



NEWS RELEASE

FREDERICTON, New Brunswick (February 20th, 2015) – On Tuesday March 17th, the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre (MWC) is proud to host 2nd Annual Building Research Capacity with Indigenous Communities Workshop sponsored by The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP) and developed in partnership with the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre (MWC) and the Faculty of Education.

2015 Building Research Capacity with Indigenous Communities Workshop

**Tuesday March 17th, 2015 St. Mary's First Nation Cultural Centre, 45 Dedam St., St. Mary's First Nation
8:30 am – 3:30pm.**

This workshop is open to members of the public.

“I believe that Indigenous epistemology and ontology are based upon relationality. Our axiology and methodology are based upon maintaining relational accountability. With a deeper understanding of these concepts, I hope that you will come to see that research is a ceremony. The purpose of any ceremony is to build stronger relationships or bridge the distance between aspects of our cosmos and ourselves. The research that we do as Indigenous people is a ceremony that allows us a raised level of consciousness and insight into our world. Let us go forward together with open minds and good hearts as we further take part in this ceremony” – Shawn Wilson, *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods*, Fernwood Press, 2008

This, the 2nd annual Building Research Capacity with Indigenous Communities workshop, will allow First Nations and other Aboriginal peoples, university-based researchers and students, policy-makers and others with an opportunity to engage in discussion about the ethics of building research relationships between Indigenous communities and researchers on the basis of mutual respect and understanding.

These workshops arose out of the recognition by the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program and the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre at the University of New Brunswick of the need for researchers, students, policy-makers and Indigenous community members to meet, discuss, and understand how to participate in research and knowledge exchange in a way that builds lasting relationships. They are also designed to foster an interest among students in continuing their educations and, ultimately, participating in Indigenous community-based research.

Agenda:

At 8:30 the workshop will start with traditional drumming followed by an opening prayer by Imelda Perley, Elder-in-Residence, University of New Brunswick. There will be a welcome on behalf of Saint Mary's First Nation, Chief Candace Paul; Government of New Brunswick, Patrick Francis, Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs; Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick, Ann Sherman, Dean; and on behalf of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, Margaret Donahue, Senior Research Coordinator.

David Perley, Director, Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre, University of New Brunswick will provide a brief overview of the agenda for the day as follows:



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9:45 – the Indigenous community perspective on research collaboration and the relationship between the community and researchers – Christopher George, M.Phil. candidate, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of New Brunswick

10:15 – break

10:30 – a university-based researcher's perspective on research relationships with Indigenous communities and relational accountability – Susan Blair, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of New Brunswick and Ramona Nicholas, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of New Brunswick

11:00 – break

11:15 – the perspective of students on research collaborations between universities and Indigenous communities, or “walking in both worlds” – panel discussion – Andrea Trenholm, Ph.D. candidate, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick; Imelda Perley, Elder-in-Residence, University of New Brunswick; and Ashley Julian, MEd candidate, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick

12:15 – lunch and informal discussion

1:15 – talking circle – experiences of research with/within Indigenous communities – collaboration or conflict?; concerns, pleasant surprises, lessons on building effective relationships, maintaining relational accountability, and seeing research as a ceremony

3:15 – closing remarks by Ian Peach, coordinator for the workshop

3:30 – closing prayer by Miigam'agan, Elder-in-Residence, Saint Thomas University

Contact

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