

The Chilliwack School District operates on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Ts'elxwéyeqw (Ch-ihl-kway-uhk), Pilalt and Semá:th Peoples. Located within the Sto:lo territory, Ts'elxwéyeqw is a watershed of interconnected lakes, rivers, and streams. The very word, Ts'elxwéyeqw, describes the action of traveling upstream.

Like a river, the language used to describe and define identity is dynamic and changing. The Chilliwack School district is committed to utilizing language that recognizes, respects, and reflects current understandings.

Indigenous Peoples are the experts of their own realities

As a result, the Chilliwack School District Aboriginal Education Department will now move forward as **Indigenous Education Department.**



We can honour and remember our shared histories when we navigate a path toward a more respectful understanding of Indigenous identities.

We invite you to continue your own journey to deepen your understanding of the diversity and identity of Indigenous Peoples.

Leq'áleq'el te Sqweltels

A Language Journey

INDIGENOUS

Universal term used to describe the original inhabitants of any land. Includes the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Note, "The Indigenous People of Canada" is more appropriate than "Canada's Indigenous People".

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION Indigenous, Indigenous Peoples* of Canada. *The "s" recognizes the diversity of groups under this umbrella term.

FIRST NATIONS

First Nations is a term that sometimes collectively refers to reserve-based communities. Although some communities do not use this term for self-reference (e.g. Shxwhá:y Village). The term can also be used to refer to individuals.

INDIAN

'status Indian,').

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION First Nation, First Nation(s)

The term Indian should be avoided in most contexts unless as part of a historical reference or when referring to government policy or

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION Use with caution

classification (e.g., The Indian Act,

TRADITIONAL & ANCESTRAL

Terms commonly used when acknowledging

Traditional refers to the intimate connection to the territy including oral histories, language, and governance. These connections have existed since time immemorial (before living memory).

Ancestral refers to the relational connection to territory; in which Indigenous peoples carry with them living histories of place.

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION These terms acknowledge and respect longstanding relationships between Indigenous Peoples and territory.

ABORIGINAL

Umbrella term that includes First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.. The term is not widely used outside of Canada. It may carry a negative connotation through its use in government policy. Indigenous is the globally recognized and preferred term.

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION Use this term with caution.

INUI

The Indigenous People of Northern Canada and the Arctic, including Nunavut, The Northwest Territories, and the Yukon.

Inuit literally means "The People" in Inuktitut, the traditional language of the Inuit

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION Inuit, Inuk (singular)

MÉTIS

The Métis people have a unique geographic, social, cultural, and linguistic history.

Métis refers to people with historic connections to Red River Métis communities and métis refers to people with mixed Indigenous and European Ancestry.

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION
M(m)etis *Note capital M and lowercase m

BAND, (FIRST) NATION, VILLAGE, TRIBE

Terms used in varying degrees when referring to a community or community organization. Terms including Band and reserve have colonial connections. They have been used historically by the Canadian government to refer to on-reserve communities.

Eg. Sq'ewqeyl First Nation; Shxwa:y Village; Ts'elxweyeqw Tribes Ltd.; Band Members, etc.

LANGUAGE FOR RECONCILIATION These terms are determined by the communities using them and are to be used within that context. If unsure, seek out the community's website or ask.

The above are common terms and definitions to consider in our work. These explanations are intended to give a general idea of terminology that exists. It is not an exhaustive representation! Continue your learning at the SD33 Indigenous Education

Department website at https://learningservices.sd33.bc.ca/welcome-aboriginal-education-department.

"The use of terminology by powerful institutions, like school districts, makes a difference in the journey to Reconciliation."

Kesler, L. UBC. 2018

























