

**Collaborative Critical Autoethnography:  
A Digital storytelling community project  
with Inuit youth in Nunavut**

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# WHAT IS CRITICAL AUTOETHNOGRAPHY?

- Autoethnography is a type of writing and research practice. Its central focus is on “Self” and how the personal, as in “Me”, is connected to socio-cultural environments (29).
- Critical autoethnography is based on self-reflexive explorations (30) and a research method that allows for interrogation of self in relationship, context, profound connection, and political/power consciousness (31).
- Critical autoethnography involves critical self-reflexive explorations, where the researcher interrogates themselves in relationship and in the context of structures and systems, ideologies, assumptions, and norms.
- In looking at oneself in context, profound connections can be made, and political/power consciousness can occur.



# DECOLONIZATION AND SOCIAL WORK

- Decolonization is used to recognize how the Eurocentric settler colonizer worldview enforces inequitable, invisible, & pervasive power dynamics
- Social work that aims to decolonize seeks to disrupt the influences of multiple structures that embed the profession and social workers. The goal is to unsettle the colonizers' belief that they are spiritually, culturally, intellectually, and technically superior to those that they colonize, thus imposing a hegemony - a dominating, single reality <sup>(32)</sup>.
- Decolonizing social work pays critical attention to the person of the social worker, in order to gain a critical consciousness about what we bring to our practice.
- **Critical autoethnographic research** can help pave the road to decolonization which is defined by Sium et. al <sup>(33)</sup> as the removal or undoing of colonial elements to allow for Indigenization, which is the addition or redoing of Indigenous elements into our society and systems.



**White  
supremacy**

**EuroWestern  
worldview**

**SCHOOL**

75% of the teachers do not speak Inuktitut & are transferred in from outside the territory (10)  
· Low graduation rates and high non-attendance rates (11)  
· Inuit students do not see themselves represented in the people who are their teachers (12)

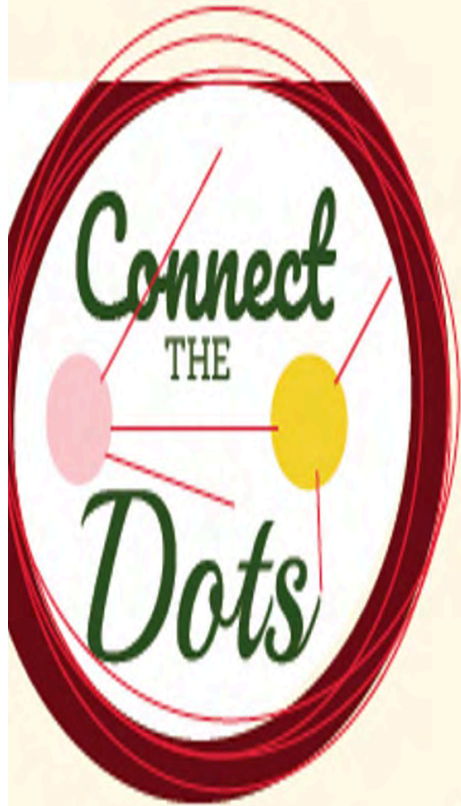
**WELLNESS, WHOLISTIC HEALTH**

· The health care system in Nunavut is the costliest system in Canada (21)  
· Inuit in Nunavut have the highest suicide rate in the world (22)  
· Many health care services available only outside of the territory (23)

**EMPLOYMENT**

· Inequities in the distribution of resources and employment opportunities (13)  
· For Inuit Nunavut, medium yearly earnings are \$17,700; for non-Indigenous, it is \$77,000 (14)

**Social Work  
Training**



**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**  
- closely linked to community and the Arctic environment

**Community connection**

**FAMILY**  
73 % of Inuit live in Inuit Nunangut with just 27% living elsewhere(19, 20)

**TRADITION**  
- 85% of the people living in Nunavut are Inuit (25).  
- 65% of Inuit in Nunavut, Inuktitut is the mother tongue, spoken at home (26)

**CULTURE**  
Inuit populations strongly attached to their culture (24)

**Land Claim Agreement**  
largest land claim

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