

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

We are excited to gather together with you all in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) for the 2025 APHC Annual Gathering, to connect on the theme of Community-Engaged Research. We've titled the event **Connected for Health** and have planned our time together to 'dive deep' into conversation on community-engaged research, through speakers, panels, and interactive discussions—to learn from and with each other, create new connections, and inspire new opportunities.

We've organized our sessions to build on each other, exploring different aspects of community and community-engaged research, including defining **what is 'it', working in a good way, how we engage**, and how we move **towards a collaborative space**.

We're so glad you're here and can't wait to learn, share, and connect alongside you.

**With warmth and excitement,
Your APHC Gathering Hosts,**

- Kate and Kelly



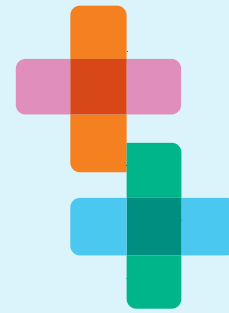
Kate Storey
PhD, RD

CIHR/PHAC Applied Public Health Chair
Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta
Distinguished Researcher, Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation
Member, Women and Children's Health Research Institute
Scientist, Centre for Healthy Communities



Kelly Skinner
PhD, MPH

CIHR-PHAC Applied Public Health Chair
Program Lead, Master of Health Evaluation
School of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Health
University of Waterloo



OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

WHAT IS 'IT'

Explore the meaning of 'community' and community-engaged research and determine how you can apply principles that are relevant to your own work

WORKING IN A GOOD WAY

Foster dialogue on equitable, respectful, beneficial and reciprocal relationships between academic institutions, partners and communities

HOW WE ENGAGE

Explore innovative methods and approaches for action-oriented and community-engaged research

TOWARDS A COLLABORATIVE SPACE

Create opportunities for connection, learning and action between chairs, trainees, decision-makers and partners

THIS YEARS' GATHERING IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



We acknowledge with respect that the Connected for Health Gathering is taking place on amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), in Treaty 6 territory. We honour and express our gratitude to the Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dene, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples, as well as the Métis Nation, who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and continue to call this place home. We commit to learning from knowledge and experience as we work together toward health and reconciliation.

AGENDA

* denotes virtual attendance option

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

14021 - 106A Avenue NW

- 5:00-5:30 **Bike Bus and Shuttles to Kate's house** (meet in lobby)
- 5:30-8:00 **The Welcoming Table**
Welcome reception at Dr. Kate Storey's House

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Pendennis, 9660 Jasper Ave

- 8:00-8:30 **Guest Registration**
- 8:30-9:00 ***Welcome & Opening**
Elder Andy Auigbelle
Speakers: Dr. Kate Storey & Dr. Kelly Skinner
- 9:00-9:15 ***What is Community and what is community-engaged research?**
Facilitator: Khari Wendell McClelland
- 9:15-10:15 **Introductions**
- 10:15-10:30 **Break**
- 10:30-11:30 ***Panel Discussion: "Working in a Good Way"**
Speakers: Dr. Richard Oster, Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose, Dr. Teena Starlight, Moderator: Dr. Meghan Winters
- 11:30-12:00 **Lunch** (grab and go)
- 12:10 to 12:15 **Attendees board bus outside**
- 12:15-12:45 **Bus to kihcihkaw askî-Sacred Land**

14141 Fox Drive NW

- 1:00-2:00 **Walk & Connect**
Guide: Larson Yellowbird Sr
- 1:30-2:30 **Learning in Community**
Speakers: Cory Arcand, Verna Arcand, Jody Kootenay
- 2:30-4:00 **Tipi Teachings**
Guide: Larson Yellowbird Sr

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 CONT...

- 4:00-4:15 **Closing**
- 4:15-4:45 **Bus back to Downtown Edmonton**

Atrium at Sabor: 10310 102 Ave NW

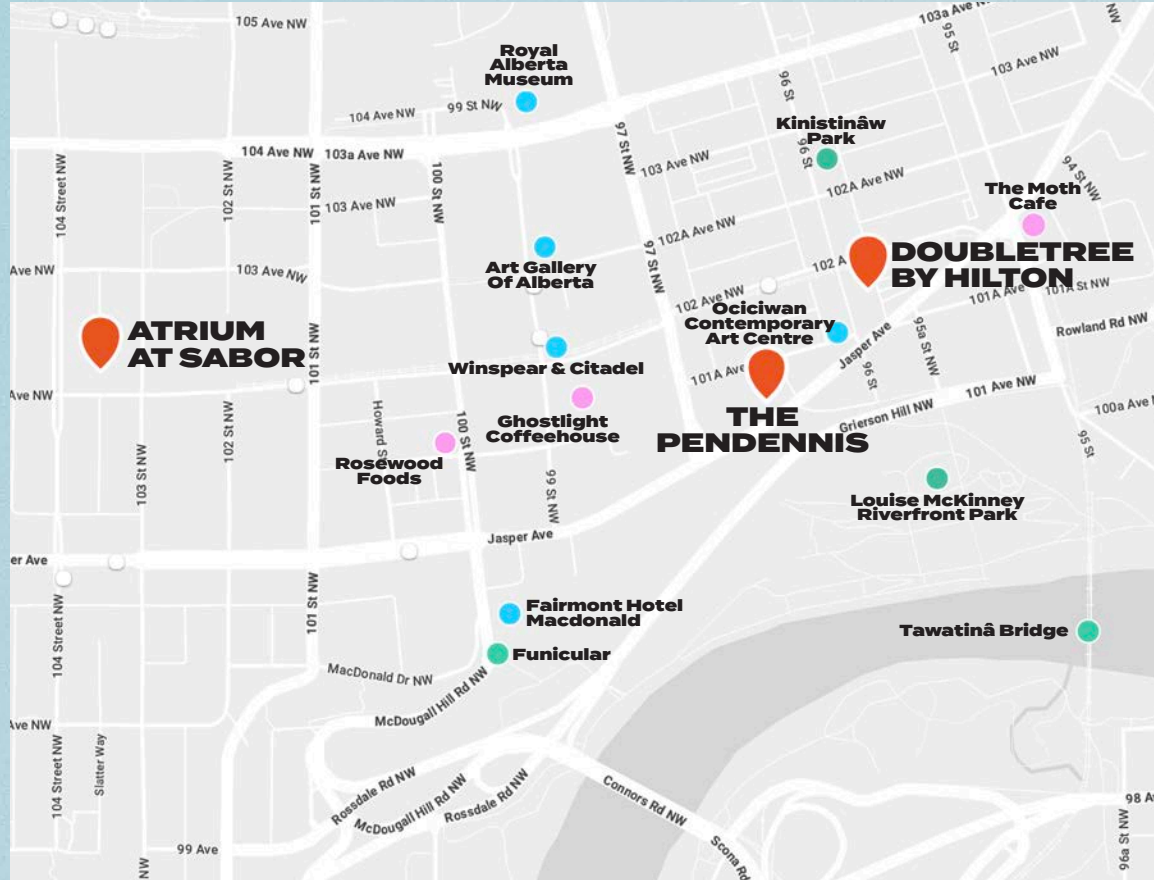
- 6:10-6:30 **Walking bus to restaurant** (meet in lobby)
- 6:30 **Dinner at Atrium at Sabor**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Pendennis: 9660 Jasper Ave

