

January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 YouthLink MMAYC

Future Inns Moncton Hotel & Conference Centre

### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

**ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES** 

Albert Marshall, Elder & HonDLitt Eskasoni, Mi'kmaq Nation

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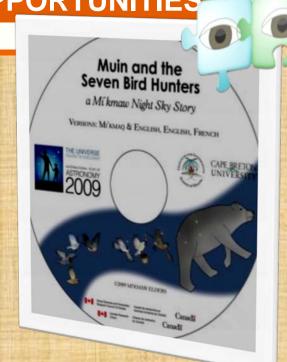
### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

**ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES** 

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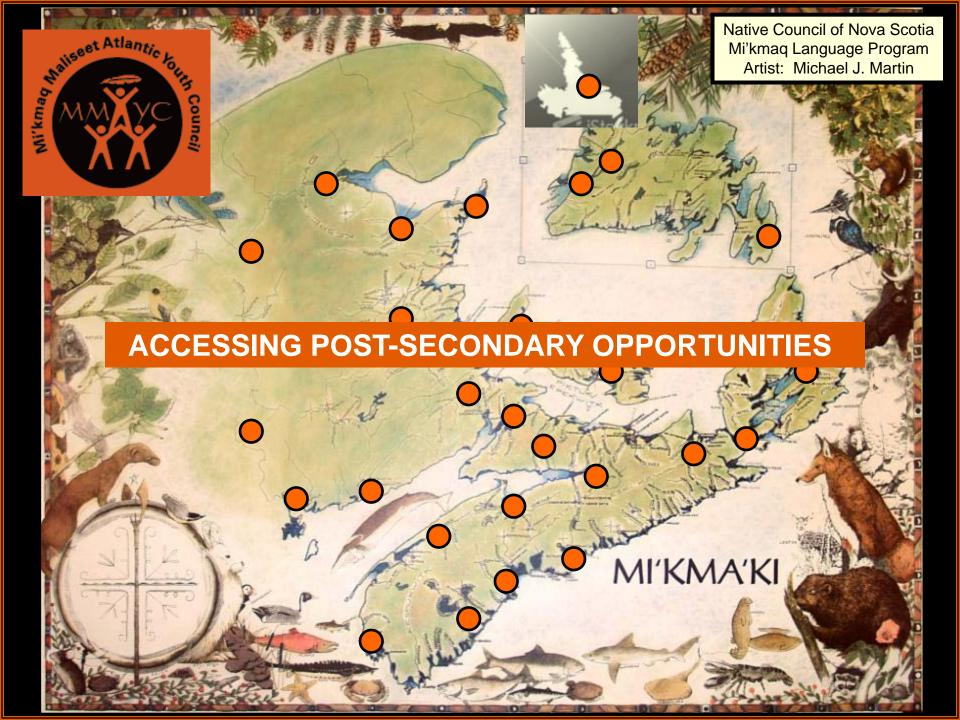
### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

**ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES** 

#### **Outline of Presentation**

- 1. Seeing Patterns: a new, old skill to see and connect with information
- 2. Two-Eyed Seeing: an old, new skill to access the best in different perspectives
- 3. Muin: "story" ... an old skill that keeps knowledge alive and access open
- 4. Onward: creating your access to PSE







### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS



## MAKING OUR WAY: PART 1. SEEING PATTERNS a new, old skill ... to engage information



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**Elder Murdena Marshall** 



http://www.studiolum.com/wang/black-bear-footprint-305.jpg

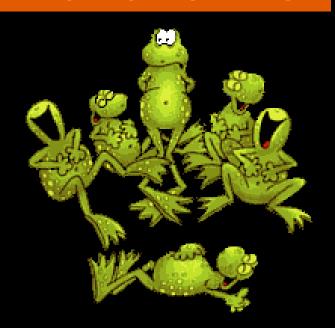


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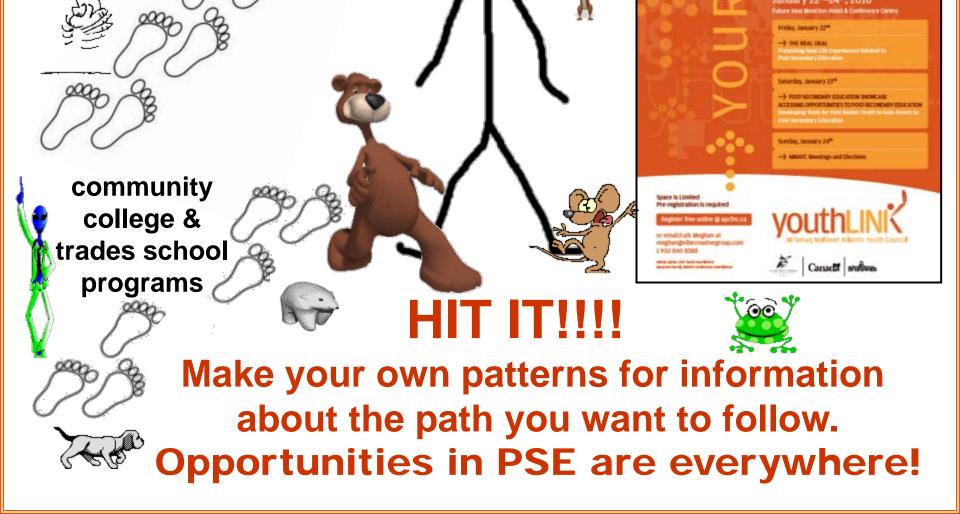
#### **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**



video: THE WOMBAT from: Global MindShift

**Elder Murdena Marshall** 

http://www.global-mindshift.org/memes/wombat.swf



undergraduate

university

degree

LEADING CHANGE IN EDUCATION FOR FIRST NATION YOUTH

to post-secondary education



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#### **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**



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Relationships pattern our lives.

Example: family ... who is your mother?

Relationship patterns become the primary navigators for how we go through life.



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**Elder Murdena Marshall** 



**Example:** groups of friends



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Elder Murdena Marshall

# http://curiousanimals.net/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/the-2d2d20kangaroo2d2d20hop-2d2d2c-2d2d20australia-2d2dsmall.jpg

**Example: animals we know** 

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\_egSKgWjdyg8/SR9k\_i\_czhl/AAAAAAAAGg/Cs7vic0BNNg/s400/wombat.jpg



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#### **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**



Elder Murdena Marshall

Wombat



http://djatrak.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/wombat.png

**Example: animals we know** 

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\_egSKgWjdyg8/SR9k\_i\_czhl/AAAAAAAAAGg/Cs7vic0BNNg/s400/wombat.jpg



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### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS

#### **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**





**Elder Murdena Marshall** 

all my relations - Msit No'kmaq

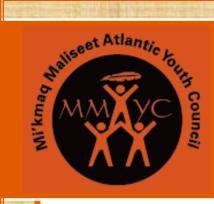
### Msit No'kmaq all my relations ... my family ... my living identity



The sun is our Grandfather. The moon is our Grandmother. The stars are our Brothers and Sisters.

Close relationship with Grandmother: I need her for everything ... tides, women's menstrual cycles, lighting the dark, etc. She controls life.

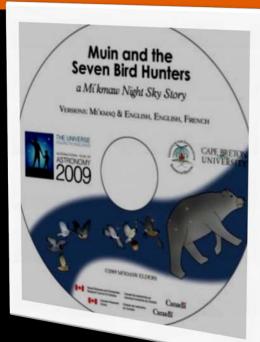
And our stars ... all of the universe ... our Brothers and Sisters. The Milky Way is the Path of the Spirits.



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**ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES** 





http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/infos/mikmag1.htm



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#### **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**

Traditional Knowledge was never meant to be static and stay in the past ... but rather young people must bring it into the present ... so that everything becomes meaningful in your own lives.





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Everything is in constant flux, constant change ... all the time. Thus, the more you are aware, the better you can adapt as change occurs in your life, your community, your educational interests ... and your world.



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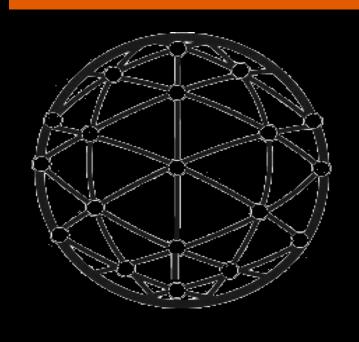




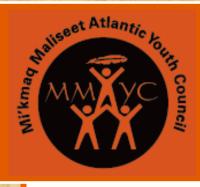


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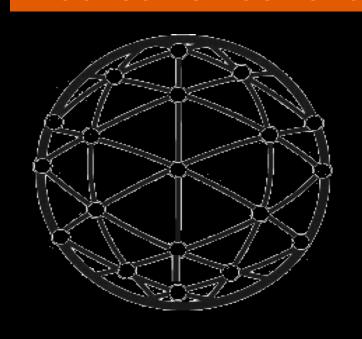


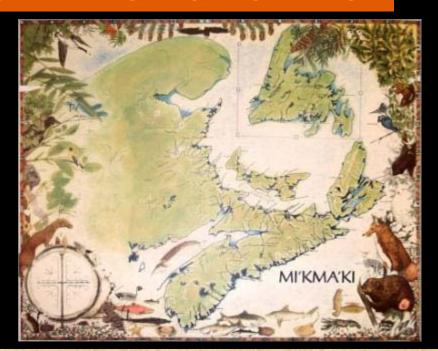




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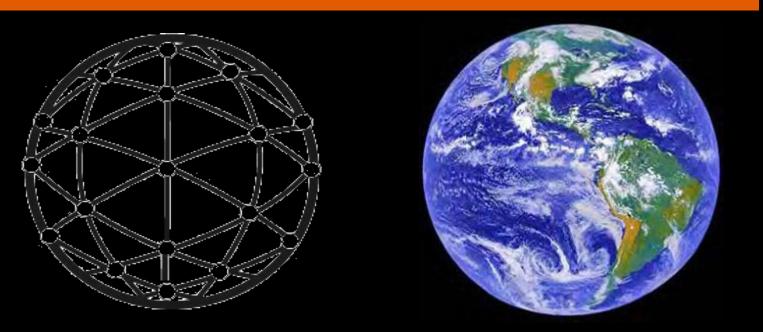






