

## **Reviewer-2**

This manuscript addresses the ongoing barriers to Indigenous student success in Canadian universities, with attention to wellness, cultural affirmation, and systemic racism..

the title is appropriate, clear, and reflects the content.  
Possible alternative: *“Indigenous University Student Wellness in Canadian Colonial Institutions: A Review of Challenges, Strengths, and Gaps”* (shorter, more focused).

The abstract is fairly comprehensive, by outlining the topic, databases searched, and key findings. However:

- It could briefly note the **number of studies included (15)**.
- The recommendations section should be expanded to emphasize both gaps (e.g., intersectionality, STEM disciplines) and practical solutions

Generally yes, the English is clear, structured, and scholarly. Minor suggestions:

- The abstract could be more concise.
- Some sentences in the Results and Discussion sections are long and could be simplified for readability.

Introduction: Strong, well contextualized with statistics and literature. Clear rationale for the review.

Methods: Adequate description of databases and inclusion/exclusion criteria. However, more detail on the screening process would improve transparency.

Results/Discussion: Rich in detail and well supported by citations. Could be streamlined to reduce repetition.

Areas in Need of Further Study: Excellent addition, clearly identifying gaps in STEM and intersectionality research.

Conclusion: Strong alignment with TRC Calls to Action; clear recommendations.

Yes, references are current (2020–2025), diverse, and relevant. They include dissertations, peer-reviewed. Yes, references are current (2020–2025), diverse, and relevant. They include dissertations, peer-reviewed.

this is a review article. However, more explicit mention of how Indigenous knowledge systems were respected in the review process would strengthen ethical positioning.

Overall Marks: 8.5

- Category: Minor Revision

Specific Comments:

1. Abstract should specify number of included studies and strengthen recommendations.
2. Methods section could provide more detail on search and screening.
3. Results/Discussion are thorough but could be streamlined to avoid redundancy.
4. Strong points include the alignment with TRC Calls to Action, clear identification of systemic racism and financial struggles, and acknowledgment of Indigenous student strengths.