- 9:00-9:45 ***Welcome and Greetings from CIHR & PHAC**
Speakers: Dr. Kate Frohlich & Dr. Pamela Ponik
- 9:45-10:45 ***Facilitated Discussion: "How we Engage"**
Facilitator/Speakers: Khari Wendell McClelland & Trainees
- 10:45-11:00 **Break**
- 11:00-12:00 **Human Library**
- 12:00-12:15 ***Connecting to Community**
Speaker: Katherine O'Neill
- 12:15-1:30 **Lunch & Guided Riverside Walk to Louise McKinney Park**
- 1:30-2:30 ***Community-Engaged Research: Looking Back, Moving Forward**
Speaker: Dr. Kim Raine
Moderator: Dr. Kate Storey
- 2:30-3:15 ***Next Steps, New Possibilities**
Facilitator: Khari Wendell McClelland
- 3:15-3:30 ***Formal Close**
Elder Andy Auigbelle
- 3:30 **Social onsite at Pendennis Bar & APHC Working Sessions**

KEY LOCATIONS



EVENT & GATHERING LOCATIONS

Kate Storey's House, 14021 - 106A Avenue NW

The Pendennis, 9660 Jasper Ave

kihcihkaw askî-Sacred Land, 14141 Fox Drive NW

Atrium at Sabor, 10310 102 Ave NW

DoubleTree by Hilton, 9576 Jasper Ave

+MORE TO EXPLORE

Cafes

The Moth Café (6 min walk)

A local vegan favourite with a great selection of treats, coffee, and plant-based meals

GhostLight Coffeehouse (7 min walk)

A cozy cafe within the arts district

Rosewood Foods (9 min walk)

An Edmonton favourite for baked goods and coffee

Parks & Outdoor Spaces

Louise McKinney Riverfront Park & Chinese Garden (7 min)

Stroll along paved riverside trails, or visit the elegant Chinese Garden Pavilion

kinistinâw Park (6 min)

A newly opened pocket park with public art reflecting Indigenous, Chinese, and settler histories of the area

100 Street Funicular & River Valley Lookout (8 min walk)

At the top, you'll find a panoramic lookout deck with some of the best views of the river and skyline

Tawatinâ Bridge (11 min walk)

A shared-use pathway featuring over 500 paintings of River Valley flora and fauna, and First Nations, Métis, and settler histories of the area.

Arts & Culture Attractions

Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre (3 min)

Indigenous artist collective and gallery

Fairmont Hotel Macdonald (5 min)

Historic château-style hotel and gardens

Winspear Centre & Citadel Theatre (8 min)

Edmonton's premier concert and theatre venues

Art Gallery of Alberta (8 min)

Contemporary and Canadian art in a landmark building

Royal Alberta Museum (10 min)

Alberta's largest museum of history, culture, and nature.

MEET OUR FACILITATOR AND CO-HOSTS

OUR CO-HOSTS



Kate Storey
PhD, RD

Dr. Kate Storey is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, CIHR/PHAC Applied Public Health Chair, and Distinguished Researcher with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and the Women and Children's Health Research Institute. Dr. Storey's research program SIRCLE focuses on school- and community-based strategies to promote wellbeing, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health inequities. Dr. Storey's work creates a culture of wellness for children, families, and communities through systems-level change across Canada and internationally. An established leader in creating healthy school communities, she has implemented, evaluated, and scaled healthy living programs in communities with thousands of children and has established partnerships across sectors and levels to facilitate sustainability. But more importantly, Kate is a mom to two young children, who share her joy of adventure, travel and being active.



Kelly Skinner
PhD, MPH

Dr. Kelly Skinner is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo and CIHR-PHAC Applied Public Health Chair (2022 cohort). Dr. Skinner's community-engaged research program has an emphasis on community action, self-determination, and knowledge sharing, to better understand the intersections between food security, climate change, and Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories, northern regions in Canada, and globally, the circumpolar north. Dr. Skinner has two decades of experience in food security and northern food systems, and engages in interdisciplinary, community-based, and collaborative research and evaluation with northern communities, partners, and governments. Dr. Skinner and her team of colleagues, students, community research leads and partners, capture community-led food initiatives in adapting to climate change and improving food security, northern food systems and environments, health and risk communication, health equity, and well-being. Kelly has 4 children between the ages of 10 and 17 and a supportive husband who shares her passions for eating homemade food (and growing some of it), and being active as a family in cross country skiing, running, and biking.



OUR FACILITATOR

Khari Wendell McClelland

Khari Wendell McClelland is an award-winning musician and creative facilitator who uses the arts and experiential activities for transformational learning. Based in Vancouver, Canada, Khari has worked with communities across Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean. In a world with increasingly complex societal challenges, the need for values-based creative solutions is paramount. Khari helps youth and adults explore core values and creativity as a means to self-actualization, community building and problem solving. His approach is warm, insightful and engaging.



MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Cory Arcand

Cory Arcand is the Director of Operations, Alexander First Nation Education. Born and raised on the Alexander First Nation, Cory has made it his life's work and commitment for the advancement and protection of First Nation education for both his own people of Alexander as well as other First Nation people. Cory is an advocate for treaty ensuring those treaty promises made during the signing of treaty are followed through and carried out today. Cory has been involved in education for nearly 30 years. From Education Assistant, to Teacher, to Principal, and now Director of Operations for Alexander First Nation Education, Cory continues the commitment of working for the young people and for the Alexander First Nation—the young are the true leaders of tomorrow. As a husband, father, and grandfather, family is one of the most important things...Family is what grounds Cory and helps maintain balance. Cory continues to maintain close and strong connections to the Cree way of life of his people (Nehiyaw Pematisiwin) and shares often with others to create understanding, awareness, and respect for Cree culture.



