

Honouring Our Ancestors

Land Based Learning - Assignment #2

[Decade of Development](#)

[Set Backs & Milestones](#)

I can share many things when it comes to reconnection to Cultural and family. It has been a long journey for me, with many trials and tribulations along the way, There is a lot of links in this presentation, I hope you find them and enjoy.

The two above are books I have written about my life, and journey so far. I wrote “Decade” first, and “Setbacks,” later as a prequel.

The Prequel might explain why I needed a decade.

Miigwetch gii bizhiyaan

Tansi kakiyo, Sek:hon, Ahnee Boojoo (Kina Weya), Tanshi-Kiwew

Niin Zhaganashi Noosom, Randy Freese, Ndishnakaz (Government Name)
(Nit see ga sun Randy Freese)

Niin Zhaganashi Noosom, Mason Cretney Ndishnakaz (Name at Birth)

Niin Anishnabemowin Noosom, Ish-pim-ing Inaa-bin, Ndishnakaz
An Anishinaabe translation of my gifted Spirit name is “Look up in the Sky.”

Thadinadonnih (Tha-DINA-Donnih)

(Guelph), Doonjiba, (is where I live now) by way of many other places.

Oo chi Niya Edmonton or (Treaty 6) - Born
Edmonton, Doonji (Is where I came from originally).

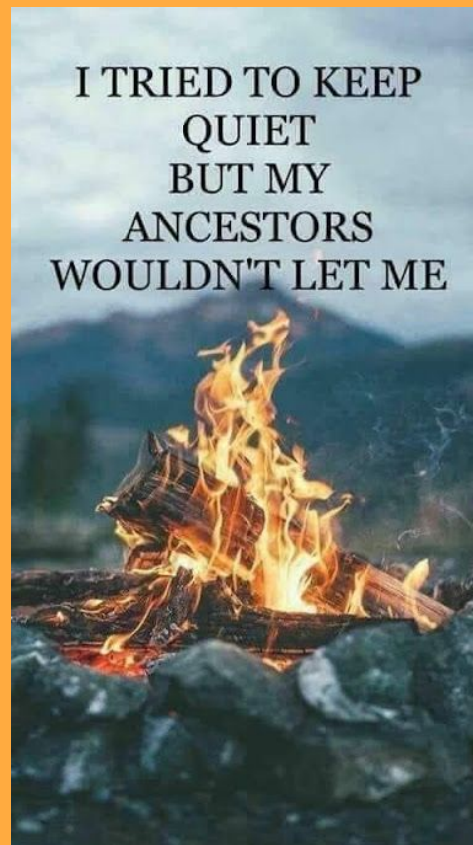
Gy Gii Kenda Maasii Dodem, (I don't yet know my Clan Name.)

I am Nehiyaw(Plains Cree) & Red River Metis and have been reconnecting to my culture and family for a little more than 20 years, since I met my Birth Mother in 2000, and Learning Anishinaabemowin for the last few years. I recently started Cree language classes, but still a new language learner.

SilverCreek Lodge - End of Year 1

When we start our language class, Anishinaabemowin. They didn't really have place for us to gather. The following summer, high school students built this lodge.

The video in the link, the video is not good, I may have dropped the phone, but the song is nice. The Teacher was presented a Star Blanket on the final day of class.



Tipis & Telescopes - 2024



Isaac Murdoch in the rear tent telling stories



Waiting for the sun to go down.



Portable Planetarium - Wilfred Buck

The First year, we had one of
These in a gymnasium. In 2024,
They brought two to the Lodge.
Wilfred Buck did the Cree Star
Stories. Samantha Doxtator
Did the Oneida/Haudenosaunee
Creation story in a planetarium
Presentation. The First night, the was
An Indigenous woman from Nigeria telling their
Stories. There was also a Maori presenter.



Lunar Eclipse,
An Eagle Staff we
Helped put together
For our language
Nest. My son and I
Were able to help
Put it together.



Galaxy S23 Ultra

Maawnjiding Wiinguskeng

Four School boards
Have come together
To provide programming
For Indigenous Students
And families, now there **are**
Three locations to do
Land Based Learning



Preparing for our Sweat Lodge

Pre-Covid, I was attending a monthly Sweatlodge.

It took awhile to get them back up and running, but in

The last year or two, I have managed to attend a few,

Including a complete rebuild, after the maintenance

People of this site, ripped it out of the ground to mow

The grass. We were given teaching on how to build the

Fire, but also what each grandfather stone represents,

The poles, placement of the structure and really how to

Run the sweat in a safe and welcoming way. It has been one of

Most healing portions of my reconnection journey, cleansing as well and bringing

Balance to areas in my Medicine wheel that had been neglected for a long time.



Sweat Lodge Rebuild - Sept.2023

This is a little slideshow of pictures I was able to take during the rebuild.

This particular Sweat lodge rebuild represented a big time of change for me, Possibly a renewal, like a refocus of my own energies.

This last year or so has been one of the most challenging I have had in my adult Life. If it wasn't for ceremony and my own work On reconnecting I don't know what I would have done.



I think this may be the
Previous sweat lodge.



Wasaga Beach - In the Evening



Rain Storm - outside our Apartment

Everywhere I go, i come across things that make me think. I take pictures and record sounds and sometimes just listen and wait in silence to see what happens.

This is just outside my window, but I have hard drives full of things like this waiting to be shared or used for projects like this. One good reason for technology and integrating it into our ceremonies and teachings, there's no reason why we can't now record our stories to be preserved for the future generations. If we do it ourselves, then we have keep our sovereignty over our data.

Even the difference between a digital Camera and a roll of film, I went to the Grand Canyon years ago, in one afternoon, I think I took over a thousands pictures.

I think we were camping when I took this picture. I was given my spirit name by a Cree Elder for up in Northern Quebec.

I am still working to get it translated into my own Dialect, Plains Cree.

But the way he explained it to me is described just like this picture: The space between the Trees and an Opening in the sky.

The translation in my Intro is something I got a little help with, but doesn't quite do it justice.



Somewhere Outside Sault Ste. Marie - July.2022



Anytime I can take a clear picture of the moon.



In 1873 the American government killed 1.5 Million buffalo in that one year alone to starve the native Americans so they would be come more dependent on the American government to survive.



Being from Western Canada, along my own reconnection journey I have learned a great deal about my birth family's history.

Several of them were involved in the fur trade, before this happened. This pile of skulls is pretty heart breaking.

The more I learn about myself, my family's history as well as colonialism and what we all went through and continue to endure, the word resilience doesn't do us justice.

!! Food Sovereignty in the North !!

I used to belong to a couple of facebook groups that were created to help families in the territories and remote communities by sponsoring them and sending care packages and food.

The Prices up north are so much more out of control and combined with the housing issues.

I suggested that may instead of sending one cardboard box to a single family, maybe we could fill a container with enough supplies to be reused, like rain barrels, and building materials, eventually turning that container into a small home. I was immediately kicked out that group.





I have taken so many pictures over the years, this is just the park down the street my where I currently live, I just happened to be here at the right time.



Chi -Jiimaan - Waiting to go to Manitoulin

I had the opportunity to meet a few water walkers this past Summer, this is route they take each year, more or less. I always enjoy the stories of how and why our lands are Shaped like various animals.



I have always been
Interested in Indigenous
Histories, cultures and
Creation stories, etc.
Indigenous people in
Australia have a really
Cool story about the
Milky way too, when the
Sky is that clear.
It can be seen, and looks
Like an Emu.



I don't remember where I found this:

I wish I could claim this piece as my own, but it
Just spoke to me, so I saved it.

Creation stories and Sky woman. The Turtle it is
Such a powerful piece, I just wanted to include it.



#Water is Life -

I have had a few life changing experiences with water over the years,

One of them was a few years ago when we travelled to Cuba. We went on a whim, sort of last minute, not that we could really afford it, but we all needed a break and time to relax.

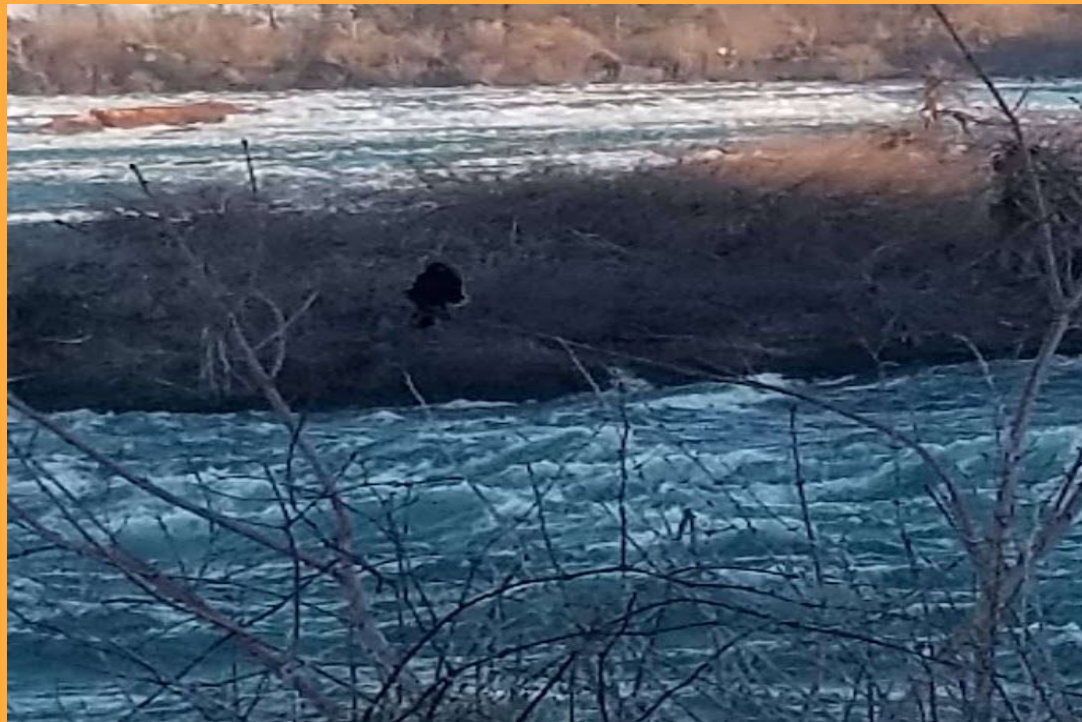
For the first three days, i walked out in the ocean which was so still and quiet, and laid back and floated there for as long as i could, each time just listening to the water and feeling the ocean around me, something changed in me through that process.



