



The Concepts of Netukulimk and Two-Eyed Seeing

NETUKULIMK

The Mi'kmaq are the First Peoples of this land. They have an inherent right to access and use resources here in Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island).

They have recognized and practiced the concept of *Netukulimk* for centuries and it has been the foundation for sustaining Mi'kmaq families, communities, and society since time immemorial - over 12,000 years.

What is Netukulimk?

Netukulimk is a cultural concept that is based on achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being that does not jeopardize the integrity, diversity, or productivity of our environment.

Netukulimk is the use of the natural resources provided by the Creator. It encompasses Mi'kmaq sovereign law and guides individual and collective beliefs and behaviours in resource protection, procurement, and management to ensure sustainability and prosperity for future generations.

A key part of practicing *Netukulimk* is having an innate awareness of ones' impact on its environment and life forms, which creates an awareness and responsibility to harvest, hunt, and fish in a responsible way.

Any resources taken in these ways are done through the understanding that every life form is interrelated – by considering the land or waters it is taken from, and only taking what you need.

There has been much interest in *Netukulimk* in recent years, even more as the Mi'kmaq assert their treaty rights to a “moderate livelihood” (Treaty Protected) fishery, as affirmed by the 1999 *Marshall* decision. *Netukulimk* can be directly applied to Treaty Protected fishing.

Netukulimk is practiced as there is a need for sustainability in all resources, and the way of thinking of *Netukulimk* is that we are all connected, that every relationship between plants, humans, animals and water are reciprocal.

M'SIT NO'KMAQ – ALL MY RELATIONS

M'sit No'kmaq is a Mi'kmaq concept that refers to all living things being related. It is also a term used for honouring and thanking the Creator during ceremonies or other occasions. It is a key part of *Netukulimk*.



TWO-EYED SEEING - ETUAPTMUMK

What is Two-Eyed Seeing?

Etuaptmumk is the Mi'kmaq word for *Two-Eyed Seeing*. Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall introduced this guiding principle in 2004 as the gift of multiple perspectives valued by many Indigenous peoples.

Two-Eyed Seeing refers to a concept of learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing - and seeing from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing.

Relating to the Fisheries

More frequently, fisheries researchers and managers seek or are compelled to link Indigenous knowledge systems with Western scientific approaches to governing and understanding fisheries.

It is believed that using *Two-Eyed Seeing* provides a pathway to co-existence, where long-standing Indigenous knowledge systems can be paired with

Western scientific insights for an equitable and sustainable future.

In *Two-Eyed Seeing*, it is important to recognize that this concept does not assimilate either viewpoint. This guiding framework serves to build a co-existence and to complement both approaches. It creates an awareness and understanding that to move forward, both ways of knowing are beneficial, and recognizing and seeing both ways of knowing can only improve and strengthen our decision-making and future in all aspects.

Two-Eyed Seeing and Netukulimk

Elder Marshall's explanations of *Two-Eyed Seeing* ties into *Netukulimk*. He explains that *Netukulimk* is a Mi'kmaq understanding that "takes you into a place where you are very conscious of how the human two-leggeds are interdependent and interconnective with the natural world... this philosophy/ideology is so ingrained in your subconscious that you are constantly aware of not creating an imbalance."

Key concepts within this understanding are the following: co-existence, inter-relatedness, inter-connectedness, and community spirit.

Netukulimk:

pronounced: neh-doo-goo-limgp



Etuaptmumk:

pronounced: eh-doo-ahp-duh-mumk



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