

TWO-EYED SEEING ETUAPTUMUK

Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge For Today

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY:

Albert Marshall

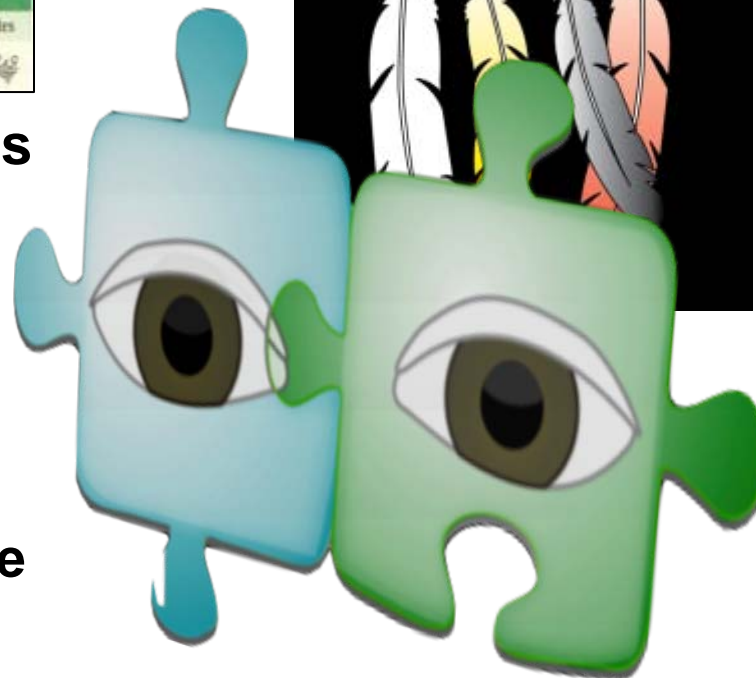


**Elder & Honorary Doctor of Letters
Eskasoni community
Mi'kmaw Nation**

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**FOR: Lands Management and
Economic Development Conference
8 February 2012; Moncton, NB**

ATLANTIC REGION ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION



TWO-EYED SEEING ETUAPTUMUK

**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.**

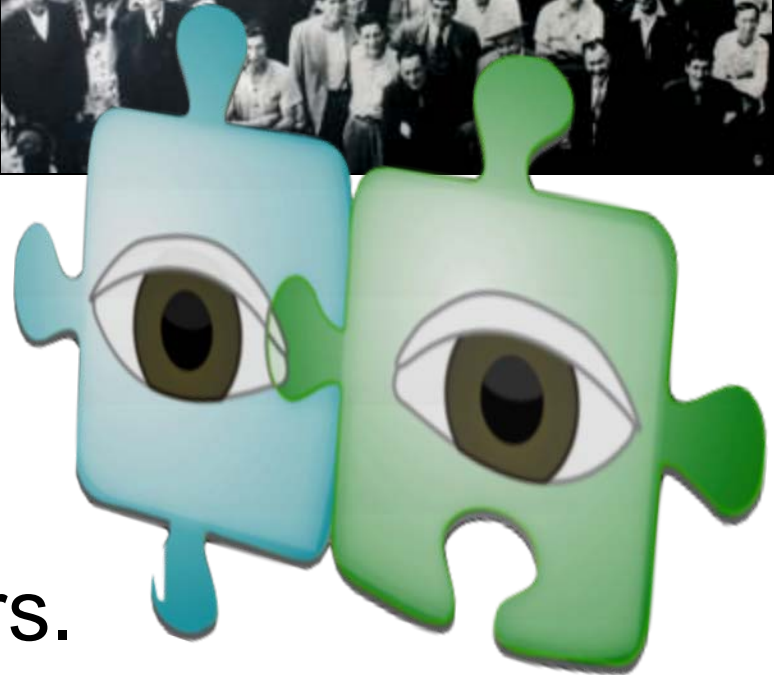
(Two-Eyed Seeing: a guiding principle)



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.

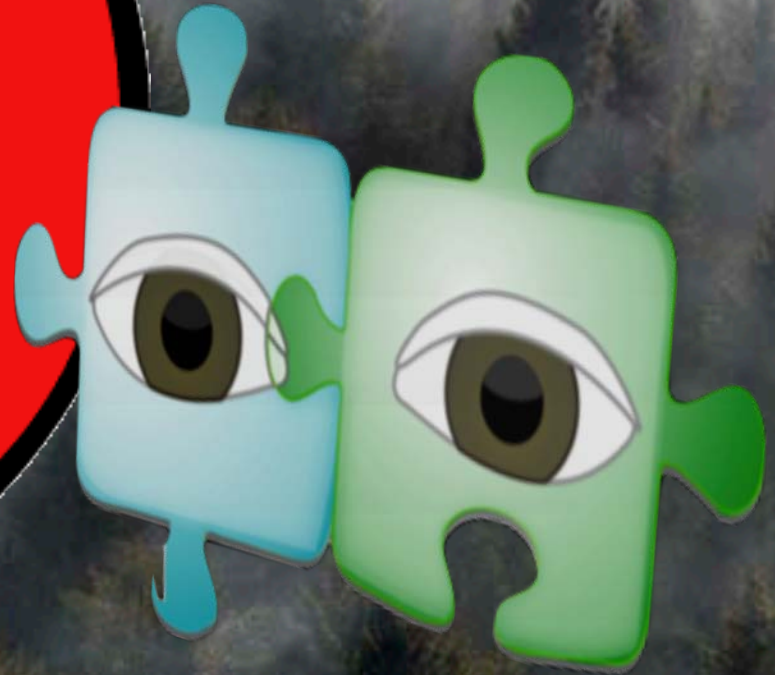


**lands management
and economic
development
thinking**

physical

spiritual

emotional



LANDS MANAGEMENT

• TWO-EYED SEEING •

**QUESTIONS ... we need to ask ourselves
as we plan for the next 50+ years:**

- 1) land base ... more? how much?
- 2) land-based sustainable activities ... what?
- 3) land-based interconnectiveness ... health?
- 4) land-based necessities ... water supplies?
- 5) land-based voices ... language revitalization?
- 6) land-based education for youth ... what?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• TWO-EYED SEEING •

