



McDowell Action Research Project

THE EFFECT OF A COMMUNITY OF TEACHERS DOING
THE UNSETTLING WORK OF TREATY EDUCATION IN
RURAL SASKATCHEWAN CLASSROOMS

Description of Research Project

- ▶ Focus is on investigating the impact of developing a community of rural educators to take up the deep work of Treaty Education
 - ▶ Unpacking our identities in relation to Treaty
 - ▶ Learning the Treaty stories of our communities
 - ▶ Reflecting on our Treaty responsibilities
- ▶ This will include deepening our understandings of settler colonialism and the harm embedded in settlers' historical and contemporary relationship with Indigenous peoples
- ▶ Focus is NOT on lesson planning with the Treaty outcomes

Research Questions

- ▶ How does developing a community of teachers to do the unsettling work of Treaty Education influence teacher practice in rural Saskatchewan classrooms?
 - ▶ How are teachers understanding their identities in relation to Treaty?
 - ▶ How might reframing our mindsets around Treaty relationships and responsibilities impact our planning and teaching practices? How might considering our own Treaty responsibilities help us interpret curriculum toward more ethical Treaty Education?
 - ▶ How might we disrupt dominant Canadian narratives that deny/ignore past injustices toward First Nations people and the ongoing legacies of colonialism in Canada?

Research Methods and Data Collection

- ▶ Data will be collected through interviews, field memos, research journals, and written reflections
- ▶ Data will be analyzed for recurring themes using grounded theory
- ▶ Throughout the research process, we will focus on relationships, relational accountability, and narrative research, or research as story
- ▶ We hope that participating in ceremony will be part of our research process but are looking for creative ways to do this with COVID restrictions

Commitment



Three full-day immersive learning experiences (sub coverage will be provided)



Three recorded one-hour interviews

Initial Interview (November 2020)
Mid Interview (January-March 2021)
Final Interview (May 2021)



Submission of a narrative reflection at the conclusion of the learning experiences