



**BCcampus**  
Learning. Doing. Leading.

# Decolonizing Process: Lessons Learned

Presenters: Teri Derksen, Stephen Javorski, Manjeet Uppal

Moderator: Leva Lee

Date: February 2, 2022



Unless otherwise noted, this work is released under a CC BY 4.0 International Licence.  
Feel free to use, modify, or distribute any or all of this presentation with attribution.

BCcampus.ca • @BCcampus • #BCcampus



**BCcampus**

Learning. Doing. Leading.

Since time immemorial, the səliiwətaʔt təməx<sup>w</sup> (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish), x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations of the Lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən (Lekwungen) Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we are grateful to live, work, and play. We are committed to building relationships with the first peoples here, based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

# **Child and Youth Care Program**

**BCcampus Webinar – Feb. 2, 2022**

**Decolonizing Process: Lessons Learned**

**Teri Derksen, Steve Javorski, Manjeet Uppal**

**[viu.ca](http://viu.ca) | [#matterhere](https://twitter.com/matterhere)**





# Welcome

---

- Land Acknowledgement
- Introductions

# Recognition and Intentions

---



- We recognize that we do not identify as Indigenous, we do not have people on our team who identify as Indigenous, and we are not experts.
- Our intent is to share lessons we have learned as we embarked on a process to strengthen our commitment to reconciliation.
- Through the process we worked with Kathi Camilleri, an Indigenous facilitator, who we have worked with for almost a decade. Kathi draws on Indigenous knowledge and ways of being in her work.



# The Context

---

- The CYC program prepares students to work with children, youth, families and communities facing complex challenges.
- Educators and practitioners in the field of Child and Youth Care (CYC) are actively interrogating the ways in which CYC curriculum, pedagogy and practice are implicated in ongoing colonialism and working to decolonize CYC education and practice (Louiselle et. al., 2012; White et. al., 2017; Yoon, 2012).
- Our team is deeply committed to this work as we are aiming to build on our history and knowledge of Indigenous approaches and strengthen our commitment to social justice, decolonization, and indigenization within our program.



# Current Efforts

---

- Increasing the voices of Indigenous scholars and artists into classes.
- Developing assignments with an Indigenous focus.
- Strengthening curriculum in relation to social justice and anti-racism.
- Integrating trauma informed principles into teaching.
- Offering The Village and Kairos Blanket experiential learning exercises to students.
- Contact and Colonization Course
- Elders in Classes
- Elders Teachings





# The Need

---

- What was missing in our efforts was the opportunity for the team to engage in a decolonial process of meaningful dialogue to co-create and articulate a decolonial approach to practice for our program.





# The Purpose

---

- Consistent with Indigenous principles of relationality, experiential learning, and values (Antoine, et. al., 2018; Baskin, 2011; Canadian Council on Learning, 2007; Little Bear, 2009) our purpose in this project was to come together as a team to articulate our collective decolonial approach to practice and shared values that will ground us in our work.



# How

---

- Support from BCcampus
- Contracted with Kathi Camilleri for Paddling Together Visioning Day
  - <https://villageworkshopseries.com/paddling-together-workshop/>
- Identifying our values, vision and goals.





# VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

## CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PROGRAM

### LOVE, RESPECT, KINDNESS & GENEROSITY

VILLA PADDLING



TOWARD

SKINS EP



INVOLVING ELDER'S  
 INDIGENOUS PEDAGOGY  
 ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING/LEARNING SUPPORTS  
 EXPLORING OUR UNCONSCIOUS BIASES

INDIGENOUS SUPPORTS  
 INDIGENOUS STUDENTS INCLUDED IN COURSES  
 MEANINGFUL FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES

### INSIDE THE CANOE OR CEDAR BASKET

WAYS IN WHICH TO DISRUPT AND  
 DISMANTLE POWER AND  
 PRIVILEGE OF COLONIAL INSTITUTIONS

FUNDING TO EDUCATE FACULTY ON HOW  
 TO INTEGRATE INDIGENOUS TEACHING

VISION

- ~ ELDERS HONOUR
- ~ AS A CU
- ~ SUPPORT STAFF
- ~ EACH PERSON
- ~ GENUINE LOVE
- ~ PERSON'S S

Padding Together Facilitator: Kathi Camilleri  
 Graphic Recording: Chris Camilleri

