

2024 REGIONAL INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON ANTI-RACISM

MAY 6 & 7, 2024
KAMLOOPS, BC



ANTI-RACISM REPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Secwepemcúl'ecw yi7élye ell, re tmicws re Tk'emlú'semc n7élye.

We would like to acknowledge that the Summit was gathered on the unceded territories of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc of the Secwépemc Nation.

HOSTED BY:

OMRIE: Okanagan Mainline Regional Indigenous Education Council and School District No. 73 Kamloops-Thompson.



**SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 73
Kamloops-Thompson**

OMRIE COUNCIL

SD73 Kamloops-Thompson	SD22 Vernon	SD83 North Okanagan
SD53 Okanagan Similkameen	SD23 Central Okanagan	Shuswap
SD19 Revelstoke	SD74 Gold Trail	SD8 Kootenay Lake
SD67 Okanagan Skaha	SD58 Nicola-Similkameen	SD93 Consiel scolaire francophone

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INTRODUCTION

The Indigenous Student Summit on Indigenous Antiracism brought together 113 Indigenous students from 11 school districts to discuss and address issues of racism within the educational system. This report compiles student insights, experiences, and recommendations to promote a more inclusive and respectful learning environment. The summit focused on understanding internalized racism, microaggressions, generational trauma, and the role of education in combating racism. Additionally, it draws from Indigenous students' feedback to provide a comprehensive framework for supporting anti-racism in education.

The recommendations provided in this report are based on the insights gathered from Indigenous students and the discussions at the Indigenous Student Summit on Indigenous Antiracism. These recommendations are categorized into school-level, district-level, and provincial-level actions, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts across different levels of the education system.

STUDENT INSIGHTS AND QUOTES

Students at the summit shared their personal experiences and understanding of racism and its impacts. They emphasized the detrimental effects of internalized racism, the importance of addressing microaggressions, and the need for comprehensive education on historical injustices. Students also highlighted the role of Indigenous staff in providing valuable insights and promoting cultural awareness within educational settings.

Key quotes include:

"What I understand about internalized racism is that it degrades students into lessening their self-value."

"Internalized racism causes one to reflect on negative things instead of being positive."

"Students know more about lived racism experiences than teachers."

"Missing information and staff KNOWING more than UNDERSTANDING. Need both."

"Understanding more about microaggressions (looks, emotion) and connections to substance abuse."

"Generational trauma impacts and effects mental illness."

"Racist environment is part of an 'uneducated environment' and social media misinformation."

"Racism is about being known for what it is, and it is communal work to address it."

"We learned mainly from Indigenous staff and some non-Indigenous staff about microaggressions, stereotypes, judgments along with the effects. We were also told when racist things come up that we had to be as professional as possible and not to come off as aggressive or we will be accused of 'being in the wrong.'"

"It is helpful to also be aware of the history of racism, including the impacts towards other groups and movements like Black Lives Matter, slavery and segregation including Indigenous, Asian hate crimes and history."

THEMES

The feedback from Indigenous students highlighted several key themes that are essential for addressing racism in education. These themes are aligned with the broader objectives of promoting authenticity, representation, comprehensive education, collaborative efforts, and systemic changes within the education system. The insights from Indigenous students form the foundation of the recommendations outlined in this report.

1. Authenticity and Representation in Educational Resources
2. Comprehensive Education on Indigenous Cultures and Histories
3. Combating Indigenous Racism and Promoting Understanding
4. Collaborative Efforts to Stop Racism in Schools
5. District and Provincial Actions to Address Racism

Authenticity and Representation in Educational Resources

This section stresses the importance of authentic representation in educational materials, emphasizing consultation with Indigenous elders, prioritizing resources from BIPOC individuals, and incorporating contemporary media. School, district, and provincial actions are outlined to ensure the use of authentic resources and teaching methods.

