MAKING OUR WAY:
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS
ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

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Outline of Presentation

1. Seeing Patterns: a new, old skill to see and connect with information
2. Two-Eyed Seeing: an old, new skill to access the best in different perspectives
3. Muin: “story” ... an old skill that keeps knowledge alive and access open
4. Onward: creating your access to PSE
ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES
MAKING OUR WAY:
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS
MAKING OUR WAY:
PART 1. SEEING PATTERNS
a new, old skill … to engage information
MAKING OUR WAY:
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Elder Murdena Marshall
MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

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Elder Murdena Marshall

video: THE WOMBAT
from: Global MindShift

http://www.global-mindshift.org/memes/wombat.swf
undergraduate university degree

community college & trades school programs

HIT IT!!!! Make your own patterns for information about the path you want to follow. Opportunities in PSE are everywhere!
Making our way: patterns of interconnectedness

Accessing post-secondary opportunities

Relationships pattern our lives.

Example: family ... who is your mother?

Relationship patterns become the primary navigators for how we go through life.

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MAKING OUR WAY:
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

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Elder Murdena Marshall

Example: groups of friends
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Example: animals we know

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_egSKgWjdyg8/SR9k_i_czhI/AAAAAAAAAGg/Cs7vic0BNNg/s400/wombat.jpg

MAKING OUR WAY:
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Elder Murdena Marshall

Example: animals we know

Wombat
MAKING OUR WAY:
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Example: birds in Mi’kma’ki

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Elder Murdena Marshall

all my relations – Msit No’kmaq
Msit No’kmaq
all my relations … my family … my living identity

The sun is our Grandfather. The moon is our Grandmother. The stars are our Brothers and Sisters. And our stars … all of the universe … our Brothers and Sisters. The Milky Way is the Path of the Spirits.

Close relationship with Grandmother: I need her for everything … tides, women’s menstrual cycles, lighting the dark, etc. She controls life.

And our stars … all of the universe … our Brothers and Sisters. The Milky Way is the Path of the Spirits.
We need a clear understanding of Traditional Knowledge.

http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/infos/mikmaq1.htm
Traditional Knowledge was never meant to be static and stay in the past … but rather young people must bring it into the present … so that everything becomes meaningful in your own lives.
Making Our Way: Patterns of Interconnectiveness

Accessing Post-Secondary Opportunities

Everything is in constant flux, constant change ... all the time. Thus, the more you are aware, the better you can adapt as change occurs in your life, your community, your educational interests ... and your world.
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MAKING OUR WAY:
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ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

January 22\textsuperscript{nd} – 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2010 YouthLink MMAYC
Future Inns Moncton Hotel & Conference Centre

MAKING OUR WAY:
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Etuaptmumk – Two-Eyed Seeing
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS
the rising sun ... our closest star ... Na’ku’set
Traditionally, it was understood that the Sun went through the country of the people in one day, and saw what the Mi’kmaq were doing. The Sun was the only person who had all this understanding … and was called Niskamij (Grandfather). (Murdena Marshall)
Na’ku’set (sun)

North

East

West

I see a pattern!!!
Na’ku’set (sun)

- Setting in the West
- Rising in the East
- Highest in the South

I see a pattern!!!
I see a pattern!!!
Na’ku’set (sun)

- Rising
- Setting
- Highest

East

West

South
Put the one pattern on top of another pattern for ... more complex, more interconnective, and more realistic understanding.
Native Council of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaq Language Program
Artist: Michael J. Martin
Native Council of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaq Language Program
Artist: Michael J. Martin
Native Council of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaq Language Program
Artist: Michael J. Martin
Niskamij
Niskamij
Siwkw (Spring)

Native Council of Nova Scotia
Mi’kmag Language Program
Artist: Michael J. Martin
Niskamij

Nipk
(Summer)

Longest Day of the Year = Summer Solstice ≈ National Aboriginal Day
Knowledge is spirit.
It is a gift, passed on through many people.
As Elders, we must pass it on.
The older people will turn to Niskamij in the morning ... when you acknowledge the sun (or the moon), you are acknowledging Creator.  (Murdena Marshall)

