

MAWIO'MI – ELDERS GATHERING – Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP)

Institute for Integrative Science & Health: www.integrativescience.ca

- 2010
 - community and professional outreach
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On 12-14 August 2010, an Elders Mawio'mi was held at the Kluskap Heritage Centre in Millbrook First Nation sponsored by AAEDIRP (Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program). The Mawio'mi brought together Elders from four Aboriginal cultures of the Atlantic region – Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu and Inuit. This was the first time in many years that such a gathering of Elders has taken place. The main purpose of the Mawio'mi was for Elders to give their guidance on how they would like to be consulted when sharing Traditional Knowledge and Aboriginal worldviews.

Elders discussed how to share their knowledge and have it incorporated in research projects and community economic development. Such guidance can also assist other areas of research within AAEDIRP. The Elders Mawio'mi is part of a larger AAEDIRP project concerning Elders and their knowledge; a second Elders Mawio'mi is planned for March 2011.

Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science Dr. Cheryl Bartlett is a member of the advisory group for the AAEDIRP Elders Project and, in this capacity, has helped/is helping plan both of the Elders Mawio'mi and is also participating in them.

AAEDIRP is a partnership of 38 member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress (APC), the Inuit, 12 Atlantic universities, and four government funders, both federal and provincial). Its purpose is to improve the knowledge base of Atlantic Aboriginal economic development, in order to improve the lives of the Aboriginal people in the region. More information can be found at: <http://www.apcfn.ca/en/economicdevelopment/aaedirp.asp>.

The AAEDIRP logo, by Maliseet Artist Dozay (Arlene Christmas), shows a tree extending across the water, which signifies to reach and teach. The sun represents the People of the Dawn, and the double curve is commonly used within the Wabanaki tribes. The snow-capped mountains and the Northern Lights represent Innu and Inuit territory. Thus, the logo encompasses all communities involved in the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program.

