

## REKINDLING MI'KMAW STORIES FOR MODERN CHILDRISING PRACTICES

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- 2010-2011
  - research and application
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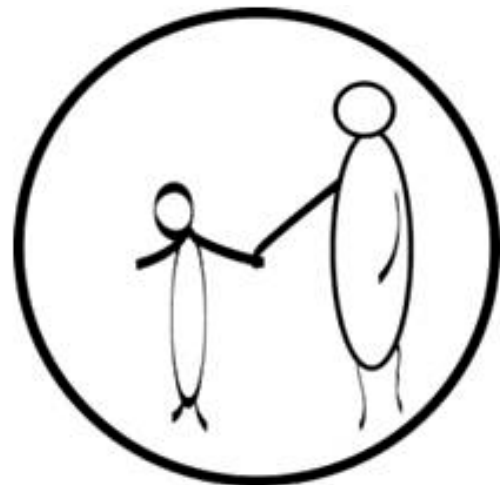
Prune Harris is working in conjunction with Mi'kmaw Elders Murdena Marshall, Diana Denny, Susie Marshall and Flo Young from Eskasoni First Nation on an AARHP (Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program) funded research project entitled, "Rekindling Mi'kmaq Stories for



Modern Childraising Practices". The research team is asking the question "How can Aboriginal Elders' stories best be mobilized to engender and nourish a healthy spirit in children growing up in today's world?" Socio-cultural factors have profound influence on parenting practices and therefore on the development of children, especially with regards to their ability to bond with others and feel themselves connected and cherished. The four grandmother Elders involved in this research project have indicated that understandings within traditional teachings can bring knowing and harmony into parent-child

bonding and attachment, and encourage the life affirmative recognition that such are nested within a greater community of supportive relationships.

A bilingual (Mi'kmaq and English) children's book will be one of the outcomes of this project, combining stories and understandings traditionally used by the Mi'kmaq to help nourish and nurture children of all ages. Artist Gerald Gloade of Millbrook First Nation is providing artwork for the book (note: icons on this page were done by Sana Kavanagh).



There will also be an academic paper produced by the team. It is hoped that this research will help to rekindle, revitalize, and mobilize these traditional understandings for the benefit of today's Mi'kmaw children, parents, and communities.