



City of Winnipeg TRC #57 Training Update

The City of Winnipeg offers Indigenous Awareness training sessions to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Call to Action #57. We are proud to share our recent success with the Indigenous Awareness trainings. To date over 9000 City employees have been trained in both the existing 2 day Indigenous Awareness Chi Ki Ken Da Mun and newly developed ½ day W'daeb Awaewe trainings.

Chi Ki Ken Da Mun (Ojibway for "So You Should Know")

Public Service leaders with direct reports are required to take an existing 2 day training course called Chi Ki Ken Da Mun (Ojibway for "So You Should Know"). This is a 14 hour course that includes topics such as Indigenous History and Timelines, Residential School Impacts and Legacy, Traditional and Contemporary Role of Indigenous Women and Indigenous World View of Culture, Ceremonies and Medicines.

This course 2 day awareness course provides participants with an introduction to Indigenous people, culture, history and worldview. This experiential course will build awareness and understanding of Indigenous people through group discussions, first hand sharing of residential school experiences, a screening of the movie "We Were Children", a presentation on Culture, Ceremonies, and Medicines with sharing of a sacred bundle and participation in a sharing circle with Elders and Cultural Providers from the Indigenous community.

W'daeb Awaewe (Ojibway for the Truth As We Know It)

Public Service employees without direct reports are required to take a newly developed half day course called W'daeb Awaewe (Ojibway for The Truth As We Know It). This is a 3.5 hour course that provides an introduction into an Indigenous world view and an insight into the Residential School system with a Winnipeg focus.

This half-day introductory course provides employees with an experiential approach to understanding Indigenous culture and promoting reconciliation and the spirit of inclusion. The teachings provide insight from an Indigenous perspective on culture, traditions and historical events in Winnipeg with a focus on the Residential School System and the impacts on Indigenous peoples. This course will build awareness and understanding of Indigenous people through group discussions, first hand sharing of the impacts residential school, a screening of "The Gladys Cook Story" and participation in a sharing circle with Elders and Cultural Providers from the Indigenous community.

Statement from the Indigenous Relations Division (IRD)

The role of the Indigenous Relations Division is to support the City of Winnipeg by providing leadership and experience from an Indigenous perspective on programs, services and initiatives that support and address the needs of Winnipeg's Indigenous community, now and into the future. We've worked hard to ensure were engaging and working with our Cultural Provider's to share Indigenous history and traditional knowledge with our colleagues in a good way.

The Indigenous Awareness trainings have been very well received by City of Winnipeg employees. Some common feedback that various departments have shared is that; the trainings offer an experiential approach that allows participants to have a honest and open dialogue about misconceptions in a safe environment, training sessions allow for a team building aspect where groups have naturally been developing a peer support network focusing Indigenous issues and additional learning opportunities are constantly being requested.

Cultural Providers

Our current Cultural Providers are comprised of respected community Elders and Knowledge Keepers who work in partnership with the Indigenous Relations Division to design and deliver content for both Indigenous Awareness courses. Please see their bios below:

Allen: whitespottedhorse.com/
 Brian: strongheartconsultation.com/

Testimonials

As part of our evaluation process, the Cultural Providers collect evaluations in all sessions. Participants are invited to share feedback on both the content and delivery of the course. Below are some testimonials from recent City of Winnipeg Employees who have participated in the trainings.

"What I took away from today was that knowledge about the mistreatment of Indigenous people is still going on and that I need my peers understand the depth of the situation."

"This training has changed my perspective on many things, including the people I help in my workplace"

"(The training) helped me to be a more understanding, compassionate and helpful person, in both my work and private life."

"I am now more aware of the root causes to Indigenous issues, I want to help"



Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action #57:

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.