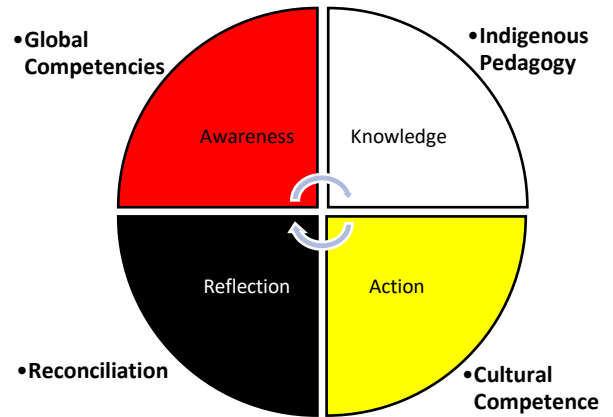


INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS

WHAT ARE INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS?

“There are many Indigenous peoples and therefore many Indigenous worldviews” (Indigenous Worldview U of T). There are commonalities among **Indigenous worldviews**, which are based on environmental awareness and maintaining balance with the human and natural worlds. Natural “resources are gifts, nature is honored routinely through daily spiritual practice” circles have importance, “time is a circular with natural cycles that sustain all life” (Kawagley & Barnhardt, Education Indigenous to Place).



Western World View	Lands-Based Cultures
Seeks Homogeneity (similarity)	Honors Diversity
Values Individuality	Values Sharing & Extended Family
Competitive	Cooperative
Linear	Circular, Cyclical, Part of a Whole
Time constraint	Time is Relative
Control over nature	Relationship With Nature
Scientific evidence-based	Experiential-based
http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/Circle-Of-Engagement-Model.pdf	

WHY ARE INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEWS IMPORTANT?

- Form of reconciliation
- A voice that has been missing in our system
- Beneficial to everyone
- Indigenous populations are “the youngest and fastest growing segment of the Canadian population with more than half under 25 years of age” (U of T)
- Sense of belonging (Our School Data – PLWEP)
- Relevant and Engaging (CARR Model – Dept of Ed)
- Builds Global Competencies (learn to listen and respect the views of others)
- Fosters a sense of heart and importance of emotion

INDIGENIZING CLASSROOMS

- *Inclusion and equity for all*
- *Four R’s*
- *Involving community*
- *Building relationships*
- *Story telling*
- *Land-based learning*
- *Territorial acknowledgement*
- *Seven sacred teachings*
- *Education about the medicine wheel*
- *Sharing circles*
- *Invite guest speakers into your class/school*
- *Consider all things ‘People’*
- *Holistic, Strength-based approach*

Indigenous Worldviews “offer lessons that can benefit everyone, from educator to scientist, as we search for a more satisfying and sustainable way to live on this planet” (Education Indigenous to Place)

Indigenous worldviews (I) vs Western worldviews (W) – taken from:

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/indigenous-peoples-worldviews-vs-western-worldviews>

- 1.(I) Spiritually orientated society. System based on belief and spiritual world.
- 1.(W) Scientific, skeptical. Requiring proof as a basis of belief.

- 2.(I) There can be many truths; truths are dependent upon individual experiences.
- 2.(W) There is only one truth, based on science or Western style law.

- 3.(I) Society operates in a state of relatedness. Everything and everyone is related. There is real belief that people, objects and the environment are **all connected**. Law, kinship and spirituality reinforce this connectedness. Identity comes from connections.
- 3.(W) Compartmentalized society, becoming more so.

- 4.(I) The **land is sacred** and usually given by a creator or supreme being.
- 4.(W) The land and its resources should be available for development and extraction for the benefit of humans.

- 5.(I) Time is non-linear, cyclical in nature. Time is measured in cyclical events. The seasons are central to this cyclical concept.
- 5.(W) Time is usually linearly structured and future orientated. The framework of months, years, days etc reinforces the linear structure.

- 6.(I) Feeling comfortable is measured by the quality of your relationships with people.
- 6.(W) Feeling comfortable is related to how successful you feel you have been in achieving your goals.

- 7.(I) Human beings are not the most important in the world.
- 7.(W) Human beings are most important in the world.

- 8.(I) Amassing wealth is important for the good of the community
- 8.(W) Amassing wealth is for personal gain

LEARN A BIT MORE ABOUT LOCAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – The Wabanaki

<https://www.cbu.ca/indigenous-affairs/mikmaq-resource-centre/the-mikmaq/>

<https://www.wabanakicollection.com/>

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028589/1539608999656>



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