Beaded Timeline

To show why we acknowledge traditional territory

Taken from a workshop given at FNESC

There should be 120 sections of beads representing 12,000 years of history, which is the time frame that archaeological evidence proves that the First Peoples were on Canadian soil (Haida Gwaii)...as a starting point.

Going from the first bead you strung:

First Bead:

At 7000 years (70 sections in), put a big bead - that's roughly what surface excavation has revealed as evidence for this region.

Second Bead:

At about 10,100 years up (101 sections in), put another big bead - which represents the height of the Roman Empire.

Third Bead:

Another 14 sections up is the Renaissance (1500 CE)

The period in between is the Dark Ages

Fourth Bead:

Following the Renaissance is exploration and "discovery" up to 1770ish - First contact on the West Coast

Fifth Bead:

Then at 1867 – Confederation

Sixth Bead:

Then at 1876 - The Indian Act

And then there should only be 147 years from Confederation to the end of the timeline.

SCRIPT FOR TIMELINE:

FIRST BEAD:

All of this knowledge and existence of complex societies, as you can see, predates the Greek and Egyptian civilizations that we often teach as the foundations of western civilization.

One of the questions that I find incredibly intriguing is why we study the ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations with such intent when we have all around us land that tells a story of rich history. Please consider this question as we continue our journey another 2200 years to the birth of the Roman Empire.

SECOND BEAD:

Of course we teach the history of the Roman Empire because it is where many of our laws and governance systems were established. Because of the extent and power of the empire, it is celebrated in text in a variety of genres.

THIRD BEAD:

While we move along on our journey, we live out the height of the Roman Empire and we move through the dark ages and continue to the age of enlightenment with the Renaissance.

And in between the Renaissance and the bead that represents first recorded contact between BC’s First Nations and Captain Cook, we would find Columbus.

FOURTH BEAD:

Between first contact and the establishment of Canada as a country in 1867, approximately 75% of the First Peoples population was decimated by disease and the impacts of colonialism. In Haida Gwaii, 95% of the population was wiped out, going from 30,000 strong to just 600 people.

FIFTH BEAD:

Just 9 years after Confederation, Canada introduced the Indian Act, which was designed with the intent to control, oppress and eliminate Canada’s Aboriginal population. The Indian Act still exists today as does Canada’s Aboriginal population.

Your presence here is a testament to the strength and the resilience of Canada’s Aboriginal population. By learning to integrate the Aboriginal perspective into your teachings, you are honouring all of the generations that have endured for thousands of years.