Technology can be used to increase access to medical services and health care practitioners to better meet the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers living in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

Rural, remote and Indigenous communities are interested in technology and can express their needs for dementia care that can be addressed with technology.

Technology that is developed with, rather than for Indigenous communities is more likely to make a positive impact on the health of older adults.
ITNE: Indigenous Technology Needs Exploration Saskatchewan

What is it?

ITNE is a research project that looks at the need for technology to support well-being and independent living of Indigenous older adults who require dementia care and who live in rural and remote areas. The project aims to create culturally safe care and increase the use of technology.

Older adults who live in rural, remote and Indigenous communities face barriers to accessing healthcare due to limited access to services and specialists and a shortage of health care practitioners. The health of the residents of these communities is poorer than the health of older adults who live in urban areas.

There is a lack of access to reliable internet services in rural and remote regions of Canada.

Less exposure to technologies can lead to less experience and less comfort using technologies for Indigenous adults living in remote and rural areas.

Most of the technology that is designed to assist older adults with dementia have been developed through the mainstream culture, without consideration for the characteristics of unique Indigenous groups.