

Inherent Rights of Indigenous Peoples



- First Nations territories stretch to every inch of this province.
- Inherent rights, rooted in connection to lands and waters, have never been ceded or surrendered.
- Inherent rights are upheld in international, national, and provincial law.
- Long-standing Indigenous laws and systems are integrally tied to the lands and waters of these territories.
- Generations of Indigenous rights holders who are First Nations, Métis, and Inuit from elsewhere in “Canada” also call these lands and waters home.

Guiding Principles

- Acknowledging that systemic white supremacy is an everyday problem that requires everyday attention to arrest, unlearn, and undo
- Truth comes before reconciliation
- BIPOC voices and perspectives are privileged
- Love and care
- Humility
- Open heart, open mind
- Willingness to own and fix harms that are identified
- Erring on the side of Indigenous rights
- Sharing lessons learned
- No one should have to do this work alone
- Doing our homework





Approach



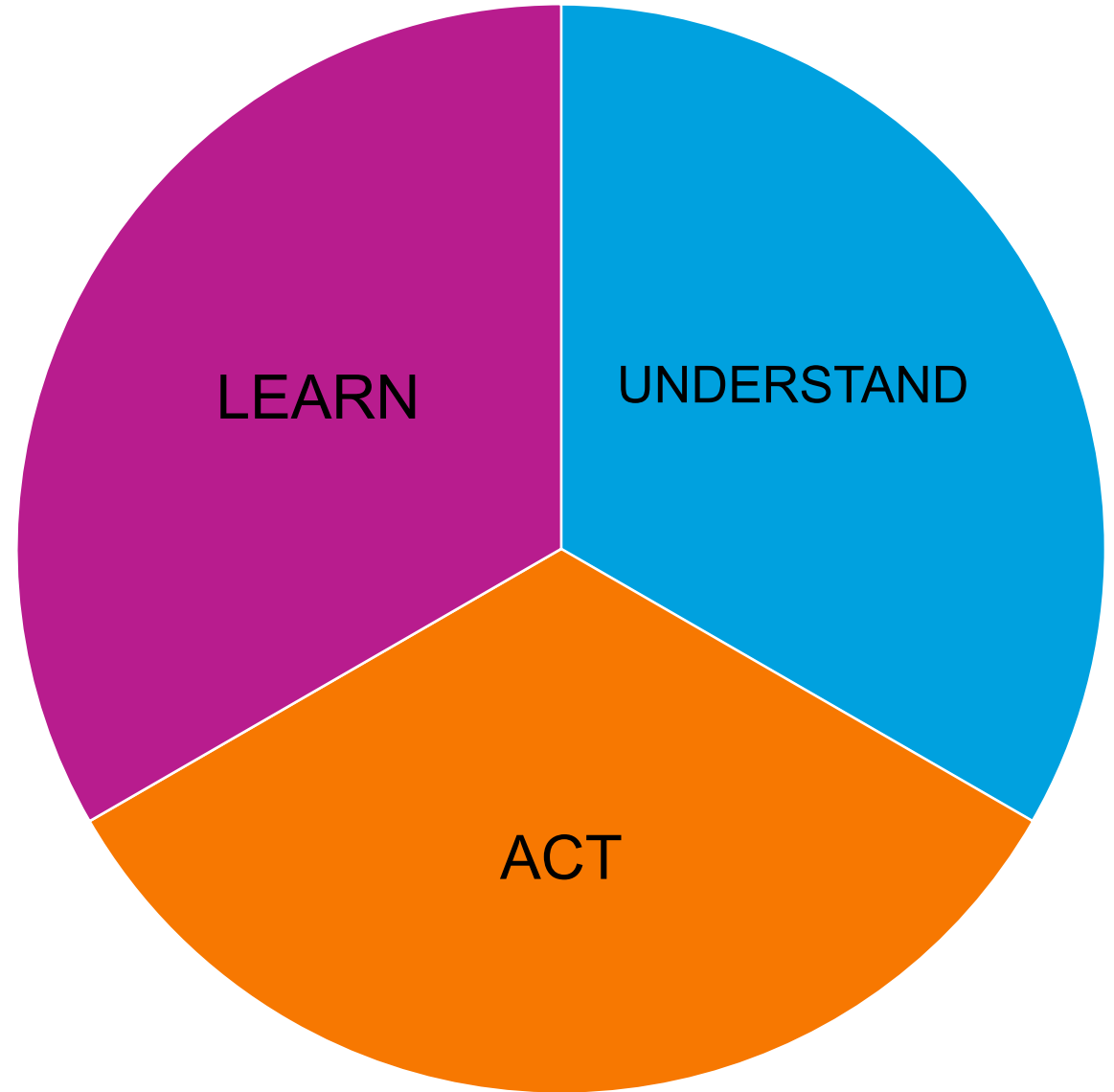
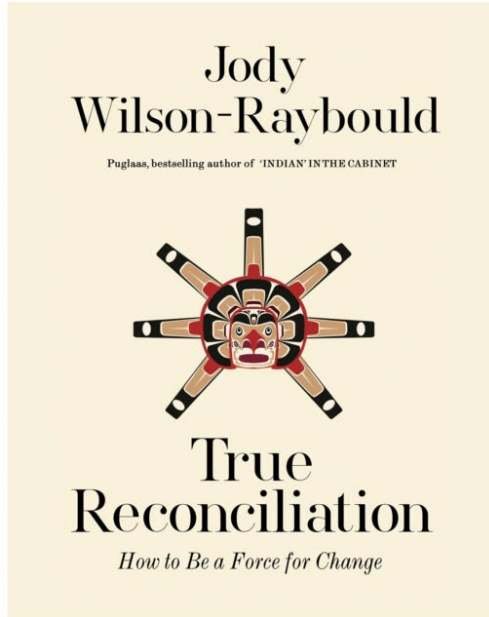
Source: Dene artist and bioethicist Lisa Boivin, PhD(c) is a member of the Deninu Kue First Nation in Northwest Territories

