SHARING OUR STORIES
• Two-Eyed Seeing & Co-Learning •
to bring together Indigenous Traditional Knowledges & Western Sciences

2011 Mi’kmaq Lecture Series
Wagmatcook First Nation, NS
28 April 2011

Albert Marshall\(^1\) and Cheryl Bartlett\(^2\)

\(^1\) Elder and Honorary Doctor of Letters, Eskasoni community, Mi’kmaw Nation
albertdmarshall@ns.sympatico.ca

\(^2\) Professor of Biology, Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science,
Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS
cheryl_bartlett@cbu.ca; www.integrativescience.ca
SHARING OUR STORIES

- Two-Eyed Seeing & Co-Learning -

to bring together Indigenous Traditional Knowledges & Western Sciences
Land of the Blackfoot

Land of the Mi’kmaq
Mi’kmaw Elder Murdena Marshall; October 2010,
Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump,
UNESCO World Heritage Site, Alberta
October 2009, Blackfoot Crossing, Alberta

Land of the Blackfoot

Cheryl and Brendan
Ridge-Under-Water or Blackfoot Crossing

As one gazes at the pristine Bow River Valley vista, it is easy to imagine oneself being transported back in time. Can you see the many horses and their riders fording the river below? The air is filled with the smell of wood smoke rising from the hundreds of tipis in the encampment. The sound of drums, people laughing and talking, drifts through the valley. Everyone is joyful to be together, to share stories, to trade, to learn of relatives and of loved ones.

For thousands of years, Blackfoot Crossing has been an important meeting place for Native peoples. In 1877, at Chief Crowfoot’s insistence, Treaty 7 was negotiated here. Peaceful settlement was reached between representatives of the crown and of the Blackfoot, Blood, Tsuu T’ina, Stony and Peigan peoples. The land on which you are now standing is the Siksika Reserve, part of the treaty settlement.

Land of the Blackfoot
LAND OF THE MI’KMAQ
LAND OF THE MI’KMAQ

Nama’ki
“Land of Fog”
(Cape Breton Island)

Pitupaq
“flowing into oneness”
(Bras d’Or Lakes)

Native Council of Nova Scotia
Mi’kmaq Language Program
Artist: Michael J. Martin
Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail

Pjila'si, wije'winen

Welcome, come with us

Mi'kmaq First Nation has been settled in the region for over 10,000 years. The Mi'kmaq have a long history of sharing knowledge and storytelling. This sign is part of the Mi'kmaw way of life. It provides information about the Mi'kmaq and their connection to the land. The Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail offers an opportunity for visitors to learn about the Mi'kmaq culture and history.
18,000 years ago

Extent of ice at its peak 18,000 years ago. The glacier was over a kilometre thick!
13,000 years ago

Extent of ice 13,000 years ago. There is very little land on which to live.
12,000 years ago

Extent of ice 12,000 years ago. The large continental ice sheet retreated, leaving localized areas of glaciation.
11,000 years ago

Extent of ice 11,000 years ago. People lived at the Debert site sometime between 11,000 and 10,000 years ago.
Sea level was at its lowest 9,000 years ago largely due to land bouncing back from the weight of the glaciers.
6,000 years ago

By 6,000 years ago the shoreline was much as we see it today.
Our Mi’kmaw culture is built on long term vision and our decisions were made with the next Seven Generations in mind.

values, actions, knowledge of interconnectiveness
Mi’kmaw Traditional Knowledge

ONE GENERATION ≈ 120 years

3  
you or me  
3

Great Grand Parent  
Grand Parent  
Parent  
Child  
Unborn  
Unborn of Unborn

20 yr  
20 yr  
20 yr  
20 yr  
20 yr  
20 yr

SEVEN GENERATIONS ≈ 840 years

you or me
Mi’kmaw Traditional Knowledge

SEVEN GENERATIONS ≈ 840 years

ONE GENERATION ≈ 120 years

Great Grand Parent
Grand Parent
Parent
Child
Unborn
Unborn of Unborn

20 yr  20 yr  20 yr  20 yr  20 yr  20 yr  20 yr
Traditional Knowledge was never meant to be static and stay in the past. Rather, we must bring it into the present so that everything becomes meaningful in our lives and communities.

words of: Elder Murdena Marshall, Eskasoni community, Mi’kmaw Nation
Mi’kmaw Traditional Knowledge

is living knowledge ... and has a worldview of interconnectiveness

Mi’kmaw Traditional Knowledge

Ta'ntelo'lti'k how we Lnu’k are
So this is what we truly believe ... this is what reinforces our spiritualities:

that no one being is greater than the next, that we are part and parcel of the whole, we are equal, and that each one of us has a responsibility to the balance of the system.

(words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall)
Let us find ways to share our stories.

If only we would spend a few moments to determine if there are possibilities for change... to hear the STORIES from cultures other than our own.

(words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall)
Let’s consider:

ETUAPTMUMK / TWO-EYED SEEING
Let’s consider:

ETUAPTMUMK / 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 (mainstream) ways of knowing ... and LEARN to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

(Guiding Principle in the words of Elder Albert Marshall, Mi’kmaw Nation)
TWO-EYED SEEING - ETUAPTMUMK

Indigenous

Western
Can we fathom how our way of life would be ... if we could really humble ourselves to truly work together for the benefit of all?

(words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall)
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.
Everything that we do to our natural world ... we also do to ourselves.
If pollution exceeds the natural cleansing capacity of our ecosystems ...
If consumption of resources exceeds the carrying capacity of our ecosystems ...
If species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...

Ples
(Passenger Pigeon)

http://www.pollsb.com/photos/o/31479-last_passenger_pigeon_dies_cincinnati_zoo.jpg
http://www.wunderland.com/WTS/Andy/ProjectEBAY/pics/Death.icon.jpg
If people are starving, they will not care about environmental sustainability ...
Humans possess responsibilities.
Other species possess rights.
We have to dissociate ourselves from the “Myth of False Security” that the industrial revolution has instilled in our minds.
We need to come together as one where all these things can be taken in.

Our Mi’kmaw culture is still very much alive ... and we can extract those principles of how one can sustain oneself without compromising abilities for the future.
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.
Through utilization of the Gifts from Creator we can become whole. We can take care of our needs: living, dwelling, physical, and spiritual.

All these things that Creator has given us are sustenance in both the physical and spiritual sense.
Our Mi’kmaw language is the key to how our actions will unfold. Each word is much deeper than only taking care of an object. Animacy brings personal connection … such that actions fit actions (everything is in the picture) and we are always mindful of the

**First Sacred Gift of Life:** LOVE

**EXAMPLES**
1) *pekajo’tmnej = consider all aspects*
   ... *action is harmonious*
2) *wulo’tmnej = love some one*
   ... *action is care*
3) *sespite’tmnej = worry about what you do*
   ... *action is guided*
Netukulimk ... teaches you values, actions, knowledge of interconnectiveness.

Our Mi’kmaw culture is built on long term vision and our decisions were made with the next Seven Generations in mind.
Netukulimk ... teaches you
It is Living Knowledge and its “Principle for Humility” is based on Lnu’k knowledge that has been evolving for the past 10,000 years.
Netukulimk ... teaches you
words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

“When we look at Creator, if it was meant for me to know everything that I needed to get along, then I would only be one person in the world. Instead, each person is given a skill and develops those skills.”

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Netukulimk ... teaches you

words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

“If some person is struggling, apply your skills to compensate for that person. Some days I’m down and out ... the community will not let me go hungry.”

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Netukulimk ... teaches you

words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

“The sense of community is constantly triggered ... [you’re] fine tuning your skills to live in balance and harmony with others. It’s a sense of community enmeshed in total being.”

