

# A Locally Situated Land-based Indigenous Writing & Pedagogy Guide

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## Vision and Process

A writing guide that is situated in local Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges

The project is grounded in a recognition of how Indigenous Knowledges (IK) and Land ethics are embedded in Indigenous languages and is informed by movements to revitalize Indigenous languages, to indigenize curriculum, to understand the Indigenous canon and Indigenous style (Kirkness, Archibald, Armstrong, Younging), and is informed by concerns Indigenous communities continue to have regarding IK in the public domain (Smith, OCAP, McCracken and Hogan), and by recent calls for linguistic justice within composition studies (Horner et al.). Further this project seeks to rectify inequities in access to education that reflects Indigenous Peoples perspectives regarding history and regarding the future.

- Through a Syilx advisory our project situates itself in Syilx contexts, Knowledges, values, ways of knowing, stemming from mutually reciprocal ethics in regard for, and in relationship with Land.
- The Indigenous writing guide will have a digital OER platform version, raising questions regarding the sharing of Indigenous Knowledges (IK).

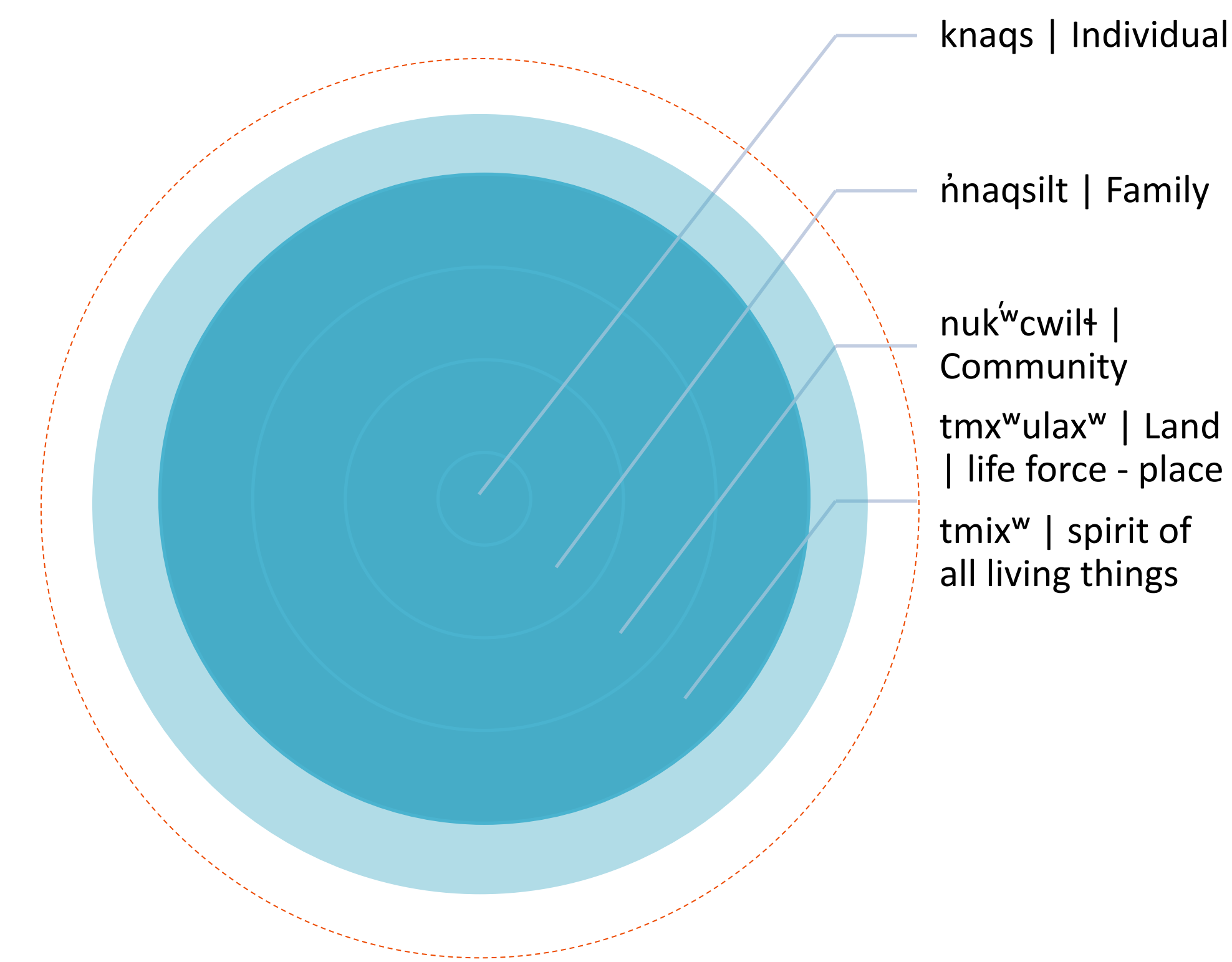
- Most importantly the guide presents ways into academic writing that are culturally in tune with Indigenous students' preferred ways of learning and communicating their learning and knowledge. The guide supports and empowers students to celebrate and build on the funds of knowledge they bring with them to university.

## Timeline as a spatial time circle



## Indigenous Student Focus Groups – What Students Said

## Big Concept - LAND



Envisioning an academic writing experience that centers Indigenous epistemologies, pedagogies, and cosmologies that conceptualize relationship to the land, while drawing upon insights into these topics from local syilx perspectives.

What does that mean? Creating a guide that enfolds many Indigenous perspectives relating to writing, while connecting learning to key concepts within syilx knowledge systems such as:

- Identity, what it means to be syilx (those-who twine-many-into-one)
- concepts of land, tmixw (life-force-place)
- to the way we interact with knowledge and each other through an oppositional dynamics model, enowkinwixw (share knowledge-reciprocally)
- “The Four Chiefs Enowkinwixw Discourse” Armstrong, Jeannette. *Blowing Drifts Moon*. February 1999.
- Armstrong, Jeannette. *Constructing Indigeneity: Syilx Okanagan Oraliture and Tmixwcentrism*. Greifswald, University, Dissertation, 2010.

## Models for the Guide

- Four Feathers (Island Coast Salish) Royal Roads University
- *Elements of Indigenous Style* (Greg Younging)
- Open Educational Resources (BCCampus)
- Syilx Peoples' Ways of Knowing (Millennia proven)

## Keywords:

Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges, Indigenous Writing Style, Writing Assessment, Open Education, Linguistic and Compositional Justice

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge that this project was made possible through the financial support of UBC Okanagan (ALT) 2040 Aspire Learning Transform Fund and through the guidance of the Syilx advisory:

Dr. Bill Cohen

Dr. Jeannette Armstrong

Dr. Marlowe Sam

We also gratefully acknowledge our student researcher, Janna Wale, who worked with us on the project from January 2022 to April 2022.