**CONSIDERATIONS ... we need to make
as we plan for the next 50+ years:**

let us transform the concept of
“economic development” to mean to try to:

... balance economic interests with those of
conservation, environment, and culture

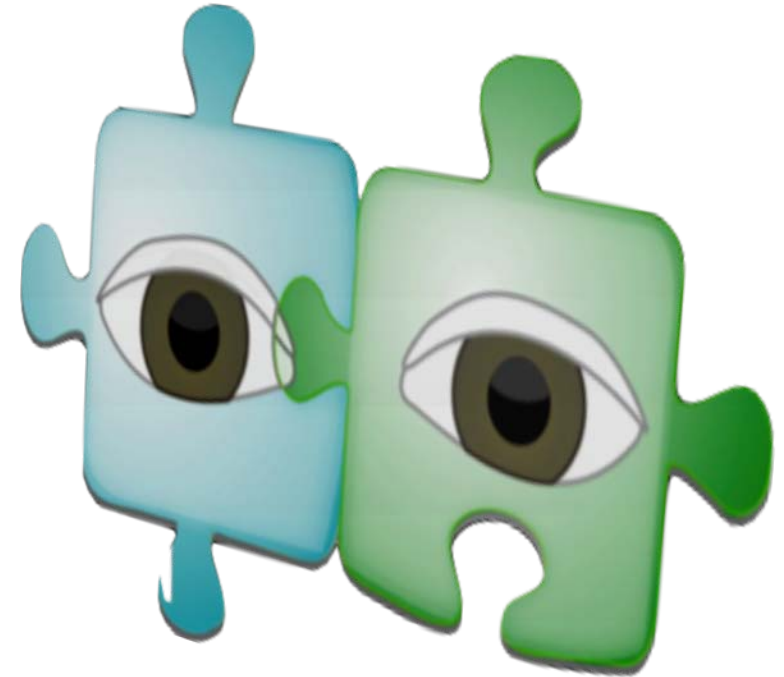
... ensure no project will degrade our Earth Mother

KNOWLEDGE IS SPIRIT.

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



**Artist:
Basma Kavanagh**



Ta'ntelo'lti'k

MI'KMA'KI

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



Ta'ntelo'Iti'k

*how we
Lnu'k are*



Ta'ntelo'Iti'k

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



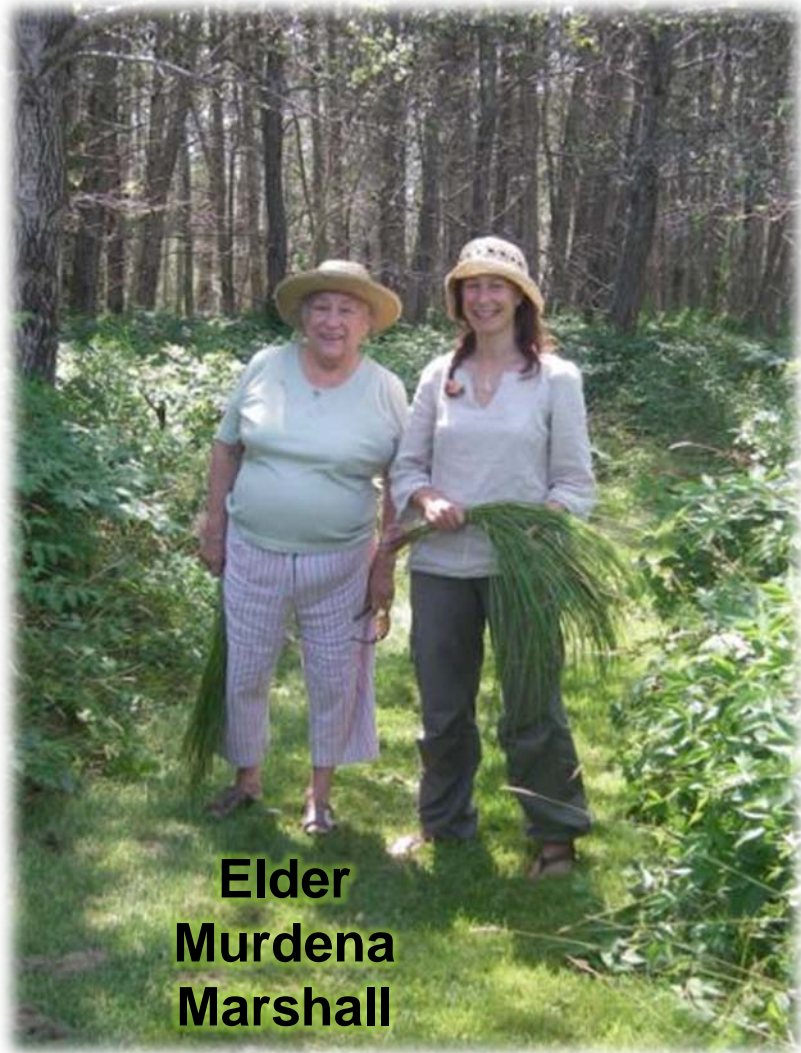
Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

**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.**



Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge



**Elder
Murdena
Marshall**

**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

“LIVING KNOWLEDGE”

within a worldview in which our

**VALUES,
ACTIONS,
and
KNOWLEDGE**

... are all towards:

