

Session 5: Anti-Indigenous Racism

Re-evaluating Canadian History



Intro: The goal of this session is to develop a narrative that places Indigenous history at the starting point and central to the story we tell ourselves about Canadian history.

Pre-Workshop:

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- ✚ Locate the 2 websites [Native Land interactive map](#) and [First People's Map of BC](#) and have them ready on a device that can be brought to the workshop.
 - ✚ Watch [Wiigwaasabak – the Tree of Life](#) (22:08 min.) and read or watch **at least 1 item** from each section of *Suggested Reading & Viewing*.
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Videos (to watch as a group)

- [What non-Indigenous Canadians Need to Know](#) (4:36 min.)
- [What is Treaty? Grand Chief Steven Point](#) (4:27 min.)

Small Group Discussion:

Step 1. B.C. has 203 First Nations, 36% of which have active or completed treaty negotiations as of 2021. Most of the land is unceded territory. You're encouraged to research this in greater detail in the resources given at the end of this workshop.

For this exercise, we'll be looking at a territorial map of North America, pre-colonization: the [Native Land interactive map](#). Individually or in pairs, locate the territory where you currently are and also the place you were born. Note down the **Native Territory, Language and applicable Treaties**, using this map and the [First People's Map of BC](#).

Step 2. Discuss and share, beginning with a round of responses from the individuals or pairs for the 1st question below.

- What new information did you learn in studying the maps?
- How does this change your concept of Canadian history? What were some of the things that surprised or disturbed you?
- What are some of the Indigenous stereotypes in popular culture, both positive and negative? (Think about movies, media, songs, books etc.)
- What attitude or attitudes towards Indigenous people prevailed in the place you grew up? How has this changed over the years?

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells Wakan-Tanka, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.
– [Black Elk](#), Oglala Lakota (Sioux)

*In this world, hate never yet dispelled hate.
Only love dispels hate.
This is the law; ancient and inexhaustible.*
– [Buddhism, The Dhammapada](#)

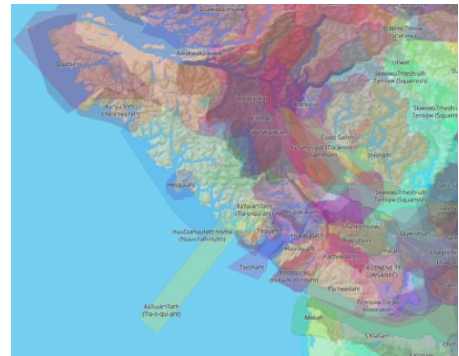
Debriefing: Quotes and discussion questions to promote reflection and action

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- What have we learned in this session? What needs to change?
 - What recommendations would you have for addressing Anti-Indigenous racism in our community?
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Suggested Reading & Viewing:

Treaties & Relationship

- [We are All Treaty People](#) (Video, 13:03 min.) Illustrates the joint commitment from the Mi'kmaw community and the Province of Nova Scotia to deliver Treaty Education to all schools, the general public, and all public servants across Nova Scotia.
- [Trick or Treaty?](#) (NFB, YouTube, 1hr.24 min.) Covering a vast swath of northern Ontario, Treaty No. 9 reflects the often contradictory interpretations of treaties between First Nations and the Crown.
- [Canadians have been breaking their promises to Indigenous people](#) (Animated video, 6:00 min.) Filmmaker Tasha Hubbard narrates a history of Indigenous peoples in the Prairies and their relationship with the government, focusing on the events of the late 19th century.
- [BC Treaty 101](#) (Video, 3:39 min.) What is the made-in-BC treaty negotiations process? Why do we have it? This animated video explains the basics of treaty negotiations in BC.
- [BC Treaties Negotiation Update, BC Treaty Commission](#) (website) There are 65 First Nations that have entered, participated in, or have completed treaties through the treaty negotiations process in British Columbia.
- [Sharing the Experience, BC Treaty Negotiations](#) (Video, 22:11 min.) In 2000, the Final Agreement between the Nisga'a, Canada and BC came into effect and became the first modern treaty signed in BC.
- [Government of Canada, Indigenous History](#) (links to several resources) The modern-day perspective of the Government of Canada



Other resources

- [Siksika Nation hosts the Blanket Exercise](#) (3:39 min.) One community's experience
- [Blanket Exercise Website](#), and [Blanket Exercise Workshop](#) pdf (2 hours) Group participatory exercise to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance.
- [Understanding Aboriginal Identity](#) YouTube (20:48 min.) BearPaw Media & Education Aboriginal identity remains inextricably linked with past government legislation and the continued stereotyping of Aboriginal people in the media and Canadian history.
- [The Seven Sacred Laws](#), series of 4 min. videos, Turtle Lodge or YouTube. The Seven Sacred Laws is a colourful and imaginative animated web series that follows a young boy on an Indigenous rite of passage: a vision quest. On his spiritual journey, he meets seven sacred animals that teach him the laws of respect, love, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.
- [Why aren't there more Native American Restaurants?](#) TED talk, Sean Sherman, 2021 (18 min.) History through the lens of food & culture.
- [From Bad Law to Restorative Justice with John Reilly](#), Raven, 2021, podcast (27:10 min.) Also see: [book review of Bad Law: Rethinking Justice for a Post-Colonial Canada](#)
- [TVO interview with Bob Joseph on the Indian Act](#) (25:35 min.) Since 1876, the Indian Act has structured the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples with profound repercussions.
- [Aboriginal Peoples Television Network \(APTN\)](#) Our Stories. Our Voices. Award-winning television programming by, for and about Indigenous Peoples to share with all Canadians. Also see: [APTN National News](#)
- [12 CBC Docs on Indigenous Life in Canada](#) Indigenous storytellers with incredible tales and activists who are advocating for change
- [Toronto Star article: A History of Missteps](#) Timeline of Canadian political history of Indigenous relations from 1763 to 2007.