

Decolonization Learning Journey

A four-part Learning Journey with Mi'kmaw Elders and knowledge sharers.



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Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia

Decolonization Learning Journey – Resource document

Webinar #2- June 9, 2020

Hosting team:

- Elder Jane Meader, Elder, BACS & MEd
- Mary Beth Doucette, Assistant Professor and Purdy Crawford Chair in CBU's Shannon School of Business
- Nicole Cammaert, Associate Executive Director, CSCNS

Guest speaker:

Clifford Paul, Moose Management Coordinator, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR)

Topic:

Netukulimk, Harvesting, Sustainable Ways of Living, and Seven Generations

Questions & Responses

Beyond these kind of learning opportunities, how can settlers (who care deeply about environment and reconciliation (and may work in the environmental/conservation field) be better allies or become allies?

As Canadians learn about and acknowledge efforts towards reconciliation with the Indigenous people of this land, we more and more hear the term "ally." Being an ally can take many forms, and in some ways is defined by each individual and their actions.

However, there are some standard guidelines which individuals are encouraged to adopt in their approach to reconciliation:

https://segalcentre.org/common/sitemedia/201819_Shows/ENG_AllyToolkit.pdf

What does it mean to have "love in your heart" in terms of harvesting?

This notion is central to the Mi'kmaw principle of netukulimk, which is the use of the natural bounty provided by the Creator for the self-support and well-being of the individual and the community. Netukulimk is achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity, or productivity of our environment. The Mi'kmaq have an inherent right to access and use natural resources and they have a responsibility to use those resources in a sustainable way. The Mi'kmaq way of resource management includes a spiritual element that ties together people, plants, animals, and the environment.

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Could Clifford tell us about the importance of the eagle feather?

The Eagle is a symbol of many things including: respect, honour, humbleness, truth, love, natural power, strength, courage, wisdom and Freedom, everything that is positive. Receiving an eagle feather is one of the highest honors in Mi'kmaw culture. The reason the eagle feather is held in such high regard is because it's believed that when the eagle is flying high in the sky, high enough that it can no longer be seen, the eagle has gone to see and speak with the Creator. In this way, the eagle is the communicator between the Creator and people. So, when an individual sees the eagle, it is believed to be a message from the Creator, and as such cause for reflection on one's actions and intentions.

Clifford Paul goes into detail about the significance of the eagle feather:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8gYQmA-9hl>