Considerations from students:

- ❖ Consult Indigenous elders for guidance on content.
- ❖ Prioritize resources from BIPOC individuals and those with lived experiences.
- ❖ Ensure resources represent all three recognized Indigenous groups under Section 35 of the Charter.
- ❖ Prefer in-person, oral traditions, and storytelling over paper resources.
- ❖ Scrutinize the origin and authorship of materials, ensuring Indigenous backgrounds.
- ❖ Utilize relevant, contemporary media to engage students effectively.
- ❖ Update media in courses like English First Peoples and BC First Peoples to reflect current realities.
- ❖ Bring authentic Indigenous voices and follow their guidelines.

School Actions:

- ❖ Engage local Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers to provide context and content for educational materials.
- ❖ Use resources authored or created by Indigenous people to ensure authenticity.
- ❖ Regularly update educational materials to maintain relevance and accuracy.
- ❖ Incorporate oral traditions and storytelling into teaching methods.

District Actions:

- ❖ Develop guidelines for schools to select culturally authentic and relevant resources.
- ❖ Fund professional development on using Indigenous-authored materials and incorporating Indigenous teaching methods.
- ❖ Facilitate district-wide access to updated and relevant Indigenous educational resources.

Provincial Actions:

- ❖ Mandate the inclusion of authentic Indigenous voices in curriculum resources.
- ❖ Provide funding for the development of contemporary Indigenous educational materials.
- ❖ Support initiatives that bring Indigenous elders and experts into schools for in-person learning experiences.

Comprehensive Education on Indigenous Cultures and Histories.

Here, the report highlights the necessity of integrating Indigenous perspectives across all subjects, breaking stereotypes, and emphasizing positive contributions. Actions at different levels focus on curriculum development, cultural competency training, and promoting Indigenous events and speakers.

Considerations from students:

- ❖ Highlight both positive aspects and historical challenges of Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Break harmful stereotypes and reinforce positive attitudes.
- ❖ Ensure comprehensive understanding of Indigenous histories and contributions.
- ❖ Normalize Indigenous history in regular curricula, not just in specialized courses.
- ❖ Include intergenerational impacts of colonialism and current issues faced by Indigenous communities.
- ❖ Emphasize personal growth and integrity through Indigenous teachings like the Grandfather Teachings.

School Actions:

- ❖ Integrate Indigenous histories and positive contributions across all subjects.
- ❖ Regularly feature Indigenous speakers and cultural events in the school calendar.
- ❖ Create lesson plans that address the impacts of colonialism and celebrate Indigenous resilience and contributions.

District Actions:

- ❖ Develop a comprehensive curriculum that includes Indigenous perspectives in all subjects.

- ❖ Organize district-wide cultural competency training for teachers and administrators.
- ❖ Ensure resources and support for schools to conduct regular Indigenous cultural events and learning opportunities.

Provincial Actions:

- ❖ Mandate the integration of Indigenous histories and teachings in the provincial curriculum.
- ❖ Provide resources for schools to develop and implement comprehensive Indigenous education programs.
- ❖ Support province-wide initiatives that promote Indigenous cultures and histories in schools.

Combating Indigenous Racism and Promoting Understanding.

The section addresses the need to educate about the effects of Indigenous racism, break down stereotypes, and foster respect and awareness of Indigenous cultures. It outlines actions to implement educational programs, raise awareness, and support inclusivity within schools and districts.

Considerations from students:

- ❖ Educate about the effects of Indigenous racism and its historical roots.
- ❖ Break down stereotypes and promote a positive understanding of Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Address the ongoing impact of historical injustices like the Métis script on present-day communities.
- ❖ Foster respect and awareness of Indigenous cultures from an early age.

School Actions:

- ❖ Implement educational programs that focus on the historical and contemporary effects of racism on Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Highlight positive stories and contributions of Indigenous communities in the curriculum.
- ❖ Use land acknowledgments to foster respect and understanding of Indigenous heritage.

District Actions:

- ❖ Create district-wide initiatives to raise awareness about Indigenous histories and the impacts of racism.
- ❖ Develop training programs for teachers to effectively address and teach about Indigenous racism and stereotypes.
- ❖ Support schools in organizing events that celebrate Indigenous cultures and promote inclusivity.

