

Club Acknowledges Truth and Reconciliation Day

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Oct 02, 2022



Club members, wearing the colour of orange in respect to the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, proclaimed on the day of their meeting on September 30th, gathered to acknowledge the special dedicated day.

Gary Wong from the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society performed a drumming song to kick off the meeting.

Club members were privileged to a presentation made by Emily Cabrera, a fund development professional with The First People's Cultural Foundation (FPCF) which was established in 2000.



Currently, Emily who resides on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation in Kelowna serves as the Lead for FPCF in partnership development and in sharing the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts, and cultural heritage in the province.

The mission of FPCF is to provide funding and support for the vitality of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage. Emily outlined that "In their quest, the organization delivers funds to individuals and communities to support self-determination and cultural resurgence, supports skills/expertise development and vocational opportunities, funds spaces for gathering and sharing, sponsors research and resource development, Offers a sustainable, Indigenous-led funding source for long-term impacts, and supports funders and partners to align with its goals for reconciliation."



The presentation highlighted how the impact of colonization has affected Indigenous peoples and the successful work completed over the past 20 years to overcome some of the negative results of colonization.

Emily shared that British Columbia is home to 204 First Nations, 35 languages, and over 90 dialects, and that each of these nations have a unique cultural heritage. She expressed that "Languages are the voices, songs, and stories of the land; and Indigenous Languages matter because Indigenous People matter."

The following quote delivered via YouTube by J. Sinten John Elliot brought closure to Emily's presentation.

