

I AM AVAILABLE FOR KEYNOTE SPEECHES, PANELS,  
PODCASTS & MEDIA INTERVIEWS



*"As Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Maternal Child Wellness, I aim to address maternal-child health disparities and associated inequities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples."*

DR JENNIFER LEASON

CIHR Tier II Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Maternal Child Wellness  
Professor, University of Calgary  
Adjunct professor, Western University and UBC  
Artist, Academic, Educator and Researcher

"My vision is for all children to know that they are loved."



**Messenger of the Past, Present, and Future**

9" x 12"

Acrylic on Paper

Painted by Jennifer Leason ©2018

# Dr. Jennifer Leason Biography

Dr. Jennifer Leason is an Anishinaabe kwe and an off-reserve member of Pine Creek First Nation (Minegoziibe Anishinabe), Manitoba, currently living in Treaty 6 Territory. She is an artist, writer, community-based researcher, mother and farmer.

Dr. Leason weaves data and stories with her research findings to inspire and educate. Her research focuses on healthy life trajectories for individuals, families, communities, nations, and the world. Her artistry expresses the beauty of each day as a path to intergenerational celebration.

Dr. Leason teaches at uCalgary, Western & UBC. Published in over 25 journals, textbooks and magazines, she has also published 2 children's books in English and Anishinaabemowin and shown her artwork across the country.

She has received over \$150 million in research awards. Her research is done in partnership with First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities and their partners. Although she wishes she didn't have to, part of any Indigenous scholar's work is decolonizing academia.

# Presentation Topics

## **Gwayakooshgawiin: Living in Truth - Relational Governance**

Gwayakooshgawiin (Living in Truth) is a relational theory which offers a framework for understanding knowledge, power, and responsibility to create new visions for a shared future. It draws on matriarchal governance, lived systems, Anishinaabe epistemologies and Indigenous worldviews.

