

EMBEDDING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING IN CLASSROOMS VIA MUSIC



"The Arts are a way that we can change the world and change the way that we interact with each other"

(Photo credit: Beth Tuinstra). -Denise, Research Participant

What you need to know:

In 2015, the British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Education mandated that local Indigenous knowledge, pedagogies, and worldviews be embedded in all subject curriculum documents from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Nevertheless, BC educators, and more specifically music educators, have expressed a lack of confidence to embrace Indigenous principles in the classroom due to a fear of potentially misrepresenting Indigenous cultures.

How did we do this research?

Researchers interviewed **music educators** and Indigenous community members to learn how they **successfully embed local Indigenous ways of knowing** in the classroom via music.

This is what researchers learned

1 Build relationships



between music educators and Indigenous community members.

2 Develop mutual trust, appreciation, and supportive relationships

by approaching Indigenous community members with **sincerity, honesty**, and by being **proactive** (e.g., learning about the Indigenous culture of the place where you are teaching).

3 Including Indigenous musics

in the schools has the potential to foster **cross-cultural understanding** among Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

4 Embrace and celebrate Indigenous cultures

in schools. This fosters pride among Indigenous students as they see their culture represented in the schools.



5 Culture bearers are a key part

of creating **safe spaces for all** in which to learn Indigenous perspectives in a responsible and meaningful way.



Teachers who developed a **positive relationship** with **culture bearers** felt more confident and encouraged to embed **Indigenous perspectives** in their classrooms.



Citation

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