



October SEEN Update

Hello and welcome to SEEN's October Newsletter!
SEEN is an exciting network dedicated to connecting emerging evaluators to evaluation resources, content, and each other.

As we enter in to October we reflect on two different things. First is the recent passing of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As you engage in evaluation, consider how the evaluation field can unlearn colonial ways of thinking and further Canada's progress towards reconciliation. Check out this month's book and resources for some Indigenous-focused evaluation material.

Second we want to wish all students who have started a new school year this past September, a happy, safe and productive year full of learning!

Get excited! We are happy to announce that SEEN will be hosting our second virtual meeting **6:30pm EST October 24th, 2022**. Check your email for the registration and zoom link that will be sent out soon! We look forward to seeing you all there!

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Meet the Evaluator

Elayne McIvor



1. What is your professional background and how does your current role incorporate program evaluation?

I am the Principal Consultant of Catalyst Consulting, a strategy, planning and evaluation consulting firm dedicated to support non-profits, government agencies and foundations to realize their intended impact more effectively and efficiently. I completed my Master's of Public Health at Simon Fraser University in 2012 and have been working as consultant ever since. A large proportion of the projects I take on involve evaluating different policies, programs or initiatives.

2. How and why did you decide to pursue a career in program evaluation?

I fell into evaluation while completing my graduate studies. While I was passionate about supporting organizations to address pressing social issues, I remember feeling lost about how I could translate that ambition into a career. After taking a few elective courses, program evaluation stood out to me as a path to fulfill my professional dreams. To get my feet wet, I sent some cold emails to consulting firms seeking work opportunities as a subcontractor. And it worked! The rest is history.

3. What do you enjoy most and what are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as an evaluator?

I can genuinely say that I am rarely bored in my work. Evaluators get to wear so many different hats and working with different clients in different areas means that I have the opportunity to be continually learning.

Often times when evaluation projects are completed, we do not hear about if and how results are used to inform action and change. This not knowing can be quite dissatisfying for me, so I've started a practice of circling back to clients after projects have completed to see how things are going.

4. What advice would you give to an emerging evaluator?

Find a mentor that supports and inspires you. Since the start of my career, I've been blessed with an extraordinary mentor and the benefits are undeniable. The part they've played (and continue to play) in my professional journey is profound.

5. Do you have advice for gaining practical program evaluation experience?

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there. Reach out to your dream organization or company to see if they are seeking support. The worst they can say is no.

Social Media

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is Canada's only research center dedicated directly to Truth and Reconciliation. Check out what they were up to in the month of September and find out more about them here: <https://nctr.ca/>

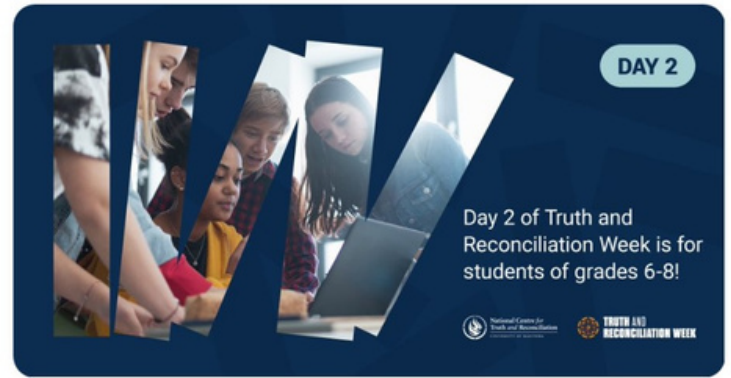


NCTR @NCTR_UM · 1h

Grade 6-8 students have the opportunity to listen to the truth about the loss and resurgence of Indigenous languages on Day 2 of #TRWeek.

Register: bit.ly/3PeliqP

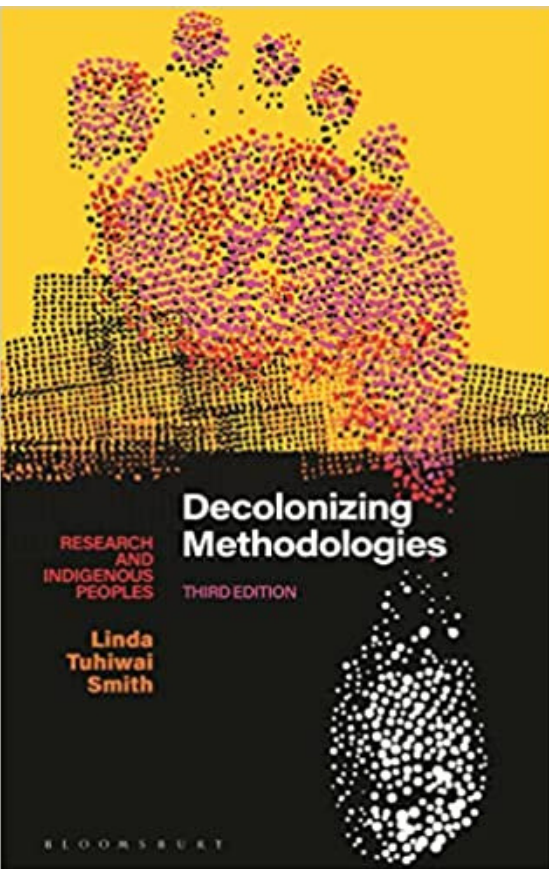
#nctr_um #RememberingtheChildren



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Book of the Month

"This essential volume explores intersections of imperialism and research - specifically, the ways in which imperialism is embedded in disciplines of knowledge and tradition as 'regimes of truth.' Concepts such as 'discovery' and 'claiming' are discussed and an argument presented that the decolonization of research methods will help to reclaim control over indigenous ways of knowing and being."

Resources

Interested in learning Indigenous evaluation methods? Check out these workshops that help you to:

"Gain the knowledge and tools to integrate Indigenous-led evaluation practice in your organization or program with our Honouring Reconciliation in Evaluation workshops."

<https://www.johnstonresearch.ca/workshops/>

Engagement and Opportunities

Check out the Essential Skills Series (ESS) Facilitated Cohorts

An introductory course for people new to program evaluation or who have never taken an evaluation course. As a facilitated cohort, you will review the course materials and activities on your own and meet with a facilitator (via Zoom sessions, discussion boards) to ask questions and deep dive into evaluation challenges!

Offerings in English:

- Ontario September 12 – 19 November
- Ontario October 31 – 7 January

Offerings in French:

- SQEP / NB / NCC October 3 – 9 December, registration now open!

The CES BC Chapter is looking for a new Student & Emerging Evaluator representative! Any interested candidates can send an expression of interest to emergingevaluators.bc@gmail.com

Thank you for tuning into to SEEN's October Newsletter and we look forward to sharing more news with you this Fall!

Happy Evaluating,
-SEEN Newsletter Team.