

# Weaving Together a Basket of Values, Knowledge and Teachings: Affirming Aboriginal Research



# My Story: Generations Deep



## GENERATIONS DEEP

My life is generations deep,  
braided with time, cultures, the living elements and spirits of love.

My life is generations deep,  
wrapped in eagle's wings, rooted in cedar,  
blanketed in being Heiltsuk

I am an earth woman, sustained by the sea and nourished by all creation.

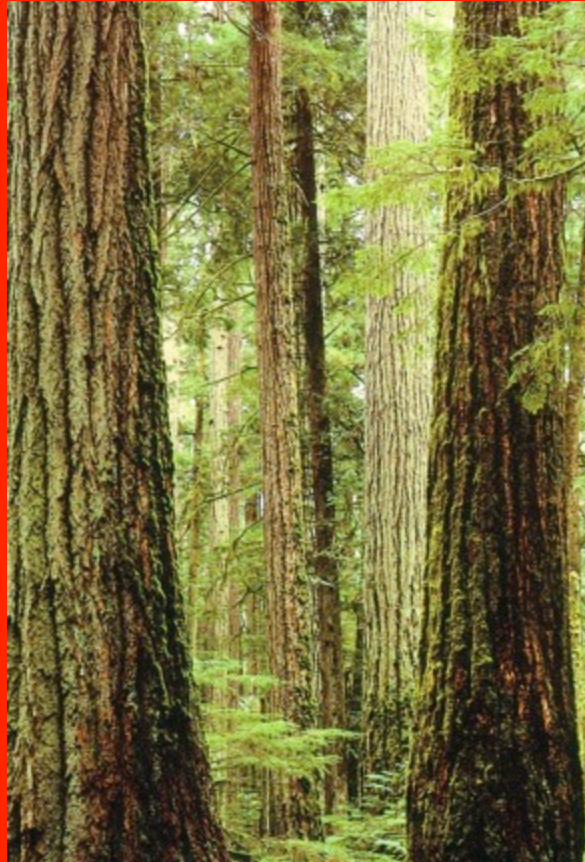
I carry in my blood and heart the songs, stories and sorrows of my ancestors.

I hold my head high and lift my prayers to the Creator.

May each step of my journey ensure that you, my child  
are wrapped in my blanket of family, community and culture

Juba Reid

Traditionally, Aboriginal children, families communities and cultures were sustained through our relationships with one another and all creation.



# Questions We Will Discuss:

- What is an Aboriginal approach to research and how can it be helpful to children, families and communities (Examples)?
- What does Aboriginal research include?
- What are the traditional values and cultural strengths that we are rebuilding and asserting in Aboriginal research?

# Questions We Will Discuss:

- What Aboriginal protocols are important within research processes?
- How do we respectfully engage community members, youth and elders in research processes?

# Questions We Will Discuss:

- How do we know that our research is helpful or meaningful with Aboriginal peoples?
- How do we evaluate and share our research findings?

# Questions We Will Discuss:

- What Aboriginal research successes can we build on?
- What research strategies can we share to assist other's Aboriginal programs and communities in their research endeavors?



# Lessons from Some of the Mainstream Research Approaches with Aboriginal Peoples:

- We must learn from the dominant mainstream research processes that have been harmful or meaningless with Aboriginal peoples.
- We can build on what has been useful regarding mainstream research approaches with Aboriginal peoples?
- We can build on research successes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal research projects & processes.

# Tree of Life: We Are All Connected



Interdependence- all life sustains us

“The cedar tree has sustained the Heiltsuk from the cradle to the Grave”-

Evelyn Windsor, Heiltsuk Elder

We are all connected as human beings and living beings

Symbolism of cedar tree and cultural identity

# Colonial Impacts on Aboriginal Children and Aboriginal Cultural Identities



Aboriginal Children have been uprooted from their families, communities, land relationships that sustained them and provided their cultural identity.

“Our children were uprooted and pulled right from his or her essence”  
Connie Newman, Heiltsuk Elder

# Aboriginal Peoples' Roles: Kaxyala Qvilas

Kaxyala Qvilas: To uplift the laws, customs and traditions of our ancestors and to ensure they affirmed and integrated into all aspects of our Relationships, education, research projects and program delivery.

# Aboriginal Peoples' Roles: Kaxyala Qvilas

To attempt **to mitigate** the inter-generational and ongoing impacts of colonial laws, policies and actions on our children, families, communities and cultures.

# Aboriginal Peoples' Roles: Kaxyala Qvilas:

**“To build on innovations** that are based on thousands of years of successful caring for children, families and communities and the challenge is to **find and think of ways to bridge it forward.”**

(First Nations Agency Social Worker, 2002).

# What are the strands that we are weaving Together?

- The strands of:
  - Traditional language, cultural knowledge, values and practices;
  - Restoring interdependent relationships of accountability and responsibility;

# Weaving Together the Stands of:

- Respectful ways of relating (protocols);
- Defining how we know research is “good” and beneficial for Aboriginal peoples?;
- Strong cultural identities;



# Cedar Trees & Cultural identity: “Those Who Are Rooted”



# Honouring Diversity:



# Weaving Together the Strands of:

- Inclusion and active participation for children, youth and community members; and
- Equitable funding and culturally and community based services.

# Weaving Together and Passing on the Aboriginal Ways:



# The Vision: A Strong Cultural Basket



# Vision: Weaving a Basket to Support All of Our Children

Respecting and Honouring diversity within Aboriginal Nations and peoples;

Living with the values of respect and Shared responsibility and accountability within Relationships for the present and future generations; and

Supporting Aboriginal Children and nurturing And maintaining their cultural identities through our relationships, research, policies and practices.