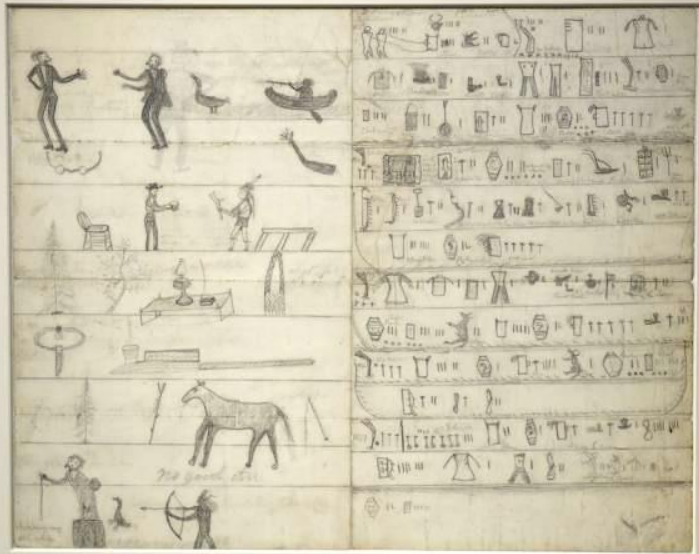


Languages Canada, 2020 Vancouver

Representating Indigenous Peoples



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Representing Indigenous Peoples

- 2013 study: ESL students' experiences with Indigenous culture at the U of R
- Thoughts and concepts from critical theory
- Images that represent best practices as I know them to be now
- The impact of appropriate representations
- Summary and Resources

Representation in

- Private schools
- Public institutions
- Government Programs

- Short Term students
- International students
- Immigrants?

Regina coach apologizes for “culturally inappropriate” costumes Cheer team dressed as cowboys and Indians

by The Canadian Press

Mar 17, 2014



<https://www.macleans.ca/education/university-of-regina-coach-apologizes-for-culturally-inappropriate-costumes/>



CTV TORONTO

Pride Toronto apologizes for land acknowledgment that omitted Indigenous communities

The Canadian Press Published Monday, June 24, 2019 7:21PM EDT

Last Updated Monday, June 24, 2019 7:22PM EDT

Land acknowledgements

- The CAUT Guide to acknowledging First People's Traditional Territory
 - <https://www.caut.ca/content/guide-acknowledging-first-peoples-traditional-territory>

2013 study: ESL students' experiences with
Indigenous culture at the U of R

What are our students thinking?

Bassel (Syria): There's something fake in that relationship between the Canadians who immigrate to Canada and the Native.

Simone: How do you identify that fakeness?

Bassel: I am not really sure, but I feel it....People want to believe everything is all right.

- **Katerina (Ukraine):** When we come here, we study Chinese culture, like feng shui. We study multicultural [sic], like we study famous thing from many culture. Why we don't know First Nations?
- We need to be a little bit educated to don't make stereotypes.



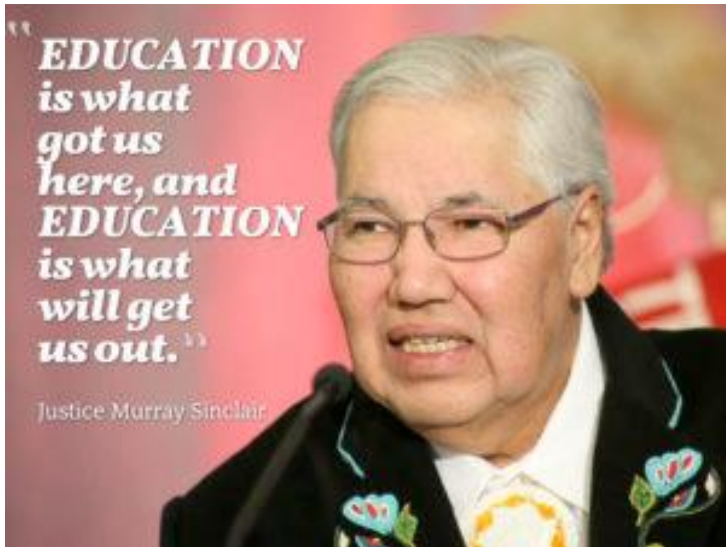
David (Rwanda): At least they should have taught me the truth...

