an RN, she worked with a multidisciplinary team to investigate whether simple, directed changes in the ED triage process for potential cardiac patients could decrease door-to-ECG times and door-to-balloon times. In her graduate studies, she worked as a research assistant to Monica Parry at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at UofT doing qualitative research on evaluating the needs of women with CVD through focus groups and a symptom decision support algorithm to inform women with cardiac pain when to go to the ED.

In August 2021, Meagan joined the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance (CWHHA) to learn from experts and patient partners and contribute to the development of tools, research, and guidelines to promote women's CV health, as women remain understudied and under-diagnosed. As part of the CWHHA, she is currently working on chest pain algorithms for earlier recognition of cardiac ischemia in women and a study to describe peer support interventions for women with CVD using an evidence map.