Provincial Actions:

- ❖ Implement policies that require comprehensive education on Indigenous racism and its impacts.
- ❖ Fund programs that aim to educate both teachers and students on Indigenous issues.
- ❖ Develop province-wide campaigns to raise awareness and promote understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures.

Collaborative Efforts to Stop Racism in Schools.

This part emphasizes immediate action against racism, promoting Indigenous practices, and implementing serious internal policy changes. Actions proposed include establishing clear protocols, promoting Indigenous cultural practices, and conducting regular workshops and events.

Considerations from students:

- ❖ Immediate action against witnessed racism.
- ❖ Encourage speaking up and immediately acting against racism.
- ❖ Promote Indigenous practices and traditions within the school environment.
- ❖ Implement serious internal policy changes to address racism.
- ❖ Raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous stories and racism.
- ❖ Proper land acknowledgments and education about the land's heritage.
- ❖ Teacher involvement and appropriate handling of racism incidents.
- ❖ Organize events that raise awareness and promote inclusion.

School Actions:

- ❖ Establish clear protocols for addressing incidents of racism immediately and effectively.
- ❖ Promote Indigenous cultural practices and make them a regular part of school life.
- ❖ Conduct regular workshops and events that raise awareness about racism and Indigenous cultures.

District Actions:

- ❖ Develop district-wide policies and protocols for handling racism incidents in schools.
- ❖ Fund and support anti-racism training programs for all school staff.
- ❖ Encourage schools to host regular events and activities that celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Provincial Actions:

- ❖ Implement provincial policies that support zero tolerance for racism in schools.
- ❖ Provide funding for anti-racism initiatives and educational programs in schools.
- ❖ Support province-wide campaigns to promote diversity, inclusion, and respect for Indigenous cultures.

Other School, District, and Provincial Actions to Address Racism.

Finally, the report suggests increasing discussions about racism, providing comprehensive education, ensuring follow-up on initiatives, and tailoring support to the specific needs of Indigenous students. Actions at the school, district, and provincial levels aim to foster open discussions, develop administrative protocols, and mandate comprehensive anti-racism education.

Considerations from students:

- ❖ Increase discussions about racism and its impacts.

- ❖ Provide comprehensive education for both teachers and students on Indigenous issues.
- ❖ Ensure follow-up on anti-racism initiatives in schools and districts.
- ❖ Implement additional administrative procedures to address racism among staff and students.
- ❖ Tailor support to the specific needs of Indigenous students.
- ❖ Restructure the curriculum to include Indigenous values and teachings.
- ❖ Include diverse perspectives in the curriculum and invite guest speakers to provide insights.

School Actions:

- ❖ Foster open discussions about racism and its impacts within the school community.
- ❖ Ensure continuous professional development for teachers on Indigenous issues.
- ❖ Engage Indigenous guest speakers and leaders to provide insights and promote understanding.

District Actions:

- ❖ Monitor and support schools in implementing anti-racism initiatives.
- ❖ Develop administrative protocols to address racism among staff and ensure accountability.
- ❖ Provide tailored support programs for Indigenous students across the district.

Provincial Actions:

- ❖ Mandate comprehensive anti-racism education for all schools.
- ❖ Allocate funding for continuous professional development on Indigenous issues for educators.
- ❖ Restructure the provincial curriculum to ensure it includes diverse perspectives and Indigenous teachings.

CONCLUSION

The Indigenous Student Summit on Indigenous anti-racism provided valuable insights and recommendations for supporting anti-racism in education. By implementing the recommended actions at the school, district, and provincial levels, the education system can better support Indigenous students and promote a more equitable and understanding environment. This report serves as a guide for fostering anti-racism initiatives based on Indigenous students' feedback and insights gathered from the summit.

This report outlines the considerations and actions necessary at various levels of the education system to support anti-racism and promote understanding, drawing from Indigenous students' feedback. It emphasizes the importance of authenticity, comprehensive education, collaborative efforts, and systemic changes to address and combat racism effectively.