



What does respectful representation look like?

Respectful representation means ensuring that Indigenous peoples, cultures, histories, and knowledges are shared in ways that are accurate, meaningful, and grounded in relationship to land, community, and lived experience.

This involves moving beyond stereotypes or surface-level inclusion and centring Indigenous voices, local Nations, and place-based knowledge.

It means recognizing that the land itself holds stories, teachings, and responsibilities, and that educators play a role in presenting these respectfully, with care, and in ways that honour ongoing Indigenous presence and sovereignty.

Some key points to focus on respectful representation:

- **Center local Nations and place:**
Prioritize the histories, perspectives, and knowledge of the Indigenous peoples whose traditional territory your school and nearby parks are on.
- **Use authentic voices and sources:**
Draw from Indigenous created resources, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community partnerships rather than relying on generalized or outdated materials.
- **Avoid stereotypes and tokenism:**
Present Indigenous cultures as diverse, contemporary, and living, not as a single, historical narrative or cultural "add-on."
- **Teach relationships to land:**
Emphasize that land is not just a setting but a teacher, connecting language, culture, and identity, aligning with how many Indigenous world views understand place.

