

Breaking Down Barriers: On-Reserve Programs and Services for Indigenous Communities

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Presentation Outline

Context: Indigenous Services & Paul First Nation

Strategies for Building Relationships

Programs & Services

Leveraging Partnerships

Additional Resources

Questions



Who We Are



Context: Indigenous Services

[Understanding Aboriginal Identity](#) (Bear Paw Media)¹

Reconciliation: Unpacking *our own* stereotypes/assumptions that are based in a colonial worldview and still grounded in the “civilizing” and assimilating mission of colonialism

¹ Bear Paw Media. Retrieved from <http://www.bearpaweducation.ca/videos/>



Context: Paul First Nation

- Paul First Nation is located 87 kilometres west of Edmonton; population of about 1,300 on reserve
 - Nakota/Sioux/Stoney and Plains Cree
- Closest library is Duffield Public Library
- Lots of barriers to library access including transportation, history, perceptions



Strategies for Building Relationships



Community-Led Library Service

“A particular kind of community engagement, where the library works **collaboratively** with community members so that we can **understand the needs** of the community, and use this **understanding to inform the direction** of library work and policies.”¹

¹ Vancouver Public Library. (2014). *Connecting the Dots: A Guidebook for Working with Community*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpl.ca/images/uploads/file/pdf/CTD.pdf>



Our Approach



Image source: <http://www.simuddell.com/listen-understand-act-a-simple-approach-for-a-happy-customer/>

- Learning about community needs
- Engaging outside library walls
- Bottom-up instead of top-down



Building Relationships

- Leverage existing relationships
- Find the gatekeepers
- Do your homework
- Be Present... consistently!



Protocol and Working with Elders

Protocol: The bridge that promotes accountability and unity between seeker and teacher.

[Mother Earth Tobacco](#): ceremonial, organic tobacco



Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Building relationships takes time and can be difficult. You will make mistakes.
- Dealing with ambiguity
- Traditional forms of evaluation don't work



Image source: <https://leadingwithtrust.com/2017/08/13/4-strategies-for-leading-in-uncertain-times/>



Programs & Services



Programming Kits



School/Daycare Programming



Programs and Services: Little Library



Summer Kick-Off Party at PFN School Featuring indigenous author Richard Van Camp



Treasure Chests & Classroom Collections



Traditional Knowledge Project



PAUL FIRST NATION HISTORY
An Indigenous Online Archive

[Home](#) [Origin](#) [Traditional Territory](#) [Documents](#) [Chiefs and Councilors](#) [Photos](#)

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Preserving our Indigenous Culture and Tribal Heritage

The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top left is a circular logo with a globe and a feather. To its right is the text 'PAUL FIRST NATION HISTORY' and 'An Indigenous Online Archive'. Below this is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Origin', 'Traditional Territory', 'Documents', 'Chiefs and Councilors', and 'Photos'. A small Facebook icon is on the right. The main content area features a large photograph of a white teepee in a grassy field under a bright blue sky with wispy clouds. At the bottom of the page, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Preserving our Indigenous Culture and Tribal Heritage'.

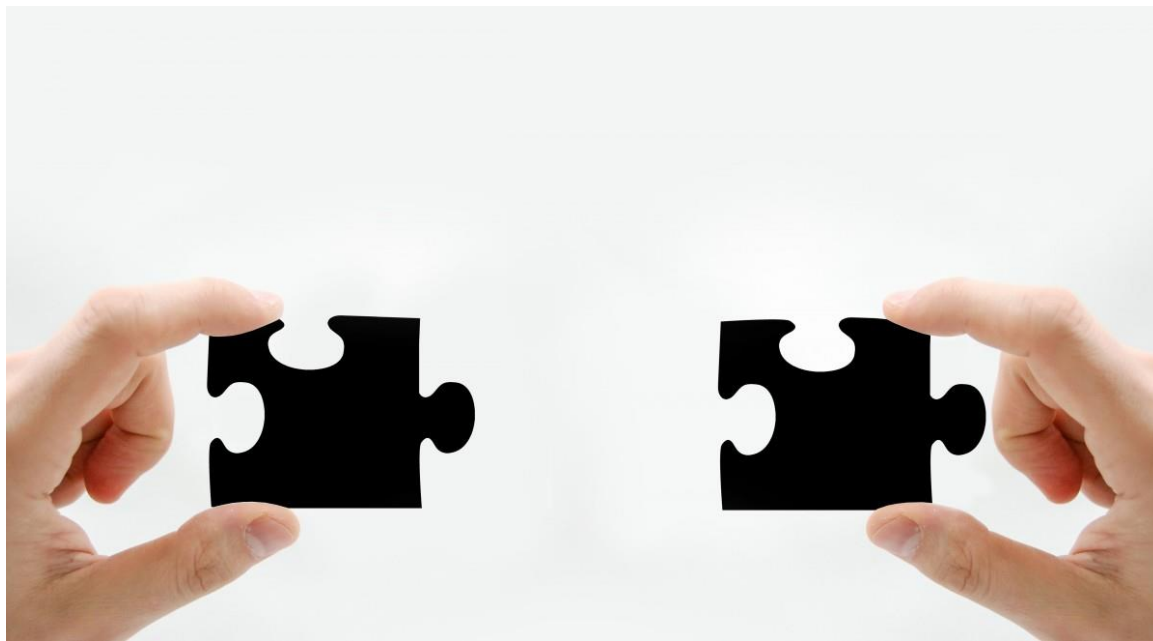
Ceremony Walk for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



Leveraging Partnerships



Library Partnerships



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Conclusion



Additional Resources

Protocol/Educational:

Let's Talk About Reconciliation: <http://en.ccunesco.ca/our-themes/building-inclusive-communities/reconciliation-in-action/let-s-talk-about-reconciliation>

CFLA Indigenous Resources Toolkit: <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/indigenous/>

Engaging with Elders:

[https://www.auma.ca/sites/default/files/Advocacy/Programs Initiatives/WIC/elders_protocol_by_native_co_unselling_services_of_alberta_2017.pdf](https://www.auma.ca/sites/default/files/Advocacy/Programs_Initiatives/WIC/elders_protocol_by_native_co_unselling_services_of_alberta_2017.pdf)

Aboriginal Peoples of Alberta: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:

<http://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460113080>

Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.: <http://www.ictinc.ca/blog>

Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre: <http://www.sicc.sk.ca>

CBC 8th Fire: <http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/aboriginal101.html>

BearPaw Education Videos: <http://www.bearpaweducation.ca/videos/>

Community-Led Libraries Toolkit: <http://www.librariesincommunities.ca/>

Additional Resources

Publishers/Books:

EPSB FNMI Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/epsb.ca/fnmi-education/literacy-resources>

EPSB FNMI Book Reviews: <https://reviews.epsb.ca/reviews/>

Good Minds: <http://www.goodminds.com/>

Kege Donce Press: <http://kegedonce.com/>

Turtle Island Voices: <http://canada.turtleislandvoices.com/>

Empowering the Spirit: <http://empoweringthespirit.ca/>

Ningwakwe Learning Press: <https://www.ningwakwe.ca/>

Eaglecrest Books: <http://www.eaglecrestbooks.com/>

Strong Nations: <https://www.strongnations.com/>



Questions?

Contact us!

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This presentation will be posted on the Library Toolshed
(<https://librarytoolshed.ca/>)