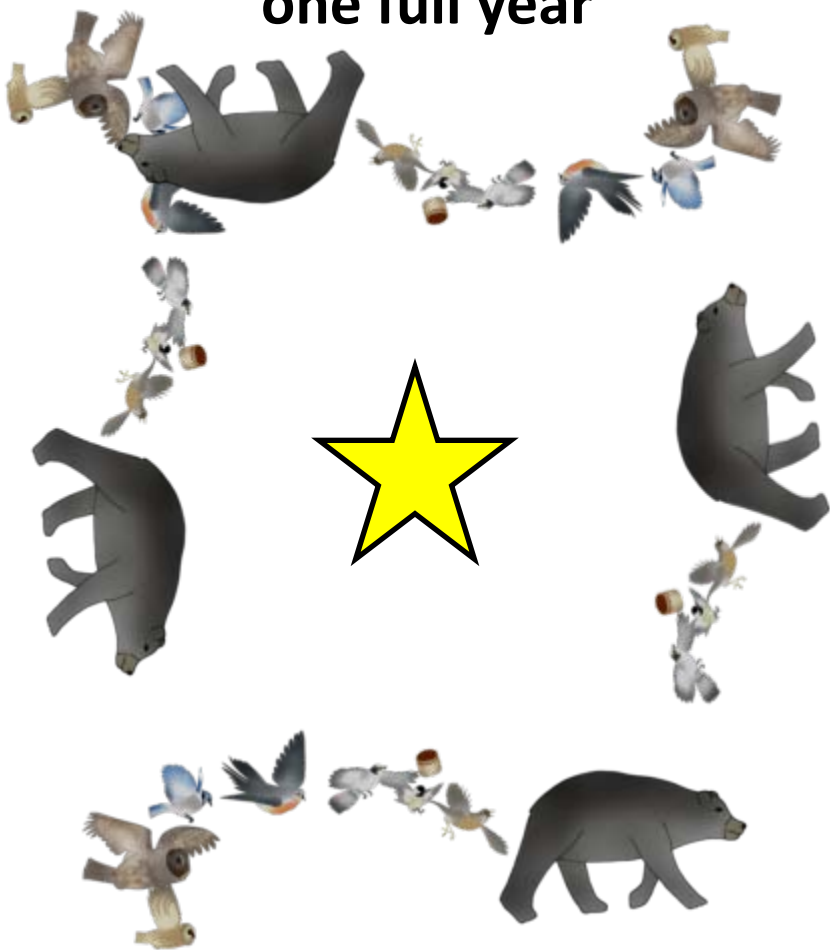
INTERCONNECTIVENESS



Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

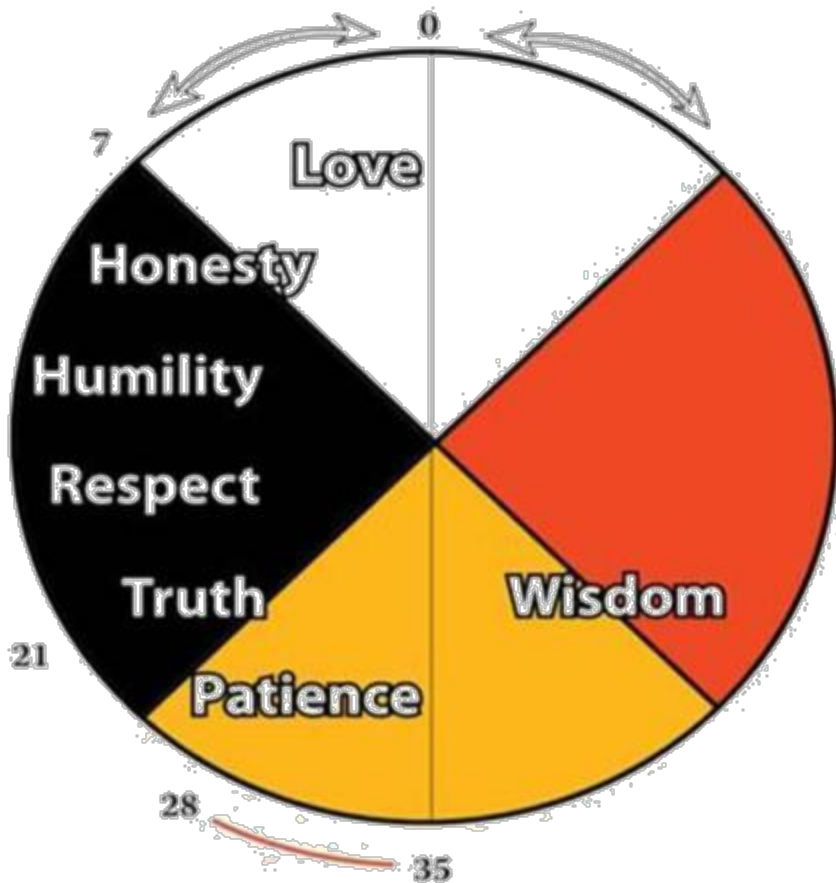
INTERCONNECTIVENESS

one full year



Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge

INTERCONNECTIVENESS

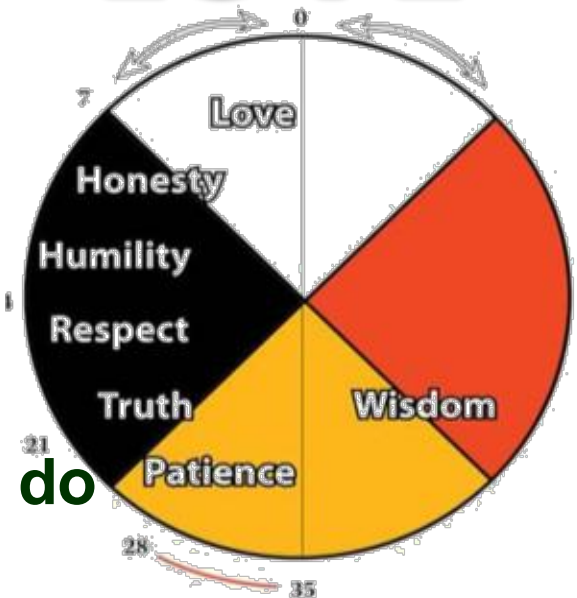


Our Mi'kmaw language is the key to how our actions will unfold. Each word is much deeper than only taking care of an object. Animacy brings personal connection ... such that actions fit actions (everything is in the picture) and we are always mindful of the ...

