

# Decolonizing occupational therapy curriculum: Weaving Indigenous knowledge systems and practices



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of Manitoba

# Context

**Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:  
Calls to Action**

**Health  
18 to 24**

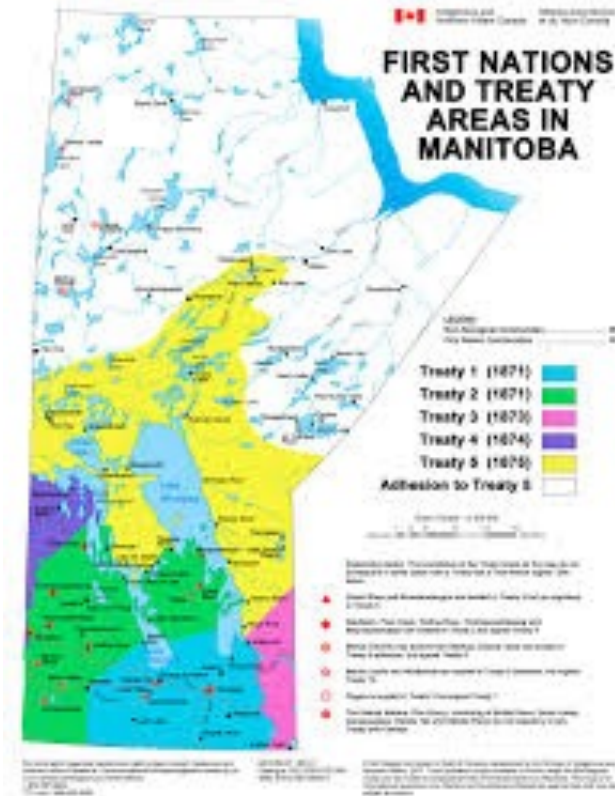


Health professions called to prepare culturally safe practitioners to address health inequities among Indigenous Peoples.

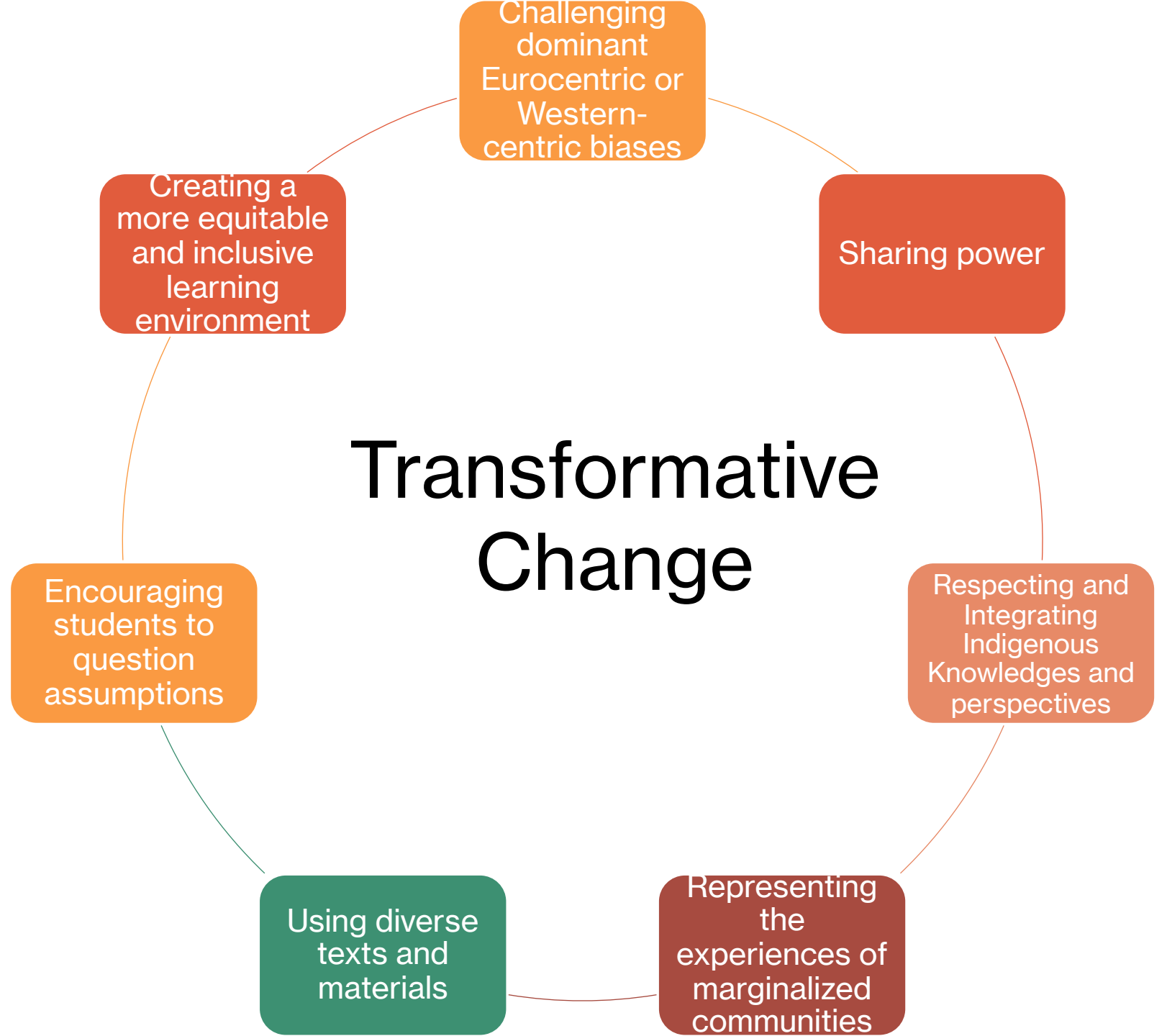


# Context

The Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Manitoba is engaging in a process of decolonizing and indigenizing curriculum.