Dr. Camara Jones' Science & Practice of Anti-Racism (Three Tasks)



Source: Jones, C. P. (2018). Toward the science and practice of anti-racism: launching a National Campaign against Racism. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 28(Suppl 1), 231.

Jody Wilson-Raybould (Three Tasks)



Source: Wilson-Raybould, J. (2022). *True reconciliation: How to be a force for change*. McClelland & Stewart.

Net Metaphor of Settler Colonialism



Credit: Janet Echelman. Skies painted with unnumbered sparks. Vancouver, 2014.

Net Metaphor of Settler Colonialism



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Net Metaphor of Settler Colonialism



White Supremacy



The Daddies, Kent Monkman

White Supremacy



Canadian Prime Ministers



BC Premiers

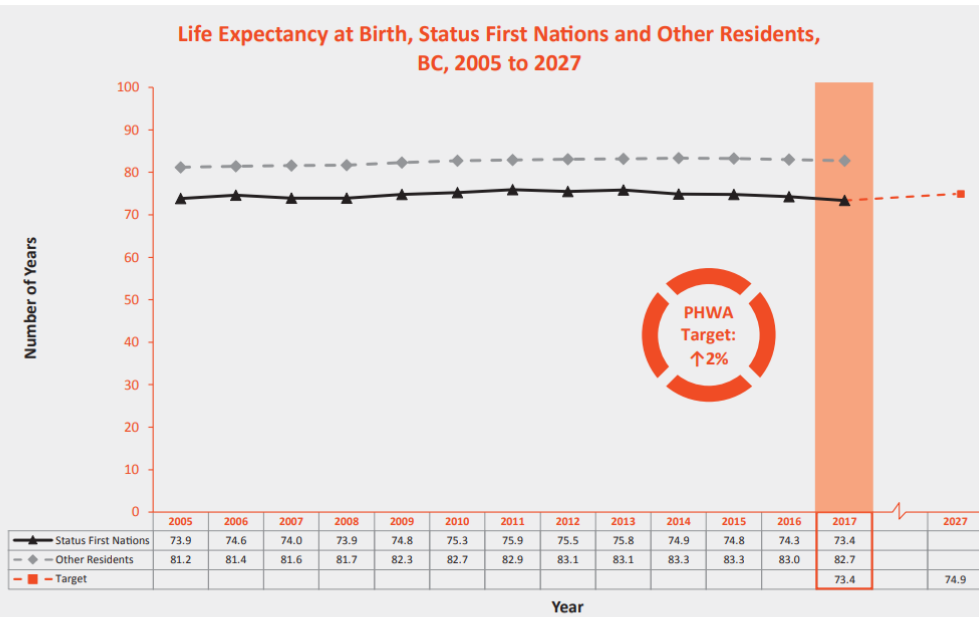


BC Ministers of Health Since 1990



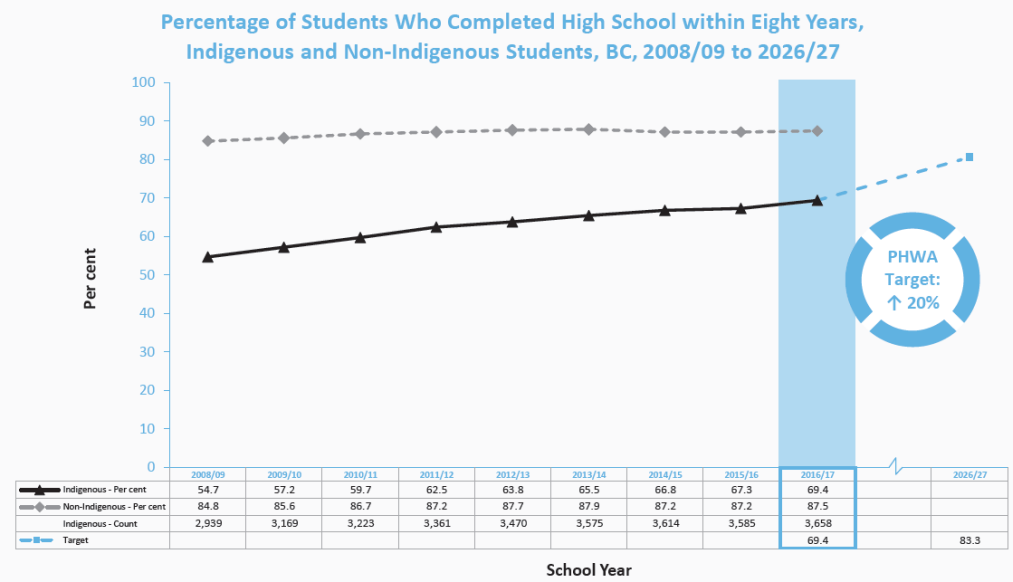
Being subjected to Canadian colonial practices and policies is bad for Indigenous peoples health and education.

FIGURE 4.26



Notes: "Life expectancy" is the expected number of years of life remaining at a given age; in this case, at birth. See Appendix B for more information about these data sources. Sources: BC Vital Statistics Agency, data as of December 2018; BC Ministry of Health, Client Roster and First Nations Client File (Release 2017). Prepared by Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health, August 2019.

FIGURE 3.8



