9 Principles of First Nations Philosophy

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Nelson, N. & Clark, K. (1997). Framework for developing First Nations curriculums.

(Source: Group of Elders – Lethbridge, Alberta came to consensus– Four World's Development Project)

Wholeness

All things are interrelated

Everything in the universe is part of a single whole

Everything is connected in some way to everything else

It's only possible to understand something if we know how it connects to the whole

Change

- Everything is in a state of constant change
- One season falls upon the other
- People are born, live, and die
- All things change
- There are two kinds of change

  The coming together of things

  the coming apart of things
- Both kinds of change are necessary and are always connected to each other

Change Occurs in Cycles or Patterns

They are not random or accidental.

If we cannot see how a particular change is connected it usually means that our standpoint is affecting

our perception

The Physical World is Real.
The Spiritual World is Real.

- They are two aspects of one reality.
- There are separated laws which govern each.
- Breaking of a spiritual principle will affect the physical world and vice versa.
- A balanced life is one that honours both.

People can Acquire New Gifts, but They Struggle to do so.

The process of developing new personal qualities may be called "true learning."

4 Dimensions of True Learning

Mental

Physical

Emotional

Spiritual

The Spiritual Dimension

The capacity to have and to respond to dreams, visions, ideals, spiritual teachings, goals, theories.

The capacity to accept these as a reflection of our unknown or unrealized potential.

The capacity to express these using symbols in speech, art, or mathematics/numeracy.

The capacity to use this symbolic expression towards making it a reality.

Developing Potential

- One must actively participate in this development.
- The path will always be there for those who decide to travel it.
- Guides, teachers, and protectors will assist you.