



Learning Together Through

The Land, The People

An Introduction to
Reconciliation



UBC Early Years Conference
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Brenda Lohrenz
Sherry Sinclair
Kat Norris



Indigenous Nations in BC

In pairs, access one of the links below and answer the questions:

<http://www.bctreaty.ca/map>

- Name of the First Nation(s) land where you reside? (Or check our current location - downtown Vancouver.)
- How many nations in BC have negotiated treaties?

<https://www.bcafn.ca/first-nations-bc/interactive-map>

- How many Indigenous nations are there in BC?
- Name of the First Nation(s) land where you reside? (Or check our current location – downtown Vancouver.)

For access to a map of 'Aboriginal People and Lands' Canada-wide see:

<https://geo.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca/geoviewer-geovisualiseur/index-eng.html>



The Eastside Family Place Journey

- ▶ The Eastside Family Place (ESFP) neighborhood of Vancouver Grandview-Woodland has a 7.8% Indigenous population (Vancouver-wide is 2.4%)
http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/yvr_demographic_profiles/grandview-woodland_demographic_report_final_07jan2019.pdf, p. 27 (census data)
- ▶ In our immediate vicinity is Britannia Community Centre – which outlines a strategic commitment to ‘Embracing Indigenous values and practices’
- ▶ In fall of 2018, the ESFP Board adopted FRP-BC’s statement of reconciliation, initiating a reconciliation-in-action focus for our centre.
http://www.frpbc.ca/media/uploads/files/FRP-BC_Statement_of_Reconciliation.pdf



Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015) applicable to Family Resource Programs include:

- ▶ Child Welfare (1v.)
- ▶ Education (6)
- ▶ Language and Culture (17)
- ▶ Health (18)
- ▶ Training (57)
- ▶ Reconciliation (62i, 63)
- ▶ Youth (66)
- ▶ Newcomers to Canada (93, 94)

http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

'The Land, The People'

- ▶ 'The Land, The People' resource, initiated by the Association of Family Resource Programs BC, became a collaborative effort for Eastside Family Place staff and participants.
- ▶ Around the same time, Coast Salish Lyackson Nation Elder and Vancouver eastside resident Kat Norris stepped in as our 'elder-in-residence'.





Incorporating Indigenous Principles of Learning into our Centre

Such as:

- ▶ Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
- ▶ Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
- ▶ Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.
- ▶ Learning involves patience and time.

<http://www.fnesc.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/PUB-LFP-POSTER-Principles-of-Learning-First-Peoples-poster-11x17.pdf>

Also see the 'Early Years indigenous Cultural Safety Resource Guide' (BC Ministry of Children and Family Development)
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/ics_resource_guide.pdf

Circle Time Land Acknowledgement

We would like to say thank you to the Musqueam,
Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
for letting us share your land.

We promise to look after it, the animals
and the people too,

Hello land (all touch the land)

Hello sky (arms up to the sky)

Hello me (hug self)

Hello friends (open arms)



Introducing Children's Activities





Sample of Activities Incorporated into Our Drop-In

- ▶ Twice a month soup and bannock
- ▶ Table top activities puzzles and games w/ indigenous art work and imagery
- ▶ Simple craft projects
- ▶ Incorporating the land acknowledgement every day before circle
- ▶ Creating activities with natural objects
- ▶ Cooking class for children led by an indigenous chef
- ▶ Purchased indigenous children's books to add to our drop-in and use during our circle time
- ▶ 2 visits in the drop-in by an elder who did a mini story telling
- ▶ Invited families to join us at local Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations

Informative Bulletin Board

Indigenous Cultural Values

What does your family value?

SHARING
 Coast Salish Indigenous people use potlaches as a chance to share with their whole community.

HARMONY
 The medicine wheel help First Nations people find balance within.

FAMILY
 Indigenous culture honors elders + grandparents by listening carefully when they talk.

Indigenous Languages in Canada

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In recent decades, the revitalization of Indigenous languages has been identified as a human right, and the Canadian government has passed the *Act to Strengthen and Revitalize Indigenous Languages*. This act gives you current information about Indigenous languages in Canada and a list of ways in which you can help support them.

The importance of Indigenous languages for Indigenous peoples — and all Canadians

Indigenous languages are a vital part of our cultural heritage. They are the foundation of our identity and our connection to our land, our ancestors, and our future. They are also a key to understanding our history and our place in the world.

