



“How do you feel that your rights are supported, in health care and/or in the city?”

- Right to be taken care of
- Need to speak up for yourself
- Indigenous rights and status
- Human rights

1. Right to be taken care of

12 participants

Not only meeting clients' needs, but being happy and willing to help. Often experienced in Indigenous-led health organizations, in contrast to a perceived reluctance to provide services in other health care institutions.

“R: Do you feel like your rights are supported in Prince George?”

P: Mm, not really. No. Maybe here, [in this Indigenous organization]. That's why I come here a lot, because I feel like I got support here.... They seem to want to help me.”

2. The need to speak up

8 participants

Participants describe not having their health care needs addressed until they speak up or make a scene.

“[My partner], he always thinks I'm making a big scene, wherever I go. And he's not from a minority, so he doesn't know what it's like to have to really stand up for things that you want to get done.”

3. Indigenous rights

8 participants

Participants perceive Indigenous legal rights as bestowing special status on Indigenous people. However, many participants feel that Indigenous rights are not a useful way to get the care that they need.

“I would never say, you know, ‘it's my right as a First Nations person to get this or that.’ Like, it's my right to be treated like a person. But I don't think we really have that... I don't think anybody says ‘it's our right to this or that.’”



4. Human rights

6 participants

Human rights are not felt to be respected when accessing health care, especially in non-Indigenous-led health organizations.

“So many people are treated so badly, because they're Aboriginal... I have a lot of people come in here and they're like, ‘I'm not going back there.’ Like, ‘they treat me like dirt...’ I've heard lots of people say stuff like that.”

Indigenous community resurgence

A process of community-based revitalization whereby Indigenous communities draw on and enhance existing strengths – in language, law, and governance, for example – and reject colonially-imposed governance and restrictions.

Human rights and community resurgence

Indigenous-led health organizations contribute to Indigenous community resurgence in urban areas by paying attention to Indigenous peoples' human rights – by providing care when it is needed and supporting the rights of Indigenous clients and communities to speak up and have their voices heard.

The findings of this study suggest that the concept of Indigenous community resurgence has more relevance than “rights” to the work that Indigenous-led health organizations are doing in the city.