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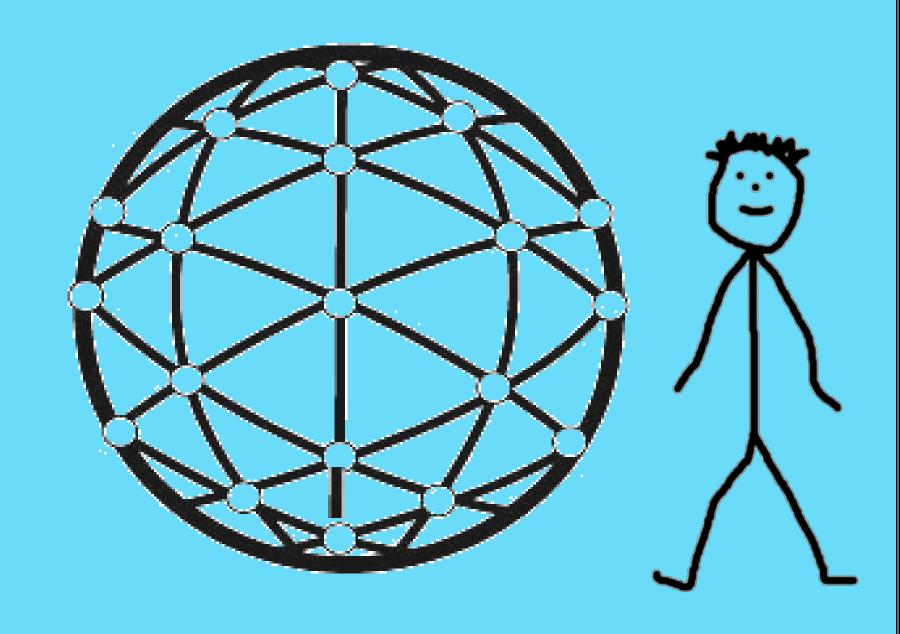


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### MAKING OUR WAY: PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS



#### PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS







Traditionally, it was understood that the Sun went through the country of the people in one day, and saw what the Mi'kmaq were doing. The Sun was the only person who had all this understanding ... and was called Niskamij (Grandfather). (Murdena Marshall)















South



**East** 

I see a pattern!!!





#### North

Na'ku'set (sun)

West





highest

South

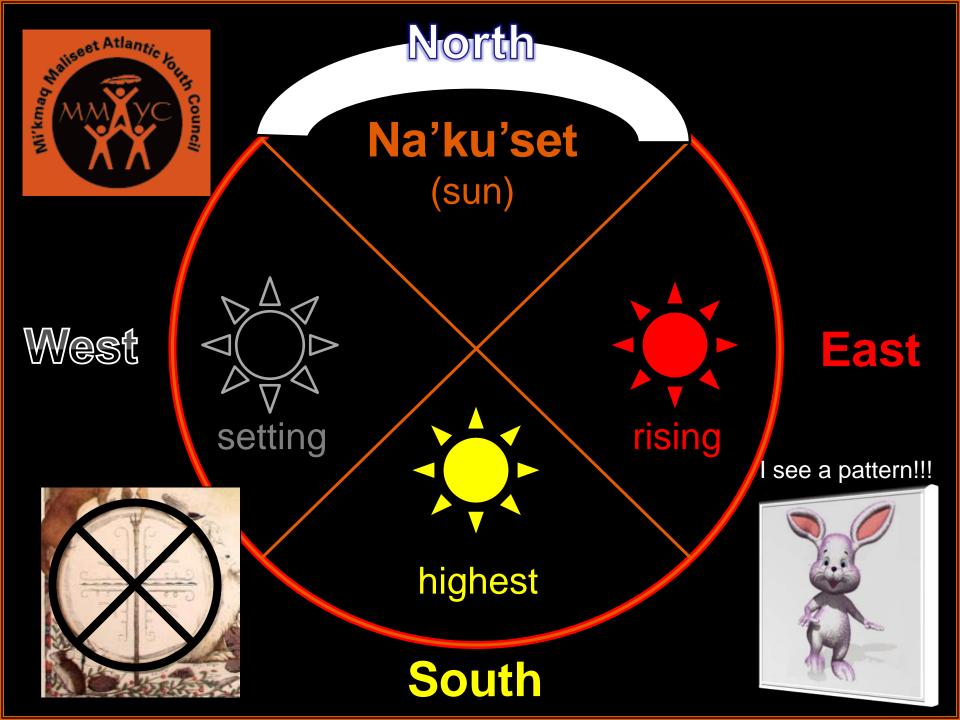


rising

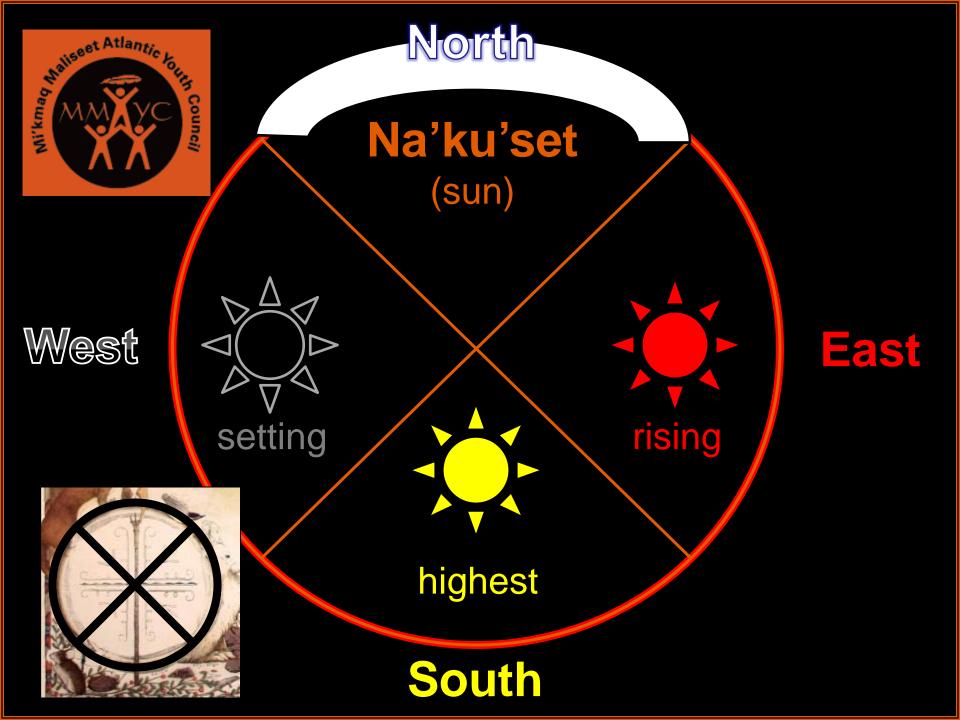
**East** 

I see a pattern!!!







