



USE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE ON COLLEGE PROPERTY

Policy Area:	Board		
Policy Number:	ILAPL_2403N_BG/PRE		
Policy Sponsor:	President		
Policy Contact:	Director of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation		
Stakeholders:	Employees, Students, Board of Governors		
Authority:	<i>College and Institute Act</i>		
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors		
Approval Date:	March 12, 2024		
Effective Date:	March 12, 2024		
Replaces or New:	New		
Last reviewed:	March 2024	Scheduled review date:	March 2029

Procedures: *None.*

1. Policy Statement

Okanagan College has a stated strategic responsibility to weave Indigenous world views into all aspects of college life as part of our journey toward reconciliation. This includes our materials and physical and social spaces.

We acknowledge the cultural significance and importance of the nsyilxcən and Secwepemctsin, languages in our local communities.

We recognize that the learning environment is enriched by diversity and aim to develop Indigenous policies to promote the visibility and appreciation of Indigenous culture.

2. Purpose

To provide principles for the use of the nsyilxcən and Secwepemctsin languages as a medium of communication in a wide range of contexts so that Indigenous languages become relevant, revitalized and used as part of ordinary practice.

3. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all Real Property managed by Okanagan College and Personal Property owned or created by Okanagan College.

4. Definitions

Indigenous	Means First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.
nsyilxcən	Means the language spoken by the Syilx Okanagan people.
Personal Property	Means movable assets of Okanagan College that are not permanently attached to Real Property such as vehicles, furniture, tangible possessions including items and material created by the College.
Real Property	Means land and permanent structures managed by Okanagan College including signs and items attached to Real Property.
Secwépemc	Means the Shuswap or Secwépemc people who occupy traditional territory from the Columbia River valley along the Rocky Mountains, west to the Fraser River and south to the Arrow Lakes.
Secwepemctsin	Means the language spoken by the Secwépemc people.
Syilx Okanagan	Means people who are members of the seven Indigenous communities in the Southern Interior of British Columbia: Okanagan Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Upper and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands, and Westbank First Nation; and in Northern Washington State, the Colville Confederated Tribes.

5. Principles

- 5.1 When using Indigenous languages to label, name or describe Real Property the College will use the language of the most proximal Indigenous peoples.
- 5.2 When using Indigenous languages to label, name, describe or decorate Personal Property the College will use both the nsyilxcən and Secwepemctsin languages.
- 5.3 The College will work with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Elders, or language speakers from the Syilx Okanagan and Secwépemc Nations to ensure that written forms of nsyilxcən and Secwepemctsin are appropriate and of a consistently high standard.

6. Related Acts and Regulations

Canadian Indigenous Languages Act

7. Supporting References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

Naming Policy – Building Facilities and Other Physical Assets

History / Revisions

Date	Action
2024-03-12	Approved by Board of Governors: <i>Use of Indigenous Languages on College Property Policy</i>