

Elder / Knowledge Holder Engagement Waiver & Recognition Form
INDG 6715H: Bimaadiziwin/Atonhnhetsherí:io
(For Community-Based and Land-Based Learning)

Student Name:

1. Purpose

This form recognizes the unique role of Elders and Knowledge Holders in supporting student learning through community-based, land-based, and culturally grounded teachings. It affirms that this engagement is relational and cultural in nature, and does not constitute an employment, supervisory, or contractual workplace relationship.

2. Elder / Knowledge Holder Recognition

Name :

Community/Nation:

The individual identified above is recognized as an Elder and/or Knowledge Holder by their community and is participating in this learning experience through the sharing of knowledge, teachings, and guidance.

No formal credentials or institutional qualifications are required for this role.

3. Nature of Learning

The student will engage in learning that may include, but is not limited to:

- Land-based activities (e.g., harvesting, gardening, medicines)
- Cultural teachings and protocols
- Language, storytelling, and intergenerational knowledge sharing

This learning is experiential, relational, and may not follow a fixed schedule or structure.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities:

- Engage respectfully and follow cultural protocols as shared
- Offer appropriate reciprocity (e.g., tobacco, gifts, time, service)
- Take responsibility for their own learning, conduct, and well-being
- Acknowledge that learning may be guided by Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing

Indigenous Studies PhD Program Responsibilities:

- Maintain responsibility for student insurance, coverage, and risk management
- Ensure the student has received appropriate preparation for community engagement
- Support the student in navigating expectations in a respectful and ethical way

Elder / Knowledge Holder Responsibilities:

- Share knowledge and guidance as they see appropriate
- Establish boundaries consistent with their teachings, protocols, and capacity
- Provide an update to the Director of Studies regarding student progress midpoint through the apprenticeship
- Provide a written letter to /or have a conversation with the Director of Studies regarding the scope of the apprenticeship, the student's participation, and what Indigenous Knowledge was gained through the experience.

The Elder/Knowledge Holder is not responsible for student safety oversight in a formal capacity.

5. Risk Acknowledgement (Student)

I, _____ (student name), understand that participation in community-based and land-based learning may involve inherent risks, including but not limited to environmental conditions, physical activity, and emotional or spiritual experiences.

I agree to take responsibility for my own safety, well-being, and conduct, and to follow guidance provided by the Elder/Knowledge Holder to the best of my ability.

6. Liability and Coverage

This learning experience is not an employment or workplace placement. The Elder/Knowledge Holder is not considered an employee, agent, or representative of the institution.

The institution retains responsibility for student coverage (e.g., insurance, Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) where applicable). No liability is transferred to the Elder/Knowledge Holder for the student's participation.

7. Cultural Respect and Protocol

The student agrees to:

- Respect cultural teachings, boundaries, and confidentiality
- Seek consent before recording, sharing, or reproducing any knowledge
- Recognize that some knowledge is not meant to be documented or shared publicly

8. Acknowledgement

This form is intended to reduce administrative burden on Elders and Knowledge Holders while ensuring that institutional responsibilities are upheld in a culturally appropriate manner.

Participation of the Elder/Knowledge Holder is voluntary and based on community relationships, not institutional obligation.

9. Signatures

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

Institution Representative (if required):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Optional - only if the Elder/Knowledge Holder wishes to sign)

Elder / Knowledge Holder Name:

Elder / Knowledge Holder Signature:

Date:

Note: Oral agreement, witnessed by the student and/or institution, is equally valid and may be documented in place of a signature where appropriate.