



Our Way is a Valid Way

This guide and the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit professional learning website are designed for use by individual educators, cohorts, school communities, and school authorities.

www.fnmiprofessionallearning.ca/learning-to-know/

This professional learning guide builds educator capacity by building foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives on relevant themes and issues.



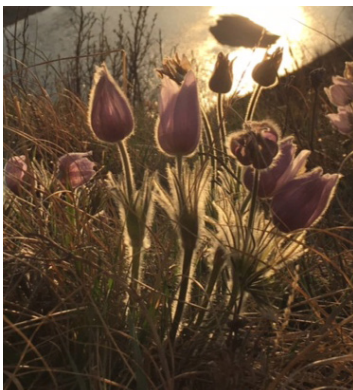
The **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Resource** at <https://education.alberta.ca/media/563981/our-way-is-a-valid-way.pdf> includes Indigenous perspectives and content on the following themes: Land and People; Traditional Ways of Knowing; Oral Tradition, Storytelling; Residential Schools; and Anti-racist, and Anti-oppressive Education. Facilitation includes building awareness and understanding of the content as well as ways to include the content in curricular programming. This session is designed for senior administrators, school administrators, teachers, educational assistants, school psychologists, and support staff.

This guide is intended to support educators in building capacity in establishing foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content and perspectives. For ideas on how to facilitate a professional learning opportunity using the resource in your educational community, this guide will provide considerations to support implementation.

The first section includes logistics on different ways to access the resources. The second section includes key considerations for connecting with regional Indigenous community members. The final section includes activities to engage in a professional dialogue within a cohort, professional learning community, or school.



Getting Ready



The ARPDC **Our Way is a Valid Way Moodle Site** at <https://learning.arpdc.ab.ca/course/index.php?categoryid=170> provides links to access and download the entire document as well as the individual sections of each resource.

It also provides access to sections of the **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Reflections Guide**.

The **Our Way is a Valid Way** resource was created by the Western and Northern Protocol (WNCP). It has been approved by the Ministries of Education from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut. The resource also went through a validation process from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members from each of these provinces and territories.



Getting Ready

The following are the five themes in the **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Resource**:

- Land and People
- Traditional Ways of Knowing
- Oral Tradition, Storytelling
- Residential Schools
- Anti-racist, Anti-oppressive Education

There is a 3- to 5-page overview of theme, ideas for implementation, classroom strategies, as well as teaching strategies.

The bibliography includes an extensive collection of research and literature which serves as a valuable reference for further learning.

The **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Reflection Guide** is intended to be used as a facilitation tool for using the content in a professional learning opportunity. The facilitating section of this guide provides additional ideas to consider.



Making Connections



The overarching goal is for educators to respectfully connect with their regional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities for guidance on appropriate resources for professional learning and to effectively teach First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and content to all students. Prior to facilitating a session, engage in conversations with regional community members, Elders' councils, wisdom and guidance committees, Indigenous advisory groups, and educational leadership about the themes in the resource.



Facilitating

Facilitating a session using the **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Resource** gives educators an opportunity to develop their foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit content and perspectives. Sessions work especially well if educators are given the time and space to gather for professional dialogue and collaborative learning.

Ensure that there are enough copies of the **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Resource** for each participant, either electronically or print copies.

You may want to consider providing an overview of the document and relate the content to the following references:

- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action** at http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- **Teaching Quality Standard and Leadership Quality Standard** at www.alberta.ca/professional-practice-standards-overview.aspx



Facilitating



Describe the format of the document and highlight that the content for each theme is only a few pages long. Create a group for each theme with no more than 5 or 6 people per group, you may need to have 2 groups of one theme. Allow enough time for participants to read through their selected theme and to have a dialogue. Ask each group to consider the question, How does knowing about historical events and current contextual realities relate to how you understand your students and communities differently?



Groups can work together to complete a jigsaw activity, found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dgE_Ht8swm5EXbO5pjxZH7MSAqhrjYNvEMJOxW5DF3E/edit, where they consider the impact on the educational community if everyone knew about the content in their selected theme.

Gather the groups together for a large group discussion on each of the themes. The facilitator may want to share other resources to support the content of each of the themes. You may also want to consider having local Indigenous community members as part of the discussion groups to ensure you have a regional perspective included in the conversations.

For further learning, educators can access the **Our Way is a Valid Way Educator Reflection Guide** and also explore the following resources.



Visit the **Walking Together Digital Resource** at www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/.



Visit the **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation** at <https://nctr.ca/map.php>.



Access the Google Doc **Walking Together Directory for Educators** at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wfrm_AXaoTsWAo1fPNU1T4v-eV_AbC2SH0ku5dHgfio/edit.



View the **Project of Heart Ebook** at www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory/ or download PDF resources.



Visit the **Legacy of Hope Foundation** at <http://legacyofhope.ca/> and access **Teacher Resources** at <http://legacyofhope.ca/education/>.



View the **CBC's 8th Fire (subscription)** at <https://curio.ca/en/collection/8th-fire-1615/>.



Download the PDF **Our Words Our Ways** at <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3615876/our-words-our-ways.pdf>.



Download the PDF **8th Fire Guide for Educators** at https://media.curio.ca/filer_public/e5/c9/e5c95239-396c-4772-ae55-cf84389c7e00/8thfireguide.pdf.



Download the PDF **Education is Our Buffalo** at [www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Human-Rights-Issues/Education%20is%20Our%20Buffalo%20\(PD-80-7\).pdf](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Human-Rights-Issues/Education%20is%20Our%20Buffalo%20(PD-80-7).pdf).



Download the PDF **Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action** at http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf.



Visit the **Empowering the Spirit** website at <http://empoweringthespirit.ca> to find a comprehensive collection of additional resources.

This guide was developed by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia and funded through a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under a Creative Commons license. This guide is based on:

Lalonde, S. Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia. (2016). *Provincial First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Professional Learning Project*. Calgary, AB: Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia.



Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia

