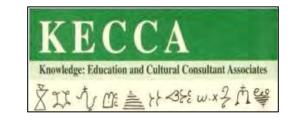


Elders & Doctors of Letters, *honoris causa* Eskasoni community, Mi'kmaw Nation <u>albertdmarshall@ns.sympatico.ca</u>



Cheryl Bartlett

Member of the Order of Canada PhD and Professor Emerita



Canada Research Chair in Integrative Science (retired)

Professor of Biology (retired)

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Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

PRESENTATION FOR APC FISHERIES WORKSHOP 5-6 FEBRUARY 2013, MONCTON, NB

Outline

- 1. ATK inclusion: goal, steps, and overall
- 2. ATK inclusion: via Two-Eyed Seeing
- 3. ATK inclusion: the Elders have spoken ... APCFNC/AAEDIRP Elders' project
- 4. ATK: some general comments and a healthy communities model
- 5. Mi'kmaw TK ... some basics
 - Ta'ntelo'lti'k
 - Netukulimk
 - Knowledge model (Murdena's)
 - Teachings
- 6. Appendices



OUR GOAL ... ATK inclusion:

Let's navigate our way forward (in the snow crab fishery) using input from both ATK and DFO's western science ... while we acknowledge that our challenge is to learn how to gather,

communicate, and use,

in an integrative way

via Two-Eyed Seeing, input from two cultures, two worldviews.



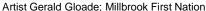
Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation

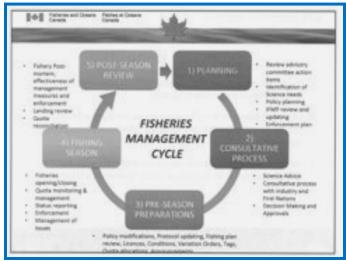
NECESSARY STEPS: We need to elevate the consciousness about ATK for DFO and also among Lnu'k. We all need to understand that ATK is based in Netukulimk. Although DFO might not completely "get it", we need to help them see where it can go. Lnu'k need to see this also. We then need to learn where we can input ATK into

programs, processes, etc.

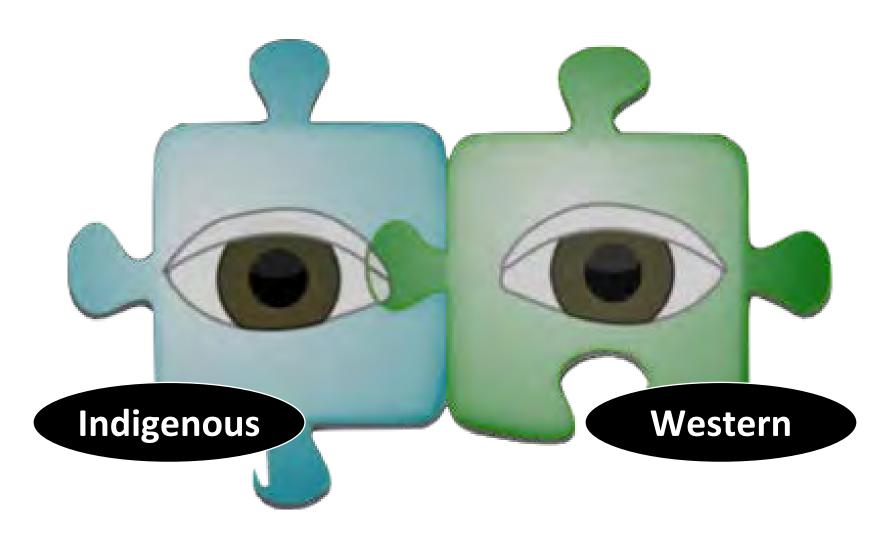
OVERALL: We know that some ingredients (e.g. programs, processes, research) are already in place. Our challenge is to integrate with them and/or expand upon them so we do <u>not</u> compromise the integrity of Mother Earth, <u>not</u> jeopardize the next Seven Generations.







ETUAPTMUMK - TWO-EYED SEEING





TWO-EYED SEEING

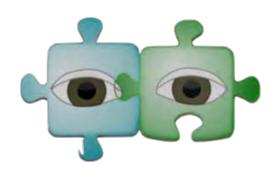
a Guiding Principle for transcultural collaboration

(the Gift of Multiple Perspectives)

LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in the 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.

(words of Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall)



TWO-EYED SEEING

a Guiding Principle for trans-cultural collaboration

for bringing together different knowledges

for bringing
ATK into DFO's
fisheries management
planning cycle
for snow crab
(Gulf Management Area 12)

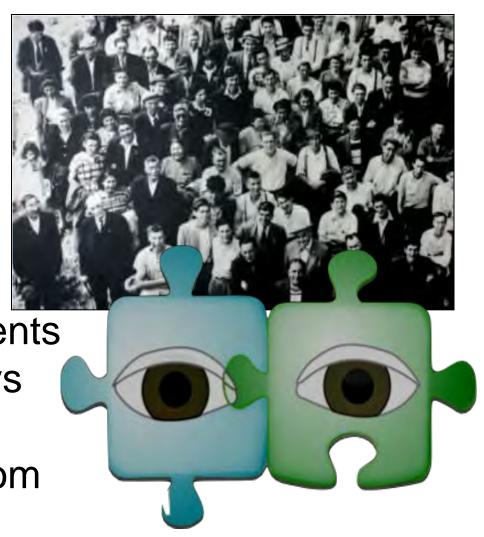
AS ELDERS IN OUR TIME

words of Elder Albert Marshall:

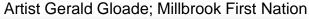
We seek to be a conduit for wisdom of our Ancestors.

We seek to see with "TWO EYES" ... to

take the accomplishments of the white man's ways further by bringing it together with the wisdom of our Ancestors.









APCFNC/AAEDIRP Elders Research Project

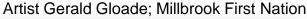
Honouring Traditional Knowledge



ELDERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Eight formal recommendations:

- based on discussions at 2010 Mawio'mi
- reviewed at subsequent gathering in 2011
 - indications as to how Elders would like to be consulted when sharing TK





Honouring **Traditional** Knowledge

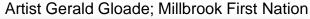
Elders



ELDERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations concern all aspects of Aboriginal community life, including economic development, fisheries, health, social, law, environment, and education, etc.

[see Appendix #2 for full text of Elders' Eight Recommendations]





APCFNC/AAEDIRP Elders Research Project

Honouring Traditional Knowledge



ELDERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Atlantic Chiefs reviewed the Eight Recommendations at a meeting on 29 September 2011 and, by consensus, supported all of them.





APCFNC/AAEDIRP **Elders Research Project**

ELDERS RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is the list of recommendations from the APCFNC Elders Project: Honouring Traditional Knowledge. It is an initial list concerning how Elders would like to be consulted when sharing Traditional Knowledge. Reading and acknowledging this list of recommendations should not be considered a form of consultation with Atlantic Aboriginal communities.

