

THE SCIENCE OF HUMILITY

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Bringing Together
Western and Aboriginal
Science Knowledges

CAPE BRETON
UNIVERSITY



Unama'ki

Unama'ki – Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada

The Medicine Wheel

Used to describe the nature of
the Journey of Life

7 Sacred Gifts:

Love

Honesty

Humility

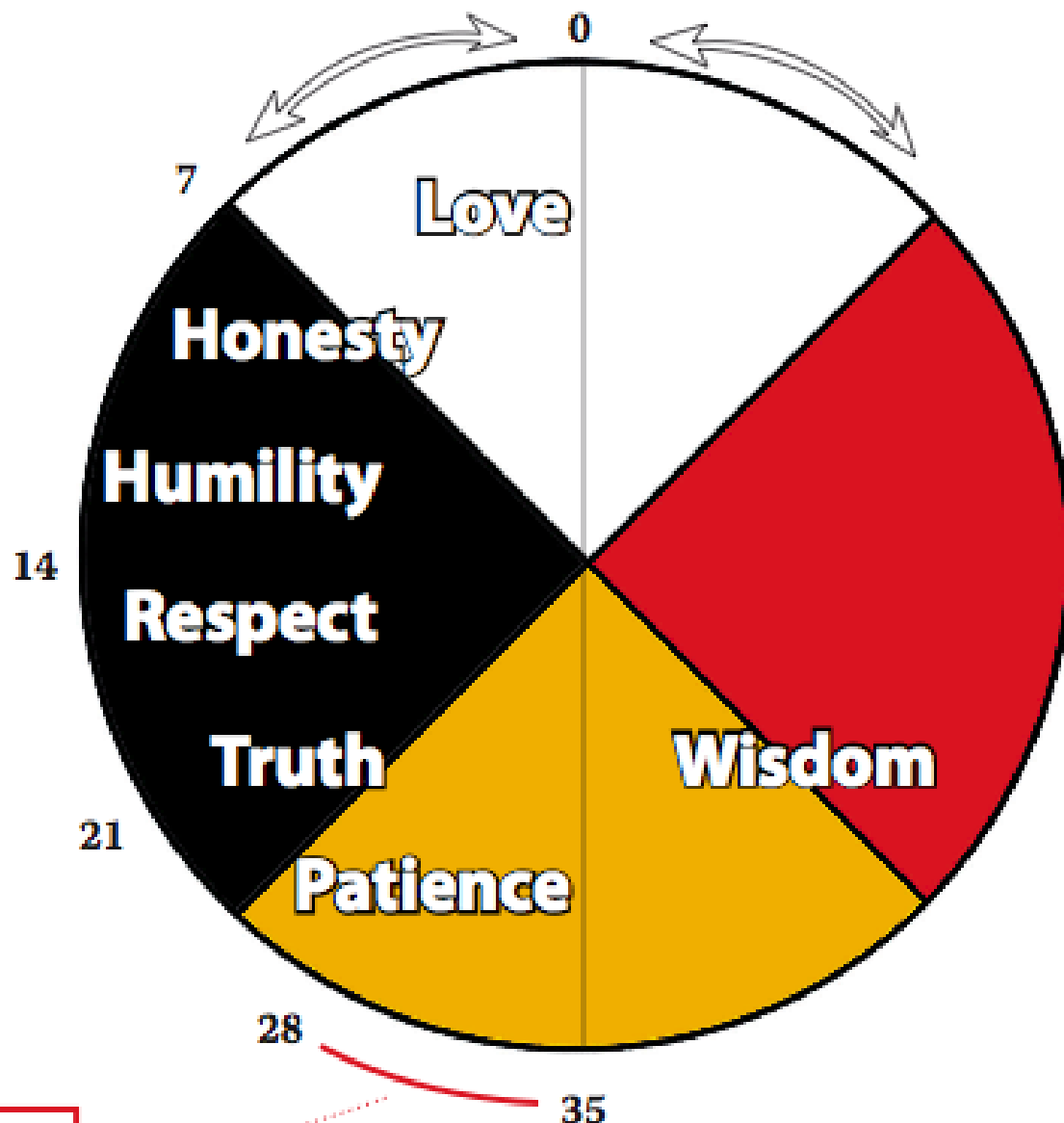
Respect

Truth

Patience

Wisdom





**Mi'kmaq
Seven
Sacred
Gifts
of
Life**

Teachings of
Mi'kmaq Elder
Murdena
Marshall

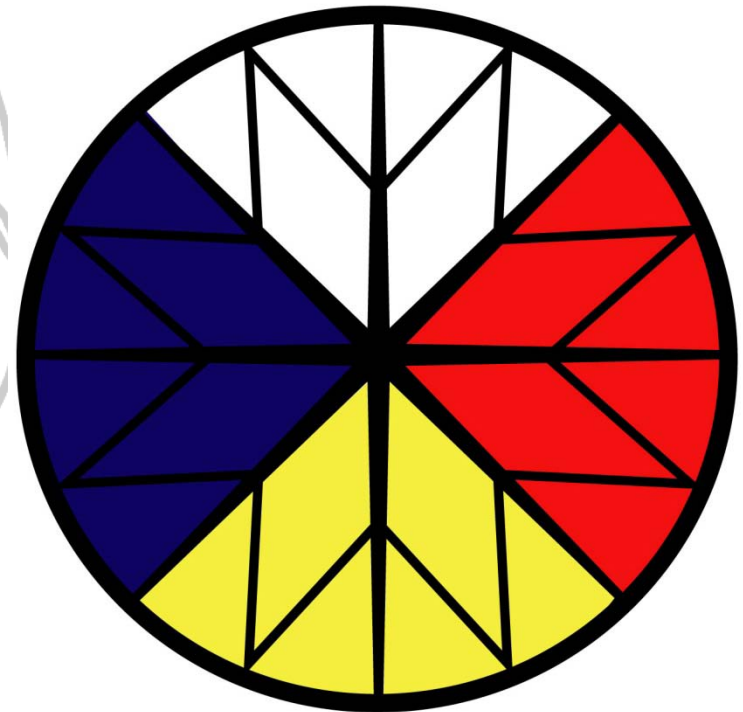
Elders say that this is when your spiritual awareness is realized.

