

Embracing Elders and Knowledge Keepers:

Beyond the Welcome

Faculty/Instructor Resource Guide

2023

Project: Embracing Elders and Knowledge Keepers: Beyond the Welcome

Acknowledgments:

community members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, TLC Specialists, UFV members, and the Office of AVP Indigenous in the development of this resource guide.

Type of Opportunity: Classroom participation students, staff, and faculty

Program Description:

Embracing Eders and Knowledge Keepers: Beyond the Welcome is to support UFV faculty, staff, and students who are interested in engaging Eders and Knowledge Keepers in their classrooms and or special events related to courses that occur both on and off the four UFV campus locations. This is a

Definition of Elders and Knowledge Keepers:

An Elder or Knowledge Keeper is a person who is recognized within their community or nation to have developed gifts of sharing traditional teachings of Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing.

Indigenous Student Centre Elder Supports:

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) has identified Elders and Knowledge Keepers that have shared their willingness to support UFV: <u>https://www.ufv.ca/isc/elder-services/</u>

Roles of Elder who supports Faculty:

Provide an opening and welcome

Assist the Elder or Knowledge Keeper with their belongings and walk them to the classroom. Offer water/tea/coffee. Let them know where washrooms are located.

Acknowledge territory and introduce Elder or Knowledge Keeper to students.

(Ask the Elder or Knowledge Keeper if they would like to introduce themselves with their First Nations name, and practice how to pronounce the name so it is done correctly).

Have student(s) formally thank the speaker and ensure that a gift or offering is presented to the Elder or Knowledge Keeper. You can let the guest know that the honorarium will follow from the department/faculty. (Oustom requires the Elders or Knowledge Keepers compensation to be presented on the day of the event).

It is respectful to offer the opportunity of the Elder or Knowledge Keeper to stay for the duration of the event, as an observer.

At the end of the visit, walk the Elder/Knowledge Keeper out and assist them with any of their belongings.

After the Eder or Knowledge Keeper Visit

If possible, debrief the session with the Eder/Knowledge Keeper as some Eders or Knowledge Keepers may share deeply personal experiences with students during their visit. Please ask them if they wish to have a few moments in a quiet place to ground themselves after the session. Walk the Eder/Knowledge Keeper out and assist them with any of their belongings. Debrief the session with your students and do a follow-up activity. This is especially important if there was no time for questions or a discussion at the end of the session.