

# Weaving Indigenous Ways of Knowing into Digital Literacy

Educator Professional Development  
Created by Connie Strayer and Robyn Grebliunas  
with BCcampus  
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Cecilia Dick, Cultural Tourism Supervisor  
for the Songhees Nation  
<https://www.exploresonghees.com/>

# Welcome and Territory Acknowledgment

BCcampus offices are located on the unceded territories of the səliłwətaʔł təməx<sup>w</sup> (Tseil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish), x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), ƵSÁNEĆ (Saanich), and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations of the Lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən (Lekwungen) Peoples.

As individuals, and as members of organizations that work within colonial systems, we continue to learn and build relationships as we actively respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

# What is digital literacy?

*... a person's knowledge, skills, and abilities for using digital tools ethically, effectively, and within a variety of contexts in order to access, interpret and evaluate information as well as to create, construct new knowledge, and communicate with others - BC Digital Learning Strategy, 2023*



# What are the Indigenous Digital Literacy materials?



We welcome you  
into our circle  
of learning.



Photo Credit: Connie Strayer

# Weaving Indigenous Ways of Knowing into Digital Literacy





# Purpose

- Exploring Communication and Collaboration in Indigenous Communities
- Understanding Indigenous Protocols for Creation and Curation
- Exercising Digital Well-being through an Indigenous Lens
- Linking Indigenous Digital Literacies to your Reconciliation Journey

# Intention setting

The background is a solid teal color. It features several decorative elements: a large, semi-transparent pie chart in the upper right quadrant; several smaller, semi-transparent pie charts scattered around; and a bar chart in the bottom right corner with four vertical bars of increasing height from left to right.

Our intention is to create a safe space for exchanging knowledge. We come with an open heart and open mind and hope to be received in the same way.



It is an important process of reconciliation to not Pan-Indigenize by group all Indigenous Peoples ways of know and being into one cultural identity.



**Reconciliation**

# Communication and Collaboration

INDIGENOUS  
DIGITAL LITERACIES



We are all on this journey together. We must learn to communicate and collaborate in a purposeful way to move forward.



# Fundamental knowledge of communication and collaboration

- Invest the time
- Respect the differences
- Be patient
- Know that words matter

Invest in the time required to establish trusting and meaningful relationships with your students and your host Nation(s).



Respect multiple ways of knowing, seeing,  
and living.



**Respect  
differences**

Investment of time leads to building trust.



**Trust building**



# Words Matter

The language we use is important. It can create a sense of empowerment, identity, and pride in people.

In Canada, historically terminology has been used in ways that has often been damaging to Indigenous Peoples and communities.

# Indigenous Peoples



The Canadian constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous Peoples:

- First Nations
- Métis
- Inuit

# First Nation(s)

Groups of people whose ancestors lived on Turtle Island from time in memorium - before the arrival of settlers.



# Métis

Métis are people whose heritage can be traced back to a Métis settlement in Canada.



# Inuit

Inuit Peoples are Indigenous people mainly from Nunavut, Northwest Territories, northern Quebec, and Labrador.





# Be specific

It is respectful to find the most specific naming available.



# Coast Salish map



Words matter



# Indigenous Peoples in Canada

The appropriate phrasing is

Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



Canada does not own Indigenous Peoples.

Avoid saying:

- Canada's Indigenous Peoples
- Our Indigenous Peoples
- The Indigenous Peoples of Canada
- The Indigenous Peoples of BC

# Unceded territory, traditional territory, or ancestral territory

Commonly used respectful terms:

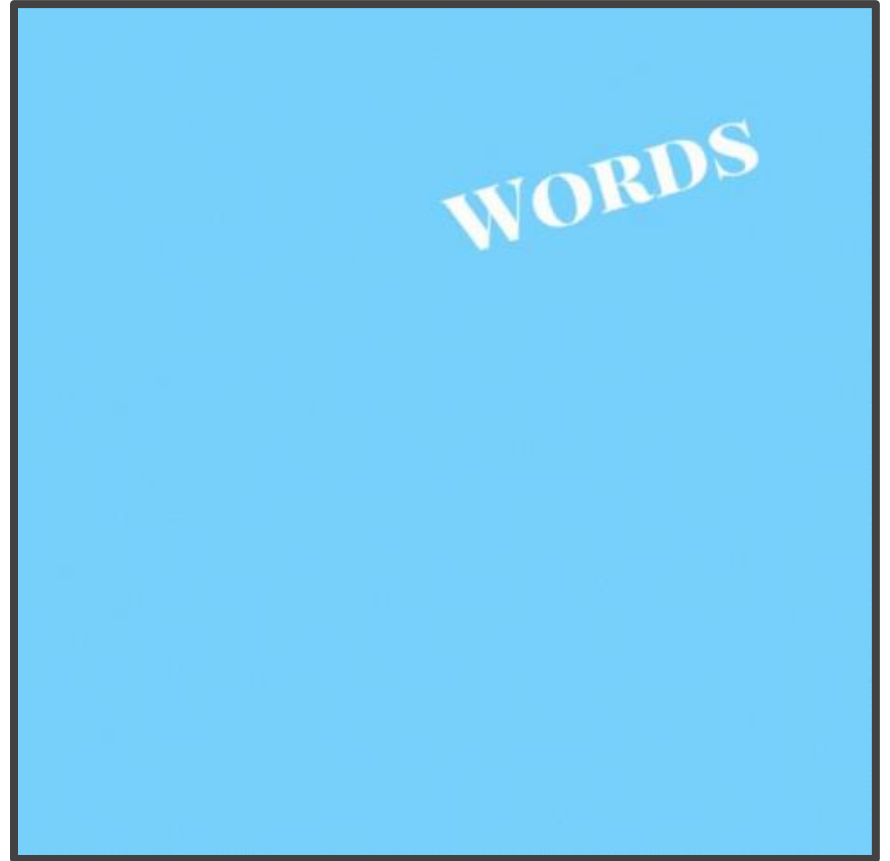
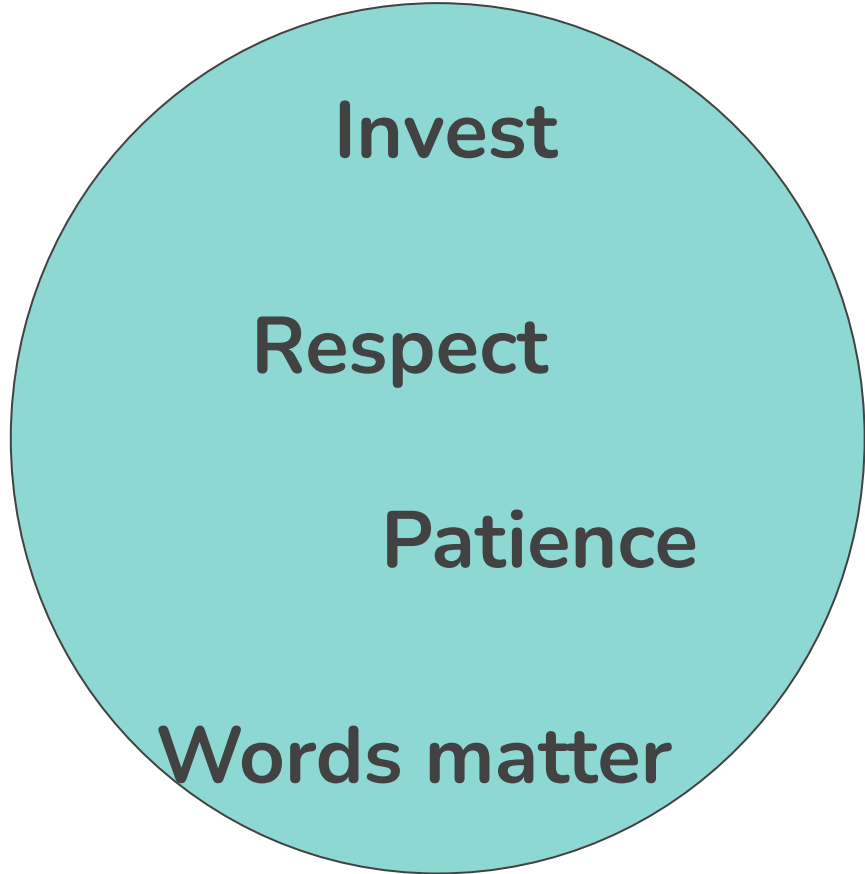
- Unceded territory
- Traditional territory
- Ancestral territory

Indigenous communities have stood strong to defend their Indigenous title.

Avoid saying:

- Crown land
- Treaty 8 territory





Questions



# Creation & Curation (protocols)



# The fundamentals of creation and curation



- Understand protocols
- Respect Indigenous ways of knowing and being
- Know your local resources

- It is important to understand and follow protocols for appropriately using Indigenous Traditional Knowledges.
- Indigenous cultures consider protocols sacred.
- Understanding this supports reconciliation.