First Sacred Gift of Life: **LOVE**

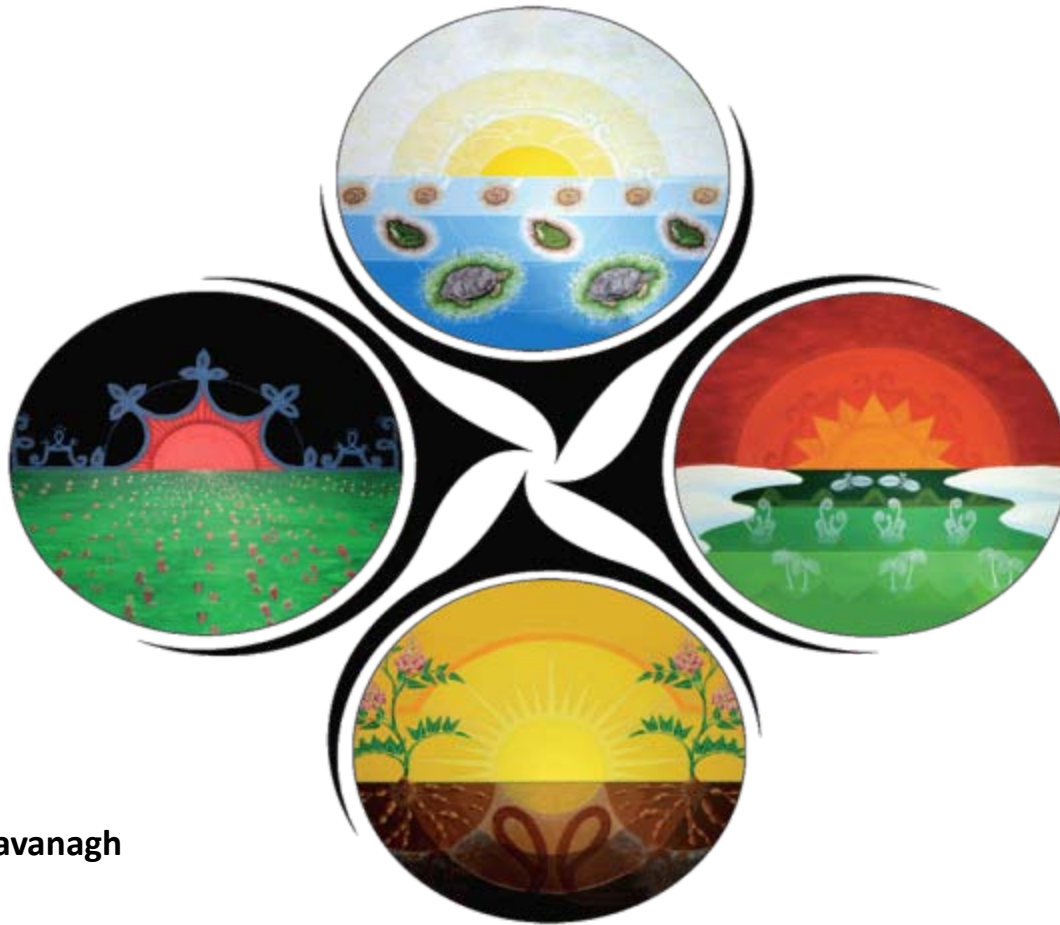
EXAMPLES

- 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*



Spiritual Interconnectiveness with our lands

WATER – EARTH – SKY – AIR



Artist:
Basma Kavanagh

MI'KMAW LAND - MI'KMAW LANGUAGE -



Land of Fog
Lying in the Water and Explosive Area
Skin Dresser's Area
Wild Potato Area
Land's End
Drainage Area
Last Land
Land Across the Water

map (modified) from: www.muiniskw.org

MI'KMAW LAND - MI'KMAW LANGUAGE -



map (modified) from: www.muiniskw.org

Unama'kik

Epekwitk

Pitukewa'kik

Eski'kewa'kik

Sipkne'katik

Kespukwitk

Sikniktewa'qkik

Kespe'kewa'qkik

Ktaqmkuk

Land of Fog

**Lying in the Water and
Explosive Area**

Skin Dresser's Area

Wild Potato Area

Land's End

Drainage Area

Last Land

Land Across the Water

map (modified) from: www.muiniskw.org

Netukulimk

“sustaining ourselves”

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

All Our Relations



Netukulimk

“sustaining ourselves”

Co-existence
Inter-dependence
Community Spirit

All Our Relations



... 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.

Netukulimk ... teaches you

It is Living Knowledge and its “Principle for Humility” is based on Lnu’k knowledge ... evolving for 10,000 years.



values, actions, knowledge
of interconnectiveness



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

Netukulimk ... teaches you



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

from: Master's thesis research “Mi'kmaw traditional knowledge of eels” by Sana Kavanagh

Netukulimk ... teaches you



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

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

Netukulimk ... teaches you



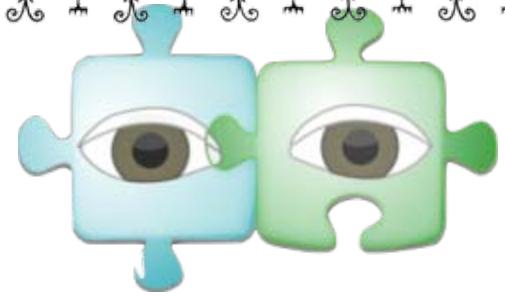
Community Spirit

“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.”

words of Mi’kmaw Elder Albert Marshall

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

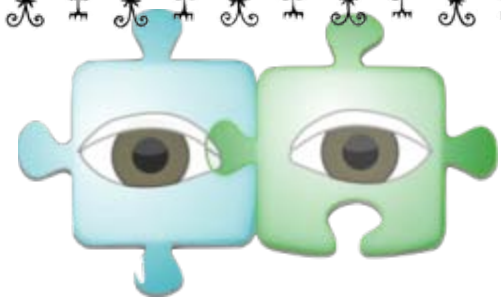
**Our language teaches us
that everything alive is
both physical and spiritual.**



**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.**

image: www.blackfootcrossing.ca

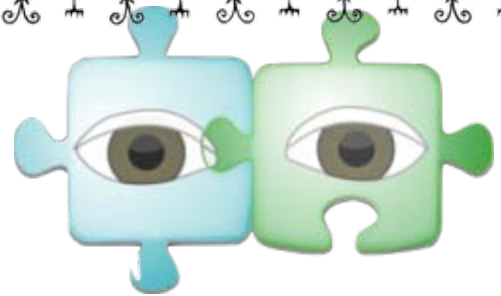


Humans possess responsibilities.

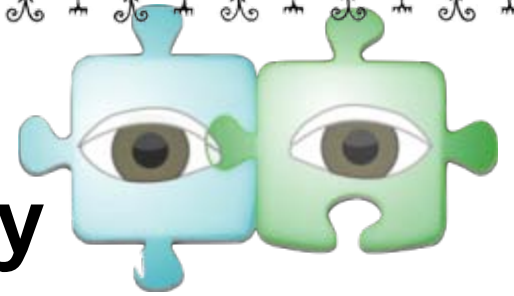
Other species possess rights.



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

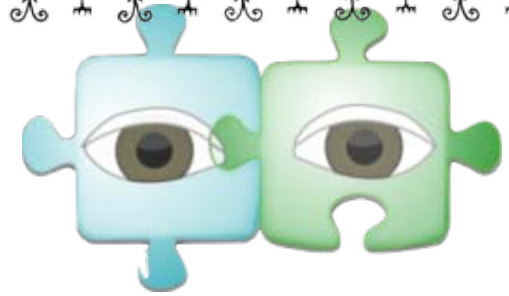


**If pollution exceeds
the natural cleansing capacity
of our ecosystems ...**

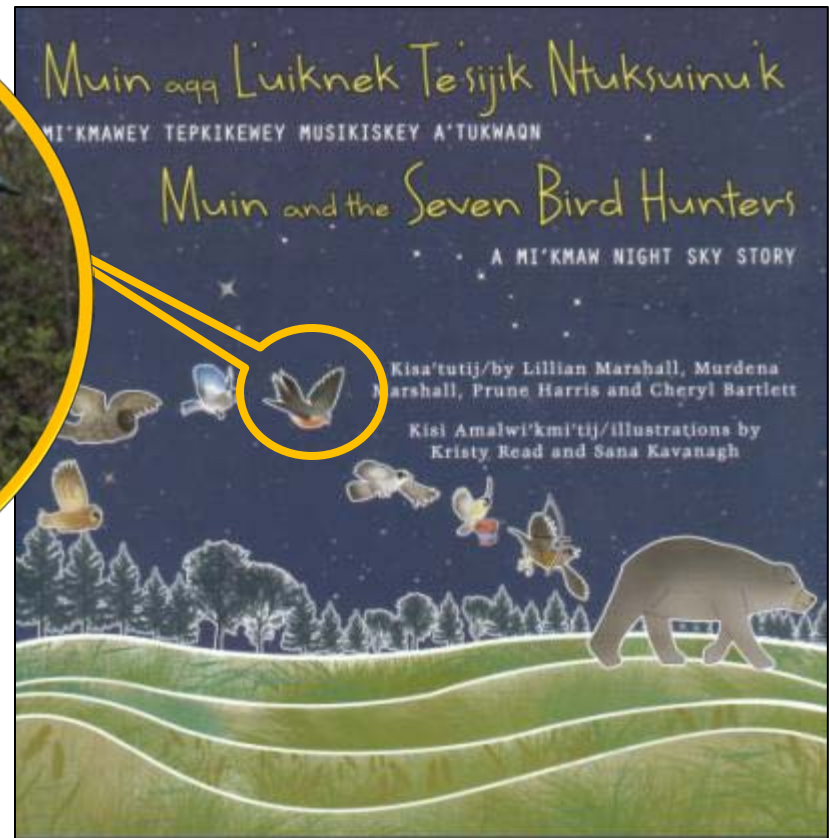


Artist Basma Kavanagh

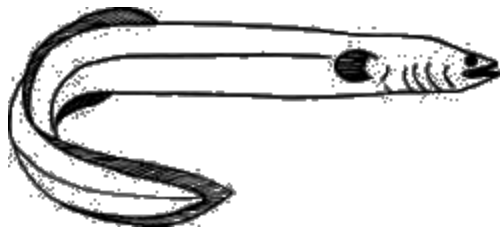
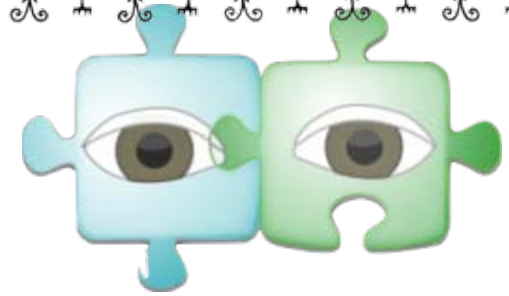
**If species become extinct,
some of our relations are
gone forever ...**



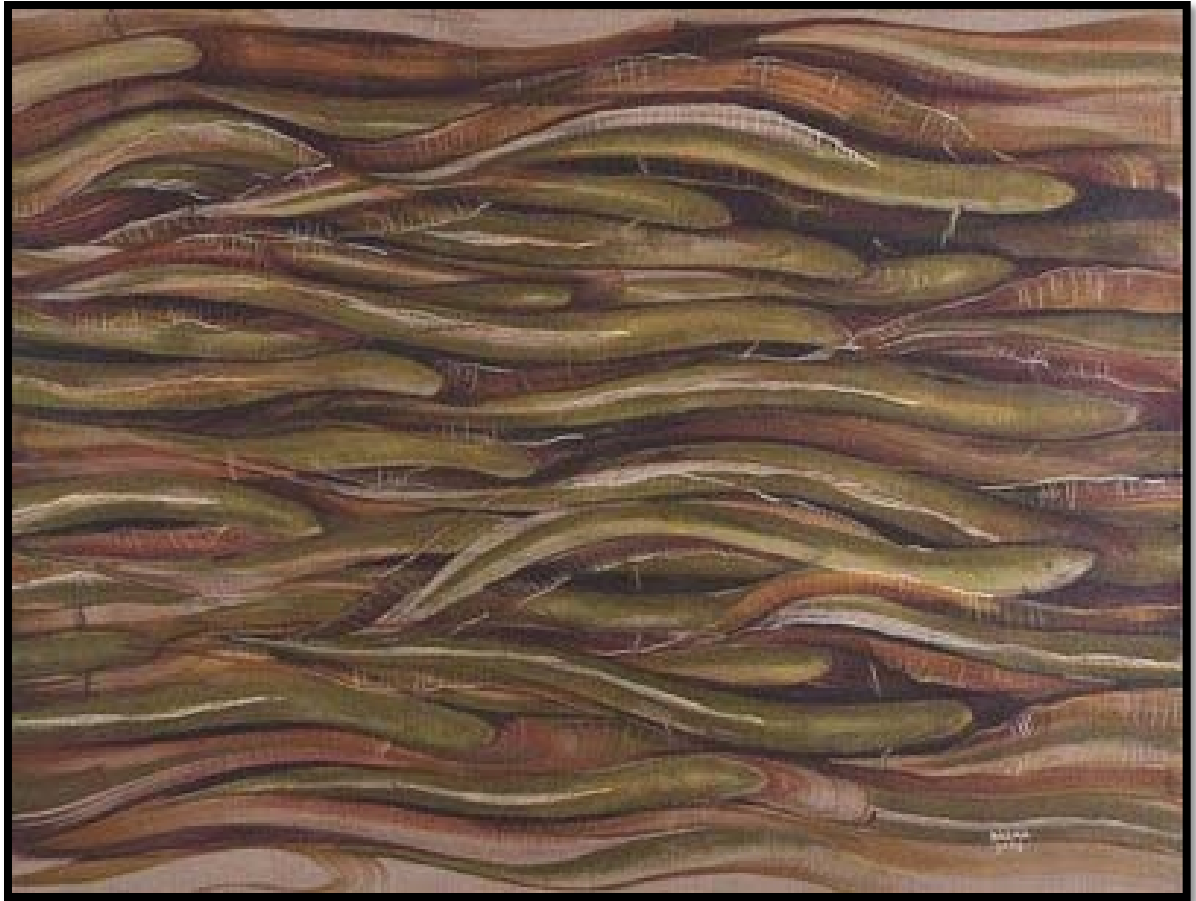
**Ples
(Passenger Pigeon)**



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

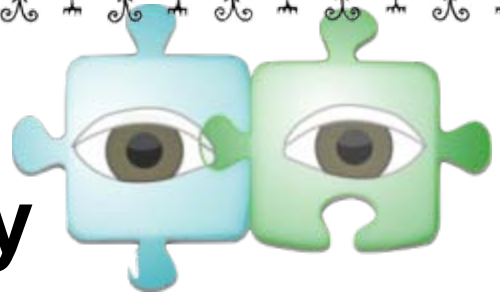


**Eels (Kataq)
are now a
*Species
of Concern.***



Artist Basma Kavanagh

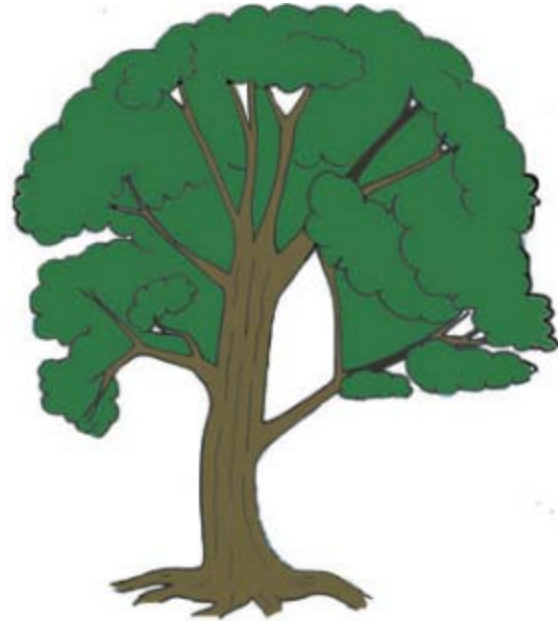
If consumption of resources exceeds the carrying capacity of our ecosystems ...



