

2020 Bio

Shohan Illsley was raised in Northern Manitoba; The Pas, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, and Churchill. Her grandparents are settlers from Iceland and England. She is married to her high school sweetheart and is the mother of four children. She resides with her family in Winnipeg. Shohan and her husband are raising their children with Indigenous knowledge and ceremony. They work everyday to incorporate the resistance of colonization and residential school into their children's identity.

Shohan is the Executive Director of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network and has worked in harm reduction since 2000. Her work experience has included working with people who use drugs that are impacted by structural and colonial violence. Shohan works from the foundation that people are experts in their own lives.

Shohan completed a Master's of Science at the University of Manitoba. She was the recipient of a CIHR grant which funded a community based research project titled *"What goes around: How peers use their social networks to share STBBI education and information."* Shohan has since been the recipient of 2 additional CIHR grants.

