

Hello. My name is Susie McPherson Durrendy. I have lived here in Brandon, Manitoba for 38 years.

I'm originally from Churchill, Manitoba. I was born and raised along the banks of the Churchill River.

And family originally came from York factory in January 1957. I am currently the Wellness Councillor down at the Wellness Centre at the Friendship Centre downtown here in Brandon and I'm also one of the Knowledge Keepers at the Brandon University Indigenous People Centre and also at the Assiniboine College. I'm also on the Elders Council with the Manitoba Indigenous Education Blueprint and just very involved as much as I can possibly be in many ways here in the community. I studied at Brandon University for a Bachelor of Arts and also studying for a Master's and Master of Divinity at UBC currently. My greatest learning has been in my life journey, my story and learning from the community and everyone that I'm involved in, whether it be in ceremony or at a community event and just sitting with people over the years I've lived here in Brandon for 38 years and I'm very thankful for all that I've learned in all the different employments that I've been able to enjoy over the years. I think my biggest learning was in working in child welfare and experiencing and seeing the effects of colonization and the way we've been conditioned to see life from mostly a Western worldview education.

I'm really thankful for all that I've learned from all the women and the Elders and the children and the youth that I had the opportunity to be involved in. So, I just want to say thank you for taking the time. I think this is an opportunity for us to think about our own personal journey, our own personal story, and how this can impact on our own lives and also the lives of those we come across in our education journey of teaching, and being with students. So I want to say thank you for taking the time to go through this module of learning.

I'm hopeful that it will add. I always strive towards a balanced education Western worldview, and also Indigenous and other worldview knowledge, and I've been so thankful to be able to think about life from many different perspectives. And so I want to say, thank you, I am grateful, all my relations.