

– KAMLOOPS TRAINING EVALUATIONS –  
APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010  
FISH SOUP FOR THE INDIGENOUS SOUL

***Please explain if and how the research training was valuable to you and/or your organization:***

This session reminded me of all the wrong things that go on still for our children, but it was great to see how many people are working hard to make things better.

The research training will help Aboriginal CATCH to build relationships in our community so that we can learn more about how to help families raise healthier children.

The research training was very valuable to me personally and professionally. It has reminded me to re-ground myself and be more productive and efficient by incorporating our cultural practices and philosophies.

I found the training valuable because it reinforces the importance of Indigenous knowledge, values and beliefs when conducting research. It is important to develop relationship which are respectful and reciprocal when approaching individuals and community participants.

The training helped me to see my work through different lenses than I currently do. Presentations of cultural ceremony and tradition show us that we think differently than non- Aboriginal people. And if we think differently than we will need different tools and perspectives (and those in the research community need to value this) to gather information about our people and what their needs are.

Meet and speak with First Nations/ Métis people involved in Indigenous research in BC. Listen to Elders and youth's views/insights on the issues. Be introduced to innovative research and methodologies ' from an Indigenous perspective'. Understand the work that I have been doing with the Stoney Nakoda First Nations in Alberta, into its natural/right context. Use these understandings gained to share with others.

Having read through the enlightening wealth of information in the folder, I would like the sessions to touch more on the samples of research abstracts, reports, publications included, so that we could discuss and reinforce important understandings gained from these knowledgeable Indigenous writers, within the dynamic of the group. Thank you again for the opportunity to share in the training, and pass on understandings gained to the Elders we work with.

***In your own words, share how this training has changed or challenged your perception of Indigenous research:***

I never realized how much the young ones are looking for the old teachings and ways to use them in their lives today. The research is helping find the old ways.

This training has made me see the value of using metaphors and symbols to explain information and ideas.

I am new to this field so for this learning curve it is a challenge. I am in awe by a few of the personal stories that was shared by people who have been adopted out. For people not in this field need to be more educated. I know personally there isn't a lot of resources to educate us.

It has shown the applying Indigenous research within the context of community is feasible and provides data for the community to implement their own solutions for improving the health and well-being of their membership. It has challenged me in that I can see the actual application and outcomes of research which does not leave individuals or communities feeling once again studied.

I am challenged to discover new ways to do accurate research that is culture based.

It has changed/challenged my perception through listening to First Nations/Métis Elders, youth, practitioners and researchers who have worked hard and against many personal and institutional odds, to gain recognition of their qualifications in this field (whether acquired through formal education, oral tradition or traditional practices). It has made me more aware that Indigenous youth are now using the knowledge gained in formal education settings, for the betterment of themselves, their communities and most importantly to educate others about 'Indigenous ways of researching' for the future. I was not aware of the considerable number of young people in B.C. working towards these self-determining and decolonizing goals. It has made me aware that mainstream Canadian organizations/institutions are beginning to open the door to a more authentic inclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing and doing, through working in partnership with Indigenous people and better recognition of the legitimate knowledge and skills that they bring.

### ***In what ways could this training be helpful for others?***

The training is a tool to help gather the teachings and how to use them again.

It could help others to see the value of the knowledge within communities and respect the people – Elders and others who can share culture and language.

This training could be very helpful for different levels of staff in this field as well as a new workshop developed along the same structure, that includes the traditional teachings to social works or others in this field and school liaisons. It is an excellent way to educate about what you guys are doing, what your values and concerns in regards of the process, procedures and goals.

In providing reinforcement and validation that Indigenous research methods incorporate holistic values which support communities to look at the valuable tools and information that already exists from within.

I believe that this training could do for others what it has done for me and even more. It can open people's minds to doing research differently. To doing research through cultural lenses. The fact is that all current research is being done from a cultural perspective; it just needs to be ours for our people from now on.

The training is very helpful as a reminder, guide and basis for those of us who work with First Nations/Métis Elders and youth that: they are looking for self-affirmation, a way to be included/fit in to mainstream society without having to compromise their own unique identity; the specialized skills required when dealing with non-Native organizations/agencies, in the face of exclusionary/dismissive ethnocentric practices and power imbalances inherent in these; it creates the necessary 'shift in thinking' required to change the status-quo, by placing Indigenous issues in a broader historical context... one that honours and gives justice to the often forgotten contributions Indigenous people have made and continue to make to the well-being of Canadian society as a whole, and to the health of the earth that all life depends on.

### ***What would you like to see added to this training?***

Everything was very well done and thorough, I can't think of anything more.

More stories!

I would like to see added is social evening, a contact list of participants, transportation for ones without vehicles, table of the books that were mentioned for viewing.

I would like to see the training offered to the social workers from mainstream systems; in particular MCFD staff. I think it is important to create environments where learning can happen for the front-line workers as well as management and administration.

I would like to see more Elders attend where maybe there could be one Elder for each small group or at each table. I believe this would have a huge effect on the participants directly.

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***Provide any feedback or recommendations about how the training was facilitated:***

From the delicious food and drink to every presenter to the very well organized agenda it was a privilege and a joy to be a part.

I liked that the training felt relaxed and comfortable – good preparation and involvement of Elders in a meaningful way (sometimes Elders are not included!). Thank you, I'm glad that I came.

Loved the training and facilitators. It is a very excellent atmosphere. Great format the training was structured. Oh yeah, and the food was great!

The training was well organized from the start which can influence the tone for attending participants. The facilitations was well done in an atmosphere which reflected ease and comfort for participants to ask questions and interact amongst the facilitators and each other. Using various teaching techniques such as hands on experiences, storytelling, flip charts, PowerPoint presentations, Tool Kit binder with readings, and CD, respectfully acknowledges the various learning tools available and ways to incorporate them. I thought the delicious food was prepared and presented in a style that was available to me throughout the day; not just at specified breaks or lunch time. I appreciated the time take to create relationships with participants with participants and to have a closure which including a process of gifting.

I think the training was facilitated very well.