Verna Arcand

Verna Arcand was born and raised on the Alexander First Nation and serves as the Assistant Director of Education with Alexander First Nation Education (AFNE), located in Alberta, home to the Kipohtakaw Education Centre & Alexander Day Care Centre. She has been working within the education sector for almost 30 years. Prior to working with AFNE, she was a post secondary advisor for 12 years. Verna is a very proud mother of her son & daughter and has an 8 year old granddaughter.



Dr. Katherine (Kate) Frohlich

Dr. Katherine (Kate) Frohlich is the Scientific Director of the Institute of Population and Public Health, CIHR, since September 2023. She is also a Professor in the Département de médecine sociale et préventive, École de Santé Publique, Université de Montréal (ESPUM) as well as Research Associate with the Centre de Recherche en Santé Publique (CReSP). Her programme of research, funded for over 20 years by both CIHR and SSHRC, focuses on better understanding and reducing social inequities in urban youth health. A dedicated interdisciplinary scholar, her work straddles the boundaries of health promotion, social epidemiology, sociology of health and health geography. She also co-holds the Myriagone McConnell-UdM Chair on Youth Knowledge Mobilisation, an interdisciplinary, intersectoral Chair with colleagues from the Faculty of Arts and Science, UdM.



Jody Kootenay

Jody Kootenay is Cree from the Alexander First Nation where she was born and raised. A mother of three children, wife and kohkom to two grandsons, she has been the Director of Education with her Nation since 2007. Since obtaining her Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies in 1999 she has worked in education. She also has an after degree in education, a master's in education and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Alberta in Education Policy Studies. She loves learning and sees her involvement in committees, boards and volunteer work as a great way for life-long learning. When Jody is not working, she loves sports, travel, cultural activities and spending time with her family.



Katherine O'Neill

Katherine O'Neill was recently appointed as the new President and CEO of YMCA of Northern Alberta, commencing October 2025. Prior to that, Katherine joined YWCA Edmonton as Chief Executive Officer in March 2020. Katherine has worked in leadership positions in communications and politics throughout her career. A writer by trade, she spent most of her journalism career working as a national correspondent with the Globe and Mail, dispatching stories from across Canada and even the battlefields of Afghanistan in 2008. After leaving journalism, the mother of three led several political organizations in Alberta. Katherine has led and volunteered with several not-for-profit boards and committees, and currently serves on the International Women's Forum Edmonton board, Real Talk Editorial Board and Canadian Vote Summit's Advisory Committee. Katherine holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wilfrid Laurier University and a Master of Journalism from Carleton University. In 2022, Katherine was awarded Alberta's Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in recognition of her significant contributions to community.



Dr. Richard Oster

Dr. Richard Oster is the Scientific Director of the Indigenous Wellness Core of Primary Care Alberta, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Sciences (University of Alberta) and in the Department of Community Health Sciences (University of Calgary.) Dr. Oster takes a strengths-based and partnership approach, building specifically on Indigenous ways of knowing and the resilience and strength within communities as a means of transformative health research.



Dr. Pamela Ponik

Dr. Pamela Ponik is the Deputy Chief Science Officer at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). She has been at the Agency since 2013 occupying a range of leadership and advisory roles, including having the honour to be Chief of Staff to our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to joining government, Pam had an academic career leading public health research in academic and community-based settings in the areas of health promotion and physical activity, violence against women, housing, and trauma-informed practice.



Dr. Kim Raine, PhD, RD, FCAHS

Dr. Kim Raine is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. A pioneer in applying social-ecological thinking to nutrition, her research demonstrated the critical role of food environments in shaping public health and the impact of upstream population interventions at community and policy levels. Over her career, she led multimillion-dollar research programs that influenced policy development, published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, and mentored over 60 graduate and postdoctoral trainees. Dr. Raine has held numerous roles in public health research and has been recognized with competitive national awards for her contributions, including an inaugural CIHR Applied Public Health Chair. Since retiring in 2023, she remains active through mentorship while enjoying travel, triathlons and marathons. She doesn't do anything that isn't fun!



Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose

Dr. JoLee Sasakamoose is a CIHR/PHAC Chair in Applied Public Health, specializing in Indigenous Wellness and Health Equity at the University of Regina. She is a member of M'Chigeeng First Nation and active citizen of Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, and has secured over \$30 million in research funding to drive change in Indigenous communities, combining ceremony with evidence-based practice. Her ceremony-grounded COVID-19 vaccination model achieved 98% uptake among participating Elders, while her Cultural Responsiveness Framework has been adopted across 12+ health and justice contexts. She is the Founding Director of the Roots to Wellness Collaboratory and Research & Wellness Director at Nanātawihowikamik Healing Lodge & Wellness Clinic. Her leadership and mentorship have fostered new Indigenous health leaders and transformed policies promoting health equity and community wellness locally and globally.



Dr. Teena Starlight

Mizi Ádadadló Ts'ika at'a, Danit' ada (Strives to Complete Goals Beyond all Barriers Woman) her English name is Dr Teena Starlight and she is from Tsuut'ina Nation. Teena began her teaching career with the Calgary Board of Education and has also worked for the Kainai Board of Education for 14 years. In 2012 she returned to school part-time at the University of Lethbridge, earning her Master's Degree in FNMI Curriculum Leadership. Teena returned to her homeland of Tsuut'ina in 2016, starting as a teacher and soon becoming the Vice Principal at Chiila Elementary. In the fall of 2017, she accepted the position of Tsuut'ina Curriculum Developer for Education where she collaborated with Elders and knowledge keepers to create the Tsuut'ina Land-Based Culture Calendar that provided a space for Western and Tsuut'ina Ways of knowing to merge. Teena was also a professor at Mount Royal University teaching the Indigenous Perspectives course in Education from 2020-2022. She has also completed climate change research from an Indigenous perspective for MRU. Teena is a strong advocate for Indigenous youth and Indigenous Education. Teena currently works for Ever Active Schools as the Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program National Director. In May 2024 Teena completed her Education Doctorate out of Werklund University. Teena uses the skills and knowledge she received from Elders, knowledge keepers and universities to share and pass on to our younger generations.