1. It needs to be recognized that Atlantic Aboriginal communities are losing their Elders, their

BACKGROUND

APCFNC Elders Project:

HONOURING

TRADITIONAL

KNOWLEDGE

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APCFNC) brings together 38 First Nations in the Atlantic region of Canada as well as the Inuit in Labrador. Through the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP) administrated by the APCFNC,

toqiyik, Innu, and Inuit Elders have been involved in a project

he critical importance of consulting with Elders and having nity economic development projects and in research on

comes for the project. The project was supported by APCFNC ers. As a foundation for the work on economic development om Atlantic region Elders on how they would like to be consulted nd Aboriginal worldviews. As part of the project, the Elders have ge) concerning Traditional Knowledge and its importance.

aving reviewed the eight recommendations General Meeting on September 29, 2011, endations put forward by Atlantic Region All Chiefs' Resolution #2011-14.

hief Mi'sel Joe, Miawpukek First Nation f Roderick Googoo, Waycobah First Nation SION: Passed by consensus TE: September 29, 2011

DNAL KNOWLEDGE COMPONENTS

thering in Mi'kmaq) brought together Elders from four gion — the Mi'kmag, the Wolastoqiyik, the Innu, and the Inuit. thered in Millbrook First Nation at the Glooskap Heritage ing to be videotaped. They directed that a transcription of the

ial Knowledge

s and Traditional Knowledge. Under the Elders' guidance the the Elders Ma'wiomi. It can be viewed by going to:

ons concerning Traditional Knowledge. The recommendations ers Mawio'mi. See next page

r ethics and best practices for the sharing of Traditional Atlantic region Elders in research. It contains communityliving document that will be added to on an ongoing basis. wledge very rapidly. Therefore, Aboriginal communities and urgency and importance of working alongside Elders and nowledge immediately.

olved in all aspects of the territorial, cultural, linguistic, nt, and social affairs of Atlantic Aboriginal communities. ioritize what is most important because of their collective

voven into all aspects of Aboriginal community life, including health, social, law, environment, and education, etc.

aningful ways and have advisory roles for all Aboriginal nt, implementation, and evaluation taking place. Meaningful members of steering committees and advisory committees, so

nared and passed on before it is lost. The ways in which on need to be directed by the Elders from each territory.

Elders, that would advise on matters related to the sharing of formed for the Atlantic region. The Council would advise on or ethics and the best practices for the sharing of Traditional ctices for working alongside Elders. This would include working mmunity life and development including research.

would engage in a process of co-learning with the Atlantic plate for how the process of this knowledge transfer could occur

loping and approving educational curriculums related to nal community schools and provincial and post-secondary

woven into the social studies, science, and language ndary schools in Atlantic Aboriginal communities. This would lucation for Aboriginal learners, enable the communities ern and Aboriginal learning methods, and better prepare

d be compelled to seek guidance from the Elders Council tion #6) to develop appropriate curriculums related to t post-secondary programming.

is to encourage the use of traditional practices, which are . This would encourage younger generations to learn about uch as traditional laws, cultural and spiritual practices, language hunting and fishing, food gathering, medicine, ecology, science,

nouringTraditionalKnowledgeFinal.pdf









NFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Research Coordinator mic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP APCFNC

