



# SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AMONG INDIGENOUS STUDENTS IN QUEBEC:

## an Educational Tool Adapted to their School Realities



**Patricia-Anne Blanchet**, Lecturer, Université de Sherbrooke  
Drama Teacher, commission scolaire Val-des-Cerfs (CSVDC)

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### To cite this article >

Blanchet, P.-A. (2019). *Social and Emotional Learning among Indigenous Students in Quebec: an Educational Tool Adapted to their School Realities*. *Journal of Perseverance and Academic Achievement for First Peoples*, 3, p. 26-29.

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### Background

A great number of studies report the benefits of social and emotional learnings (SEL) at school (Shanker, 2014; Taylor, Oberle, Durlak, & Weissberg, 2017). However, SEL are still little explored in the context of Indigenous education, which gives an exploratory character to the educational tool presented in this article. In Indigenous school environments, building a positive and caring classroom climate could be a lever for students' well-being and academic success. Indigenous children growing up in conditions of emotional precariousness sometimes experience the impact of intergenerational trauma, which requires sustained attention (Clarke, 2007). School perseverance and success implies establishing a safe learning environment for children. The development of SEL contributes to creating these conditions conducive to learning. Integrated into the classroom routine, their teaching has an impact on the school results, but also on the overall development of the child. In fact, by promoting

a healthy management of emotions, relational behaviours improve, psychological stress decreases, and the ability to learn increases (Taylor et al., 2017). For schools in the various First Nations communities in Quebec, these learnings bring significant advances. The values of empathy and respect promoted by SEL also correspond to the precepts of peace education rooted in the intangible cultural heritage (UNESCO, 2014).

The Grandes Rencontres project, established by the Jasmin Roy Foundation, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) and the Peace Grantmakers Network, brings together various partners from the education and training sector and organizations that are involved in the establishment of a positive and caring school climate, including Chaire de recherche sur la sécurité et la violence en milieu éducatif of Université Laval. These organizations and partners, dedicated to the prevention and treatment of violence and bullying, provide training to practitioners in the Quebec school system.







