The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Atlantic National Event took place in Halifax, NS, in late October 2011.


Within the Atlantic National Event, Dalhousie University and St. Francis Xavier University organized “A Gathering Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge” which included Seven Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Circles. These were opportunities for the public, Indigenous communities, and university communities to consider questions of reconciliation and work collaboratively to design meaningful pathways to reconciliation.

Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Circle 5 - Knowledge and Rights was co-ordinated by Kerry Prosper from Paqtnkek Mi’kmaq Community and considered the importance and value of Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous rights by exploring pathways to empowerment through Indigenous resource management and environmental rights. Invited speakers included Mi’kmaq Elders Murdena and Albert Marshall from Eskasoni Mi’kmaq Community and Cape Breton University’s Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science Dr. Cheryl Bartlett.

Indigenous Knowledge Mobilization Circle 6 - Health and Wellness was co-ordinated by Sharon Rudderham, Health Administrator at the Eskasoni Community Health Centre and Dr. Fred Wien from Dalhousie University and the Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program. The circle heard speakers from the university and community-based research community share their knowledge about: (1) the state of the knowledge base concerning Aboriginal health and wellness, including the identification of important gaps; (2) the promise of Indigenous knowledge in contributing to community health and well-being; and (3) what is required to achieve reconciliation, including the formulation of recommendations for action. Among the invited speakers was Cape Breton University’s Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science Dr. Cheryl Bartlett.