

Hello, everyone!

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that I am speaking to you from the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, Anishinew, Dakota, and Dené Peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. I honor their continued contributions to the cultural, social, and educational fabric of this region.

My name is Nora Sobel, and I am currently an instructor at Red River College Polytechnic, where I teach and support students in their learning journeys. I hold a bachelor's degree in communication studies and a master's in education, which have both shaped my approach to teaching and learning.

My family comes from Eastern Europe, and I was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I've been living in Winnipeg since 2001, and I've come to love the rich cultural landscape of this community, where I continue to learn from the many diverse traditions and experiences around me.

I want to welcome the module on decolonization, Indigenization, and reconciliation. This module explores the important process of decolonizing education and integrating Indigenous perspectives into teaching and learning.

Why decolonization and Indigenization matter in Education? Decolonization in education involves challenging and dismantling the enduring legacies of colonialism. It calls for educators to reimagine how educational systems and practices may have been shaped by colonial mindsets, often marginalizing Indigenous peoples, their knowledge, and ways of life. Indigenization involves creating inclusive spaces where Indigenous knowledge and practices are integrated at every level of educational practice.

Educators engaged in this learning journey may have different cultural identities and backgrounds. Some educators may be Indigenous peoples, some may be non-Indigenous peoples born in Canada, and some may be recent immigrants to Canada. But we all have various lived experiences with colonization.

We invite educators to engage with the legacies of colonialism and consider how educational systems—historically built on colonial frameworks—have shaped both their own identities and the educational experiences of students.

As educators, we have a unique and vital role in making education more inclusive and equitable. Acknowledging and challenging colonial legacies and incorporating Indigenous systems of knowledge can be challenging. This process requires both reflection and action. As educators, we must confront uncomfortable truths about the history and current realities of colonialism and its impact on Indigenous peoples. We must also work toward creating an inclusive environment that respects and values Indigenous ways of knowing, teaching, and learning.

I'm excited to be part of this module with you, as we explore how to decolonize education and integrate Indigenous perspectives into our teaching and learning practices.

Thank you for joining this learning journey.