me: 435-8021 (office) or 402-1733 (cell) Email: gillian.austin@apcfnc.ca



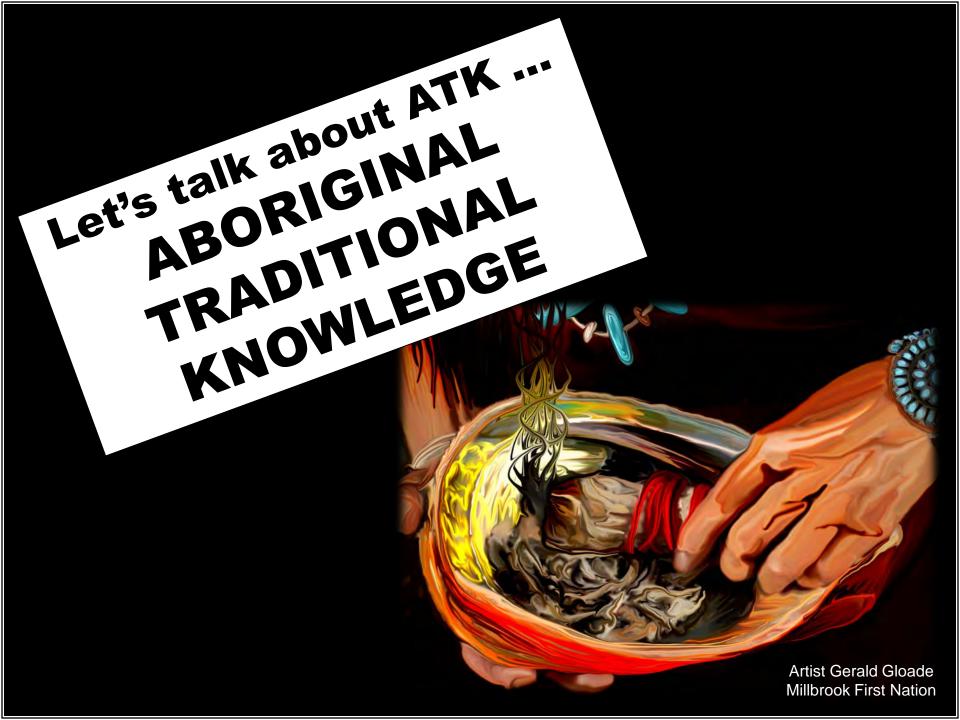


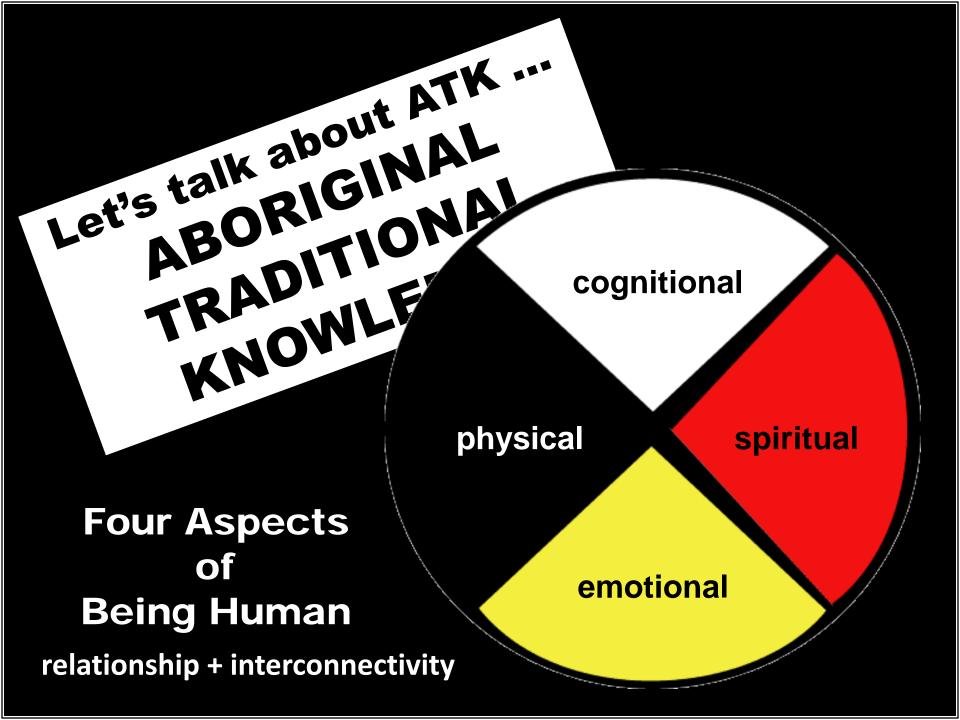
REPORT SYNOPSIS

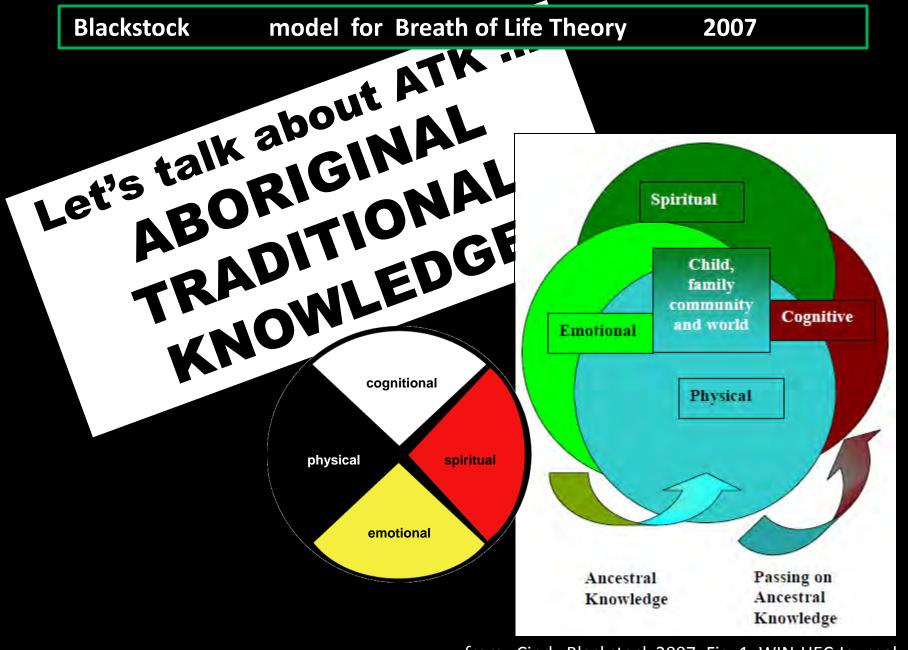
http://www.apcfnc.ca/en/resources/Honouring TraditionalKnowledgeFinal.pdf We must bring our Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into the present so that everything becomes meaningful in our lives and communities. (words of Elder Murdena Marshall)



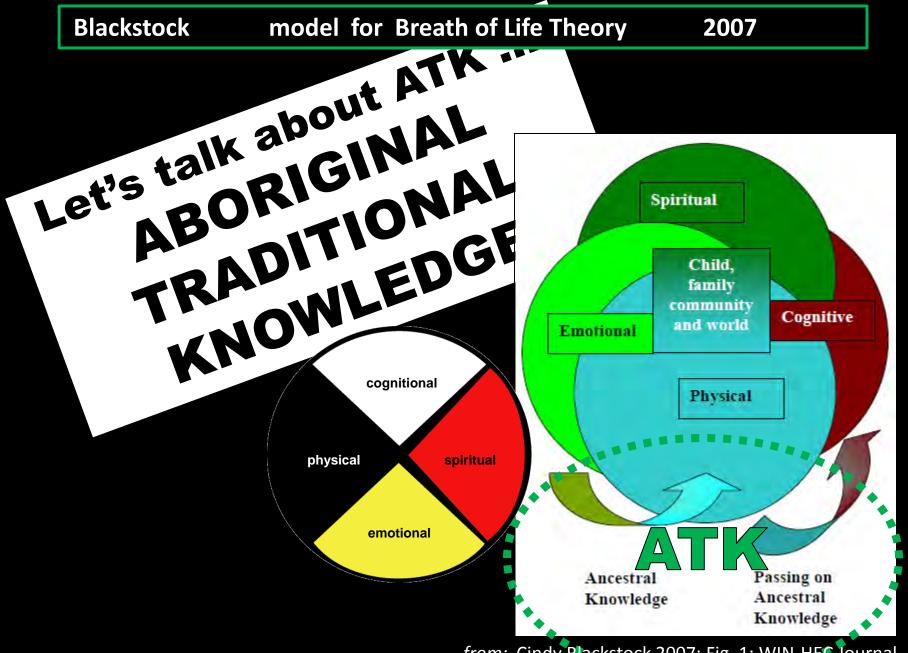
Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation





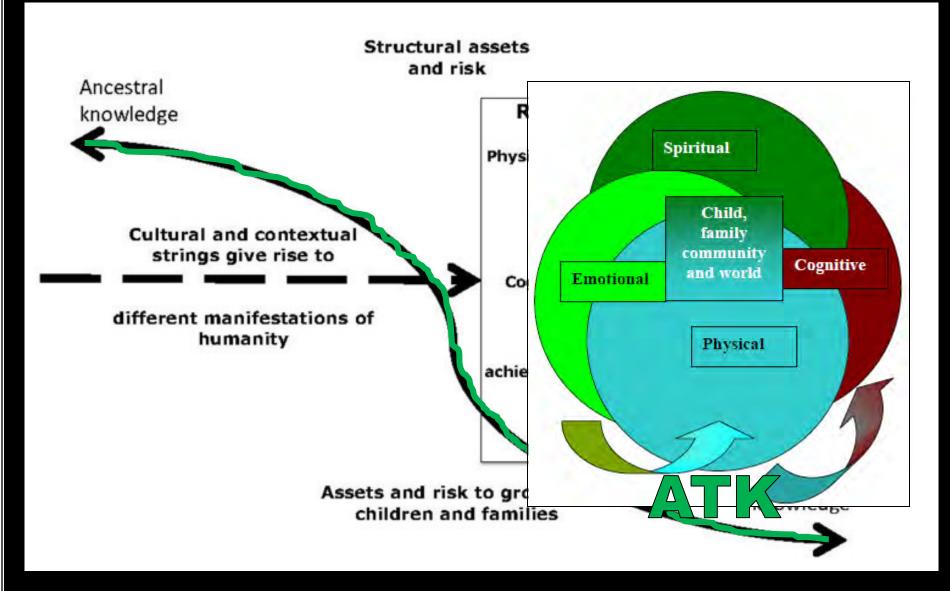


from: Cindy Blackstock 2007; Fig. 1; WIN-HEC Journal (World Indigenous Nations – Higher Education Consortium)



from: Cindy Blackstock 2007; Fig. 1; WIN-HEC Journal (World Indigenous Nations – Higher Education Consortium)

Blackstock 2011: model for Breath of Life Theory (with 2007 overlay)



Blackstock 2011: model for Breath of Life Theory – healthy communities

Structural assets and risk

Ancestral knowledge

> Cultural and contextual strings give rise to

different manifestations of humanity

Relational Worldview Principles

Physical: water, food, shelter, safety and security

Emotional: Belonging and relationship (attachment to family and community)

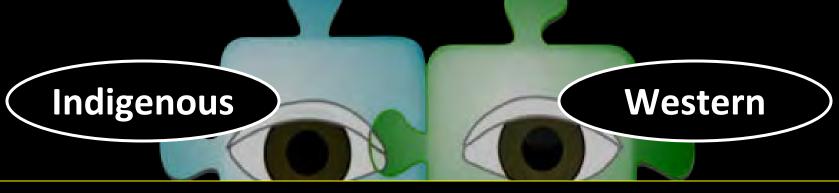
Spiritual: spirituality and life purpose

Cognitive: self and community actualization, identity, service, esteem

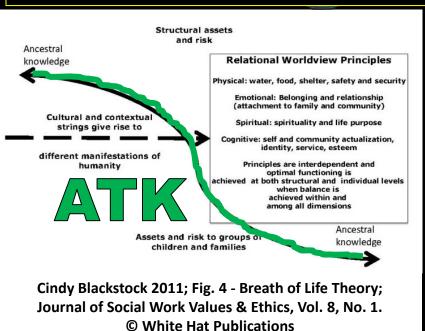
Principles are interdependent and optimal functioning is achieved at both structural and individual levels when balance is achieved within and among all dimensions

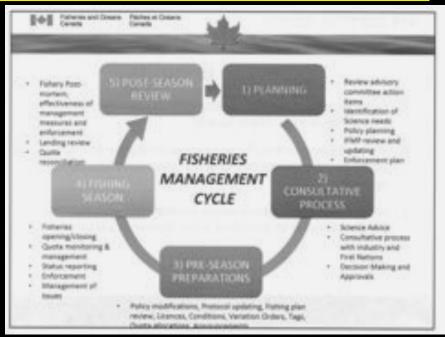
Assets and risk to groups of children and families





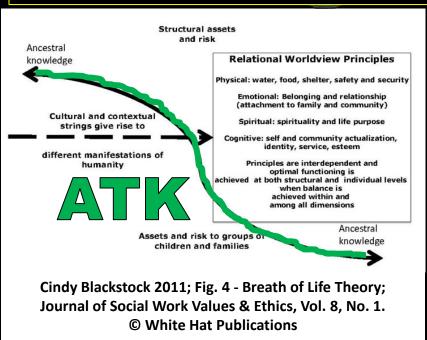
The challenge is to bring together the strengths from both so as not to compromise the integrity of Mother Earth.





