

ŚW,ØENENITEL Intellectual Property Statement 2021

Below is a statement created by the ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative to protect the integrity of communities, experiences, knowledges, and ways being.

The ŚW,ØENENITEL Leadership Team and Initiative are bound culturally to protect the integrity of the knowledge and experiences of the SNA'WY'LTH (roughly translated as 'sacred teachings'). This is an integral part of the operating, managing, and planning of the Initiative, and the content or development of the Initiative does not belong to any person, or any partner associated with the ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative. This includes the use or practice of the work - visual, oratory, experiential, historical or contemporary reference materials, or relationships (contacts, collaborators).

Profiting: The intellectual property of the Initiative and the Initiative Leads is not for any party associated with the ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative, any person/group, or any organization to profit from in any way - including but not limited to social capital ("Indigenizing" or "decolonizing") or economic incentives (such as grants or funding).

Confidentiality Agreement: The ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative, and how the work is conducted, is based in the understanding that personal growth and development is a priority of those involved. The teachings, information, and stories are not for public distribution or for the benefit of any organization, person, or project.

The purpose of sharing this statement about intellectual property is to make evident that accountability to Indigenous thought, experience, and systems is the priority of ŚW,ØENENITEL. Due to the conditions of operating within colonial contexts, the ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative has been able to translate the value of Indigenous protocols into language that other communities or organizations can interpret. It is not our long-term goal to translate across systems, however, at this time we can facilitate change to accountability systems. We have no doubt that this assertion of Indigenous leadership in our collective and collaborative work will redirect the narrative of work by local Indigenous people for local Indigenous peoples and territories.

The collective work of the Initiative is led by local Indigenous peoples and place based protocols, directing non-Indigenous people and organizations to actively participate in their respective roles to be accountable to place. Indigenous leadership, with Indigenous communities at the forefront, contradicts the formal processes and institutional operations of colonial bodies. Our relations and partnerships are required to recognize power dynamics and colonial legacies of occupying stolen land.

The ŚW,ØENENITEL Initiative cannot legitimize diversity and inclusion strategies, where our experiences or our communities experiences are used to benefit governments, organizations, or groups. Colonial or non-Indigenous organizations are an extension of Canada's history of assimilation and paternalism, with real costs associated with their opportunistic conduct. The Initiative acknowledges that there are contradictions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, however, this cannot justify the behaviour of non-Indigenous people and organizations.