Towards Indigenizing Higher Ed
An online storytelling series
A preliminary update

What is indigenization?
Indigenization is the process of infusing Indigenous knowledge and perspective into the structural layers of an institution. The goal is to create a more inclusive environment through the presentation of a different world view, and to enhance and enrich the educational and cultural experience of the educational community. This does not mean the institution is Indigenous-centred, but it does mean that consideration of Indigenous issues comes "naturally."

Camosun College

“Indigenization is everyone’s responsibility.”
Paul Michel, Director of Aboriginal Education, TRU

Stats to Date
- 4 livestreamed storytelling events
- 20 storytellers
- 2 moderators
- 200 logged-in online participants

Promising Practices at TRU
Examples of TRU Faculties that have indigenized their curriculum:
- Engage and consult with the local indigenous community regarding research and curriculum development, e.g. students developed fentanyl workshops (Social Work).
- Take students to the Kamloops Residential School, the Secwepemc Museum and Jacko Lake (Law).
- Include indigenous scholarly writings and invite knowledge keepers and Elders into classroom (Sociology, Education, Law, English, Art).
- Use of storytelling to engage students and convey knowledge and wisdom (Aboriginal Education, Education, English).
- Create indigenous learning spaces: meet in a circle, build personal connections, go outside for learning (Education, English).
- Show respect for the owners of the land: on course outlines acknowledge the territory, when doing field work connect to the indigenous community (Science, Art, English, Science, Law, Sociology).
- Develop resources for courses on indigenous topics (Art).
- Develop assignments that allow for a diversity of ways of representing and sharing knowledge (Social Work).

What you can do next:
- Review your curriculum and work with your department to look for ways to include indigenous epistemologies and pedagogies.
- Learn about & teach the unique history of Canada’s indigenous peoples. Learn a few words in Secwepemc.
- Study and take on the TRC Calls for Action.
- Make your classroom an inclusive, respectful and culturally safe space for all learners.

www.towards-indigenizing.trubox.ca

Action Steps Taken
1. TRU Aboriginal Education and Open Learning created a clear mandate for series.
2. Put funding and a budget in place
3. Built the team: Aboriginal Education Liaisons, Instructional Designers, Media, IT, Moderators, Administrators
4. Consulted with key people and stakeholders to get advice on indigenous protocol.
5. Invited indigenous and non-indigenous speakers personally and asked the Chairs to invite more.
6. Created and collected support materials for the website, e.g. videos and other resources
7. Advertised widely within and outside TRU
8. Ran the events and maintained the momentum

“When you set the tone that learning about the history of indigenous peoples is valuable and important, students will follow.”
Shelly Johnson
Canada Research Chair in Indigenizing Higher Education, TRU

TRC Calls to Action for Educators
#62 ii educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
iii. utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
#63 iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
5 advance understanding of reconciliation.

In response, TRU created an inquiry to:
- What does it mean to indigenize higher ed?
- What does an indigenized university look like?
- What are the benefits of indigenization?
- How can faculty indigenize their curriculum?
- Why does it matter?