Pathways to Leadership and Entrepreneurship
National Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs’ Ecosytem (NIWEE)

Reflections on a proposal and invitation to collaborate

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Business Design Thinking

Learning
- Hands-on application
  - Sales
  - Marketing
  - Cash Flow
  - Suppliers
- Understanding design thinking
- Ideate, Shape the idea, Prototype
- Test, Hypothesize, Experiment, Learn, Pivot, Test, Decide
- Validate

Launch Startup
- Do it - Apply lean business model thinking, i.e
  - Circular value creation
  - Create value for customers
  - Frugality – effective use of resources

Focus
- Practicum
- Investor Pitch

Built on a Foundation
- Provide a safe place to explore ideas
- Resilience

A bi-focal program
- A methodology and ontology embracing both the Indigenous and Western worldviews.
Key Features

- Entrepreneurship Program
- Access to a highly engaged ecosystem
  - Social / learning support
  - Mentoring
  - Community support both in Indigenous and private sector communities.
- Course to be co-created in collaboration between Telfer professors, Indigenous leaders, and the participants.
- Open to community members and high school and college
- Participants will be recommended by elders, teachers
- Micro-credit program in due course.
- Train-the-trainer.

Contact us if you are interested in being a co-creator.

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Goal

- The NIWEE represents a pathway in accordance with Indigenous culture.
- The Ecosystem approach recognizes local Indigenous culture, norms and practices and that together with academia, industry, governments and communities will form the foundation for relationships required for nurturing start-ups and enabling prosperity and sustainability.
- It builds skills among non-indigenous entrepreneurship experts, mentors, researchers to engage appropriately.

Source: Indigenous Wholistic Theory: A Knowledge Set for Practice – Published 2019 First Peoples Child and Family Review
author: Kathy Absolon, Ph.D. Associate Professor and Director, Wilfrid Laurier University, Centre for Indigegogy, Ontario, Canada
Some reflections on co-creating pathways

• It is not about knowledge transfer / teaching, but co-creation and mutual learning
• The conversation you want to have / feel qualified to have is not always the conversation that is needed or welcome
• Honour everyone’s time. Do your research, don’t expect collaborators to educate you. But of course learn from them.
• Expect to have to navigate interesting institutional paths, as incentives, strategies, and funds may not be aligned.

Be creative and resourceful.
My hope: Building more inclusive future will be better for all.
Meegwetch!

Thank you to the ISSP for hosting this event, Guy Dancause for bringing us all together, to our fabulous host and speakers, and everyone who came to listen and engage.
Inclusive Innovation

| People “Who?” | • Include everyone, past present and future  
|              | • Meaningful inclusion |
| Activities “What?” | • What is innovative?  
|                 | • All types of innovation |
| Benefits “Why?” | • What impacts do we measure, manage?  
|                 | • Relationships between impacts |
| Trusted Governance “How?” | • How to integrate people / activities / impacts into governance?  
|                         | • How to change structures and systems? |