

FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STORY / NIPUKTUK WEJIAQL ATUKUAQNN – PUPPET CREATION

- 2003-2007
- youth outreach and language revitalization – community-based, participatory action research – health research

In 2003, the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH) within CIHR awarded a research grant to Cheryl Bartlett for a project entitled "Integrative Health and Healing: co-learning our way to expanding wholeness through restoration of relationships with the land". Mi'kmaw Elders in this project worked with researchers to envision outreach activities that could pilot the Elders' belief that children need experiential learning with and in the natural world. Elders felt that such might foster root level growth for healthy living and healthy communities by emphasizing creative relationship and creative choice as elements in the life paths of children.



We named one of these outreach activities "From The Forest Comes Our Story" and envisioned it as an innovative puppet making and puppet performing exercise. And so, in Summer 2004 undergraduate summer research assistants Bonnie Bernard, Dina Bernard, Stephanie Bernard, Jenna Doucette, and Mimi Simon along with research



assistants Sana Kavanagh and Nadine Lefort and artist Basma Kavanagh gathered diverse and easily collected materials in the woods, such as pieces of bark, leaves, twigs, lichens, mosses, pine cones, and made puppets out of them. The puppets made were characters that appear in Mi'kmaw legends: a rabbit, bear, squirrel, owl, fox, turtle, green frog, porcupine, leader, and Kluskap.



The student puppet makers were guided in their efforts by professional puppeteers from Nova Scotia's world class Mermaid Theatre who conducted a week-long training exercise involving basic puppet construction and basic puppetry skills. This customized training was enabled by a Nova Scotia Health Research Fund award to Cheryl Bartlett.



In addition, graphic designer Kristy Read created a series of nine posters featuring these puppets along with photographs of the natural materials used to make them. On the posters, these materials are labeled in both Mi'kmaw and English. The posters can be viewed in the pages that follow.



Muin / Black Bear



a series of nine posters
for activity

FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STORY – NIPUKTUK WEJIAQL ATUKUAQNN

posters by graphic designer Kristy Read



**Integrative
Science**

youth and
community
outreach,
and
language
revitalization

community-based,
participatory action
research for project
“Integrative Health
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Puppet Poster #4

Apli'kmuj Snowshoe Hare

community-based,
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Togwa'te'na Kijitagaq
Integrative Science

Nipuktuk Wejiagl A'tukuagun
FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STICKY

Apli'kmuj
Lepus americanus
Snowshoe Hare

Kappulman
Chamaesyce
Beech Bush Leaf

Pukung
Thymus
Thyme

Kawafit
Pinus
Pine Cone

Sogap
Pinus
Pine Cone

Wu'q'pantagil
Larix
Larix

Qann
Pinus
Pine

Kuon
Pinus
Pine

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UCCB
University of Canada Centre for Biological Sciences



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Puppet
Poster #6

Atu'tuej
Red Squirrel

and

Matues
Porcupine

Toqwa'tu'ka Kijitagnu
Integrative Science

Nipuktuk Wejiaql A'tukuagnu
FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STICK

Atu'tuej
Tamiasciurus americanus
Red Squirrel

Matues
Erethron lanatum
Porcupine

Maikwi
Pinus strobus
Boreal Pine

Puutknaqit
Pinus strobus
Pine Timber

Stoq
Pinus strobus
Pine Resin

Wiqagaw
Pinus strobus
Pine Cones

Ky'kumanaqit
Pinus strobus
Pine Needles

Woo'gmanaqit
Pinus strobus
Pine Sap

Kima'pumaqit
Pinus strobus
Pine Bark

CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research / Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

UCCB, CIHR, and other logos

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Puppet Poster #7

Sqolj Green Frog

community-based,
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TUQUA'TU'KA KJUTTAQNU
Integrative Science

Nipuktuk Wejaql A'tukuagann
FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STICKY

Sqolj
Rana clamitans
Green Frog



Sagowqanpakurrit
Sagowqanpakurrit
Wasa Loo or the Willow

Wu'gmanaqit
Larva canadensis
Broomrape Larvae

Miskwi
Miskwi
Broomrape

Dqnu
Dqnu
Fungi


Kagajimam
Kagajimam
Beehive Larvae

Etsu'jumanaqit
Etsu'jumanaqit
Worm Larvae

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UCCB
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Puppet Poster #9 Kluskap

community-based,
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Togma'te'na Kjuutaqnaq
Integrative Science

Nipuktuk Wejiagq A'tukuagqna
FROM THE FOREST COMES OUR STICKY

Kluskap

Partiknaqit!
Tree Salads
Tree Salads

It'kon
Eucalyptus

Kawak
Pineapples
Sensory Candy

Oqon
Eucalyptus

Atakel
Apple Applesauce
Eucalyptus Salads

Wet'gmanagqit!
Eucalyptus Applesauce
Eucalyptus

Kaqjoman
Eucalyptus Applesauce
Eucalyptus Salads

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LUCCB
L'Université de la Côte-Basque

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