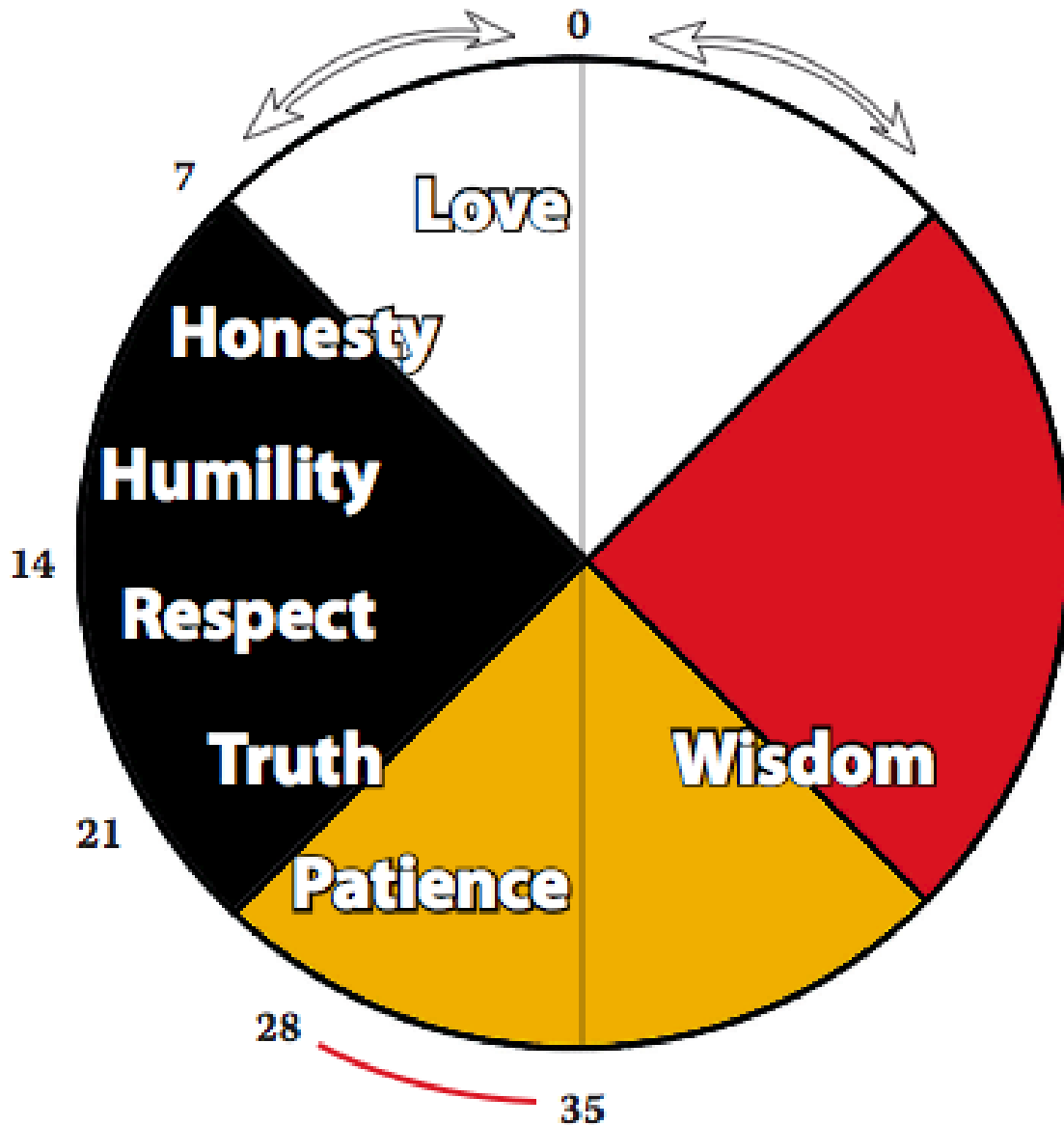
The 7 Sacred Gifts

*The Gifts run in chronological order.

The Medicine Wheel teaches several lessons, indeed it contains an endless source of lessons.

Each lesson reinforces the 7 gifts and the need for balance in our lives.





