



Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgements  
AMICCUS-C NPC Conference  
Roots 2023  
Whistler, B.C.

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Tzeachten First Nation

## Land Acknowledgement

Whistler is located on the unceded and sovereign territories of the Lil'wat and Squamish Nation's who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

Thank you to the  
Capilano Student  
Union

Christopher, Kate, Donna,  
Josh, Jess, and the whole  
CSU team



# Land acknowledgement

- What is land Acknowledgement?
- Why recognize the land?
- A land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

## Land acknowledgement

- A land acknowledgment is not something you “just do” before an event. Rather it is a reflection process in which you build mindfulness and intention walking into whatever gathering you are having. It should be rooted in whose land you are honoured to stand

<https://native-land.ca>

Elder Ernie George, Slahot



[https://player.vimeo.com/video/2747](https://player.vimeo.com/video/274724049)

[24049](https://player.vimeo.com/video/274724049)

The [Inlet](#)

Making a  
difference. Be an  
active participant in  
reconciliation



*Each of us can, within your circle of influence, take an active role in the process of change that reshapes our communities/schools/student unions to better meet the needs of all learners.*

David's passion in  
bringing change  
to education





# Terminology

- **Aboriginal**
- **Indigenous**
- **First Nation**
- **Métis**
- **Indian**
- **Inuit**
- **Enfranchised Indian**
- **Off-Reserve Aboriginal**
- **Status Indian**
- **Non-Status Indian**
- **Treaty Indian**

Building relationships,  
demonstrating care,  
decolonization, and  
Indigenizing at our schools



**In my career in education, students have always been first and foremost. I have a long and meaningful relationship with our Student Union. If I am not making a positive impact on all students educational journey, then I am not doing my job.**

Student's Voices  
need to be put  
first!

- Having dedicated student space such as the Kéxwusm-áyakn student Centre
- A sense of belonging, study area, printers, computers
- Having Indigenous staff/faculty
- Financial support through more awards and bursaries
- Healthy food and more food available
- Elder, cultural teachings, drumming, singing, story telling
- More courses with an Indigenous focus

Importance of  
building  
community on  
our campuses



Gathering Place by Casey Routly

<https://vimeo.com/153316433>

“Canada wants our beautiful art but not our struggles” Gwen Point



Family and  
community  
connections



Advocating for  
change



Indigenous people have been fight for equality and  
change for many decades

# Belonging

In order to improve students learning, students must feel that the campus reflects their cultural identity. History has shown that many Indigenous students in both public and post-secondary schools have not found that schools are culturally affirming places.





## Traditional Indigenous Social Values & Inter- connectedness

- ▶ **Respect**: This includes respect of self, our relationship with others, the land, and animals.
- ▶ **Land: Indigenous** people's cultures, societies and ways of knowing are derived from a holistic relationship to the land and its resources.
- ▶ **Shared Leadership**: Sharing leadership that recognize the equality of people.
- ▶ **Community Responsibility**: Indigenous people are deeply committed to their communities, whether a distinct community or social affiliation.
- ▶ **Elders**: Respected traditional knowledge keepers and teachers, who have are particularly important for setting out positive expectations to learners.

# Indigenous Representation in Curriculum

Students need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum. There are many ways that this can be done, for example: learning within the context of culture, communicating high expectations, reshaping curriculum, student-centered instruction, weaving culture into lecture content, and using resources that reflect multiple cultures

