How can decolonization support Indigenous learners achieve success?

What was/is Colonization?

- Processes
  - 500 years of colonial policies and process have lead to the dismal state of affairs of Indigenous people in Canada
- Policies
- Impacts
  - Systemic Racism
  - Current Lack of Wellness
  - Loss of: Language, Culture, Knowledge Systems, Education Systems, Economies, Access to Land & Resources, Identities, Traditional Healthcare
- Continued Oppression: All of these systems continue to oppress Indigenous peoples
  - Western Education
  - Child Welfare
  - Social Welfare
  - Poverty
  - Mental Health
  - Health Care System

Decolonization

- Indigenizing
  - Processes
  - Policy
  - Culture
  - Worldviews
- Definition of Decolonization: the undoing of colonialism, where a nation establishes and maintains its domination over dependent territories.
  - Decolonization engages with imperialism and colonialism at every level
  - Regenerate Indigenous knowledges, epistemologies, and ways of life

Fixing the Problem with the Problem

- Western Education systems were a key process of colonization
- Lack of Decolonized Indigenous Education & Supports

Lived Experiences

- Heiltsuk & Nuu-Chah-Nulth Identity
- Growing up on the reserve
- Family history of Indian Residential School
- Working together with First Nations youth and communities
- First hand experience of the legacy of colonization
- Connection to land, traditional ecological knowledge, and cultural practices

Defining Success

- Holistic Wellbeing

- Social & Emotional Learning

- Wellbeing
  - Collective
  - Individual

Current Gaps

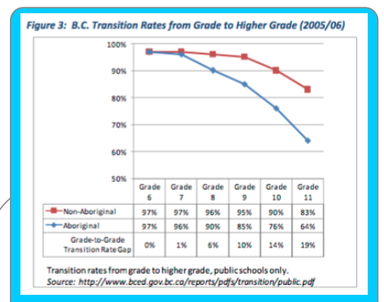
- Graduation Rates

Table B: B.C. Grade 12 Graduation Performance, Aboriginal vs. Non-Aboriginal Students

Grade 12 Graduation Measure	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Gap
Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate	47%	79%	32%
First-time Grade 12 Graduation Rate	52%	80%	28%
Eligible to Graduate Graduation Rate	89%	95%	7%

- Highschool Grade Transitions

Figure 3: B.C. Transition Rates from Grade to Higher Grade (2005/06)



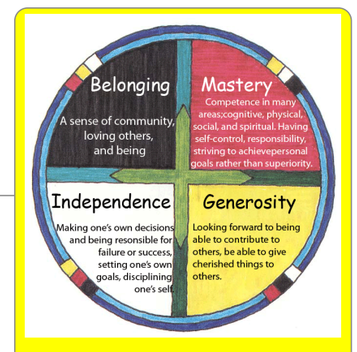
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
Non-Aboriginal	97%	97%	96%	95%	90%	83%
Aboriginal	97%	96%	90%	85%	76%	64%
Grade-to-Grade Transition Rate Gap	0%	1%	6%	10%	14%	19%

Transition rates from grade to higher grade, public schools only.
Source: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/transition/public.pdf

- Health & Wellness
  - Lower Life Expectancy
  - Higher rates of mental illness
  - Higher rates of infectious disease
  - Higher infant mortality
  - Lower Socioeconomic Status
- Funding Gaps
  - First Nations children on reserve recieve 25% less funding that other Canadians simply because they are First Nations and live on reserve

Looking Back to Go Forwards

- Rediscovery
  - Ancient Pathways, New Directions
  - "Drawing on the teachings of Indigenous peoples and the wisdom of the Elders, with a philosophy of love and respect for each other and the earth, Rediscovery seeks to empower youth of all ages to discover the world within themselves, the world between cultures and the natural world".
- Circle of Courage Philosophy



- Community Based Education
  - Intergenerational learning
  - Language Revitalization
  - Indigneous Pedagogies
- Best Practices
  - What are they?
- Culture As:
  - Supportive
  - Protective
  - Intervention
  - Healing