



Continuing Our Learning Journey: Indigenous Education in B.C.



Continuing Our Learning Journey: Indigenous Education in B.C. is the first of a series of Indigenous education resources being developed to support educators working with the redesigned K-12 curriculum.

Across B.C.'s education system there is a shared commitment to bringing Indigenous knowledge, content and perspectives into classrooms and schools. This commitment is evident in many forms, such as the integration of the [First Peoples Principles of Learning](#) into the redesigned K-12 curriculum; it is also reflected in the new Standard 9 of the [Professional Standards for BC Educators](#), which speaks to the expectation for educators to acknowledge, respect and incorporate Indigenous education in their classrooms.

This commitment is so important, in fact, that schools and districts are setting aside at least one non-instructional day in each of the next four school years for educators to participate in discussions and activities that focus on enhancing Indigenous student achievement and integrating Indigenous world views and perspectives into their teaching for all students.

A New Resource for Educators

The first in a series of Indigenous education resources to support educators with their professional growth in this area has just been released. *Continuing Our Learning Journey: Indigenous Education in B.C.* is an optional professional development resource that is available as either a full-day workshop or one that can be taken over several sessions.



Continuing Our Learning Journey is made up of three modules, each of which includes video presentations, small group discussions and group activities:

› **Module 1: B.C. Context and Assumptions**

Module 1 sets the focus of the professional learning work. In the Module 1 Video, Jo Chrona, Curriculum Manager with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, gives an overview of Indigenous education in British Columbia and asks participants to challenge several common assumptions about Indigenous education and Indigenous learners that perpetuate systemic barriers.



› **Module 2: First Peoples Principles of Learning**

Module 2 gives participants the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the First Peoples Principles of Learning. In the Module 2 Video, Jo offers historical information about how and when the First Peoples Principles of Learning were articulated and shares themes that are found throughout the principles. This module allows participants to delve deeper into the principles and consider how they can inform educators' practice. Participants discuss the various principles during a group activity.

› **Module 3: Authentic Resources and Frequently Asked Questions**

Module 3 offers guidance on authentic First Peoples resources and introduces participants to several teacher resource guides created by the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation British Columbia. The Module 3 Video also features frequently asked questions and responses from a variety of B.C. education leaders.

› **Final Messages and Next Steps**

In Video 4, Jo and other B.C. educators wrap up the learning and challenge participants to set goals on getting started or continuing to build an equitable education system for all.

› **Examples and Case Studies (optional)**

This optional session showcases ways in which schools and districts have deepened their learning and approaches to Indigenous education. These examples can be used to support educators (individuals or groups) in setting professional or school goals.



A Commitment to Change

Jo encourages all educators to gain a better understanding of Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing and to integrate these ways into their teaching. “As we undertake the work we all need to do in Indigenous education, we will be able to better address the systemic barriers that have been impediments to the success of Indigenous learners,” she says. “In order to do that, we need to further our own learning. *Continuing Our Learning Journey* is a valuable new resource for educators to help them with that important goal.”

Learn More

- › Visit the [Indigenous Education Resources web page](#) to learn more about this important new resource and obtain a copy of the facilitator’s guide for delivering the workshop. On this page you will also find the newly-posted Indigenous Education Resources Inventory. This inventory was compiled by the Ministry in collaboration with the BC Teachers’ Federation, the First Nations Education Steering Committee and Métis Nation BC, and is a non-comprehensive list that includes guides, books, articles, videos and web links to help educators incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into B.C. classrooms.
- › See Standard 9 of the [Professional Standards for BC Educators](#). This important Standard honours the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#) and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). It carries with it the aspiration and expectation that B.C. educators strive towards truth, reconciliation and healing, acknowledging the history and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada, and confirms educators’ commitment to the success of First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.
- › See the following sources to learn about the requirements to include a non-instructional day on Indigenous education in the school calendar beginning in the 2019/20 school year:
 - Section 4.17 on page 9 of the [BC Tripartite Education Agreement](#)
 - Section 8 of the [School Calendar Regulation](#)