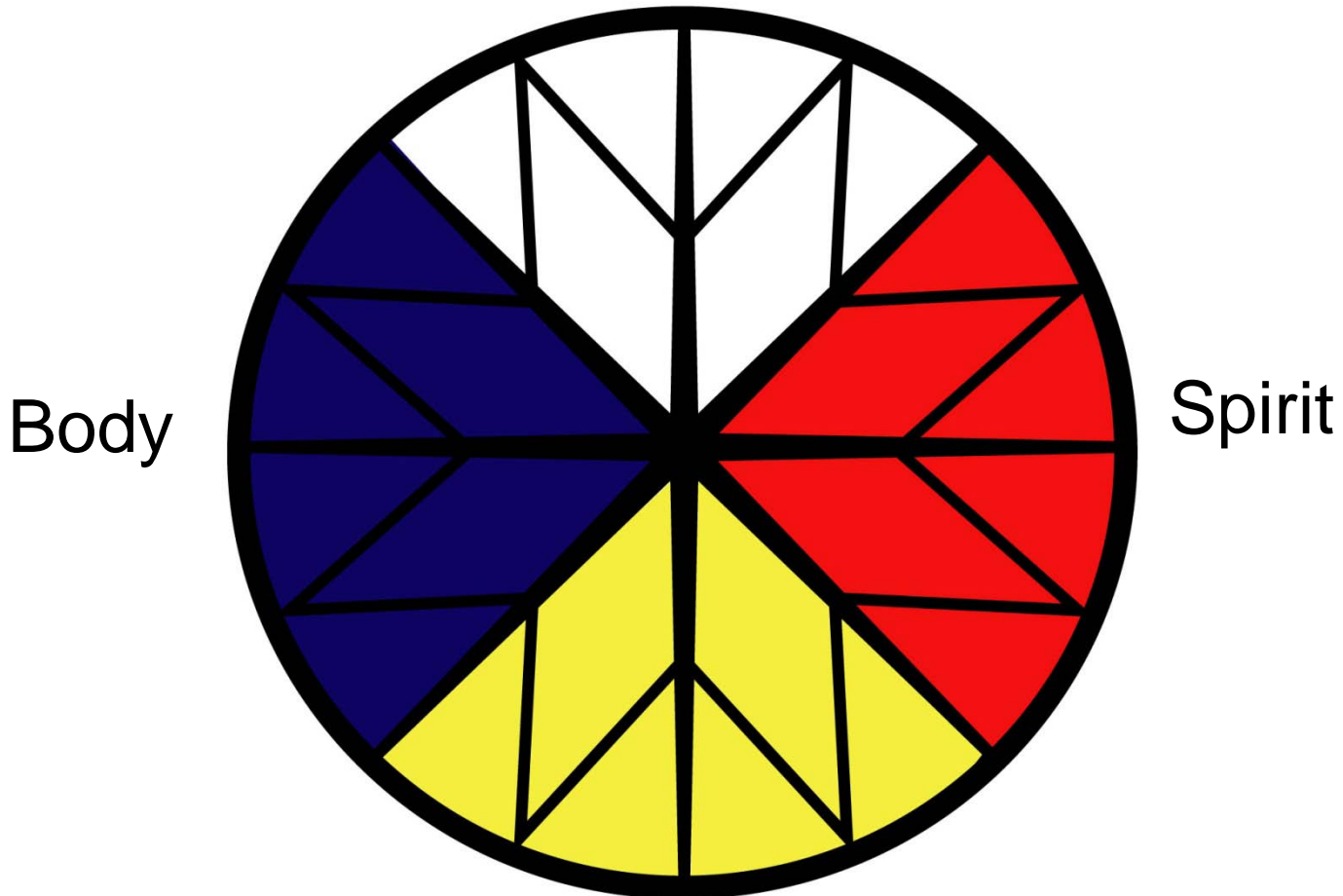
Children and Elders share the colour white in the wheel, which also represents north.

This reminds us of clarity of spirit among Elders and children.

Mi'kmaq Seven Sacred Gifts of Life
 Teachings of Mi'kmaq Elder Murdena Marshall

BALANCE

Intellect



Spirit

Body

Environment

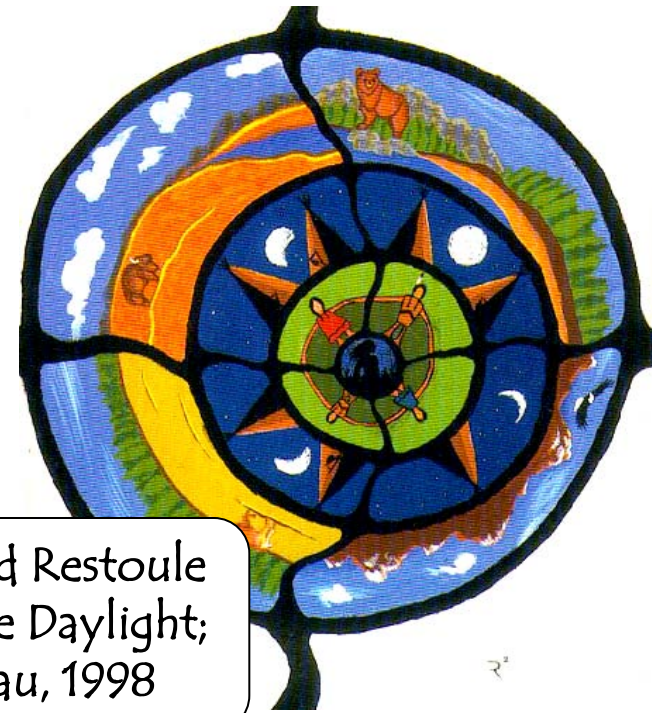
Honours Wisdom of Mother Earth: Cycles and Change

