

## TRANSDISCIPLINARY NET CONFERENCE

- Integrative Science at international research conference in Switzerland

Institute for Integrative Science & Health: [www.integrativescience.ca](http://www.integrativescience.ca)

• September 2011

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“td – net”, the Network for Transdisciplinary Research, held its 4<sup>th</sup> international conference in Berne, Switzerland, 14-16 September 2011, with support from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Mercator Foundation Switzerland, and the Center for the Study of Interdisciplinarity. Information can be accessed at:

<http://www.transdisciplinarity.ch/e/Conference/international/2011/index.php>

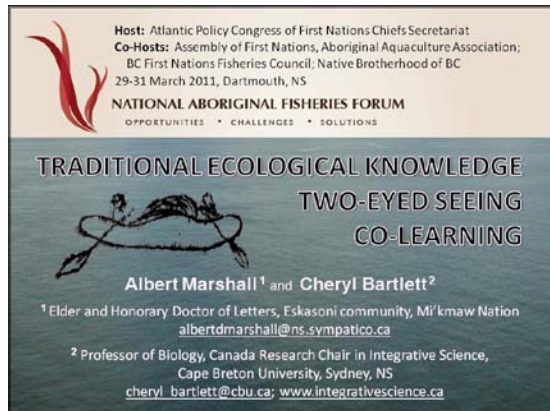


The conference was the final in a series of four annual conferences dedicated to practices, methodologies, and epistemologies of inter- and transdisciplinary research and teaching. The theme for the fourth conference was “evaluation of inter- and transdisciplinary research: experiences and reflections on best practice”. Previous td-net conferences focussed on problem-framing, integration, and implementation.

Cape Breton University’s Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science Dr. Cheryl Bartlett and Integrative Science Research Associate Prune Harris attended the Berne conference. The Institute for Integrative Science and Health has, for many years, characterized its research endeavours (which seek to bring together Indigenous and Western scientific knowledges and ways of knowing) as a “co-learning journey” guided by the principle of “Two-Eyed Seeing”. It was apparent at the td-net conference that the understandings represented by the Integrative Science approach are completely congruent with best practices and emerging theory for transdisciplinary research. Numerous conference presenters emphasized that a co-learning phase was required at the outset of the transdisciplinary research project and also as an on-going process throughout the project’s duration. The Institute for Integrative Science and Health has long pointed to this as one of its many “lessons learned”. Indeed, the vast majority of presentations given by Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science Dr. Cheryl Bartlett and Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall over the past decade have featured visuals developed by the



Institute for Integrative Science and Health to aid the co-learning journey; many presentations have also included reference to lessons learned.



An excellent example with respect to an Integrative Science presentation featuring **visuals for the co-learning journey** is that entitled “*Traditional Knowledge, Two-Eyed Seeing, Co-Learning*” given in March 2011 at the National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum in Dartmouth, NS. It can be accessed at:

[http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2011March-Marshall-Bartlett-national-aboriginal-fisheries-traditional-knowledge-two-eyed-seeing-co-learning\[1\].pdf](http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2011March-Marshall-Bartlett-national-aboriginal-fisheries-traditional-knowledge-two-eyed-seeing-co-learning[1].pdf)



An excellent example with respect to an Integrative Science presentation featuring **lessons learned** is that entitled “*Facilitating the ‘Talking and Walking’ Together of Indigenous and Mainstream Sciences*”. The presentation was given in August 2008 at the Annual International Conference of Wildlife Diseases, in Edmonton, AB. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2008August-Bartlett-Marshall-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeing-Aboriginal-wildlife-disease.pdf>

The visuals developed to aid co-learning, and textual explanation for them, can be found in the draft manuscript entitled “*Integrative Science and Two-Eyed Seeing: Enriching the Discussion Framework for Healthy Communities*”. This manuscript is intended as a chapter in a forthcoming book. The manuscript can be accessed at:

[http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2011-Bartlett-Marshall-Iwama-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeing-enriching-discussion-framework\(authors-draft\).pdf](http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2011-Bartlett-Marshall-Iwama-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeing-enriching-discussion-framework(authors-draft).pdf)

Textual explanation of lessons learned within the Integrative Science co-learning journey can be found in Chapter 17 (not 16) entitled “*Integrative Science/Toqwa’tu’kl Kijjitaqnn: the story of our journey in bringing together Indigenous and Western scientific knowledges*” in the book (published in 2011) “*Ta'n Wetapeksi'k: Understanding From Where We Come*” which is the Proceedings of the 2005 Debert Research Workshop held at Debert, Nova Scotia, Canada. The

book is published by Eastern Woodland Print Communications, Truro, NS. A pdf of the page proofs of Chapter 17 (changed from Chapter 16 as indicated in the pdf) can be accessed at:

<http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2011-Bartlett-Integrative-Science-Mikmawey-Debert-Chapter-17-proofs.pdf>

Additional Institute for Integrative Science and Health articles in which lessons learned are explained are:

1) from 2007: *Integrative Science: Enabling Concepts within a Journey Guided by Trees Holding Hands and Two-Eyed Seeing (unpublished)*. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2007-Bartlett-Marshall-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeing-Aboriginal-co-learning-trees-holding-hands.pdf>

2) from 2005: *Knowledge Inclusivity: "Two-Eyed Seeing" for Science for the 21st Century* in the 2006 report entitled "Learning Communities As a Tool in Natural Resource Management" which represents the Proceedings of a Workshop Held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in November 4-6, 2005.

It can be accessed at: <http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2005November-Bartlett-text-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeing-Aboriginal-learning-communities.pdf>