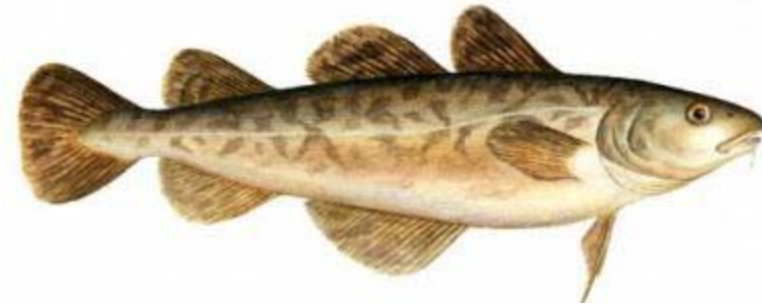
**Forests are watersheds ...
and thus are our life support.**



Forestry

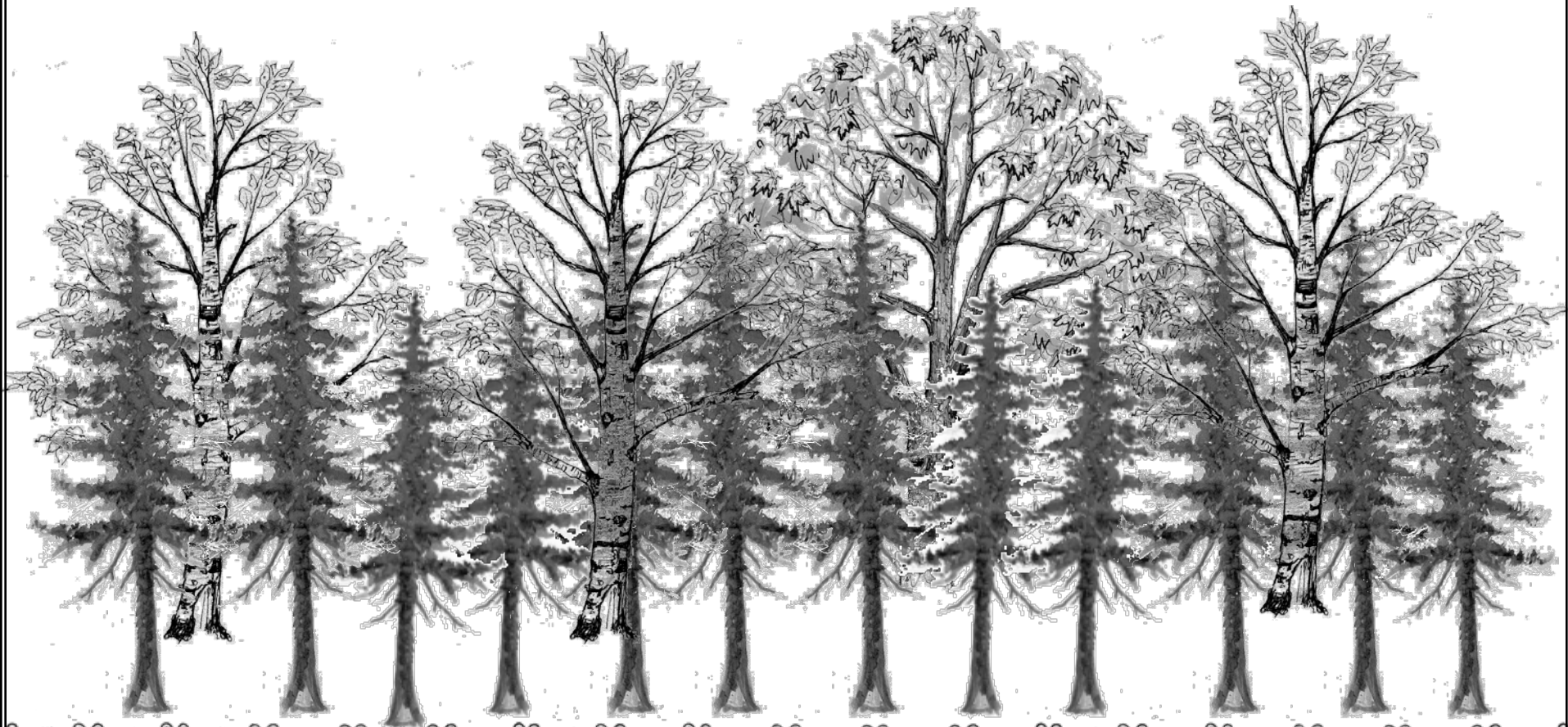


Fisheries



**Our forests face the same risks as the
cod fishery if our approaches do not change.**

High demand on conifers creates imbalance within the ecosystem.



