

All My Relations

"We are all relatives. All beings are created equal and interconnected."-Grandmother Doreen Spence (Saddle Lake Cree Nation)

"Recognize everything as alive and elemental to your being. There is nothing that matters less than anything else. By virtue of its being, all things are vital, necessary and a part of the grand whole, because unity cannot exist where exclusion is allowed to happen" -Richard Wagamese (passed in 2017, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations)

Grandmother Doreen shared teachings of 'All My Relations' on how ways of *being, knowing and doing* are interdependent in relationships within the ecosystem.

This philosophy of relationality is the foundation for love of all beings (Deloria, 1989).

Within their community, students are recognized as 'Helpers' who consistently demonstrate unconditional loving kindness for all beings, starting with their own self - the journey starts from within.

Helpers understand how we are all relatives through this complex worldview of interconnection with all beings including the planet.

With open hearts and minds, Helpers steadily embody actions of loving-kindness with respect, humility, courage, honesty, truth, and wisdom.

It is important for student Helpers to integrate teachings of 'All My Relations' since these teachings are aligned with how Indigenous Knowledges are developed in direct response to the interconnected ecosystem (Battiste, 2013).

References

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Deloria, V. (1999). Relativity, relatedness and reality. In B. Deloria et al. (Eds.), Spirit and reason: The Vine Deloria, Jr., reader (pp. 32-29). Fulcrum Publishing.

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