

al imprint, but a sense of urgency to correct those inequalities for those in attendance.

Dr. Lisa Monkman, an Ojibway Family Physician from Dauphin Medical Centre in Manitoba, and Dr. Billie Allan, a Traditional Counsellor from York University were both given the floor as keynote speakers. As well, the Six Nations Community Impact Panel comprised of Nince Hill, Mary-ellen Simon, Lana Hill and Johanne McCarthy offered their own strong and emotional stories in regards to the inequities of the Canadian health system.

In an interview, Monkman explained that although "it's tough to pick one thing," the main message she wanted to get across in her time as a keynote speaker was that "transformation and change starts with the individual."

"We as a nation are generous, innovative, and have a wealth of knowledge to draw upon. We have amazing strengths that will help heal us, but not just us, everybody all throughout Canada," she said.

Shortly after the Community Impact Panel, those in attendance were broken into several groups for breakout sessions.

One of the sessions offered was facilitated by McMaster Sociology Professor Jeffrey Dennis, and was titled "Indigenous Conceptions of Poverty and Health in a Settler-Colonial Context". The session incorporated statistics to offer thick validation of the inequalities.

"I was happy to hear that some people were not hearing some of these things for the first time, which means that at least some people are getting the kinds of information that will be helpful for de-colonizing," said Dennis. "But then the big question is how are we going to do this; how are we going to work through this together?"

One of his slides read "settler-colonialism is a distinct type of colonization in which colonizers come to stay," and the "primary motive is to access land." This non-sensitized presentation of information continued all throughout the lecture, enabling those in attendance to truly grasp the problems many indigenous people have to experience outside of the health system. These problems include poverty, schools not receiving adequate funding per student, and high stress levels — each affect health negatively.

After the community fair, a key note speaker and another breakout session; speakers for the Closing Plenary presented closing statements. The Closing Plenary included words from Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill, Kimberly Orton, Dr. Billie Allan, and Lisa Monkman. Each speaker touched on both emotional and empowering subjects, bringing tears to some in the audience.

Shortly thereafter the closing was performed by Evan Jamieson-Eckel, and a hand drum song was sung by Hannah Martin, leaving the audience enraptured and educated.