## **Rematriating Bison: Food Sovereignty**

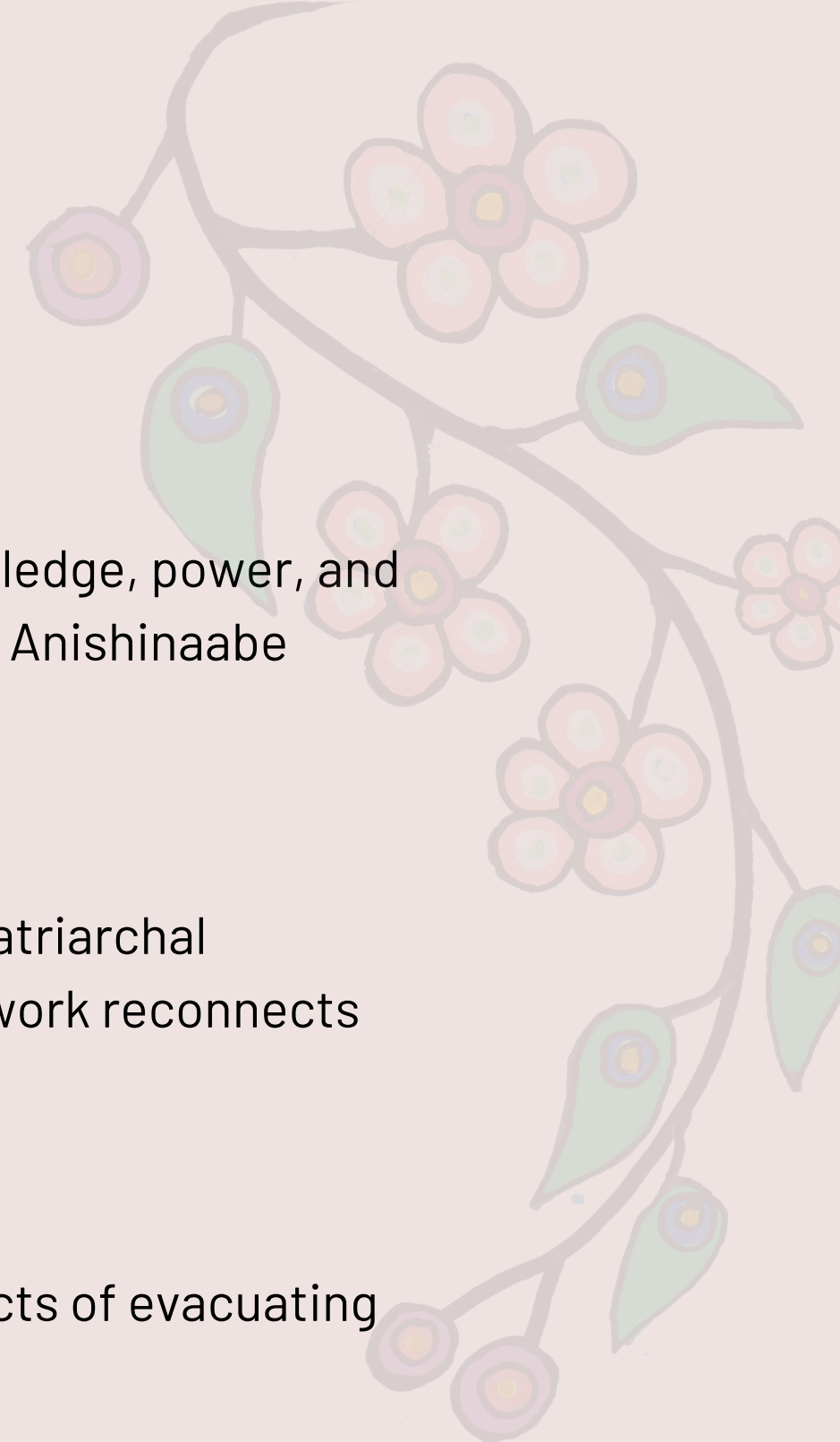
Rematriating bison is about restoring Indigenous food systems and returning decision-making power to matriarchal leadership for the care of land, food, and future generations. Rooted in love, dignity, and sovereignty, this work reconnects land, body, and governance to create sustainable, community-led pathways for health and well-being.

## **Reclaiming Indigenous Birth**

Findings from our interdisciplinary research examining economic, health, and social-cultural costs & impacts of evacuating for birth; benefits of midwifery; and the state of Indigenous maternal and reproductive care.

## **Keesis Saayewin: Living in Light - Indigenous Resurgence in Canada**

Drawing on Indigenous theory, community knowledge, and contemporary movements, I share how Indigenous peoples are rebuilding systems of governance, kinship, land stewardship, language revitalization, health, education, justice, and economic development.





# A sampling of speaking engagements

## **Decolonizing Midwifery Research Through Narratives**

(McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2024)

## **Re-writing/RE-RIGHTING First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Public Health Research in Canada**

(World Congress on Public Health, Rome, Italy, 2023)

## **Pandemic Responses Needed to Address Health Inequities for Indigenous Communities**

(Canadian Science Policy Centre, Ottawa, 2020)

## **Indigenous Languages in Picture Books**

(Festival of Literary Diversity, Victoria, British Columbia, 2020)

