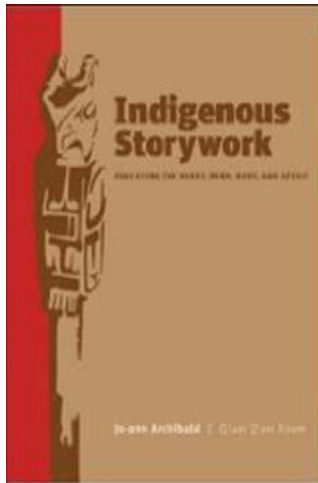


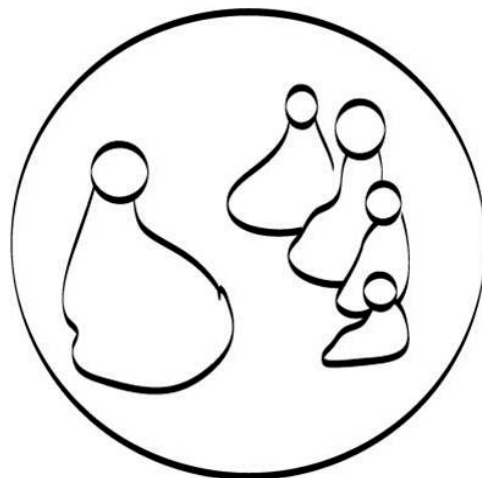
## STORYWORK WORKSHOP – community outreach

- 2009
  - educational and professional outreach
- 



In 2008, Jo-ann Archibald’s book “Indigenous Storywork; educating the heart, mind, body, and spirit” was published by UBC Press. Dr. Archibald, also known as Q’um Q’um Xiiem from the Stó:lo Nation, is Associate Dean for Indigenous Education in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia.

The Integrative Science research team wanted to explore the understandings in Dr. Archibald’s book and discuss the role of stories in education, in healing, and in new collaborative work intended to help revitalize Elders’ memories of traditional ecological knowledge in Mi’kma’ki (the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaq people). Thus, in June 2009, we held a two-day “Storywork Workshop” at Cape Breton University with an all female group of Mi’kmaq Elders, several educators of various backgrounds and ages, and special guests Dr. Vicki Kelly (who is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University; <http://www.educ.sfu.ca/>) and Nancy Mellon (who works with story as a healing art <http://www.healingstory.com/nm.htm>). The workshop was enabled by SSHRC funding for research projects led by Cheryl Bartlett, one entitled “Pattern recognition: enriching the ‘common ground’ of bringing Aboriginal and Western scientific knowledges together” and the other entitled “Softening our Ecological Footprints: Mi’kmaq Elders Stories and environmental sustainability”. The understandings emergent from our workshop helped enable a Phase 2 CURA (community-university research alliance) application to SSHRC in Fall 2009 (unfortunately, our Phase 2 application did not receive funding). Fortunately, these understandings are being advanced within another of Cheryl’s research projects, one entitled “Rekindling Mi’kmaq Stories for Modern Childraising Practices” funded by the Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program (AAHRP) via CIHR-IAPH (Canadian Institutes of Health – Institute for Aboriginal Peoples’ Health).



UBC Press (<http://www.ubcpres.ubc.ca/>) describes her book as follows. *Indigenous oral narratives are an important source for, and component of, Coast Salish knowledge systems. Stories are not only to be recounted and passed down; they are also intended as tools for teaching. Jo-ann Archibald worked closely with Elders and storytellers, who shared both traditional and personal life-experience stories, in order to develop ways of bringing storytelling into educational contexts. Indigenous Storywork is the result of this research and it demonstrates how stories have the power to educate and heal the heart, mind, body, and spirit. It builds on the seven principles of respect, responsibility, reciprocity, reverence, holism, interrelatedness, and synergy that form a framework for understanding the characteristics of stories, appreciating the process of storytelling, establishing a receptive learning context, and engaging in holistic meaning-making.*

## **Integrative Science: bringing together Indigenous & Western sciences**



**The foundational basis for any  
relationship is an exchange of stories.**

(words of Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall)