



# A Year in Review

## 2024

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Two-Eyed Seeing is a guiding principle for relationship building, co-learning, and integrative science, translated by Mi'kmaq Elders and academics (Dr. Cheryl Bartlett, Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall) from Unama'ki (Cape Breton, Nova Scotia).



Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall

With guidance from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community partners, and Western scientists, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program aims to embrace the guiding principle of Etuaptmumk through various events for Mi'kmaw youth in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to uplift diverse learners interested in hands-on learning and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), while reflecting on Etuaptmumk's key teachings and using Indigenous values.

Originally launched as a pilot in 2017 through the National Science and Engineering Council (NSERC) Promo-Science Program, the program has since received two 3-year funding renewals (2020 and 2023). This support from NSERC has allowed us to establish and maintain our valued partnerships.

2024 marked our 8 year anniversary of the Two-Eyed Seeing Program! Thank you to everyone who has supported and trusted us. We look forward to deepening existing relationships and forging new ones in the year ahead.

# OUR CORE STAFF



## KRISTA COLLIER-JARVIS

University Liaison (2025)

Krista, a member of the Mi'kmaq First Nation and a third-generation residential school survivor, teaches Indigenous ways of knowing, American literature, popular culture, and climate fiction. Her doctoral research focuses on zombie narratives to create an Indigenous-infused, multispecies approach to contagion and climate change. She has published work on uncanny play in *Pet Sematary* and has an upcoming article on *Blood Quantum* in a collection about Indigenous and Aboriginal Gothic.



## SHANNAN GRANT

University Liaison (2017-2024)

Shannan was born in Unama'ki (Cape Breton) and is a third-generation settler of Celtic heritage. She lives in Dartmouth with her husband and child, who both identify as Swampy Cree and descendants of residential school survivors. With over 20 years of experience in curriculum development, STEM education, and community based programming, Shannan is a longstanding and valued member of the program, working closely with Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.



## CATHY LEBLANC

Program Coordinator and  
Community Liaison

A member of Wasoqopa'q Mi'kmaw Nation (Acadia) and a St. Thomas University graduate, Cathy has worked as a Mi'kmaw cultural interpreter and Student Support Worker for Indigenous and African Nova Scotian youth.

She co-founded Mi'kmaw Moons with Dave Chapman, connecting lunar cycles, astronomy, and Mi'kmaw storytelling, leading to presentations, educational videos, and a book illustrated by Mi'kmaq artist Loretta Gould.



## CHEYENNE HARDY

Coordinator and  
Logistics/Communications  
Assistant

Cheyenne graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University in May 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Study. She first connected with the program during a summer community engagement session and has been eager to contribute ever since. While continuously learning, some of her roles include social media content, website updates, event planning and supporting administrative tasks.



## FLO BLACKETT

Casual

Flo is a member of Millbrook First Nation, a mother, grandmother, and co-learner. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Human Nutrition, with a minor in sociology, from MSVU. She also has several certifications in information systems from NSCC. She believes her most valued education, however, has and continues to come from her community. Flo works at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and is an integral member of the TES Program: developing activities, drumming for events, and forging and maintaining relationships.



# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



ANN SYLLIBOY



JANICE FRANCIS



SHANE THEUNISSEN



SHANNAN GRANT



SHEILA FRANCIS



TARA PRIDE



WILL SHEAD



VELVET PAUL

## OUR PARTNERS





# OUR PROJECTS

## 01 NEW MOON, NEW YOU

In January, we collaborated with Native Council of Nova Scotia to host our “New Moon, New You” event, welcoming over 20 youth, families, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program, and Aboriginal Youth Outreach Program participants. Together, we delved into “Mi’kmaw Moons” by Cathy LeBlanc and David Chapman, beautifully illustrated by Loretta Gould. We explored the significance of each moon, practiced using Mi’kmaw words, and reflected on our goals for 2024.



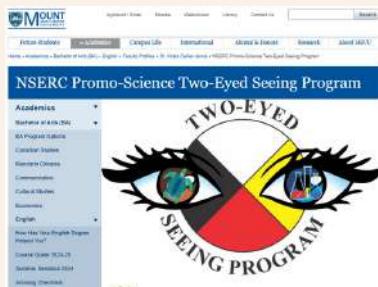
## 02 LUSKINIKN WORKSHOP AT PIER 21

During March break and Nutrition Month, we worked with Pier 21 and Ann Sylliboy to lead a Luskinikn workshop! 50+ participants made the traditional Mi’kmaw bread while learning about the culture, language, and history.



## 03 WEBSITE RELAUNCH

In 2024, we updated our website to make it more accessible for people who want to learn more about the Two-Eyed Seeing Program. We've added bios of our leadership team and staff, along with more links to resources created by our program and community over the years. Check it out and stay tuned for more updates!



## 04 SEVEN SACRED TEACHINGS

In August, the very knowledgeable Dorene Bernard spoke to our working group about the Seven Sacred Teachings, their importance, and the animals associated with them. Participants had the chance to reflect on how these teachings impact their work and daily lives. It was an uplifting and educational conversation that has helped us update our “Ways of Working Together” policy document.



## 05 LIFECYCLE OF THE BOAT

In 2022, youth, community members, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and MSVU Child and Youth Studies students came together to build boats.

This year, the boats went to their rightful homes. The Mariner, made by youth from Yarmouth, returned to their community. Tapatat, created by youth at LSK, went to Sipekne'katik. The third boat, Topsy, is in the process of finding a permanent home at Mount Saint Vincent University. It is currently on display on the third floor of Evaristus Hall. We plan to bring the youth in to co-curate a dedicated space for that boat.



## 06 NILU'NAL APP SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Mi'kmaw History Month theme was Mijipjewey Na Mawa'luksi'k—Food Gathers Us Together. To celebrate, we highlighted recipes from Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey's new Nilu'nal app, which shares traditional dishes in both Mi'kmaw and English. We used our social media platforms to feature recipes including eel soup, corn chowder, luski, moose roast, baked beans, and molasses cake.



## 07 ARTIST SHOWCASE AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST

The month of November was dedicated to showcasing one of our incredible artists and mentors, Jessica Jerome. People who engaged with these social media posts were entered to win a print of their choice from Jessica. The winner proudly displayed her prize and even purchased another print to go with it!



## 08 COMMUNITY ART SHOW

Jessica crafted a stunning tree piece that was featured in the MSVU Art Gallery's Community Art Show in December. Visitors wrote words that represented how they lived or understood each sacred teaching on designated leaves. Jessica is transforming the community piece into a permanent digital installation for our website. This piece will also be used to update our program's "Ways of Working Together" document.



# REFLECTIONS

In 2024, we hosted a three-month student work placement and hired Mariah Godin, an MSVU graduate student who brought a wealth of knowledge to our team. From September to December, she assisted with event planning and helped brainstorm our goals for 2025.

Reflecting on our journey and the incredible individuals we've met, we're deeply grateful for the guidance of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community partners, and academic researchers. Together, we're co-creating meaningful learning opportunities for Mi'kmaw youth in grades 7 to 9 in Mi'kma'ki. We're excited to continue walking this path together!

If we've had the privilege of working with you in the past, thank you so much for being a part of our journey.

If we haven't worked together yet and you'd like to learn more, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Wela'lin.





**SCAN TO LEARN MORE**

**STAY CONNECTED WITH US!**



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