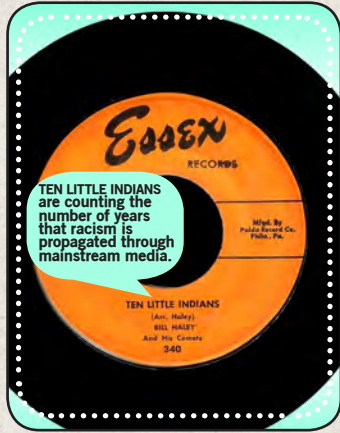
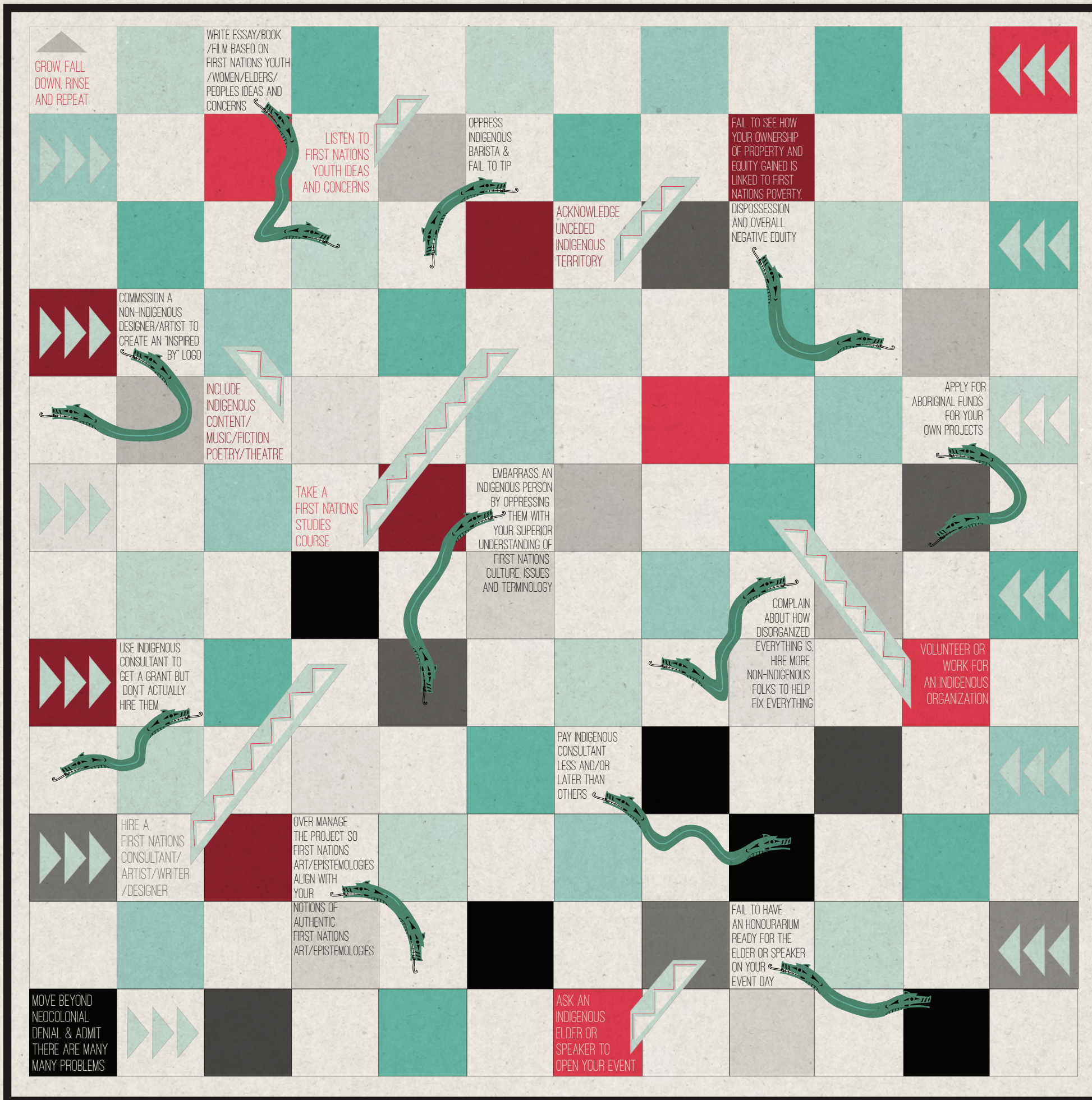


Playing POST-COLONIAL a decolonizing activity book for the woke and the weary



TALKBACK FLASH CARDS • SÍNULHKAY & LADDERS • THE NEW INDIAN AGENT DOLL
a graphic intervention on normalized oppression in the neocolonial contact zone





OBJECT OF THE GAME

Chénchenstway (chen chens tway) is a Squamish verb meaning “uphold one another; support one another” which is an outcome of decolonization and the object of this game.

As you engage in decolonization, you might also be impacted by the power of supremacy narratives and the urge to commodify.

Sínulhkay, a double-headed sea serpent, represents the power of transformation in the game. It embodies the ability to create or destroy with the rationale of two minds and two faces.

Playing Post-colonial is a slippery slope when helping is domination and exploitation is masked as empowerment.

HOW TO PLAY

The first step is to move beyond neocolonial denial and admit there are many problems hidden within playing post-colonial. Once woke, you roll the dice to begin your complicated journey of decolonizing.

