



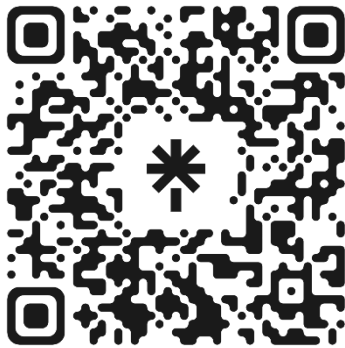
The Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) Program Newsletter

Kwe', Hello!

Welcome to our Fall/Winter 2025 newsletter. At the start of the year, we thought this season might be a quieter one as December marks the end of our third three-year grant period, and we expected to be wrapping up projects from the past few years.

But wow, we were wrong! So many incredible opportunities have come up, and we've been thrilled to work on these initiatives with and for community.

While reading, if you feel inspired to get involved with our program, we encourage you to reach out and join our volunteer list. Additionally, you can stay connected via social media, and our links can be found here:



wela'lioq,

Cheyenne, Cathy, and Krista

Please contact us at tesprogram@msvu.ca

Update #1: Completed Events

- On May 5, we attended the MSVU Red Dress Day events. A powerful installation was organized that honoured the lives of the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. It offered a space for learning, reflection, and action. To pay tribute, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program hung a red dress at the installation.
- The annual Girl's Conference, organized by the Alexa McDonough Institute for Women, Gender and Social Justice, took place on May 22. While the Two-Eyed Seeing Program did not formally take part in this event, our team was in attendance and took part in various ways. Cathy LeBlanc, program coordinator, shared her story as part of the Trailblazer Panel. Krista Collier-Jarvis, our principal investigator (PI), helped organize the conference. Shannan Grant, past PI and current leadership team member, also volunteered at the event.
- In June, we found out the Two-Eyed Seeing Program was selected to receive funding through the MSVU President's Fund Special Project Program! Only four applicants were chosen as recipients of the grant, and we're thrilled that our proposal was one of them. With this support, we were able to work with community members to paint a mural that is now a permanent installation in the MSVU Library. More on that later!
- On June 27, we visited Native Council in their new space to facilitate the Voice of the Drum. We explored how physics reveals the unique voices of each hand drum, using DIY Chladni plates to visualize frequencies, and slinkies to form sound waves. Flo shared her knowledge and opened a great discussion about how physics is all around us in nature...even when we don't see it.
- The Two-Eyed Seeing Program attended an edible and medicinal plant walk, hosted by the Garden Society and Captain Crow's Café Soup Kitchen on MSVU's campus. It was a great learning opportunity and helped us expand our knowledge for future events.





- On October 3, we took part in the Kinu Tourism and Education Conference. We had a pop-up booth where people could come, learn about the program and take part in our Seven Sacred Teachings tree activity. We also had a blast at our break-out session “Tree-ty Press-ervation,” pressing the plants we picked ourselves and reconnecting with nature. We also sponsored the morning cultural showcase. The conference was meaningful, and we were honoured to help support it. A BIG thank you to the Kinu team for bringing it all together!
- The mural unveiling of “Weligwet | Growing Well” took place on October 22.

Update #2: Weligwet | Growing Well

For several years, the MSVU Library displayed materials about MMIWG2S. When a new University Librarian arrived, she and Krista discussed how the display felt outdated and how it might be triggering for Indigenous students passing by. Together, they applied for support from the President’s Fund – Special Projects Program to reimagine the space in collaboration with community.

With this funding, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program partnered with Mi’kmaw artist Jessica Jerome and 14-year-old student artist Grace Campbell-Leblanc. Alongside Krista and Cheyenne, they created a large mural that now serves as a permanent installation in the MSVU Library.



Weligwet (welikwet/oeligoet) draws on Mi’kmaq visual traditions to explore identity, growth, and interconnection. The mural depicts a woman whose braid transforms into a tree, its roots, trunk, and branches wrapping around her. She represents the vital roles of women in Mi’kmaq traditions, bridging past and future.