Dr. Meghan Winters

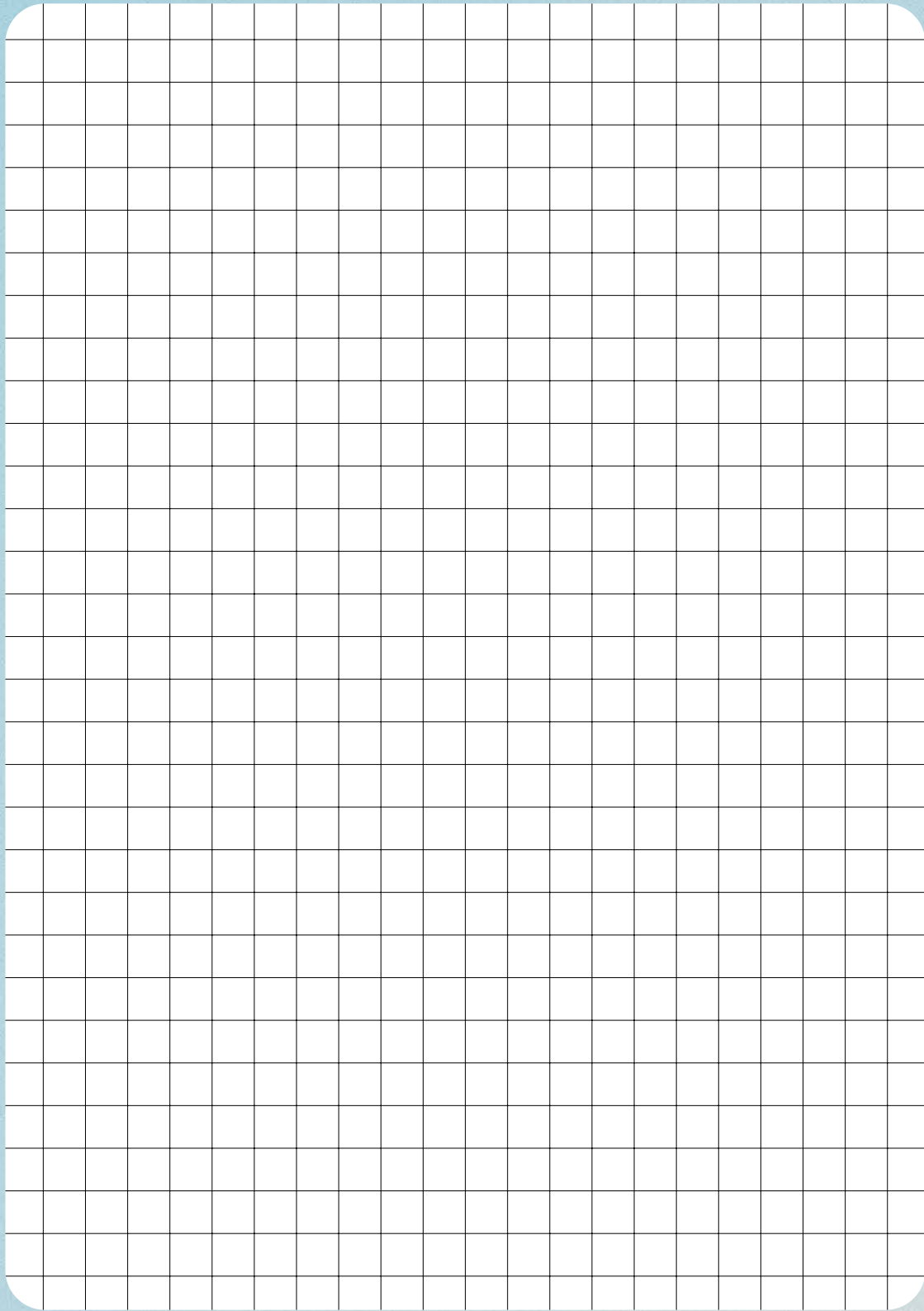
Dr. Meghan Winters is a CIHR Applied Public Health Research Chair, Sex and Gender in Healthy Cities, and a Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. With the team in her Cities, Health, and Active Transportation Lab she leads applied research to understand how city design impacts mobility, safety, and health, and also equity considerations within cities' policy and plans. She works with decision-makers and community groups at the intersection of health, urban planning, and transportation to generate actionable evidence and tools to shape livable, sustainable, and equitable cities.



