Indigenous Protocols and AI

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

Learning involves patience and time.

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Indigenous Education

Practicing Protocols

Following traditions and protocols are very important to Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Protocol is how we ensure teachings are carried forward in a good way. Each type of work has it's own set of protocols to follow. For example, speaking in a circle, harvesting, sharing stories, ceremonial work, working with Elders and asking permission to come on shore. Protocols are specific to each nation and will vary across S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō Territory) and Turtle Island (North America). When sharing Indigenous Knowledge you share where the teaching is from (what Nation), who shared the knowledge with you, and that you have permission to share it. This ensures that we are using authentic stories, teachings and world views. Indigenous Nations have oral traditions which means knowledge is carried in the embodied actions of the speaker. Stories need to be shared in ways that respect embodied teachings because this ensures knowledge is carried forward in a good way.

"These tools do not authentically complement our teachings" -- Gwen Point

At this time AI does not follow Indigenous Protocols. It cannot ask permission, share where teachings come from, source only from authentic resources, or recreate embodied knowledge. Therefore using AI to create Indigenous lessons is cultural appropriation. Please do not use AI with Indigenous Knowledge until the Nation you are sharing the information from has given specific permission. Using AI without specific permission exploits, extracts and exterminates important relationships. This fosters stereotypes and bias which harms reconciliation efforts.

We use protocols with our tools because this honors our relationships and ensures those relationships will endure. Using tools without respecting protocol is cultural appropriation and exploitation.

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Online Tools and Resources

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Indigenous Education

Self Check:

- Am I respecting and remembering and all the First Peoples Principles of Learning?
- Am I using this tool for cultural knowledge extraction that benefits me more than those I'm in relationship with?
- If I use AI to quickly get something I don't have what am I teaching my students? What is AI learning from me? Am I promoting healthy community relationships?

Target Check:

- I can identify **WHO** shared the knowledge by using more than just a name.
- I can identify the territory **WHERE** the knowledge comes from.
- I can share my **PERSONAL** connection to the knowledge.
- I can **remember** that Indigenous cultures are unique and there might be more protocols I need to learn.

Wondering about ways to ground your work?

- Watch protocols in action with Christine Seymour https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZTmkMSa-7I

- Read **Upper Stó:lō Interaction: Teachings From Our Elders.** Written by Qw'oqw'elith'a (Coqualeetza) Elders, 1979.

- Review the **First Peoples Principles of Learning**: https://www.fnesc.ca/first-peoples-principles-of-learning/

- Study some of BC's Land Codes and look at the relationships developed through these codes. https://labrc.com/resource/land-codes/

Curious and want to learn more?

- Check out **Indigenous AI 101** with Hawaiian and Samoan digital media theorist, poet, and software designer, Jason Edward Lewis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSgwjoKyq8k

- Click around on Abundant Intelligences and learn about Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Working Group.

- Read the Government of Canada's work on Indigenous-Led AI: How Indigenous Knowledge Systems Could Push AI to be More Inclusive.

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