

Indigenous Women and Safe Spaces

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Slide 2: Patriarchal, social control and assimilationist policies, practices, and agents of the Federal government targeted Indigenous women

Slide 3: Colonialism

- Patriarchal forms enforced 1876 *Indian Act*
- Erasing of Indigenous knowledge(s) of Women and Land
- Cultural understandings and practices outlawed
- The forced removal from land and continued dispossession of Indigenous lands

Slide 4: Structures of dominations

- Removal from origin stories, knowledges, governance structures, erasure of history...
- Removal of children and destruction of families
Indigenous women defending land & life

Slide 5: Vulnerability of Indigenous women in Canada

- The on-going physical, social, emotional, and mental health challenges faced by Indigenous women are tied to their lived experience of colonialism in Canada, (ONWA, 1989, TRC 2015).
- Violence and health equity are intricately linked in a damaging relationship... worsen the quality of life for victims of violence.
- There is a recognition of the distinct relationship between violence-related outcomes and systemic issues.

Slide 6: Historical Trauma and Soul Wounds

- how our lives affected by social and cultural processes within colonial structures
- until recently, the *social positioning of women* in many Indigenous communities erased, forgotten, seen as against church and state
- according to scholars and academic researchers “who constructed their identities and histories for them” (Brady 2009: 33).

power differential in place concerning the construction and use of Indigenous knowledge(s)

Slide 7: Need for Safety and Safe Spaces

Slide 8: Other stories exist: Anishinaabe Giikeedaasiwin

Slide 9: Land and Territorial Integrity

- Land - material, cultural, spiritual dimensions
- Required for survival
- *Linked to identity, existence as “peoples” and to Indigenous women*
- *...under their responsibilities of stewardship and preservation*

Slide 10: Our Understandings of Our Worlds

Slide 11: Conceptual knowledge(s) based on Indigenous Being

- Collective nature of resiliency founded upon Indigenous knowledge(s)
- Stories about the land and relationships to the land are foundational; Responsibilities to the land
- Maintenance of these stories and respect for ancestor histories
- Paths for social transformation for collective future

Slide 12: Revitalize Indigenous Knowledge(s) of Women

- Colonial processes, agents, and violence meant Western, knowledge(s) were legislated and enforced.
- The impact of colonization has been on Indigenous peoples' sense of who they are and the rupture between their sense of self and their relationships with their respective lands.
- Indigenous women were and are targeted as part of colonialism, yet, despite centuries of violence, resilient Indigenous women continue to exist.