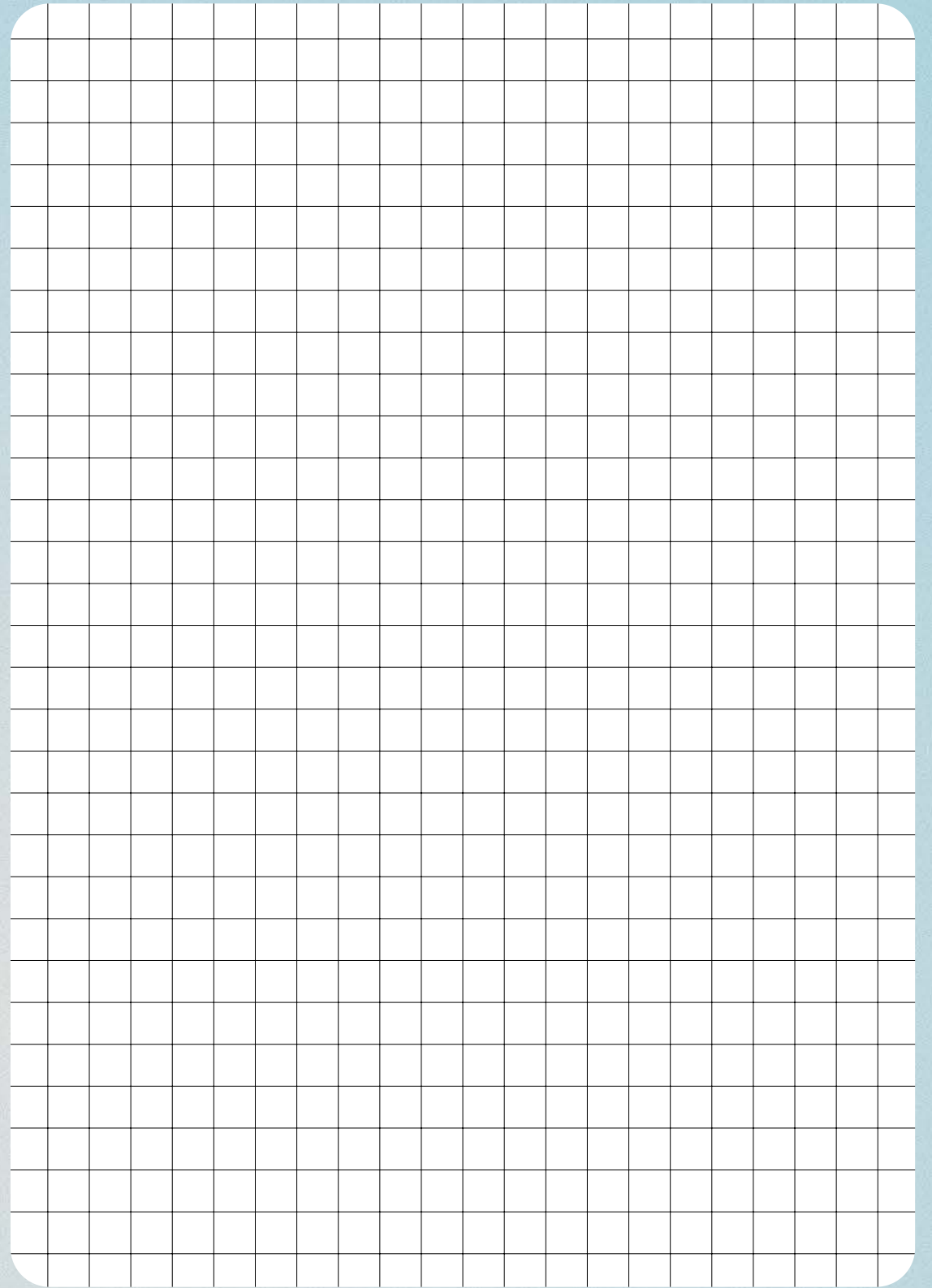
Larson Yellowbird Sr

Larson Yellowbird Sr. is a Cree Cultural Facilitator from Samson Cree Nation-Treaty 6 Territory, a Community member of the Alexander First Nation, and a Husband and Father of 4 children. Powwow Extraordinaire, Larson has been dancing and singing his whole life with his powwow family traveling all across Canada and US. Has a vast amount of knowledge with Plains Cree culture and has passion to share his teachings to help both indigenous and non indigenous understand the lifestyles of Plains Cree people.

