

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY





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Thank you to the NETWORK's team, Mikana's team and our linguistic editors for their support and contribution in the creation of this pathway.



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



Foundation of Greater Montréal



RESEAU
de la communauté
autochtone à Montréal
Montreal
Indigenous
Community
NETWORK

CREATION STORY

For decades, Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island, Inuit Nunangat and the Métis Homeland have shared knowledge, personal experiences and cultural ways of living in order to raise awareness about the abusive and oppressive relationship between the colonial state and the rightful stewards of this land. In the beginning, efforts went largely unnoticed. Recently however, as more and more devastating facts surfaced, many non-Indigenous people began reflecting about their role as settlers and asking themselves what they could do. After numerous public inquiries, commissions, official reports, and media reports, the truth has become impossible to ignore. However, unaware of the deep roots of colonialism embedded in their minds and ways of living, many well-intentioned settlers set off on their personal allyship journeys inattentive to the cost of labour associated with having to constantly explain Indigenous realities to non-Indigenous people. It is with this context in mind and in this spirit that the Decolonial Toolbox was born.

In recent years, Concordia University's Office of Community Engagement has worked to cultivate relationships with organizations that centre the leadership and expertise of Indigenous communities. In 2020, Concordia approached Mikana, an Indigenous-led organization with an educational mission to act on discrimination and racism against Indigenous Peoples, and the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK, a community-led organization committed to improving the lives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities living in the Greater Montreal area, to form a partnership. From then on, a tripartite collaboration was born.

From this partnership emerged a unified vision to provide opportunities for young Indigenous leaders to consider how Indigenous lives and wellbeing are affected by ongoing colonialism and offer Indigenous-driven solutions to bridge the inequality gap. Our minds were equally convinced of the need to alleviate the burden and emotional labour Indigenous Peoples so often carry when educating non-Indigenous folks.



NAVIGATING THE **PATHWAY**

The Office of Community Engagement, Mikana and the NETWORK have developed the Decolonial Toolbox, which includes a bilingual Educational Pathway that regroups resources for readers interested in learning about Indigenous realities. We recommend that the reader follows the five-level path carefully paved by its creators in order to ensure knowledge progression in the least overwhelming manner. With accessibility and Indigenous expertise as foundational principles, we chose main resources that were free to the general public and Indigenous-written, or resources that respectfully incorporated Indigenous ways of knowing.

Additional resources were chosen to complement and enhance the knowledge gained through the main resources. These additional resources are often lengthier, more specific and sometimes come with a fee. We invite the reader to consider consulting both the main and additional resources. As you navigate through this pathway, we hope you treat the texts that have been chosen with respect and become cognizant of the privilege of engaging with Indigenous knowledge.

At the very core of this pathway is the concept of decolonization. Every resource is a heartbeat giving breath to a living document dedicated to decentering the deep-seated false narrative non-Indigenous people have been taught to believe. Two essential (and perhaps frustrating) realities must be made clear to the reader from the

start - the first is that there is no standard, universally-accepted definition of decolonization or how to go about it, and the second is that despite this, it is the responsibility of settlers to decolonize their minds, relations, knowledge and ways of living.

Do not fret or feel discouraged, dear reader. Our aim is to gradually provide resources, reflection questions and Indigenous expertise to help you understand the complexity of decolonizing and how to incorporate change in everyday life. We hope these stepping stones will guide you as you embark on your personal journeys toward decolonization and meaningful allyship.

NIÁ:WEN
TIAWENHK
CHI-MIIGWECH / MIK8ETC
MIKWETC
NAKURMIK
TSHINASHKUMITIN
WELA'LIN
ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ (KINANÂSKOMITIN)
ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ (CHINISKUMITIN)
WLIWNI (OLEOHNEH)
WOLIWON

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