

Decolonization Learning Journey

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

Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia

Decolonization Learning Journey – Resource document

Series 3 - Webinar #12, December 8, 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, Cape Breton University
- Nicole Cammaert, Director of Operations and Special Projects, CSCNS

Guest speakers: Elder Phyllis Googoo, Rosie Sylliboy and Michelle Marshall-Johnson

Topic: Language - The Heart of Culture

Highlights

- It has been said that one of the most important cultural aspects to the identity of any people is their language, and as such, so it is for the Mi'kmaq. The Mi'kmaw language stems from the Algonquian linguistic family and is related to other Algonquian languages such as Cree, Delaware, and Ojibway.
- With the exception of hieroglyphics, the Mi'kmaw language is of an oral tradition – a spoken language that remains so today. It is a very intricate language often compared in complexity to Latin. The Mi'kmaw language is verb-based. The development of the language does not revolve around the object, as in English, but rather, centres on the action being discussed.
- In 1974, Bernie Francis, a Mi'kmaw linguist, along with Mr. Doug Smith, researched and developed a new orthography which was based on the phonemic principle.¹ This orthography, completed in 1980 and known as the Francis/ Smith system, was accepted and is presently used throughout Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, parts of Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.²
- Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, the Mi'kmaw education authority, has developed many apps to help everyone learn to speak Mi'kmaw: <https://apps.apple.com/ca/developer/mikmaw-kinamatnewey/id917652749#see-all/i-iphonei-pad-apps>

¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20041022030439/http://www.mikmaq.com/language/francis-smith.html>

² Visit this link to access virtual resources to help you learn Mi'kmaw words and phrases:
<http://www.firstnationhelp.com/>

Decolonization Learning Journey

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

COMMUNITY
SECTOR COUNCIL
of NOVA SCOTIA



Proudly partnered with:



- Mawita'mk's Mi'kmaq Monday Language Lessons- for more information, contact info@mawitamk.org
- Beverly Jeddore regularly posts language lessons to her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/beverly.jeddore>
- A Mi'kmaq lesson from language teacher Curtis Michael: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYvkKQ4q8I4>
- Learn Mi'kmaq- One word at a time: <https://www.facebook.com/LearningMikmaq/>
- Alwyn Jeddore has lots of helpful Mi'kmaq language lessons on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_0BAR8PmiG3rjtCD2ZXHg/videos
- Book or audio book: Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change by Sherri Mitchell: https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/sacred-instructions-indigenous-wisdom-for/9781623171957-item.html?s_campaign=goo-DSA_Books&gclid=CjwKCAiAiML-BRAAEiwAuWVggsLFTC1CaliV1mSPUbyJwk5N5wAR16YqnckEH11IOSsfPTigOcz7TxoCgoIQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds



This program is made possible through the support of the
Nova Scotia Government, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage
and the Department of Labour & Advanced Education.