**If hardwoods are left ... and are
at the mercy of contractors ...**







**lands management
and economic
development
thinking**

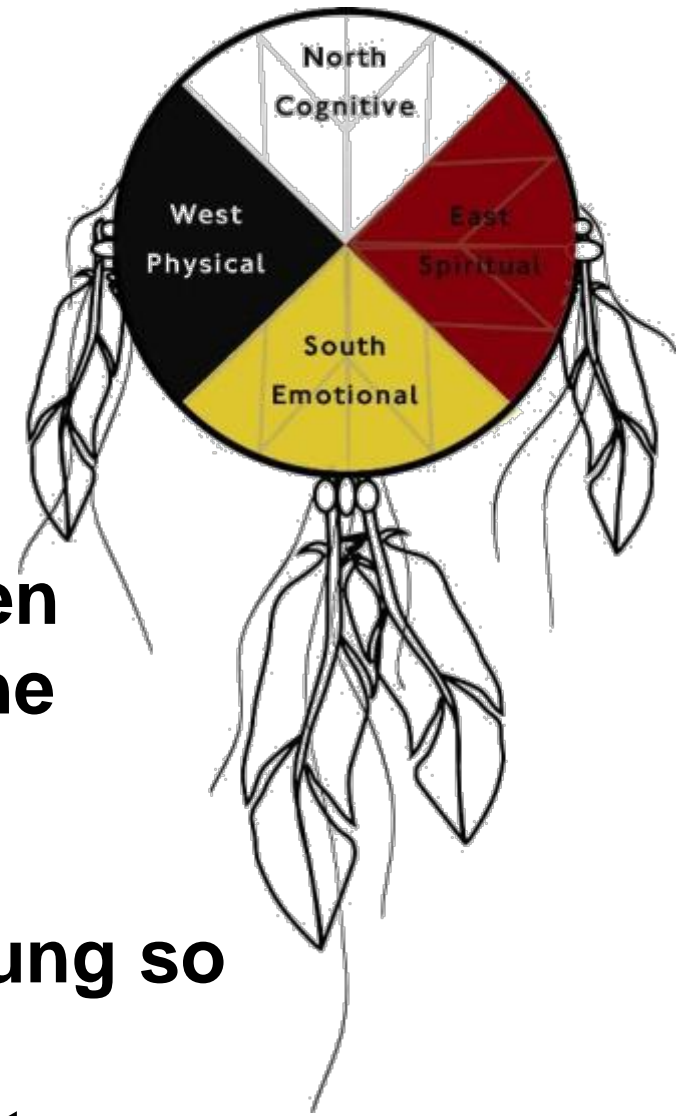
physical

spiritual

emotional

Through utilization of the Gifts from Creator we can become whole. We can take care of our needs: living, dwelling, physical, and spiritual.

Education is critical because we have been disconnected from the natural world so the lessons need to be transferred to the young so they too can address conservation and culture.





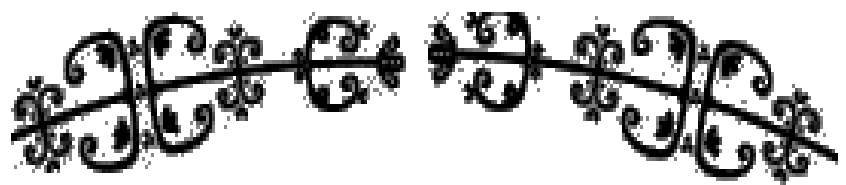
We have to dissociate ourselves from the “*Myth of False Security*” that the industrial revolution has instilled in our minds.





**With the
“Myth of False Security”
we have not been able
to practice teachings
from the Ancestors.**

These teachings may not provide benefits in the short term, but by following them we can enjoy the Gifts that Creator has given us and at same time ensure that our Earth Mother is healthy and then humans and all other species will also be healthy. If they are not healthy, then how can we sustain ourselves?



**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.



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

Consciousness of Knowing

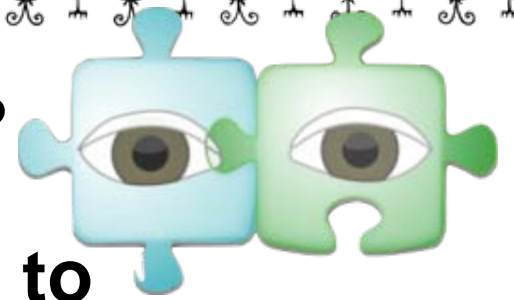


artist Basma Kavanagh

***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.**

Is this all just philosophy?

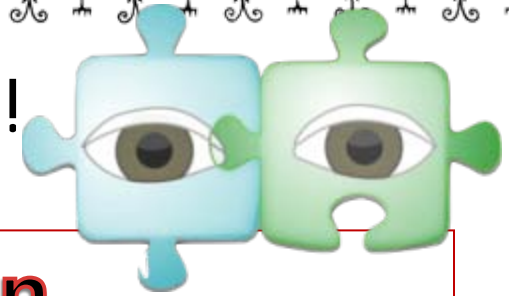


TWO-EYED SEEING is not going to be salvation but rather through these things termed “philosophy” ...



... 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.

It's more than "just philosophy"!



We need to engage in
“CO-LEARNING”

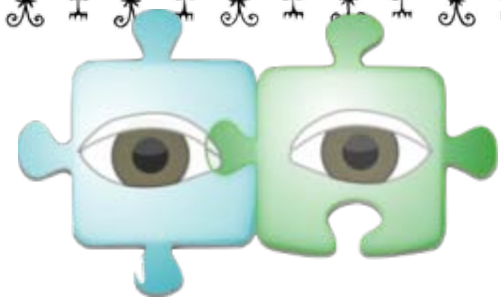
... as a way of meaningfully working together

**... pioneered within Unama'ki – Cape Breton
by Mi'kmaw Elders and educators
and personnel within the
Integrative Science research program at
Cape Breton University ...
our approach continues to evolve.**





Membertou Trade and Convention Centre; collection of Alex Paul



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

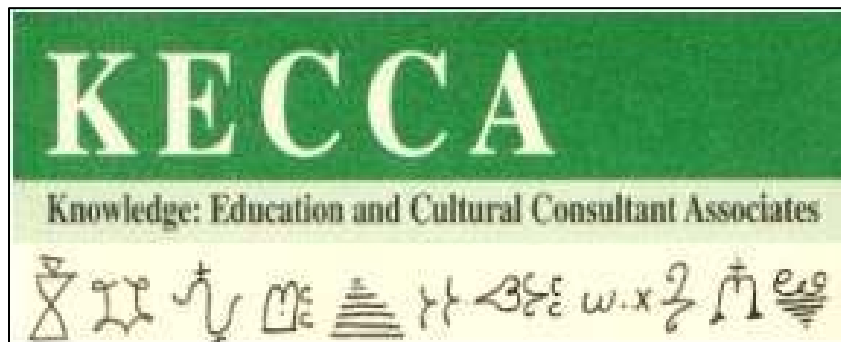
for additional information:

KECCA ... Knowledge: Education and Cultural Consultant Associates

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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for additional information:



<http://www.integrativescience.ca>