

FLEMING COLLEGE

What began seven years ago with a handful of courses and programs has now blossomed into a defining component of the academic and student experience at Fleming College.

The Indigenous Perspectives Designation (IPD) was created to give Fleming students a unique opportunity to broaden their understanding of Indigenous cultures and realities as it relates to their chosen profession while pursuing their diploma. The authentic inclusion of Indigenous Perspectives began with relationship building between Faculty groups, with the result being a richer and more meaningful experience for students. Through the IPD process, faculty work together to identify the contribution of Indigenous Knowledge and people as well as the dark legacy that accompanies their new professional lives. This holistic journey began with Fleming College's commitment to the Truth & Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action—that is, to authentically participate in reconciliation and model this through the IPD process.

Those who participate gain a deeper understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, their cultures, histories, and traditions. At each step of the way, students expand their knowledge of the Indigenous realities on Turtle Island; Students explore how they can respectfully build and maintain relationships with Indigenous people and communities.

A huge component of the IPD is community engagement. Students attend and participate in Indigenous events, giving each person a chance to learn from community members, promote respectful relationships while receiving support from both Program and Indigenous Perspectives Faculty. IPD learning is meant to be immersive, and experiential where students can expect to engage in a variety of trips, such as the recent tree trekking trip, that was attended by students enrolled in Fleming's Bishkaa program, which supports Indigenous students in their transition to Fleming College.

A student's successful completion of the IPD is acknowledged at Convocation, on their official transcripts and through a professional reference from the Indigenous Perspectives Academic Team.

The IPD is now available in 37 of Fleming's full-time programs, with more than 2,000 IPD Alumni from programs ranging from Esthetics to the Resource Drilling.