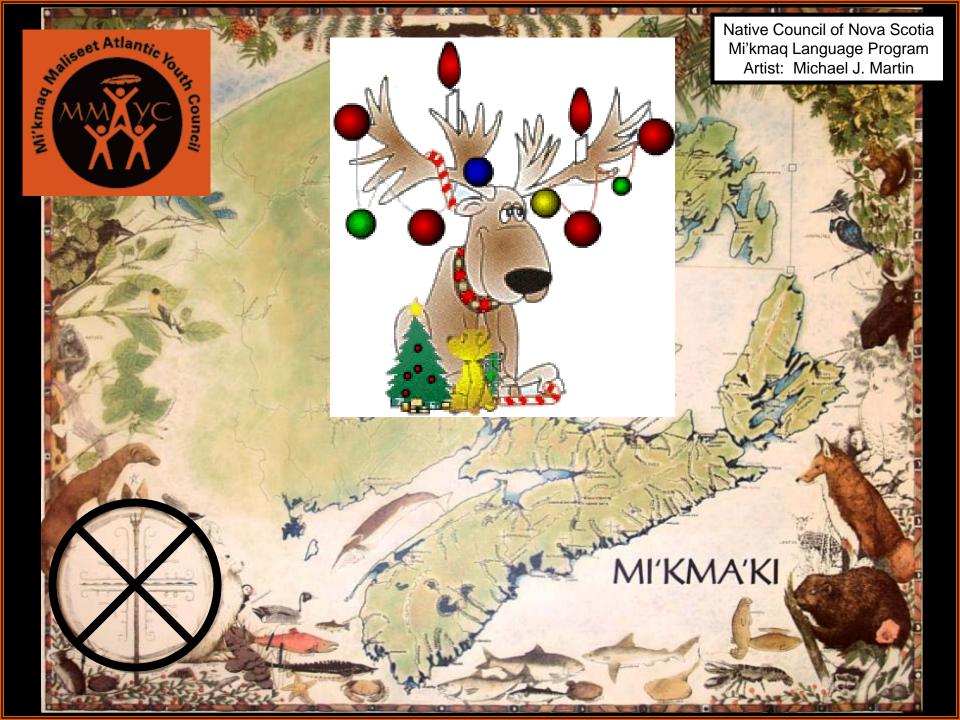


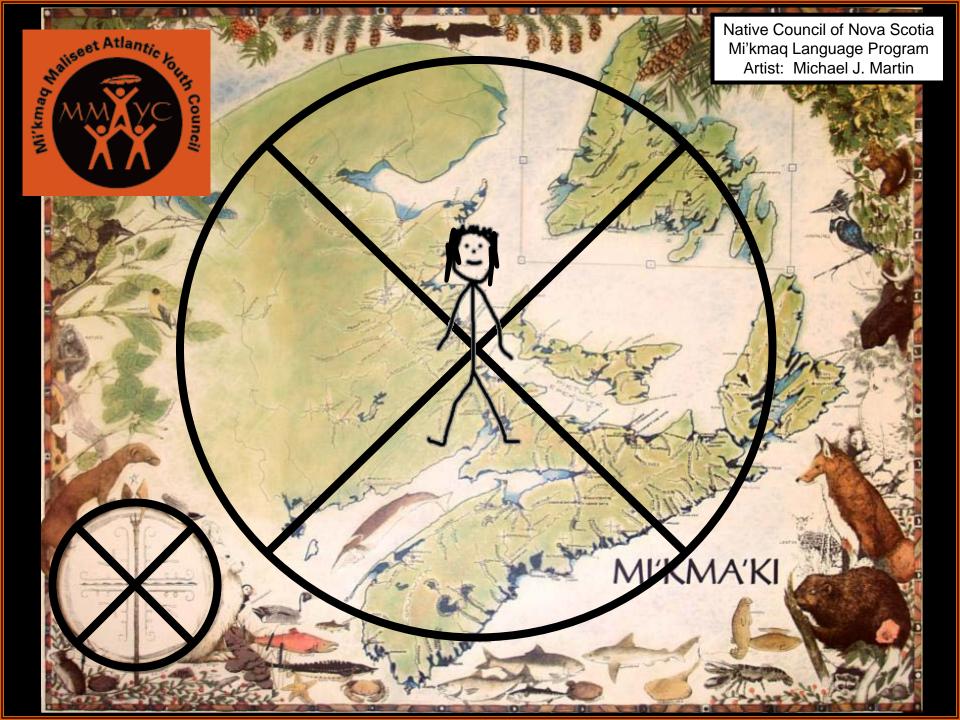


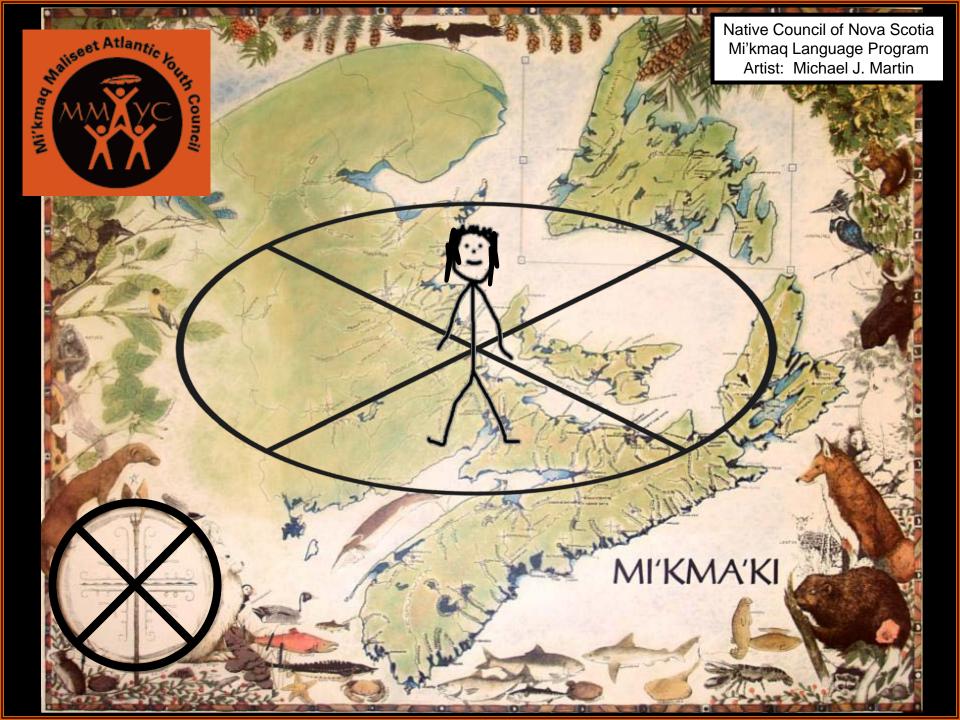


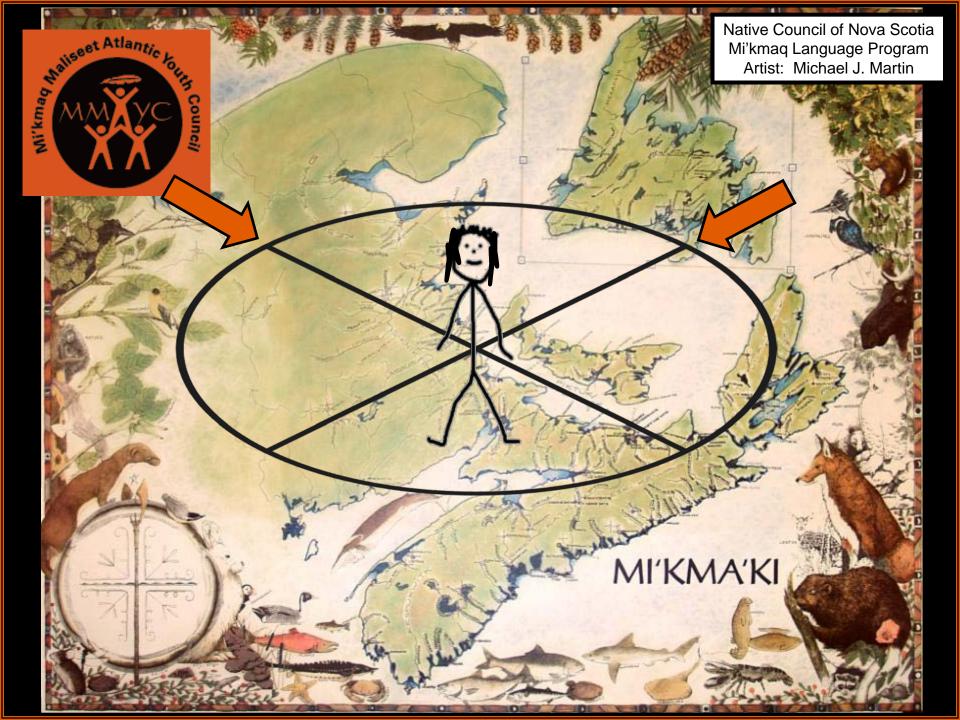


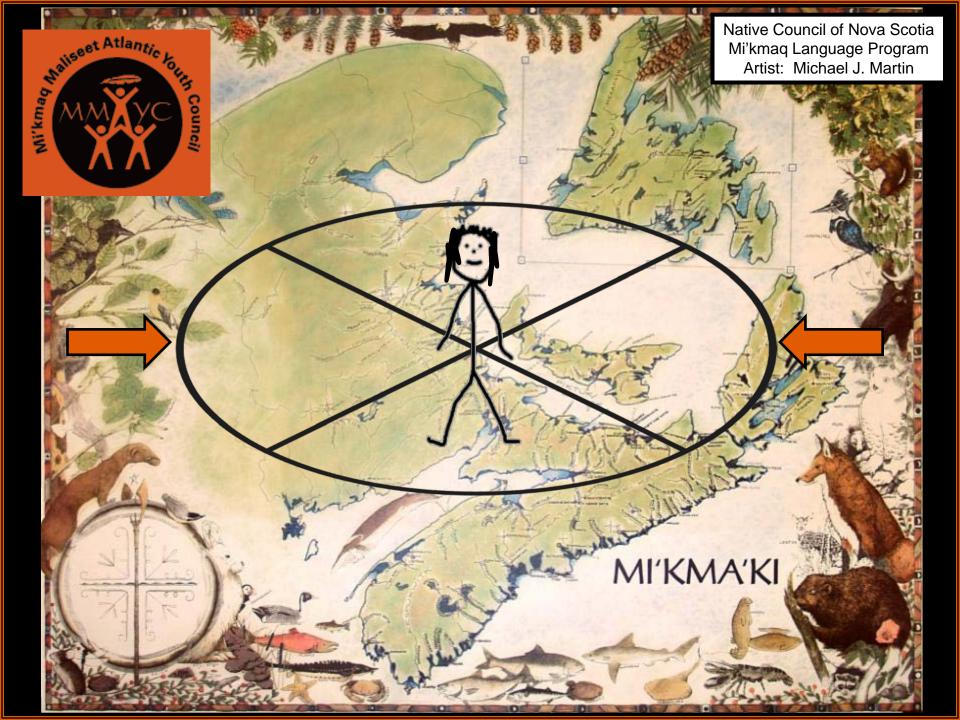
Put the one pattern on top of another pattern for ... more complex, more interconnective, and more realistic understanding.

