

Improving Cancer Screening in the Métis Nation of Ontario Research Project

Cancer screening is about helping you live a good life

- Cancer screening is testing done on people who have **no symptoms** and generally **feel fine** but may be at risk of getting cancer. Regular screening can find some cancers or pre-cancers early when treatment has a **better chance of working**.
- Organized cancer screening programs are offered for **free to eligible people** in Ontario.

BREAST

Mammogram

People 50 to 74 years old who are eligible

Every 2 years for most

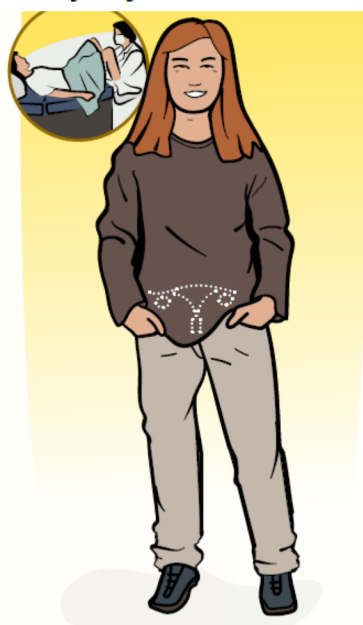


CERVICAL

Pap Test

People 21 to 70 years old who are eligible

Every 3 years for most

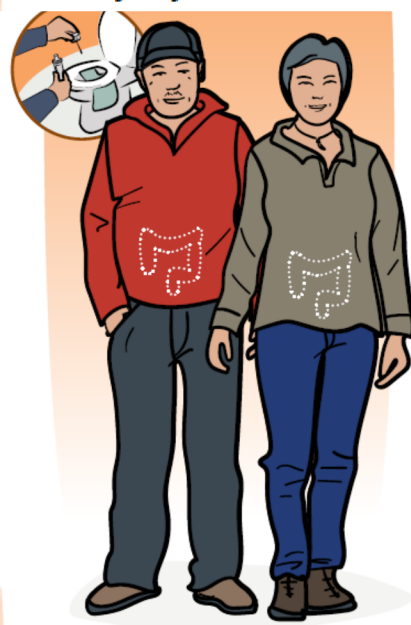


COLON

Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)

People 50 to 74 years old who are eligible

Every 2 years for most

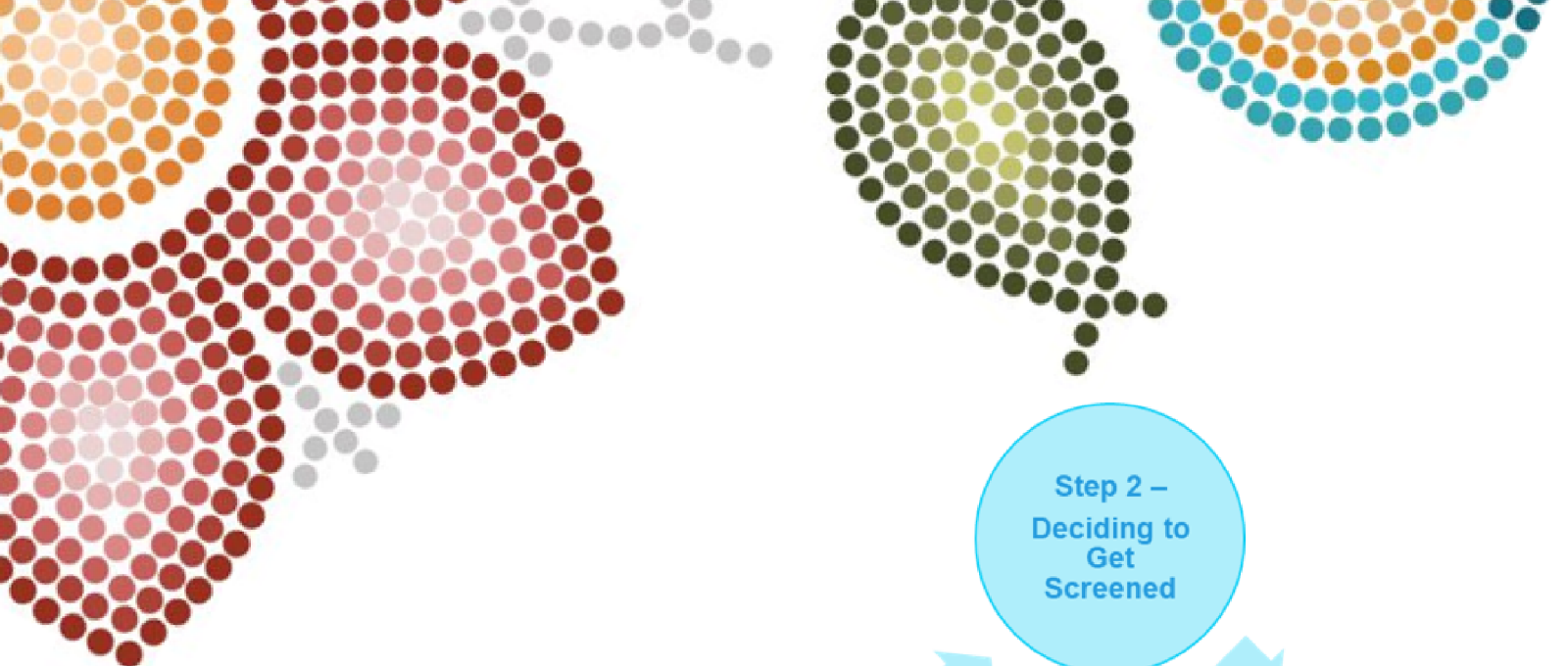


What we aimed to do:

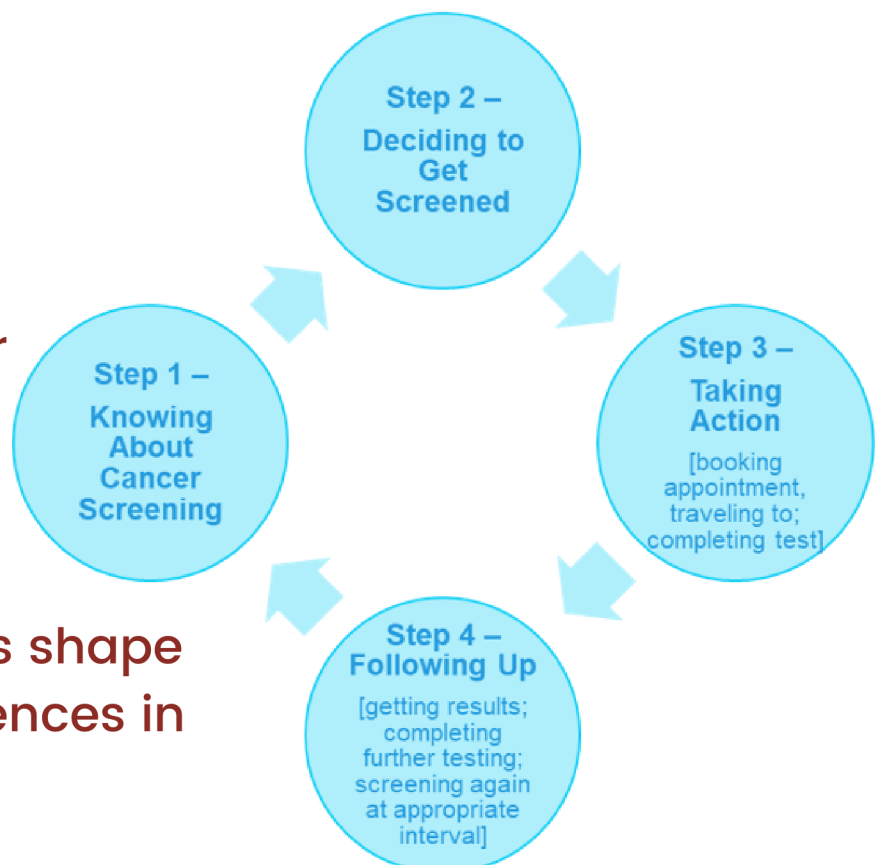
- Explore experiences with cancer screening in the Métis Nation of Ontario (citizens, families, and the community at large)
- Identify barriers and facilitators to effective cancer screening
- Identify gaps in cancer screening services and how to address them

How we did it:

- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered with Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and Sunnybrook Research Institute on a collaborative research project
- Focus groups and surveys with 45 MNO Healing and Wellness workers and 21 MNO citizens



4 key steps in cancer screening in MNO communities



3 overarching key factors shape cancer screening experiences in MNO communities

1. Awareness and perceptions

(e.g. education needed for providers about MNO communities and for MNO communities about screening)

"...in the Métis community, you have to find a more creative way to connect...using...storytelling or symbolisms...might hit home...a little bit better than just having a poster, or an ad with some statistics..." (MNO Healing & Wellness staff)

2. Access to cancer screening services

(e.g. geographic and socioeconomic factors make it difficult to access primary care and screening)

"I think a huge barrier in the north, and I hear time and again...it's transportation...for the Métis. How to get there. It's not easy. They can't just hop a bus and get to this." (MNO citizen)

3. Cultural safety of cancer screening services

(e.g. cultural safety among providers and health systems needed to respect and support MNO communities in screening)

"You're treated like a piece of meat and it's just like bang, bang, bang and there's no information passed to the family, to the patient all the way through that whole process and it's just...so rushed..." (MNO citizen)

What we are doing with research findings:

- Recommendations for Ontario Health, MNO, and other stakeholders developed and shared through KT Action Plan
- Research findings informed Ontario Health's "First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous Cancer Strategy"
- Ongoing community education and support efforts

Where to learn more:

[Cancer & Screening Resources](#)
(Click Métis tab)



[Screening Programs](#)



[Tobacco Wise](#)



[MNO Screening FAQ](#)



[Métis Cancer Screening Research Project](#)