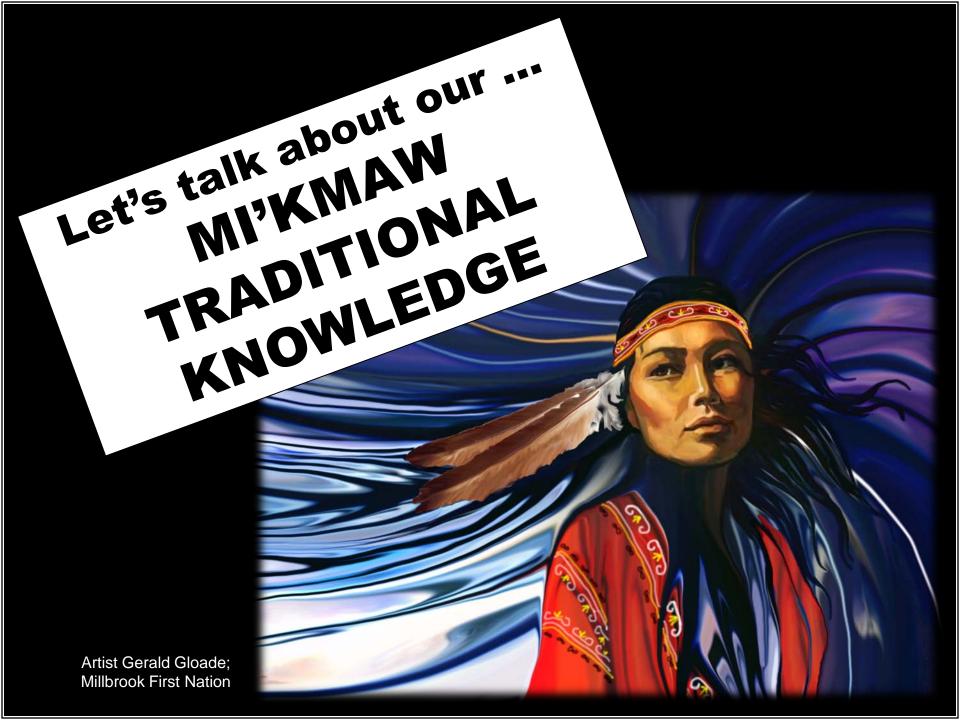


The challenge is to bring together the strengths from both so as not to compromise the integrity of Mother Earth.



[Western] Science is distinguished from other pursuits by the precise and limited intellectual means that it employs and the integrity with which it uses its limited means.

The scientific pursuit of truth uses no end of tools, ranging from sensitive scales to register the weight of a hair to observatories of the heavens.



KNOWLEDGE IS SPIRIT.

It is a Gift passed on through many people. We must pass it on.



We Elders need to share our understandings of Traditional Knowledge to be healthy.





In sharing, I am trying to live up to the responsibility of why I was given that knowledge.

words of Elder Albert Marshall



Ta'ntelo'iti'k

Our Mi'kmaw language teaches us that everything alive is both physical and spiritual.





Our Mi'kmaw culture is built on long term vision and our decisions were made with the next Seven Generations in mind.

Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

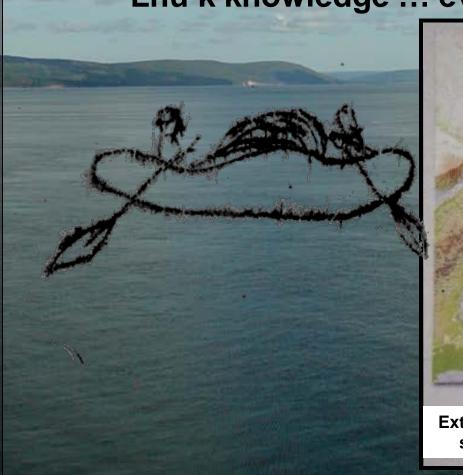
So this is what we truly believe ... this is what reinforces our spiritualities:

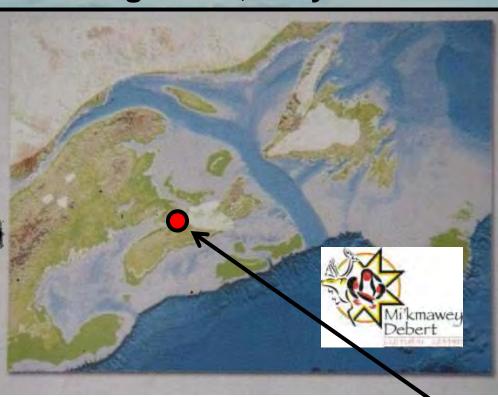
that no one being is greater
than the next, that we
are part and parcel of
the whole, we are equal,
and that each one of us has a
responsibility to the balance
of the system.

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)

Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

Its "PRINCIPLE OF HUMILITY" is based on Lnu'k knowledge ... evolving for 10,000 years.

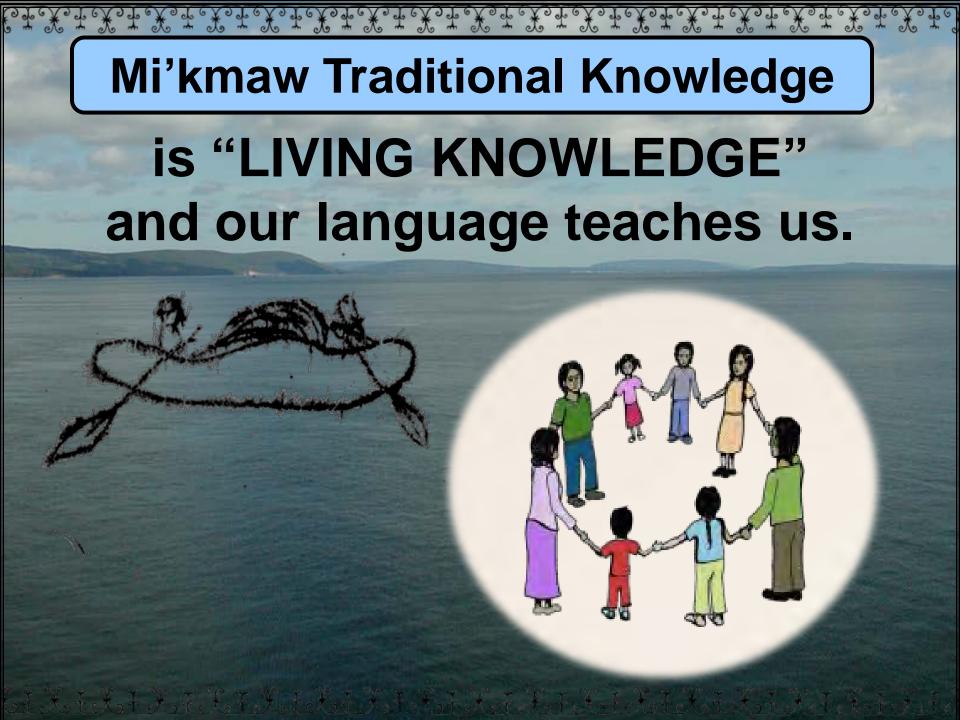




Extent of ice 11,000 years ago. People lived at the Debert site sometime between 11,000 and 10,000 years ago.

information source: signage on Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail





Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

T. X. T. X.

is "LIVING KNOWLEDGE" and our language teaches us.