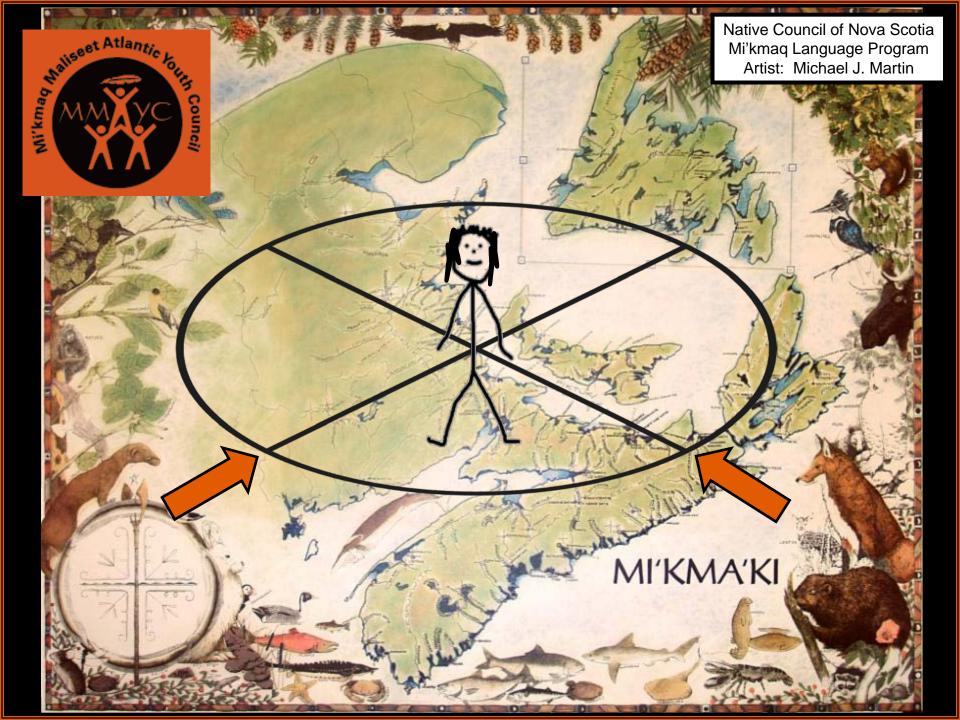


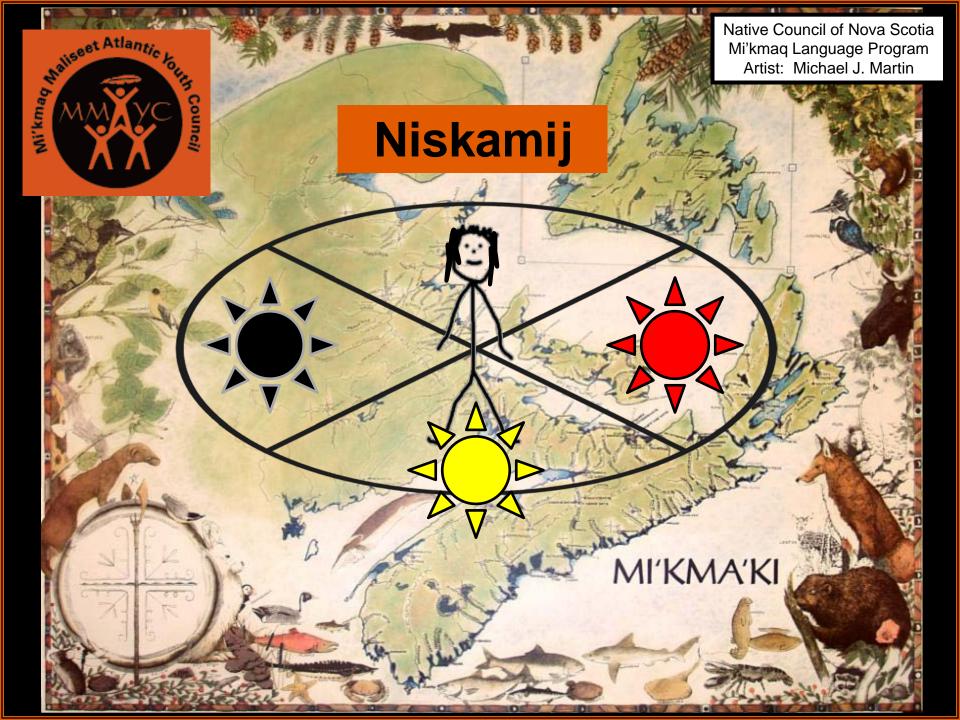


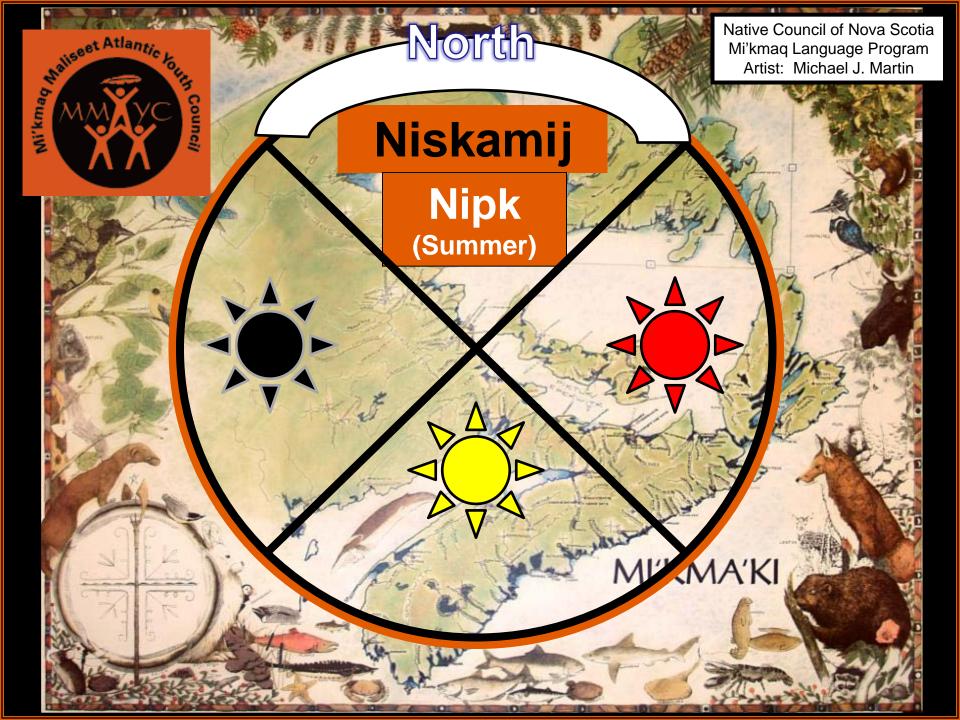


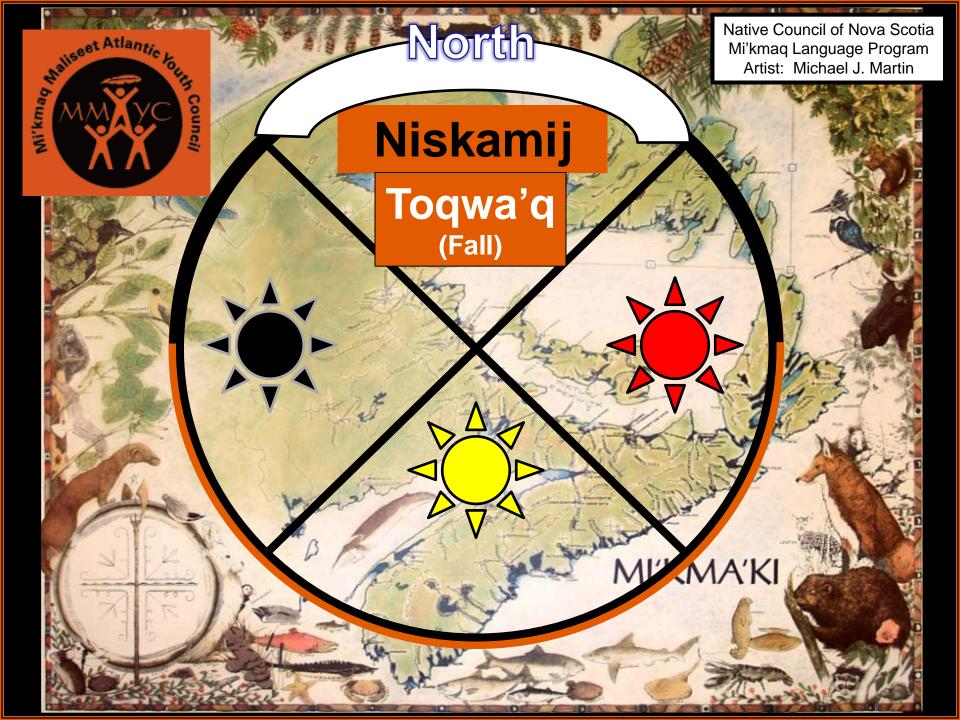


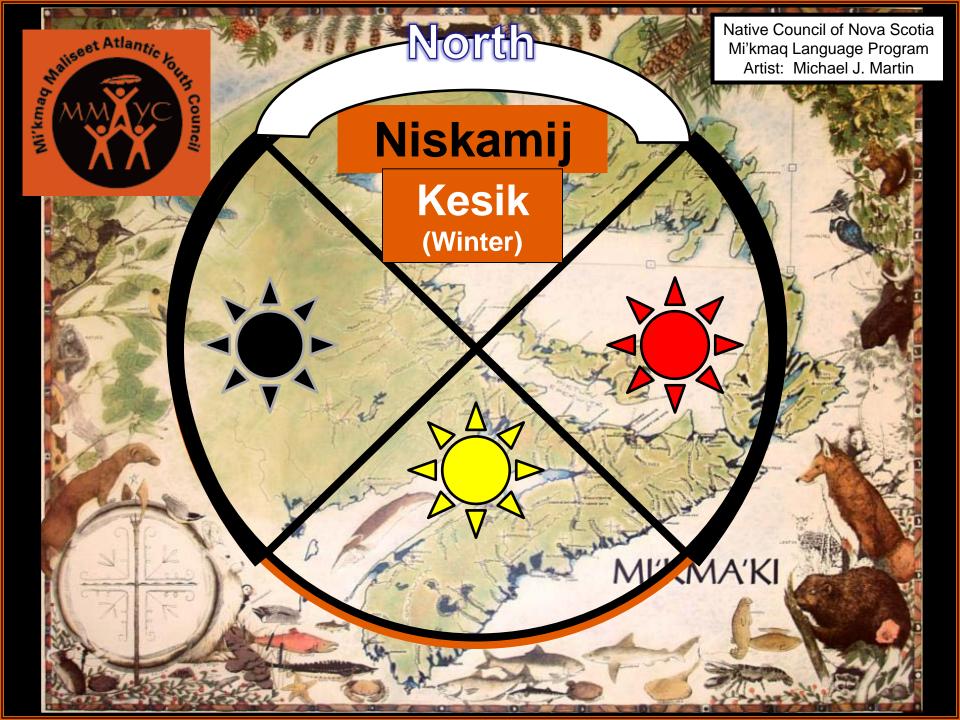


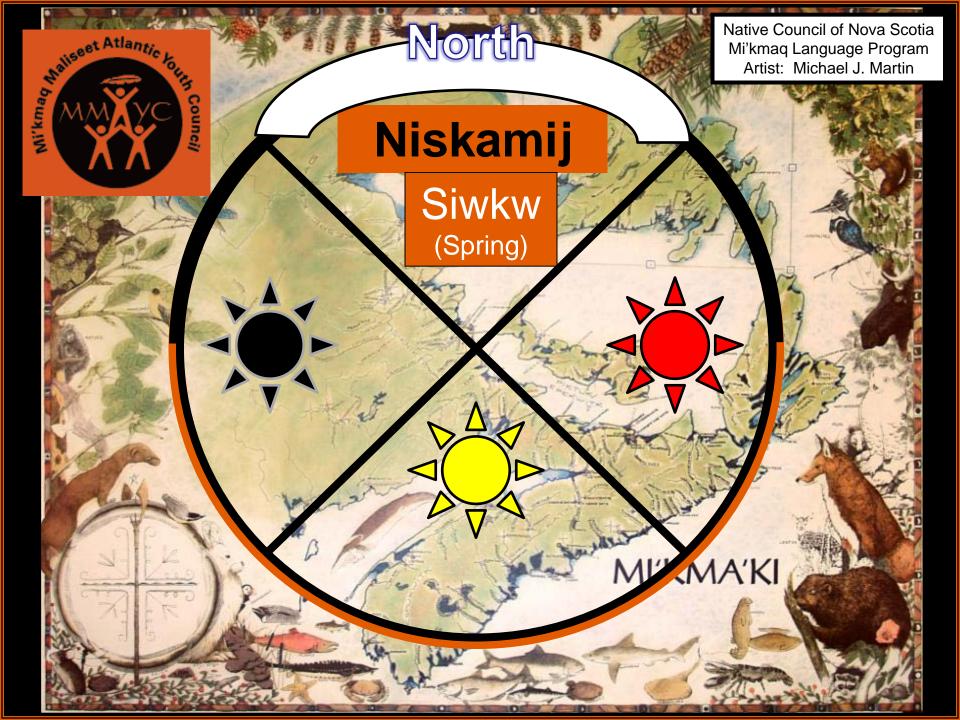


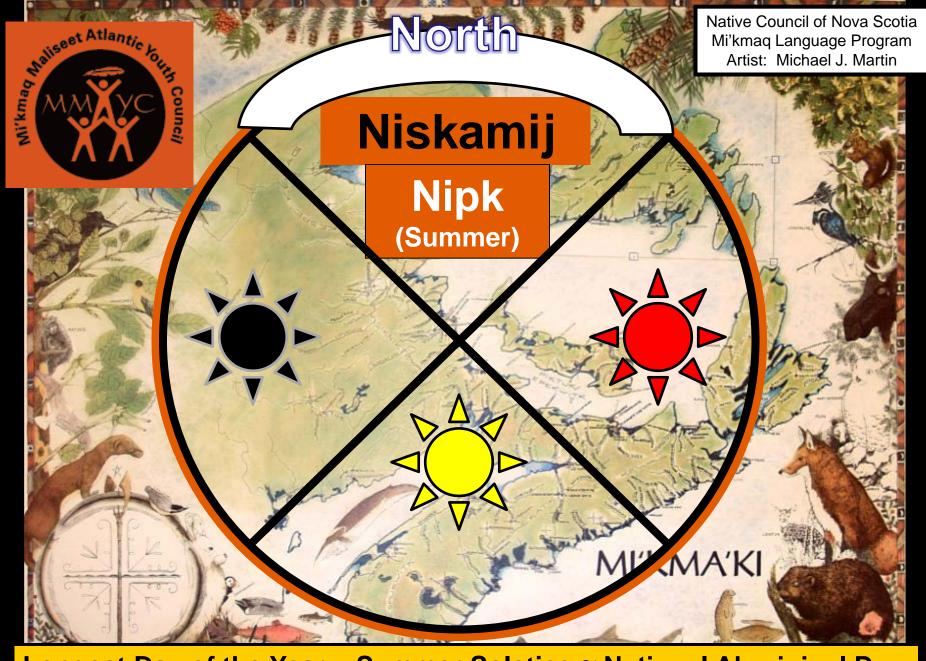












**Longest Day of the Year = Summer Solstice ≈ National Aboriginal Day** 







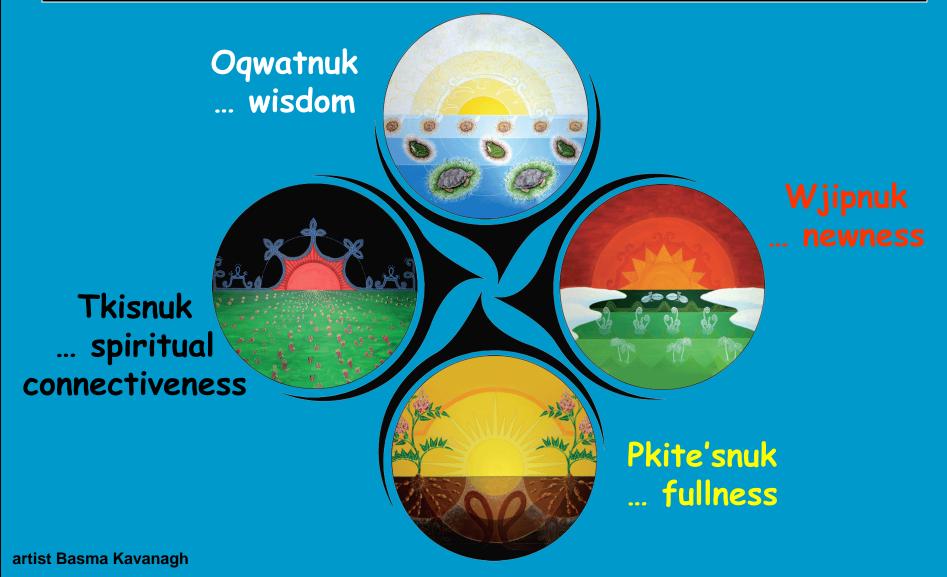
Knowledge is spirit.

It is a gift, passed on through many people.

As Elders, we must pass it on.



The older people will turn to Niskamij in the morning ... when you acknowledge the sun (or the moon), you are acknowledging Creator. (Murdena Marshall)





It is not "sun worship". Rather, we recognize a Great Being out there ... and we know that everything done has to be in a balanced way ... all has to be seen as part and parcel of Creator. Thus: Msit No'kmaq (all my relations). (Albert Marshall)





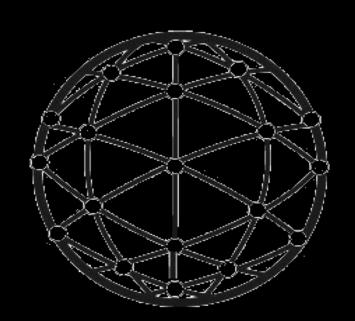
When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a <u>personal</u> relationship with the information.



# MAKING OUR WAY: PART 2. TWO-EYED SEEING an old, new skill ... to enrich awareness

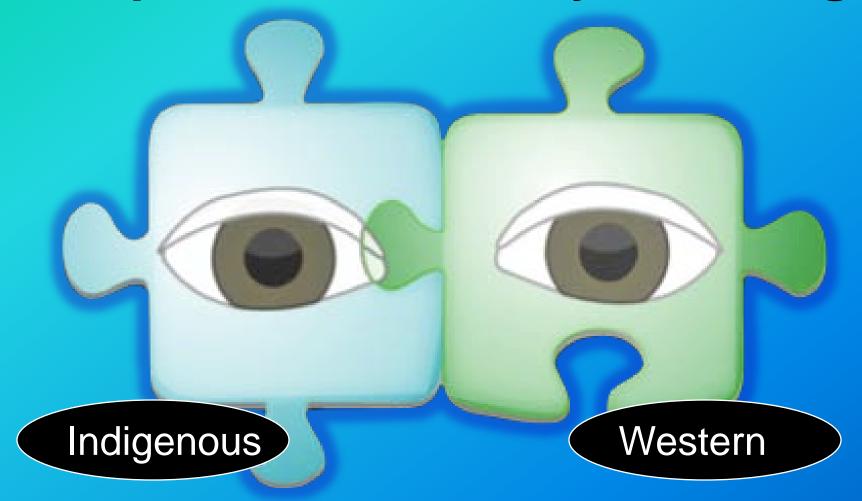
video: THE WOMBAT from: Global MindShift

http://www.global-mindshift.org/memes/wombat.swf





### **Etuaptmumk - Two-Eyed Seeing**

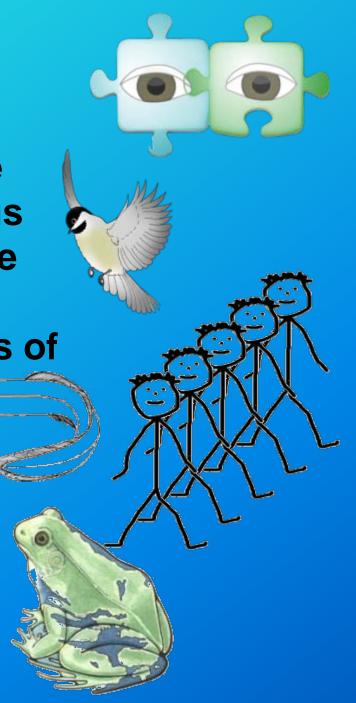


### **Two-Eyed Seeing**

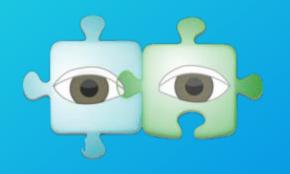
LEARN ... to see from one eye with the best in our Indigenous ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the best in the Western (or mainstream) ways of knowing ...

