

Indigenizing Curriculum: Documentation in the PDC Forms

Jaimie Kechego

September 13, 2023



University
of Windsor

PDC Question - Context

B.2.2 Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) Content, Perspectives, or Material

The University of Windsor is committed to building and sustaining stronger, more meaningful inclusive partnerships with Indigenous students, scholars, and communities. Indigenization of curriculum takes place in a larger context, including a requirement to respond to the four Calls to Action in education of the [Truth and Reconciliation Report](#) (2015) (page 1), the unique legal requirements of the [Constitution Act 1982](#) (Sections 25, 35), the provincial legal requirements of the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#), 1990, and provincial legislation [Bill Pr36](#) (1967).

PDC Question

In revising this program, **how has consideration been given to incorporating Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) content, perspectives, or material into the curriculum?**

<https://www.uwindsor.ca/qualityassurance/810/program-and-course-changes>

Part of a Journey

“What first steps have you made (or are you making) to identify **how you can start** to gain awareness and develop links and knowledge to Indigenous content?”

Or if further along – where are you now?

This will ultimately permit us to develop relevant course content and teaching approaches.



Migizi (Eagle)



Makwa
(Bear)

Part of a Journey

In PDC right now, we are looking for:

- Authentic and honest attempts to improve the content and curriculum in a good way;
- Reflection: what do I know, what do I need to learn
- **Intentional Self-Education**
- Plan to continue



Some Lessons We Have Learned

- There is not a single right answer
- There is no pan-Indigenous perspective
- Feedback comes from many different people, and committees and membership will change over time – we are all learning and listening



Lessons Learned: Place it in YOUR context

Make it specific:

- Modify the answer for the specific context of the course or program. Avoid 'cut and paste'.
- There may be cases where programs are using a common approach, in this case, provide this context in the description to explain the exception.



Lessons Learned: Focus on Self-Education

If you have engaged in processes to self-educate, share details of them so that others can learn.

- Use the links and prompt questions as a place to start.



Example of Personal Journey

The great thing about the Indigenization journey at Odette School of Business is that others are now on it too. They took action to present a workshop in which Indigenous Elders, educators and advisors, students across uWindsor spoke to us for the first time.

What is clear to me is that I need to develop more relationships of trust with Indigenous Peoples, listen, learn, and accommodate their preferences which I cannot expect to be identical.

We can support one another as we walk beside one another, but we're not on the identical path and no one can swim that water for me when they have to do their own climbing.

-Used with permission from Dr. Maureen Sterling, 2023

Lessons Learned: Future planning

When future plans are identified, provide detail to help convey that what is promised as next steps are likely to occur, as historically groups have made promises that were not followed through.

- Be prepared to follow up to indicate the plans have been achieved.



Lessons Learned: Conflation with EDI

Indigenization is a separate issue and should not be conflated with general EDI activities (Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity).

- This conflation negates Indigenous legal differences in Canadian society, which are upheld in the treaties, land agreements, Canadian Constitution, and Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Raffoul et al, 2021)



Lessons Learned: Watch for language

Consultation - Be careful with the use of the term 'consultation' as it has different meanings and can mean something quite specific and formal. If there were conversations, discussions, meetings, you might use those terms instead.



Lessons Learned: Watch for language

Be careful to avoid wording where Indigenous peoples are represented as a marginalized group, a group that will be studied, or positioned as a problem.

Ensure Indigenization capitalized.



Next Steps:

Remember, what you record as an answer to the PDC question of Indigenization will be reexamined as the PDC forms are resubmitted.

For example: if your faculty states that they are going to hire an Indigenous knowledge person, set completion dates.

Practical Next Steps

CTL Web [Resources](#)

100 ways to Indigenize and decolonize academic programs and courses [Dr. Shauneen Pete](#)

Indigenizing Curriculum [Kim Anderson](#)

Review the PDC prompts

Jaimie Kechego Jaimie.Kechego@uwindSOR.ca



Wahan (Day)



Miskwanakwad
(Cloud)

Questions?



Odjig (Fisher)



Makinak (Turtle)



Tchitehwisshiwe (Plover)



Wawashkeshi (Deer)

Images created by Russell Nahdee for the Leddy Library Collaboratory. Permission to use received from Russell Nahdee.