

APPENDIX 1

Guiding Principles: The 5R's Model

Engineers and Geoscientists BC adopts the 5Rs of Indigenous Values ([Kirkness & Barnhardt; Article; Restoule's adaptation](#)), to guide our ongoing reconciliation journey. These are not linear goals, but interconnected ways of being, knowing, and doing. Each pillar shapes our approach to regulation and professional practice:



The 5Rs is a concept adapted from an approach created by an Indigenous education advocate, Verna J. Kirkness, whose work has been focused on aligning post-secondary education with Indigenous values to support Indigenous representation in academia and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Engineers and Geoscientists BC will apply this concept as a lens for implementing the strategy.

Respect - The foundation of the Five R's. It means recognizing the inherent value and dignity of all people, including Indigenous peoples and their knowledge. Respect also involves acknowledging and honouring the history and traditions of Indigenous peoples, including their unique ways of knowing, being, and doing. By demonstrating respect, non-Indigenous people can create a safe and welcoming space for Indigenous knowledge to be shared and valued.

Relevance - means recognizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge and culture in today's world. Indigenous knowledge is grounded in centuries of lived experience and is deeply connected to the land and environment. By recognizing the relevance of Indigenous knowledge, non-Indigenous people can gain a deeper understanding of their own place in the world and their responsibility to care for the environment.

Reciprocity - means recognizing that relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples must be based on mutual respect, understanding, and benefit. Reciprocity involves giving and receiving in equal measure and recognizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge and culture in shaping our collective future. By practicing reciprocity, non-Indigenous people can build stronger relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities.

Responsibility - means recognizing the role that non-Indigenous people have in creating a more just and equitable society for all. Responsibility involves acknowledging the harms of colonization and working towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It also means taking action to address the ongoing social, economic, and environmental issues facing Indigenous communities. By embracing their responsibility, non-Indigenous people can work towards building a more just and equitable future for all.

Relationships - the other Four R's of respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility can only truly be realized through conscious tending and effort to relationships. Relationships between teacher and learner, and between community, culture, and school underlie all aspects of Indigenous education

(Restoule, 2017)