Because if I was introduced to the culture as I was learning the language, it would help me to understand whatever is going on outside.

Because if I am living in Canada and I don't know the environment I am living in, I will not fully adapt because there will be times when I will have to interact with First Nations. But with this history of them absent from me, I would maybe offend them in some way or the other because no one ever taught me this.



- **Mussa (Emirates):** I want myself to integrate into Canadian culture. And aboriginal culture is a part of Canadian culture.



- “When asked the question ‘what is the role of adult newcomers to Canada in the ongoing work of reconciliation if they are not connected to this history?’ the Hon. Senator responded ‘if you feel connected to the future of this country, and if you feel responsible for the future, then you need to care about reconciliation, for the sake of the future of this country.’”



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Call to Action 93.

We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

94. We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following: I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise facilitated by
oski-pimohtahtamwak otahisiniwiwaw (Cree/Nehiawak)
They are into their new journey to knowledge



- **Beth (Burma):** I also want to know about they have the same rights or not, but I just think that they have, but they have or not, I am not sure.

Simone: What makes you unsure about it?

Beth: Because this country and the government, they make everything item based on the constitution and the law, so everyone who live in the country has to lived by the law.

Considering Canada as Peacemaker

- The inspiration behind UN peacekeeping
- Universal Healthcare, including prescription medications
- Welcoming to refugees
- Seizure of land
- Residential Schools
- Sixties Scoop

Regan – “ We take pride in a cherished national myth that distinguishes between the horrific “Indian” wars of frontier settlement in the United States and the more benign settlement process that we tell ourselves occurred in the Canadian West” (82).

Mussa (Emirates): Maybe I have the prejudice about the Canadian First Nation because I was afraid of that when the first time I came here....I was told that but even now I am not sure if that's truth or not but I heard that, I am afraid to talk with them.

I just try to avoid speaking or having a conversation with aboriginal people because I don't want to cause a problem.



Katya Hildebrandt and Cree Elder Alma Poitras

Speak in the plural, using Indigenous peoples – avoid a pan-Indigenous perspective.

Be nation-specific where possible



An Elder from First Nations University

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135136172@N05/37910084211>

<http://fnuniv.ca/elders>

Ahmad: [There is a] big barrier between us and them...maybe because we are scared or something.

Bedouin people and aboriginal people here they feel like if you are foreign that you are on their land...even in Saudi Arabia, some tribes will tell you “what are you doing in my country?”

Becoming aware of legal names and terms

- **Indigenous** – a commonly accepted international term, now used in Canada

- **Aboriginal** - In the Canadian constitution, the word "Aboriginal" includes all of Canada's original inhabitants – “peoples who first lived in an area before European explorers first arrived at that place.” Within the larger name Aboriginal, three distinct groups are also named in the Constitution.

 - First Nations** - peoples who “historically lived in North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, below the Arctic.’

 - Métis** - people whose ancestry includes First Nations and first settlers of Canada, particularly French, and some British

 - Inuit** - peoples who “historically lived along the coastal edge and on the islands of Canada's far north”

- **Native, Native American** – Terms from the U.S.

- Truth and Reconciliation resources
 - Now housed at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR)
 - <https://nctr.ca/map.php>
- Public Sector Indigenization Offices and Programs
- Treaty Commissioner offices
- Friendship Centres

- Appropriate representation of Indigenous peoples
 - presents images of equitable relationships- avoiding pathologizing
 - is specific to the Nation, using names
 - represents authentic experiences
 - provides students alternatives to the stereotypes they confront.
 - listens to Indigenous Elders and leaders
 - is an important tool for our students to navigate their home in Canada.

Thank you

Questions? Contact Simone.Hengen@uregina.ca

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