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



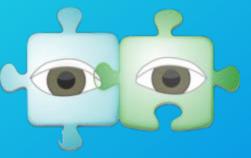


It is not enough to go through life with one perspective; we must embrace all the tools we have ...





#### Consciousness of Knowing ©



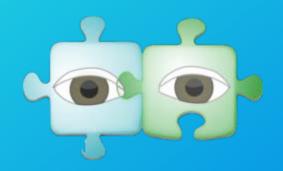


artist Basma Kavanagh

... our interdependence on each other and on Mother Earth

"Two-Eyed Seeing" so that knowledge of the physical is not separated from wisdom of the spiritual.

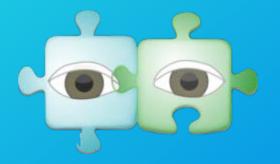
Two-Eyed Seeing teaches you to awaken the spirit within you.



You become a student of life ... and you become observant of the natural world ... and realize we humans are part and parcel of the whole.







Everything that we do to our natural world ...

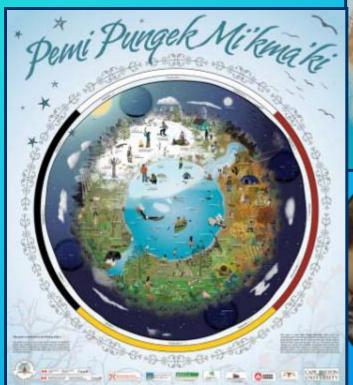
... we also do to ourselves

artist Basma Kavanagh

Our language teaches us about interdependence.

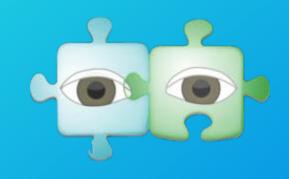
Nature has rights.







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.

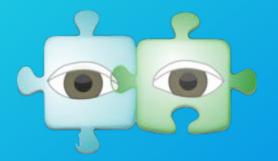
Modern science sees objects, but our language teaches us to see subjects.



artist Basma Kavanagh



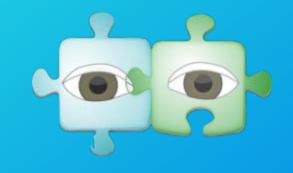
artist Basma Kavanagh

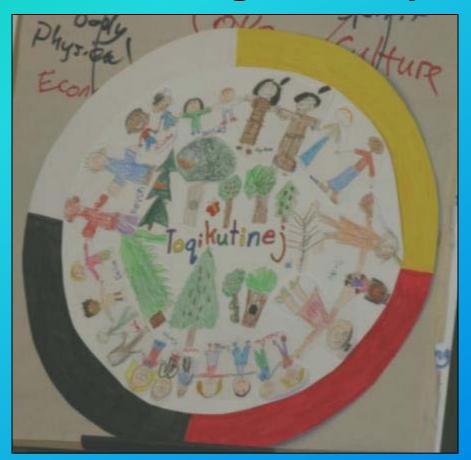


Humans are a very small part of the whole.

Our natural world provides for us, shelters us, nourishes us.

# Our language takes us into a Life Long Journey.







artwork: Eskasoni Elementary School Children

Knowledge is not a tool but rather it is a spirit.

It transforms the holder. It also reminds us that we have responsibilities to the spirit of that knowledge.

We must pass it on.



