

First Nations Water Workshop

15-16 July 2010, Toronto; organized by:

- Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER)
- Simon Fraser University's Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT)
- Bob Sanford, Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative of the United Nations International "Water for Life" Decade

Two-Eyed Seeing:
water ... our life blood

Albert Marshall

Elder and HonDLitt, Eskasoni community, Mi'kmaq Nation

albertdmarshall@ns.sympatico.ca





Unama'kik

“Land of Fog”
(Cape Breton Island)

MI'KMA'KI

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



Water is our life blood.

Water is in the Sacred Realm.
As the Cradle of Life,
water sustains everything.

Water is our life blood.



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

artist Basma Kavanagh

**Mi'kmaq 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 our communities.**

words of: Elder Murdena Marshall,
Eskasoni community, Mi'kmaq Nation

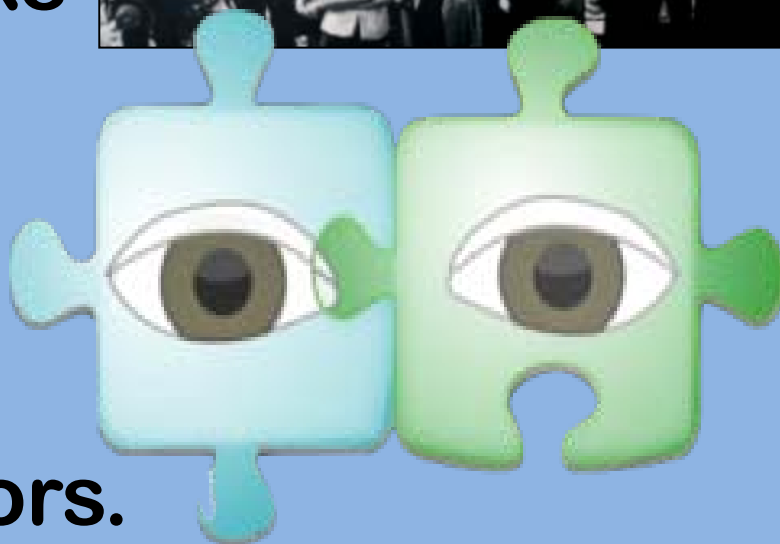


artist Basma Kavanagh

As Elders in Our Time

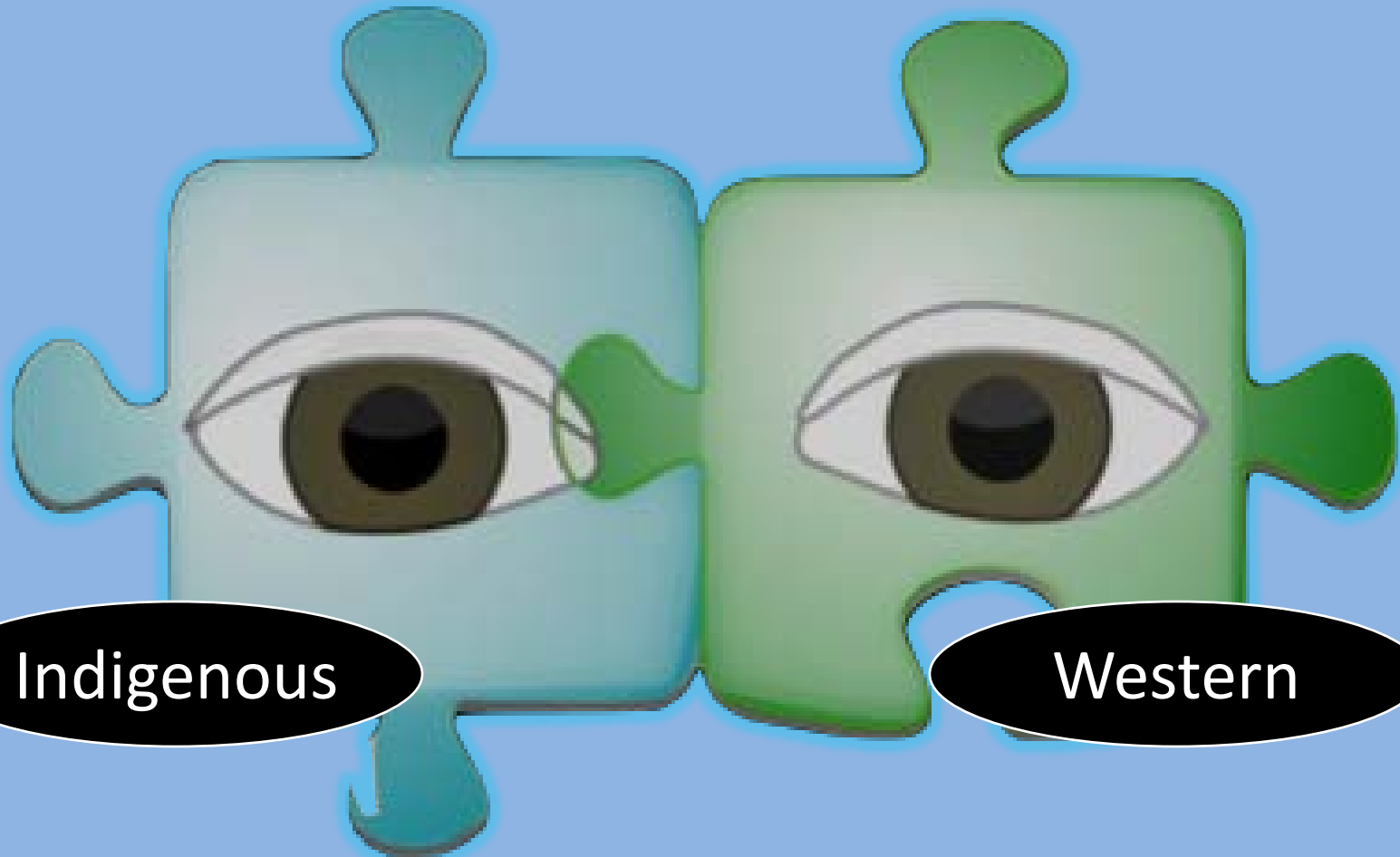
We seek to be a conduit for wisdom of our Ancestors.

