

First Nations' perspectives on forestry

Albert Marshall

Elder, Eskasoni First Nation
Mi'kmaq Nation, Canada

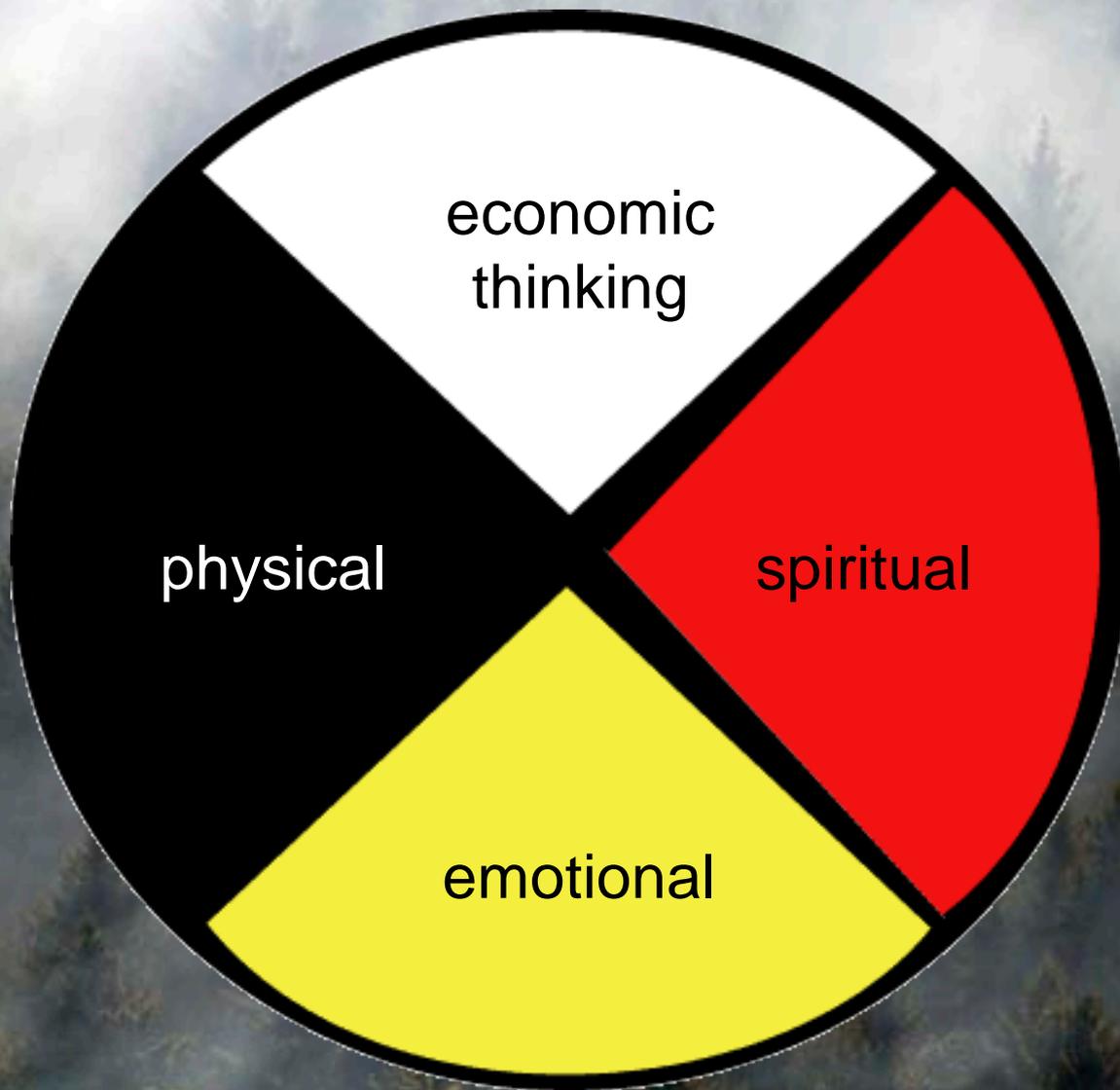


- Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- Institute for Integrative Science & Health, Cape Breton University

presentation for:

***Sustainable Hardwood Management in Today's Acadian Forests;
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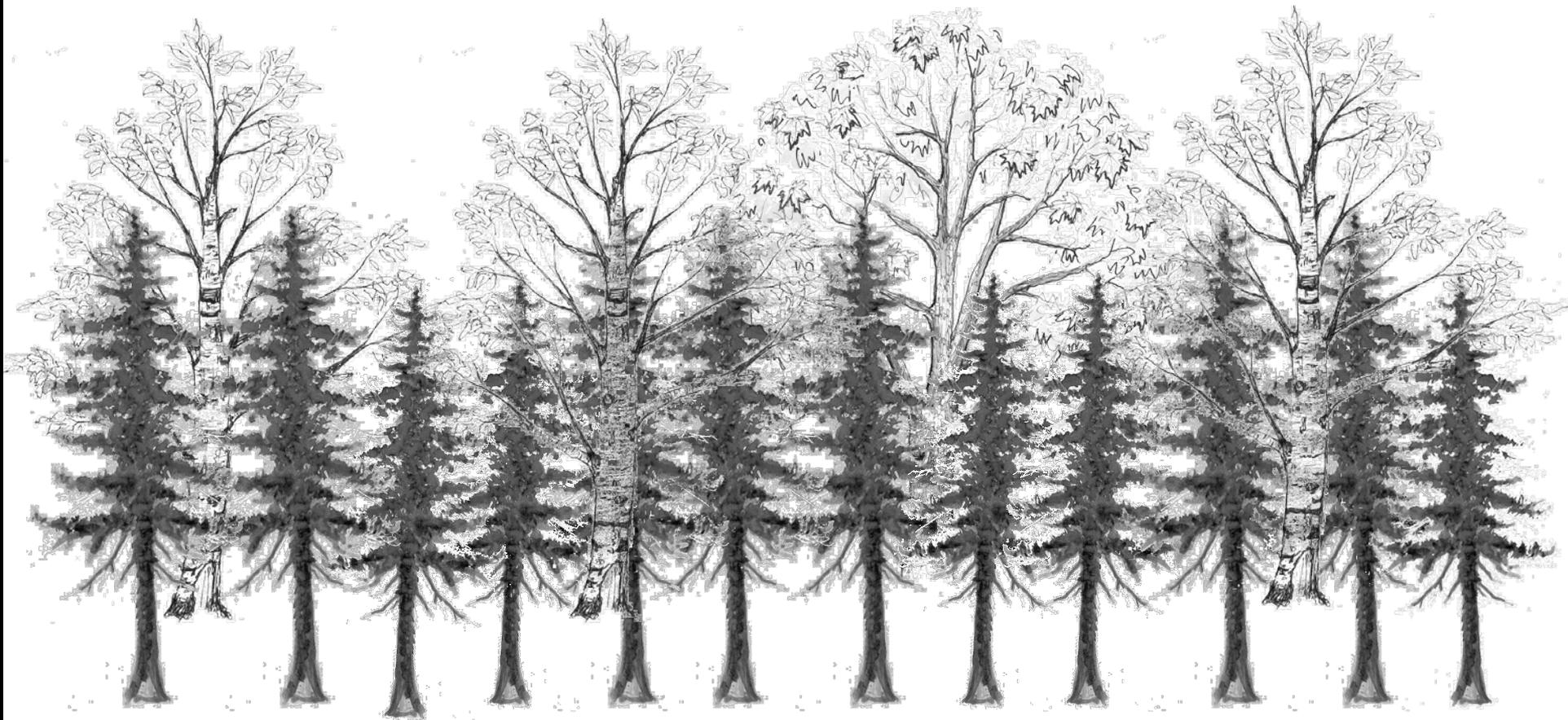
economic
thinking