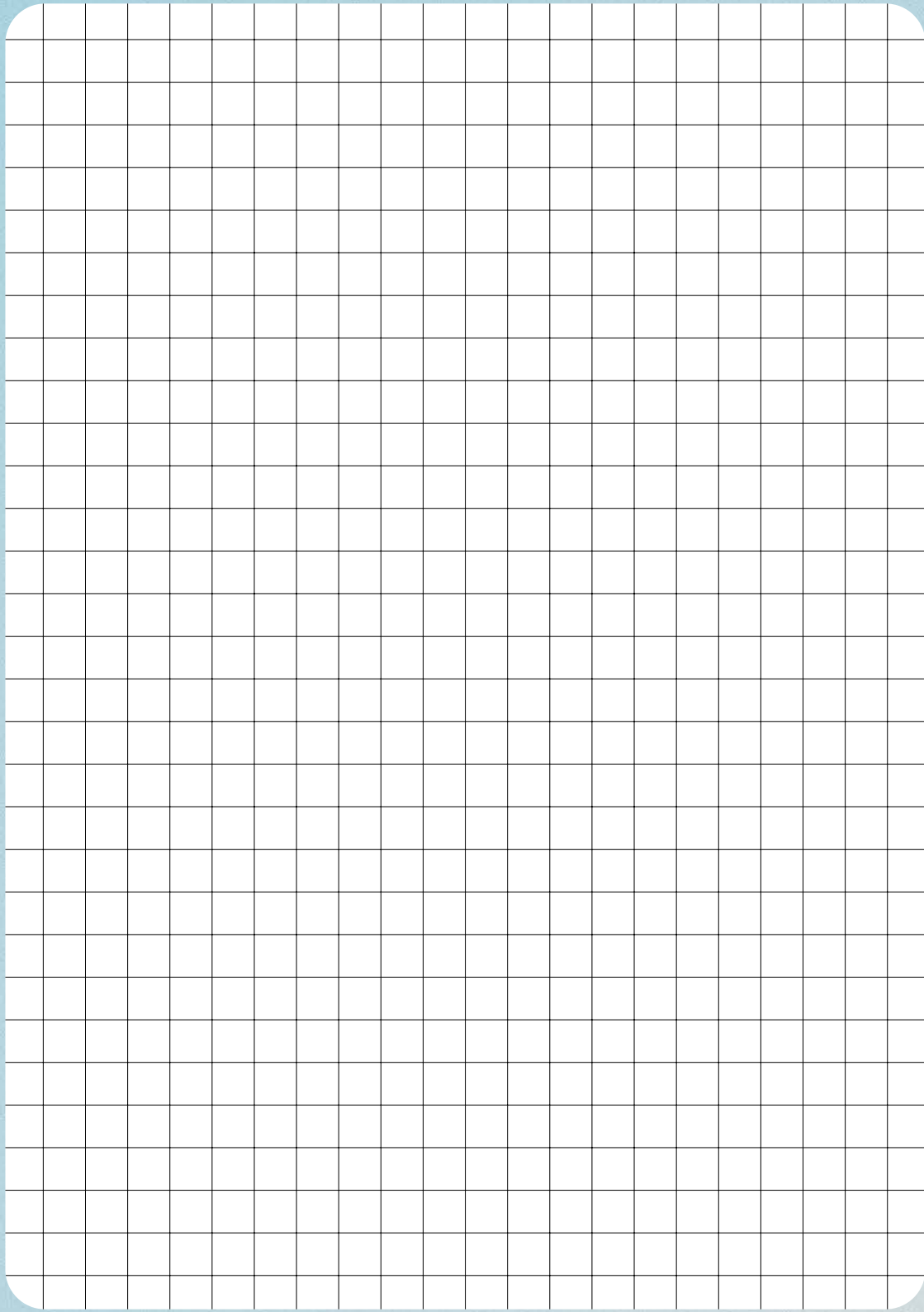
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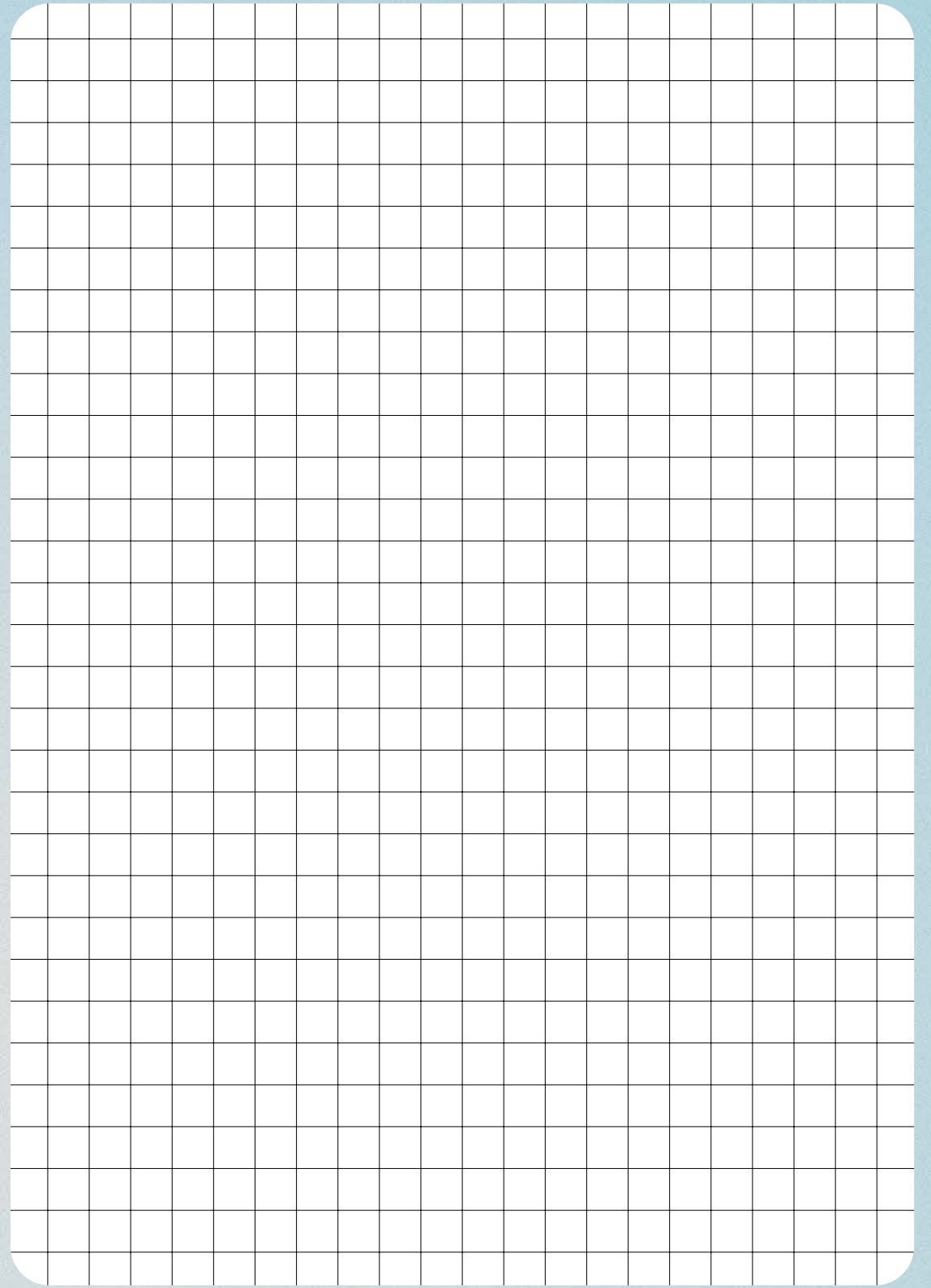
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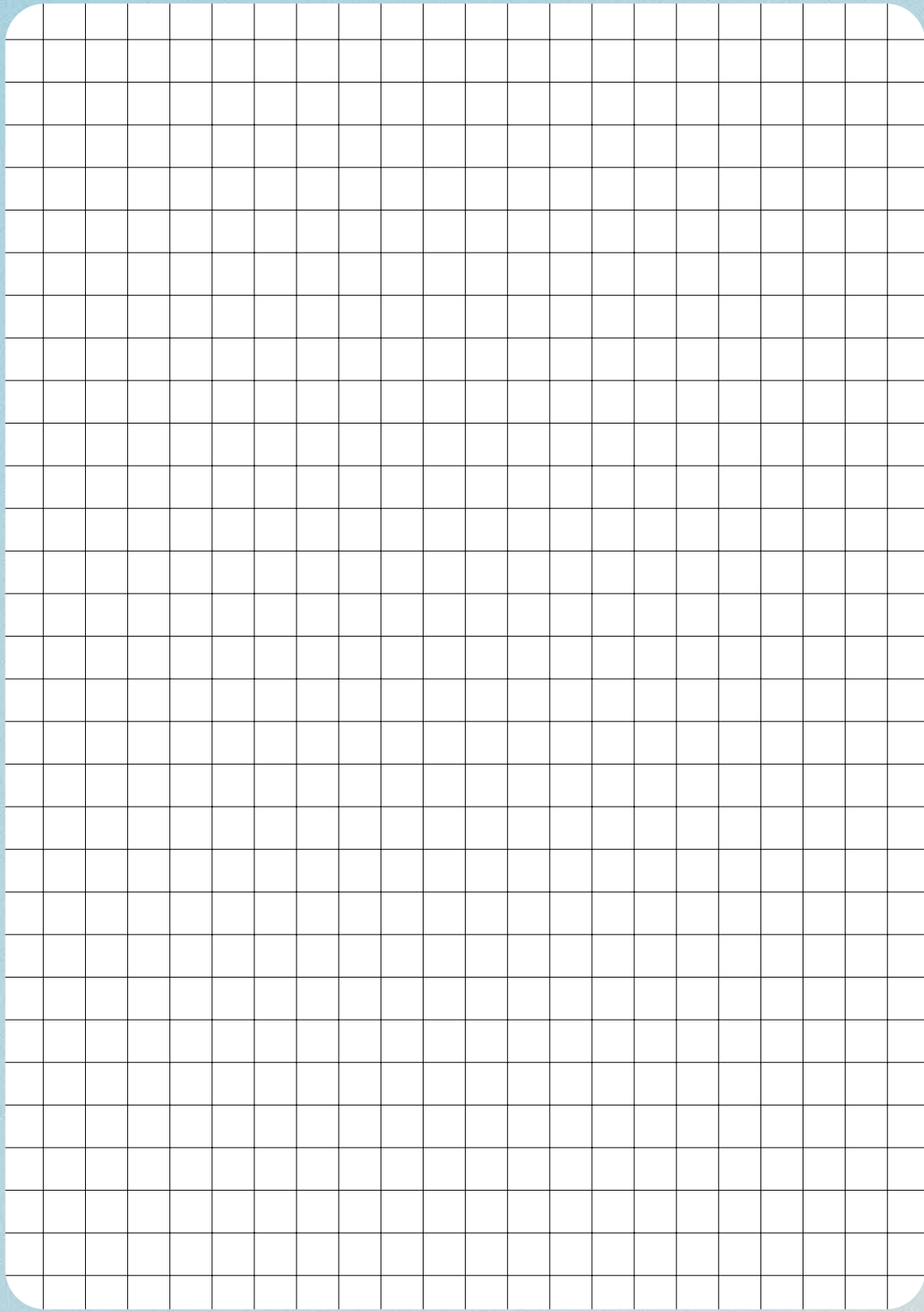
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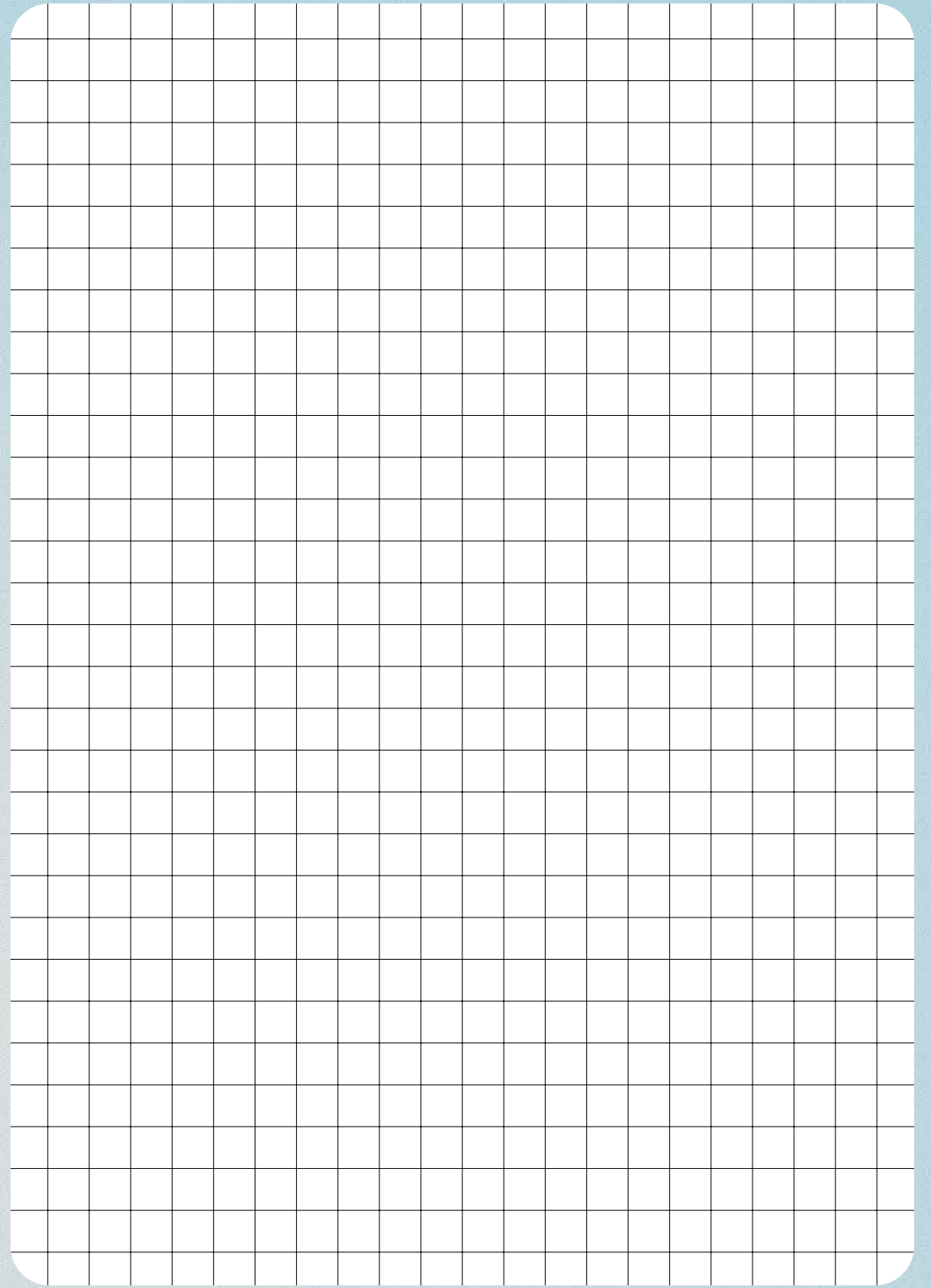