# What do we mean by decolonizing and Indigenizing?



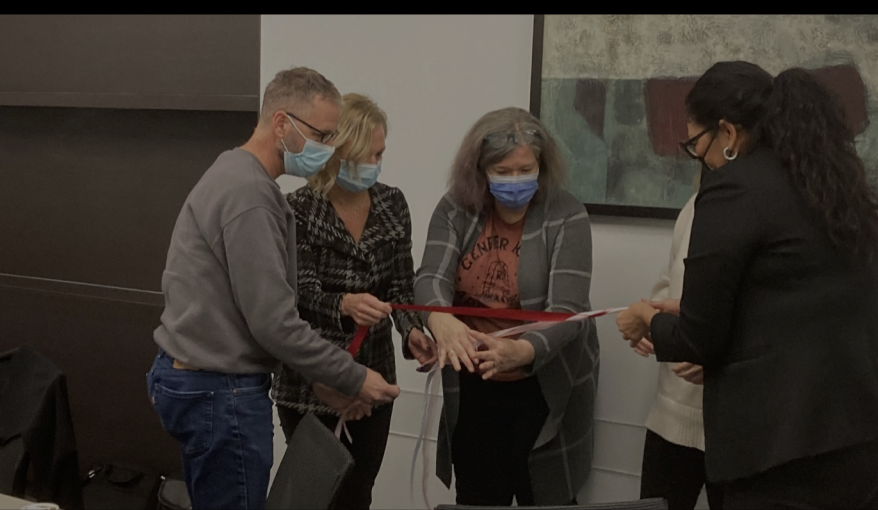
# Our Focus



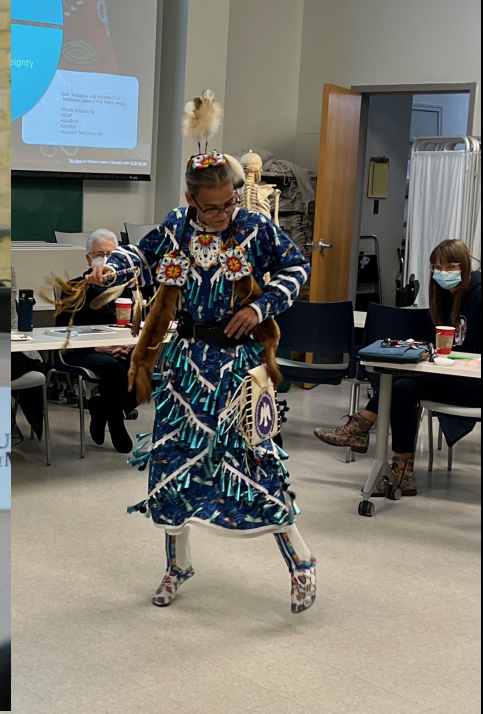
- shifting the dominance of western worldviews
- weaving Indigenous knowledge systems into the occupational therapy curriculum
- developing student's occupational therapy competencies



**PROCESS**



**Curriculum Retreats:**  
A series of sharing circles involving faculty,  
Elders, and Knowledge Keepers



**Hired Full-Time Ininiw Scholar**

## **Starting Place: Visualizing Our North Star**

**Ceremony &  
Faculty Education**



# Rooted in Ininiw |Cree Knowledges

- **Wahkotowin** |  
Relationality and  
Relational Accountability
- **Mino-Wîcihtowin** |  
Working in Good Ways
- **Minoyawin** | Wholistic  
Health and Well-Being
- **Mino-Pimatisiwin** | The  
Good Life

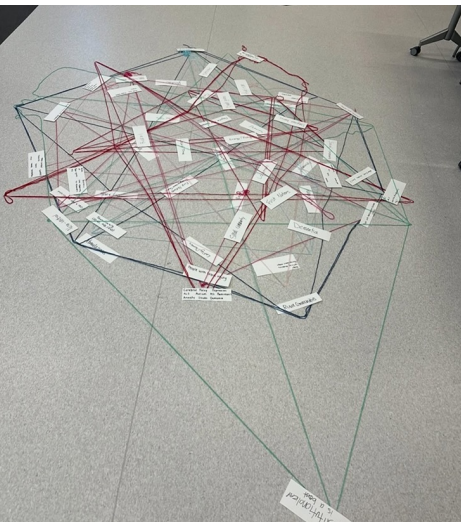
**Enveloped by Occupational  
Therapy competencies**





# INDIGEGOGIES

Indigenous pedagogical approaches



**Aski-Kiskenitamowin**  
(Land-Based Learning)

**Ongomisiwin**  
(Strengths-Based Trauma-Informed Practice)

**Acimowin**  
(Storytelling)

Interwoven with broader pedagogies of pluriversality, transformative learning, and constructivism.

# Conclusion

- Reconciliation is a contextual journey with many paths to decolonization
- Our process offers one approach that may be beneficial in other contexts
- Curriculum re-envisioning will have a profound impact on future generations of occupational therapists



# Acknowledgements

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Marie Battiste

## Elders/Knowledge Keepers

George Muswaggon  
Charlotte Nolin  
Margaret Lavallee

## Ongomiizwin Education

Debbie Beach-Ducharme  
Chantal Daniels

## Community Members

We will work together in  
health and wellness

## OT Curriculum Committee

Lisa Diamond-Burchuk  
Teresa Allison  
Natalie MacLeod Schroeder

## OT Faculty members