**WESTERN BOP RTLB GUIDELINES**

**Cultural Responsiveness**

Within both the management and the professional practice sections of the RTLB toolkit the terms ‘culturally responsive’ and ‘culturally appropriate’ are used. This is about RTLB understanding a student’s history, customs and world view and working in a genuine partnership with families/whänau. Working in a culturally responsive way is essential when working with Maori and Pasifika. Ministry documents and plans that inform working in a culturally responsive way include Tataiako, Ka Hikitia, and the Pasifika Education Plan.

The higher-level principles within these documents can also be applied to effective teaching and practice. (RTLB Toolkit, p 29)

**Manaakitia te tangata, ahakoa ko wai,**

**ahakoa no hea.**

*Treat people respectfully, irrespective of who they are*

*and where they come from.*

**Working in a culturally responsive way can have wider implications as well, eg; faith/belief structures, ethnicities, past experiences, gender, socio economic drivers, and these also have considerations that go with them.**

These can include / but are not limited to:

* The tikanga / kawa of those involved in the conference and the local iwi / hapu.
* The use of mihimihi – karakia – Kaumatua involvement in the process.
* How these processes align with cultural traditions – and the important of explaining to those involved – the process – the rational – the expectations.
* The use of key significant people - Minister / Elders / Kaumatua / Community members / Sports coach...
* The appropriateness of venue: Marae – Wharenui – Church – Community centre.
* The incorporation of cultural / religious ritual – prayer – ‘reading’ – creed
* The mana / respect of the facilitator/s in relation to those involved – and capacity to work cross culturally.

Put simply -

Listen attentively - question curiously - presume nothing