Notes: The "eight-year completion rate" is the proportion of students who graduate, with a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation or British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma, within eight years from the first time they enrol in grade 8, adjusted for migration in and out of British Columbia. The calculation includes both public and independent schools combined, but not on-reserve First Nations schools. "Indigenous" includes people who self-identify as having "Indigenous Ancestry" on a voluntary basis during school enrolment. This includes First Nations (both Status and Non-Status) on reserve and off reserve, Inuit, and Métis students. See Appendix B for more information about this data source. Source: BC Ministry of Education. Prepared by Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer, BC Ministry of Health, August 2019.

Foundational Commitments to Indigenous Peoples

WHY - Obligations

- Treaties
- Canadian Constitution - Section 35
- Federal UNDRIP law
- Provincial UNDRIP law
- Stated commitments by governments



WHAT - Framework

- UNDRIP is the framework for reconciliation
- 10 Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples



HOW - Instructions

- TRC (94 Calls to Action)
- MMIWG (231 Calls for Justice)
- BC In Plain Sight (24 Recommendations)
- BC Declaration Act Action Plan (89 actions)
- HSO BC Cultural Safety & Humility Standard for health organizations (92 criteria)



ACTION - Implementation

- Are we holding space for this work yet? If not, how will we hold space moving forward?
- How are we *upholding* or *undermining* these foundational commitments?
- How will we hardwire in *accountability* and *action*?
- BC Cultural Safety & Humility Standard (92 criteria)

**Incomplete:
Our attention,
accountability,
and action
needed!**

What Work, Whose Work?

