



Preparing for the 5-Year Community Resiliency Plan

Session 7

Education

Knowledge gathering, knowledge storage and knowledge transfer

Introduction and Background

Since time immemorial, Kanaka Bar's learnings were handed down verbally through stories and mentorship experiences at home and community gatherings. Kokpis, Elders and other individuals generously shared their knowledge, skills, and experiences. Learning for Kanaka Bar was an experiential effort whereby individuals learned by doing or through trial and error. For example, vital skills such as hunting, fishing, gathering, making clothes, tools, and other necessities took many years to advance. Similarly, Kanaka Bar's shared "community knowledge" including language, history, culture, and governance systems was transferred from one generation to another through many experiences to create a vibrant community.

Contact and subsequent colonization changed many things for Kanaka, including a forceful alteration of the community's education philosophy through the Indian Act. Through the campaign to 'civilize' Indigenous people, Canada introduced residential schools in partnership with the church. A more formal and structured system of reading, writing and arithmetic was introduced, as a part of the larger goal of assimilation. This forceful alteration led to cultural trauma while creating and then widening the gap in a well-defined process of knowledge gathering, storing, and transferring developed over 7,000 years. The residential school in Lytton closed in 1979. Since around that time, efforts across Canada have led to policies and legislations to localize education and allow communities to make their own decisions for education.



Our Approach

Kanaka Bar continues to take concrete steps to support members in their educational aspirations and skills development goals. In doing so, Kanaka Bar seeks to revitalize core community processes of knowledge gathering, storing, and transferring. In recent years, our approach to education has been to:

- Revitalize our cultural identity and learnings by sharing and passing down stories, knowledge, and skills
- Focus on supporting our younger generations so they can achieve their life, employment, and career goals
- Create space for knowledge sharing with individuals, families and the wider community at gatherings and events
- Encourage experiential learning and provide skills development opportunities within the Territory on tangible projects that contribute to Kanaka's well-being
- Create meaningful employment and training opportunities through community economic development ventures
- Adopt modern technology to steward our land and resource, stay connected with ourselves and the world

Our Foundation

Kanaka Bar sees education and skills development training as a critical priority to achieving our community's goals of being vibrant, self-sufficient, and sustainable. Building our skills and overall capacity is essential to achieving a better quality of life.

Today, Kanaka Bar strives to provide educational resources and support to all members, regardless of residency. Educational resources and supports that Kanaka Bar offers are both formal and informal and are strategically allocated based on the following “cohorts”:

- **Early Childhood:** support local organizations (e.g., Nzenman) that specialize at this level and parents to provide at-home learning
- **Kindergarten to Grade 12:** support children and parents in getting school books, supplies and allowances; supporting guidance and counseling, and after-school programs.
- **Post-secondary:** support members in their journey to earn a college diploma and/or pursue university at undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels.
- **Adult Learning:** support members in program-based trades and skills development opportunities



Our Current Priorities

Kanaka Bar supports all community members in their education and training goals regardless of their age, residency, and current education level. Our current focus aims to support the community's youth by providing them with hands-on work experiences through initiatives such as Summer Youth Employment Program, while providing supports throughout the school year.

Kanaka Bar also works closely with local schools and organizations that provide education, learning and training services. This can include financial support and in-kind contributions to help support K-12, post-secondary students, and adult learners.

For those members seeking direct (financial) support from Kanaka Bar for education, members are strongly encouraged to create a roadmap in partnership with the Education Department. In doing so, Kanaka Bar can help secure additional resources from other agencies (such as Indigenous Services Canada) and customize supports to help members achieve their educational goals.

What's Next

Our team has put together these questions for your input at our next CRP Engagement Session on January 6th, 2021 at 5pm. We hope that you will take some time to review these in advance of our upcoming virtual gathering:

- What do we want to next with respect to education and where do we want to go as community?
- How can we continue to gather, store, and transfer our knowledge to create a vibrant community?
- What are the future educational needs of membership?
- What are some gaps with respect to education and more would you like to see happening?
- What is it that you learned from your elders and now want to teach your future generations?

**Please join us on January 6th at 5:00 pm
on Zoom**

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PASSCODE: 2021

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl1c--urzgrGddTOjY4GnobwObNsEQ-5d1C>

For questions, comments or assistance regarding CRP or Zoom, please contact engagement@kanakabarband.ca