physical

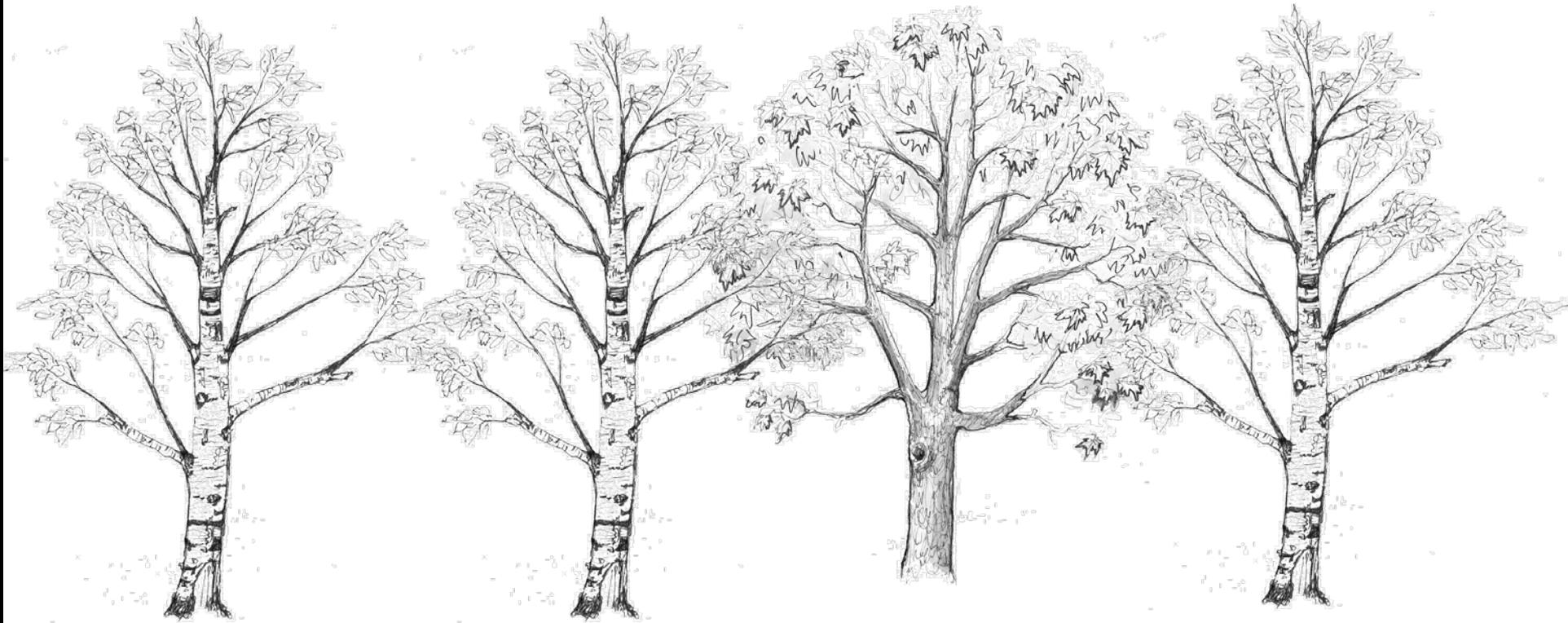
spiritual

emotional

High demand on conifers creates imbalance within the ecosystem



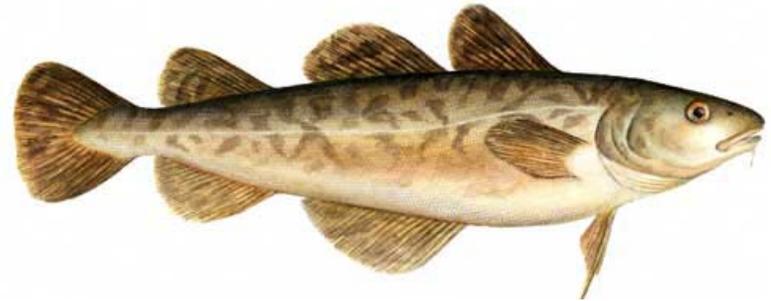
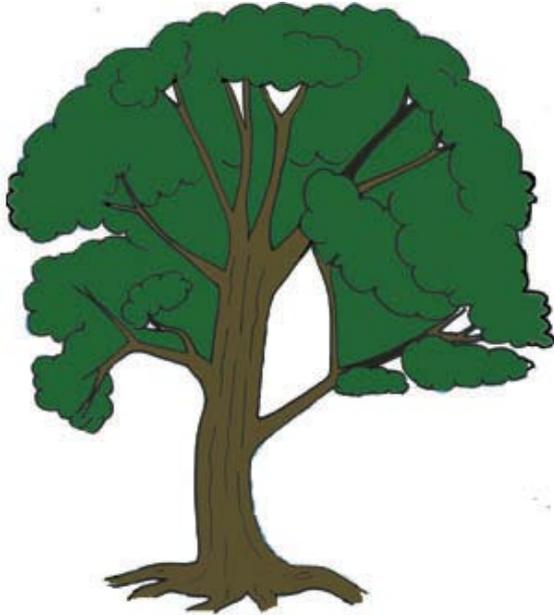
**If hardwoods are left ... and are
at the mercy of contractors ...**



Forestry



Fisheries



Our forests face the same risks as the cod fishery if our approaches do not change.



First Nations' perspectives must be put forward.

**Forests are watersheds ...
and thus are our life support.**



Spiritual connections ... from our forests



TOQWA'TU'KI KJHITAQNN
Integrative Science

Nipuktuk Wejiagq A'tukuvaqnn
FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STICKY

Muin
Ursus americanus
BLACK BEAR



Pisaqawtk
Ulmus sp.
OLD MAN'S BEARD

Maskwi
Betula papyrifera
BIRCH BARK

Stoqn
Abies balsamea
BALSAM FIR

Wisqasaw
Pinus strobus
PINE CONE

Wso'qmanaqsi'
Cornus canadensis
BUNCHBERRY

Pquaw
DECAYING PINE BARK

Pisaqnatkwil
Lobaria pulmonaria
LENGWORT

Muin – Bear is a big animal who lives part of her life in a den. Bear's den can be in a hollow log, cave or rock crevice, under a fallen tree, or in a special hole that Bear digs through the roots of a tree. Bear also digs for food, eating things like nuts, wildberries, roots and grass that can be found in the ground in winter half-frozen. As well, Bear can burrow (especially blackberries, fruit, fish, ants and mice). Bear will climb trees to look for fruit, and for special treats like honey. She will also climb trees to escape from danger and make her own sleep up in the tree's branches! In autumn, Bear eats a lot to build her body's store of fat