

The Native Women's Association of Canada

NWAC's Mission Statement

Advocate for and inspire Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender Diverse People and Families of many Indigenous Nations.

NWAC's Vision Statement

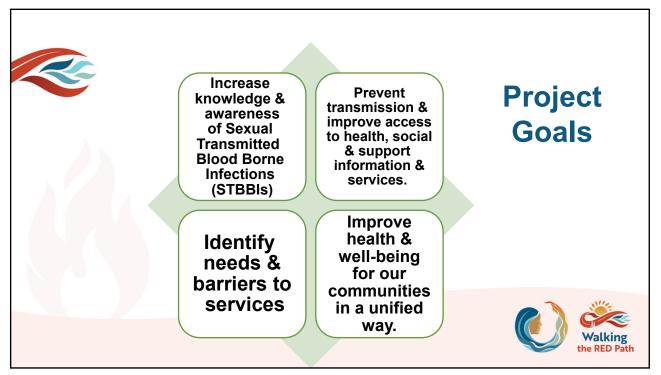
We envision an inclusive world that understands and respects the diversity and uniqueness of all Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender Diverse People and their Families.



What is Walking the RED Path?

Re-forging connections, Empowering Indigenous women to heal, and Driving change for a healthy future A project designed by and for Indigenous Women, Two-Spirit, Transgender & Gender Diverse folks with experience of incarceration.





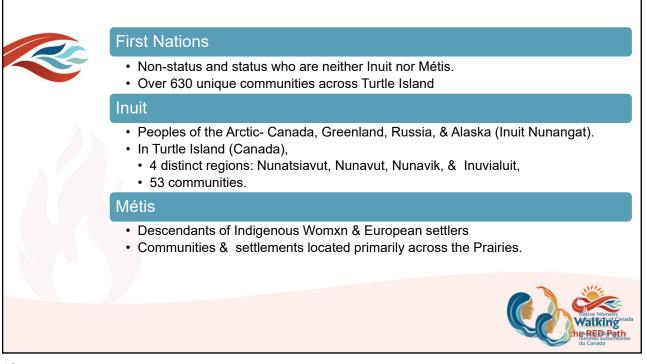


| Note on Terminology | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Treaty | Agreements between Indigenous Nations and th Crown, defining mutual rights and responsibilitie | | | |
| Status Vs. Non-Status | Legal recognition of rights under government agreements vs. lack of formal recognition. | | | |
| Settlements | Areas where Indigenous peoples were forcibly relocated due to colonial policies, impacting traditional ways of life. | | | |
| Womxn | Acknowledging that colonial systems excluded diverse identities- Womxn is used to include 2SLGBTQIAA+, Indigiqueer, Gender Diverse and Women). | | | |

| ١ | Why Do We Need to Learn This? | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Making Wellb Change & Gro | | | Rebuilding Trust | | | Shared Humanity | | |
| | \smile | | & Be | Reconciliation & Better Future | | Traditional Role Reclamation | | Indigenous Healthcare & Rights Matter | |
| | Cultural 8 Empow | x | Prom | | ucing New rm, Heal noting Comn | | Humanizing People, Looking at Systems | | |
| | Inclu | | ent & isive places | Syst | itive emic nge | | ural ls & ledge | | Native Women's Association of Canada L'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada |





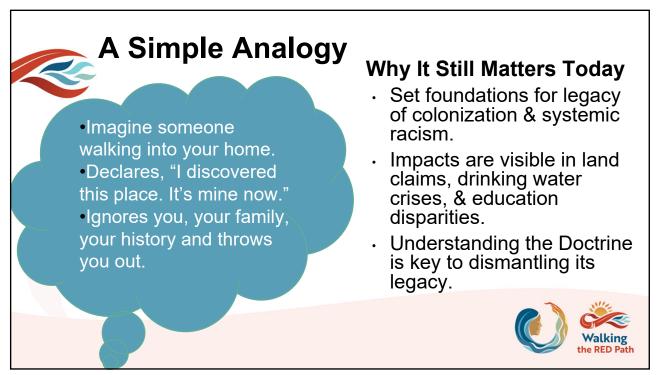


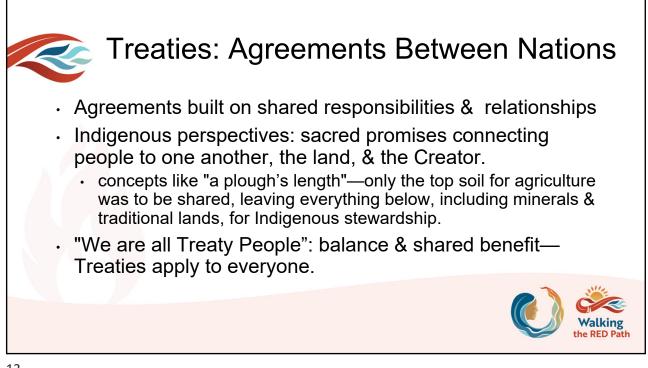
Walking he RED Path



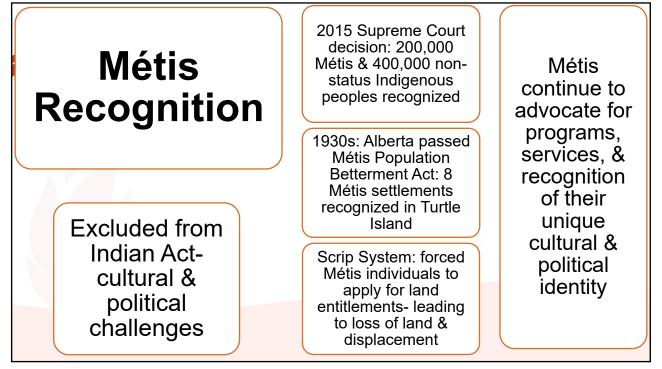
Doctrine of Discovery

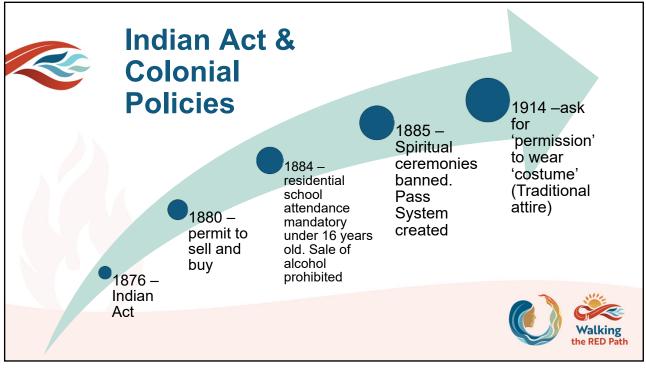
- A set of ideas created by European powers in the 1400s.
- Claimed lands not ruled by Christians could be "discovered" & controlled.
- · Ignored the sovereignty and existence of Indigenous peoples.
- Impacts:
 - Land Theft: Indigenous lands claimed without consent.
 - Erosion of Sovereignty: Indigenous governments ignored.
 - Cultural Erasure: Indigenous traditions and languages suppressed.
 - Systemic Oppression: Foundation for policies like the Indian Act & residential schools.