Mi'kmaq World View

Species possess rights

Humans possess responsibilities

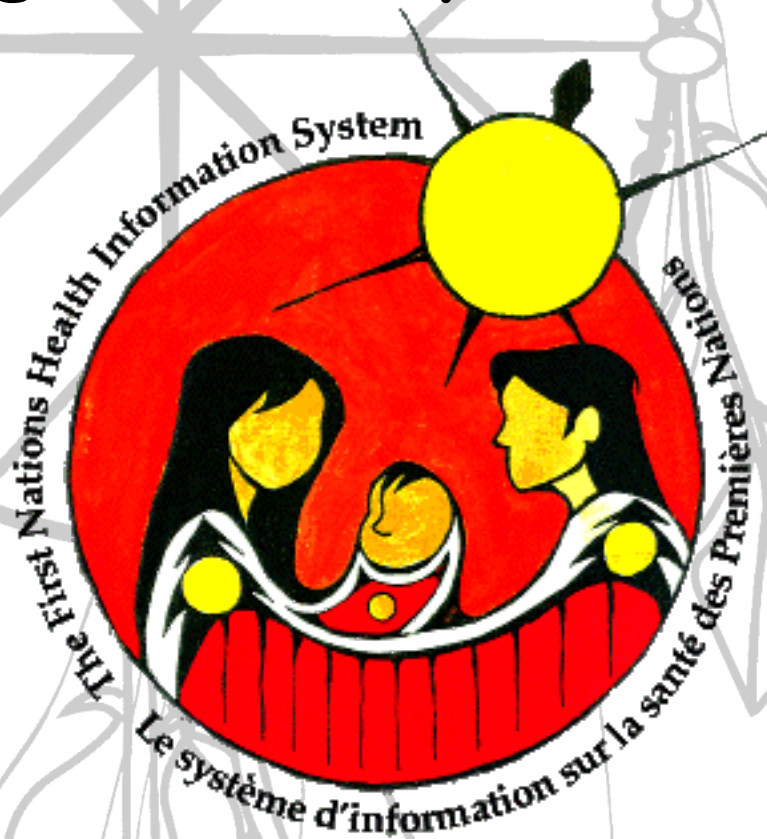
Our culture is built on long term vision and our decisions were made with the next 7 generations in mind.



*image by: Rod Restoule
from: Into the Daylight;
C. Morrisseau, 1998*

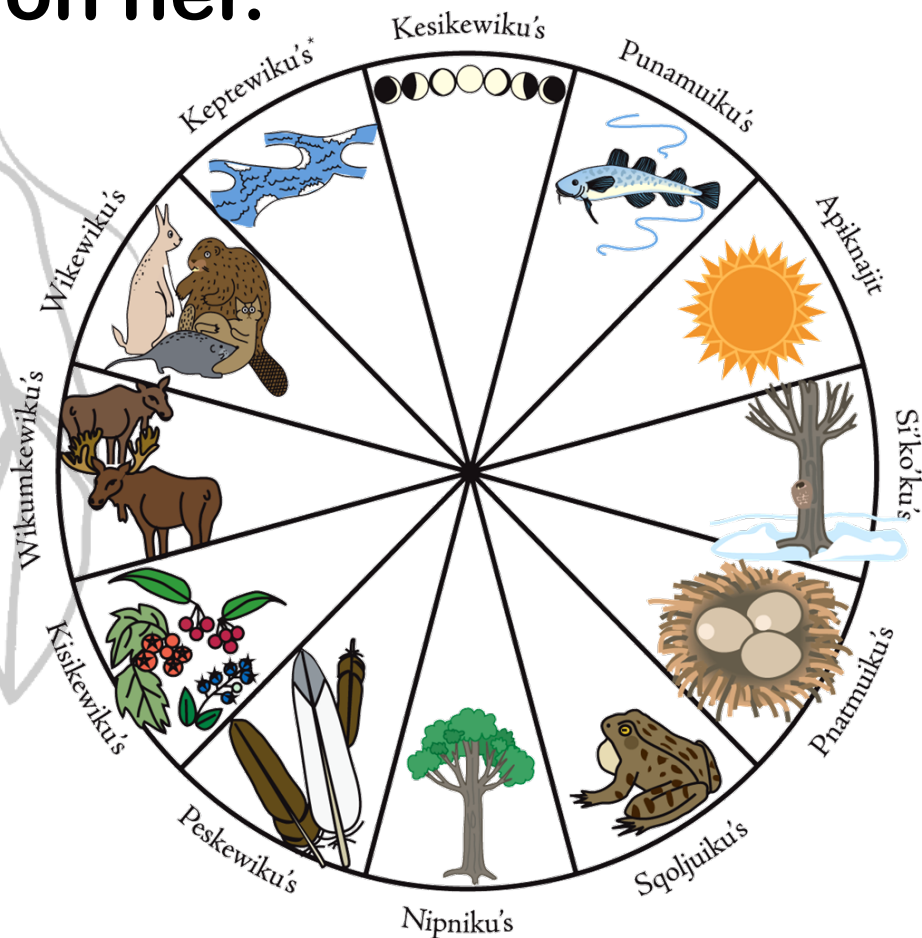
Humans are not privileged, rather they are responsible.

