

# Health Canada (17 June 2008)

National Meeting (senior management); Membertou First Nation



**The Mi'kmaq “healing tense” and Two-Eyed Seeing**

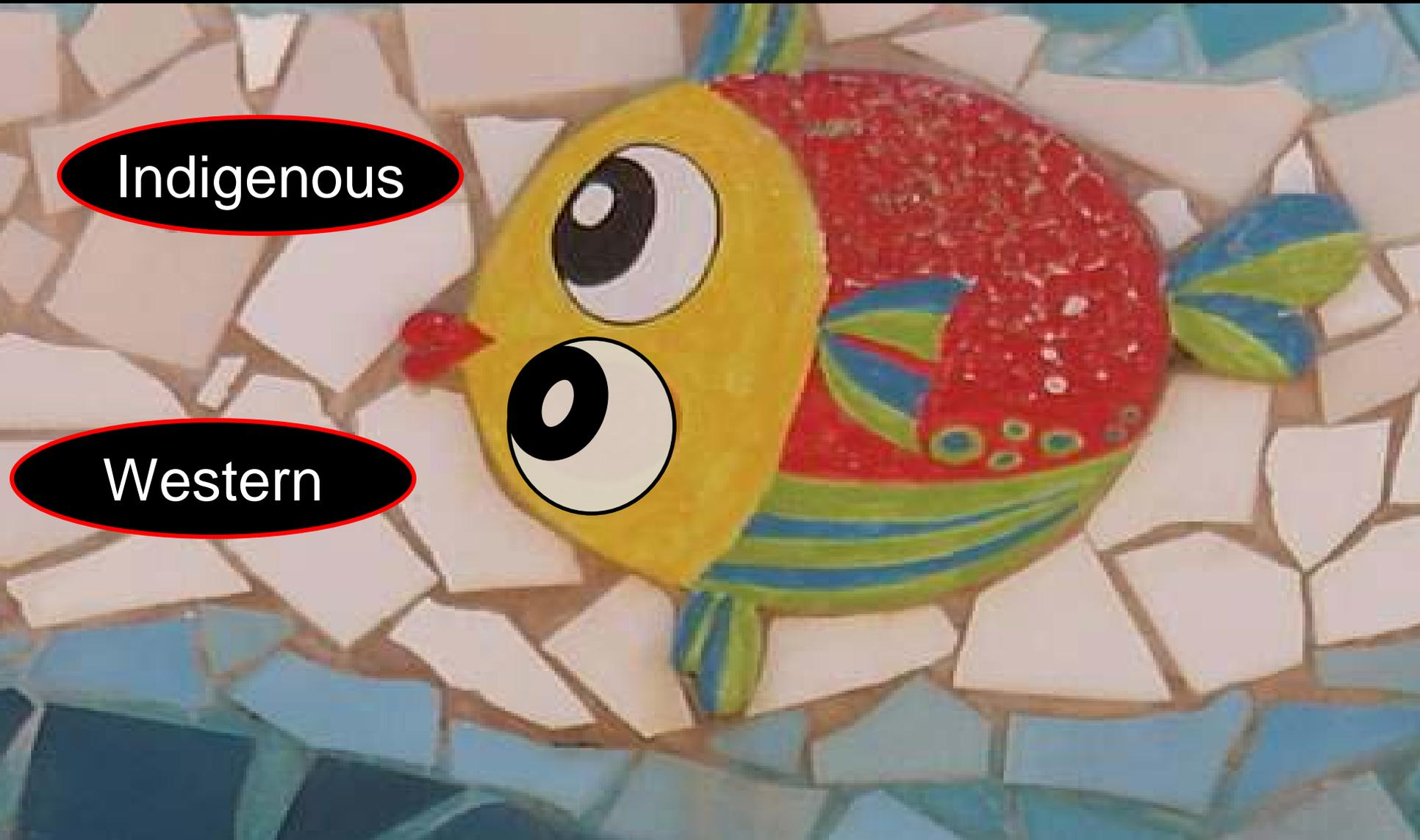
*“after supper” presentation by Cheryl Bartlett & Albert Marshall*

# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

Indigenous

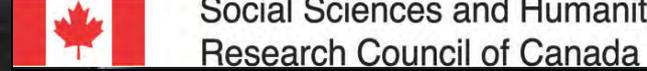
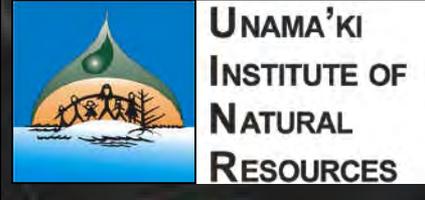
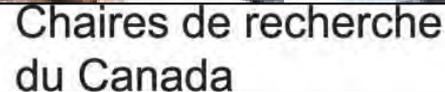
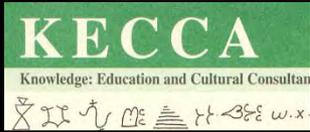
Western



# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

Aboriginal  
community-based  
participatory action  
research



# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

**Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd**

Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



“There’s something  
called the  
*healing tense.*”

