

Appendix E: Indigenous Pedagogy

Way k^wIncun, k^wu ksǰelpína? k^wu ǰ^wəlǰ^walt
(Greetings to all of creation, we are coming alive with the new day)

This greeting is an example of a ritualized Indigenizing understanding by Syilx Okanagan that acknowledges we (humans) are part of creation and have much to appreciate and responsibly look forward to every day.

Why indigenize? Who is Indigenization for? Indigenization is about continuous healthy diversity of cultures and ecosystems, a pedagogy and praxis of dynamic balance between human lifeways and natural world ecologies. Indigenization is about appreciating difference and diversity, appreciating the gifts from the tmix^w (water, earth, plant and animal life forces) and ensuring those gifts continue for the peoples to be. Indigenization in the Okanagan is about respectfully connecting ourselves and children to each other and to this place, this territorial ecology and positioning ourselves more responsibly to the peoples to be. The Syilx Okanagan, in whose traditional territory we are situated, have been practicing Syilx Indigenization for millennia, so it is pragmatic, humanizing, and critical in this era of fires, floods, pandemics, racialized violence, violence against women and the earth, to learn from and with Syilx peoples so future generations can live well. Indigenization is for all peoples and communities so we can have a future.

Indigenization in the Okanagan School of Education involves connecting to Syilx and Indigenous peoples, pedagogy and resources throughout all courses and terms to transform destructive aspects of schooling and knowledge production. Diversity and inclusion ritualized into practice--made a part of our collective everyday lives--means our collective intellectual and creative potential is much greater with women and Indigenous peoples contributing to the knowledge and wisdom our children have access to.

This course is taught with intention following the First Peoples Principles of Learning:

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place)
- Learning involves patience and time