

Generative Dialogue—FNMI Challenges and Issues – Participant sharing October 19, 2012

Questions for dialogue

#1 Why does everyone living in Canada need to deepen their understanding about First Nations, Métis and Inuit people?

Responses:

- recognize/ benefit from culture/history
- exponential increase in population
- lack of understanding/ to gain -> by public -> by FNMI youth
- incorrect stereotyping
- “fractured relationships”
- Support is needed (in schools & communities) to promote success & understanding
- To develop a stronger Canadian identity
- We live in an inclusive society
- Part of our history
- Improve high school completion rates by looking closer at what our FNMI students need
- Wisdom in culture can be overlooked because of technology
- We have preconceived notions that can be incorrect –need to correct these
- With more education –move from tolerance to acceptance valued and appreciated
- Within our cultural mosaic, it is important to celebrate and appreciate individual differences and create a sense of belonging
- Developing positive and collaborative relationships means building trust to deepen understanding in meaningful ways
- As educators, so we can better support our FNMI students
- Understanding dispels misunderstandings
- It takes a village to raise ea child
- Understanding builds inclusivity
- Cultural awareness increases respectfulness, tolerance and acceptance. Solutions are based on this awareness
- We need the attitude that we can learn and be enriched by understanding

- Aboriginal people have much to teach us
- Understanding begins with listening
- We need an understanding to be reflective in our practices, implement effective programs
- If everyone values the culture it is no longer a burden
- Giving back -> build back (urban vs reserve)
- Dismissing ignorance
- Not reliving the past
- Origins of new home for imm
- Parallels for new comers
- Acknowledge all (story)
- Honours original care givers of land
- Learning how to survive in this space
- Understanding life skills & process of cultural integration
- Family dynamics

#2 How can we help FNMI people become successful lifelong learners who contribute to healthy, inclusive communities and thriving economies?

Responses:

- Connect with own culture & help them value themselves
- Establish culture in schools of acceptance of diversity
- “thriving economies”- resource management – connection to land & managing natural resources
- Focus in social studies around history and culture exist. How about in science? – land resources
- Help this generation become financially successful
- How to bridge heritage and tradition with western world reserve <-> city
- Need role models & mentors education
- Classroom FNMI literature * understand the history= more sensitivity
- FNMI-> lifelong learners
- Provide a sense of belonging
- Assisting students with transitions (ie student from small community to a diverse classroom)
- Recognize and honour diversity
- Role-modeling weg
- Cultural sharing day or FNMI activities

- welcoming, accepting behaviour
- Connection with student families * trust building
- Cultural sharing day or FNMI awareness activities
- Access FNMI resources
- Listening first for understanding/perspective
- Recognize that there are a range of identities and experience, perspectives
- Honour what each individual needs/wants
- Providing opportunity/choices
- Responsibility for voice to be heard
- Educate ourselves
- Role models
- Positive culturally relevant materials/stories/people
- Mentors
- Relationships
- Affection –don't be afraid of positiveaffection
- Increase our awareness of backgrounds
- Recognize/nurture strengths
- Celebreate/share culture & incorporate/showcase with families
- Honesty/integrity
- High expectations
- Best teaching practice – oral, engage, manipulatives
- Flexibility
- Embrace diversity
- Work with/ dialogue the students community
- Face to face contact in comfortable setting
- Celebrate success
- Listen, in order to learn before changes can be made acknowledge their VOICE
- Go into a place of discomfort, to go on a journey as a learner
- Build relationships
- teach to strengths, build on strengths as a learner (body mind spirit)
- Goal setting, reflections
- Reflective practise
- Be conscious of our language use
-

#3 Why is it important to learn about impacts of policies

Responses

- First of all, knowing the policies helps...
- Often, policies are set/created by gov't without input from FNMI people
- How can these policies also affect non-FNMI? Relationships between all?
- In learning about the policies, we learn the history
- As admin/teachers, we are given unclear/non-specific policies
- How do we implement? No support



