

Reflection #2

How am I meeting Standard 9 of the Professional Standards for BC Education? Well to start, this Standard states “Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis.” This is a lot to take in and quite daunting to myself but can be broken down into three parts, Past, Present, and Future.

My past knowledge of Indigenous worldviews is nearly no existent. I remember going through grade school and only touching on this subject in Social Studies. But even then, this was just a telling of the history of Canada. I don’t remember going into depth about the culture or practices of the people. Once I entered this program, then more light was shed on this subject for me. I have learned about the First People’s Principles of Learning and how to Indigenize some of my lessons. This was an eye opener to new ways of learning and teaching to me. For my last practicum I was given the task of coming up with a lesson in Metalworking for Day of Suwewtcw. This was a scary thought to me but after some research, I came up with a great idea. Two of the topics for the day was about respect for others and gathering materials/resources. I tasked my class with making me a sign for the door but having each student do one aspect of it and gathering what they wanted to use. After each student, the next would have to respect what the previous did and build upon that. The sign turned out great and all the students engraved their names in the back and gifted it to me after my practicum was over. I still have it today.

Currently, I value the views of the First Nations and how they have passed on knowledge and overcome so much. I think the spoken history speaks to me as I am from Norwegian ancestry and my people also passed on stories and knowledge through spoken word called Sagas. In my teaching style, I have used lots of story telling to give examples to my students. This helped them correlate the real world to the classroom. I also resonate with the FPPL statement about “Learning involves patience and time.” In my shop classes, I always had to show students to take their time with projects or else they would rush and wouldn’t turn out the best. I also told them to practice before working on their projects because it takes time to be good at something. And lastly, I think the statement “Learning requires exploration of one’s identity”, is true to me. I gave my students lots of freedom to come up with what they wanted to build, practice more of, or what they enjoyed. I think this was true to their identity as some students liked to weld or machine things. Nothing was forced and they enjoyed making what they felt was their best work every time.

Finally, the future of my journey. I will continue to uphold the Standard 9 and keep FPPL in mind periodically throughout my teaching life. I will either come up with my own interpretations for lessons and activities or consult my colleagues for their input or collaboration. I feel this is an ever-growing subject and I can always learn more and work on it. It is never over or done with and I will always surprise myself. I look forward to where I can go with this in the years to come.