Decolonizing Anishinabek Inaakonigiwn (law) and Giikendaaswin (knowledge) Research

Gdo Akiiminaan Ganawendandaa (Taking Care of Our Land)

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Starting with Creation

- Lessons from Creation—it about relationships
- Knowledge and Responsibility
- *Learning about these relationships and responsibilities (from the natural world, families, spirit world, the ancestors, etc.)*
- Drawing on Indigenous governance, law, knowledge and protocols
- Responsibilities
- Accountability
- Beyond the human dimension

Natural Law
Indigenous Intelligence (Dumont 2006)

“We need to speak from inside of it” Intelligence of the mind, heart, body, soul and spirit
Indigenous Knowledge Systems - Responsibility & Knowledge
Ngo dwe Waangizid

- It is about “who we are” as Anishinabek
- Occurs at different scales
- Treaty approach: RHT
- Research and legal traditions/orders.
- Knowing and then there is KNOWING
2004 Model of Governance Structure

Anishinaabek/ Huron Treaty

Advocacy/ Coordination

Tribal Council

Technical support/
Expertise

First Nation
Decision Making

Individual/clan
family
Knowledge
authority
NSTC Giikendaswin Gatherings

- MAG / CEAA
- Revitalizing Anishinabek Legal Systems
- Elders Advisory Group
- Treaty Approach to EAs
- Anishinabemowin
Canadian environmental laws allow poisoning, they do not protect anything.
First Gathering

- EA’s
- Duty to Consult
- Crown Relationships
- FN EA processes
- Open discussions
Mini Gatherings

- GRFN
- MFN
- Birch Island
- Wahnapitae FN
NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE
ALL OF OUR TRIBES
Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiling
The Creator placed Anishinabe on the earth
Gibi dgwon gaadeni minidoo waadiziwin
Along with the gift of spirituality
Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, gibii, dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang maanpii
shkagmiigaang
Here on mother earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinabe to look after fire,
water, earth, wind.
Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaag wendaagog anishinaaben waa naagdoonijin
ninda iliizhwaaswi kino maadwinan:
The Creator also gave the Anishinabe seven sacred gifts to guide them; they are:

Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin, Dbaadendiziwin,
Gwekwaadiziwin, miiinwa Aakedhewin.
Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.

Debenjiged kiimingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.
The Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves

Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miiinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag,
miiinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.
We respect and honour the past, present and future.
Final Gathering

What we heard

Open discussion
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Family was key in all aspects of life
- Education
- Land based learning
- Treaty
- Ceremony
- Roles & responsibilities.

- Treaty approach with 4 Elders from each community making the final decisions on lands issues
Questions

Photos:
Sue Chiblow, Jan Owl, Roots Spring Media, Vice News (Patrick McGuire)