



Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network

Two-Eyed Seeing and Ethical Space Training Indigenous Climate Change Action

Mar 14-15, 2024

Location:

Gathering Place by the Grand
2593 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken, Ontario N0A 1M0

This gathering will explore the ways in which Indigenous principles can be used to develop a response to the impacts of climate change including environmental shifts in seasons and cycles, extreme weather events, physical and mental health, food production, and more. The conference goal is to create Ethical Space for the engagement of ideas and inspiration as we begin to face the new ecological scenario created by climate change. Topics to be featured include:

- Two-Eyed Seeing and Ethical Space
- Natural Law and Cultural Prophecy
- Wampum Law, Governance, and Reconciliation
- Indigenous Food Security
- Net-Zero Energy Building
- Honouring Water
- Two-Eyed Seeing Bird Knowledge

Agenda

Day One: Foundations for the Future

8:00 am – Doors Open, Sign-in, coffee/tea served, booths available

9:00 am - 9:30 am – Traditional Opening and Explanation of Thanksgiving Address – Kevin Deer (Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Director of Indigenous Knowledge Quality Learning and Teaching Excellence at First Nations Technical Institute involved for 30 years in Mohawk language and culture retention and revitalization)

9:30 am - 9:35 am – Short Reflection on the 7 Sacred Gifts with Craig Abotossaway

9:35 am - 10:00 am – Introduction and Overview of intentions – Rick Hill (Tuscarora, Six Nations of the Grand River, Indigenous Innovations Specialist, Mohawk College). How might climate change adversely impact Indigenous food security, biodiversity, human health, ways of life, and other factors that determine the future of the next seven generations? Using Two-Eyed Seeing, we will consider how

problems can be addressed to create ethical space to help people, communities, and governments to increase our resilient capacities to face the coming realities.

10:00 am - 10:30 am – Orientation – Tim Johnson (Mohawk, Six Nations of the Grand River, Senior Advisor to Plenty Canada, Niagara Parks, and the Royal Ontario Museum, former executive at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian) will share reflections on the Albuquerque Declaration that arose from the Native Peoples – Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop held a generation ago in 1998, and the Calls to Climate Change Action by Al Gore at the LIVE EARTH / MOTHER EARTH global event held at the National Museum of the American Indian in 2007. Where we've been, and where we need to go.

10:30 am - 11:00 am – Break

11:00 am - 11:45 am – Science and Projected Impact of Climate Change – Conversation with **Dr. Sarah Burch** (Executive Director, Waterloo Climate Institute and Lead Author of the United Nations' Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and **Katherine Flynn** from the Mohawk College Centre for Climate Change Management.

- What is Climate Change?
- What can we expect in the next 10, 30, and 50 years?

11:45 am - 12:30 pm – Two Eyed Seeing and Ethical Space – Conversation between **Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall, Shabot Obaadjiwan Elder Larry McDermott, Roronhiakewen Dr. Dan Longboat** (Turtle Clan, Mohawk Nation, Director of Trent University's Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program).

- What are the foundations of Two-Eyed Seeing?
- What have our ancestors said about how to deal with the future?

This session will explore Indigenous philosophies, concepts, and practices that can be applied to protect natural world interests given the threats of climate change. Through a discussion centred around Two-Eyed Seeing, the Mi'kmaq teaching brought forward by Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall, as well as perspectives from both Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek cultures, it will clarify the nature of the actual challenges to family and community sustainability and what is projected as future consequences due to Climate Change.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm – Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm – Natural Law and Prophecy – Conversation between **Rick Hill** (Tuscarora, Indigenous Innovations Specialist Mohawk College) and **Onondaga Elder Oren Lyons** (over a period of 30 years, Joagquisho Oren Lyons, Haudenosaunee Faithkeeper, was a principal figure in the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 1977 to 2007).

- What is Natural Law?
- How do Indigenous governments align with Natural Law?
- What are the consequences for ignoring Natural Law?

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Protecting the Dish With One Spoon – Conversation between **Henry Lickers** (Seneca Nation, Turtle Clan, Environmental Science Officer for the Mohawk Council and International Joint Commission Commissioner) and **Rick Hill**

- What are the great teachings held by wampum belts that can help us create a new ethical space, a new alliance, and a new allyship focused on how we are going to protect and feed ourselves in the future?
- How can the concept of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum become a new reality for Indigenous nations food sharing systems?