Language is much more than an instrument, considerably more than a tool. In structuring our thoughts, in coordinating

our social relations and in building our relationship with reality, it constitutes a fundamental dimension of the human being. It is in and through language that we live.

message from the Director-General of UNESCO

on the occasion of International Mother Language Day http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=31787&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html



Netukulimk

"sustaining ourselves"
... yes ... but really is a much richer concept: it is holistic ...

... it takes you into a place where you are very conscious of how the human two-leggeds are interdependent and interconnective with the natural world ... this philosophy / ideology is so ingrained in your subconscious that you are constantly aware of not creating an imbalance.

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)

RESPECT REVERENCE RESPONSIBILITY RECIPROCITY



The laws of nature will need, in some cases, to supersede the man-made laws.

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)

Indigenous thought defines politics and ethics as existing in the realm of ecological communities and ecosystems. Following this logic it makes no sense to limit the notion of politics and ethics to human beings.

(words of Raymond Pierotti, Indigenous scientist & scholar)

Pierotti, R., 2011, pg. 8-9 in: Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Routledge, New York

Co-existence

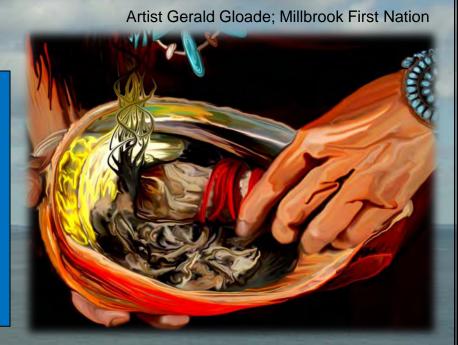
Inter-dependence

Community Spirit



Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation

We need to use the tools from the man-made laws to assist the laws of Mother Earth ... that is the best we can do ... then we are living out our responsibilities. (words of Elder Albert Marshall)



One point consistently missed by Western investigators of TK is the significance of honor and responsibility in Indigenous traditions.

Western science typically fails to consider the responsibility scientists owe toward study organisms. There is also little, if any, discussion of the obvious reciprocal relationship between investigator and subject.

(words of Indigenous scientist and scholar Raymond Pierotti)
Pierotti, R., 2011, pg. 15 & 17 in: Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Routledge, New York

We are all connected. (words of Elder Albert Marshall)

We live within interconnectivity. (words of Elder Murdena Marshall)

Humans did not descend as angelic beings into this world. Nor are we aliens who colonized Earth. We evolved here, one among many species, across millions of years, and exist as one organic miracle linked to others. The natural environment we treat with such unnecessary ignorance and recklessness was our cradle and nursery, our school, and remains our one and only home. To its special conditions we are intimately adapted in every one of the bodily fibers and biochemical transactions that gives us life.

This is ... the guiding principle of those devoted to the health of the planet. But it is not yet a general worldview ...

(words of mainstream scientist / biologist Edward O. Wilson)

Wilson, E.O., 2002, p. 40 in: The Future of Life, Vantage Books, New York

We need to put our TK understandings such that they are not so abstract.

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)

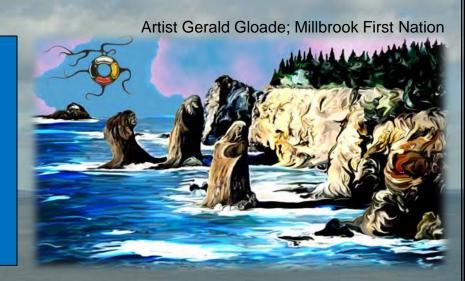
Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation



Indigenous people invariably contend that the attitude and philosophy involved, rather than the technology, are what makes a practice traditional.

(words of Indigenous scientist and scholar Raymond Pierotti)
Pierotti, R., 2011, p. 14, in: Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Routledge, New York

All Our Relations



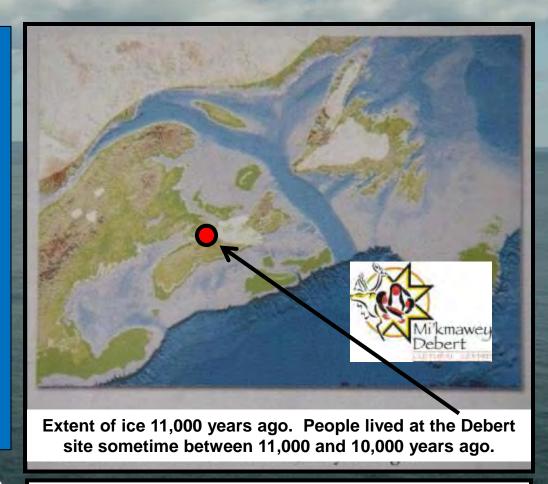
Indigenous knowledge emerges from careful long-term observations of natural phenomena. The data collected are basically an understanding of relationships between specific biological entities (plants, mammals, birds, insects, fish) and among biological and physical entities (rocks, bodies of water), landforms (mountains, isolated hills, unusual rock formations), and meteorological phenomena. This knowledge encompasses practical, empirical, and ideological aspects of understanding and is both the information itself and a way of knowing.

(Indigenous scientist and scholar Raymond Pierotti 2011 citing Barsh 2000 and various other authors)

Pierotti, R., 2011, p. 9 in: Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Routledge, New York

Lnu'k have been here a long time ... sensitivities to eco-patterns and eco-relationships have developed over millennia

Indigenous knowledge emerges from careful long-term observations of natural phenomena.



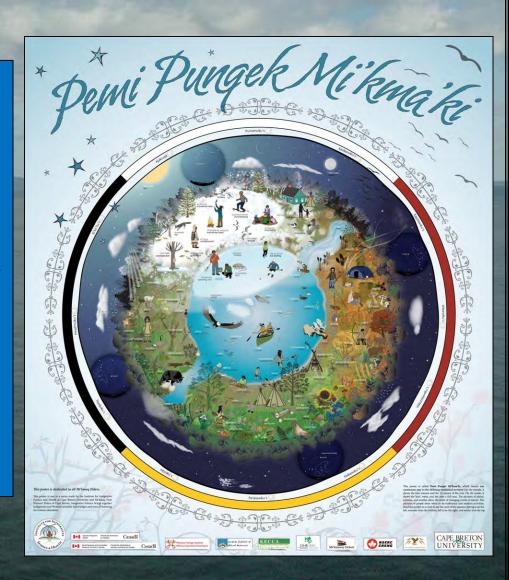
information source: signage on Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail

Pierotti, R. 2011, p. 9 in: Indigenous Knowledge, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. Routledge, New York

Daily, I thank Creator for water, life, medicines ...

And, daily I also thank the water, the other living beings, the medicines ...

