

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Ignition - Primary Space Education (1)

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WATCHING THE SKIES: AN OVERVIEW OF INDIGENOUS ASTRONOMY CURRICULA FOR  
CANADIAN K-12 TEACHERS**Abstract**

There is a growing body of Indigenous astronomy curricula and resources from Turtle Island (North America) for Canadian K-12 science teachers. Canadian teachers, particularly non-Indigenous teachers, may be interested in teaching Indigenous astronomy and Indigenous perspectives, but may not be sure where to start or how to do so authentically. Using a framework that centers Indigenous Knowledges, we carried out a systematic literature review in summer 2019 that identified 81 online Indigenous Astronomy Knowledges (IAK) and categorized them according to Indigenous tradition, media type, and language. We put this survey in context by emphasizing Indigenous astronomy and research as living and equivalent knowledge systems that can be taught on their own or alongside Western astronomy. Centering this discussion around Indigenous research values, such as relationships, respect, and reciprocity (Wilson, 2008), we emphasize the importance of embracing Indigenous curricula intentionally and thoughtfully to go beyond superficial “Indigenizing” of the classroom. Authentic Indigenization could take a number of forms, including presenting Indigenous astronomical concepts and terms as valid and equal to Western knowledge, as well as helping students understand the interconnectedness of knowledge and the importance of relationships in science (Aikenhead Elliott, 2010).

**References**

Aikenhead, G. S., Elliott, D. (2010). An Emerging Decolonizing Science Education in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 10(4), 321-338.

Wilson, S. (2008). *Research Is Ceremony* – Fernwood Publishing. Fernwood Publishing. <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/is-ceremony-shawn-wilson>