

Critical Consciousness

A Webinar/Videoconference Presented by Harley Eagle

February 27, 2018

Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health

Acknowledgments

- Land and Indigenous People & Hosts
- Influences- Past, Present and Future
- Challenge of this format and other western influences
- Nature of this talk can be difficult

Objectives for this session

- Share understandings and experiences with systemic racism and oppression and explore their possible roots
- Provide an analysis of how systemic racism is structured, its purpose, goals, and outcomes
- Explain the difference between an anti-racism and diversity approach and the role of critical consciousness
- Share how an anti-racism analysis can be a life giving process

- ALSO
- Harley will invite questions and comments to further the dialogue and deepen understanding on this issue

Introduction

- Roots
- Indigenous Rights Advocacy
- Dismantling Racism/Oppression
- Conflict Resolution Practitioner/RJ
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Cultural Safety Facilitator

Setting the Context

- In Canada, I believe we are living in an intractable conflict setting. Intractable conflict can be defined as:
 - Long standing reaching back into history to the point the situation seems normalized
 - However for one party, a long sense of grievances and current hardship realities and the urgent need for redress
 - Involve intangible issues such as identity, sovereignty, values and beliefs
 - Relationships are often polarized perceptions of hostility and enmity, and behavior that is violent and destructive

Intentionally Peeling back the layers to self

- In this western world the focus is on self and individualism
 - How I've been socialized and impacted by colonial worldview and western values
 - Focusing on and allowing for feeling and emotion then following the path to answer the question why am I feeling this way
 - Understanding Trauma and its impacts- personal experiences, intergenerational, and historical
 - Understanding isn't enough-healing is required

Intentionally peeling back the layers in the collective

- From an Indigenous perspective and even a decolonizing perspective the focus includes the collective
 - An analysis of racism and its connection to other isms
 - Indigenous specific racism
 - Indigenous specific racism and colonization
 - Colonization and the Doctrine of Discovery
 - The Doctrine of Discovery as a structure of power abuse

Working from an Analysis of Systemic Racism

- Another way to frame critical consciousness is “working from a systemic analysis”
- A way forward that includes more than “Tip of the Iceberg” approaches
- The benefits of working from a systemic analysis for the individual
- Life-giving
- The benefits of working from a systemic analysis for the collective/s
- Transformational

The role of Vulnerability

- Critical consciousness requires vulnerability
- Vulnerability as an act of humility
- Humility as strength from an Indigenous perspective
- The role of resiliency
- Self centered/Centered Self

Q & A

Thank you!