

Dr. Darlene Sanderson

Associate Professor Health Sciences

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Dr. Sanderson is of Cree ancestry from Northern Manitoba and has worked with many First Nations worldwide and locally, on Indigenous water laws, enhancing language and cultural knowledge, and self-determination in research design and delivery.

Dr. Sanderson began her professional career as a Registered Nurse following a BScN from the University of Alberta. She then went on to a MA in the School of Youth and Care at the University of Victoria, and finally a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from Simon Fraser University.

Dr. Sanderson is dedicated to uplifting Indigenous peoples through research. Her work connects Indigenous health, education, and law - often through research involving water. She is PI or Co-PI on numerous research projects including recent SSHRC and CIHR projects on Water Guardians aimed at enhancing language and cultural knowledge of Indigenous youth, emphasizing the value of traditional knowledge, the interactions between health of the land and health of Elders, and work on proactive assertion of Indigenous water laws.

Dr. Sanderson has worked with local Indigenous communities, including recent work with the Secwépemc, and with Indigenous peoples across the world. She was the Indigenous Focal Point and an invited panelist at the 8th World Water Forum in 2018 in Brazil. She has supported Indigenization of nursing curriculum, implemented on-the-land experiences for nursing students, and has published on the scholarship of teaching and learning.