Indigenous communities can have different laws, governance systems, principles, and ways of relating. These are known as Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

**Indigenous ways of  
knowing and being**

Know your community resources

The background is a solid teal color. It features several faint, semi-transparent graphics: a large donut chart in the upper right, a smaller pie chart to its right, a bar chart in the bottom right corner with four bars of increasing height, and several other smaller pie charts scattered throughout the right side of the image.



# Elders in Residence

Many public post secondary institutions have Elders in Residence.



# Elders in Residence

Support use of Indigenous knowledge and languages.

Offering traditional knowledge and spiritual guidance to all learners.

Assist faculty, staff, and administration with building capacity in areas of cultural knowledge and understanding.

# Indigenous Houses of Learning / Gathering Places

Many public post secondary institutes have an Indigenized spaces that serve as an academic, social, spiritual, and cultural hub for Indigenous students.

# Indigenous Houses of Learning / Gathering Places

The academic, social, spiritual, and cultural hub for the Indigenous student community.

A space where students can connect with an Elder, hangout between classes, and enjoy cultural events based on acknowledging the teachings of the territories the campus(s) is located on.

# Band offices

Band offices are also a place to collaborate and gain understanding of whom you need to connect with in the Nation.

# Understand, respect, know



Questions



# Digital well-being

INDIGENOUS  
DIGITAL LITERACIES





# Digital well-being through an Indigenous lens



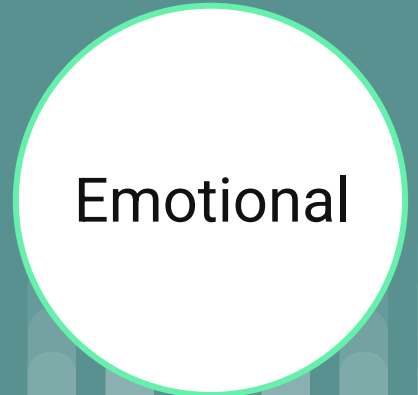
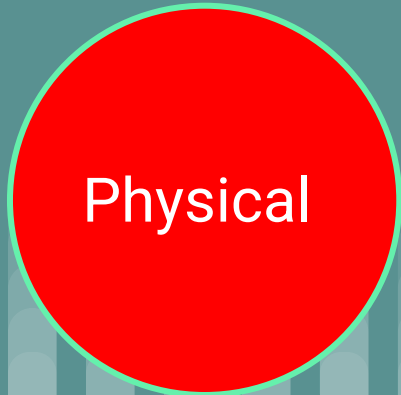
The Medicine Wheel can be used as a tool for role modeling and teaching digital well-being.



# Fundamental knowledge of digital well-being

- Appreciate the effects of screen time
- Develop a healthy relationship with technology
- Practice, teach, and role model digital well-being to your students.



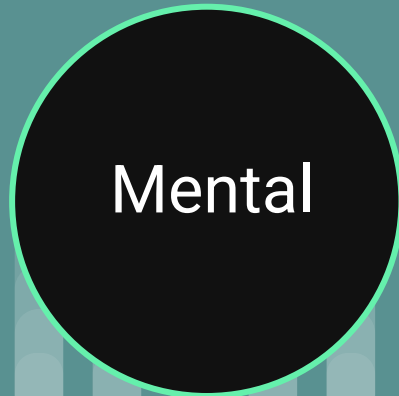


**Physical:** connect with mother nature, grounding

**Spiritual:** Practice deep breathing, meditate, appreciate nature, visit an Elder

**Mental:** meditate, smudge, breath work

**Emotional:** relationships



# Seeking out teachings on the Medicine Wheel

- Seek out an Elder.
- Visit your local Indigenous Friendship Centre, Indigenous Access Centre, or a local First Nations community.



Questions



# Fundamental concepts

**Being in Balance**

Create space for Indigenous ways of knowing

Openness

Follow Communication Protocols

*relationships* TRUST Honesty Act with Integrity

Respectful and be mindful of Indigenous Peoples, protocols, and priorities

*Partnership* BUILD A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP FIRST, BUSINESS WILL

FOLLOW



# The journey

It is important to recognize that our learning journey only begins here.

We raise our  
hands up to  
each and  
everyone of  
you.



Photo credit Connie  
Strayer