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Netukulimk ... teaches you

example: Kataq (Eels)

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Netukulimk ... teaches you

- physical activity
- stories
- food
- medicine

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Netukulimk ... teaches you

physical activity

stories

food

medicine

"Eels were life to our people."
Lawrence Bernard, We’koqma’q 2008

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
Me and my husband we never used to go out to get fish [eels], more than we need. **We get what we need** and we go out and get some more if we need more tomorrow or next week. [2009]

*from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh*
Netukulimk ... teaches you
Return Eels Parts to the Water

GEORGE ALEX OF ESKASONI SAYS

That’s taking a lot out of the water, eh?
And when you take something out of the water you got to give something back. [2008]

from: Master’s thesis research “Mi’kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh
But ... Kataq (Eels) are now a “species of concern”.

When species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...
Our Mi’kmaw language teaches us to see subjects and relations.
Our Mi’kmaw language teaches us to see subjects and relations.

All Our Relations
There are opportunities, challenges, solutions ... we must acknowledge our values – actions – knowledges.
Consciousness of Knowing

Co-existence
Interrelativeness
Interconnectiveness
Community Spirit

... with each other and
with Mother Earth

All people must learn

Two-Eyed Seeing
so that knowledge of the physical is not separated from wisdom of the spiritual.
Let’s consider:

CO-LEARNING
Go into the forest ...
... you see the birch, maple, pine.
Look underground and all those trees are holding hands. We as people must do the same.

(words of late Mi’kmaw Chief, Spiritual Elder and Healer Charlie Labrador)
be like
the trees:
collaborate

by way of
group learning
our THANKS to many Elders & many others

Mi’kmaw Elders & Educators & Students

Research Team & Artists

Co-Learning
artist Basma Kavanagh
Indigenous Western

“bringing our knowledges together”

our sciences our philosophies
our worldviews our knowledges
our stories

artist Basma Kavanagh
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the **strengths** of each and together

OUR WORLD

BIG QUESTION
What do we believe the world to be and what is our place in it?

- **interconnective**
- **parts & wholes**

CONSTANT CHANGE
within balance and wholeness

CHANGE
through time
Ecosystem Knowledge Co-Learning with many Elders of Unama’ki
Ecosystem Knowledge Co-Learning with many Elders of Unama’ki
Ecosystem Knowledge Co-Learning with many Elders of Unama’ki

Moons in One Full Year

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
Ecosystem Knowledge Co-Learning with many Elders of Unama’ki

≈ Spring Equinox

Moon of “Maple Sugar Time”

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall

≈ Spring Equinox

Mi’kmaw Night Sky Story

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall

≈ Spring Equinox

Mi’kmaw Night Sky Story
Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall

Science

Dynamic pattern-based stories of our interactions with and within nature
Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall
Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall

Tatapn (Polaris or North Star)

Winter

Spring

Summer

Autumn
“Reflections”
artist Gerald Gloade
Millbrook First Nation
Patterns in Stars

“Reflections”
artist Gerald Gloade
Millbrook First Nation

Patterns on Earth
Mid Spring
Mid Autumn
Indigenous Science

Muin (Bear) Night Sky Story
learn to be “PATTERN-ABLE” in your environment

Na’ku’set (Sun)

Tatapn (North Star)
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each & together

OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

- 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 KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS

in visuals

artist Basma Kavanagh

photo credit: NRC
Story Research & Co-Learning with Mi’kmaw Elders
Lillian Marshall (Potlotek) and Murdena Marshall (Eskasoni)
Muin and The Seven Bird Hunters: Mi’kmaw Night Sky Story

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

Tatapn (North Star)
DVD

Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters
a Mi’kmaw Night Sky Story

Versions: Mi’kmaw & English, English, French

©2009 Mi’kmaw Elders

International Year of Astronomy 2009

The Universe Yours to Discover

Cape Breton University

Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Canada Research Chairs

Canada
Muin
Ntuksuinu’k
Jipjawej
Jiji’kes
• Wow
Mikjaqoqwej
Ples
Tities
Ku ku kwes
Kupkwe’j