Oqwatnuk
... wisdom

Tkisnuk
... spiritual connectiveness

Wjipnuk
... newness

Pkite’snuk
... fullness

artist Basma Kavanagh
It is not “sun worship”. Rather, we recognize a Great Being out there ... and we know that everything done has to be in a balanced way ... all has to be seen as part and parcel of Creator. Thus: Msit No’kmaq (all my relations). (Albert Marshall)
When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a personal relationship with the information.
MAKING OUR WAY:
PART 2. TWO-EYED SEEING
an old, new skill … to enrich awareness
video: THE WOMBAT
from: Global MindShift

http://www.global-mindshift.org/memes/wombat.swf
Etuaptmumk - Two-Eyed Seeing

Indigenous

Western
Two-Eyed Seeing

LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in our Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the best in the Western (or mainstream) ways of knowing ...

... and learn to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.
It is not enough to go through life with one perspective; we must embrace all the tools we have ...
Consciousness of Knowing

... our interdependence on each other and on Mother Earth

All people must learn “Two-Eyed Seeing” so that knowledge of the physical is not separated from wisdom of the spiritual.
Two-Eyed Seeing teaches you to awaken the spirit within you.

You become a student of life ... and you become observant of the natural world ... and realize we humans are part and parcel of the whole.
Everything that we do to our natural world ...

... we also do to ourselves

artist Basma Kavanagh
Our language teaches us about interdependence.
Nature has rights.
Humans have responsibilities.
Our language teaches us that everything alive is both physical and spiritual.

The onus is on the person to look at our natural world with two perspectives.

Modern science sees objects, but our language teaches us to see subjects.

artist Basma Kavanagh
Humans are a very small part of the whole.

Our natural world provides for us, shelters us, nourishes us.

artist Basma Kavanagh
Our language takes us into a Life Long Journey.

artwork: Eskasoni Elementary School Children

artist Basma Kavanagh
Knowledge is not a tool but rather it is a spirit.

It transforms the holder. It also reminds us that we have responsibilities to the spirit of that knowledge.

We must pass it on.
Our seasons follow the cycles of Mother Earth ...

... so that our children will always be reminded of the beauty of creation, and of our dependence on her.

artist Basma Kavanagh
Like nature, we must always have a nurturing component.
Life, Land, Language, Love

artist Basma Kavanagh
As Elders in Our Time

We seek to be a conduit for wisdom of our Ancestors. We seek to see with “Two-Eyes” ... to take the accomplishments of the white man’s ways further by blending it with the wisdom of our Ancestors.
Only humans have these two consciousnesses ...
When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a *Two-Eyed Seeing* relationship with the information.
MAKING OUR WAY:
PART 3. STORY FOR PATTERNS
an old skill ... to remember & access info
Traditionally, nothing was taught as black and white. Everything was story ... where you have the responsibility to listen and reflect. This is a much more profound way of learning because you have the opportunity for relationship with the knowledge. (Albert Marshall)

I must bring relationships into my life. If a sense of relationship with the knowledge is not identified, then it becomes a duty and you memorize to appease someone. The understandings have not been assimilated; the head and heart have not been connected. (Albert Marshall)
Klo’qwejk ila’lukupjik
“the stars know their places” (pattern)
Reflections

artist Gerald Gloade
Millbrook First Nation

Patterns in Stars

“Reflections”

Patterns on Earth
“Reflections”
artist Gerald Gloade
Millbrook First Nation
Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters

a Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story

Versions: Mi'kmaq & English, English, French

The Universe
Yours to Discover
International Year of Astronomy 2009

Cape Breton University

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Canada Research Chairs
Canada

Canada

Canada
Muin

Muin in her winter den
Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters: a Mi’kmaq Night Sky Story