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.



Our Guiding Principle

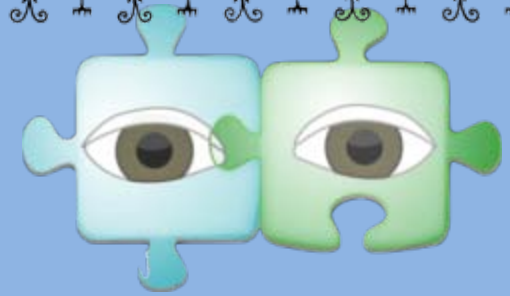
Etuaptmumk – Two-Eyed Seeing



Indigenous

Western

Two-Eyed Seeing



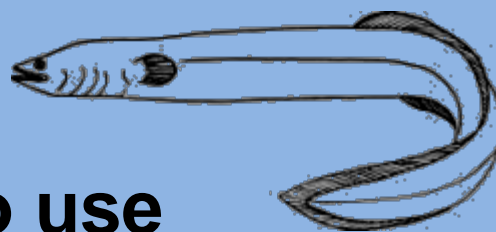
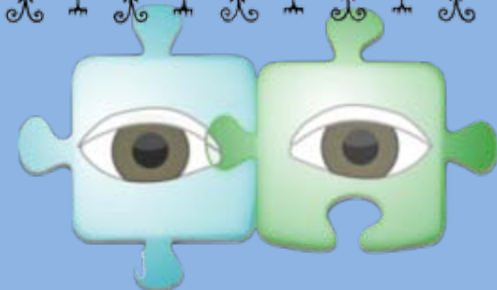
**It is not enough
to go through life with
one perspective.
Rather, we must
embrace
all the tools
we have ...**



Two-Eyed Seeing

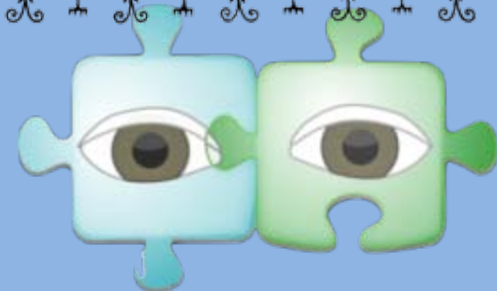
LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in our Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the best in the Western (or mainstream) ways of knowing ...

... and learn to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.



Two-Eyed Seeing

Hard to convey as does not fit into any particular subject area or discipline ... is about life ... what you do, what kind of responsibilities you have ... is a Guiding Principle for how one lives while on Earth that covers all aspects of our lives: social, economic, environmental, etc.

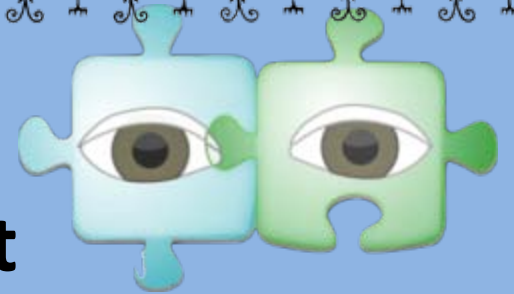


Advantage:

Because you are always fine tuning your mind into different places at once, you are always looking for another perspective and better way of doing things.