Mi’kmaq

The Stars in this Story

Bear

The Hunters
Robin
Chickadee
• Pot
Grey Jay
Passenger Pigeon
Blue Jay
Barred Owl
Saw-whet Owl

Alioth
Mizar
Alcor
Alkaid
Seginus
Izar
Arcturus
Mufrid

Arabic

English
The Stars in this Story
The Stars in this Story
The Stars in this Story
≈ Spring Equinox

The Mi’kmaw Year Begins
Muin and the Birds: circumpolar stars... they “move” in a circle around Tatapn

Tatapn (Polaris or North Star)
THERE IS NO END

The story is always happening.
It is told in the present tense.
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

One Full Year in Mi’kma’ki
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

Night Sky Storywork with Mi’kmaw Elders
Lillian Marshall (Potlotek) and
Murdena Marshall (Eskasoni)

DVD launch: 8 January 2009
Canadian Science & Technology Museum, Ottawa

book launch: 20 January 2011
Potlotek First Nation School
TWO-EYED SEEING
learning to see with the strengths of each and together

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

Integrative Science Research Commons

Canada Foundation for Innovation
Fondation canadienne pour l’innovation
Artist Basma Kavanagh
my world is “all my relations” (subjects)
my world is many “its” (objects)
SHARING OUR STORIES

• Two-Eyed Seeing & Co-Learning •

to bring together Indigenous Traditional Knowledges & Western Sciences

stories of our interactions with and within nature

Science

Life
Love
Land

Periodic Table of Elements
Thank you
Wela’lioq

The assistance of many individuals is gratefully acknowledged.
The support of various partners and funding agencies is gratefully acknowledged.

Thank you
Wela’lioq
for additional information see:

www.integrativescience.ca

Artist Basma Kavanagh contact:  http://www.basmakavanagh.ca
http://www.basmakavanagh.blogspot.com

Graphic Designer Kristy Read contact:  http://www.graphicintent.ca
Mi’kmaw Cultural Lecture Series

Monthly Speakers
From March 2011 to March 2012, the Culture Lecture Series will focus on traditional and modern topics involving the Mi’kmaw people of the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. These presentations will take place on the last Thursday of each month from 10am-12pm. Sponsorship opportunities are available, please inquire for further information.

Presentation Topics
Topics will range from Traditional Beliefs, Governance, Treaty Rights, Mi’kmaw History, Indian Residential School, Birchbark Canoe History & Construction, Traditional Medicines, Hunting & Fishing, Dancing and Drumming Ceremonies, Two-Eyed Seeing Concept, Colonial History involving the Mi’kmaq, Mythical Stories and more!

Broader Audience Welcomed!
One of our goals is to invite as many people, of all ages and cultures, to come and join us. We also welcome school groups (preferably Jr. High – High School Grades) as well as both local and guests from outside the community that are interested in the monthly topics that will be presented.

Free Registration – No Cost To Attend!
We will be offering these lectures at no cost to you but we would like you to pre-register yourself or your group (schools and/or your organizations) by calling us at least one week prior to the event. Walk-ins are welcomed as well but we’d like to plan ahead as much as possible to help prepare for space.

For more information, please contact:
Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Centre
10765, Hwy 105, PO Box 30029
Wagmatcook, Nova Scotia, BOE 3NO
Phone: (902) 295-2999 (Main)
Fax: (902) 295-3306
Email: info@wagmatcook.com

Sharing Our Culture, Our Wisdom, Our Knowledge
The Mi’kmaw people of the Atlantic Region have lived here for many centuries protecting and nurturing the environment and surviving on Mother Earth’s bounties. Our story is one of pride, one of hope, one of struggles and one of successes that are now beginning to shine through as we re-discover the connection to the land, to the waters, to the culture. Our respect for our Elder’s knowledge and the power that exists through the collective unity of our people gives us hope that we as Mi’kmaw people will help to make a positive difference for our people and the diverse cultures that live with us each day.