## **Education for Reconciliation: Decolonizing and Engaged Pedagogy**

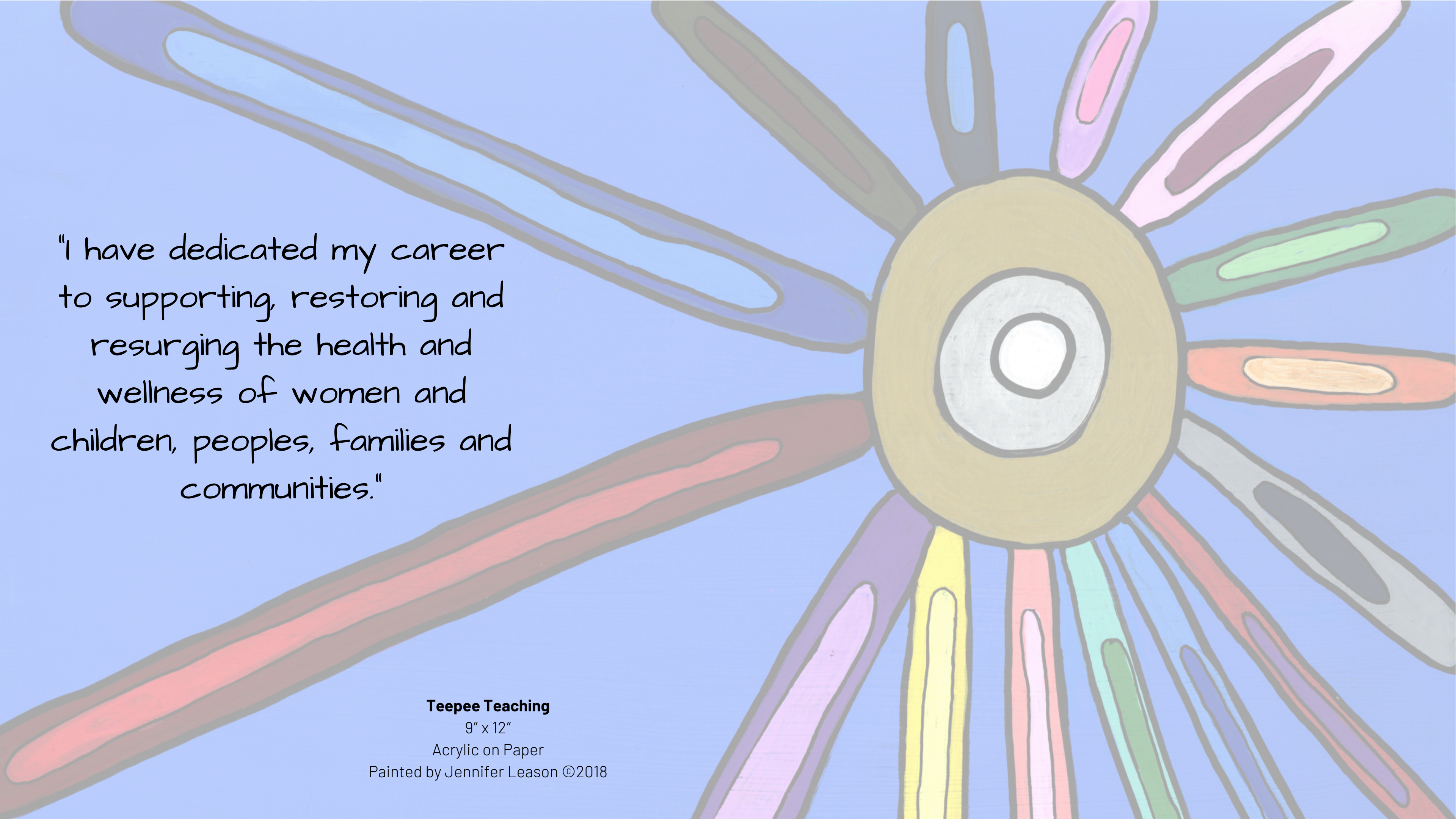
(Canadian Public Health Association 18th Annual Conference. Montréal, Quebec, 2018)

## **Indigenous Women's Maternal Stress and Perinatal Health Outcomes: The Role of Social Determinants of Health**

(Indigenous Health 3rd Annual Conference, University of Toronto, 2018)

## **Making Sense of Intergenerational Impacts of the Canadian Residential School System**

(Making Sense of Suffering Conference, Athens, Greece, 2013)



"I have dedicated my career  
to supporting, restoring and  
resurging the health and  
wellness of women and  
children, peoples, families and  
communities."

**Teepee Teaching**

9" x 12"

Acrylic on Paper

Painted by Jennifer Leason ©2018

# Book me for speaking engagements

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