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)



We understand economic development as somewhat foreign ... one objective has to be to provide opportunities for groups of people so they can sustain themselves adequately, plus the community. (words of Elder Albert Marshall)

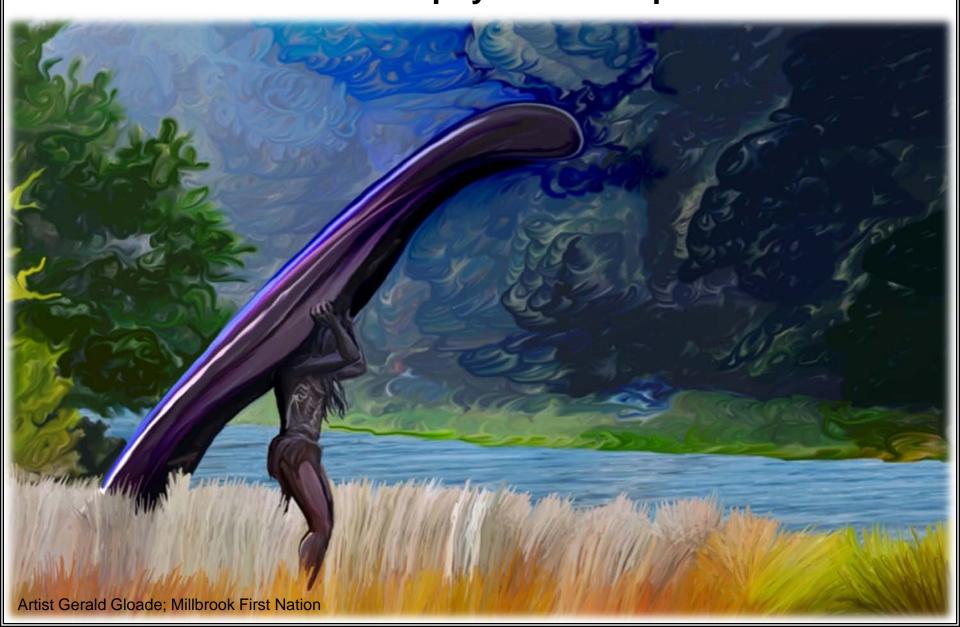
Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation



But, at the same time as we are using Gifts from Creator, we must NOT compromise ecological integrity, and we must ALWAYS look into the future so next generations have the same opportunities.

(words of Elder Albert Marshall)

All these things that Creator has given us are sustenance in both the physical and spiritual senses.



We need to come together as one where all these things can be taken in.





Our overarching understanding has to be: that our culture is still very much alive ... and we can extract those principles of how one can sustain oneself without compromising abilities for the future.

Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

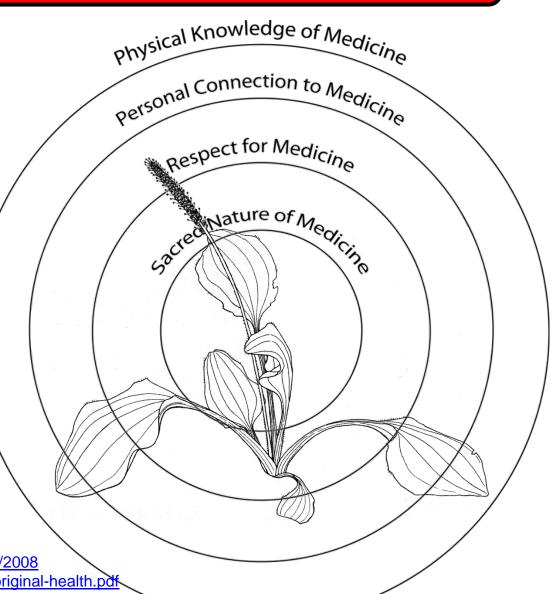
from:

Murdena Marshall. 2008.

*Health and Healing –
Death and Dying:
women's roles within;
Workshop Training Materials for
"cultural sensitivity and cultural humility"



Murdena's
Concentric Circles
model for TK

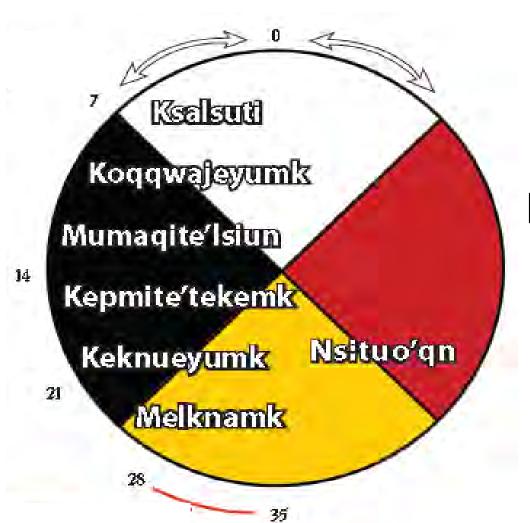


*document available at:

http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2008

-Marshall-cultural-sensitivity-humility-module-aboriginal-health.pdf

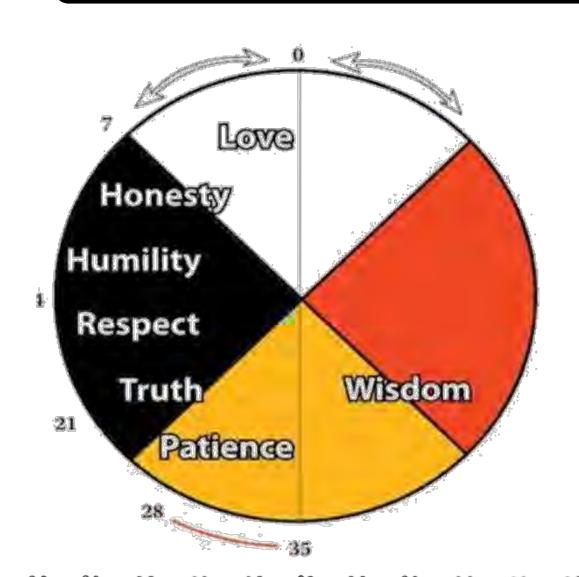
Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge



Kepme'kl Mi'kmawe'l Kina'matnewe'l

Teachings of Elder Murdena Marshall

Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge



Mi'kmaw Seven Sacred Gifts of Life

Teachings of Elder Murdena Marshall (words of Elder Albert Marshall)

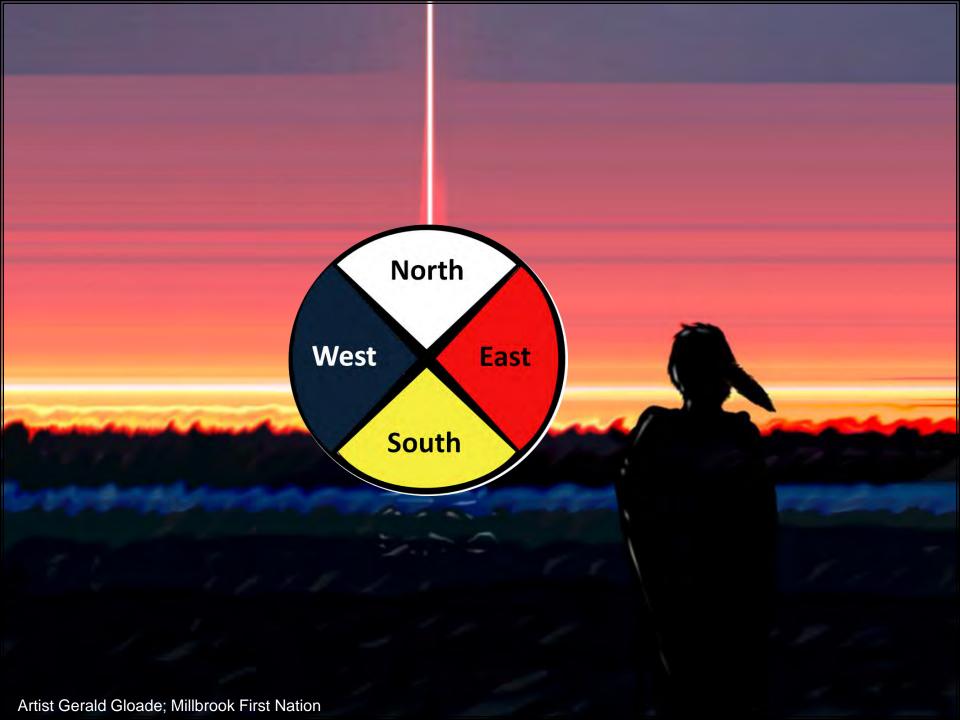
Our Mi'kmaw language is the key to how our actions will unfold. Each word is much deeper than only taking care of an object. Animacy brings personal connection ... such that actions fit actions (everything is in the picture) and we are always mindful of the ...