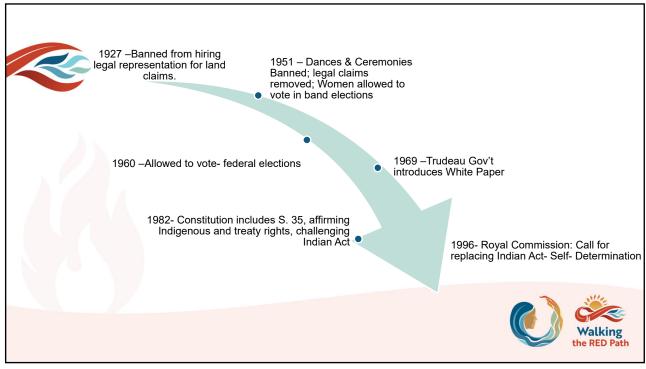


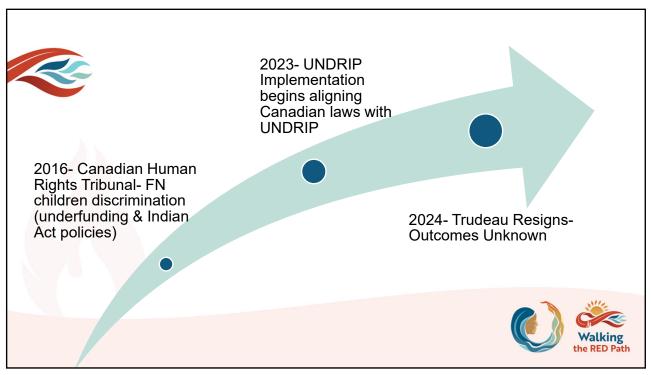


| | Past | Early treaties excluded Inuit & Métis peoples- left without formal recognition or protections. | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | Inuit came under federal responsibility in 1939, disrupting traditional governance- now five legally recognized Land Claim Agreements | | | |
| Land Claims & Treaties | Modern Agreement | Provide land, financial compensation, & self-governance tools. | | | |
| | Modern Treaties | Restore control over their territories & rights, ensuring their voices guide decisions. | | | |
| | | Walking the RED Path | | | |











Indigenous Rights

- Treaties pledged shared land use & resources (education, health, food)
 - many promises were broken.
 - settlers exploited treaties
 - land loss, discrimination, & ongoing injustices.

- Section 35 of the Constitution recognizes & affirms treaty & Indigenous rights.
- Indigenous Rights are collective rights as the original peoples of Canada
 - protecting culture, land, and self-determination



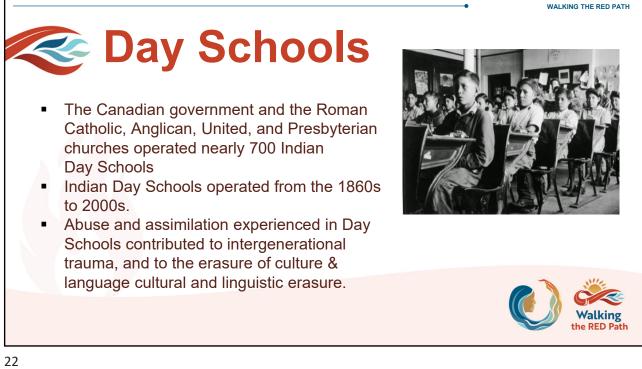


Residential School System



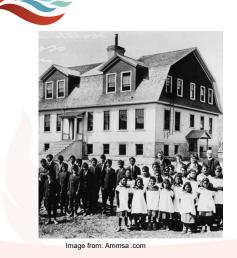
- Operated from 1880s to 1996
- Funded by Canadian government
- Run by churches
- Portrayed as schools
- Designed to forcibly assimilate Indigenous children
- Separated children from families
- Banned Indigenous languages, cultures, & traditions.
- Survivors & families still experience intergenerational trauma.







New Systems, Same Goals, More Harms

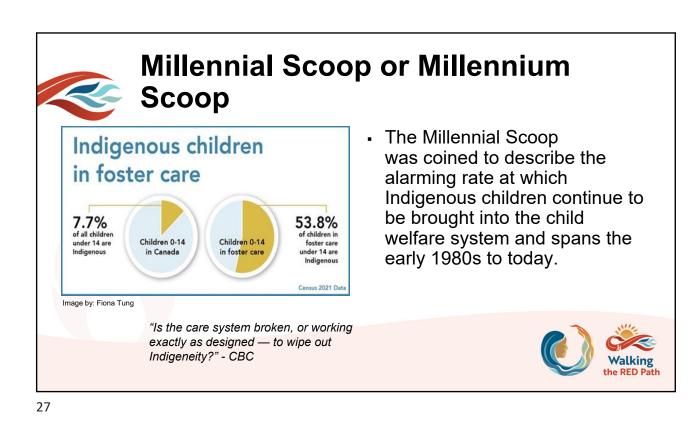


- Residential school staff & Indian agents transitioned into roles within the child welfare system.
- Same mentality of control and assimilation, perpetuating harm across generations.
- Systemic patterns have ongoing and lasting impacts.









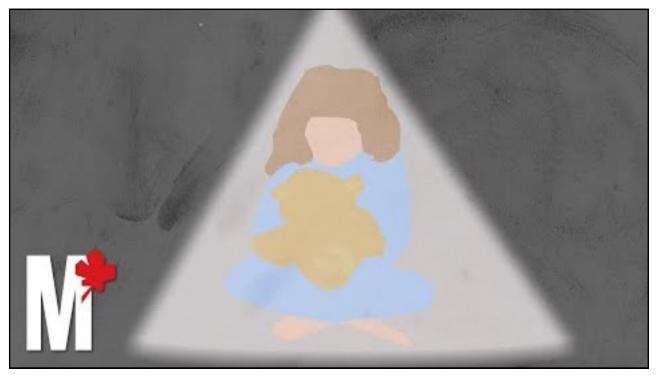


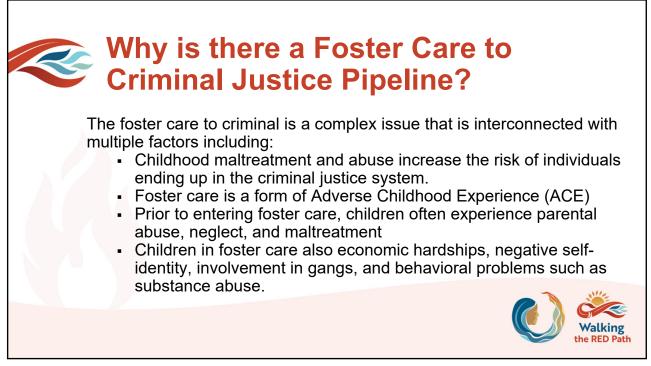


Indigenous Child Overrepresentation in the Foster Care System

- Over 3% of Indigenous children living in private households in 2021 were in foster care compared to 0.2% for non-Indigenous children
- **Two-thirds** of Indigenous children who have been in foster care and/or adopted connect with the criminal justice system this is called the **foster care to criminal justice pipeline**.

