



# A New Beginning for Indigenous Wellbeing – Guest Editorial

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## Abstract

Three members of the editorial board of the Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin and the Editor reflect on the genesis of the journal, comment on its journey over time, review its mission moving forward and introduces the first edition of the journal August 2016. The authors of this article include the current editorial board's chairperson, two board members – one a past editor of the journal, the other, the journal's present patron and the current editor.

## The Genesis

In 2003, under the leadership of Dr Nancy Gibson and her team at the Edmonton ACADRE Centre the inaugural issue of *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Health* was published. It was a bold step in academic publishing, inviting community people to be a part of the peer review process and focussing on community-based, collaborative, participatory research with Aboriginal people and communities. In 2006 Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA) took over the publication of the journal. Working with organisations like the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health in Australia, Papa Ola Lokahi in Hawaii and Te Rau Matatini in New Zealand, NCSA was one of the first Aboriginal community organisations to publish a peer-reviewed, academic journal that focused on creating accessible, evidence-based articles. Our goal has always been to make good Aboriginal health research available to service providers, researchers and policy makers, one achieved through 26 issues of *Pimatisiwin* between 2003 and 2013. Recently, NCSA was delighted to pass the responsibility and honour of hosting and managing the journal to Aotearoa/New Zealand, and to Te Rau Matatini at the 2015 *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW)*, Seventh Gathering; the new team is beginning their

journey with fresh energy and commitment and I wish them the best and remain supportive during this period of transition and excitement.

With respect,

Dr Patti LaBoucane-Benson  
(Previous Editor and current Editorial Board Member: Native Counselling Services of Alberta)

## Healing Our Spirit Worldwide

The first HOSW Gathering took place in 1992 in Edmonton, Canada and attracted 3,500 people from 17 countries intent on addressing the devastation of chemical abuse and dependence among indigenous people around the world. Seven gatherings later, the movement celebrates the cultural and spiritual tenacity and resiliency of indigenous people around the world and provides a forum for a broad spectrum of issues to be heard and discussed. Aligning with *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Health* that held a similar philosophical viewpoint, the outcome is a diverse platform for indigenous voices to be heard.

The refreshed journal, *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin*, provides a medium to share the thinking and experiences of indigenous people internationally from within their community and cultural contexts. The ability of the journal to connect with those who work within indigenous communities and those who research within mainstream academia is critical.

It is a humbling honour to be the Patron for *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin* and the International Indigenous Council (HOSW) representative. As we guide this journal into a new era, we have the opportunity to capture learnings from the many indigenous peoples, who are able to record their stories in such a way that

contribute to the health and wellness of indigenous communities worldwide, including the four yearly Gatherings of HOSW.

In peace,

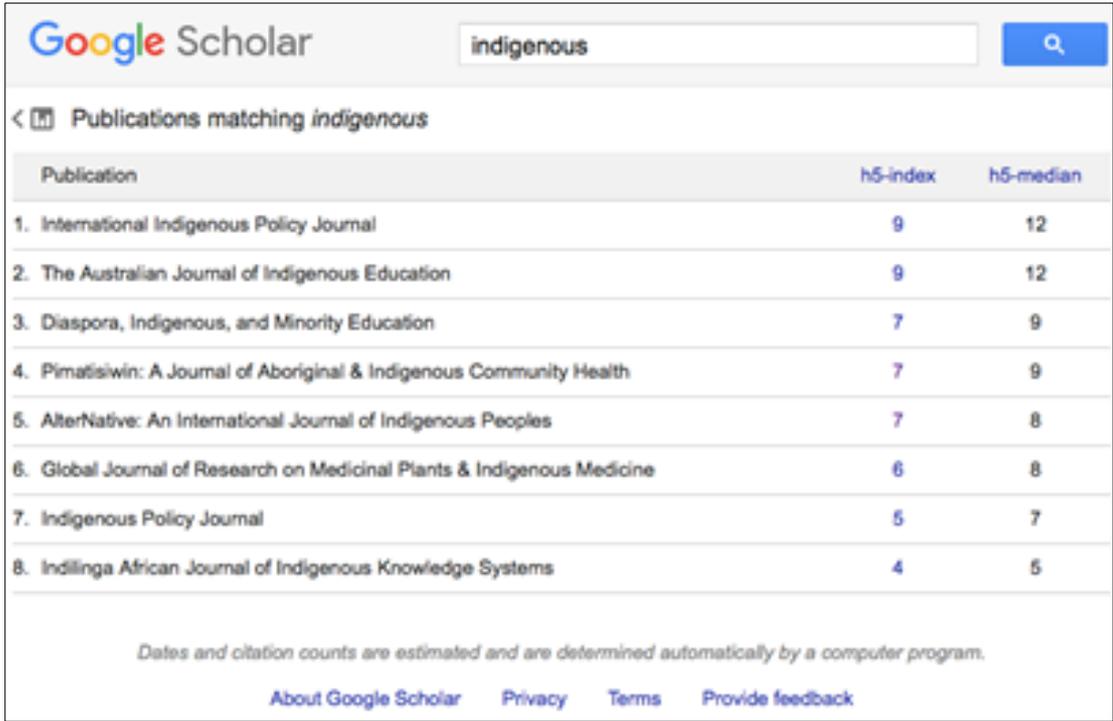
Barry Bublitz  
(Patron for *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin*)

