

# Understanding the capabilities of communities through non-traditional discovery

Vanessa Howard



# Listening

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples across the globe has provided us the opportunity to understand the importance of respecting and appreciating each other's diverse knowledge.

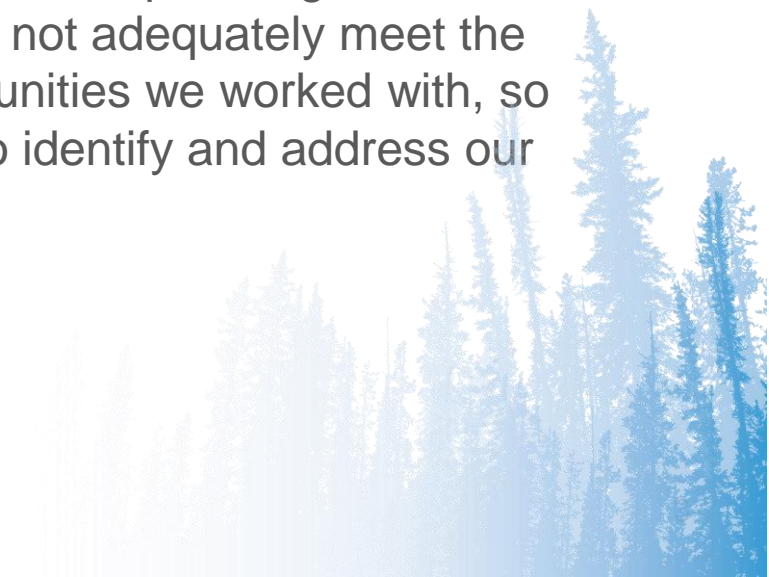




## Learning

Calian was honoured to work with several communities who wanted to mature their own emergency management programs but required the support of experienced emergency management professionals to guide them through the process.

We recognized that a traditional emergency management approach to planning and development would not adequately meet the needs of the communities we worked with, so we looked inward to identify and address our gaps.







## Leveraging

Thank you for sharing your time with me today as I discuss the methodology we leveraged and propose it is not only important in communities with emerging emergency management programs, but also holds value across all communities.



## Application

Ultimately, we found success for community by fully buying into the concept that the community we were working with was the definitive expert on themselves.

We learned that many communities have the skills required for successful emergency management, however have to pull those capabilities from less traditional methods than communities who have the luxury of full emergency management, public works, and public safety teams.



We had to learn  
from other sectors  
and apply some of  
their tools in order  
to be successful.

- History of negative experiences erodes trust.
- How do you create whole of community if the community is disengaged?
- What if your systems create barriers you don't even know about?



# ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR

PRODUCTIVITY

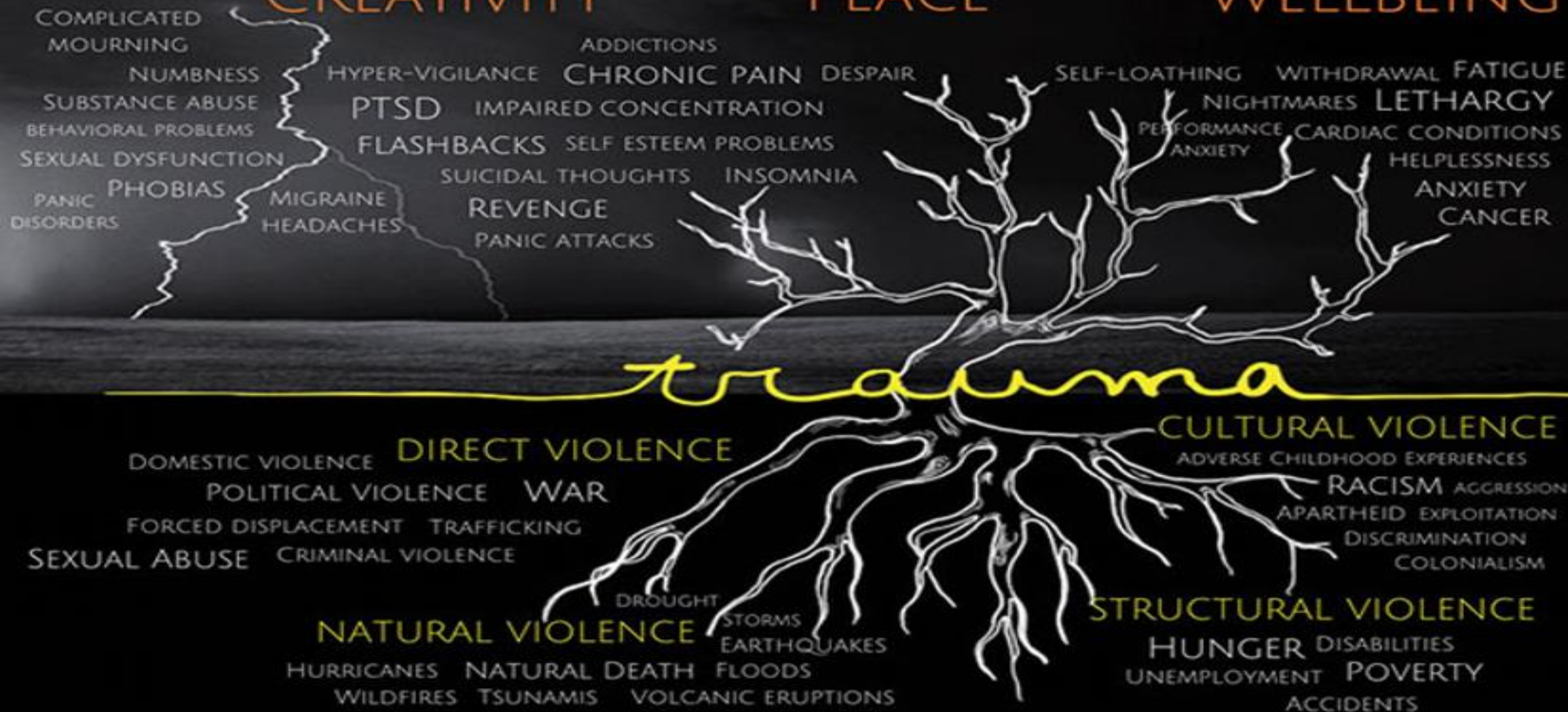
HEALTH

EDUCABILITY

CREATIVITY

PEACE

WELLBEING





# Core principles of Trauma Informed Approach

**safety, trust, control, & esteem**

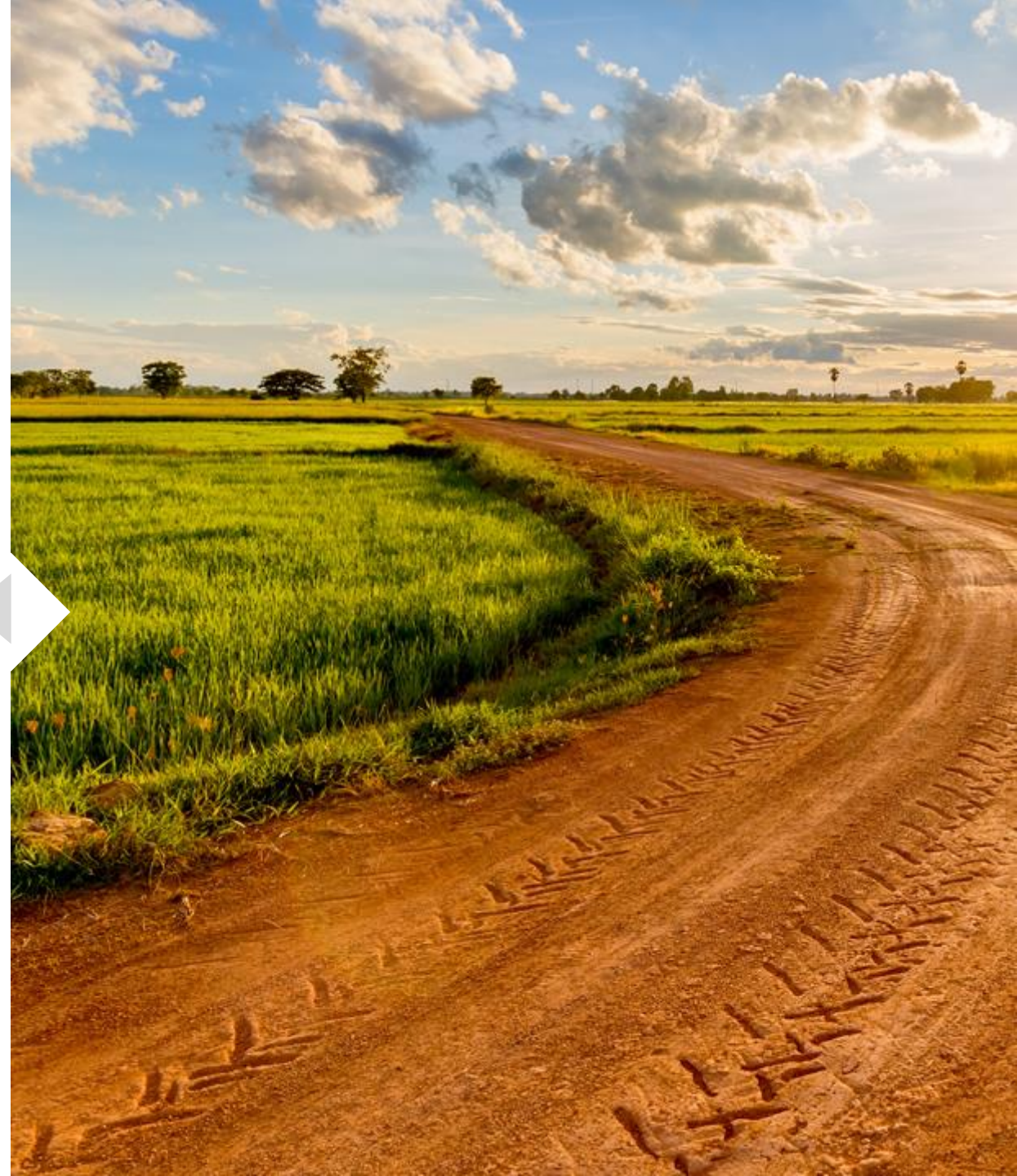




Our approach integrated community-based knowledge with best practices in emergency management.

We found success in several communities by developing strong relationships across all stakeholders and built tailored solutions to meet the community needs.

In some cases, this required us to work with the community leaders to build a program that leveraged the existing strength within the community by creating a framework for emergency management that broke down traditional emergency management roles into several positions that were more aligned with the community's capacity.







**Our team has been humbled to work with communities to build programs that transition the language of emergency management into existing strengths and community capacity.**

**An ongoing challenge faced by communities to bridge the gap between their capacity and knowledge with the language used by external agencies.**

**The reality faced by several clients and communities is that they face a perception challenge when they experience a large event. By ensuring that training bridges the terminology gap, we can reduce these challenges. This is solidified by multi-jurisdictional exercises to allow teams to work together prior to a disruptive event.**



## How can we continue to work together?

2016, the Government of Canada endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) without qualification and committed to its full and effective implementation.

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Thank you for sharing your time.

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