Every ladder up is a gift of knowledge that connects you with Indigenous people, ideas, art and an opportunity to uphold and support one another - chénchenstway.

Every Sínulhkay shares a lived experience from the neocolonial contact zone and a lesson on how NOT to work with Indigenous people. Sínulhkay plays post-colonial with a face of enlightenment masking a face of oppression.

As you climb the ladders and slide down the Sínulhkay, you might vacillate between woke and weary. You might feel fragile but keep going. You'll need to power-up with empathy for the colonized and also for your internal colonizer.

Supremacy, commodification, insecurity, fear, and identity constructions are strong drivers and food for Sínulhkay.

Chénchenstway will strengthen all of us.

AUTHOR NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Indigenous languages express ways of knowing that can be difficult to impossible to connect with and embody for so many of us living in the neocolonial contact zone. I wonder how many powerful ways of being are lost from colonization & diaspora.

I am grateful to those who carried the culture through very difficult times. And, grateful for all who work to increase the numbers of speakers of Indigenous languages. I'm a late learner of my culture and thank my teachers for calling me home.

Please consider learning about, and supporting, Squamish language reclamation through Kwi Awt Stelmexw, a Squamish arts & language advocacy organization at www.kwiawtstelmexw.com

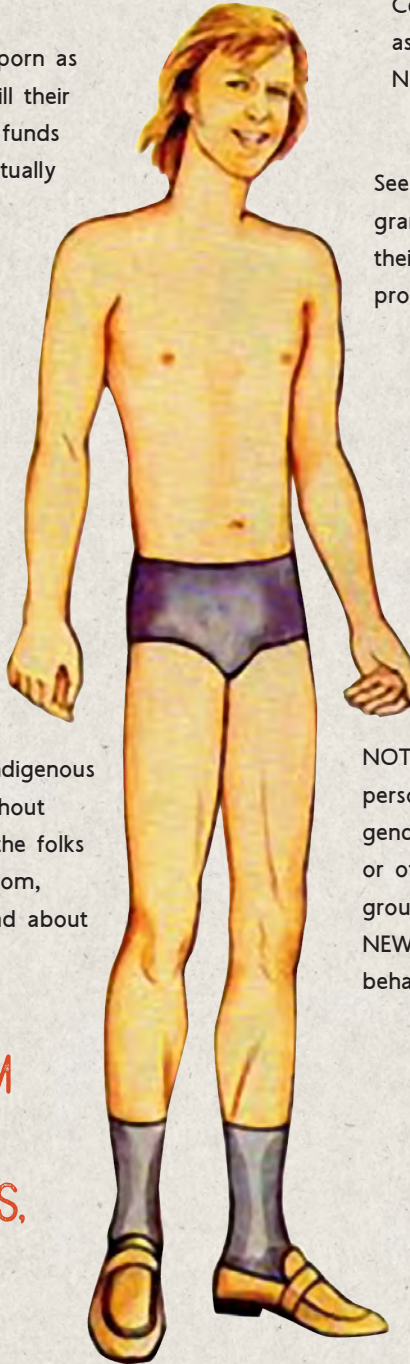
The New Indian Agents: and their well-suited intentions



Use poverty porn as a means to fill their pockets with funds that could actually help people

May have an Indigenous partner or might have grown up close to a reserve

Benefit from Indigenous knowledge without reciprocity to the folks they learned from, researched, read about or spoke with.

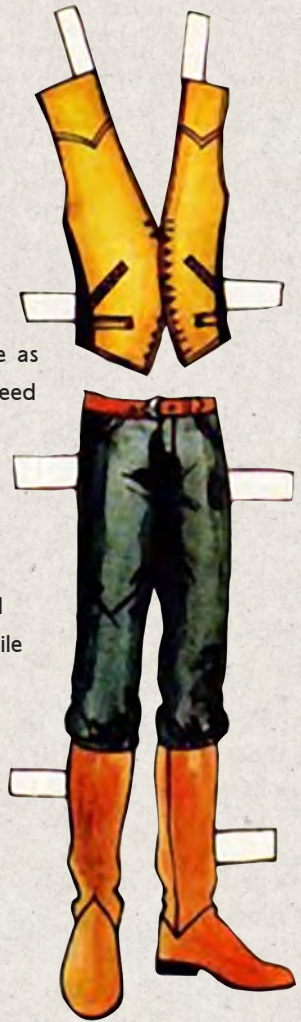


Centre themselves as experts in the Native cause

See Indigenous people as grant-magnets who need their help to manage projects effectively

Use language of cultural safety and empowerment while actually exploiting and disrespecting

NOTE: Unfortunately, persons from any gender, race, class, or other human grouping, can exhibit NEW INDIAN AGENT behaviours. BEWARE!



IF YOU FEEL FRAGILE FROM READING ANY INDICATORS OF NEW INDIAN AGENT-NESS, THERE IS STILL TIME TO FLEX YOUR REFLEXIVITY! YOU CAN STOP SUPREMACY! YOU CAN CONTROL COMMODIFYING INCLINATIONS! TODAY!

WE CAN WORK TOGETHER, BETTER.

This excerpt was produced by Nahanee Creative, by Michelle Lorna Nahanee, writer, designer & creative director with assistant art direction from Paisley Eva Nahanee, Squamish Matriarchs.

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