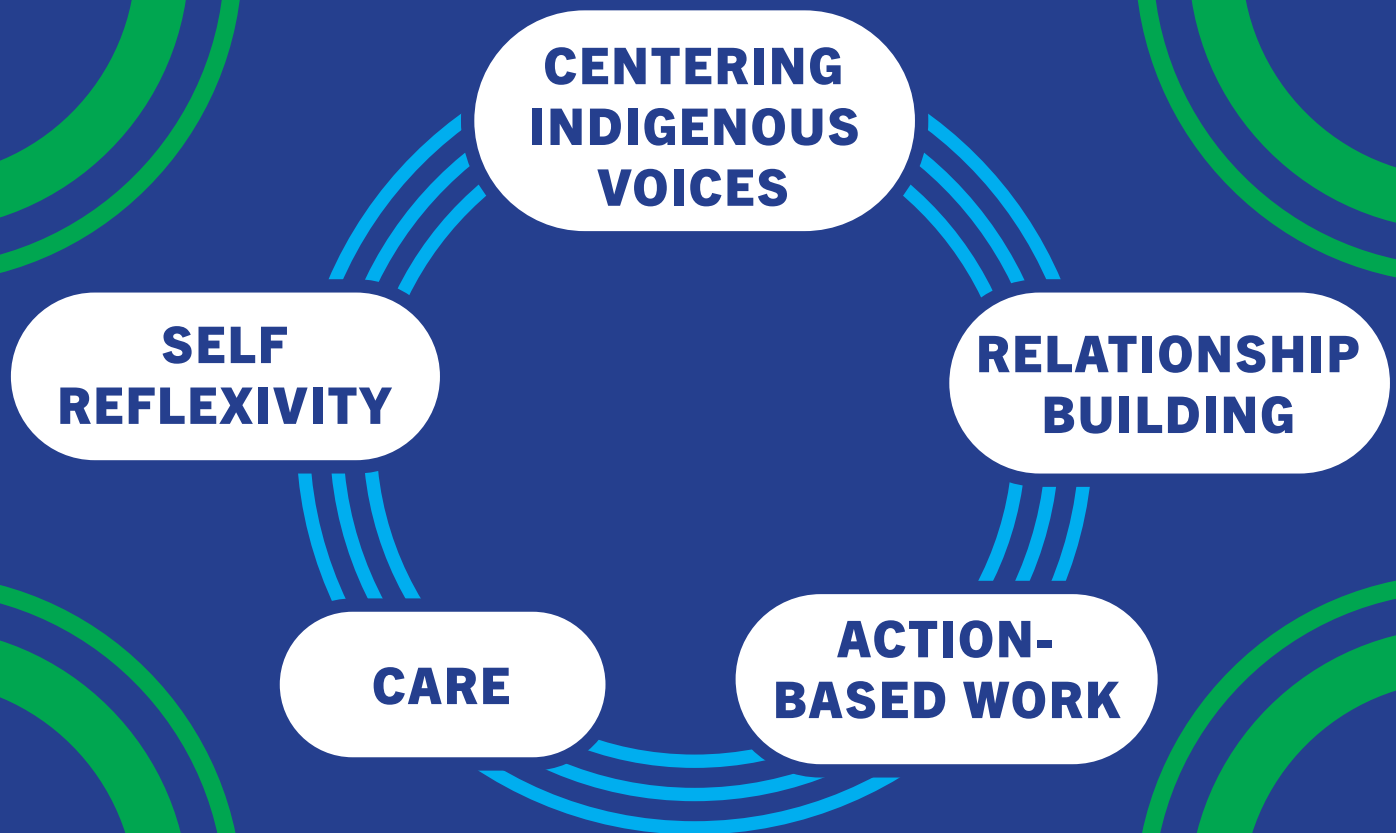


What does decolonization mean for TRAction?

TRACTION WORKS FROM FIVE CORE PILLARS:



These pillars derive from and/or strive for decolonization in all areas – whether in visioning, decision-making, curation, creation, communication, or community engagement. These pillars have emerged from direct engagement with an Indigenous advisory council that advises TRAction and they correlate with a second document, the *Decolonial Toolkit for Climate Artists* in which key terms are defined and applied.

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TRAction
art for climate justice

Centering Indigenous Voices

- » As people living in a settler colonial state, we want to centre the Indigenous voices that have been forcibly displaced from the land.
- » We aim to work from a place of deep listening and will advocate for Indigenous sovereignty, rights and protocols across this land.
- » We welcome and value multiple ways of knowing, while also realizing a settler's limitations in relation to access and comprehension of these ways of knowing.

Relationship Building

- » Relationship building means opening yourself up to those beyond yourself. It demands a level of vulnerability and is best served when compassion, care and kindness function as the first (and continuing) basis for relationships.
- » We aim to respect the integrity of 'right relations', meaning that we understand and advocate for restoring relationships with the land, waters and all species, as well as see reciprocity as the basis of such relations.
- » We recognize that pursuing 'right relations' involves time, responsiveness, deep listening, respect, accountability and collaboration.
- » We understand storytelling and ceremony as valid forms of re-relating.

Action-Based Work

- » We endeavour to join internal transformation as informed by Critical Race Theory and decolonial concepts/actions (what we refer to as the 'in breath') with applied work in both virtual and community-based settings (what we refer to as the 'out breath').
- » Importantly, this action-based work attempts to identify, bring to light and move away from colonial structures with intentionality and persistence.
- » We advocate for holistic processes where thought and action are part of a continuum that also constellates with land, water, sky and all species. Such processes must develop action-based work must also develop with diverse and differently positioned beings from inception, prioritizing multiple ways of knowing throughout the process and doing our best to coexist and champion differences even as we fight for justice side-by-side.
- » We understand that different privileges also suggest different types of risk-taking in relation to climate justice work; we encourage such risk-taking when the privilege warrants it, while keeping any 'savior' tendencies in check.

Care

- » We strive to learn from trauma-informed practices in order to develop a culture of care.
- » We welcome ours and others' fullest selves to the conversation and community of practice.
- » For each project, we aim to create 'safer spaces', establishing clear consent-based ground rules and check-in points that allow us to become advocates for one another.

Self-Reflexivity

- » We acknowledge that the pursuit of the above four pillars demands a recognition of one's own position and privileges, particularly as framed by white supremacy culture.
- » This reflexive work necessitates educating oneself and checking one's own assumptions and motivations as well as recognizing the limitations of both self-sustaining and cultural narratives and epistemologies.

The above five pillars involve time, commitment and care – time to allow multiple ways of knowing to be integrated; a commitment to learn experientially and from many individuals; and care and respect for the many teachers (both human and more-than-human) that we may encounter.

We also acknowledge that a decolonizing process is ongoing and, to be effective and sincere, it must be realized in community. It is critical to note that such 'in community' processes must be conducted with specific local Nations who may have individual protocols that govern such processes.