NOT OUR SHAME TO STAY



A COLLECTIVE PROGRAM VISION

KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY, RESILIENCE  
 STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE (RACISM)  
 BEING REPERCUATED

FUNDING FOR ELDER HONORARIUMS, KAIROS, THE VILLAGE

AND PONG CO-N BEING





# Elements of the Process that facilitated our work

---

- Dedicated Time – honored commitment
- Created space for genuine dialogue
- Humility
- “Open hearts and open minds” (Kathi Camilleri)
- Emergent and co-created rather than hierarchical
- Grounded in values
- Trauma Informed
- Informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and lessons from Elders.



# Outcomes of the Process Team Debrief

---

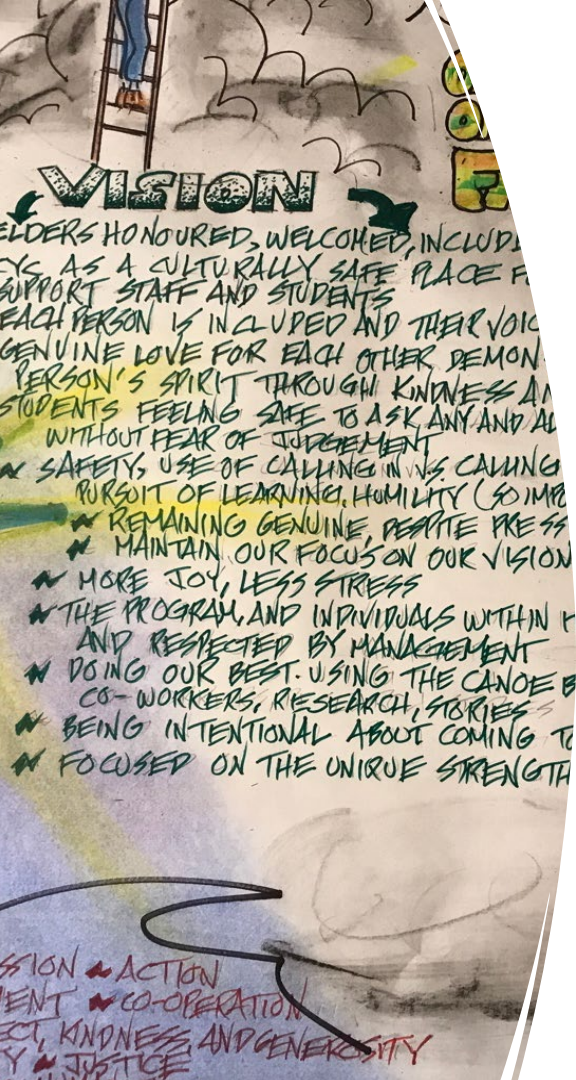
- More hopeful and optimistic about what is possible
- More connected
- More cohesion – amongst group and vision embedded into program rather than siloed within individual faculty and courses.
- More clearly seeing our strengths and potential
- More committed
- Greater clarity on moving forward collectively

# CYC Program Vision - Highlights

Kathi Camilleri CYC Final Report

Chris Camilleri - Artist

- Enhanced relationships with Indigenous communities and Elders.
- Modelling our Shared Values:
  - Humility, Collaboration, Responsibility
  - Love, Respect, Kindness, Generosity
- Collective commitment to spirit opening words and action through kindness and truth.