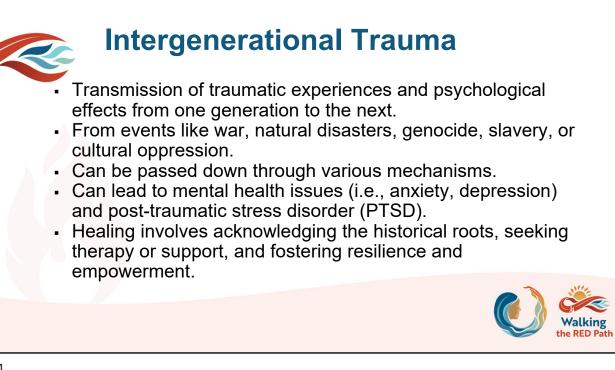


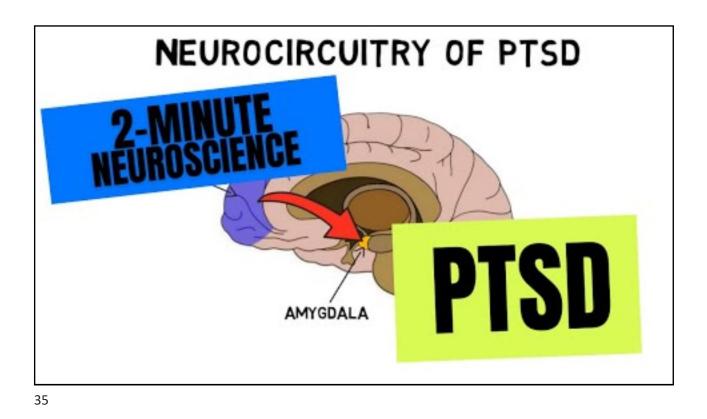


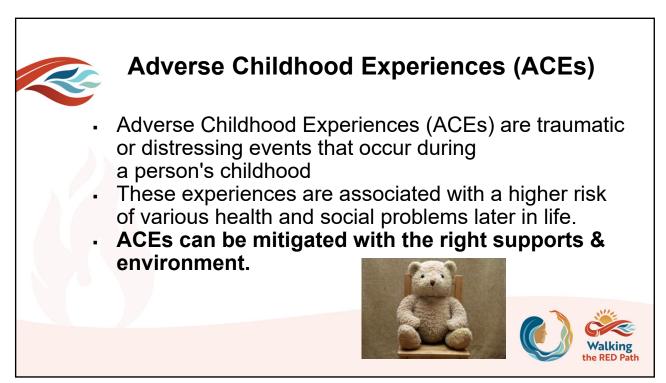


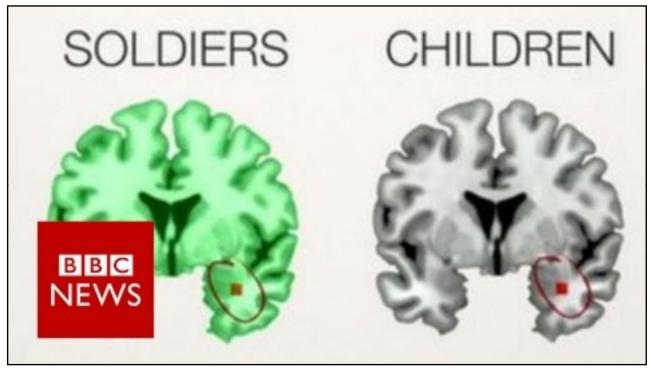


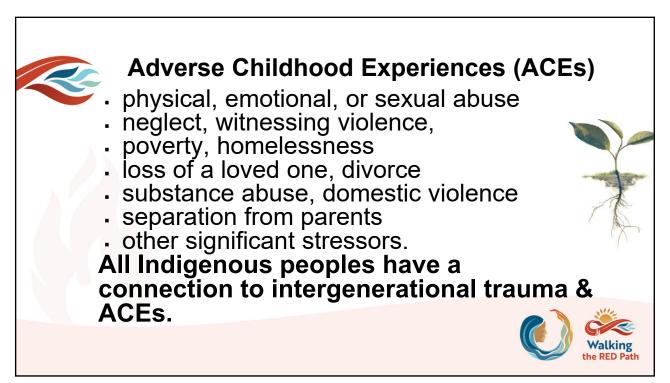




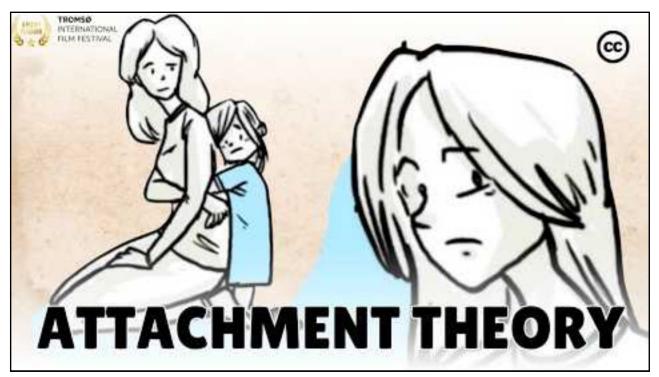


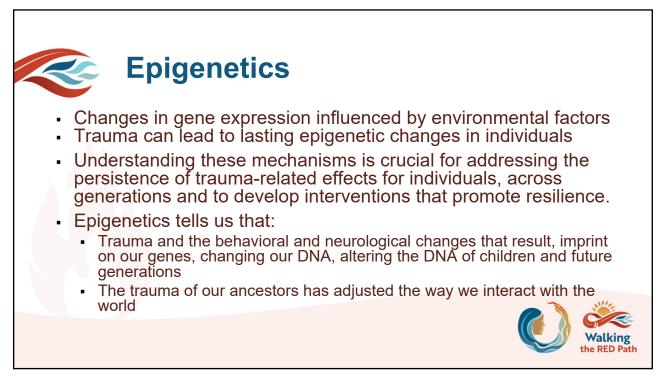


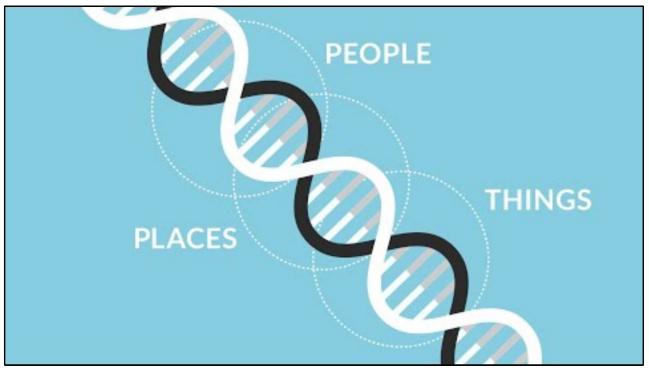


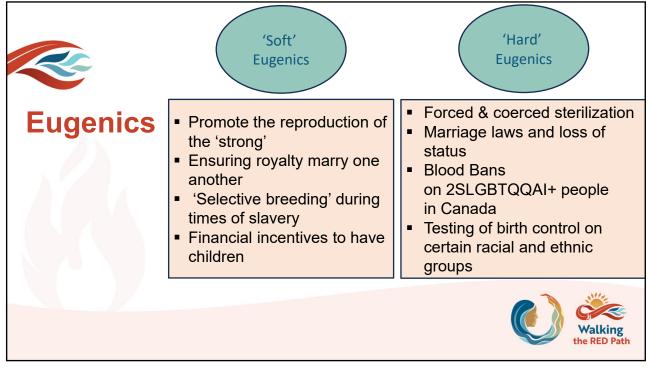




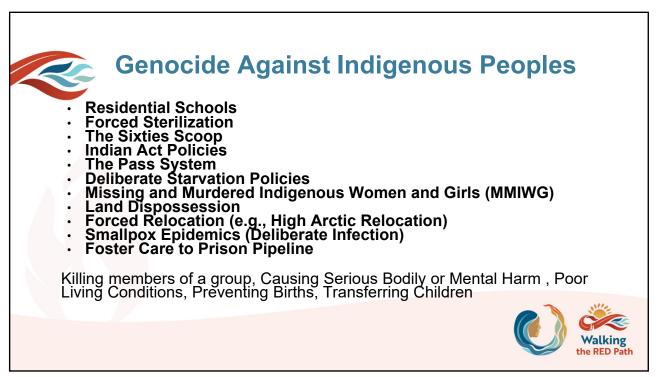


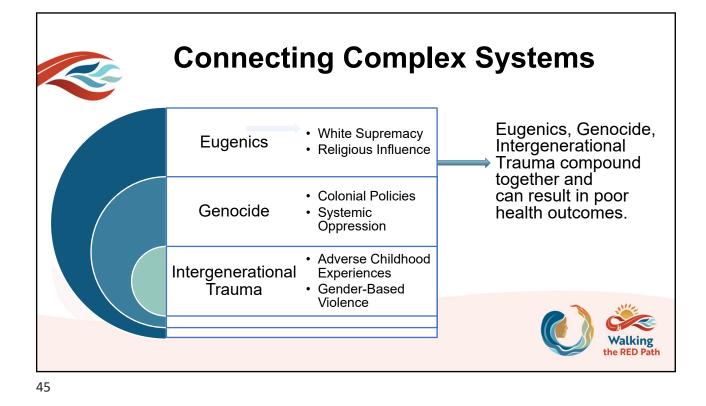


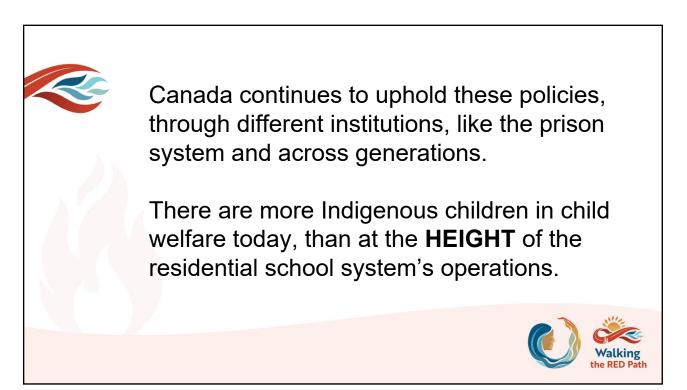


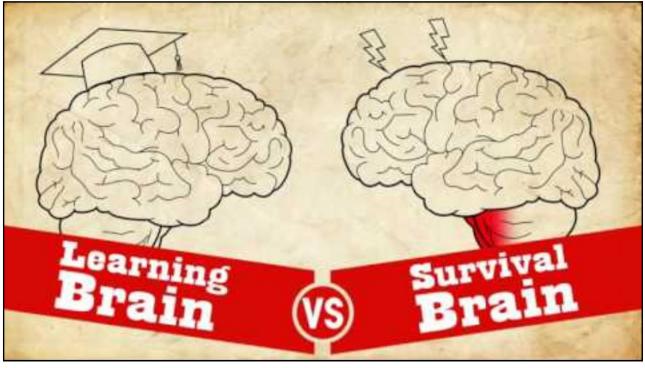


