

## Completing the circle: End of life care with aboriginal (Native American) families

**Mary Hampton**

University of Regina, Canada

In this presentation, excerpts of videos we have produced that contain Elder's words about culturally appropriate end of life care with Aboriginal (Native American) families in our region of Canada (southern Saskatchewan) will be presented. One of the videos we have produced describe the diversity or protocol and the history of colonialism that has influenced ability of communities to enact their traditional ways of providing end of life care to their family and community members. In our research, we started with differences in world views between non-Aboriginal health care providers and Aboriginal family members when an Aboriginal family member is dying in hospital. These differences in world views cause trauma to the family members as well as the one who is dying. Our videos are an attempt to communicate ways that Aboriginal elders view the end of life or dying process and attempt to offer guidance and understanding to non-Aboriginal health care providers. We offer five videos: the first is 23 minutes and offers insights to non-Aboriginal family members; the second is meant for Aboriginal family members and offer healing and comforting words; the third offers insight about ways elders assist grieving children; the fourth describes the history of colonialism that impacts grief among Aboriginal families; and the fifth describes ways in which protocol differs by Nation. These videos will be described and a compilation of these will be shared.

### Biography

Mary Hampton is a Professor of Psychology at Luther College at the University of Regina in Canada. She also is the University of Regina President's Chair for Academic Excellence in Scholarly Teaching and Community Outreach and conducts cross-cultural, community-based research with Aboriginal communities.

Mary.Hampton@uregina.ca