

10 Calls to Action for BCMB Scientists

Tailored to BCMB using the template of Wong et al. 2020. Towards reconciliation: 10 Calls to Action to natural scientists working in Canada. FACETS. 5: 769–783 | DOI: 10.1139/facets-2020-0005.

1. Understand the socio-political landscape around research sites.

Suggested BCMB Action:

- Search out websites for Indigenous nations and communities to learn about their territories.
- Seek training opportunities and information sessions provided by Indigenous Elders and community members that provide information about the local environment with respect to Indigenous communities.
- Invite Indigenous Elders/community members to present in our department seminar series
- Find culturally appropriate ways to show respect to Indigenous communities whose land may be a research site (e.g., gift giving is traditionally a sign of respect). Also seek permission from the Indigenous communities to work on the site and, if possible, ask if the Indigenous community members would like to be involved in the research.

2. Recognize that generating knowledge about the land is a goal shared with Indigenous peoples and to seek meaningful relationships and possible collaboration for better outcomes for all involved.

Suggested BCMB Action:

- Involve Indigenous peoples in the planning and execution of research projects and policies with appropriate compensation.
- Cite and reference Indigenous community members who shared knowledge for the research, and/or include Indigenous community collaborators as co-authors of publications.
- Read and implement the tenets of [OCAP](#)

3. Enable knowledge sharing and knowledge co-production

Suggested BCMB Action:

- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into research projects e.g., ecological and medical
- Ensure research findings are accessible to Indigenous nations and communities, both in relation to ease of comprehension and physical access.
- Provide oral communication of research advances, in particular areas that incorporate Indigenous knowledge.

- Cooperate with organizations that provide Indigenous scholarships and research funding specifically targeted for Indigenous groups as a way of establishing a link between these nations/organizations and the department.

4. Seek out advice from Elders and Knowledge Keepers for respectful ways of handling animals and using the land and water

Suggested BCMB Action

- Develop a gradual rapport and relationship with Indigenous groups. Be patient and listen.
- Seek input from Indigenous Elders and Knowledge keepers on humane and respectful and appropriate ways of conducting research that involves animals and the land and water. Incorporate advice into animal use protocols and research protocols.

5. Provide meaningful opportunities for Indigenous community members, particularly youth, to experience and participate in science

Suggested BCMB Action

- Possible youth outreach initiatives like Speaker's Bureau, internships in BCMB labs, programs that focus on traditional ecological knowledge, Let's talk Science, Science Venture, etc.
- Partner with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to offer meaningful ways to involve Indigenous youth in science opportunities (Elders teach and youth reach).
- Create opportunities to listen and understand what barriers are experienced by Indigenous youth.
- Build citizen science type projects where communities can be directly involved. This could be in collaboration with our researchers and lab instructors.
- Create paid positions and prioritize Indigenous students/youth to fill these positions.

6. Incorporate Indigenous place names and Indigenous language as permitted and with permission

Suggested BCMB Action

- Use Salish Sea and other land acknowledgements where possible.
- Include land acknowledgment in UVic letterhead, email signatures, presentations.

7. Take a course on Indigenous history and rights

Suggested BCMB Action

- Participate in EDI training.
- Pursue education/professional development opportunities to learn about Indigenous history and rights, including Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training (ICAT) and the

Indigenous Canada course offered by the University of Alberta that is available online free of charge.

- Advocate for a course that covers historical and current socioeconomic Indigenous relations, as well as bioethics and political opinions on relevant topics from an Indigenous lens, and learn how an ethical framework can be integrated into research.

8. Call on funding bodies to change approaches to funding

Suggested BCMB Action

- Seek opportunities for outreach to funding agencies to pledge conceptual support for funding that directly responds to and involves Indigenous communities.
- Raise awareness amongst funders of the importance of paying Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Keepers for their time (independent of gifting).
- Seek opportunities to set up scholarships for Indigenous students.
- Support Indigenous peoples in positions of strategic guidance for allocating funding across prioritized research topics.

9. Seek review by and permission from respective Indigenous communities/Nations for research involving Indigenous Knowledge or that has implications for Indigenous Land, Water, Cultural and Political sovereignty

Suggested BCMB Action

- Raise awareness amongst editors, editorial staff and researchers that publication of research on Indigenous Knowledge and cultural resources require review and permission from the respective Indigenous communities.

10. Call on all natural scientists and postsecondary research institutions to develop a new vision for conducting natural science: fundamentally mainstreaming reconciliation in all aspects of the scientific endeavor, from formulation to completion

Suggested BCMB Action

- View every aspect of science with a lens to reconciliation, and seek opportunities for meaningful Indigenous involvement, recognition, and collaboration (e.g., teaching, research, hiring).
- Consider Indigenous members as scientific collaborators and acknowledge territories as mentioned above.