**Appendix A The Circles Exercise- The First Nations**

**First Nations -Scroll 1 -** The land is very important to us. All of our needs—food, clothing, shelter, culture, our spirituality—are taken care of by the land, which is represented here by this blanket. In return, we take very seriously our responsibility to take care of the land.

**First Nations - Scroll 2**: In the beginning there was lots of cooperation and support between us, the First Peoples, and the settlers. The settlers and their leaders recognized us as having our own governments, laws and territories. They recognized us as independent nations. They made agreements or treaties with us. These treaties explained how we were going to share the land and the water, the animals and the plants.

**First Nations - Scroll 3**: Treaties explained how the land and waters would be shared and tried to make sure there would be peace between us, the original peoples and the newcomers. Sharing was very important to us. The hunters shared their food with everyone. And the families helped one another raise the children. In the treaties, we tried to help the Europeans understand what we meant by sharing.

**First Nations – Scroll 4**: We worked at the Hudson’s Bay Company fur posts around the province as employees and as trappers, bringing in pelts to be sold.

**First Nations – Scroll 5** --The settlers hired us to clear the land for farming. We were herders, sheep shears and ploughmen. Our families worked together on the farms in the Fraser Valley, picking berries and hops.

**First Nations – Scroll 6** -- Many indigenous men worked in the lumber mills and logging camps.Charley Nowell of the Kwakwaka’wakw was working in North Vancouver in 1895. He remembers:

...(I) asked the manager if he could give me a job. He told me I could be a fireman in the sawmill. I says, ‘I never did it before but I will try and do my best.’ He says there is another Indian who has been working there for two years and will tell me what to do.”

**First Nations – Scroll 7** - We built city streets and helped lay out the railway tracks alongside Chinese and other workers. We did the rough work of making bricks in Victoria too.

**First Nations – Scroll 8** - We crewed river steamers at a time when boats were crucial for people living in the interior of the province to connect with other communities.

**First Nations – Scroll 9** - We dominated the longshore work, loading timber and other goods on to ships. In 1906 we formed our own union in North Vancouver and adopted the name, “Bows and Arrows.” We fought racial prejudice on the waterfront and asserted our rights, alongside Chinese, English, Hawaiian and Chilean union members.

**First Nations – Scroll 10** - In the salmon canneries all up and down the west coast, our women and children were employed in the thousands, processing salmon supplied by First Nations and other fishers.

**First Nations – Scroll 11** - Albert (Sonny) McHalsie of the Sto:lo nation said: “The commercial fishery started at Fort Langley and our fishermen supplied all the salmon...They were entrepreneurs, that’s exactly what they were. Once they saw a need for labour they just stepped in and gladly did it.”

**First Nations – Scroll 12**– In the Fraser River fishers’ strike of 1900 we united with white and Japanese workers to form the Fishermen’s Union and sent a message to cannery owners that they had to share their profits. In 1931 some of these union leaders would help form the Native Brotherhood of BC, broadening the struggle for First Nations’ rights.

**First Nations – Scroll 13** - We were also entrepreneurs, buying and re-selling goods and artwork, running small sawmills and canneries.

**First Nations - scroll 14**: As Indigenous peoples, we lost more than just land. Because the land is so important to us, when it was taken away some of us also lost our way of living, our culture and in some cases, our reason to live.

**First Nations – Scroll 15** – Chief Johnny Chillihitzia speaking at a Special Joint Committee into Claims of the Allied Indian Tribes in 1926 said: “I want to speak to you about grazing. Long ago the Indians already started to have cattle, horses and everything and they had the use of the range and the Indians succeeded in getting large stock for themselves and at the time they had big use of the range; it was not under control then and they had a lot of stock, and it increased because there was range for the Indians at that time. Now the white people sell it between themselves, and they are all taken up, and the Indians have no more land, and finally the Indians’ cattle diminished because they were short of land.”

**First Nations – Scroll 16** – The idea was that Indigenous people had to become more like the Europeans. We had to give up our status rights and become like other Canadians. We had to farm like them, go to residential schools where we were separated from our families for ten years and pray in the same churches, even though we weren’t and aren’t Europeans.