for the winter; she then spends the long winter asleep in her den using this stored fat to maintain her sleeping body. Bear is an important concentration in the night sky and the Mi'kmaq Nation has long viewed her movement across the sky as an important marker for the cycle of seasons within the year.

A small multi-cultural group of young people worked in the University College of Cape Breton during the summer of 2016 on a project to create a connection to the Mi'kmaq legends: Hux-Rukh (the Hoop), Laq (the Talking Wolf), and the Spirit of the Forest. The project was part of a larger research effort to explore the relationship between Mi'kmaq and scientific understandings of our forest relationships with natural resources, especially as their understanding helps them to better understand the role of the forest in their lives, and the importance of their relationships. This report is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health.

For Mi'kmaq language information contact: Marlene Marshall at 902-579-2700
For additional information contact: Suzanne Kishore Program Manager, College of Cape Breton, P.O. Box 5500 – Highway 100, New Glasgow, NS B2P 2L2 or Christine Walker, 902-579-2700






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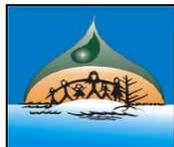
IWK Health Centre
Foundation



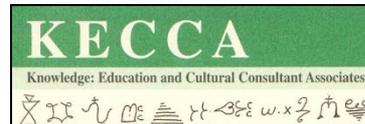
Wela'liog / Thank you



Mi'kmaq Elders



UNAMA'KI
INSTITUTE OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES



NSERC
CRSNG



Mi'kmawey Debert



Eskasoni Detachment

Royal Canadian
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale
du Canada