

# Kamloops Training (flip chart)Notes

## Shuswap Territory

### April 29/30, 2010

We discussed: “**What are traditional practices that include protocol, values and relationships?**” when conducting research with Indigenous People or in Indigenous communities. The following practices were identified during the training:

- It was suggested that one could use traditional star blanket. For example:
  - The eight points could be used as metaphors or analogies for different parts of the research process and findings
  - There are protocols in creating a blanket, similar to the idea that there are protocols that must be followed when conducting research
  - There are also teachings associated with creating a star blanket, just like there are teachings related to conducting research, and teachings to be learned from doing research
- Reviewing archived materials was another suggestion
- Gifting, tea, and conversations were all seen as important elements to acknowledging research participants and building relationship
- Listening and flexibility were suggested as well
- Starting, staying and being present were recommended to have a good research experience
- The importance of meeting people where are at was also raised
- Doing the research when the time is right, instead of just when it is convenient also came up in this discussion
- Building rapport was seen as essential to the research process
- respect was identified as being of utmost importance when conducting research

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*We also discussed the **steps** necessary in doing research, including:*

Weeding through tons of material

Understanding that it can take a long time to do a preliminary report

The point was also raised that many people do not recognize the intergenerational trauma and Indigenous worldview in terms of how we do things, and that this failure to understand this is problematic

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*Three essential **ingredients for successful research** were also identified:*

Respect

Honour

Relationship

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*Traditional skills were demonstrated as metaphors for **research**:*

Dip Net

- preparation (finding proper poles for the dip net, and other skills to make the net are all like the preparation for research including getting to know people, learning about an issue, etc.)
- consulting those who know how to make a dip net and made an offering is similar to building relationships and interviewing participants, and gifting people for sharing their stories and knowledge
- protocol of the people and of the land
- respect for the land, community and people
- sharing teachings
- patience, just like you can't rush the making of a dip net, you also can't put a time limit on doing research in a good way
- building lifelong relationships
- you don't always think you know where the research is going – be open
- lifelong learning

Pine Needle Basket Weaving

- teachings in relationship to the project are integral
- not just for art, research has to mean something for participants, and give back something to those that share their knowledge and stories
- set time aside to focus, stay focused on what you are doing and the person you are working with
- respect