

Empowering the Spirit is a collection of resources curated to increase awareness and understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit histories, perspectives and ways of knowing.



www.empoweringthespirit.ca

The collection of tools, videos and websites found within **Empowering the Spirit** lend support to teachers and school leaders as they endeavor to weave Indigenous knowledge systems into their current practice. In celebration of the important connectedness of learning and the natural world, and in appreciation of the Indigenous peoples who were this land's first keepers, the turtle icon serves as a symbolic guide to help navigate this site. The turtle is significant in many Indigenous communities as a crucial member of the Creation story, viewed as a knowledge keeper and teacher.

The *Empowering the Spirit* website provides guidance and support for your professional learning and practice in three areas:

- Foundational Knowledge
- Leading the Learning
- Classroom Supports

Starting Your Journey

Digging Deeper

Further Links



Foundational Knowledge should be used to build understandings of concepts, terms and knowledge, shift your thinking and attitudes... and advance reconciliation.

Go to **Starting Your Journey** to build knowledge and understanding of important terminology. Links to supporting resources and sources are shared on this web page.

Find resources and sources on **Digging Deeper** that support individual study and group learning. Dig deeper into important terminology and foundational knowledge with the fnmiprofessionallearning.ca website as well as the series of ARPDC Foundational Knowledge Conversation Guides.

Use **Further Links** to continue to build your knowledge and understandings.

Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed by the Alberta Regional Professional Learning Consortium to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.



Leading the Learning is intended to be used for staff development, from promising practices to illustrative examples from school jurisdictions and supporting resources from Alberta Education.

Find resources and sources for professional learning on **Supporting Staff Development**, including a facilitator guide for the 11 ARPDC Foundational Knowledge Conversation Guide series on the **Digging Deeper** web page. Links to the fnmiprofessionallearning.ca website provides supports for a professional learning process.

Explore resources, websites and promising practices from Alberta school jurisdictions on **District Practices**.

Go to **From Alberta Education** to focus on links and documents that support the mandatory inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences in current and future curriculum in Alberta.

Supporting Staff Development

District Practices

From Alberta Education

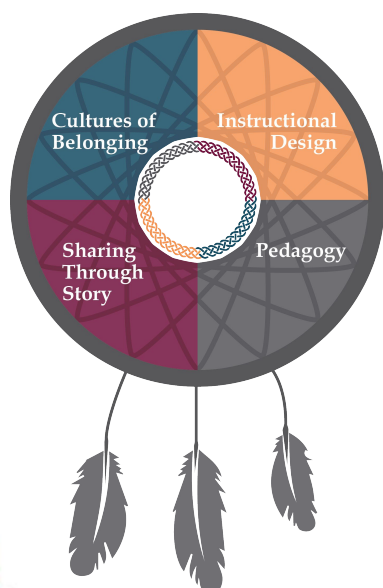


Cultures of Belonging

Instructional Design

Pedagogy

Sharing Through Story



Classroom Supports builds upon the ideas presented in the **Weaving Ways** introductory guide. Organized into four interrelated quadrants, or ways in which teachers can organize their thinking and approaches, this resource assists teachers in the design of meaningful teaching and learning opportunities that weave together Indigenous ways of knowing with their current pedagogical practices for the benefit of all students and our collective journey towards reconciliation.

Find supports for *Experiential Learning* and *Identity, Wellness, Spirituality and Holistic Learning* in **Cultures of Belonging** that build whole school approaches that include Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and relating.

Use **Instructional Design** to create instructional designs that value Indigenous and other knowledge systems as powerful drivers of learning to promote cultural appreciation and advance reconciliation.

Use resources and sources for *Supporting Pedagogies* and find *Subject Specific Resources* in **Pedagogy**.

Build deeper connections to learning outcomes for all students in **Sharing Through Story**.

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Questions for Discussion and Reflection

What insights and understandings around professional learning do you hope to gain?

After exploring the foundation resources, what new understandings do you have regarding implementation of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content and perspectives?

How can increased understandings of foundational terminology influence the way in which you plan implementation strategies for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and content?



How can you plan to use the resources in **Leading the Learning** to guide and support implementation of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit competency from the professional practice standard documents for Alberta teachers, school leaders and system authority leaders?

What professional learning processes in the *ARPDC Facilitator Guide for the Foundational Knowledge Conversation Guides* are most relevant to your professional community?

How can the insights and recommendations shared by Alberta jurisdictions inform and/or influence your practice or the practice of those you lead?

What processes, tools and supports from the **First Nations, Métis and Inuit Professional Learning** website can help you build capacity?

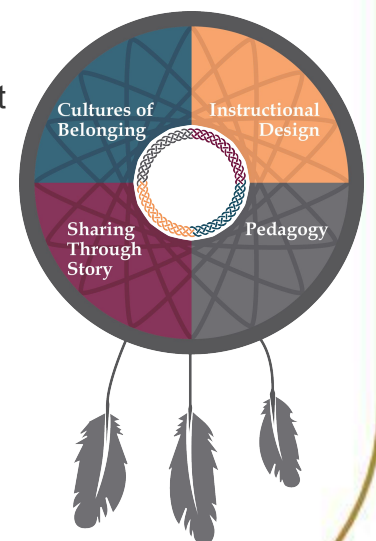
In what ways can the guiding questions in **Weaving Ways** inform your professional learning process? Your practice?

In what ways can you integrate experiential learning activities into student and/or staff learning?

How does the concept of holistic wellness affect implementation of your curriculum?

What can the resources in **Instructional Design** and **Pedagogy** enrich and inform your instructional and pedagogical beliefs and approaches?

How can the resources in **Sharing Through Story** help you support deeper connection to learning outcomes for all students through storytelling?



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