

MANAACII WIITHAGAPIN

(harm reduction)

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OVERVIEW

Information was collected over three sharing circles at Sunshine House with people with lived experience, community members and Sunshine House staff.

Project is led by Knowledge Holders Gayle Pruden (Ojibwe) and Dr. Ellen Cook (Cree).

Project is a partnership between Waniska/Ka Ni Kanichihk, Sunshine House and the University of Manitoba and is funded by the Feast Centre for STBBI research.

THREE GUIDING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT THE START OF THE SHARING CIRCLE

- 1. What are your thoughts around rapid STBBI testing? Would you use this service?** What would you need to use rapid testing?
- 2. What are your thoughts about self testing for STBBIs? Would you use this service?** What would you need to help you use the self tests?
- 3. What aftercare or supports would you want if you tested positive?** What about a negative result?

Self testing

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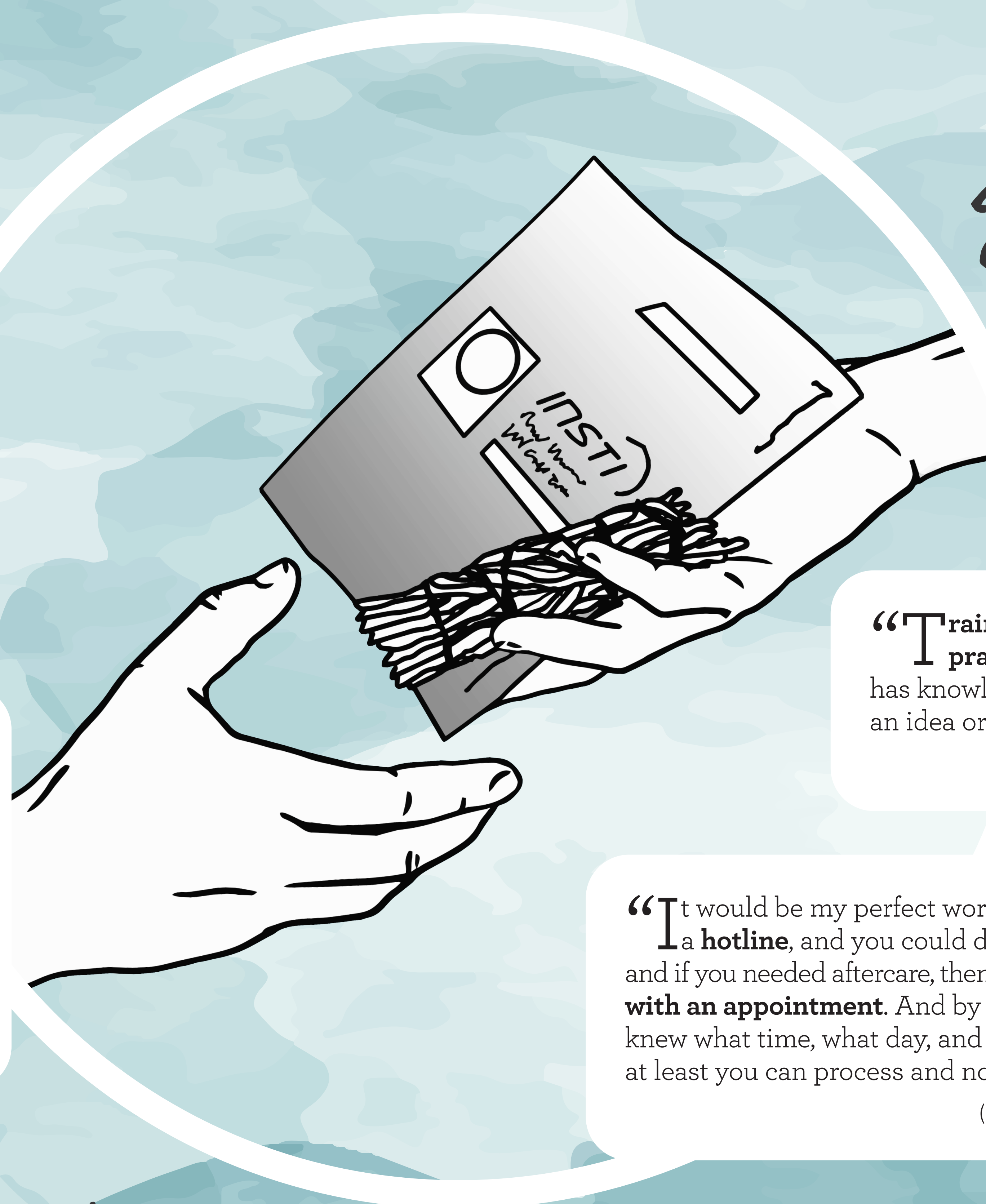
It's so quick, the turnaround from that. **I would want somebody with the knowledge of where's the clinic, what number do I phone, who am I going to talk to,** can I sit and talk to someone now? That's what I would need for myself immediately.”

(MWHR-FG-01-120322-100PM#001, POS. 96)

“

So, I think it would maybe work for somebody that was very familiar with testing, that was very, like, okay, **I know what I'm going to do if I test positive. So, there's no question in my mind,** if I test positive, I'm going to the doctor the next day, or I'm doing something. I'm reaching out to my Elder, I'm reaching out to somebody. But I would need to know before I did that test what my supports would be.”

(MWHR-FG-01-120322-100PM#001, POS. 81)



Supports

“I would come here to **Sunshine House**, or the **Nine Circles** clinic that's up on Broadway there.”

(MWHR-FG-01-120322-100PM#001, POS. 82)

“**T**rained peer, healthcare provider, clinic nurse practitioner. Yeah, somebody like that. Somebody who has knowledge of what to do next, where can you go, and have an idea or a database where I can receive that help.”

(MWHR-FG-01-120322-100PM#001, POS. 98)

“It would be my perfect world if the Manitoba HIV Program had **a hotline**, and you could do the test with them on the hotline, and if you needed aftercare, then they **could immediately set you up with an appointment.** And by the time you got off the phone, you knew what time, what day, and where to go to have that aftercare, so at least you can process and not worry about the future.”

(MWHR-FG-04-042423-645PM#004, POS. 51)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ **Continue educating Elders** on harm reduction and STBBI knowledge, and integrating traditional supports into an STBBI care cascade for Indigenous peoples.
- ▶ **Educate the community** on syphilis, prevention, symptoms and treatment including self-testing options.
- ▶ **Broaden the supports** for self-testing and resources to guide users to care.
- ▶ **Ongoing training and support** around distributing and knowledge about STBBI self-tests including community organizations, peers and community members.

Other findings from participants:

Potential for **third-party testing spaces** like MOPS or Sunshine House that offer non-clinical support while testing was mentioned by several participants as a good way to facilitate more testing and ease anxiety.

Participants needed **more information** in the community about Syphilis testing and treatment. They were open to using a Syphilis self test.

POSTER DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY JENNY HENKELMAN

