Understanding Cultural Identity

Cultural identities are complex and multifaceted. The Tableau Society, and similar forms of cultural expressions have often been suppressed, and the efforts to reclaim and maintain them have been challenging. It is important to understand that there is no single, simple definition of a cultural identity. It is a dynamic and fluid concept that changes over time and across different contexts.

The Tableau Society recognizes the importance of cultural identity and the need to respect and preserve it. This section provides an introduction to the topic of cultural identity, highlighting the complexity and richness of these expressions.

Creation Stories and Teachings

The creation stories and teachings of Indigenous peoples are central to their cultural identity. These stories provide a framework for understanding the world and the relationships between humans, the natural world, and the sacred. They are passed down through generations, and are an integral part of the community's collective memory.

These stories are told in a way that is accessible to all members of the community, regardless of their age. They are often told in a circular manner, reflecting the cyclical nature of the natural world. The stories are also told in a way that is inclusive, ensuring that all members of the community feel a sense of belonging.

Steps for Relationship Building

1. **Examine your own biases and assumptions:** Be aware of your own biases and assumptions, and try to understand how they may be affecting your interactions with FNMI people.
2. **Learn about the community you are working with:** Understand the cultural and social context of the community, including their values, beliefs, and practices.
3. **Learn from theFNMI people:** Ask questions, listen carefully, and be open to learning.
4. **Support and empower theFNMI people:** Provide opportunities for theFNMI people to participate in decision-making and help them to build their capacity.

Communication Styles

Nonverbal

Some FNMI people use nonverbal communication styles that may be unfamiliar to mainstream society. For example, they may use hand gestures, body language, or eye contact in a way that is not immediately apparent to others. It is important to be aware of these communication styles and to respect them.

Verbal

FNMI people may use a variety of verbal communication styles, such as storytelling, songs, or prayers. These styles are often used to convey important messages and to connect with others on a deep level.

Indirect Communication

FNMI people may use indirect communication styles, such as metaphors or symbols, to convey their messages. This can be challenging for mainstream society, as it may be difficult to interpret these styles.

Storytelling

Storytelling is an important aspect of FNMI culture, and is used to convey important messages and to connect with others on a deep level. It is important to be open to these stories and to respect the shared knowledge that they represent.

Myths and Facts

Myth: FNMI people do not pay any taxes.
Fact: FNMI people pay the same taxes as all other Canadians. They pay federal and provincial taxes, as well as property taxes on their homes and businesses.

Myth: FNMI people are integrated into mainstream society.
Fact: FNMI people are often marginalized and face challenges in accessing services and opportunities. They may have limited access to education, employment, and healthcare.

Myth: FNMI people only speak one language.
Fact: FNMI people speak a variety of languages, including English, French, and a number of Indigenous languages.

Myth: FNMI people do not have a sense of community.
Fact: FNMI people have strong communities and a sense of belonging. They rely on each other for support and assistance.

Community of Origin, Spirit Name, and Clan

FNMI people have a strong sense of community, as well as unique spirit names and clans. These are important aspects of their cultural identity and are passed down through generations.

Language

FNMI people speak a variety of languages, and this diversity is an important aspect of their cultural identity. The languages may be spoken as a first or second language, and are often used to convey important messages.

Summary

Understanding cultural identity is essential for building respectful relationships with FNMI people. It involves learning about their cultural and social context, being open to their communication styles, and respecting their values and beliefs.
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REGIONAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Haudenosaunee (also known as the Iroquois): A person who is registered as an Indian under the Indian Act. The act sets out the requirements for a person to demonstrate descent from an original Indian Nation and establishes the rights, responsibilities, and restrictions associated with being an Indian. Haudenosaunee people are traditionally known as the “people of the longhouse,” and are culturally significant in Ontario, including in London and Middlesex.

FNMI people are treated with racism and stereotypes, where assumptions, and values. This process encouraged survivors to share their stories and begin their healing journey towards reconciliation.

Children in Foster Care: 30% of FN people have felt sad, blue, or depressed for 2+ weeks-

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Policies such as residential schools, “Gradual Civilization Act,” “Gradual Enfranchisement Act,” and the Indian Act, which are examples of colonial policies, were introduced to support forced assimilation. These policies were often implemented without consent on FNMI patients and led to significant distrust between FNMI people and Canadians. For instance, residential schools were established to “kill the Indian in the child.” The Truth and Reconciliation reports estimate that 3,200 of the 150,000 FNMI people were killed or died in care at residential schools.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The FNMI people in Canada are more likely to be hospitalized and to receive sentences of imprisonment if convicted of a crime. There is an over-representation of FNMI inmates in the correctional system. FNMI people account for 23% of the federal prison population. This is due to a variety of factors, including higher rates of crime and racial disparities in the justice system. FNMI people are also more likely to experience mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. FNMI people are also more likely to experience health disparities, such as higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Strengthening of the FNMI community is needed to address these health disparities and to ensure that FNMI people have access to culturally competent and respectful healthcare.

SOURCES

Ontario: This is an example of a community health center that focuses on providing culturally competent care to FNMI communities.

HISTORIC SOURCES OF DISTRUST

The FNMI community in Canada has faced significant historical and contemporary challenges. The FNMI community has experienced significant distrust, discrimination, and racism, which has contributed to a lack of trust between FNMI patients and the Canadian healthcare system. This distrust is often rooted in the system’s failure to recognize the FNMI community as a distinct group with unique needs and experiences.

Children in Foster Care: The FNMI community in Canada has experienced significant distrust, discrimination, and racism, which has contributed to a lack of trust between FNMI patients and the Canadian healthcare system.

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