First Sacred Gift of Life: LOV

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





QUESTIONS

Welatioq Thank you

artwork with permission of:

Gerald Gloade

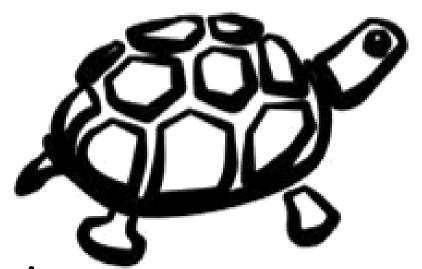
Millbrook First Nation gerald@cmmns.com



Artist Gerald Gloade; Millbrook First Nation

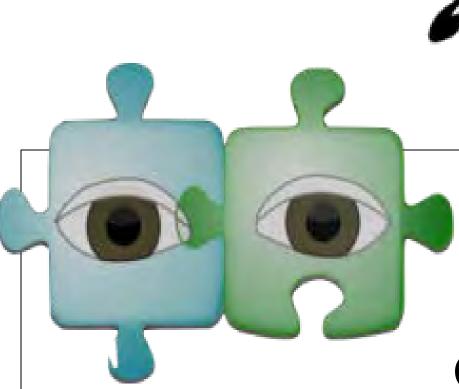
APPENDICES

#1. Two-Eyed Seeing: some explanation via co-learning



- **#2. Elders' Recommendations**from APCFNC / AAEDIRP Elders Research Project
- #3. AFN model (planning and policy) for healthy communities
- #4. Contact Information

APPENDIX #1

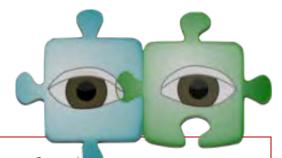




some explanation via

CO-LEARNING

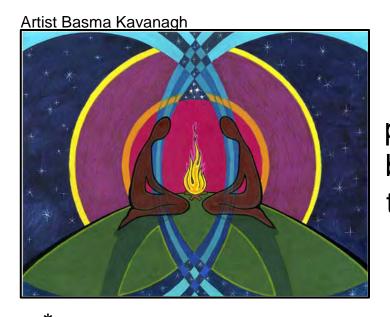
TWO-EYED SEEING is more than "just philosophy"!



we chose it as a guiding principle for

CO-LEARNING

a means to work meaningfully together



In Unama'ki – Cape Breton, a form of **Co-Learning*** has been pioneered in various research projects by Mi'kmaw Elders and educators and the Integrative Science research team at Cape Breton University.

Our approach continues to evolve.

http://www.integrativescience.ca/uploads/articles/2012-Bartlett-Marshall-Iwama-Integrative-Science-Two-Eyed-Seeingenriching-discussion-framework(authors-draft).pdf

CO-LEARNING for Two-Eyed Seeing four "big picture" questions

- <u>1. Our World</u>: This relates to <u>ontologies</u>, as we share a desire for our knowledge to have an overarching understanding of "how our world is". Question: **What** do we believe the natural world to be?
- 2. Our Key Concepts and Actions: This relates to <u>epistemologies</u>, as we share a desire for our knowledge to observe key values. Question: What do we value as "ways of coming to know" the natural world, i.e. what are our key concepts and actions?
- 3. Our Languages and Methodologies: We can focus on tools we use to structure our knowledge. Question: What can remind us of the complexity within our ways of knowing?
- 4. Our Overall Knowledge Goals: We can focus on <u>objectives</u>. Question: What overall goals do we have for our ways of knowing?

more explanation available in

learning our strengths and learning together

NATURAL WORLD: ontologies

interconnective

beings ...
interconnective
and animate:
spirit +
energy + matter

with

CONSTANT CHANGE

within balance and wholeness

parts & wholes

objects ...
comprised of parts and
wholes characterized by
systems and emergences:
energy + matter

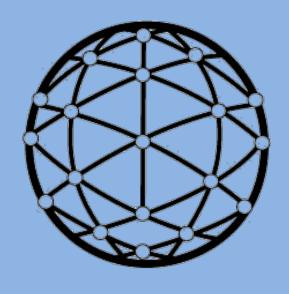
with **EVOLUTION**

learning our strengths and learning together

NATURAL WORLD: ontologies

interconnective

parts & wholes





learning our strengths and learning together

CONCEPTS and ACTIONS: epistemologies

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

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

learning our strengths and learning together

CONCEPTS and ACTIONS: epistemologies

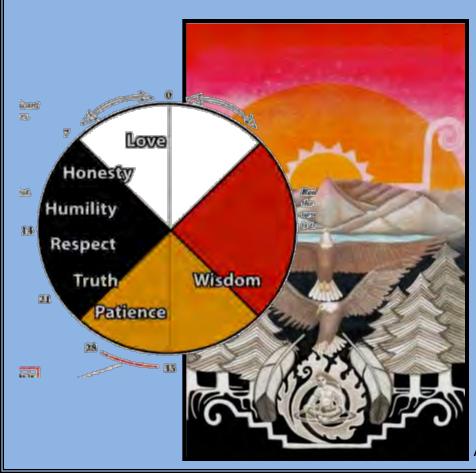




photo credit: NRC

Artist Basma Kavanagh

learning our strengths and learning together

LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES

weaving of patterns within nature's patterns via creative relationships and reciprocities among love, land, and life (vigour) that are constantly reinforced and nourished by Aboriginal languages

un-weaving of nature's patterns (especially via analytic logic and the use of instruments) to cognitively reconstruct them, especially using mathematical language (rigour) and computer models

learning our strengths and learning together

LANGUAGES and METHODOLOGIES



learning our strengths and learning together

OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

collective, living
knowledge to enable
nourishment of one's journey
within expanding sense of
"place, emergence and
participation" for collective
consciousness and
interconnectiveness

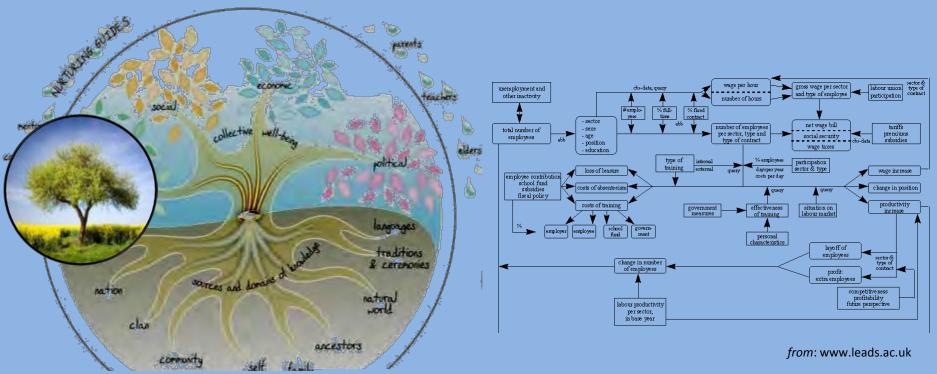
dynamic, testable,
published knowledge
independent of
personal experience
that can enable
prediction and control
(and "progress")

towards resonance of understanding within environment

towards construction of understanding of environment

learning our strengths and learning together

OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES



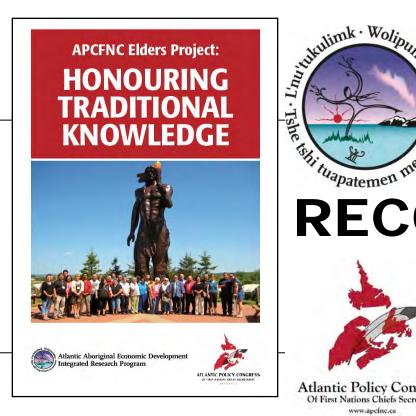
from: CCL Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre

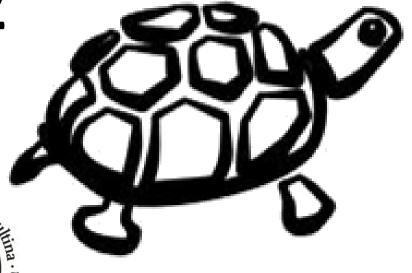
(www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL)

towards resonance of understanding within environment

towards construction of understanding of environment

APPENDIX #2





Tolli-tuapatemen menerila **ELDERS'** RECOMMENDATIONS



from APCFNC / AAEDIRP **Elders Research Project**

The following is a list of the eight ELDERS' RECOMMENDATIONS from the APCFNC Elders Project* "Honouring Traditional Knowledge".