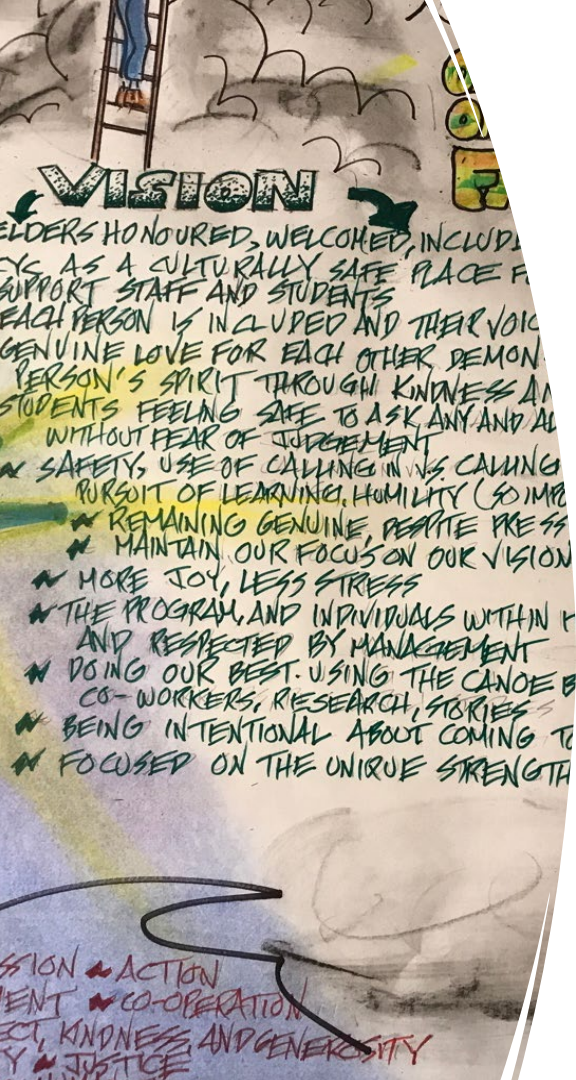


# CYC Program Vision - Highlights

Kathi Camilleri CYC Final Report

Chris Camilleri - Artist

- Increase cultural safety in all aspects of program.
- Advocate for resources and larger system support and change.
- Individual and collective commitment.



