## FITC 130 Capstone Draft

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## **SSPDP Home Page**

**Salish Social Policy Design and Practice**

*Policy design and practice from an Indigenous Worldview*

**<h1> Vision </h1>**

<p> Salish Social Policy Design and Practice (SSPDP) will prepare an increasing number of non-profit, private, and government sectors with the confidence to lead social policy change through Indigenous worldviews, transforming how we design and practice social policy. </p>

**<h2> Mission**

The mission is to transform policy design and practice by integrating the relationship between the individual, family, tribe/community, and First Nation into policy, practice, and evaluation.

**<h3> Mandate**

Increase our motivation to see Indigenous worldviews as a human right across policy sectors, by building on the following three foundations.

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1. A strengths-based approach to community-based research for organizational change.

2. Training for cultural literacy and cultural competency.

3. An Indigenous human development approach to social policy design and practice.

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**<h4> Services Provided**

Salish Social Policy Design and Practice provides consulting services to,

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1. Change how an individual integrates Indigenous worldviews into their work.

2. Reform team building to include reconciliation and Indigenous worldviews as a human right.

3. Strengthen organizational capacity development by recognizing that policy is a practice

rooted in community.

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## **About the Sole Proprietor**

My name is Rocky James. I am a social policy analyst. As a younger adult I always wondered why am I interested in being a policy analyst? I’ve discovered that the oral histories gifted to me by mother and grandmothers laid the foundation for me to work between Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews.

**<h1> My Lived Experience**

My father died from bone marrow cancer when I was eight years old. My older sister died when I was twelve years old. My mother and I went from having it all to losing everything. The health inequities, poverty, trauma and mental health issues, and systemic racism that disrupted my transition into young adulthood further influenced my interest in social policy design, practice, and evaluation.

**<h2> My Lived Experience as My Motivation for Social Policy Change**

You were the underdog who had a problem and are now the hero who overcame this problem, how?

At thirteen years old, and after experiencing a long period of suicidal ideation, when I snapped myself out of it I thought, I’m only thirteen years old. I’m so young. Why am I thinking of killing myself? I made a commitment to myself in that moment. If I can ever do something to prevent someone else from experiencing this, I’ll do it!

In college there weren’t any Indigenous policy analysts in my social circles. I understood that it was going to be a long road to become one. I was going to have to find jobs that exposed me to different social issues so that I could build my experience, because one of the things that attracted me to policy development was creating solutions out of competing claims for legitimacy.

First, I worked as a communications liaison for the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group. Where I learned that I liked meeting new people all the time to discuss various ideas under one main focus.

Second, I worked as a liaison again between the Penelakut Tribes and the Galiano Conservancy Association. The point was to learn about forest restoration and diversification, and GIS mapping, so that I could contribute to resource management and economic development initiatives for the Penelakut Tribes.

Third, I worked as a Resolution Health Support Worker (RHSW) for the Tsow Tun Le Lum Society, providing emotional and cultural support to Indian Residential School Survivors navigating their way through the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I helped people through the Common Experience Payment, the Independent Assessment Process (IAP), and local, provincial, and national gatherings for Indian Residential School Survivors.

My time as an RHSW broke my spirit, so I was burnt out after three years listening to stories of surviving the Canadian genocide. It took me a year to feel like myself again, but it was worth it. After listening to Indian Residential School Survivors share their stories in legal hearings, I am a firm believer in reconciliation, despite what diverse opinions on the validity of reconciliation. I will honor the stories of how Indigenous people survived the genocide.

Fourth, I finally landed my dream job as the policy analyst for the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC). A hub organization for the executive directors of twenty-three different Urban Indigenous organizations. Who are a serving a population of 70,000 to 100,000 Urban Indigenous people living across Metro Vancouver. Policy engagement was coordinated through six roundtables/non-profit sectors: (1) Arts, Language, and Culture; (2) Children, Youth, and Families; (3) Education, Training, and Employment; (4) Health and Wellness; (5) Housing and Homelessness, and (6) Justice.

My time at MVAEC confirmed the following me for me. One, I am a social policy analyst. It makes me feel alive! Two, I love working on various social issues at the same time. Why, because our lives do not operate in silos. Three, social policy design and practice is built on a strong foundation when it is built on community-based research. Life stories are the greatest indicators of our strengths and weaknesses as a society. Stories that are both qualitative and quantitative because both are two sides of the same coin.

**<h3> My Goal for this Website**

My main goal for this website is to find new and creative ways to work with others on how we approach research, policy, and practice for Indigenous people, but especially Two-Spirit people.

**<h4> What’s in it for you?**

In the era of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and the British Columbia’s adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, there is a lot of work to go around. I’m here to help you,

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1. Change how an individual integrates Indigenous worldviews into their work.

2. Reform team building to include reconciliation and Indigenous worldviews as a human right.

3. Strengthen organizational capacity development by recognizing that policy is a practice

rooted in community

Let’s make social policy change.

Please contact me by email to coordinate our first discussion at [thiyustun@salishsocialpolicy.com](mailto:thiyustun@salishsocialpolicy.com)

## **SSPDP Blog**

Insert link to FITC 120 Communications and Digital Marketing, blogging capstone