

Exploring Cooperative Potential in Paq'tnkek First Nation

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and

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Project 4.7

Made with Mi'kmaw Hands

Sharing Circle

- ✿ Designed to share experiences regarding obstacles to sustainable development and to explore collaborative potential - presentations by academic and community partners
- ✿ Craft makers, artisans, hunters and gatherers and elders from various Mi'kmaw First Nations explored the Mi'kmaw Social Economy in a sharing circle



Made with Mi'kmaw Hands

Sharing Circle Highlights

- ✿ Stories told about gathering from the land to make products: paper flowers, axe handles, baskets, mayflowers
- ✿ Stories revealed the challenges facing artisans such as sourcing raw materials, participating in a part time economy without jeopardizing social assistance, using and teaching traditional techniques

Findings

- ✿ Generational knowledge gaps
- ✿ Problems in access to raw materials
- ✿ Inconsistencies in production patterns
- ✿ Craft production has cultural significance and requires support and promotion
- ✿ Craft producers are financially penalized by *Indian Act* and band fiscal legislation (social assistance deductions inhibits growth potential)



The Netukulimk Response

- ✿ Indigenous management consciousness
- ✿ Foregrounds sustainability and protecting the well being of future generations
- ✿ The intersection of Mi'kmaw cultural identity, Indigenous rights and natural resource use
- ✿ Cultural ethos of responsible stewardship and sharing



Future directions

Capacity building through:

- Training youth in the Mi'kmaq arts
- Exercising treaty rights to their fullest potential
- Building knowledge networks across sectors (resource, education, social, governance, business, tourism)
- Creating entrepreneurial partnerships at all stages of procurement, production and distribution



Next Steps

- ✿ Examine inconsistencies in production patterns
- ✿ Establish youth apprenticeship programs
- ✿ Sourcing raw materials - partnerships with DNR, DFO, Parks Canada
- ✿ Form community crafters / artisans association in Paq'tnkek
- ✿ Create infrastructure to support a cooperative
- ✿ Seek funding

Attendees and Partnerships

- ✿ The workshop included four invited guest speakers: Dr. Leslie Brown (Mount Saint Vincent University); Tim Bernard (Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq); Randy Agnes (Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI); Clifford Paul (UINR - Moose Management Initiative Coordinator); Gerald Gloade (Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq).
- ✿ The Red Wolf Drum Group (Paqtnkek First Nation)
- ✿ Elders and craft makers from First Nation Communities across the Maritimes.



Funding

- ✿ The funding for the Made with Mi'kmaq Hands was secured through Dr. Leslie Brown and Mount St. Vincent University
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