Mother Earth provides for us, shelters us, nourishes us. We must look to her good examples for guidance.



*image from:
Mi'kmaq Family
and
Children Services*

Our seasons follow the cycles of Mother Earth, so that our children will always be reminded of the beauty of creation, and of our dependence on her.

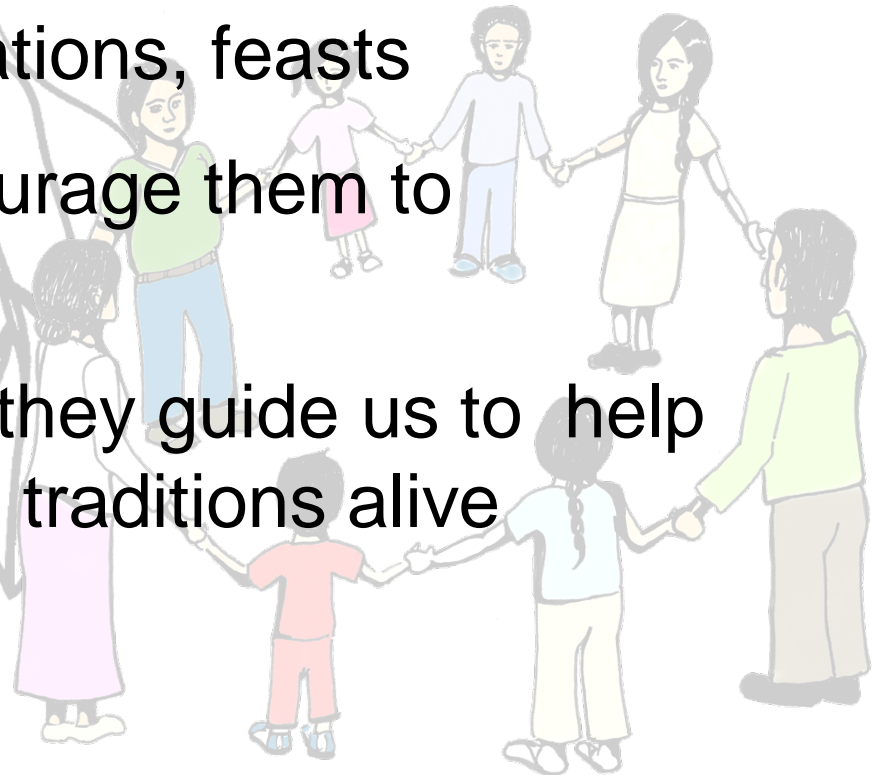


Social Policies

- constructed around same concepts
- e.g. if a man committed violence against another man, killing him, he was responsible for that man's family
- e.g. when two youths fell in love, the boy lived with the family of the girl, so they could observe his character, and see his ability to provide and care for their daughter
- families were supported to overcome problems; interconnectiveness was upheld

Celebrations

- based around Mother Earth's provisions
- reinforcement of our beliefs
- songs, prayer, celebrations, feasts
- honour animals, encourage them to continue to provide
- honour ancestors, as they guide us to help us keep our beliefs and traditions alive