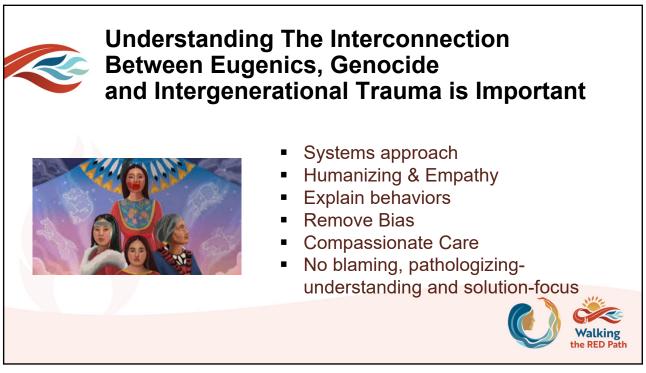


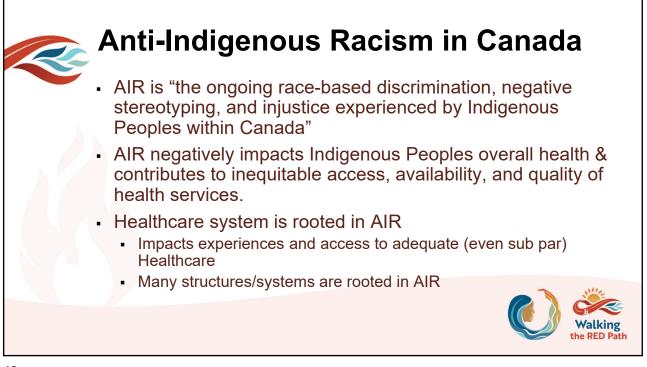


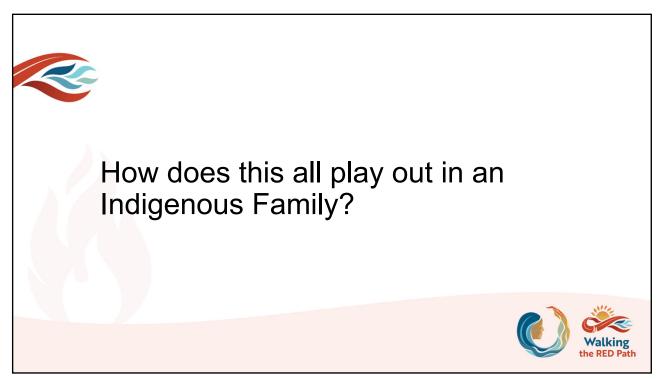


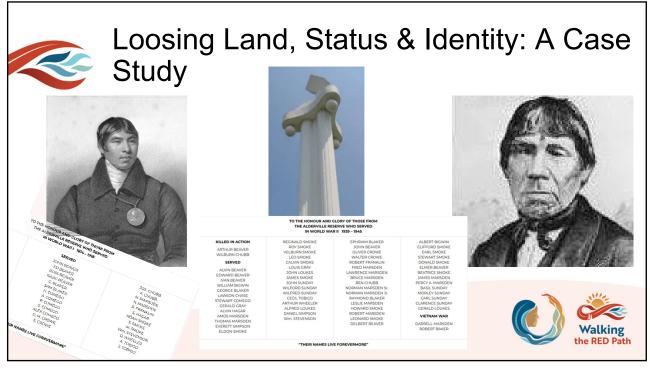




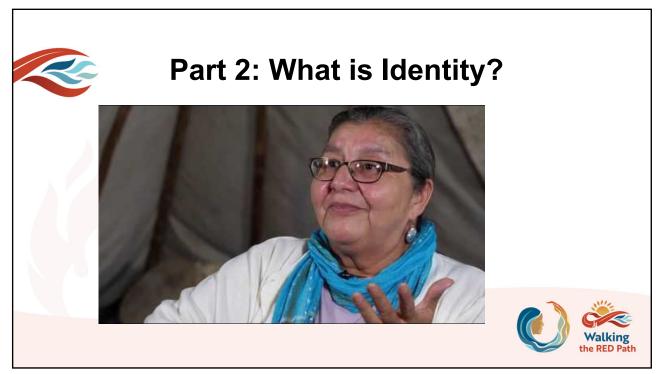


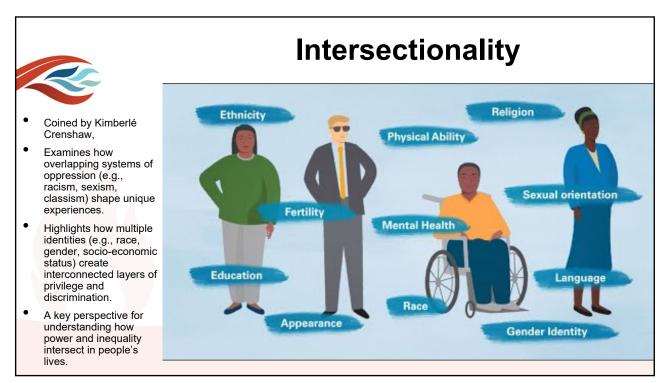


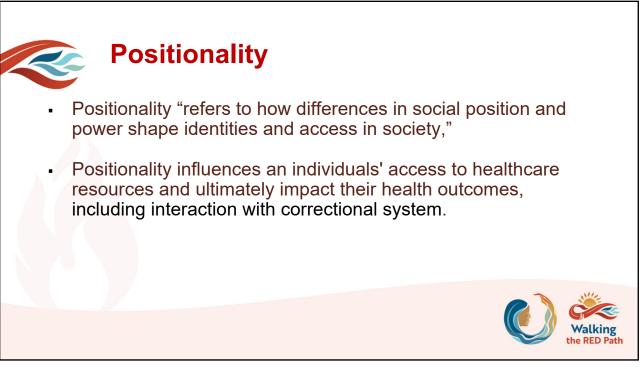




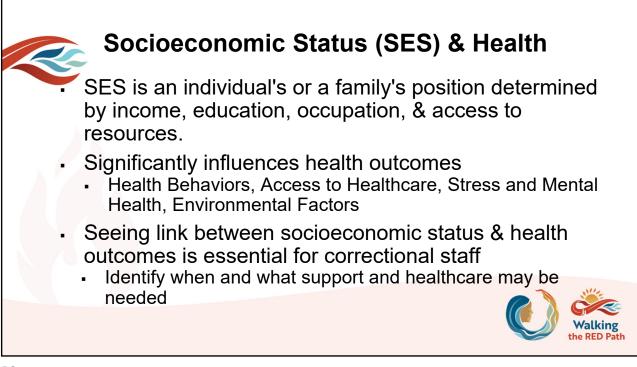




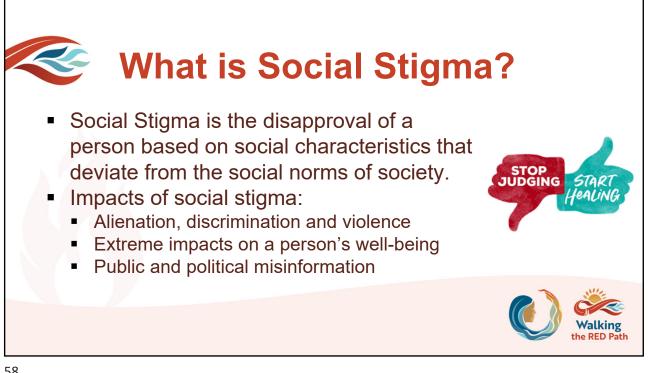


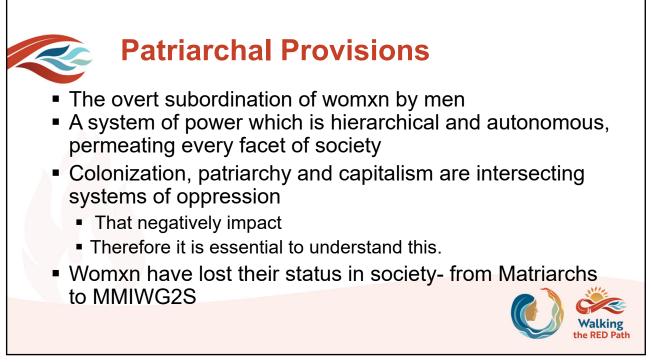




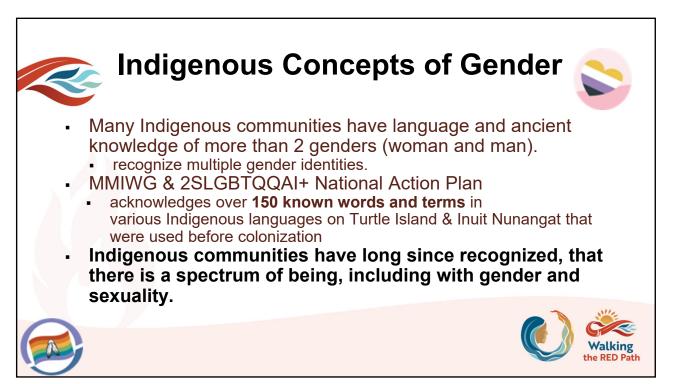












Valking

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What is Two-Spirit?



Two-Spirit Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby Image by: Ruth Kivilahti

 The term Two-Spirit affirms the interrelatedness of all aspects of identity — including gender, sexuality, community, culture, and spirituality.

- Two-Spirit identity is recognized and celebrated from a young age as gifts from the creator.
- The term is exclusive to Indigenous People
- Respected within communities for being able to see from an alternative perspective different from woman and man.
- Two-Spirit People were often the visionaries, Healers and Medicine People.



