



Indigegogy as an expression of our Traditional education approach

We take up our rightful approach

By

Professor Malcolm Saulis

Purpose

- First Nations people have been in a struggle to have the right to control education and to create forms of education which preserve values, attitudes, ceremonies, medicines, and Elders presence in the educational processes used.
- We approach this work as our right

How Indigegegogy Came to me

- Dr Stan Wilson an eminent Indigenous educator asked me a question in three parts:
- Hey Mac do you know what Aboriginal is?
- Hey Mac do you know what Indigenous is?
- Hey Mac do you know what Indigegegogy is?
- The way we teach each other in our Traditional way was taking place in these questions and the way they were asked.

The answers

- I knew enough to say I don't know to Stan; he gave me the following answers
- Aboriginal is a political term put on us to transmit what mainstream calls us
- Indigenous is what we call ourselves which comes from our Ancestors
- Indigegogy is an educational approach like pedagogy and androgogy, but it is how we Indigenous people educate

Indigegogy

- Pedagogy is how education systems educate children
- Androgogy is the education of adults
- Indigegogy is the educational approach rooted in our Traditions, our culture, our Indigenous identity and how we organize the world.

Indigegogy details

- It is a means of transferring knowledge that is built upon;
 - The inherent capacity of the learner to understand
 - The inherent capacity of the learner to be valued while learning
 - that knowledge is wholistic in nature and therefore learning affects the learner wholistically; mentally-spiritually-emotionally-physically
 - That the teacher and learner are of equal value in the educational process; the learner will know as much as the teacher at the end of the process
 - That the knowledge transferred becomes the responsibility of the learner and with the relationship that emerges between teacher and learner they will help each other to continue to carry the knowledge
- It is rooted in a vision of love and a loving approach to learning

Indigegogy outcomes

- Indigegogy is a wholistic process and affects the mental-spiritual-physical-emotional aspects of the people involved.
- The spirit is seen in the meaning of life and its direction is towards a vision of the person . It gives the learner hope in their life. It provides faith to the person that they can achieve in a learning setting. It provides a basis to believe in themselves and that their teachers believe in them also.
- The process provides a powerful emotional experience for learners and provides a significant basis for good emotional experiences in their lives.
- The physical aspect of the learner is affected by developing the values and attitudes they will carry as a result of what they learn in their classroom and from the teachers they have. It will show up in the actions they take in their lives.
- The mental aspect of their wholistic self is seen in their intellect. It is shown in their thinking process and the thoughtfulness they have in their lives.

The Circle In Indigegegy

- The most Indigenous worldview and process is the Circle. It provides complete perspectives and measures of how processes, including educational and healing processes, should go.
- The Circle therefore becomes the most important educational approach and the impact the approach should have on all concerned should be wholistic in nature.
- This Circle process in Indigegegy should provide learners, teachers, families, communities, and cultures the basis for powerful and affirming learning.