Two-Eyed Seeing



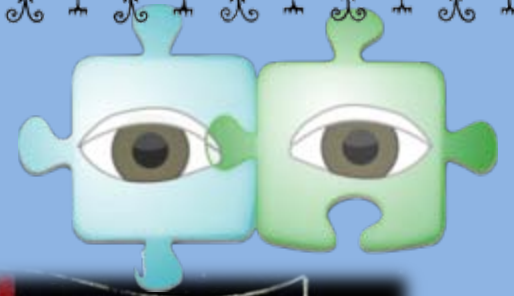
Our language teaches us that everything alive is both physical and spiritual.

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.

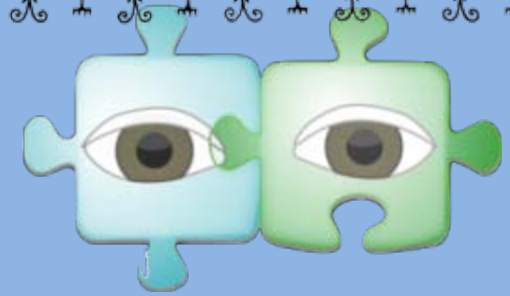


**Everything that we
do to our natural world
... we also
do to ourselves.**



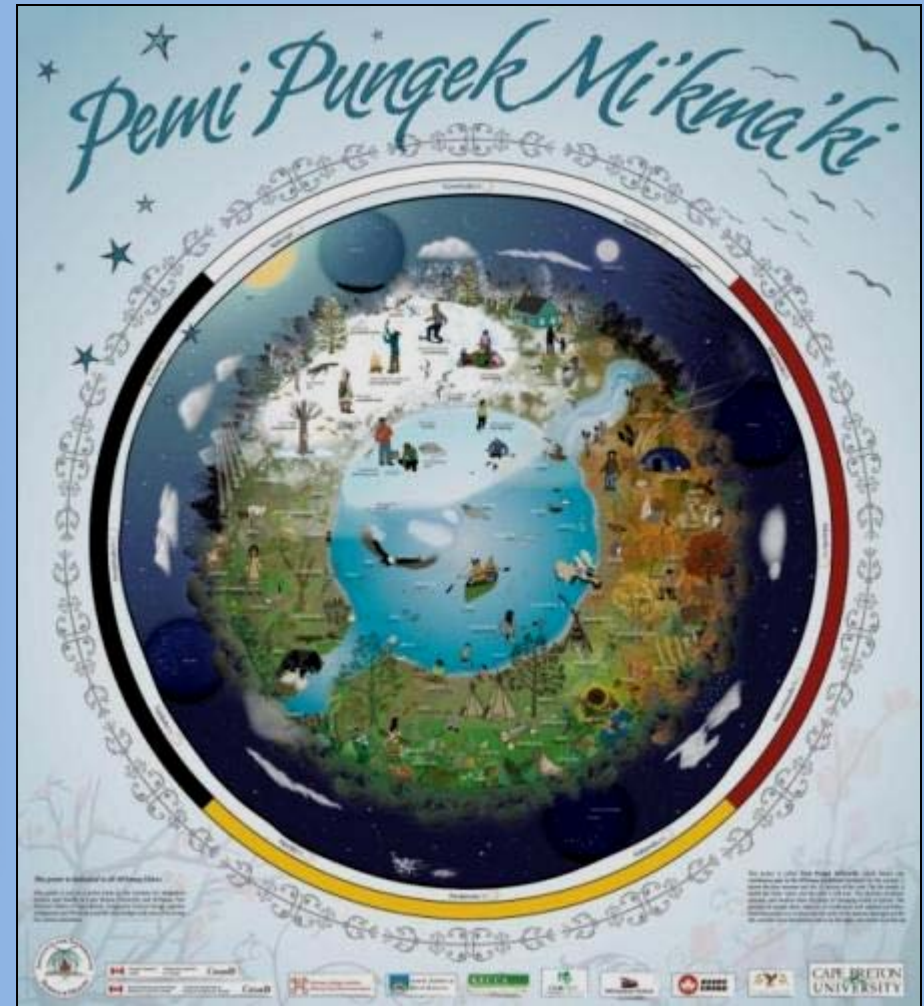
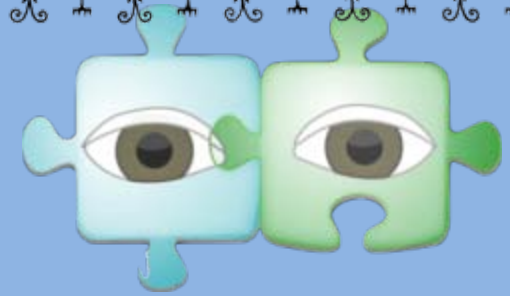
Artist Basma Kavanagh