## A New Journey

The metrics service offered by Google Scholar tells us that as of 2016 there were only eight journals found by Google Web crawlers that contained the term 'indigenous' in the titles. We all know there are many more but whatever the reason, Google is blind to their existence. In the screen shot seen in Figure 1, we see at fourth place, *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Health*, the parent journal from which the *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin* has been birthed.

Making it on to the Google radar is no mean feat. The efforts of the previous editors, board members, partner and community organisations, reviewers and contributors to *Pimatisiwin* must be applauded for their hard work, vision and enduring persistence. I celebrate the ten years that *Pimatisiwin* has given voice to indigenous communities, 100+ articles, commentaries and reviews, a growing body of accessible knowledge, all with the intent of healing our lands, histories, communities, lives and futures. We remain firmly on the planet and on the scholarly record. This achievement is hugely commendable, and not an easy act to follow. And this is why it is an honour and privilege for Aotearoa/New Zealand and Te Rau Matatini to serve indigenous communities in this way and to continue the original vision that the guardians of *Pimatisiwin* established long ago.

Moving forward, ever conscious of history, there are a number of challenges for us as new guardians.



Publication	h5-index	h5-median
1. International Indigenous Policy Journal	9	12
2. The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education	9	12
3. Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education	7	9
4. Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal & Indigenous Community Health	7	9
5. AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples	7	8
6. Global Journal of Research on Medicinal Plants & Indigenous Medicine	6	8
7. Indigenous Policy Journal	5	7
8. Indilinga African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems	4	5

Dates and citation counts are estimated and are determined automatically by a computer program.

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Figure 1: Results of Google Scholar search on 'indigenous' journals retrieved 30 April 2016. <https://scholar.google.com>

**The first is to stay connected.** In this digital age, there are new tools available to help us span distance and to bring us closer together. Online video conferencing empowers an editorial board to meet digitally, face to face, regularly and less expensively. Communication is much easier and cheaper in this modern world. The hard part is to remember that people, wherever they are in the world, are usually just one “click” away. While many of our communities are yet to be connected, it is probably just a matter of time before a roving satellite crosses the sky to change this aspect of our lives. Staying connected is not just about technology. To remain relevant to each other, we must reside in one another’s lives in meaningful and purposeful ways. Creating and sharing potentially life changing information and knowledge remains a critical mission of this journal. This leads me to our **second challenge**. A journal is nothing without its contributors. The team at Te Rau Matatini along with the editorial board help to provide the infrastructure a journal like this needs. The writers and contributors and the communities they belong to and reflect are those that really make such a journal a valuable and useful resource. In this regard,

contributors must make this journal their own by encouraging and supporting its significance and importance to others. Given the dominance of western values and knowledge, such is not an easy task but it is one that we must continue to seek to overcome. **The third challenge** reflects some of this article’s opening comments. While the journal exists, it is of little significance if it cannot be found. Te Rau Matatini and the editorial team is working to increase the journal’s online presence by attending to meta-data that search engines need to find to make contributions to the journal discoverable, as well as working with indexing and abstracting services. And contributors and readers of the journal can assist here too. Citing articles from the journal in new papers and searching online for the journal site will also increase visibility (click now: <http://www.journalofindigenouwellbeing.com>). The old ... “use it or lose it” seems to aptly apply here.

Manaakitanga,

Linda Waimarie Nikora  
(Chair Editorial Board *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin*)

## **First Edition of the Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin**

Volume one, issue one of the *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing – Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin* is a notable Special Edition and honours the knowledge shared at the HOSW, Seventh Gathering 2015 by some of the presenters in the 240 sessions held over the four days of the Gathering.

Articles included in the Special Edition HOSW, Seventh Gathering originate from Canada, Hawaii, Australia and the host country Aotearoa. It is with respect and admiration for the authors that their work is distributed through *Te Mauri – Pimatisiwin*, bringing life to solutions couched in traditional knowledge, which supports our indigenous strengths and moves us toward healthy flourishing futures. Indigenous leadership is celebrated and seen as providing the basis for innovation in both service delivery and workforce development. The potential of new technology with Indigenous people is a feature in the HOSW Special Edition providing a voice to the aspirations and dreams of the Seventh Gathering *whānau* (family).

Mauri Ora,

Kahu McClintock  
(Editor *Journal of Indigenous Wellbeing - Te Mauri: Pimatisiwin*)