

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

ADVANCING THE
2030 AGENDA
PETERBOROUGH | NOGOJIWANONG

Indigenous Engagement



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led by

kwic
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It is Important to Remember

- Canada is a vast and diverse country. Each region has distinct opportunities and challenges.
- Indigenous peoples across this country are as diverse as the land itself.
- Even the most heartfelt and sincere goals for conservation and sustainability could come at risk to Indigenous Rights and Values.
- We need a create a space for all to participate in.



Creating Room for an Indigenous Space

Creating space for Indigenous worldviews always comes down to two things:

1. The *Language* used within the space.
2. The *People* participating in the space.

If:

- **Both parties** know and respect each other as people and;
- **Both parties** know how to communicate effectively with each other.

Then the outcomes are limitless.



Creating Space for Knowledge Sharing

- The focus of this space is on creating a place for knowledge systems to interact with mutual respect, kindness, generosity and other basic values and principles. All knowledge systems are equal; no single system has more weight or legitimacy than another.
- One system does not need the other to “corroborate” it to achieve internal validity.
- For example, the written system does not always need archaeological evidence to provide sound “proof” of an Indigenous practice or story.

Remember to Pause

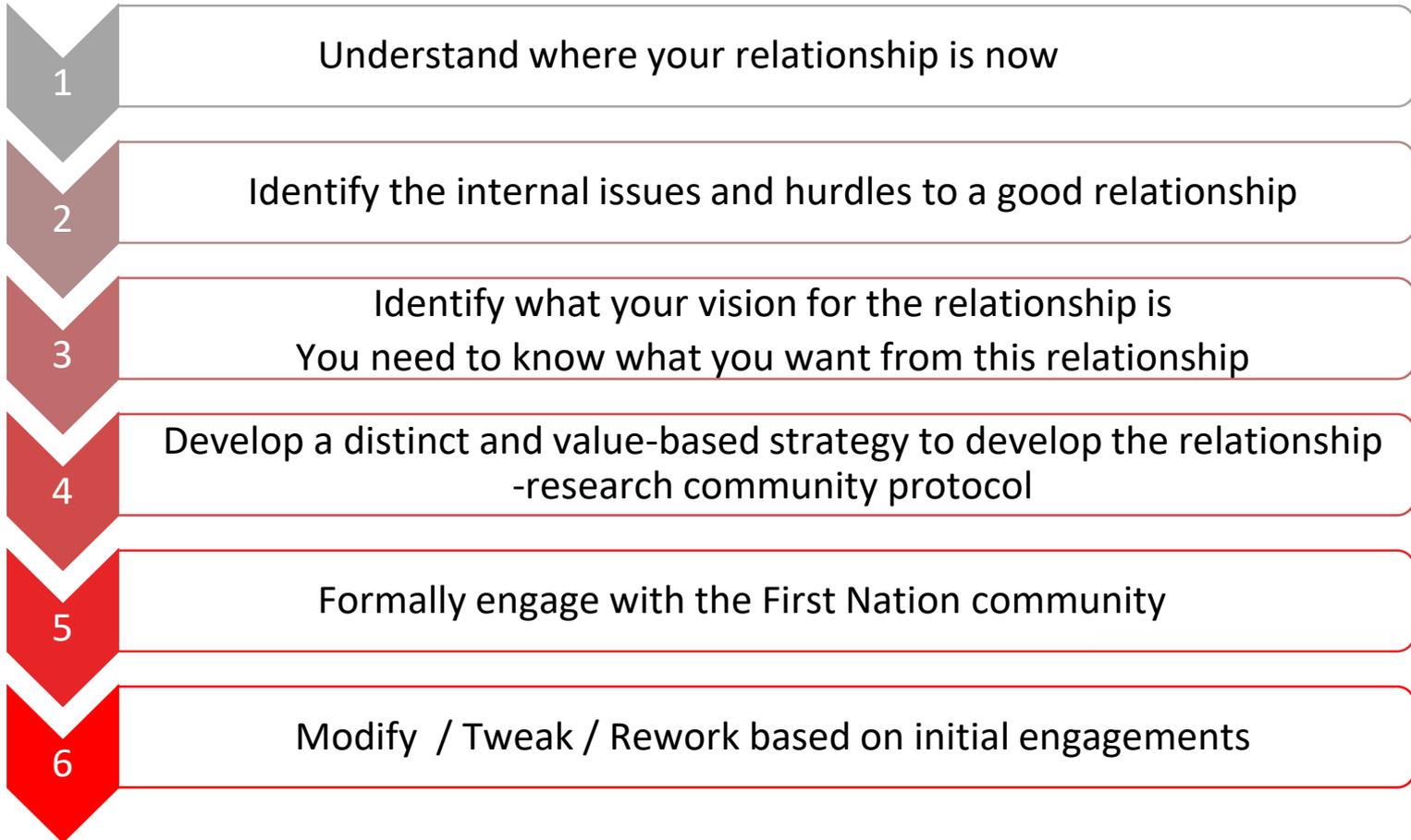
It is so easy to get caught up in the inner workings of your project(s) or operations. You are excited about the outcomes and want to share it with all that will listen.

Prior to setting off on your quest to create any form of space, please consider:

- Cultural understanding of the First Nation reconciliation process
- Local understanding of the Indigenous Communities with whom you would like to build a relationship
- Challenges internally with good relationship building or collaboration
- External factors that make good collaboration difficult
- Knowledge systems and problematic outcomes
- Benefits to the local Indigenous communities, and
- The “Why” for a collaboration or duration of collaboration



Develop Your Position



Educate Your Team

Develop a training plan for staff

- Train those interacting and related to First Nation people
- The training may be far outside of their normal training activities
 - attending ceremony,
 - sharing circles,
 - cultural harvesting or feasting
- Training should involve the way policies or strategies are to be interpreted and applied
 - cross cultural views and knowledge system application

Make sure the team member you use is the right one

- Personal politics and potential prejudices need to be understood



Bring People Together

- Once you have an understanding of your basic network of partners, bring everyone together.
- I suggest a feast/meal followed by an informal introduction. (When we can again 😊)
- Try to figure out the strengths or common interests that all members of the group bring when at the table.

Also think about:

- Creating a code of conduct
- Bringing in additional mediators or facilitators who are not part of the project



Sub-Working Groups

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- As the project is underway you may find that core working group can not tackle or handle the workload of every single aspect effectively or in a timely manner.
- An Elder once suggested to me that you create sub-working group to better understand objectives or goals people are interested about.



Filling in the Knowledge Gaps

These may include:

- Gathering Western Science data about the area/project
- Gathering Indigenous Knowledge about the area/project
- Understanding the policy context, legislative and natural law (Indigenous worldview) on how it applies to the project
- Developing strategies for outreach and better communication

Clear Terms of Reference

- Goals or mandate of the working group
- Core principles
- Membership to the group
- Frequency of meetings
- Member responsibilities
- Accountability
- Relationship to the sub-committees



Final Thoughts

- Both decolonization and Indigenization require the cooperation of all people.
- It is all about the relationship.