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

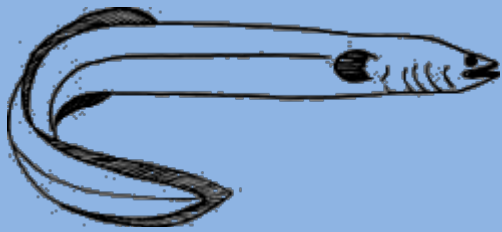
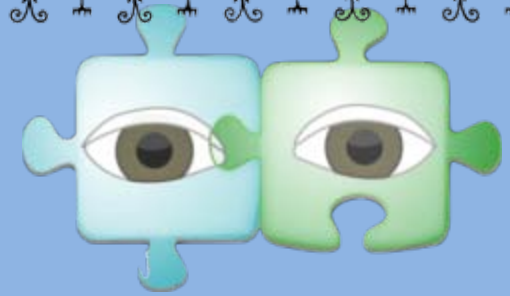


Artist Basma Kavanagh

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



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

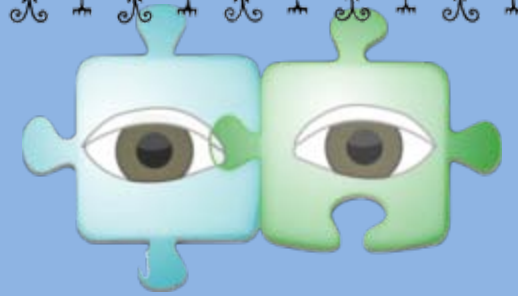


Eels (Kataq)
are now a
*Species
of Concern.*



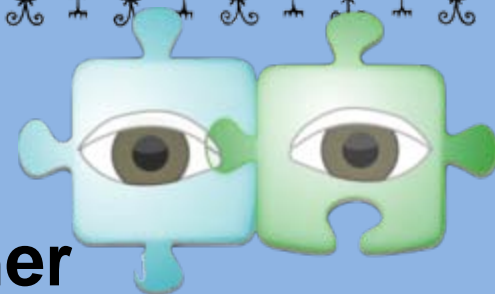
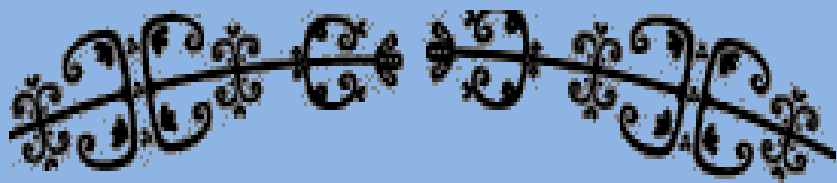
Artist Basma Kavanagh

**If people are starving,
they will not care about
environmental sustainability ...**



**We have to
dissociate
ourselves from the
“*Myth of False Security*”
that the industrial
revolution has
instilled in our minds.**