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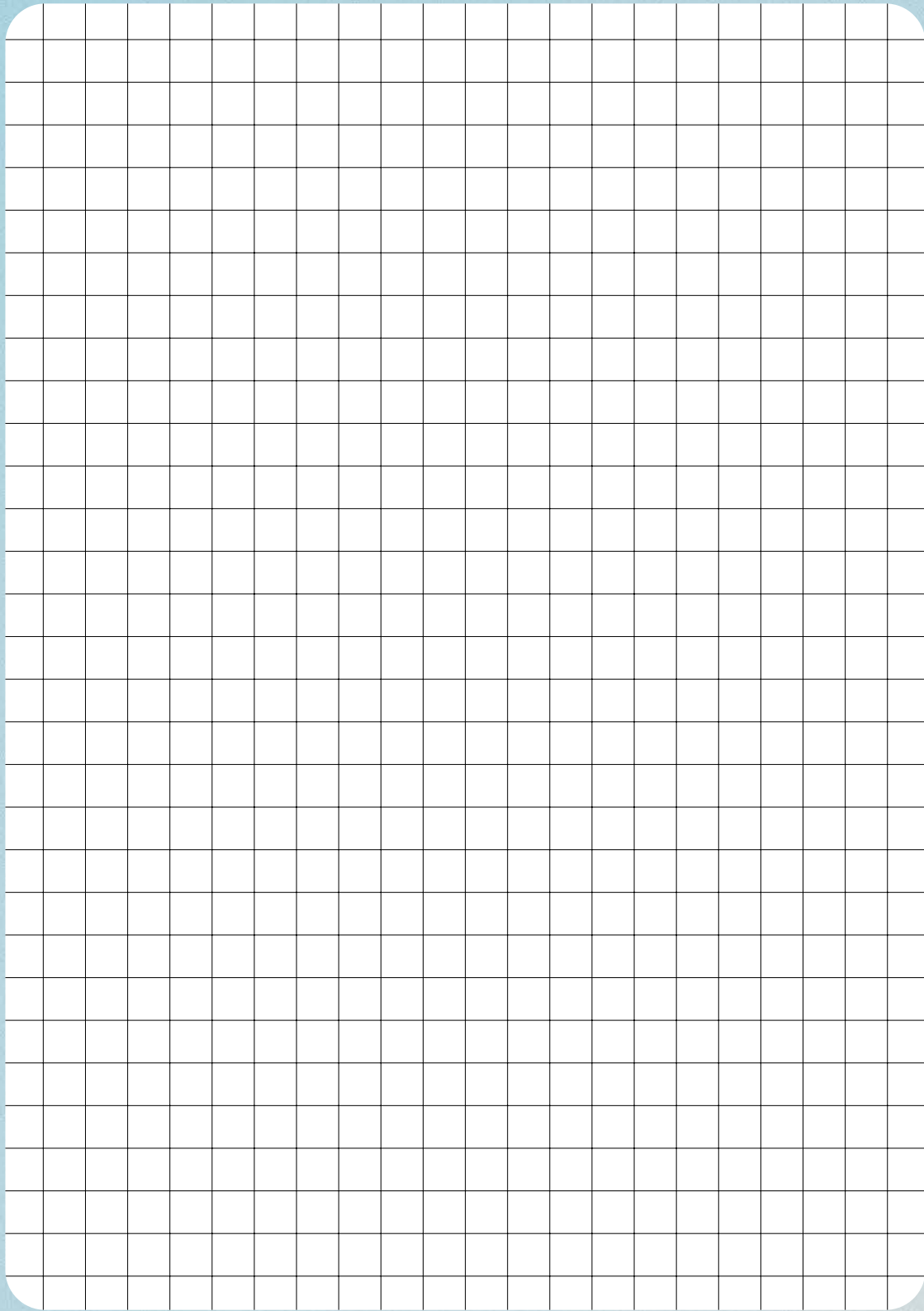
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A large grid of graph paper for taking notes, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of small squares.