# Lessons Learned

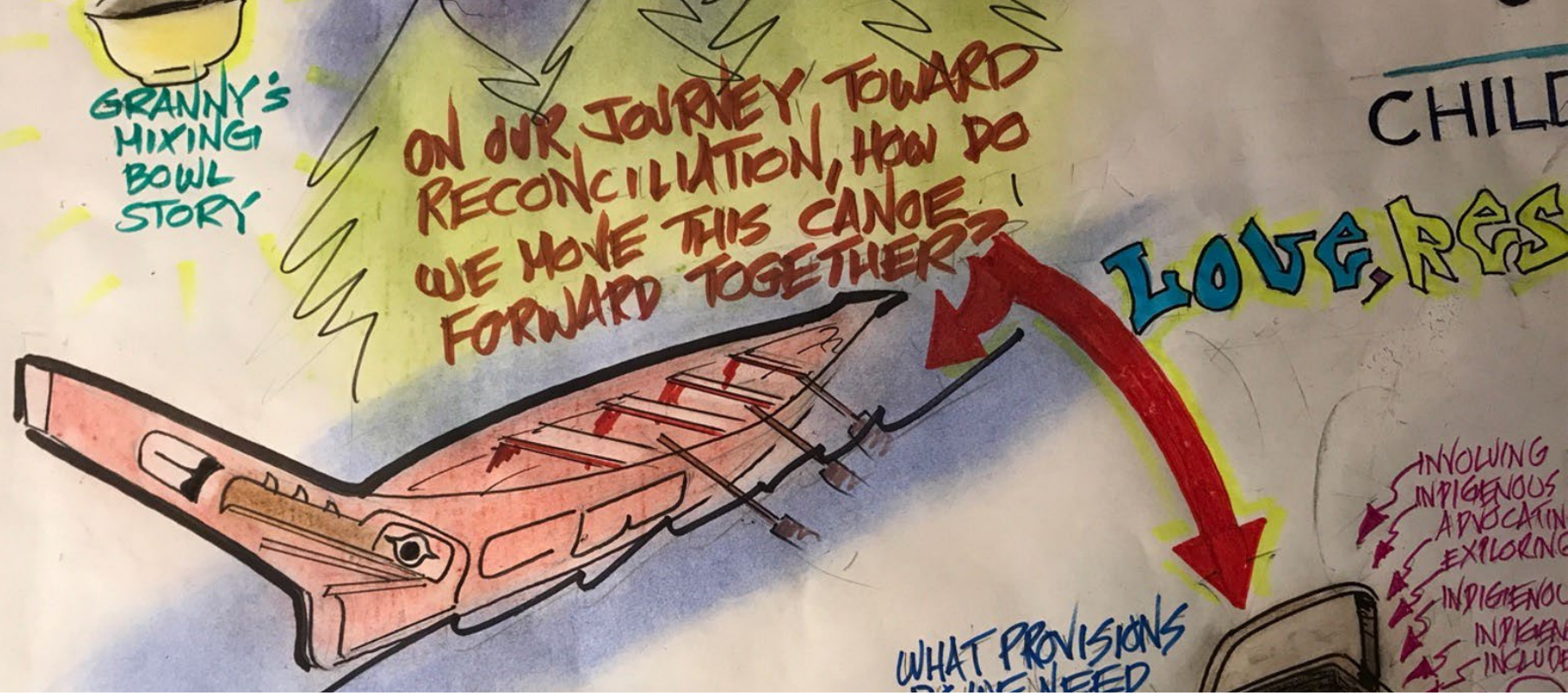
Chris Camilleri, Artist

---

- View the journey as a process that requires ongoing commitment and time.
- Take responsibility - individual and collective.
- Work with Indigenous facilitators, leaders and communities.
- Create space for an emergent, co-created ongoing process.
- Identify your collective values and enact these values day-to-day.
- Be trauma informed
- Be humble, listen and learn.
- Let go of what is not working and cultivate what is.
- Recognize the actions that you can take and take them!







# Questions?

Graphic: Chris Camilleri

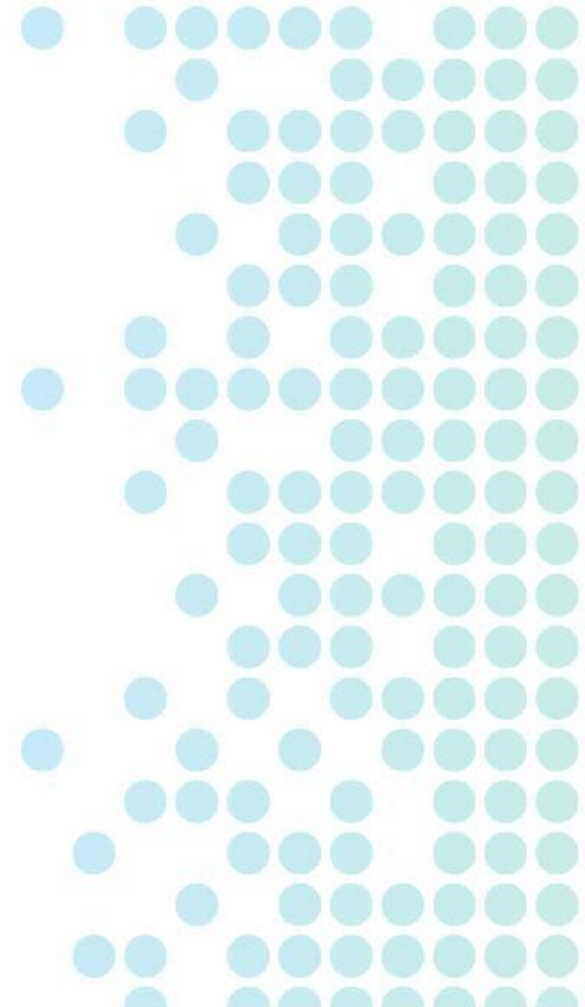




**BCcampus**

Learning. Doing. Leading.

# Thank-you



Unless otherwise noted, this work is released under a CC BY 4.0 International Licence.  
Feel free to use, modify, or distribute any or all of this presentation with attribution.

[BCcampus.ca](http://BCcampus.ca) • [@BCcampus](https://twitter.com/BCcampus) • [#BCcampus](https://facebook.com/BCcampus)