## Our seasons follow the cycles of **Mother Earth** ...

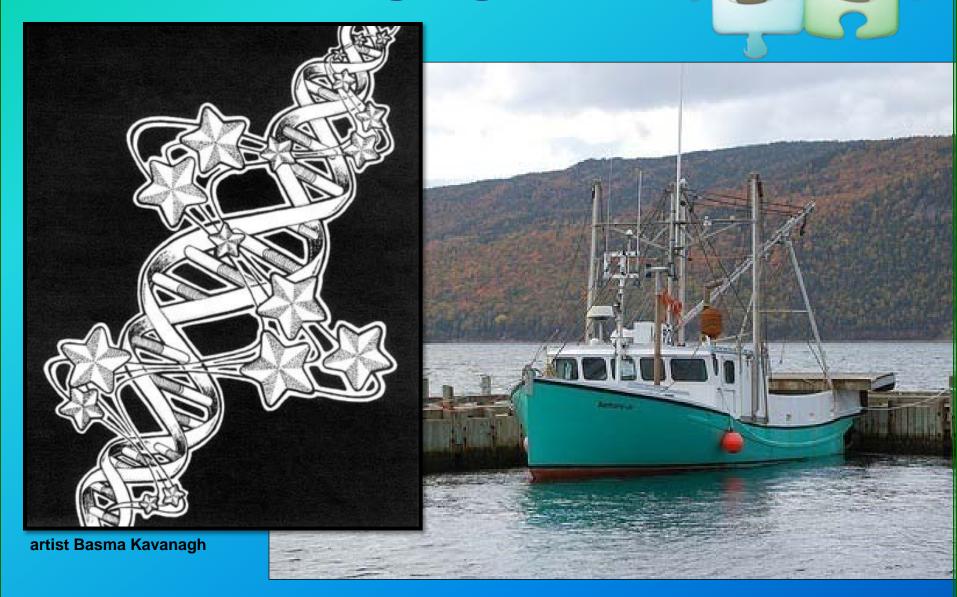


... so that our children will always be reminded of the beauty of creation, and of our dependence on her.

Like nature, we must always have a nurturing component.



#### Life, Land, Language, Love

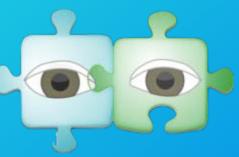


# As Elders in Our Time

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.



# Only humans have these two consciousnesses ...









When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a *Two-Eyed Seeing* relationship with the information.



# MAKING OUR WAY: PART 3. STORY FOR PATTERNS an old skill ... to remember & access info

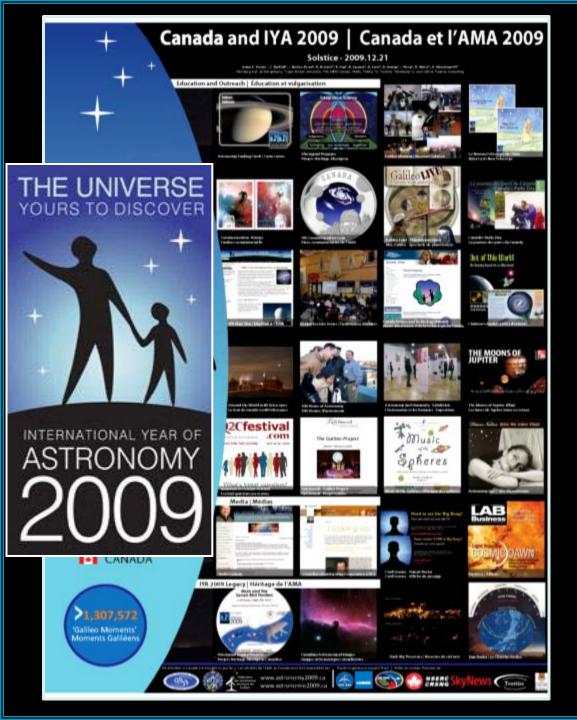
Traditionally, nothing was taught as black and white. Everything was story ... where you have the responsibility to listen and reflect. This is a much more profound way of learning because you have the opportunity for relationship with the knowledge. (Albert Marshall)

I must bring relationships into my life. If a sense of relationship with the knowledge is not identified, then it becomes a duty and you memorize to appease someone. The understandings have not been assimilated; the head and heart have not been connected. (Albert Marshall)









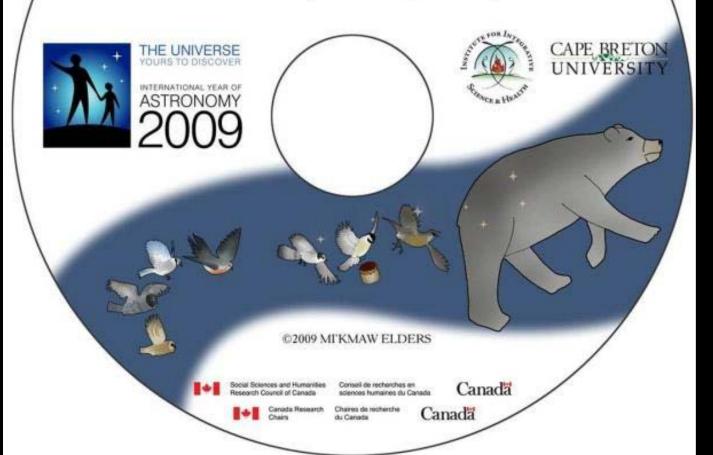






a Mi'kmaw Night Sky Story

Versions: Mi'kmaq & English, English, French



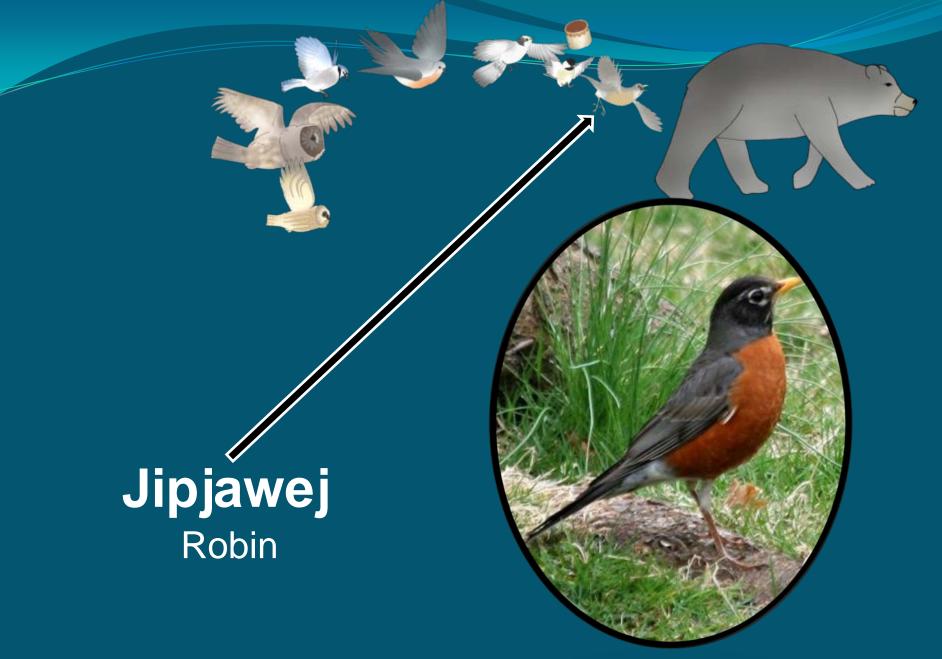












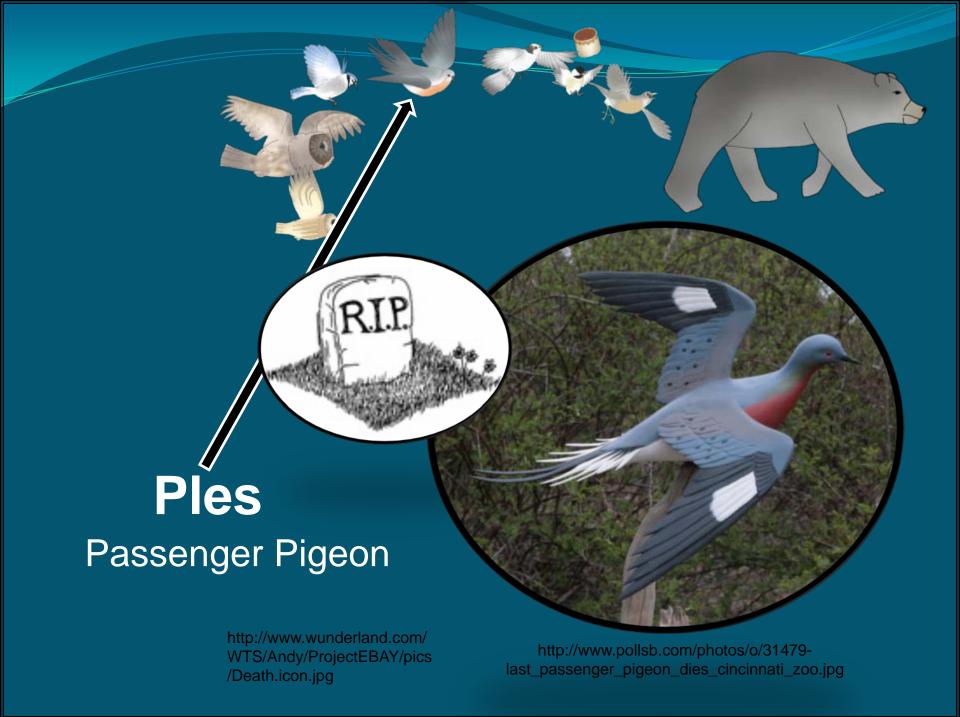
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http://www.ohio-nature.com/chickadee.html



http://www.alljay.com/images/general/gray\_jay.jpg







http://www.owl-pictures.com/saw-whet-owl-picture.jpg



### **North Sky**

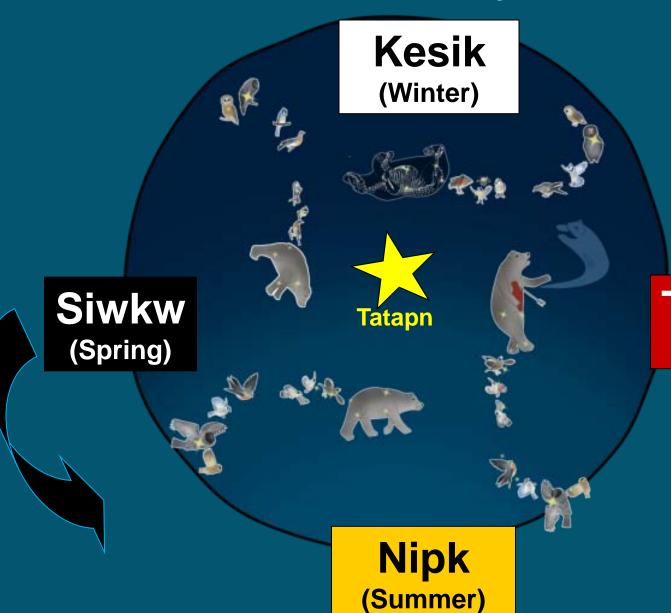




# Klo'qwejk ila'lukupjik

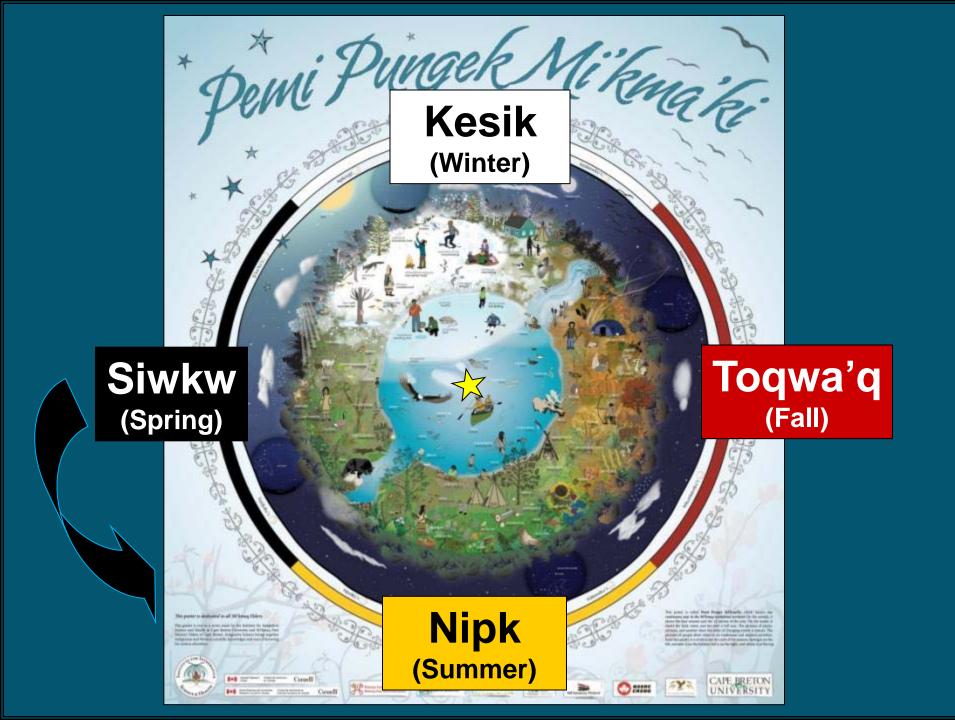
"the stars know their places" (pattern) ... in the story

# **North Sky**



Toqwa'q (Fall)







apparent directions of movement

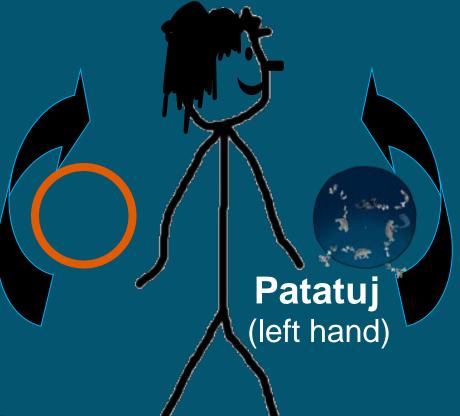




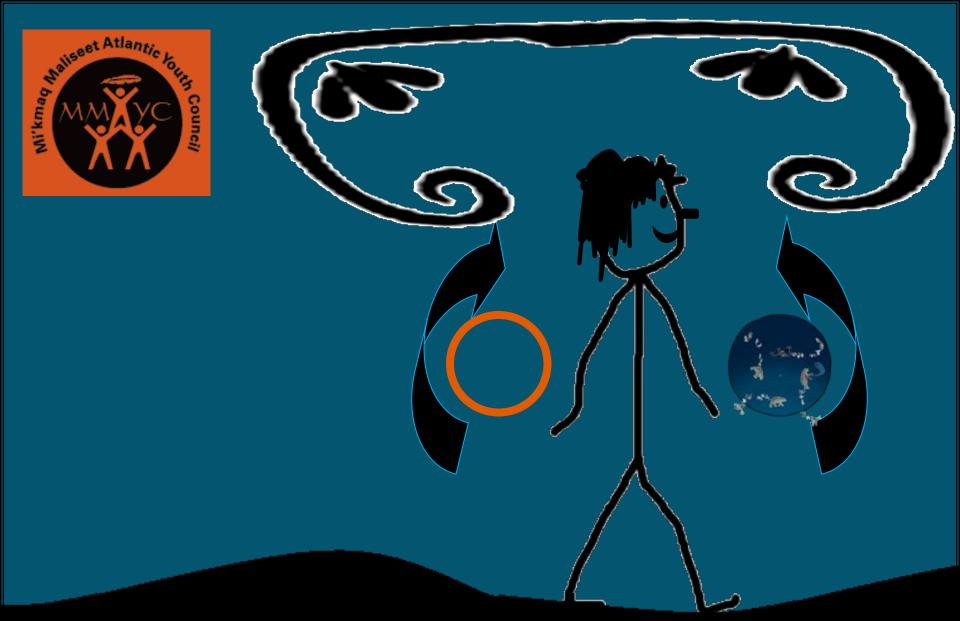








Na'ku'set (Sun)





#### PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS



### PATTERNS of INTERCONNECTIVENESS



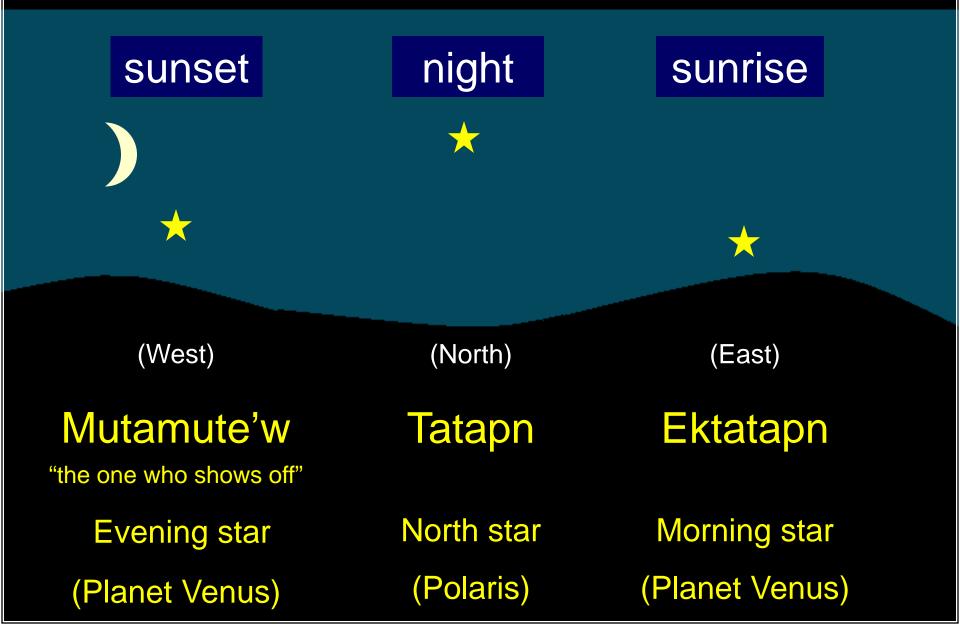


Stars were used for navigation because ... "the stars know their places" (pattern).

Three "stars", especially, were used for purposes of:

- navigation, crossing water (e.g. to Newfoundland)
- weather prediction (sky)
- during hunting trips (location and navigation)
- 1) North Star Tatapn
- 2) Morning star Ektatpn (ek = morning). This "star" (Planet Venus) we see rise in the same place.
- 3) Evening star Mutamute'w. This "star" (Planet Venus) we see before sunset, near the moon. It is always visible with the moon. Name means "the one who shows off", as it rises when sun goes down, in west.

# Star patterns were used for navigation.





Everything is interdependent and interconnective. Thus, you need to use your gifts in a responsible way. (Albert Marshall)

There is a tendency today to say "That's not Mi'kmaq" and thus miss useful information, processes or tools. But, that is not reflective of how we did things in the past ... we welcomed new insights from strangers and traded with other people.

Everything is interconnective. (Murdena Marshall)





When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop an <u>interconnective & responsible</u> relationship with the information.



MAKING OUR WAY:

PART 4. CREATING YOUR OWN PATTERNS
a necessary skill ... to access opportunities





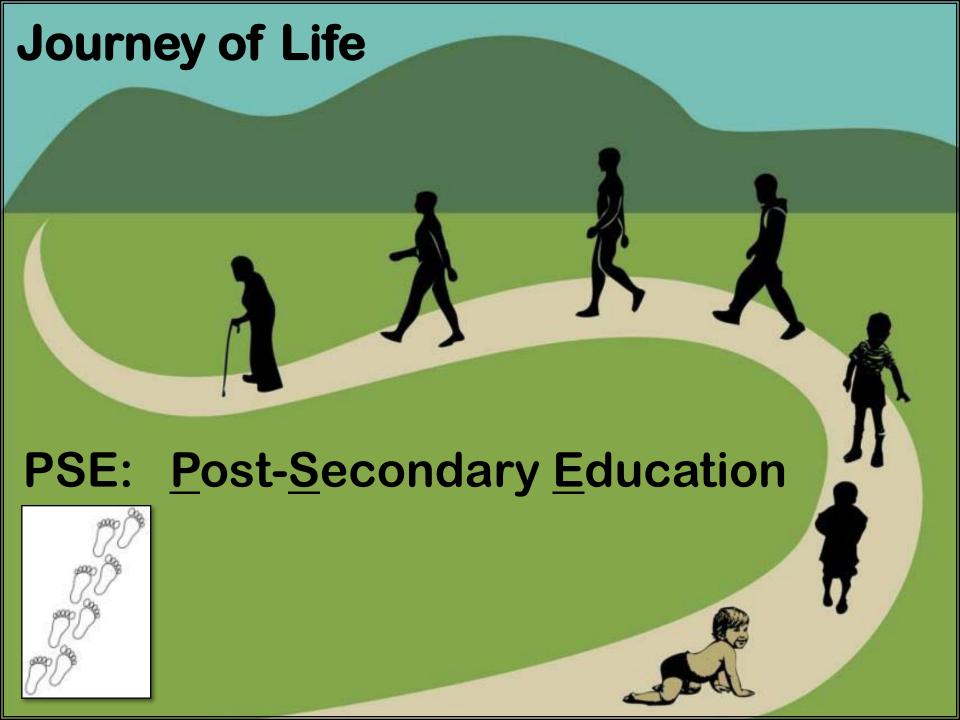


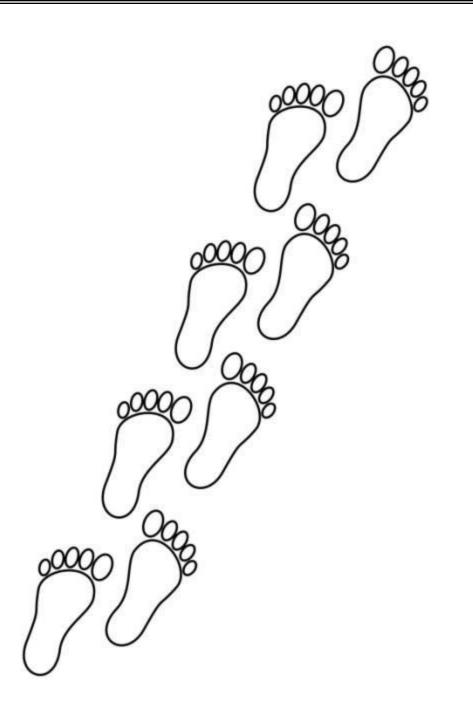






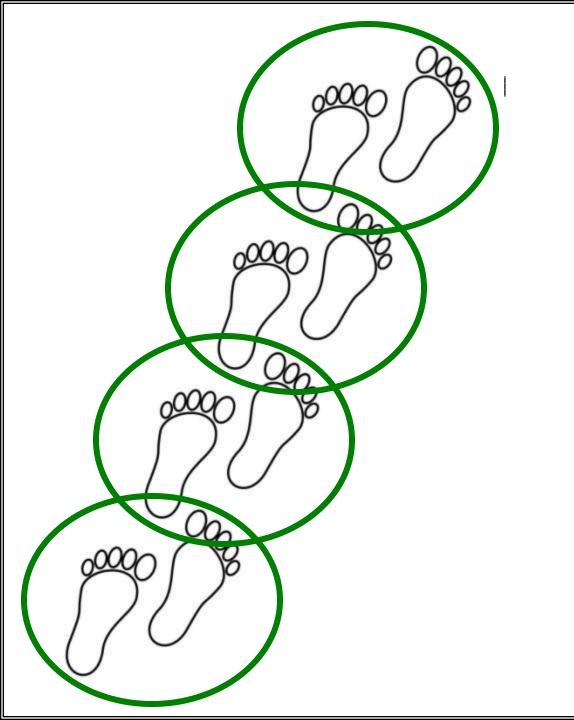




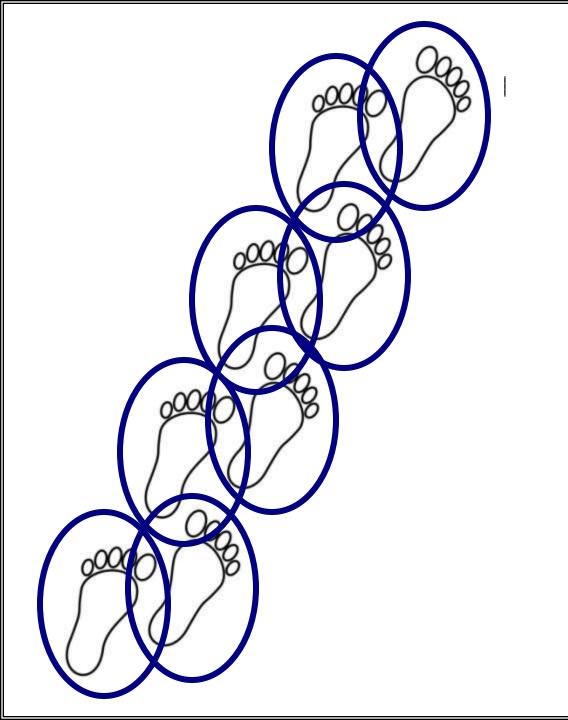


# CREATIVE PATTERN for understanding PSE

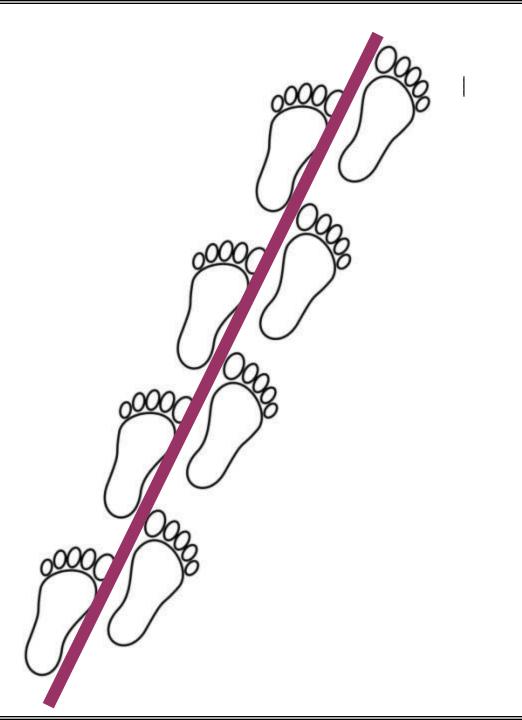
example: university degree profile



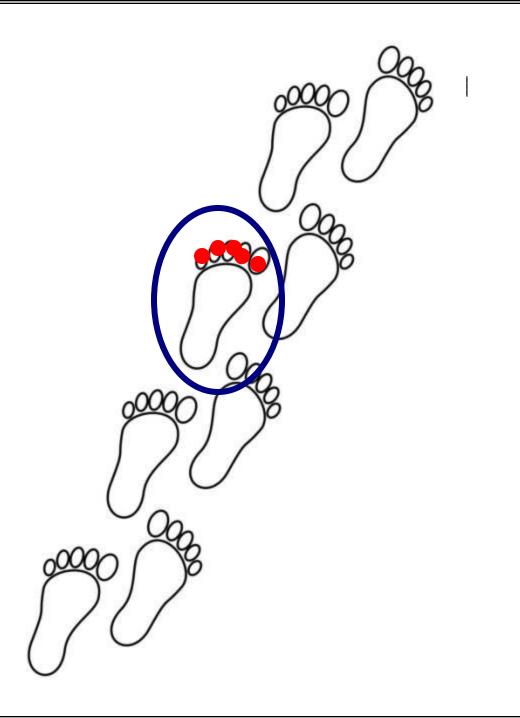
#### 4 Years



#### Fall terms Winter terms

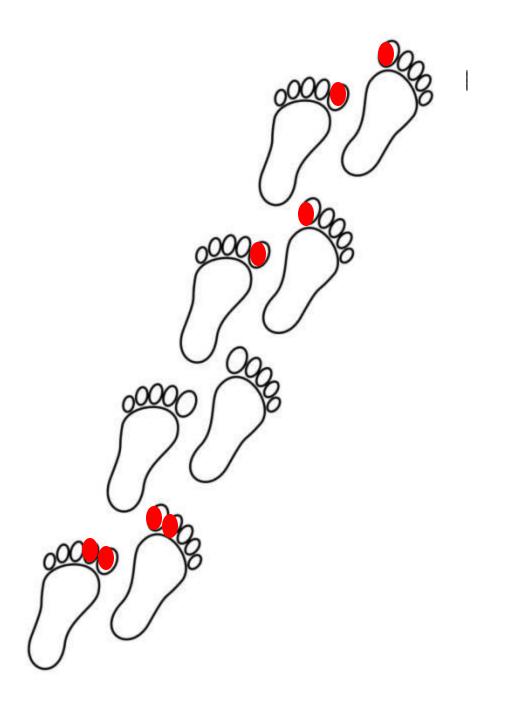


## **Christmas** break



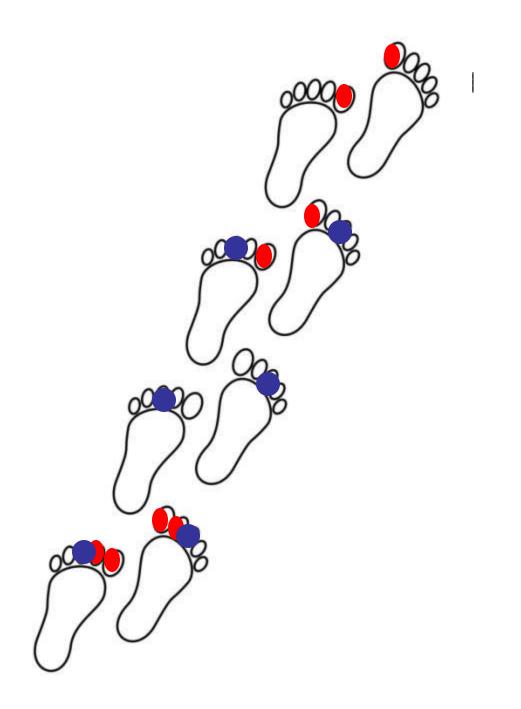
## Each term = 5 courses





### MStT science courses





MStT science courses

PCS courses





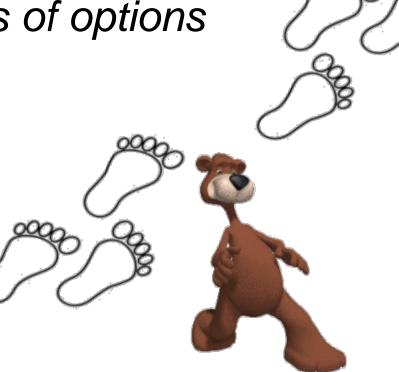
- various patterns
- lots of flexibility
- richness of options

















When you seek opportunities for post-secondary education, you have to develop a <u>creative & meaningful</u> relationship with the information.



We all need to become students of life.
And, we need to understand that
lifelong learning is a must. (Albert Marshall)

Knowing the importance of your relationship patterns, you are prepared for the path where you can discover. Your heart and mind are now open, to recognize the good in Two-Eyed Seeing. (Murdena Marshall)



LEADING CHANGE IN EDUCATION FOR FIRST NATION YOUTH





Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Invites you to YouthLink MMAYC



## to post-secondary education

ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES January 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Future Inns Moncton Hotel & Conference Centre

Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

\*\*\* THE REAL DEAL

Presenting Real Life Experiences Related to

Post-Secondary Education

Saturday, January 23rd

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SHOWCASE

ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Developing Tools for First Nation Youth to Gain Access to

Post-Secondary Education

Sunday, January 24th

**....** MMAYC Meetings and Elections

Space is Limited
Pre-registration is required

Register free online @ apcfnc.ca

or email/call: Meghan at meghan@vibecreativegroup.com 1 902 860 8588







Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council