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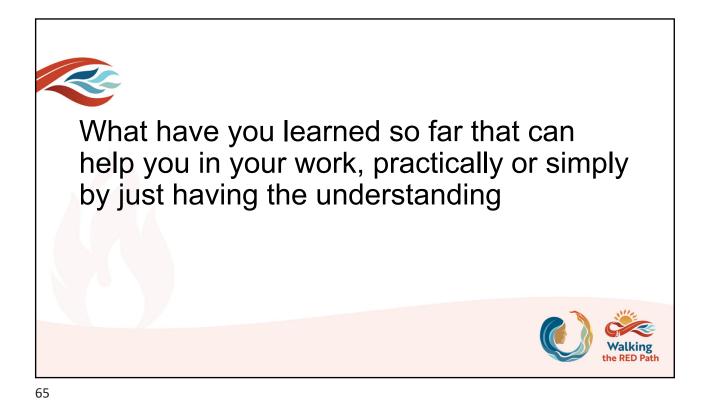


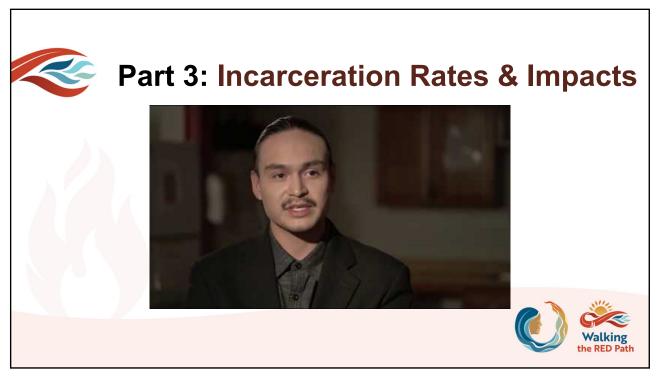
What Does Systemic Oppression Look Like?

 Systemic Oppression lives at the levels of institutions (laws, policies, societal practices) and therefore across associated structures (education, health, employment, justice).









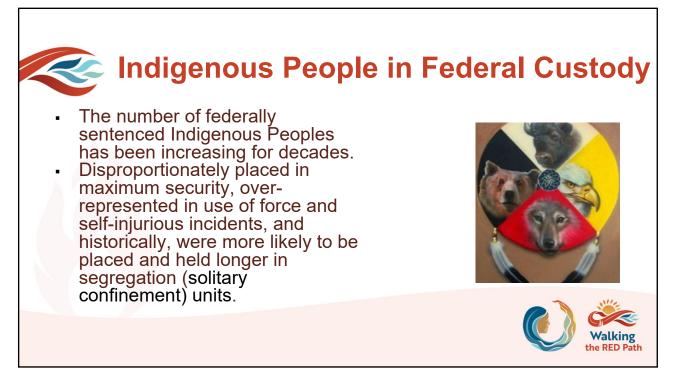


Indigenous People in Federal Custody

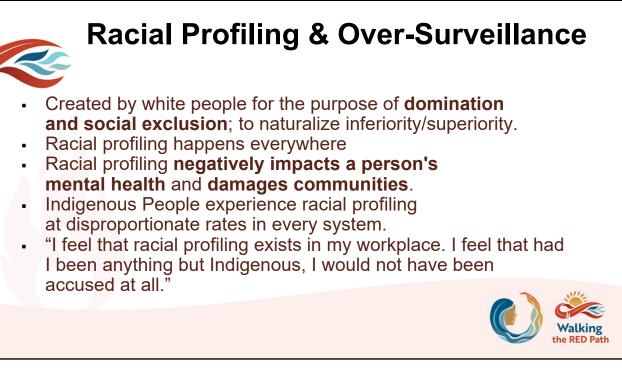
- Indigenous peoples make up 28% of the total incarcerated population
- The proportion of Indigenous People in prison reached 32%, while only representing 5% of the overall Canadian population.
- Federally incarcerated Indigenous Womxn make up
 40% of the female incarcerated population
- Incarceration rate of Indigenous Womxn is 15.4 times higher than that of non-Indigenous Womxn.
- Indigenous youth comprise 7% of the general population, they accounted for 33% of admissions to custody.











Racial Profiling and Racism - a Different Dynamic for Indigenous People

- "As an Indigenous person and a member of the Cree Nation, I belong to the Cree people and am not a member of a 'minority'. Characterizing Indigenous people as 'ethnic minorities' fails to take into account the very important fact that [our] people have been here since time immemorial"
- Monique Larivier of Montreal, Quebec



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Over-Policing



Until the 1960s-1970s, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were providing police services on reserve.

- Police lack culturally-sensitive training and there is lack of formal investigations into police racism. This of course is not the experience of all.
- Police still face deficiencies in various aspects, such as employment equity, recruitment, community relations, race relations, and intercultural training
- Emergence of Indigenous police forces aims to address underrepresentation.



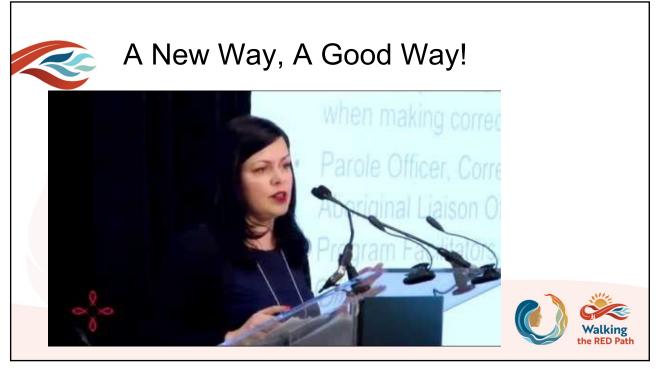


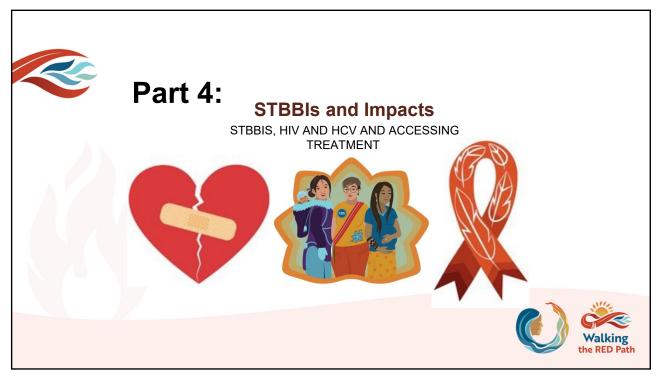


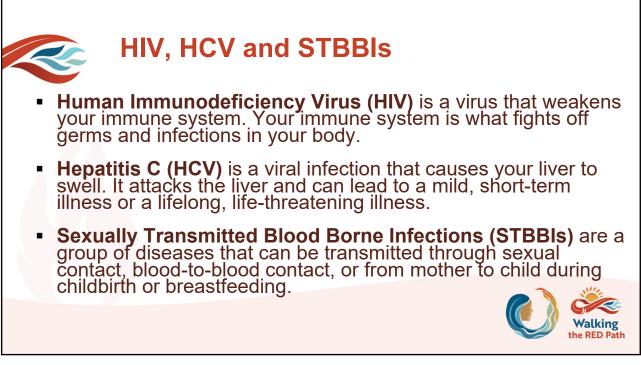
Disproportionate Effects of the Prison System on IW2STGD+

