

A PATH FORWARD THROUGH RECONCILIATION



Etuaptmumk
TWO-EYED SEEING

A foreword on this document

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission published its first online report—findings that included calls to action and departures from solely colonial ways of thinking. The calls to action were heeded by many, including postsecondary institutions. At that time, Medicine Hat College (MHC) embarked on what we now understand to be a journey. Our Circle,* comprised of a cross-section of different people in different areas of the college including administration, staff, and faculty both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, sought to understand the intention of any Indigenous initiatives, consult with both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Medicine Hat, and provide tangible paths towards Indigenization.

Through numerous conversations with the Circle it became clear that the creation of a plan, as it was originally conceived, was a starting place for a much longer, much-needed conversation. Reconciliation is about establishing good relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our region, which requires us to listen, reflect, and change our approach. While there are clear strategies in this plan, we see the tasks as a bridge

to build long-term sustainable relationships with Indigenous communities. How we teach and function as an institution will change as we are transformed by these good relations.

We hope this journey will take us to a place of restored balance where multiple ways of knowing, being, and living are equally recognized.

We are grateful for the wisdom, guidance, and thoughtfulness provided by everyone who contributed to this path. We acknowledge Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the Nekanee Cree Nation, the Blackfoot Confederacy, and the Metis Nation, and Miywasin Friendship Centre, all of whom saw different iterations of this plan and sat with our Circle. The teachings we learned enriched both this work as well as each of us personally.

Last, we are grateful to live and work on Treaty 7 territory, neighbouring Treaty 4. We acknowledge that these are the traditional homelands of the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina (Sarcee) nations, as well as the Cree, Sioux, and Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples. We also acknowledge we are situated on the homelands of the Metis Nation of Alberta within Region III.

Indigenous or not, we are all Treaty peoples.

**Circle has great importance in Indigenous ways. For us, it's about a place without hierarchy, where all types of knowledge are accepted in a two-eyed seeing way.*

Finding paths into good relationships is the work of reconciliation for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous alike.

“Medicine Hat College is committed to growing awareness, understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and communities, putting action behind our words as we celebrate this shared journey. Building on the work that has brought us this far, this framework provides an aligned direction and an important lens on all that we do.”

Kevin Shufflebotham,
PRESIDENT & CEO

GROWING A VIBRANT FUTURE WITH LEARNERS AND OUR REGION

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

Reconciliation also seeks to build a new way forward: Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk in Mi'kmaw) embraces “learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of mainstream knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all,”

— “Two-Eyed Seeing”: An Indigenous framework to transform fisheries research and management”
as envisaged by Elder Dr. Albert Marshall

Andrea J. Reid, Lauren E. Eckert, John-Francis Lane, Nathan Young, Scott G. Hinch,
Chris T. Darimont, Steven J. Cooke, Natalie C. Ban, Albert Marshall
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Together we will learn Two-Eyed seeing and together we will build this vibrant life for our children, and our grandchildren.

HOW WE RELATE TO EACH OTHER

We use these ideas to guide us as we contribute to the work of decolonization, reconciliation and Indigenization:

- We respect the diverse histories, cultures, values, languages, and ways of knowing of the Indigenous peoples.
- We embrace this rich diversity as part of both healing and learning.
- We know Medicine Hat College is key to the work of reconciliation in our region and we take responsibility for our role in promoting reconciliation.
- We realize that transforming how we are as an institution and bringing relationship into balance (reconciliation) can only be achieved through recognizing we are all interconnected, and that we are embarking on a mutually transformative journey for generations to come.

THE ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE TO START THIS JOURNEY

We see these things as the first steps on our journey:

INCREASE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION & RESEARCH

By learning from and with Indigenous communities, institutions, and organizations, we aim to strengthen the vitality of all people in our region. We also seek to ally with and advocate for our Indigenous partners as they create new knowledge and cultivate their own traditional ways.

BUILD AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES RECONCILIATION

We make room for learning and growing together, helping staff, students and community engage with and learn from Indigenous peoples. In doing so, we aim to create a welcoming, inclusive, nurturing environment that supports the intellectual and spiritual well-being of students.

REDUCE BARRIERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO ACCESS EDUCATION

Working with Indigenous partners, we will identify and strive to remove barriers facing Indigenous learners.

CREATE TAILORED SUPPORTS FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS

We recognize that Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing are essential to support the success of Indigenous learners as they pursue their goals. This knowledge will guide us as we create tailored supports for those learners.

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