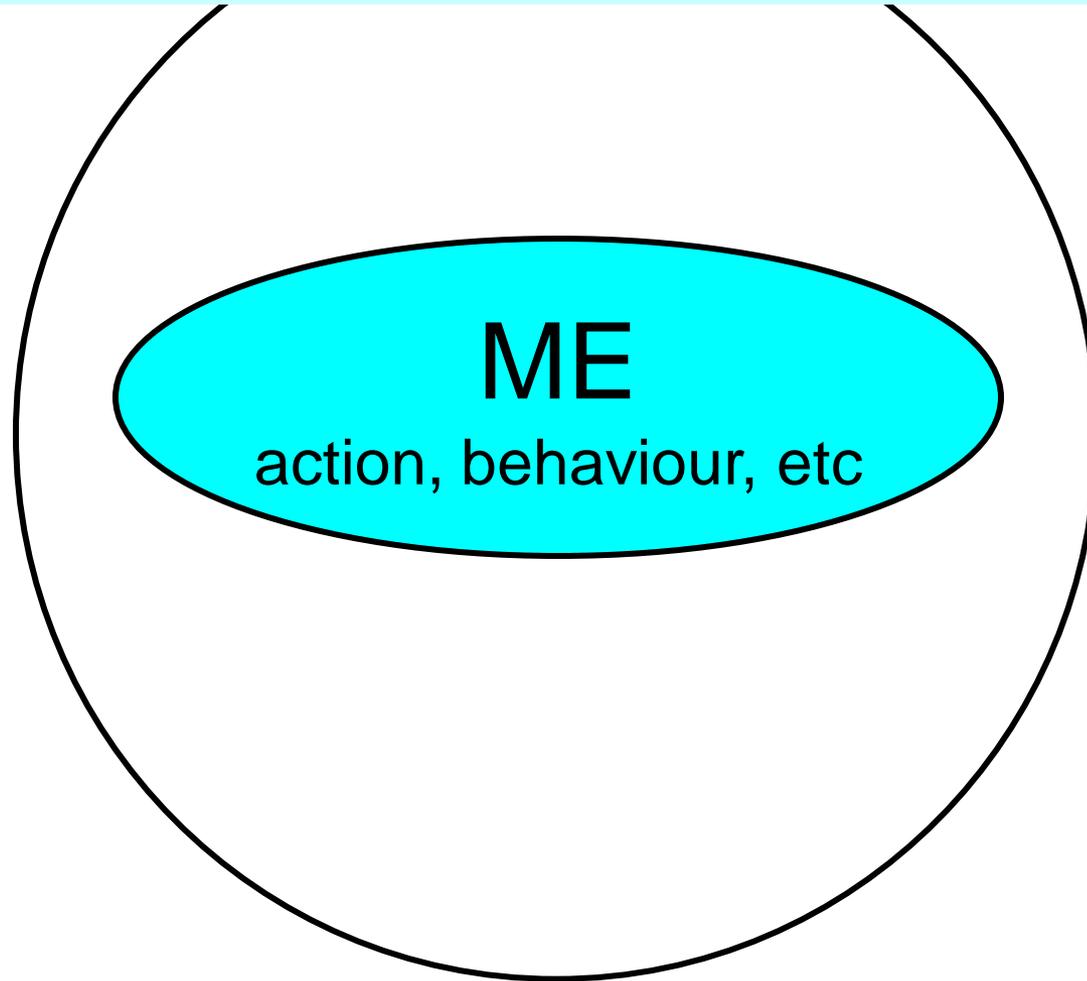
# the **HEALING TENSE** (a sneak preview)

## **WE HEAL TOGETHER**

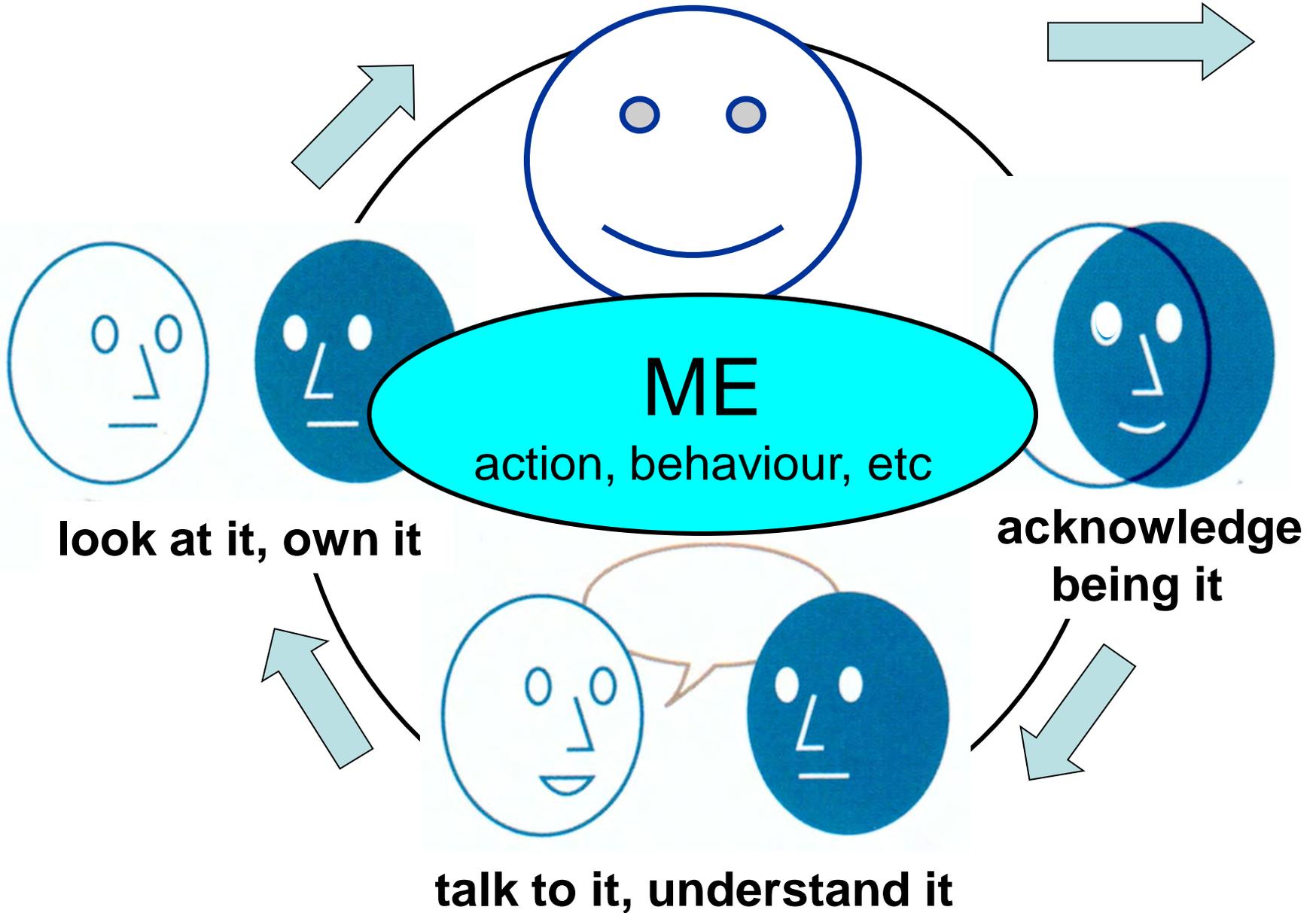
*“ ... when he goes into this healing tense,  
then my attitude has to change ...  
everybody in the household ...  
everybody ... has to abide with him.”*

Murdena Marshall

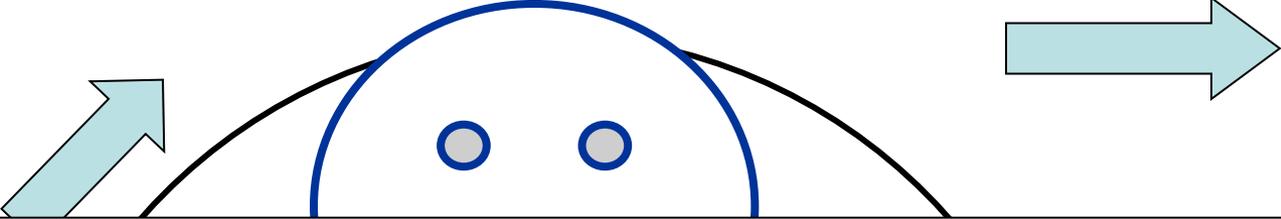
# the **HEALING TENSE** (a sneak preview)



# TOGETHER: WE HEAL ... and GROW



**TOGETHER: WE HEAL ... and GROW**



**Murdena (in “I Got It From An Elder”):**

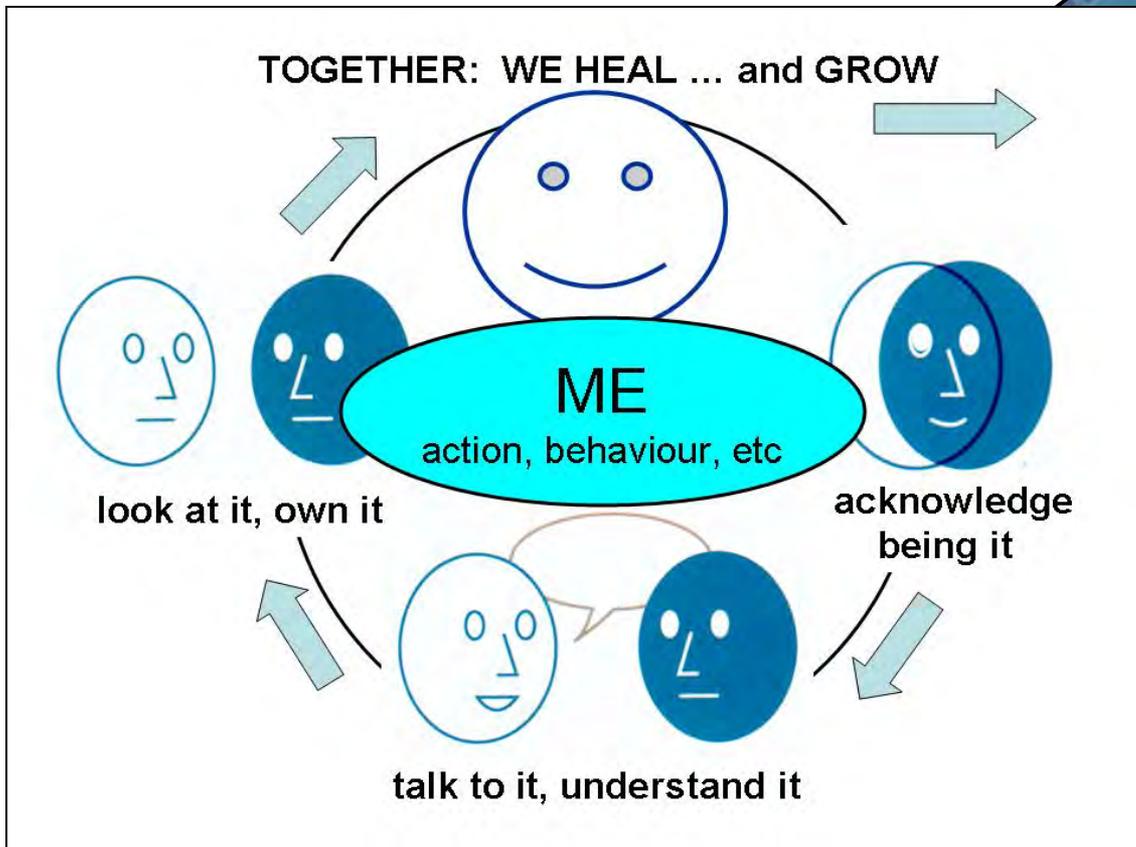
See, in the Mi’kmaq world, in all Native worlds, you have to give recognition to everything: misdeeds, good deeds, past deeds, you know? Anything. You have to give that acknowledgement. Everything that you do, you have to acknowledge it.



**talk to it, understand it**

# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together



# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

## FOUR “BIG PICTURE” UNDERSTANDINGS

1

1 Two-Eyed Seeing  
our world

interconnective parts & wholes

2

2 Two-Eyed Seeing  
our key concepts & actions

- respect
- relationship
- reverence
- reciprocity
- ritual (ceremony)
- repetition
- responsibility

- hypothesis (making & testing)
- data collection

3

3 Two-Eyed Seeing  
our languages & methodologies

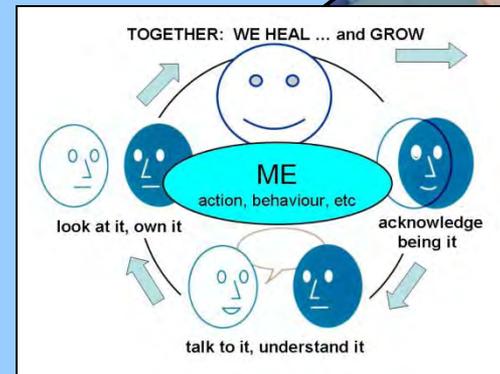
vigour WEAVING

4

4 Two-Eyed Seeing  
our overall knowledge objectives

towards resonance of understanding within environment

towards construction of understanding of environment



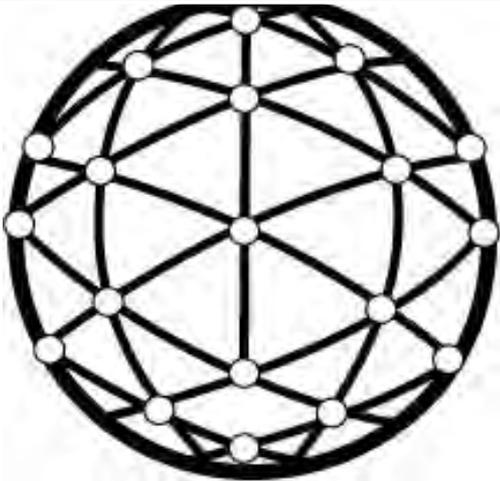
# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

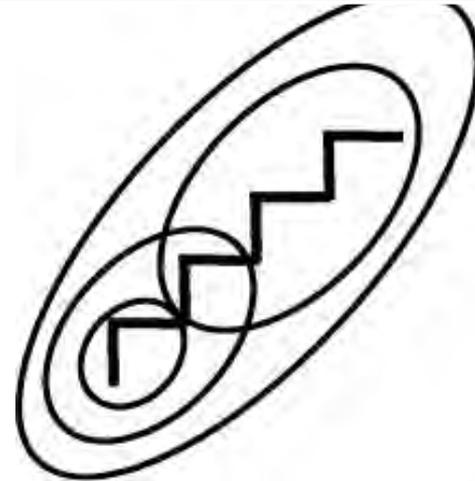
## OUR WORLDS

#1

**interconnective**



**parts & wholes**



# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

## OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

#2

- respect
- relationship
- reverence
- reciprocity
- ritual (ceremony)
- repetition
- responsibility

- hypothesis  
(making & testing)
- data collection
- data analysis
- model & theory  
construction

# Two-Eyed Seeing

learning to see with the strengths of each & together

## OUR LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

#3



Life  
Love  
Land

vigour

WEAVING



Math  
&  
Instruments

rigour

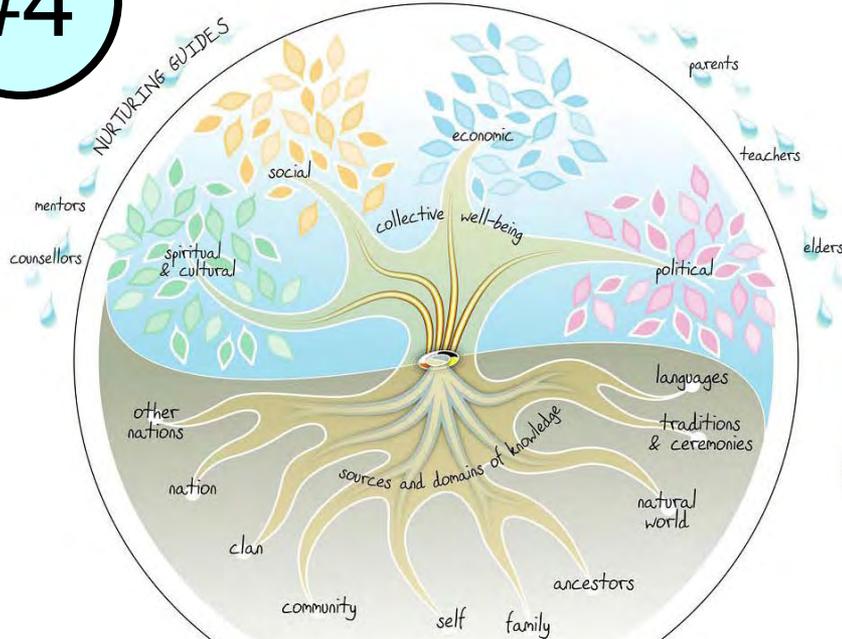
UN-WEAVING

# Two-Eyed Seeing

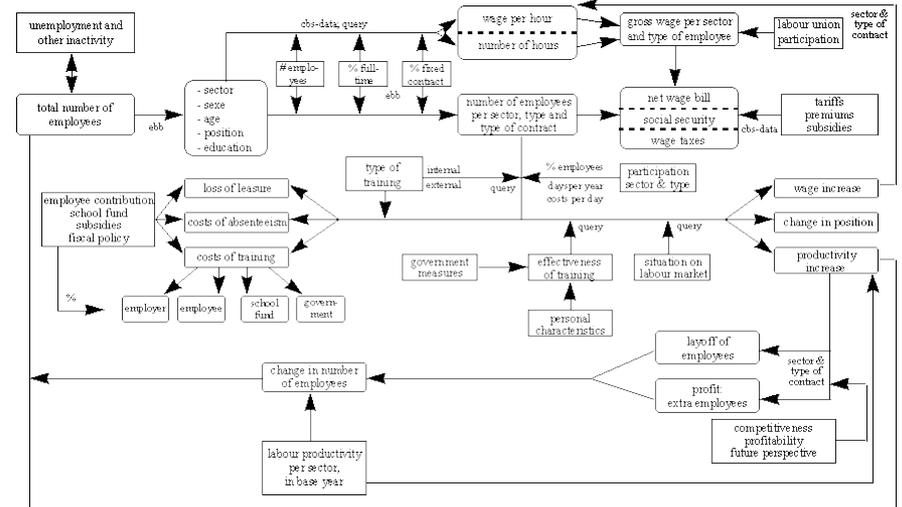
learning to see with the strengths of each & together

## OUR OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

#4



from: CCL Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre ([www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL))



from: [www.leads.ac.uk](http://www.leads.ac.uk)

towards resonance  
of understanding  
within environment

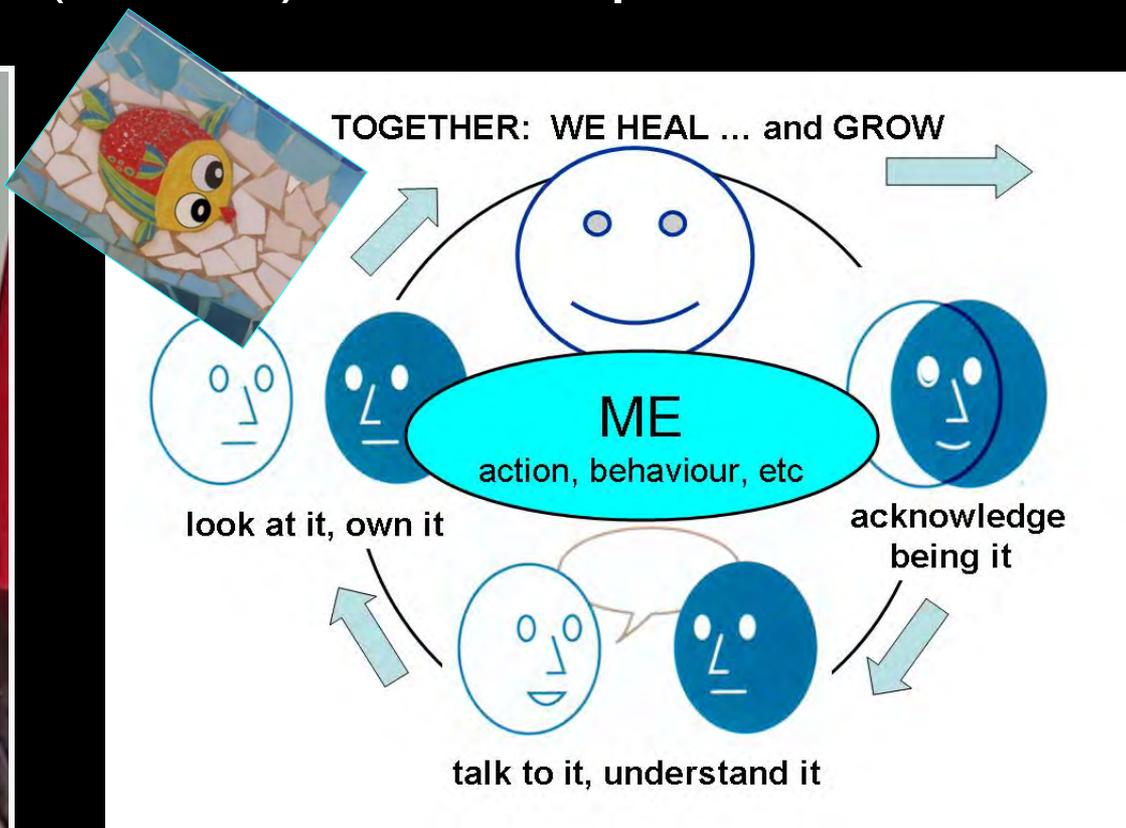
towards construction  
of understanding  
of environment

# Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd

Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



**Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd**

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Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



There's something  
called the  
*healing tense.*

# Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd

Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



Murdena's been trying to talk about healing language for a long time. You'd think a fluent Mi'kmaq with graduate training in linguistics from Harvard shouldn't have much trouble finding an audience.

# Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd

Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



She remembers the naysayers that would “jump down my throat, especially the linguists.” Like the time she said to her Linguist friend, “This is the tense that helps you heal, or the signal that you’re on the mend.”

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Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



And the Linguist said oh  
Murdena that's not *healing*  
that's the *long past*.

-----

*talking about healing language  
mad as hell*

# Mrs. Murdena Marshall MEd

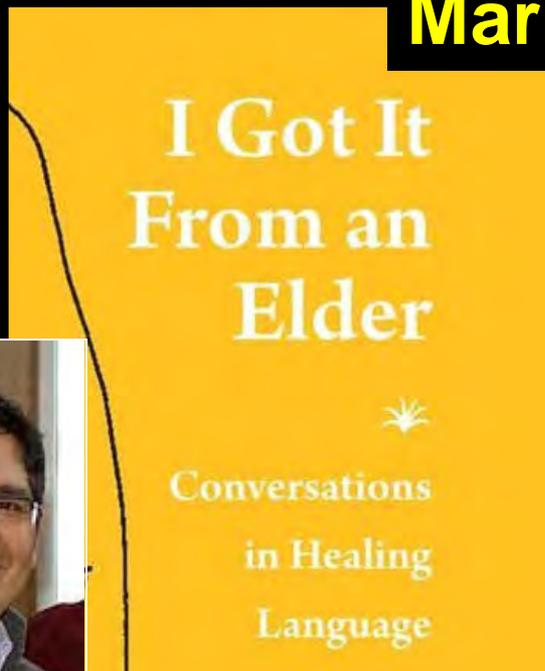
Elder and Spiritual Leader, Mi'kmaq Nation

Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

Associate Professor (retired), Mi'kmaq Studies, CBU



**Dr. Ivan Mendez, Director, Brain Repair Centre**



**Marilyn Iwama, PhD**





# I Got It From an Elder

✧  
Conversations  
in Healing  
Language

MARILYN IWAMA  
MURDNA MARSHALL  
ALBERT MARSHALL  
IVAR MENDEZ  
CHERYL BARTLETT

\$6.95 9781554470501 GASPEREAU PRESS  
COVER IMAGE BY ALAN SYLLIBOY

# the **HEALING TENSE** ... an example “to be drunk”

And so I used the worst word with that Linguist that I could possibly use. And the worst verb in the non-native world, when you talk about Indians, is being drunk. This is how they see us all the time, being drunk. So I took that being drunk and called it *ketkiya*, which means *I am drunk*.

And I used this verb also because I deal a lot with recovering alcoholics and recovering addicts. And you can use this same verb for sniffing, any mind-altering substance that made you do crazy things and say crazy things.

# the **HEALING TENSE** ... an example

## Mi'kmaq verb conjugation

“to be drunk”

- ketkiya (present)
- ketkiyayop (simple past)
- ketkiyayas**nek** (healing)

# the **HEALING TENSE** ... an example

Mi'kmaq

English

ketkiyayop

I was drunk

ketkiyayas ***nek***

I was drunk

the **HEALING TENSE** ... an example

## **WE HEAL TOGETHER**

*“ ... when he goes into this healing tense,  
then my attitude has to change ...  
everybody in the household ...  
everybody ... has to abide with him.”*

Murdena Marshall

# the HEALING TENSE

Generalize

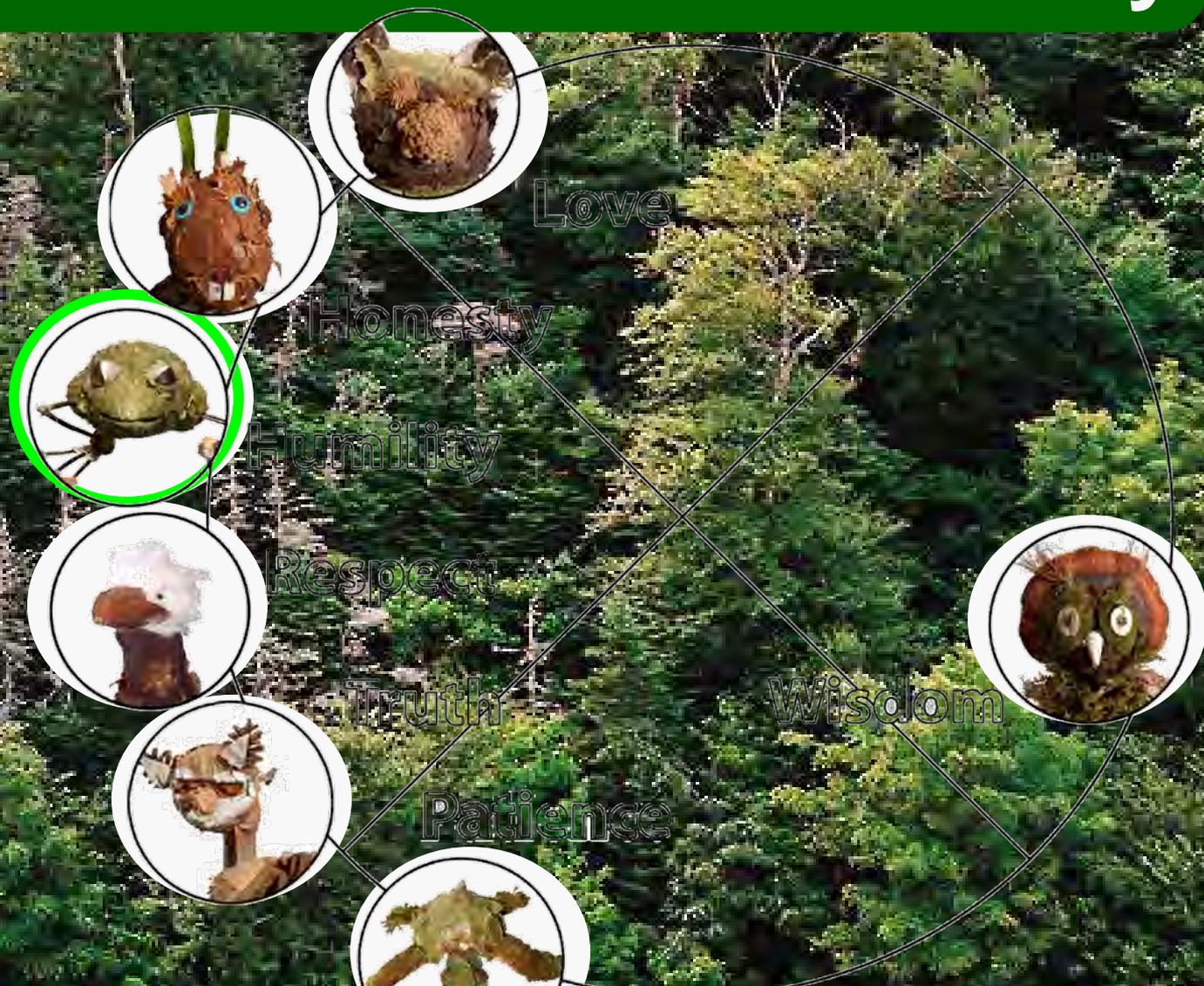
kesnukwiap – I was sick

kesnukwias *nek* – I was sick

# Nipuktuk Wejiaql A'tukuaqnn: From the Forest Comes Our Story



# Nipuktuk Wejiaql A'tukuagunn: From the Forest Comes Our Story



# How Bullfrog was Conquered



# How Bullfrog was Conquered



# How Bullfrog Learns His Lesson



## *Epilogue*

**Bullfrog:** I know now that I was selfish and caused much suffering. I was wrong.

# How Bullfrog Learns His Lesson



## *Epilogue*

**Bullfrog:** I know now that I was selfish and caused much suffering. I was wrong.

**Bullfrog:** Meskey keskna oqmeyas**nek**.

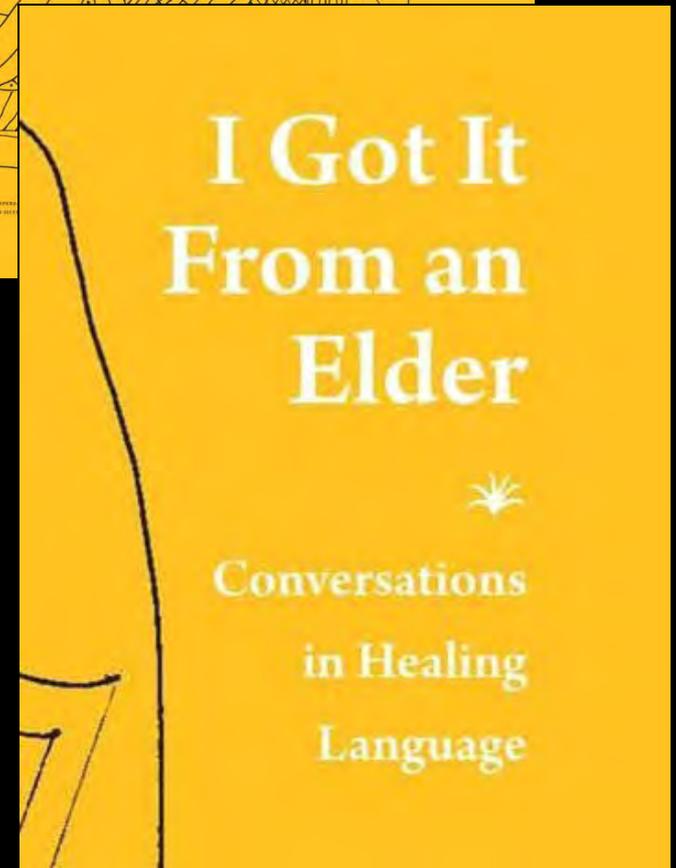
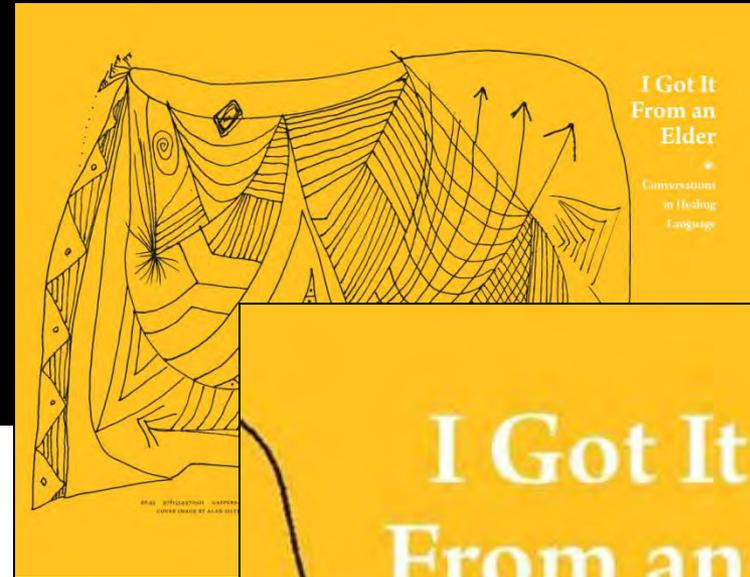
the **HEALING TENSE** ... heals

**“[Bullfrog] has taken his misdeeds and placed them in front of him and walked around them, and said yes, I was there.”**

Murdena Marshall

... in conversation with Dr. Ivar Mendez  
(Director, Brain Repair Centre, Dalhousie University)

***launched: 28 February 2008***  
**Membertou Trade & Convention Centre**





**Love is the main ingredient  
of wellness.** *Murdena Marshall*

**The voice of wellness is in  
the land.** *Albert Marshall*



# Nature brings stability to human behaviour.



Artist: Rod Restoule  
from: Into the Daylight;  
C. Morrisseau, 1998



# Collective culture guides behaviour.



# Knowledge

a living spirit ...

