

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study.

## Literacy & Numeracy Learning for FNMI Students

Empowering the Spirit

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip,



[Literacy & Numeracy Learning for FNMI Students](#)

### General synopsis

This motivational video highlights key messages from the *Empowering the Spirit Forum*. Over 300 people came together to deepen their understanding of the importance of literacy & numeracy for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students.

### Key understandings

- Educators need to understand the foundational philosophies that guide students' literacy development and ensure the voices of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples are present in the classroom.
- Western ways of knowing are not the only ways of knowing.
- Indigenous world views value learning that is meaningful and authentic and experienced through discovery.
- Being literate means being able to use the media forms of the day, whatever those forms might be.
- Throughout history, First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples have used many forms of literacy, including 'literacy of the land'.
- Solving the problems of the 21st century will require a great deal of creativity and imagination.

### Questions for reflection and discussion

- Consider the opening statement: "What is good for FNMI students is good for all students. However, what is good for all students is not necessarily good for FNMI students." How does this resonate with you?
- What big ideas does this video convey?
- Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann talks about the importance of including First Nations, Métis and Inuit voices and communities. How can schools be more inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives?
- Scholar Narcisse Blood challenges us to think beyond the Western ways of knowing. What are some other ways of knowing that might be more engaging and meaningful for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners, and other learners?
- Professor Jason Ohler says that "Being literate means being able to both read and write in the media forms of the day." What media forms do today's students need to understand and be fluent in?
- Artist Aaron Paquette talks about the importance of creating a classroom atmosphere where students are learning through discovery and surprise. Why is discovery key to learning and literacy?

(see next page for more questions)

### Questions for discussion (continued)

- Aaron Paquette also notes that 21<sup>st</sup> century problems call for creativity and imagination. How is your school jurisdiction using creativity and imagination to enhance First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success?
- What are some examples of how teachers can ensure that literacy & numeracy learning is authentic, meaningful and engaging for all students, including students who are First Nations, Métis and Inuit students?
- How could you use this video in your work?
- Who else should see this video? Why?
- Based on your reflections and discussion about this video, what are the next steps for you and your colleagues?

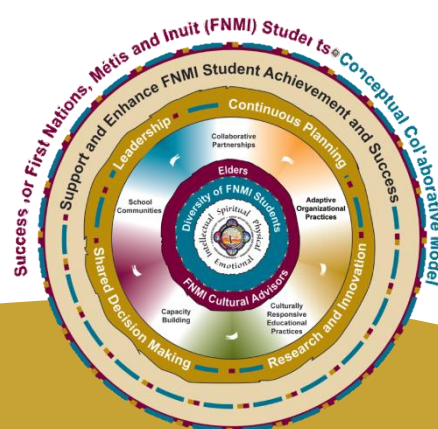
### For more information

***Walking Together: FNMI Perspectives in Curriculum.*** This Alberta Education digital resource is designed to help teachers understand the holistic nature of First Nations, Métis and Inuit ways of knowing, to provide opportunity for FNMI Peoples to share their perspectives on topics important to them, and to demonstrate FNMI perspectives in teaching and learning experiences. [www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/](http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/)

***Our Words, Our Ways: Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learners.*** This Alberta Education resource provides information about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures and perspectives, and sample strategies for meeting the needs and recognizing the gifts of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/cross/ourwordsourways.aspx>

***FNMI Collaborative Framework: Building Relationships.*** A guide to strengthen collaborative processes between school authorities, parents, communities and other stakeholders. <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/fnmi/collaborativeframework.aspx>

***Moving Forward: Implementing FNMI Collaborative Frameworks.*** A professional development resource supporting success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students as part of Alberta Education's Business Plan. <https://education.alberta.ca/media/6664478/movingforwardbooklet.pdf>



### Acknowledgement:

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