The Mi’kmaw Culture & Lecture Series aims to bring these positive messages about our people to participants who are willing to hear our story. Our targets are people that want to learn, whether they are youth, adults, Elders, community members, leaders from different political, government or social groups... it is about opening your eyes and ears to help understand our Mi’kmaw culture, to help honor our heritage, our language, our history.

We invite you to share with us in this journey. Come and relax in a group setting, set your mind at ease, take a deep breath and allow yourself to experience what we hope will be lasting memories of a trip into the world of the Mi’kmaw.
## Mi’kmaw Cultural Lecture Series Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Series #1: (MARCH)</th>
<th>Date: Thursday, March 31st, 2011</th>
<th>Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter:</td>
<td>Nathan Sack, President</td>
<td>Mi’kmaw Cultural Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Topic:</td>
<td>“Doorway to Cultural Appreciation: Aboriginal Cultural Awareness”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This workshop is related to the Aboriginal concept of a doorway between different worlds that is opened and closed during various Aboriginal ceremonies. During this workshop, the “doorway” will be open to learn about Aboriginal culture and will close with a better overall appreciation for the culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Series #2: (APRIL)</th>
<th>Date: Thursday, April 28th, 2011</th>
<th>Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter:</td>
<td>Albert Marshall, Elder (Eskasoni) &amp; Dr. Cheryl Bartlett (Cape Breton University)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Topic:</td>
<td>“Two-Eyed Seeing Concept” – Bridging the Western Sciences with Indigenous Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“LEARN ... to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western (or Eurocentric or mainstream) knowledges and ways of knowing ... and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.” This presentation has been made both locally and internationally!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Series #3: (MAY)</th>
<th>Date: Thursday, May 19th, 2011</th>
<th>Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter:</td>
<td>Daniel Paul, Elder, Historian and Author of “WE WERE NOT THE SAVAGES”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mi’kmaq Elder Dr. Daniel Paul will give an overview of the centuries of valiant struggle that North American Indians had to endure to survive the best efforts of the European invaders to divest them of everything, including their lives. That the invaders worked without conscience to cleanse the land of its rightful owners is verified by the horrific methods they used in the process. The truth of this statement is attested by their own records, which give minute details of what and how they did it. A sample of the horrors used: bounties for human scalps, massacre, starvation and germ warfare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Series #4: (JUNE)</th>
<th>Date: Thursday, June 30th, 2011</th>
<th>Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter:</td>
<td>Judy Googoo, Wagmatcook First Nation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Topic:</td>
<td>“Traditional Mi’kmaw Herbal Medicines – its uses and significance”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This presentation will explore the centuries old traditional uses of herbal medicines that the Mi’kmaw people have depended upon throughout the years to help them battle everything from the common cold to dreaded infections and more! Judy Googoo is one of the few remaining individuals practicing the gathering and use of traditional medicines. She will also bring samples of some of the more common traditional herbs used as medicines and will describe how she explores different locations to collect them and how the seasons affect the timing involved in this process.

### Free Registration – No Cost To Attend! *GROUPS ARE REQUIRED TO BOOK AHEAD ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE*

We will be offering these lectures at no cost to you but we would like you to pre-register your group (schools and/or your organizations) by calling us at least one week prior to the event. Walk-ins are welcomed without booking. For more information, please contact us at the information listed below. Please Note: Additional costs may be included for special requests (ie: individual group meals, drum groups, etc). Please inquire for further clarification.

**WAGMATCOOK CULTURE & HERITAGE CENTRE**

**ATTENTION:** MICHAEL BONA (MANAGER) mbona@wagmatcook.com

**PHONE:** (902) 295-2999 www.wagmatcook.com