

Through this *Life Cycle of a Boat* exhibit, join youth from Sipekne'katik Mi'kmaw Nation (Indian Brook) and Wasoqopa'q Mi'kmaw Nation (Acadia) as they work together with Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders, university-based educators and learners, staff from the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Parks Canada, as well as other collaborators, to co-learn, co-create, build boats and relationships. This project is part of the Two-Eyed Seeing Program, which embraces the strengths of both Indigenous and Western scientific knowledges and perspectives, to create programs for Mi'kmaq youth in Nova Scotia.

The creation of the boat and its accompanying images, videos, and stories are living examples of the principles of Two-Eyed Seeing or *Etuaptmumk*, as described by Two-Eyed Seeing Program mentors, Elder Albert Marshall, Elder Murdena Marshall, and Dr. Cheryl Bartlett:

Two-Eyed Seeing refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all... We realize that our work is often akin to gardening. At different times, the gardener(s) will engage in a variety of activities, sometimes ones that serve to maintain or enrich the nourishing abilities of the soil and sometimes ones that involve planting seeds, nourishing young plants, moving established plants to different locations, encouraging new groupings of plants, harvesting materials, etc.

Much like a garden, a boat needs several components to 'come to life'. The boat needs a knowledgeable and skilled boat builder to source the materials and put them together, and an environment supportive of boat building, teaching, painting, and launching.

But the boat also needs relationships. There is a connection between the boat builder and learners, the youth and tools, the painter and the wood. Likewise, there is a relationship among those building, painting, and testing the craft, those transporting and storing it, and those who help with photographing, exhibiting, and observing it... essentially *Msit No'kmaq*, meaning *All my relations*. Through witnessing the lifecycle of this boat, you are now part of our experience, and we are forever changed.

– Wela'lioq, Thank you, Merci, Ekosani, from Two-Eyed Seeing Program  
Organizers and Participants

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