



# Očhéthi šakówiŋ

## Essential Understandings

### OSEU 1: LANDS & ENVIRONMENT

The original land base and natural resources of the Očhéthi šakówiŋ were under communal stewardship prior to immigrant settlement. Očhéthi šakówiŋ have a distinct and unique interrelationship with the environment that is essential to South Dakota.

### OSEU 2: IDENTITY & RESILIENCY

There is variety and resiliency among individuals within the Očhéthi šakówiŋ Oyate as identity is developed, defined and redefined by entities, by organization, and by people. A continuum of tribal identity, unique to each individual, ranges from assimilated to traditional lifestyle. There is no “generic American Indian.”

### OSEU 3: CULTURE & LANGUAGE

The origin, thought and philosophy of the Očhéthi šakówiŋ continues in the contemporary lifestyles of Tribal members. Tribal cultures, traditions and languages are incorporated and observed by many Tribal members both on and off the reservations.

### OSEU 4: KINSHIP & HARMONY

Očhéthi šakówiŋ kinship systems provide a framework for both individual and group behavior. Its unwritten rules promote harmony, compromise, a sense of order, and group cohesion.

### OSEU 5: ORAL TRADITION & STORY

History told from the Očhéthi šakówiŋ perspective, through oral tradition and written accounts, frequently conflicts with the stories told by mainstream historians. An analysis of multiple perspectives reveals history in a more inclusive and accurate way.

### OSEU 6: SOVEREIGNTY & TREATIES

Federal policies and treaties put into place throughout American history have affected Očhéthi šakówiŋ people adversely. Tribes as sovereign nations have the authority to enter into government to government relationships. Currently, the relationship between each tribe, their state(s), and the federal government is not the same for each tribe.

### OSEU 7: WAY OF LIFE & DEVELOPMENT

The essential philosophy of the Očhéthi šakówiŋ wicoun is based on the values which have created resiliency of the Oyate. Tribal communities have put considerable effort into education and economic development, Tribal universities and colleges, wellness centers, cultural traditions, and language revitalization.



Office of Indian Education



DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS