

Personal Growth Plan

I want grow in the area of Aboriginal understanding and compassion. I have taken numerous classes at UVic relating to Aboriginal issues, however I still find myself lacking that emotional connection. Not that I want to be a extremist, but I want to have a purposeful sense of seeking social justice and restitution for how many of them find themselves right now.

I have grown up in areas of dense Aboriginal populations, but I never engaged my friends and coworkers in anything more than friendship. Yes, I believe this is important – and might be more important to some – but I find that in the process of that I haven't been subjected to the legal, emotional, and spiritual stresses that many First Nations Peoples find themselves in. I have always held every aspect of humanity with respect, however in doing so I believe I have tried to think logically about situations and life and I have missed the opportunity to engage myself in authentic learning about the Aboriginal culture and plight in a predominantly non-Aboriginal society.

The practicum school that I am in right now is just under 30% Aboriginal, and the majority of the school is composed of low-income families. I believe that just by tapping into the resources that are available at the school, (ie. teachers, students, and Aboriginal Education worker) that I might be able to become more awake to and invested in the lives of my students. During the start of the school year I came in close contact with the Ab Ed worker at our school and she was more than willing to help me find resources and help me understand the culture more. She herself is First Nations, so being able to talk to her about the issues that I never got into with my high-school friends was highly engaging. The two of us are trying to combine resources together to create a 5-week art project with my students that would be reflective of the Carrier-Sekani people in the Prince George area, and I believe that by doing so I might learn more, on an emotional level.

This goal is a very hidden goal and is one that is measured not with a scale or ruler but with a sense of knowing and an open mind and spirit to hear the voices of the First Nations. I believe that although the steps I have planned out to help me find this compassion and understanding are measurable in completion and coming to fruition, I will only know if the goal of developing understanding and compassion when I get there. I admit that this will probably be an on-going goal – one that I am always working on as it is a measure and aspect of personality. However, I have to start somewhere, and now is better than later.