

**Connecting traditional music to**  
**education for sustainable**  
**development: the case of a First**  
**Nations child diagnosed with**  
**autism.**

Anne Lindblom

[annelind@kau.se](mailto:annelind@kau.se)

# PhD project

- The meaning of music for First Nations children in British Columbia, Canada, diagnosed with autism.
- In which ways is music used as a motivator?
- In which ways is music used to facilitate inclusion?
- How is the meaning of music perceived by the children, parents and staff?
- What role does music play in other domains of the children's lives?
- Is traditional Indigenous music used in music interventions?



# First Nations

First Nations (in official documents still referred to as Indians) are one of three Aboriginal peoples recognized by the Canadian Constitution.



# Autism spectrum disorder

- deficits in social communication and social interaction
- restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior
- Autism prevalence has risen but appears to be under detected in First Nations children in BC Canada

# Music and autism

- Music is used in interventions for communication, socialization and behavior
- There is no previous research on music, autism and First Nations
- In my research, music lacks in cultural sensitivity in First Nations context

# Education for sustainable development

- Every person should acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed for sustainable development





# Education for sustainable development

- Indigenous worldviews - reciprocal



# Connor

- 6 years old
- On reserve
- 4 generations
- Segregated school setting
- Traditional music in home setting
- No traditional music in school-based interventions



# Conclusions

- There is much to be learned from Indigenous worldviews and knowledge systems which could lead to sustainable development and influence education on all levels. For Connor, the possibility to obtain traditional skills and for instance music interventions that are culturally sensitive, would offer interesting opportunities.