It is an initial list concerning how Elders would like to be consulted when sharing Traditional Knowledge.

Reading and acknowledging this list of recommendations should not be considered a form of consultation with Atlantic Aboriginal communities.

* project report: http://www.apcfnc.ca/en/resources/HonouringTraditionalKnowledgeFinal.pdf



1. It needs to be recognized that Atlantic Aboriginal communities are losing their Elders, their languages and their cultural knowledge very rapidly. Therefore, Aboriginal communities and leadership need to recognize the urgency and importance of working alongside Elders and learning from their Traditional Knowledge immediately.



2. It is imperative that Elders be involved in all aspects of the territorial, cultural, linguistic, ecological, economic development and social affairs of Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Elders are in a position to help prioritize what is most important because of their collective cultural knowledge.



3. Traditional Knowledge should be woven into all aspects of Aboriginal community life, including economic development, fisheries, health, social, law, environment and education, etc.



4. Elders should be consulted in meaningful ways and have advisory roles for all Aboriginal community planning, development, implementation and evaluation taking place. Meaningful involvement would include being members of steering committees and advisory committees so that Elders have input into decision making.



5. Traditional Knowledge must be shared and passed on before it is lost. The ways in which Traditional Knowledge is passed on, needs to be directed by the Elders from each territory.



6. An Elders Council, appointed by Elders, that would advise on matters related to the sharing of Traditional Knowledge, should be formed for the Atlantic region.

The Council would advise on matters related to protocols and/or ethics and the best practices for the sharing of Traditional Knowledge as well as the best practices for working alongside Elders. This would include working alongside Elders in all areas of community life and development including research.



The Elders Council, once formed, would engage in a process of co-learning with the Atlantic region universities to create a template for how the process of this knowledge transfer could occur.

7. Elders should be involved in developing and approving educational curriculum related to Traditional Knowledge for Aboriginal community schools, provincial and post-secondary institutions in the Atlantic region.

Traditional Knowledge should be woven into the social studies, science and language curriculum for primary and secondary schools in Atlantic Aboriginal communities. This would ensure proper and meaningful education for Aboriginal learners, enable the communities to develop a balance between western and Aboriginal learning methods and better prepare Aboriginal children for their future paths.

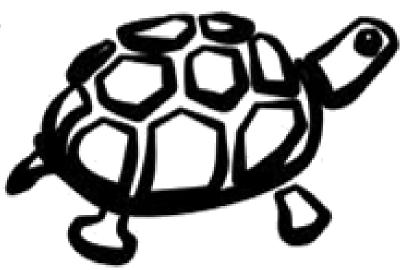


Post-secondary institutions should be compelled to seek guidance from the Elders Council (described above in # 6) to develop appropriate curriculum related to Traditional Knowledge for relevant post-secondary programming.

8. Each Aboriginal community needs to encourage the use of traditional practices, which are products of Traditional Knowledge. This would encourage younger generations to learn about and respect traditional practices, such as traditional laws, cultural and spiritual practices, language learning and practices related to hunting and fishing, food gathering, medicine, ecology, science, arts and education.

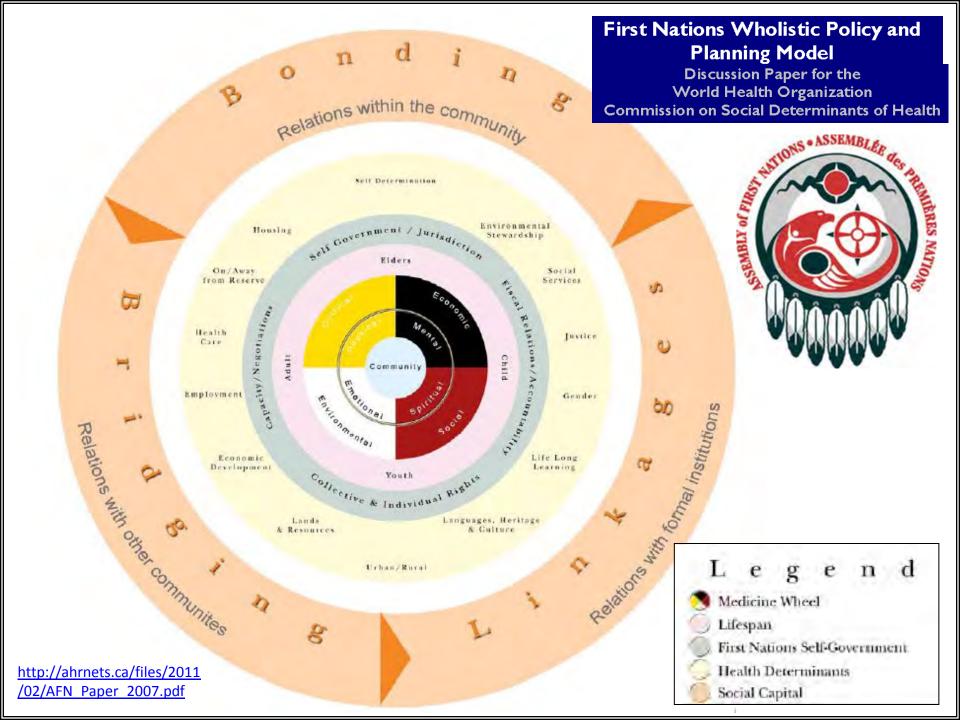


APPENDIX #3

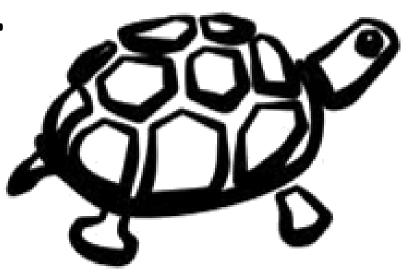


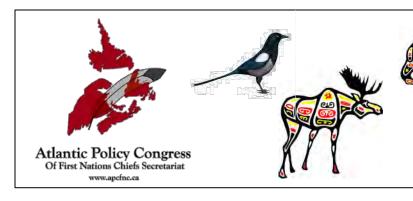
AFN model (planning and policy) for healthy communities

http://ahrnets.ca/files/2011/02/AFN Paper 2007.pdf



APPENDIX #4





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KECCA ... Knowledge: Education and Cultural Consultant Associates

KECCA

Knowledge: Education and Cultural Consultant Associates

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KECCA is a Mi'kmaw First Nation's community-based entity that provides consulting services with respect to Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge. Services provided are directed towards:

- ensuring accurate interpretation of Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge.
- ensuring correct orthography for written Mi'kmaq.
- ensuring protocols for ethical guidance and review via Unama'ki Council of Elders.
- ensuring timely and appropriate consideration for issues related to intellectual property rights.

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