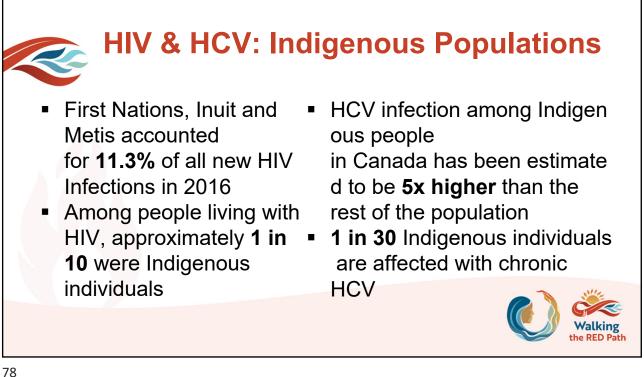
- Indigenous women are incarcerated at a rate of **15.4 times** more than non-Indigenous women.
- Indigenous people account for 48% of all federal held individuals and Indigenous women make up 32%.
- There are over 1 million individuals in Canada who identify as Two-Spirit, trans, and gender diverse – being part of a minority group increases one's risk for incarceration.
 - **5.7%** of trans participants, **10.6%** of non-binary participants and **19.7%** of Two-Spirit participants reported being incarcerated in their lifetime.