... interconnectiveness of space-time-life-knowledge-spirit

Tatapn (North Star)
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS
They are *Ntuksuinu’k* – the Hunters.
Jiji’kes
Chickadee

http://www.ohio-nature.com/chickadee.html
Mikjaqoqwej
Moose Bird (Gray Jay)

http://www.alljay.com/images/general/gray_jay.jpg
Ples
Passenger Pigeon

http://www.wunderland.com/WTS/Andy/ProjectEBAY/pics/Death.icon.jpg
http://www.pollsb.com/photos/o/31479-last_passenger_pigeon_dies_cincinnati_zoo.jpg
Tities
Blue Jay

http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_fdou0Xa3lfY/RjuI8hnVXHI/AAAAAAAA
Afs/hZH7AEgFDN1I/s400/blue+jay.jpg
Kupkwe’j
Saw-whet Owl
Ku ku kwes
Barred Owl

http://photos.somd.com/data/500/medium/Barred_owl_2.jpg
Klo’qwejk ila’lukupjik
“the stars know their places” (pattern)
... in the story
Kesik (Winter)

Siwkw (Spring)

Nipk (Summer)

Toqwa’q (Fall)
Na’ku’set (Sun)

apparent directions of movement
Tatapn
(North Star)

Patatuj
(left hand)
Tatapn (North Star)

Na’ku’set (Sun)

Patatuj (left hand)
Mi’kmaq petroglyph tracings in the Nova Scotia Museum

http://museum.gov.ns.ca/
PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

artist Basma Kavanagh
Klo’qwejk ila’lukupjik
Stars were used for navigation because …
“the stars know their places” (pattern).

Three “stars”, especially, were used for purposes of:
• navigation, crossing water (e.g. to Newfoundland)
• weather prediction (sky)
• during hunting trips (location and navigation)

1) North Star – Tatapn
2) Morning star – Ektatpn (ek = morning). This “star” (Planet Venus) we see rise in the same place.
3) Evening star – Mutamute’w. This “star” (Planet Venus) we see before sunset, near the moon. It is always visible with the moon. Name means “the one who shows off”, as it rises when sun goes down, in west.
Star patterns were used for navigation.

- **Sunset (West):**
  - Mutamute’w
  - “the one who shows off”
  - Evening star
  - (Planet Venus)

- **Night (North):**
  - Tatapn
  - North star
  - (Polaris)

- **Sunrise (East):**
  - Ektatapn
  - Morning star
  - (Planet Venus)
Everything is interdependent and interconnective. Thus, you need to use your gifts in a responsible way. (Albert Marshall)

There is a tendency today to say “That’s not Mi’kmaq” and thus miss useful information, processes or tools. But, that is not reflective of how we did things in the past ... we welcomed new insights from strangers and traded with other people. Everything is interconnective. (Murdena Marshall)
When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop an *interconnective & responsible* relationship with the information.
MAKING OUR WAY:
PART 4. CREATING YOUR OWN PATTERNS
a necessary skill ... to access opportunities
The patterns you create have to work!!
Journey of Life

PSE:  Post-Secondary Education
CREATIVE PATTERN for understanding PSE

example: university degree profile
4 Years
Fall terms
Winter terms
Christmas break
Each term = 5 courses
MSiT
science
courses
MSIT
science courses

PCS courses
Integrative Science

Indigenous Western

“bringing our sciences together”
community college
programming
• various patterns
• lots of flexibility
• richness of options
When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a creative & meaningful relationship with the information.
We all need to become students of life. And, we need to understand that lifelong learning is a must. (Albert Marshall)

Knowing the importance of your relationship patterns, you are prepared for the path where you can discover. Your heart and mind are now open, to recognize the good in Two-Eyed Seeing. (Murdena Marshall)
undergraduate university degree

community college & trades school programs

HIT IT!!!!

Make your own patterns for information about the path you want to follow.

Opportunities in PSE are everywhere!
Wela’lioq
Thank you
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Invites you to YouthLink MMAYC

to post-secondary education

ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES
January 22nd-24th, 2010
Future Inns Moncton Hotel & Conference Centre

Friday, January 22nd

THE REAL DEAL
Presenting Real Life Experiences Related to Post-Secondary Education

Saturday, January 23rd

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SHOWCASE
ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
Developing Tools for First Nation Youth to Gain Access to Post-Secondary Education

Sunday, January 24th

MAYC Meetings and Elections

Space is Limited
Pre-registration is required

Register free online @ apcfnc.ca

or email/call: Meghan at meghan@vibecreativegroup.com
1 902 860 8588

Ashley Julian, APC Youth Coordinator
Maureen Carroll, MMAYC Conference Coordinator