

Competency #40 teacher will be able to include evidence of Indigenizing lesson plans; *Artifact:*

Indigenization and inclusive education: what does this mean exactly? What are the current challenges/successes?

At the forefront this means promoting social inclusion and making education more meaningful for Indigenous learners. It offers positive impacts of culturally based learning and embeds First Peoples Principles of learning, Aboriginal history and culture within all subjects taught in schools. FNEC has done a wonderful job at leading the development of Indigenous curricula. It is a culturally responsive approach to teaching all subject area (Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiim & Hare, 2016). It means addressing the legacy of residential schools by offering Indigenous perspectives and traditional ways of learning through Indigenous worldviews vs strictly Eurocentrism in the curriculum. Breaking down the barrier of Eurocentric thinking. Bringing in knowledge systems that are dealing with neglected issues across Canada. There are many strengths of Indigenizing education, this approach makes education more accessible, and relevant for indigenous peoples of Canada. Improving the relationships of Indigenous communities, by supporting equity for Aboriginal families. Improving Aboriginal education and building trusting relationships, which strengthen the community relationships. Contributing to the graduation success rates of The First Peoples of Canada. A current challenge would be around language revitalization. Many of the Indigenous languages are almost lost and sufficient attention around the revitalization and Aboriginal language education is lacking. "In addition to Métis and Inuit peoples, BC is the home for 203 First Nations whose languages represent 17 distinct linguistic groups." (Terbasket & Greenwood, 2007)

Inclusive education means making our schools a place where all learners can benefit and work together in harmony by meeting the diverse needs of every learner in ways that are respectful, responsive, supportive, nurturing, encouraging, flexible and accepting. Inclusive education is ensuring access to quality education, which is conducted in a common learning environment. It enables students to participate fully in an instructional setting by providing a sufficient level of support for students to be successful in learning. The instruction and curricula are designed to reach all students of mixed abilities. Different and diverse students are working collaborative and side by side in the same spaces with a sense of safety and belonging. (n.d.) Students are able to participate in every aspect of the school life. A strength is that children are a part of their community and have a stronger sense of belonging, providing them with more opportunities for learning and better preparing the students for live as adults living within the community setting. Inclusion shows that it is better for all students overall because teaching is tailored to all the learners and normalizes differences, as well as provides support for the students. One of the challenges is the view that it may be better to separate children who need special attention. Another is the lack of trained teachers and large class sizes which makes it challenging to give the appropriate attention to the students.

Reference:

Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem, J., & Hare, J. (2016, October 24). *Indigenizing Education in Canada, Background Paper for RCAP e* [Scholarly project]. In *Indigenizing Education in Canada*. Retrieved December 8, 2020, from https://www.queensu.ca/sps/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.spswww/files/files/Events/Conferences/RCAP/Papers/Archibald_Hare_Indigenizing_Education.pdf

Terbasket, K. & Greenwood, M. (2007). British Columbia First Nations head start program: An overview of policy development 1998-2007. *Canadian Journal of Native Education*, 30(1),75-8244

What is Inclusive Education. (n.d.). Retrieved December 09, 2020, from <https://inclusiveeducation.ca/about/what-is-ie/>