The roots symbolize ancestors, knowledge keepers, and family, those who ground us. The branches reach outward, representing growth, progress, and the ongoing journeys of our communities.

In her hands, the woman holds a mirror, inviting viewers to reflect on their relationship to the Mi’kmaq people, Mi’kma’ki, and Mount Saint Vincent University. Wrapped around

the mirror is sweetgrass, symbolizing Two-Eyed Seeing, an approach that honours both Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.

Across the mural are petroglyphs, such as the peaked hat, six warriors, the L'nu, the eight-point star, and the map. These were chosen with community input to represent shared stories and teachings.

At the mural's base are four circular canvases, each created by one of the contributors. Circles hold deep significance in Mi'kmaw culture, representing unity, balance, and continuity. Jessica and Krista's circles reflect those who have guided this work over time, while Cheyenne and Grace's represent those carrying it forward today.

The mural was unveiled on October 22 in a library full of attendees. Jeannie Bail (University Librarian), Krista, Cathy, and Cheyenne each spoke about the project, while Flo and Grace opened the event with the Strong Woman song. Guests enjoyed Indigenous-inspired foods and spent time connecting and celebrating together.

This project was made possible through the generous support of the Mi'kmaq community, MSVU, the incredible artists, and the Two-Eyed Seeing Program, with funding from the MSVU President's Fund for Community Engagement and the NSERC PromoScience Fund. You can also read more about it in the *Halifax Examiner*:

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/indigenous-nova-scotia/msvu-unveils-new-mural-to-celebrate-mikmaq-community/>.



Visit the mural at the MSVU Library, 15 Lumpkin Rd, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6.

Update #3: Upcoming Projects and Programs

- Book Kit Distribution:
- Based on community feedback, we're creating Two-Eyed Seeing Book Kits to deliver to libraries and schools across the province. Each kit will include four books about Two-Eyed Seeing, written by Mi'kmaw authors, along with

curriculum-based activities developed by our team. All materials needed to complete these activities will be provided. These kits aim to foster learning and mentorship, with youth encouraged to read to younger children through a buddy system. Our team will begin distributing the kits in mid-November. Interested in ordering a kit? Reach out to us for more details.

- **Grant Transparency:**

As mentioned before, we are coming to the end of our current grant period. We have applied for another round of funding, and if accepted, we will continue our work as usual. Our current grant concludes in December, and we expect to hear back in January. We welcome feedback as well as suggestions for future programming should our next grant cycle be successful.

Update #5: Keeping the Community Informed and Engaged

Social Media:

- Other than our regularly posted content showcasing our work, we also completed some special campaigns:

1. **Mi'kmaw Moons Giveaway**

We spent time exploring the Mi'kmaw lunar cycle and gave away two copies of the book so others could join in! Everyone who followed our page and commented on the giveaway posts were entered. Shonna Ford and Jennifer Chase were the winners of this giveaway.

2. **Artist Showcase and Mural Sneak Peek**

In preparation of our mural unveiling event, we showcased each of the mural's artists and shared what this project means to them. Along with each post, we shared sneak peek photos of the mural to get people excited for the full reveal!

- This summer, we made the decision to switch from X (formerly Twitter) to Bluesky.



Website

We continue to update our website. Check it out here to learn more about the program and our many developed activities created by our program and community!

Website here: <https://www.msvu.ca/academics/bachelor-of-arts-ba/english/faculty-profiles/krista-collier-jarvis/nserc-promo-science-two-eyed-seeing-project/>



Year in Review Booklet

We've developed a Year-In-Review booklet that highlights our achievements in 2024. We have been distributing these at events. Let us know if you'd like a copy!

Two-Eyed Seeing Program Video

In 2024, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program video was reviewed by the Working Group, and feedback was provided to the video editor, Matt Stones. After some more filming, including an added interview with Dr. Ramona Lumpkin, the video is now complete and public! Watch the video here: https://youtu.be/iKi0p_ZdVTc



Stay tuned for a public screening.

Thank you so much for your continued support and engagement.

Take care,

The Two-Eyed Seeing Program Team