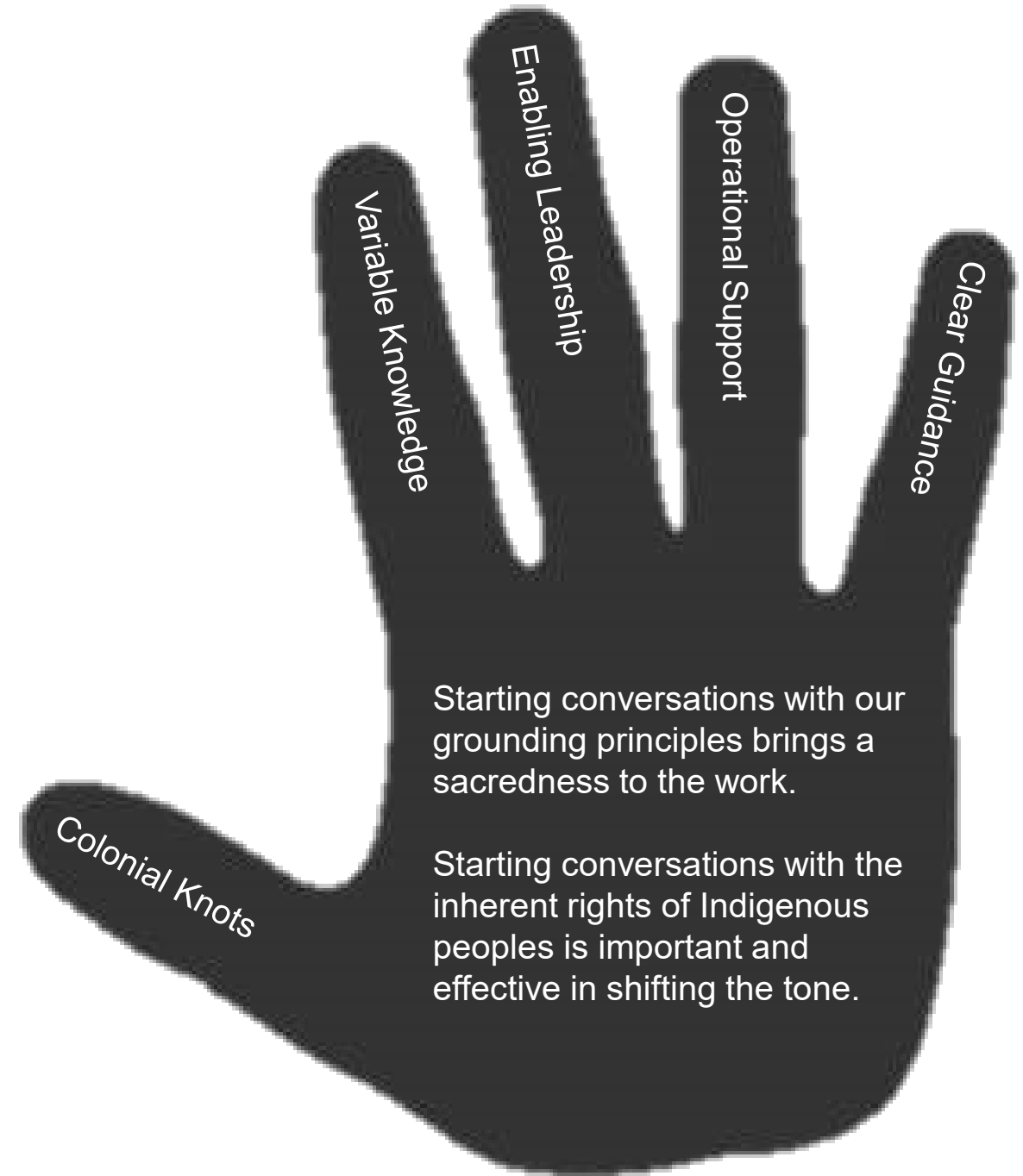
Indigenous Health & Wellness:
First Nations, Inuit & Métis Work



**Cultural Safety, Anti-White
Supremacy, & Anti-Racism:**
Settler Work, with guidance from
First Nations, Inuit & Métis



A Handful of Pragmatic Findings to Arrest White Supremacy & Indigenous-Specific Racism in the OPHO



The BC Office of the Provincial Health Officer:

Recognizes the inherent rights and title of BC First Nations and the inherent rights of all First Nations, Metis and Inuit people living in BC.

Acknowledges that these rights can only be fully exercised when the ecosystems in which they are embedded, are vibrant, biodiverse and loved and cared for, therefore we share a collective responsibility to the health and wellness of these territories.

Recognizes the truth that Indigenous-specific racism is perpetuated through white supremacist policies and practices that remain hardwired into our systems and processes and impede the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples.

Actively works to uphold the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples by: taking actions on specific Foundational Commitments made to Indigenous Peoples (e.g., UNDRIP, TRC, MMIWG & In Plain Sight), being trustworthy in relationships with Indigenous partners, and taking anti-racist actions in all aspects of OPHO work.