Deep in Thought, "Be Water"



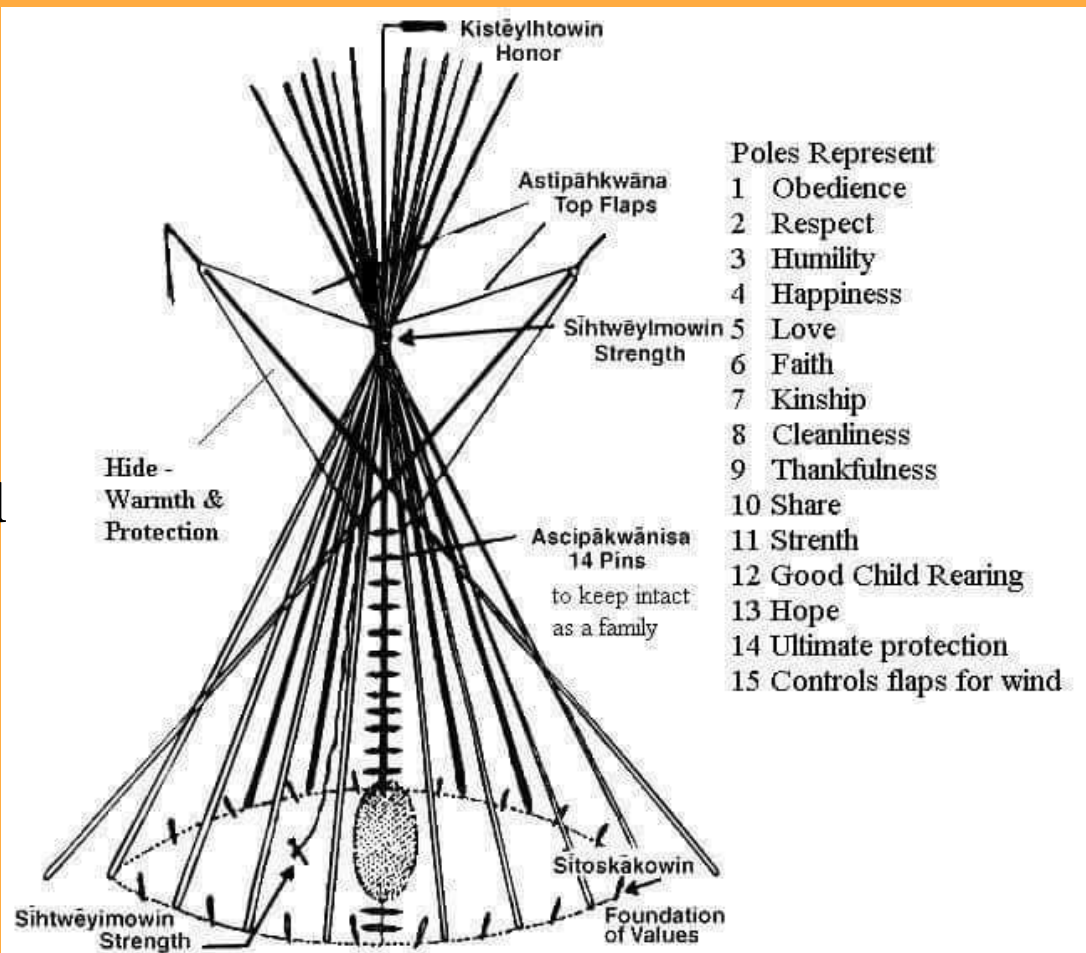
Niagara Falls - March 2020(During Lockdown)



Tipi - Pole Teachings

This is Something I have only
Had a chance to hear about.

It would be something I would
Love to participate in at some
point.



Strong Museum of Play - Rochester, NY

This is a Barbie diorama. There was many,
But this one really got me thinking about
All the things we have to deal with so **frequently**
To add to the pile is small things, like this,
The amount of detail in the picture of a toy
And its accessories. A ton of thought went
Into this act of Cultural appropriation.



[A Winter Day!](#)

AS we approach the coming Solstice, I wish
All of us the best holiday and reflection time.

I wanted to include one more item here:

This is part of the story of my own

[Reconnection Journey.](#)





Winter Solstice - 2023



Garfield - The Musical

This is just for fun. I made this short film for an Independent film class, where the goal was to make our films without spending any money and using items around the house. It just happened to be right before Halloween.

My son does a great job getting down in a costume. It may not sync up exactly, but it worked out. (Link in the title)