

## BLM 3 – *Developing a Deeper Understanding*

### Quotations

In 2015, a dialogue was held in four regions of British Columbia on Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom. The following quotations are from participants on the importance for schools to have a local focus. A local focus and appreciation of the natural surroundings is sometimes referred to as *Place-Based Learning (PBL)* or *Place-Conscious Learning (PCL)*.

*“If we start from the point of view of where we stand, we are able to immediately and comfortably bring Aboriginal worldviews and perspectives to the classroom. We all share the history of place on which we stand, but education needs to recognize the language and people that came originally from this place.”* participant, Burnaby

*“The focus needs to be on the local experience, culture, history (the language, etc.) and on being able to connect that with the experience of the non-Aboriginal students’ families.”* participant, Williams Lake

*“Place Based Education: We could do a better job of teaching a balanced local history and encourage our education partners to expand the use of local Aboriginal place names. These names have been there for generations and reflect our sense of connectedness to the environment. The Ktunaxa name for Sparwood, for example, means “special place on the river” and evokes our links and connections to the river. Just as its waters came from the surrounding creeks and streams and flows on to eventually feed into the Columbia River, so they connect people to one another.”* participant, ?Aq’am

*“Learning is in the land –history and story are in the land; land should be the starting place.”* participant, Tsaxis

*“There is a feeling of sacredness within all Aboriginal ways of leaning, particularly focused on relationship to the land.”* participant, Tsaxis

(from *Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom: Moving Forward, 2015*)

### Reflecting on place-conscious learning

After reading and discussing the quotations on the importance of a local focus, work with a partner or two to record your thinking on this graphic organizer.

<p>What is place-conscious learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are some of its important characteristics?</li><li>• How can you describe it using your own words?</li></ul>	<p>What is <b>not</b> place-conscious learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What might be considered the opposite?</li><li>• What are examples of learning environments and experiences that are definitely place-conscious? Explain why not.</li></ul>
<p>What are some examples of place-conscious learning?</p>	<p>Draw a visual that represents place-conscious learning.</p>