

Training, Mentorship & PD Professional Development

Breakout Room Notes

Dec 9, 2021



Breakout Room 1

SLIDO: What does Decolonization mean to you?

- Decolonization is a modern term an acknowledgment
- Land Back we want control over our own futures fears that Canadians have around decolonization
- Revitalization (language, culture & governance) restoring who we are
- There is a lot of fear in reclaiming things family structures disrupted; cultural structures disrupted change is scarry – lots of trauma that prohibits them from contributing to this discussion & reclaiming these structures
- Healing (people are at various stages) we need to do this
- Taking that time to heal/ponder/evaluate/discuss the question...to not be rushed! Also done on a collective level without being bombarded
- Engaging our people first taking our time as it is a delicate situation we are in
- Being able to have uncomfortable/difficult conversations, to think creatively, to keep hope, to imagine a better future and reconnect to our ancestors and our original teachings. To live with 7 generations in mind.

Question 1: What in your opinion are the biggest barriers to decolonization?

- Educational institutions with respect to Indigenous histories one sided view
- Best Assistance to Decolonization the women Indigenous Education (delivering our own education, that is important to us) Grassroots Advocacy.
- Educating people when they don't know they tend to be very argumentative
- The ongoing perseverance of existing entrenched belief systems
- Other levels of government "fear mongering"
- Traditional Territories that will bring in the provincial governments and that conversation will look very different

Question 2: Is there anything the Resource Centre can do to assist with the conversation?

- Sharing of best practices between communities
- Building on our own traditional forms of governance in our Land Codes
- Protection & jurisdiction of waterways access to the water as a Nation that relies on the bounty of the waters to sustain (*SLFN have signed a MOU with 3 watersheds. We deal with on 3 parcels of our lands. We have plans to co-manage the lands surrounding our traditional lands. We have to protect our lands and water.*)

Question 3: What are your thoughts with respect to UNDRIP commitments and the Framework Agreement?

• Ran out of time – advised that participants could leave comments/ideas in chat/slido or send e-mail.

Breakout Room 2

SLIDO: What does Decolonization mean to you?

• See SLIDO comments.

Question 1: What in your opinion are the biggest barriers to decolonization?

- Education and loss of language
- Needing more autonomy and expanding the jurisdiction that we currently have
- The Government of Canada agencies, Provincial ministries, municipal governments, and all other departments
- Lack of enforcement, and the lack of RCMP's understanding and recognition of First Nation laws
- Awareness and education around what decolonization means
- Denial of the harm colonialism has caused
- Systemic racism
- Lack of understanding of pre-colonized times
- Various understandings of the meaning of decolonization
- Capitalism is a part of colonialism, so it is difficult to decolonize when capitalism is a big part of the society, we live in. The FA is even heavily focused on capitalist principles (moving at the speed of business, etc.).
- Having a plan in place with specific steps of cultural resurgence
- Lack of respect and understanding for cultural processes, needing Settlers to acknowledge uncomfortable truths
- Needing jurisdiction of traditional territories and resource revenues from harvesting and resource extraction in traditional lands/territories
- Colonialist attitudes at government and enforcement levels

Question 2: Is there anything the Resource Centre can do to assist with the conversation?

- Expand jurisdiction to traditional territories
- Incorporate the principles of UNDRIP in the amendments
- Taking over the FNLRS, tracking traditional interests from Canada
- Taking over Additions to Reserve processes from Canada
- Taking over Wills and Estates from Canada
- Still having difficulties with the Banks, and being able to get a mortgage, and the recognition from CMHC on non-CP lands. (Robert shared information about adding updated provisions that satisfy CMHC)
- If the FA could put pressure on municipalities to negotiate MSA'S in a way that doesn't conflict with a Nation's mandates and goals

Question 3: What are your thoughts with respect to UNDRIP commitments and the Framework Agreement?

• Ran out of time

Breakout Room 3

SLIDO : What does Decolonization mean to you?

• See SLIDO comments

Question 1: What in your opinion are the biggest barriers to decolonization?

- The ability and responsibility to take care of oneself (like our ancestors always did) getting back to our way of decision making to quit asking Canada for approval
- Issues around privacy and our ability to be to practice our culture
- The capacity to heal decolonization, 60s scoop, residential schools. Healing. Change has to be managed
- Education Agency and municipal government turnover. Being familiar with Treat, Land Code, process, procedures, and language. As a community we get started with establishing a good relationship (province/Canada), but with turnover, we have to reteach a new set of partners to set up
- Two-fold: training and relearning. Bring academics in our fields, we learn of the legacy of the Indian act, the more it is introduced into the education system, the more prepared we are. Seeing that change, and to see them go had its ups and downs. As our world has been evolving, people are becoming more educated and aware. These dialogues and engagements are opening doors
- Lack of engagement and communication
- Duty to consult. Move towards meaningful decision making ...ultimately who has the final say?
- Internally can be a huge barrier. A lot of times, it is not even a large group. A few. And they will hold up progress on discussion on education and awareness. They are not going to see it any other way. Doesn't matter what you say or do. They just are not going to agree. Catering to the 'few' it inhibits really addressing the development.
- Elevated property values that resulted in the province land title office

Question 2 Is there anything the Resource Centre can do to assist with the conversation?

- Youth engagement
- About empowering to reclaim aspects of our lives
- Treaty fast track treaty process teaching treaty curriculum Elders as well, not only K to 12; a lot of them don't read English.
- Continue the conversation, try to implement their governance with a two-world kind of perspective
- Through the Framework Agreement and the Land Code you would be touching on all of these areas zoning, land use planning, identifying services, buildings for certain services, like parenting and midwife.... Think it could touch on every aspect. You would have to allocate in every community to have these activities.
- Assist in building connections, networking
- ...ATRs are going to happen in the future current system is cumbersome ATRs a barrier to that process.

Question 3: What are your thoughts with respect to UNDRIP commitments and the Framework Agreement?

• Ran out of time

