

LOCATING OURSELVES



CIRCLE WORK

- ❖ Moving into circles for our work, our way
- ❖ Not using numbers for circle work
- ❖ Using animal relatives as markers for the work





GETTING TO KNOW YOU



- ❖ If you had to choose a song that best describes where you are at in life—what would it be?
- ❖ Who is the person that you have the most admiration for in your life?
- ❖ What characteristic do you most value in other people?
- ❖ What is an amusing characteristic or quirk about yourself that you would like to share with others?

GLADUE REPORTS, CHILD WELL BEING,
HISTORICAL CONTEXTS & JUSTICE



GLADUE REPORTS

- ❖ Gladue Reports come from a case that involved a young Métis Cree woman named Jamie Gladue who lived in Nanaimo BC.
- ❖ Jamie and her boyfriend Rueben, fought bitterly one evening in Nanaimo and it resulted in Ruben's death.
- ❖ Jamie was brought to court and convicted for Rueben's death and at sentencing time, her attorney was asked if there were extenuating circumstances that could be considered at her sentencing. He replied that both she and Rueben lived in Nanaimo, an urban centre and the result was no historical context, or circumstances from her life were considered at sentencing, contrary to a new implementation of section 718.2(e) in the criminal code.

718.2(E) CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA

- ❖ Implemented to deal with the high over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system
- ❖ Recognizes the unique circumstances and life situations, experiences that have brought an Aboriginal person to the court and sentencing system at this time.
- ❖ *“(e) all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal [sic] offenders.”*

JAMIE GLADUE AND HER STORY

- ❖ In the appeals transcripts, Jamie's life begins to be told.
- ❖ When she was eleven, her mother left Jamie and her eight siblings in the care of her Métis father in a small northern Metis community in Alberta.
- ❖ Jamie's mother passes away when she was fourteen in a car accident.
- ❖ At age 17 Jamie has a daughter with boyfriend Rueben Beaver and is living with him as well as the rest of her family.
- ❖ In 1995, her father, two of her sisters, Rueben and Jamie move to Nanaimo, BC.


JAMIE'S LOCATION

- ❖ In Nanaimo, Jamie, her father, two sisters, Rueben and her daughter are living together
- ❖ Jamie and Rueben are drinking and she discovers he is having an affair with her sister
- ❖ She confronts and threatens him and he dies from a single stab wound to the heart
- ❖ Jamie discovers at around this time she is pregnant with her second child that she eventually gives birth to and names the child Rueben Beaver
- ❖ Through medical workups, Jamie discovers that she has a thyroid condition that causes her to explosively overreact to situations




JAMIE'S STORY AND OUR OWN STORIES

- ❖ It is undeniable that Indigenous people have suffered the impacts of colonization and colonialism in Canada.
- ❖ Residential schools, the sixties scoop, outlawing of Spirituality, conversion and Christianity, loss of territory, home, identity and language authorities, roles and traditions
- ❖ Loss of culture, discrimination, racism and systemic prejudicim have all leveled a tremendous impact on Indigenous peoples that results in a continued high representation in the justice system and also the child welfare system.



HOW TO USE OUR STORIES & LOCATIONS AS A
STRENGTH-BASED BLANKET THAT EACH OF US
WEARS THAT HONOURS OUR LOCATION



❖ As Indigenous people collectively we have moved through our own unique colonial experiences and have a deep understanding and meaningful position in the world. Think of all your stories as a blanket you wear.

❖ We have our stories of ourselves and our wisdom-keepers and people in the community hold these pieces. We all have our own historical context that matters, legally, socially, politically and spiritually.



MOVING TOWARDS CHILD WELL-BEING AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS



- ❖ When we talk about child well being, all of our children have a story that needs to be honoured and examined when working with a family. All of our children, has a blanket. We need to add to that blanket for the child, for each of us.

- ❖ Wisdom keepers, community members, practitioners need to move to collect the story and present it, so that a determination can be made that examines historical context and also uses Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being to be able to find solutions in cases where children come into the system.

THINKING ABOUT & HONOURING OUR OWN
STORIES BLANKETS

❖ Shanne McCaffrey's blanket would have:



PICKING A FEATHER FOR YOUR
BLANKET

