

# DECOLONIZING PRACTICES

summer series

Join us on **Thursday, July 26** or **Thursday, August 23** from 10am to 2pm for an experiential workshop grounded in Squamish ways of knowing. It features a giant board game designed by Michelle Nahanee called *Sinulhkay and Ladders* and circle dialogue designed to answer “*what now*”?

Tickets are available through our Eventbrite links on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/chenzenstway](https://www.facebook.com/chenzenstway)

## WHO?

Founded by Michelle Nahanee, Squamish, Decolonizing Practices.org is a collective of experienced facilitators who are committed to social change. We deliver workshops in multiples of two, always modeling non-oppressive Indigenous/non-Indigenous partnership. For each workshop, we reach out to our network to bring together the ideal team to match the organization and dialogue. Our founding facilitators include: Marissa Nahanee (Squamish), Corrina Keeling; Amanda Fenton, Chastity Davis (Tla'amin); Char Seward (Squamish); Emira Mears, Chris Corrigan; Lauren Kelly and Alfred Matining. Read their bios at [decolonizingpractices.org](http://decolonizingpractices.org)

## WHAT?

*Sinulhkay and Ladders* is a life-size board game that promotes the Squamish practice of *Chen chen stway* (holding each other up) while working through neocolonial scenarios of oppression. Its purpose is to provide a framework for developing decolonizing practices.

Decolonizing practices are actions we can take, words we can say and ideas we can unlearn/learn to transform colonial impacts. The focus of the game is bettering Indigenous to non-Indigenous relations in professional settings, making sure *we are holding each up* - not sliding down the double-headed serpent, called *Sinulhkay* in the Squamish language.

The game board is a rhetorical tool to emphasize neocolonialism as structures we can name and reframe. Each journey is its own, let's make brave space for renewed understandings and decolonizing practices.

We aim to address the challenge of *where to start* within the enormity of reconciliation. By dialoguing professional scenarios within a forgiving space where we get a chance for a *do-over*, we start to map out the *what's next*. Each player leaves with a *take-away*, what they learned, and a *give-away*, what they commit to do. Participants develop their own scenarios with custom dialogue circles that lead to take-aways and give-aways with organizational impact.

## HOW?

Our *Decolonizing Practices* workshop fuses Squamish language and teachings with the best practices and methods of facilitated dialogue.



Each workshop is opened by a Squamish Elder to start the work in a good way, honouring Indigenous intelligence while *clearing the floor* - a Squamish way to start well.



We check in with each other and introduce the game explaining the order of events for the day. We ask for three volunteers to enter the game board. As the players roll through the *Chen chen stway* and *Sinulhkay* scenarios, the facilitation team animates the game, gives context for the game squares and encourages dialogue with the players and participants.



Participants move into small groups to share insights and answer custom questions, designed in advance, to create new game square scenarios unique to their work and organization. The group moves back into a full circle to dialogue the application of *Chen chen stway* and *Sinulhkay* to the development of decolonizing practices.



Working in pairs, participants are supported by the facilitation team to write their give-away and take-away. A copy is given to the centre to be designed into a poster for the organization. A final full circle is facilitated to map out next steps for collective give-aways and take-aways.

## WHEN?

[Thursday, July 22, 2018 • 10am to 2pm \(lunch included - \\$330 + tax\)](#)

[Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018 • 10am to 2pm \(lunch included - \\$330 + tax\)](#)