

Language Matters

The language we use matters. According to Dr. Linc Kesler, Associate Professor in First Nations and Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia:

“Canada’s historical relationship with the first inhabitants of the land has been shaped by its imperial and colonial history. One result has been that for many years, Indigenous peoples’ respective identities were neither recognized nor respected in mainstream discourse.”

Not all First Peoples and Indigenous Peoples around the world can be grouped together under the one term ‘Indigenous.’ This term is often used knowing that not all Indigenous or Aboriginal Peoples share the same language, culture, or world views.

See the attached [UBC Indigenous Peoples Language Guide](#) to familiarize yourself with some terminology and their associated meanings while at the same time increasing your awareness and showing respect for the complex and diverse communities of First Peoples.

Note that as time passes, terminology is subjected to change. This guide should not be taken as an enduring document, but one that supplements your learning over time.