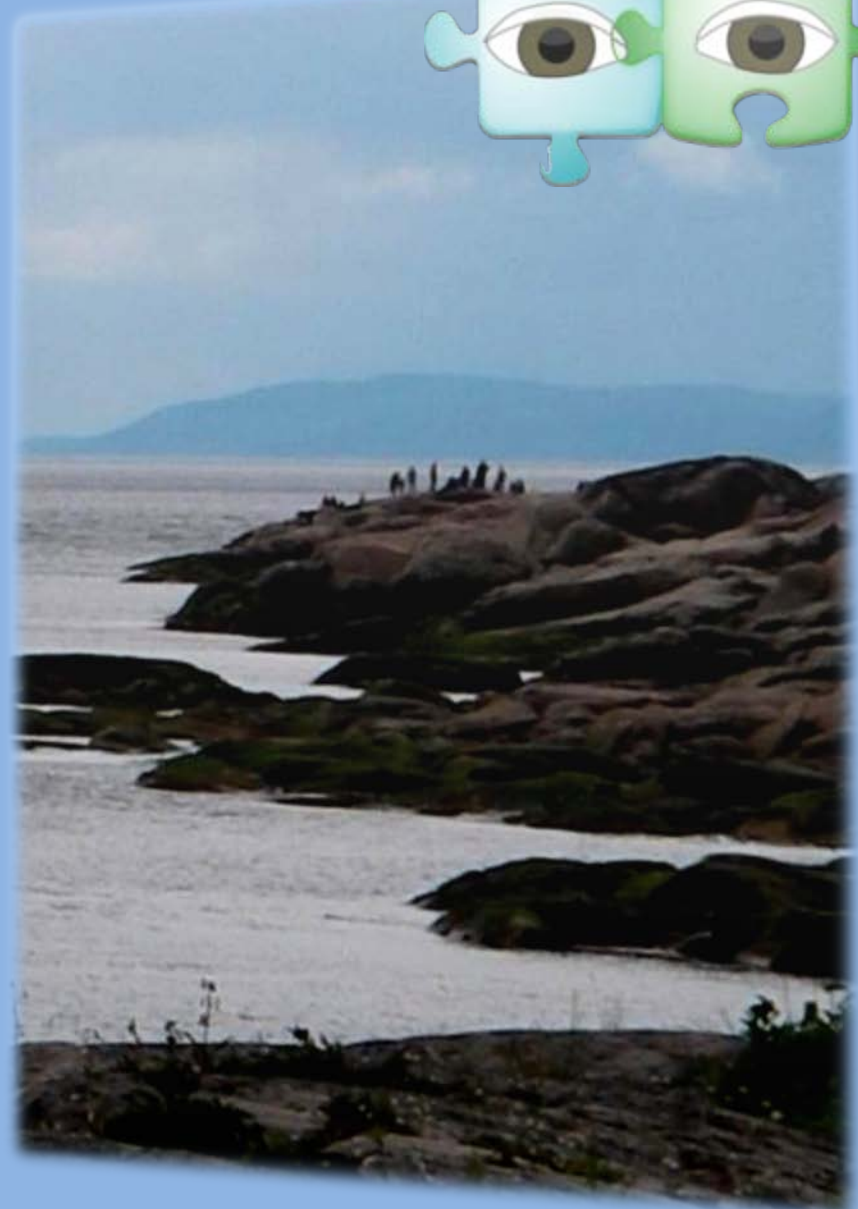
**We need to
come together
as one where all these
things can be taken in.**



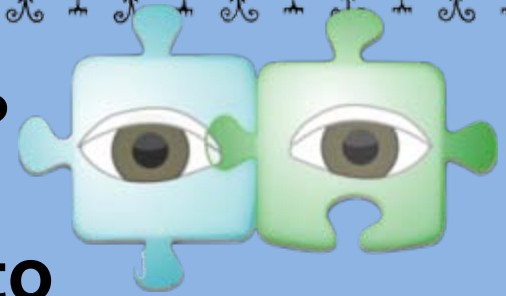
Our Mi'kmaq culture is
still very much alive ...
and we can extract
those principles of how
one can sustain
oneself without
compromising abilities
for the future.

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.



Is this all just philosophy?



TWO-EYED SEEING is not going to be salvation but rather through these things termed “philosophy” ...



... 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.

MI'KMAQ LANGUAGE

Our 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) sespıte'tmnej = worry about what you do
... *action is guided*



Netukulimk

“sustaining ourselves”

yes ... but really is a
much richer concept;
it is wholistic.

All Our Relations



<http://myanimalblog.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/g-bull-moose.jpg>



<http://blog.silive.com/weather/2007/09/red-maple-tree.jpg>



http://images.enature.com/fishes/fishes_1/fi0016_11.jpg



http://www.krisweb.com/krisshoopscot/krisdb/html/krisweb/aqualife/atlantic_salmon_asc_beland.jpg

Netukulimk

All Our Relations

Co-existence
Interrelativeness
Interconnectiveness
Community Spirit

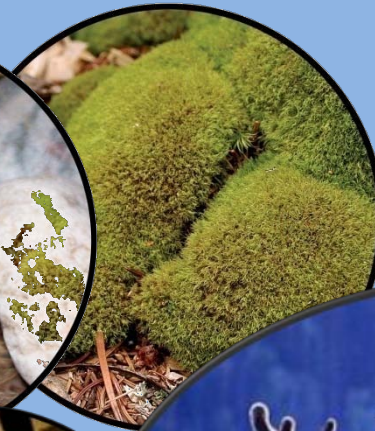


<http://blog.silive.com/weather/2007/09/red-maple-tree.jpg>



... takes you into a place where you are very conscious of how the human two-legs 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.



Humans possess responsibilities.

Other species possess rights.

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.**



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?



Wela'lioq
Thank you