



Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research
Centre du festin traditionnel de recherche autochtone sur les ITSS

**Towards *Amaamawi'izing* (Collaborating) in
Interdisciplinary Allyship:
An Example from the Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI
Research
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The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research

Is dedicated to community-led research across the four pillars of health. Our intent is to contribute to cultural responses to STBBI in Canada through respectful and dynamic collaborations.

Our goal is to increase the use of Indigenous knowledges in STBBI research to encourage transformational change that addresses the physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental health needs of Indigenous peoples living with or affected by STBBI.



Indigenous community-led STBBI research focusing on Indigenous ways of knowing and methods

Four Pillars of Health Research (Clinical, Basic Science, Epidemiology and Social Science)

Centering Indigenous knowledges within interdisciplinary allyship

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Inspired by our work with the Feast Centre —we explore how *Amaamawi'izing* (collaborating) facilitates the interdisciplinary and collaborative work of scholars working alongside Indigenous communities.

Amaamawi'izing is an active stance that embraces the action of coming together with one mind in respectful and inclusive approaches.

The Anishinaabe conceptualization of collaborating, *Amaamawi'izing*, facilitates the interdisciplinary and collaborative work of scholars working alongside Indigenous communities, Knowledge Keepers and Elders.



We conceptualize *Amaamawi'izing* as grounding the work of the Feast Centre as a traditional research governance model that emphasizes action, brings diverse people together, is respectful, and appreciates difference in all its variations (culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc.)

Although we strive for consensus, this model embraces and works with the tension in the hyphen between the Indigenous-settler allyship. This relational process allows for a more profound allyship to grow.

As Indigenous Peoples collaborating with researchers, *Amaamawi'izing* embodies the principles of “all my relations” that honours our first teacher, *Ashkaakaamikwe* (Mother Earth).



Amaamawi'izing as a Research Model

What differentiates *Amaamawi'izing* is its focus on the process rather than on the product, of coming together, of locating our work in the in-between space of allyship. Use of *Amaamawi'izing* in research collaboration highlights the colonial underpinning that might influence community and academic partnerships. The use of *Amaamawi'izing* in our work, potentially offers safe, ethical space where difference does not separate, but is inclusive, valued, and upheld.

The Feast Centre's diverse team of Indigenous and allied researchers and community members is exploring this sophisticated approach to collaboration. Premised on deep listening, appreciating difference, and striving to achieve consensus, our activities and funding opportunities are informed by Indigenous consciousness and ways of being.

Principles of Amaamawi'izing