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm – Break

3:30 pm - 3:35 pm – Overview of Two-Eyed Seeing, Ethical Space, and Governance in Pathways 1 with Shabot Obaadjiwan Elder **Larry McDermott**

3:35 - 5:00 pm – Learning to Cultivate Ethical Space with Indigenous Circle in CBRA and The Healing Place – Shawanaga First Nation Elder **Marilyn Capreol, Joanna Jack, Emily Morris, and John Sanna**

- What does Ethical Space look like in practice?

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm – Reflection/Networking/Visit Booths

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm – Feast

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm – TREATY: A Reconciliation Revelry

In this spectacular concert event an ensemble of award-winning musicians including **Joshua Arden Miller** and the **Pappy Johns Band**, along with **The Ollivanders**, take viewers on a journey of varied experiences that lead Canadians through stories of encounter and conflict to resolution, landing on uplifting notes of recognition, understanding, and respect. The program's stories and messages, conveyed through video, narrative, and of course music, provide audiences with historical context for understanding Indigenous experiences and Indigenous realities today. Brief film segments featuring Indigenous and Canadian leaders in civil society, education, culture, and the arts, who speak to the themes identified by a list of definitions of select words, are followed by curated musical performances thereby building a story that seeks to pave the way forward for Truth and Reconciliation.

Day Two: Looking To the Seven Generations

7:30 am – Doors Open, coffee/tea served, booths available

8:00 am - 9:00 am – Pipe ceremony with Josh Eshkawkogan

9:00 am - 9:15 am – Emcee reflects on the prior day and addresses the upcoming day

9:15 am - 10:15 am – Joseph Pitawanakwat (Founder & Director of Creators Garden, Leader of Anishinaabe Aki project), **Andrés Jiménez** (Anishinaabe Aki project, author of best-selling online course The Beginners Guide to Birdwatching: Finding Birds and Happiness), **Mike Burrell** (Ontario Breeding Bird

Atlas Coordinator, member of the Birds Species Specialist Subcommittee for COSEWIC) and **Lauren Jones** (Wildlife and Stewardship Manager, Six Nations Lands and Resources.)

- Hear from the leaders of three different bird-related projects about their progress, challenges, and experiences while incorporating Two-Eyed Seeing into their methodology.

10:15 am - 11:00 am – Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm – United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Food Security – Jessica McLaughlin (Anishinaabe from Long Lake #58 First Nation, has been working in Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Northern Ontario and nationally for 16 years. She lives in the Traditional Territory of the Fort William First Nation people with her son Jaxon and dog Sage.) **Rosie Kerr** (Post-doctoral fellow in the Sustainable Food System’s Lab, Lakehead University)

Food sovereignty is the right of a people to have access to healthy culturally appropriate foods, to grow and harvest foods produced through sustainable and ecologically sound methods, and for communities to define their own food systems. The purpose of this effort is to identify, develop, and share civil society and Indigenous food system best practices along with policy analysis to address gaps in knowledge and data to advance a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm – Net-Zero Energy Building and Honouring the Water – Garrett Johnson (Researcher with IDEAWORKS at Mohawk College in partnership with Evolve Builder’s Group to develop carbon-negative construction materials from annual agricultural biomass and novel, non-toxic binders. Through MITACS developed a sustainable water management system for Plenty Canada), **Tony Cupido** (Professional Engineer and Ph.D. (Civil Engineering) with 37 years of experience in engineering, facilities management and capital development), and **Charlene Winger-Jones** (Hereditary Council member, Water Walker, and co-chair of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm – Youth Response

Youth will be responding to what has been presented and what they see as a way forward, focusing on those matters.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm – Closing

3:30 pm - 5:00 p.m. — Meet at the entrance to The Gathering Place for a Nature Walk, weather permitting, to continue the conversation about birds and nature while experiencing a trail walk on the beautiful Six Nations FN. Expert birders **Mike Burrell** and **Joe Burrell** and Knowledge Keepers **Joe Pitawanakwat** and **Andrés Jiménez** will be on hand to share their nature knowledge and experience. Everyone is most welcome to join and share!

Sponsors

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Mohawk College
Department of Canadian Heritage

Registration for the conference was FREE, however donations are encouraged.

To access the conference agenda, resources, and the Periodic Review, use this QR code:



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