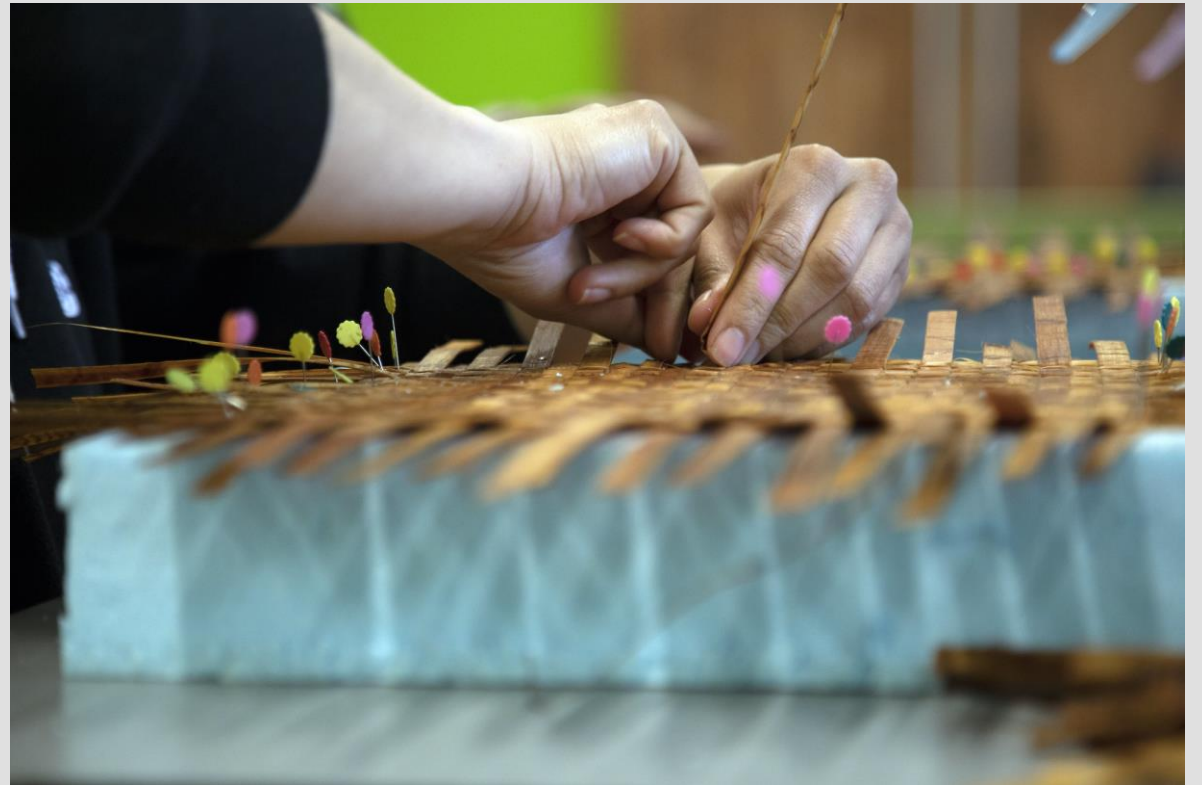
Nothing about us, without us!

# Traditional Education

The traditional Indigenous education system was based upon an intergenerational transmission of knowledge, both declarative and procedural.

The education processes within this system “were embedded in their social institutions, both formal and informal, occurring over a person’s lifetime”

## Give Voice to Indigenous Elders and Community Members



Reconciliation begins with building relationships, developing understanding, and allowing for Indigenous Elders and community members to collaborate on classroom initiatives or projects in the community. It is important to give voice to Indigenous Elders and Knowledge keepers.

Indigenous  
material and  
resources within  
your Library



We need culturally Relevant Programs, Information and Services developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Communities...

- Systemic change means that the public post-secondary education system is relevant, responsive respectful and receptive to Indigenous learners and communities
- Community based delivery of programs is supported through partnerships between public post-secondary institutions and Indigenous communities
- Financial barriers to accessing and completing post-secondary education and training are reduced for Indigenous learners
- Indigenous learners need to be able to transition seamlessly from K-12 to post-secondary education

## Ways to get involved

### How non-Indigenous people can work to be an active ally to Indigenous Peoples:

- 1. Learn about the Indigenous people where you live and visit.
- 2 Listen to Indigenous Peoples and educate yourself on their culture and history.
- 3. Remove harmful stereotypes and Indigenous erasure language from your lexicon.
- 4. Be familiar with the 94 Calls to Action
- 5. Include indigenous people in discussions
- 6. Take a Pledge of Reconciliation
- 7. Attend Indigenous events on your campuses

In closing...

One of the many things Elder Ernie shared with me over the years, it is how we connect and interact with people that is most important thing in this journey we are all on. This interaction and connection needs to be done in a mutual and respectful manner. I will treasure the many teachings he shared with not only me, but with students and colleagues.





## Contact information

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