Key facts about Indigenous languages in Canada

- There are over 60 Indigenous languages spoken in Canada.
- Only 35% of Indigenous languages are still spoken today.
- Many Indigenous languages are endangered.
- Learning an Indigenous language can help you understand your culture and your community better.

More facts about Indigenous languages in Canada today:

- There are over 60 Indigenous languages spoken in Canada.
- Only 35% of Indigenous languages are still spoken today.
- Many Indigenous languages are endangered.
- Learning an Indigenous language can help you understand your culture and your community better.

FIRST NATIONS OF VANCOUVER

Musqueam

Squamish

Tsleil-Waututh

Marking Occasions and Events

B.C. becomes first province to implement UN Indigenous rights declaration

October 24, 2019 - Indigenous Human Rights Set in B.C. Law

New legislation will put B.C. laws in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is a historic moment for everyone in B.C.

B.C.'s new law recognizes and respects the human rights of Indigenous peoples. It makes sure Indigenous peoples are a part of the decisions that affect them, their families and their territories. It provides a way forward on reconciliation.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Sept. 30 each year, thousands of people gather across Canada to remember the victims and survivors of residential schools as part of Orange Shirt Day.



Learning Together



Reflecting Together

In simple terms, reconciliation means 'coming together' – what does the spirit of reconciliation mean to you?



“Reconciliation includes anyone with an open mind and an open heart who is willing to look into the future with a new way.”

Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, quoted in Reconciliationcanada.ca, 2019



Participant Feedback

1. Were you able to make connections between the bulletin board information, drop-in centre activities, and Canada's indigenous history?
2. How did these activities and posted the posted information help you to understand Indigenous Peoples?
3. Tell us what you appreciated about this process?
 - ▶ The pictures on the board help me to understand First Nations were living before the settlers altered their life.
 - ▶ It is a visual way to learn, which is great.
 - ▶ This type of community connection can make it easier to start the conversations and makes me less embarrassed about pronouncing names wrong or confusing the different nations.
 - ▶ I like the integration of the whole group during story time.
 - ▶ Drumming!
 - ▶ The elder was very interesting and offered insight into her experience.



Staff Feedback

1. What part of this curriculum did you adapt into your centre? What was your experience?
2. How did these activities and posted the posted information help you to support participants at your centre to understand Indigenous Peoples?
3. Tell us what you appreciated about this process?
 - ▶ We are gathering knowledge and understanding by looking and learning together with everyone.
 - ▶ The more we did, the more we felt comfortable.
 - ▶ It started the conversation, it has made participants and staff very curious and interested to learn more and do more in order to be more inclusive.
 - ▶ We as a staff are learning along with our participants. Some of our participants have been teaching us!
 - ▶ Learning from others, connecting through stories.



Ongoing at Eastside Family Place...

- ▶ We at ESFP are continually looking for ways and means of infusing a reconciliation-in-action perspective into our centre and neighborhood.
- ▶ We (management, staff, participants) have embraced a 'learn as we go' perspective. We have adopted important traditions such as the protocol of offering tobacco to elders who are invited into your space.
- ▶ Professionals with a First Nations background continue to support us. For example, a local Indigenous chef offers our summer 'Little Sprouts Gardening' program and guides our participants – children and parents alike – in ways of connecting to the land and to others through food.
- ▶ Staff participation in trainings such as the Blanket Ceremony, drum making (Aboriginal Mother's center), Decolonizing Practices workshop.
- ▶ Recently our board of directors invited a local First Nations elder to come and witness our organizational strategic planning process. This individual has been asked to attend our board meeting and apply an Indigenous lens to our draft strategic plan.

Offering Tobacco



- ▶ Purchase loose tobacco & cloth (primary or secondary solid colors)
- ▶ As you prepare the offering, it is important to think about what you are requesting, and to have good thoughts during this process.
- ▶ When making a request, offer the tobacco by holding it in your left hand (in front of you), state your request (be specific), and if the Elder accepts your request place the tobacco in their left hand.
“I am offering you this tobacco for your guidance with...”

For an electronic version of this powerpoint and to share ideas for your centre's bulletin board:

Contact Brenda Lohrenz at
Eastside Family Place

blohrenz@eastsidefamilyplace.org



And visit the curriculum in
the members area of

