



ROUGH NOTES

November 24, 2009

Café Scientifique 3 / HospiTALK 2

Part 1: Spirits of Health

Keynote Speakers:

- Prune Harris, (for Cheryl M. Bartlett), Research Associate in Integrative Science, Cape Breton University
- Albert D. Marshall, Elder and Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), Eskasoni community, Mi'kmaq Nation

Remarks by:

- Kamiel Gabriel, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Research to the Minister of Research and Innovation
- Ian Graham, Vice President Knowledge Translation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Discussion led by:

Sara Diamond, President, OCAD

Notes by:

Alison Benjamin, Graduate Student, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
Antonio Gamba-bari, Graduate Student, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
Leah Maestri, Graduate Student, Interactive Arts & Technology, Simon Fraser University

Presentation by Prune Harris

- * Spirits of Health – co-learning stories of inter-connectiveness

1. Introduction

1. who & where
2. Integrative science
3. Two-eyed seeing

2. Health: Mi'kmaq perspectives

3. Stories of Inter-connectiveness

- * Under the stars: "muin"
- * From Eastern Canada – mi'kma'ki (island of cape breton)
- * +15 yrs they have been on a co-learning journey (wherein we have been our own experimental rat)
- * Co-learning journey: a shared understanding of how to talk together
- * Praxis based research
- * The foundational basis for any relationship is the exchange of stories
- * 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.

Presentation by Albert Marshall

- * It is not enough to go through life with one perspective; we must embrace all the tools we have.
- * The challenges now lie with young people; provide an opportunity with these young people, to ensure and prepare them
- * It didn't reflect who we are as first nations
- * Consciousness of Knowing... our interdependence on each other and on mother earth

- * All people must learn "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
- * Our language teaches us about interdependence.
- * Nature has rights. Humans have responsibilities.
- * 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.
- * 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
- * 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.
- * Special and unique gift – those with disabilities. This person has special gifts that we must recognize as a contributing member to our community and family
- * Health: All our relations, all our domains
 - o Cognitive
 - o Physical
 - o Spiritual
 - o Emotional
- * Learning, living and passing on ancestral knowledge
- * The foundational basis for any relationship is an exchange of stories

Discussion

Unavailable in rough notes. Please see video.