

Awareness and Understanding of Indigenous Peoples

A Study of Douglas College International Students

Overview

Indigenous peoples, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, have shaped Canada's history and culture. However, policies like the Indian Act and residential schools caused deep harm. To support reconciliation, Canada established National Indigenous History Month in 2009 to honor Indigenous contributions and resilience. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued 94 calls to action, including those on education and newcomer awareness. This study explores Douglas College international students' awareness and understanding about Indigenous peoples. Through surveys approved by the ethics committee, it aims to identify knowledge gaps and suggest ways to improve cultural awareness and reconciliation efforts.

Research Question

1. What is the level of knowledge that international students at Douglas College have about Indigenous peoples of Canada?
2. What factors affect the level of knowledge international students have about Indigenous peoples of Canada? (e.g., age, program, highest level of education etc.)
3. How do international students get the knowledge about Indigenous peoples of Canada (e.g., academic curriculum, media, community engagement)?
4. What kinds of activities are international students interested in participating in to learn more about Indigenous peoples of Canada and their roles in truth and reconciliation?

Research Objectives

- To evaluate the self-reported level of awareness and understanding of Indigenous Peoples of Canada including Inuit, Métis, First Nation among international students at Douglas College and to identify gaps in their knowledge.
- To identify the sources of information that international students can use to learn about Indigenous peoples of Canada.
- To recommend strategies and types of learning that help international students become aware of and understand Indigenous peoples of Canada.

Methodology

1. Research Design

- Descriptive survey research

2. Sample

- Choosing international students randomly to participate in the survey
- Participation is voluntary, and no incentives, or rewards, or compensation will be provided

Sample size:

$$n = \frac{(z_{\alpha/2})^2 \bar{p}(1 - \bar{p})}{(ME_p)^2} \quad n = \frac{1.28^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{0.05^2} = 163.84$$

- Since we cannot select a pilot sample, set $\bar{p} = 0.5$
 $z_{\alpha/2} = 1.28$ for 80% confidence interval
Margin of error (ME) is 0.05.
- Minimum participants: 164 international students
- Based on an expected 30% response rate, the research requires inviting a minimum of 547 students

3. Data Collection Method

- Survey (Google Form)
- 3 sections:
Information about participants
Questions about Indigenous peoples of Canada
Indigenous peoples resources for International Students at Douglas College

4. Data Analysis

- Descriptive Statistics: Percentage of each knowledge level: under basic knowledge, basic knowledge, and high level of knowledge
- Comparative Analysis: Chi-square tests: examine factors that affect awareness levels

Scan the QR code to
access the survey!



Expected Outcomes

- At least **50% of participants** have basic or high level of knowledge of Indigenous peoples of Canada
- Identification of gaps in awareness and misconceptions that need to be addressed
- Participants may have more insight and awareness of Indigenous peoples of Canada
- Suggestion for activities, strategies, initiatives to improve awareness and knowledge of international students about Indigenous peoples

Literature Review

- Indigenous history in Canada. Government of Canada (2018)
- Indigenous peoples and communities. Government of Canada (2024)
- Increasing web survey response rates in innovation research by Sauermann, H., & Roach, M. (2013)