# SHARING OUR STORIES Two-Eyed Seeing & Co-Learning •

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to bring together Indigenous Traditional Knowledges & Western Sciences

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

#### Albert Marshall<sup>1</sup> and Cheryl Bartlett<sup>2</sup>

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#### Cheryl Bartlett

Murdena & Albert Marshall











#### 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

Land of the Blackfoot October 2010, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, Alberta

Land of the Blackfoot

Cheryl, Florence, Albert, Murdena

#### October 2009, Blackfoot Crossing, Alberta

Land of the Blackfoot

#### October 2009, Blackfoot Crossing, Alberta

Land of the Blackfoot

#### **Cheryl and Brendan**

Ridge-Under-Water or Blailoot 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. Everyory is joyful to be together, to share stories, to trade, to lease of relatives and of loved ones.

For thousand years, Blackfoot Crossing has been an important meeting place for Native peoples. In 1877, at Chief Crowfe at'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

#### October 2009, Blackfoot Crossing, Alberta

## LAND OF THE MI'KMAQ

## LAND OF THE MI'KMAQ

## MI'KMA'KI

Native Council of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Language Program Artist: Michael J. Martin



### **Pitupaq** "flowing into oneness" (Bras d'Or Lakes)

"Land of Fog" (Cape Breton Island)

#### MI'KMA'KI

Native Council of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Language Program Artist: Michael J. Martin

## LAND OF THE MI'KMAQ

## Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail



#### Pjila'si, wije'winen

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#### Welcome, come with us

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#### Information Source: Signage on Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail













#### 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





### **ONE GENERATION** ≈ 120 years







**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

 $\mathbf{G}$ 

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



# 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

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Membertou Trade and Convention Centre; collection of Alex Paul

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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

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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.







 $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{f} +$ 

Everything that we do to our natural world ... we also do to ourselves.

image: www.blackfootcrossing.ca

## If pollution exceeds the natural cleansing capacity of our ecosystems ...

 $\mathbf{F}$ 



### If consumption of resources exceeds the carrying capacity of our ecosystems ...





If species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...

 $\underbrace{\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X}$ 



## 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 <u>में स्ट्रेन्स्ट्रेन</u>
# If people are starving, they will not care about environmental sustainability ...



 $\mathbf{X}$   $\mathbf{x}$ 



### 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.

 $\overline{\mathbf{r}} \underbrace{\mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\mathbf{$ 

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: LOWE

#### **EXAMPLES**

- pekajo'tmnej = consider all aspects 1) ... action is harmonious
- 2) wulo'tmnej = love some one ... action is care
- 3) sespite'tmnej = worry about what you do ... action is guided



#### 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.

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.



words of Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

### **Co-existence**

"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."

words of Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

#### **Inter-dependence**

"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."

words of Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall:

## **Community Spirit**

"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."

# example: Kataq (Eels)





# "Eels were life to our people."

Lawrence Bernard, We'koqma'q 2008

# Netukulimk ... teaches you Limit Catch

#### FLO YOUNG OF ESKASONI SAYS

Me and my husband we never used to go out to get fish [eels], more than we need. <u>We get what we need</u> and we go out and get some more if we need more tomorrow or next week. [2009]

# 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 <u>give something back</u>. [2008]

# But ... Kataq (Eels) are now a "species of concern".

When species become extinct, some of our relations are gone forever ...



Artist Basma Kavanagh

#### All Our Relations

Our **Mi'kmaw** language teaches us to see subjects and relations.

#### Mar Relations

Our **Mi'kmaw** language teaches us to see subjects and relations.



There are opportunities, challenges, solutions ... we must acknowledge our values – actions – knowledges.

# Consciousness of Knowing



artist Basma Kavanagh

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

ma





# **A CO-LEARNING JOURNEY**

#### 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)



## **Co-Learning**

# be like the trees: collaborate

# by way of group learning



## **Co-Learning**



#### Mi'kmaw Elders & Educators & Students

#### Research Team & Artists





artist Basma Kavanagh

# our sciences our philosophies Indigenous Western our worldviews "bringing our knowledges together" our stories artist Basma Kavanagh

artist Basma Kavanagh

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# **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?



CONSTANT CHANGE within balance and wholeness

CHANGE through time









**Moons in One Full Year** 





### Ecosystem – Night Sky Knowledge Co-Learning with Elders Murdena and Lillian Marshall










## Science

#### dynamic pattern-based stories of our interactions with and within nature







## "Reflections"

artist Gerald Gloade Millbrook First Nation



# Patterns in Stars

## "Reflections"

artist Gerald Gloade Millbrook First Nation

Patterns on Earth



## Mid Spring



## Mid Summer



## Mid Autumn



\*

## Mid Winter

## **Indigenous Science**



learn to be "PATTERN-ABLE" in your environment SCIENCE



Na'ku'set (Sun)

#### TWO-EYED SEEING learning to see with the <u>strengths</u> of each & together

## **OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS**

in words

respect

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

Archiveld, 2001, Can. J. Native Ed. 25(1):1-5

- hypothesis

(making & testing)

- data collection
- data analysis
- model & theory construction

#### TWO-EYED SEEING learning to see with the <u>strengths</u> of each & together

### **OUR KEY CONCEPTS and ACTIONS**





Story Research & Co-Learning with Mi'kmaw Elders Lillian Marshall (Potlotek) and Murdena Marshall (Eskasoni)

#### Tatapn <u>–</u> (North Star)

Muin and The Seven Bird Hunters: Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story ... interconnectiveness of space-time-life-knowledge-spirit



#### book





ASTRONOMY 2009

CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY · P · R · E · S · S · Muin agg Luiknek Tesijik Ntuksuinuk MI'KMAWEY TEPKIKEWEY MUSIKISKEY A'TUKWAQN Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters

> Kisa'tutij/by Lillian Marshall, Murdena Marshall, Prune Harris and Cheryl Bartlett

KMAW NIGHT SKY STORY

Kisi Amalwi'kmi'tij/illustrations by Kristy Read and Sana Kavanagh



background sky: © 1990-2008, Carina Software

# The Stars in this Story

background sky: © 1990-2008, Carina Software

# The Stars in this Story





























#### Muin and the Birds: circumpolar stars ... they "move" in a circle around Tatapn


## THERE IS NO END



The story is *always happening*. It is told in the present tense.

learning to see with the strengths of each and together

# INTERCONNECTIVENESS



learning to see with the strengths of each and together

# INTERCONNECTIVENESS



learning to see with the strengths of each and together

# INTERCONNECTIVENESS



learning to see with the strengths of each and together

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learning to see with the strengths of each and together

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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

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

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## 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





#### our THANKS to CBU's Integrative Science Team



## Mi'kmaw Elders & Educators & Students



## **Research Team & Artists**

Thank you Wela'lioq

The assistance of many individuals is gratefully acknowledged.



# for additional information see: <u>www.integrativescience.ca</u>



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

Graphic Designer Kristy Read contact: <u>http://www.graphicintent.ca</u>

## Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Centre



#### 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

#### **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

## **Mi'kmaw Cultural Lecture Series Schedule**

#### Lecture Series #1: (MARCH): Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm Date: Thursday, March 31st, 2011 Nathan Sack, President Presenter: Mi'kma-way Cultural Consultants "Doorway to Cultural Appreciation: Aboriginal Cultural Awareness" **Presentation Topic:** 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. Date: Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm Lecture Series #2: (APRIL) Albert Marshall, Elder (Eskasoni) & Dr. Cheryl Bartlett (Cape Breton University) **Presenter: Presentation Topic:** "Two-Eyed Seeing Concept" – Bridging the Western Sciences with Indigenous Knowledge" "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! Date: Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Lecture Series #3: (MAY) Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm Daniel Paul, Elder, Historian and Author of "WE WERE NOT THE SAVAGES" Presenter: **Presentation Topic:** "The Hidden History of North America – First Nations History" 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.

Lecture Series #4: (JUNE)

Date: Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

#### Presenter: Judy Googoo, Wagmatcook First Nation

Presentation Topic: "Traditional Mi'kmaw Herbal Medicines – its uses and significance"

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