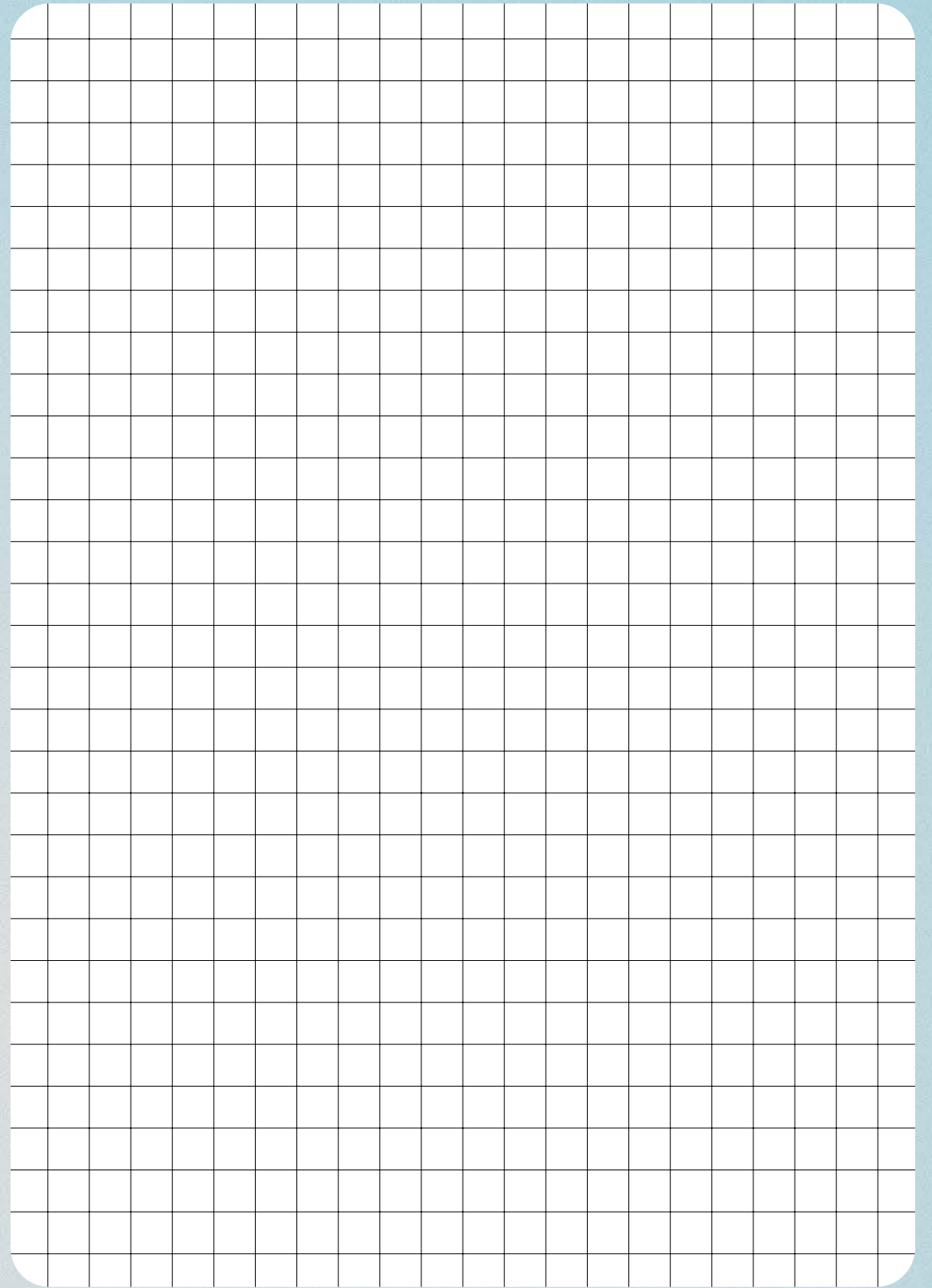
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SCAN FOR
DIGITAL BOOKLET

CONNECTED
FOR HEALTH

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