Language

- contains the wisdom and perspective of our ancestors
- how we express ourselves in language reminds us of our interrelatedness and interconnectiveness
- e.g. our word for the Bras d'Or Lakes does not mean "Arm of Gold" as it is usually interpreted into English, but **"that to which all things flow"**
... explains the relationship of the lake in creation, and relationship of the waters that surround her (i.e. not an exploitative value)

Example of Our World View



Residential Schools

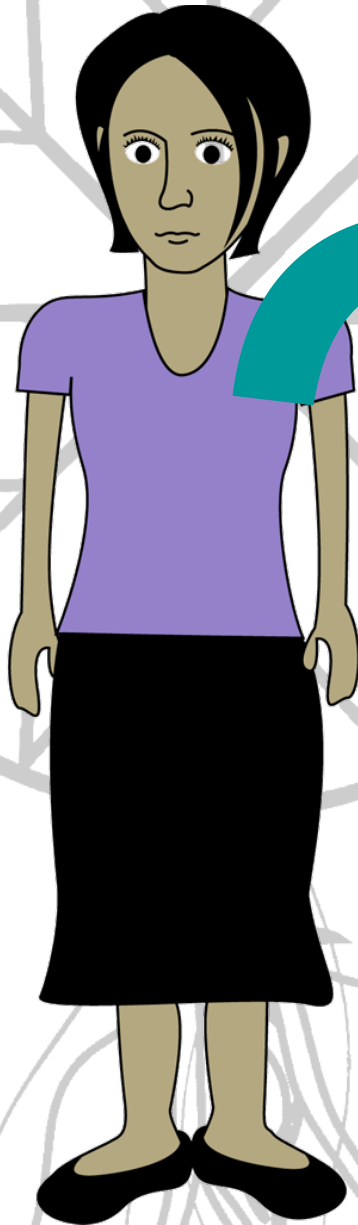
~~LANGUAGE~~



image from:
Mi'kmaq Family
and
Children Services



Punished, abused, isolated



Today

Our young people are poised on the edge of two worlds.

Some are parented by adults splintered by the residential schools who don't know which way to turn.

As Elders in Our Time

We seek to be a conduit for wisdom of our ancestors. We seek to see with “two-eyes” ... to take the accomplishments of Western Science further by blending it with the wisdom of our ancestors.

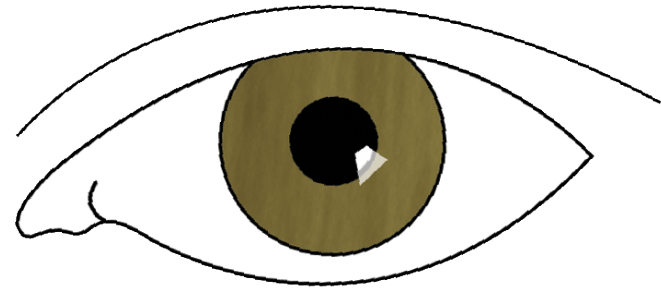


Artist
Basma
Kavanagh

Only a change in consciousness will ensure long term survival of our planet. Only remembrance of the “science of humility” will ensure we do not destroy creation with our human ingenuity.



Artist
Basma
Kavanagh

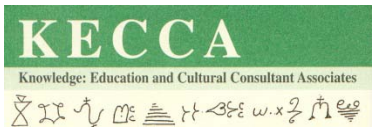


**Only when we see
with two eyes, will
Western Science be
something more than
blind and Aboriginal
thought something
more than lost.**

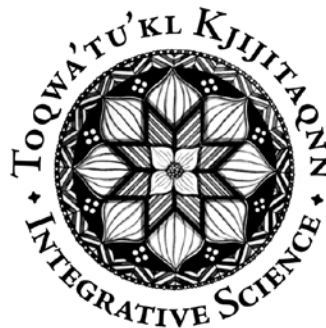


Wela'liogq Thank You

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UNAMA'KI
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NATURAL
RESOURCES



Bringing Together
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with acknowledgement of several funding agencies