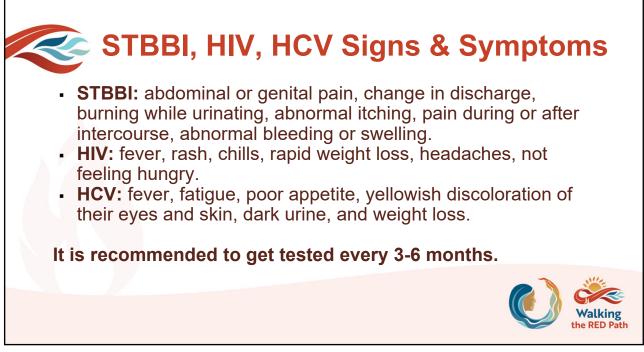


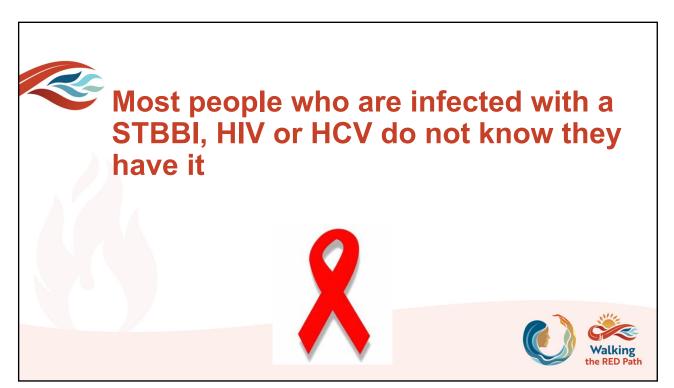


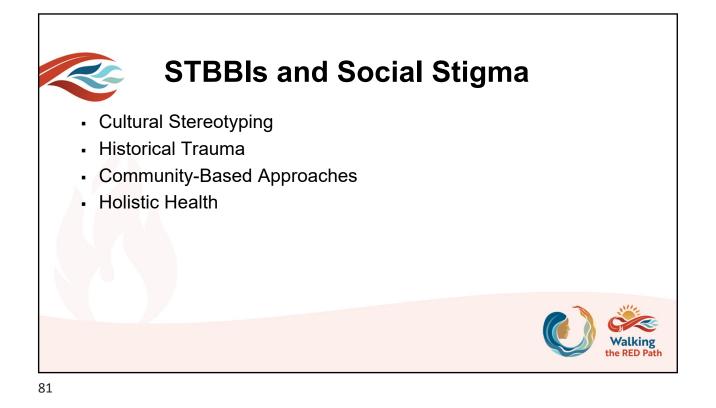


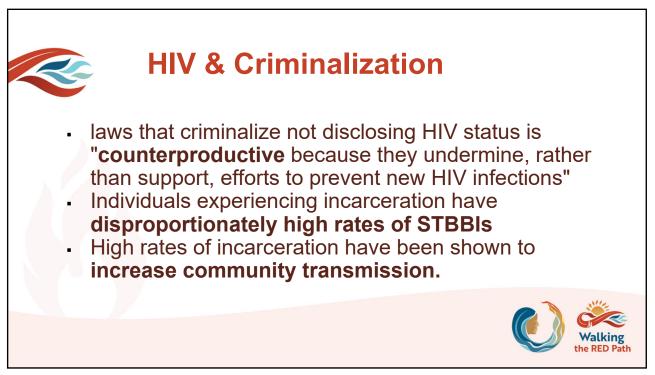


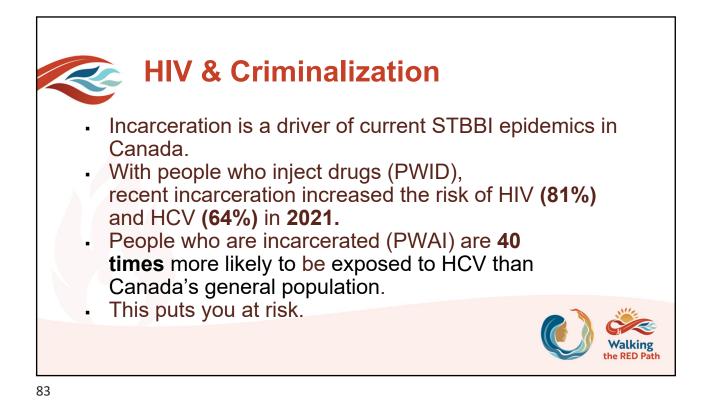




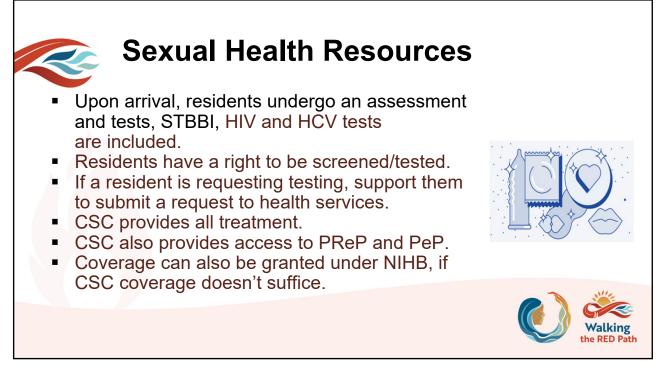






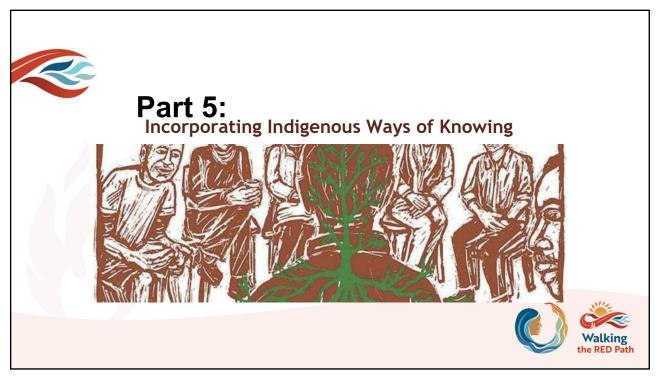


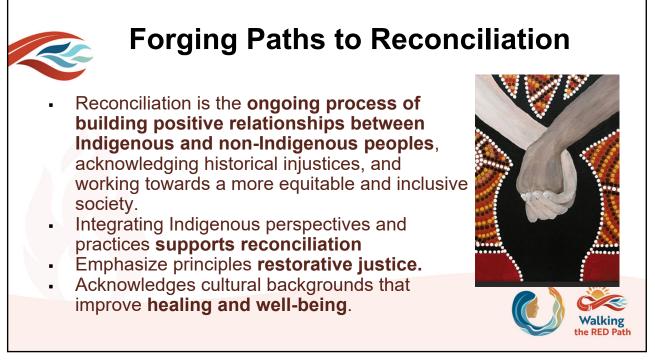


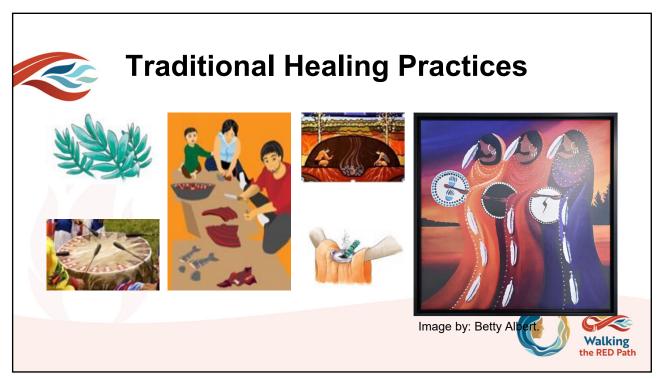




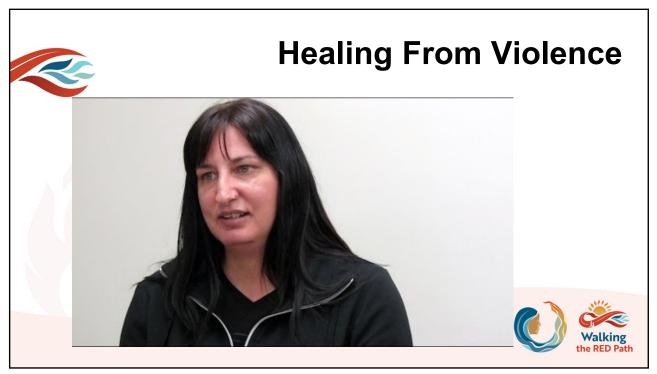










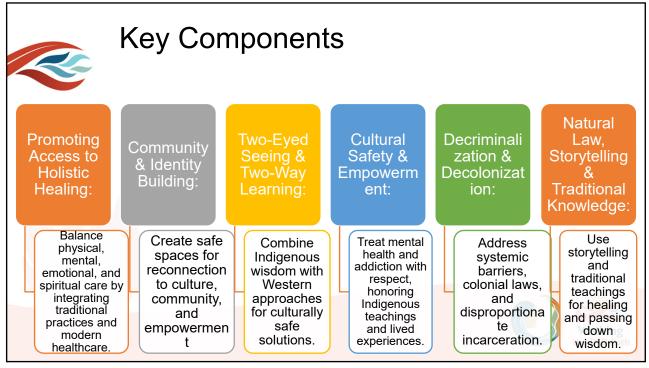


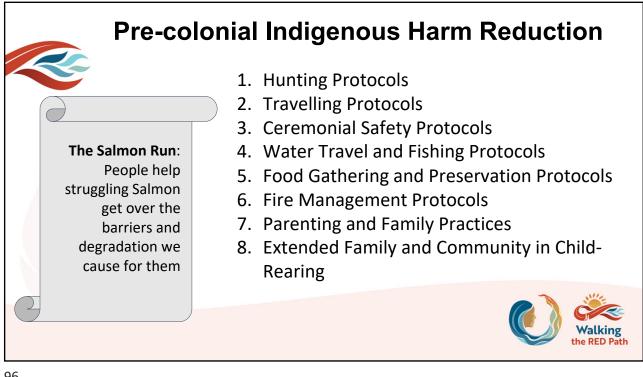


Tree Activity: How is your tree the same or different from the Residents you work with?





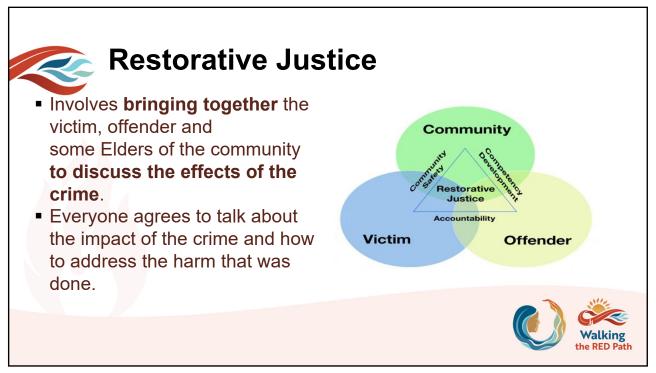


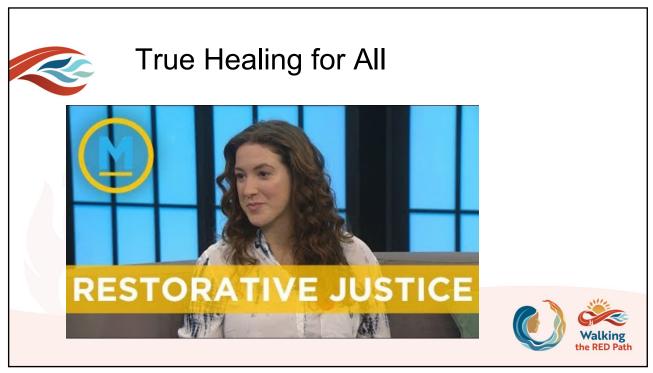


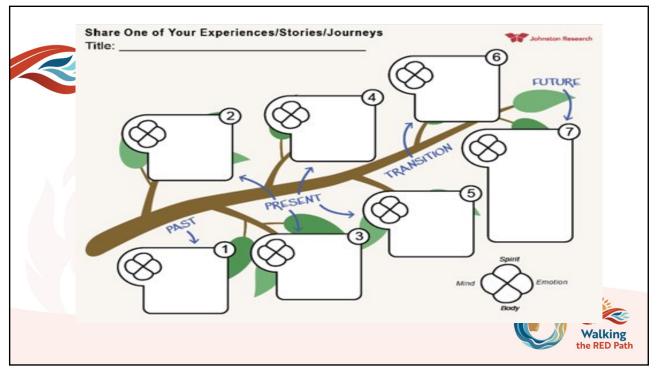














Healing Inner Children Helps Empower Young Girls & Future Generations



