

OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

TEEPEE 1.0



Prepared for:
SAIT Truth and Reconciliation Vision Team

FEBRUARY 2025



INTRODUCTION

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Defining an Eco-map within a Social Work Context

An eco-map is a visual representation used in social work to illustrate the dynamic relationships between an individual, family, or organization and the systems that influence them. It helps to map out the connections, resources, and support networks that shape well-being, highlighting areas of strength and potential challenges. In the context of social work, eco-maps are often used to assess how different social, institutional, and cultural structures interact, offering a fulsome perspective on relationships and influences (Harold et al., 1997).

Utilizing an Eco-map in an Institutional Context

Using an eco-map in an institutional context is beneficial because it provides a visual representation of relationships and systemic influences, helping organizations visualize an individual's and/or group's organizational environment. It allows institutions to identify gaps in support networks, ensuring that services are better coordinated and responsive to the needs of the collective and organizational vision. Eco-maps also promote cross departmental collaboration, enabling different functions to work together more effectively by recognizing shared responsibilities. Additionally, they help in decision-making and policy development by offering a clear picture of strengths, stressors, and potential interventions within an institutional system.

Harold, R. D., Mercier, L. R., & Colarossi, L. G. (1997). Eco Maps: A Tool to Bridge the Practice-Research Gap. *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 24(4), 29-49.

Hyperlink: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2449&context=jssw>



INTRODUCTION (CON'T)

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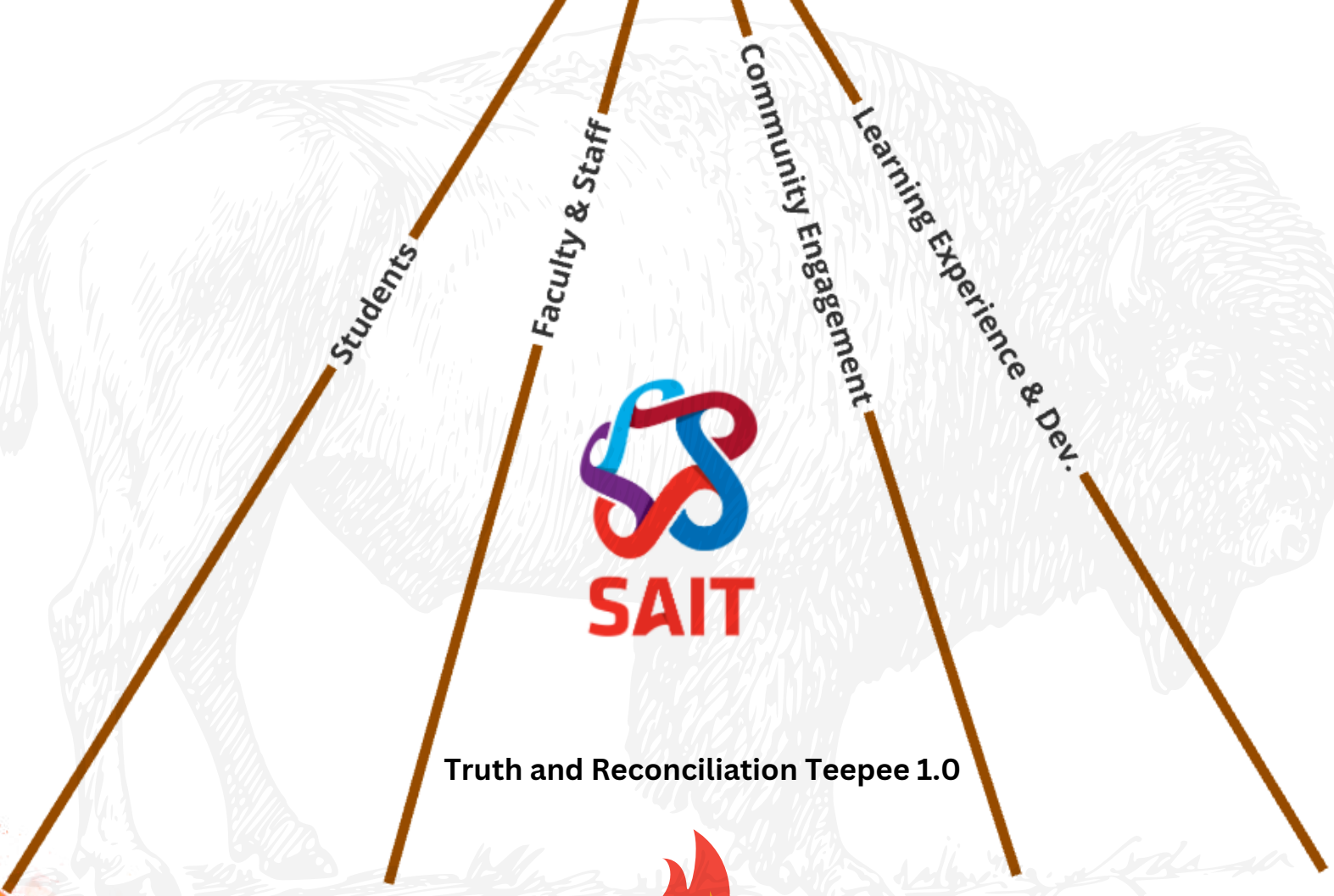
SAIT's Truth and Reconciliation Teepee as a Strategic Asset

The Truth and Reconciliation Teepee 1.0 (TR Teepee 1.0) at SAIT is proposed as a living structure which embodies the interconnected systems working together to uphold Truth and Reconciliation efforts within the institution.

Providing guiding direction for the initiative are two key functions within SAIT: Natoysopoyiis and the Office of Indigenous Engagement (OIE). Natoysopoyiis represents the Sun—a guiding light responsible for nurturing and comforting students during their academic journey, especially during school hours. It provides warmth, visibility, and care, ensuring that students feel supported in their educational journeys. The OIE takes on the role of the Moon, symbolizing grandmother wisdom from which we draw strategic guidance and strength for the collective. Just as the Moon stabilizes and balances the Earth's natural rhythms, this office anchors the institution's Indigenous strategies with wisdom and long-term vision.

At the base of this eco-map are the founding departments, each represented as distinct circles that contribute to the foundation of SAIT's Truth and Reconciliation Vision Team. These entities—including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Alumni & Development, Library Services, Marketing, Communications, and Applied Research and Innovation Service (ARIS)—serve as the grounding forces that support the Teepee, working to ensure it stands strong. Providing warmth as a Homefire to the work are the Seven Grandfather Teachings—Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth. This Homefire is a constant reminder of the Spirit and purpose behind this important work. Elders and Knowledge Keepers who work with SAIT contribute directly to all aspects of the Teepee.

Together, these relational elements form a living ecosystem, reminding us that Truth and Reconciliation is not a passive process but a living, collective effort rooted in community, cultural knowledge, institutional commitment, and the strength of shared relationships.



Truth and Reconciliation Teepee 1.0





PLEASE CONTACT THE
OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS
ENGAGEMENT WITH ANY
QUESTIONS.

Disclaimer: This is the prototype of Version 1 of the Truth and Reconciliation Teepee at SAIT. Please do not share or distribute this document internally without express permission from the Office of Indigenous Engagement.

Thank you and we appreciate your support.

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