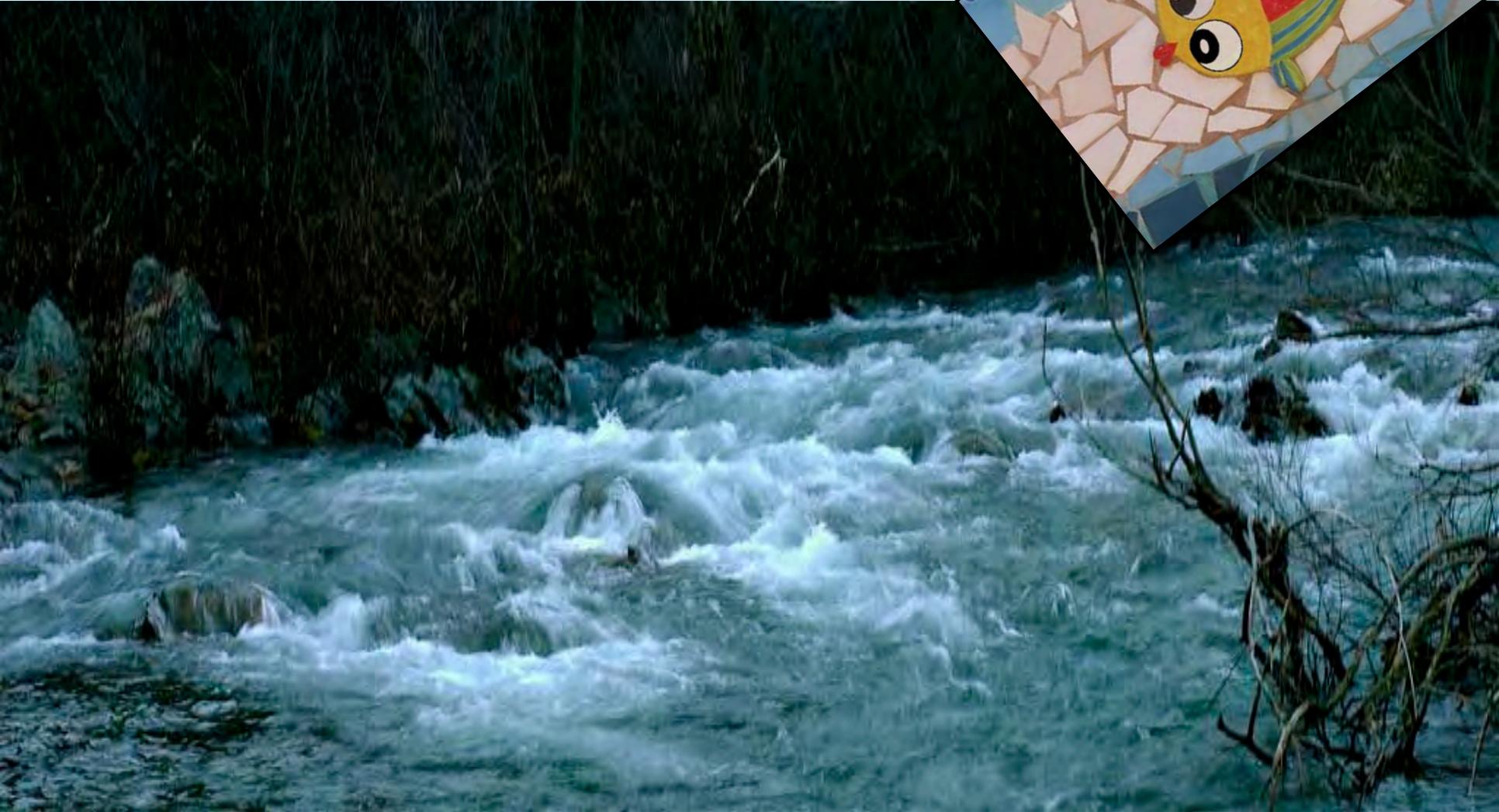
we are meant

to pass it on



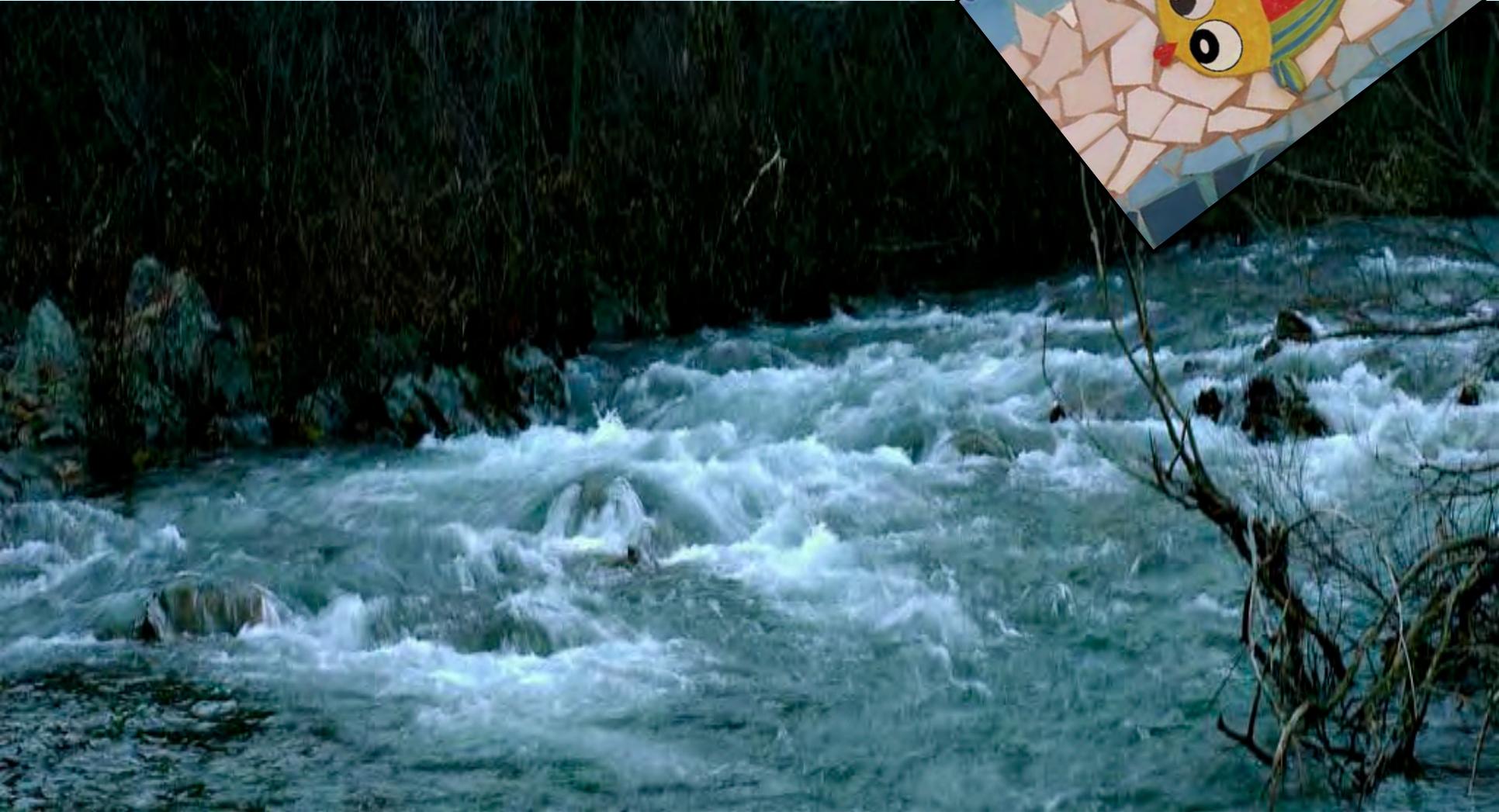
# Education

towards “rivers of knowledge”



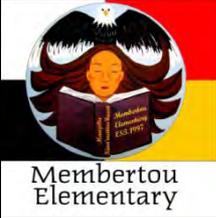
# Two-Eyed Seeing

You and I are part of the whole.



Canada Research Chairs / Chaires de recherche du Canada / Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY



Mi'kmaq Elders

