

Eye? Sqâ'lewen

**The Centre for Indigenous Education
& Community Connections**



Our Ways of Being With Each Other

OUR SONG

WE WALK TOGETHER

We are guided by the teachings of Eyē? Sqâ'lewen, good heart, good mind, good spirit.

WE LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP

with each other
with students
with community
with the college.

OUR CORE VALUE IS

RESPECT

for ourselves
for each other
for the students we serve
for all the work we do.

WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

for our words
for our actions
for the meanings of our work
for the impacts we create.

WE WALK TOGETHER,

Na'tsa'maht

WE ARE ONE.



Eyē? Sqâ'lewen

The Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections

Philosophy

Honouring our teachings, we seek and hold values of trust, wisdom, integrity, courage, humility and love. From this we walk alongside students to encourage in them – and in ourselves – perseverance, commitment and excellence.

Beliefs

We believe that Indigenous learners, including us, reach our fullest potential and greatest joy when our connections with land and water, identity, and tradition are integrated into the ways we learn and teach.

Commitment

We engage in Indigenous education, services and leadership that enhances student learning and enriches relationships with community.

Eyē? Sqâ'lewen is a Lekwungen phrase that references "good heart, good mind, good spirit." It was given to us as our name by Elder Elmer George of the Songhees Nation. Al Sam, a bighouse speaker and member of the Tsartlip Nation, also suggested a version of this name but in his Hul'qumi'num language. Those of us who work in Eyē? Sqâ'lewen: the Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections strive to live up to this profound name.

"Our Ways of Being With Each Other" is a set of principles to guide our intentions and behaviour, both individually and collectively, both with each other and with ourselves. These principles reflect our cultural values and our responsibilities. These principles may be used to support self-reflection and conversations with each other, as we work towards living Eyē? Sqâ'lewen.

"Our Ways of Being With Each Other" was produced by the collective of Eyē? Sqâ'lewen: the Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections. We began discussions of how to best work together in 2015 and during the following four years devoted significant time, energy, thought and love to articulating the purpose and content of what became "Our Ways of Being With Each Other." This is a living document, meaning that it grows with us. We will check in with it, or portions therein, throughout each year to see how we are doing in living up to our ideals.

"Our Ways of Being With Each Other" is a gift that we share with each other, and a responsibility we carry in our relationships with each other. Let us walk well.



Self-Awareness

Respectful Communication

Supportive Relationships

Collective Responsibility

Self-Awareness

- We are of the Land and of the Water.
- We honour and share our individual gifts.
- We commit to self-care practices.
- We spend time in reflection.
- We are open to new learning opportunities.
- We practice humble curiosity.
- We recognize our responsibilities as role models and leaders – to each other, to students, and to the broader communities we inhabit.

Respectful Communication

- We greet each other in the spirit of Eyē? Sqâ'lewen.
- We interact with kindness and honesty.
- We take reasonable risks to being vulnerable, sharing our stories and setting and accepting boundaries.
- We ask for help when we need support and guidance.
- We practice active listening.
- We practice direct communication and seek clarity when a question lingers.
- We tell each other about our work, and share our processes and decision-making when appropriate.

Supportive Relationships

- We nurture trust and belonging with each other.
- We check in with one another regularly and look out for each other's wellness.
- We respect that we are all in different places spiritually and culturally.
- We acknowledge other's gifts and accomplishments.
- We create time and space to celebrate one another.
- We respect each other's workspaces, work and time.
- We offer ourselves as mentors and are open to mentorship.
- We are compassionate towards one another.
- We acknowledge the growth that can emerge through conflict, understanding, forgiveness and healing.

Collective Responsibility

- We walk with respect and humility on the local territories.
- We show up.
- We hold ourselves accountable to our work and commitments.
- We encourage and embrace new learning as well as opportunities to share our own knowledge and expertise.
- We commit to be aware of and address workload equity.
- We practice inclusivity and reciprocity in our work with one another across our roles.
- We host and contribute to ceremony and other events, as we can.
- We are aware, and act on our awareness, of how our wellness and wellness practices affect others.
- We commit to strong relationships with local communities.
- We are of the Land and of the Water.

Written by Ruth
Lyll, Janice Simcoe
and Ian Humphries
in participation with

Kelly Aguirre, Dianne Biin, Sylvia Fee, Anita Ferris, Trevor Good, Tommy Happynook, Tanya Kirkland, Christine LaVallee, Vivian Leik, Lorri Leonard, Marcey Louie, Faye Martin, Alli Matchett, Wendy McDonald, Corrine Michel, Sandee Mitchell, Todd Ormiston, Doreen Provencher, Allisen Rocko, Zofia Rogowski, Richard Spearman, Rebecca Taylor, Grace-Anne Thunder, Karen Whetung , Suzanne Wilkinson

