



May 21 final chat-box harvest

- ❖ Our guests so steeped in culture, it just wants to express itself through hands, song, language. Beautiful!
- ❖ I was challenged to think what I want "to do for breakfast?" I was also challenged to listened to my grandfather garden through me. Thanks so much for all the gifts I received today
- ❖ Sharing stories of distinct roots, going deeper. Better enabling weaving together baskets of caring, yummy thriving.
- ❖ I am struck by the need to balance absorbing culture and to intentionally seek it out and adopt it into a way of life. it's an interesting balance to try to strike.
- ❖ Ma'lklit says that she never realized that she had so much to offer in the way of cultural gifts, because she never thought about it. Being asked to tell the stories brings out the teachings and the cultural knowledge that she had learned through her ancestors for generations.
- ❖ Inspired to sing more!! With others and alone! Singing for ancestors, for ourselves, and for the ones coming.
- ❖ Struck by the importance of preserving stories and stories in song as that is how our family and community histories are told and carried on for future generations.
- ❖ Prompted to open more to my ancestral story...and grow through it..
- ❖ Extending the life of our ancestors through remembering them, writing and singing songs for their struggles and their lives.
- ❖ Today's conversations sparked feelings of deep need not only to continue learning the languages of my ancestors but to reach out to my extended family by phone and begin

gathering the stories of our people and the land we come from. Absolutely singing more, learning the I'll folk songs of the Gaels and Acadians

- ❖ Definitely sparked a desire to put more energy into reclaiming my Gaelic heritage and also to engage more with the other cultural communities that call Mi'kmaki home.
- ❖ Conversations have taken me to China, Texas, Iceland, England, Switzerland and back to Mi'kma'ki. I feel heartened by connection to others also seeking to connect with the cultural gifts from "the shoulders they stand on." Today is calling me to appreciate more the efforts people make, but also the organic flow, to manifest these gifts.
- ❖ To cry, grieve
- ❖ They have further reinforced for me that this is a region of incredible richness - of song, of story, of craft, of story, of resilience - and we should forever leave behind the feeling of being a "have-not" region. We must embrace an abundance mindset and appreciate that prosperity should not just be measured in dollar signs and GDP
- ❖ A deeper look at how a person is a conduit of language, culture and identity. What is the moving force within someone to empower them to share unique identity through language and/or cultural practices.
- ❖ Loved what Frances said about our gifts being no burden at all to carry. This inspired conversations to tease out the parts of gifts that are no burden to carry and commit to those, and commit too to look at the parts that make it feel sticky or sorrowful to engage with ancestral gifts...
- ❖ When a fire almost goes out, it can leap forth even stronger when given even the slightest chance.
- ❖ Being an ancestor now, to 2 different generations of grandchildren!
- ❖ Today's conversations have taken me to think of my grandmother, which I haven't done in a long time. Her influence on me is huge (the good and the bad, haha) and really has affected who I am today. She taught me so many things, some of which I have been ignoring for a while, like rug-hooking, so I think that "one day" should be sooner because I feel it is an expression of myself that I need to explore.
- ❖ Want to continue to explore and learn indigenous stories and culture and wisdom. And more broadly, want to explore the concept of "indigeneity" altogether, including the idea that the European settlers of the New World were often themselves survivors of trauma.
- ❖ Sparked in me... what is gained by reclaiming our ancestral gifts. What emerges when we start doing the practices of our ancestors? Curiosity about the unexplained mystery that guides our actions. How music opens doors to new dimensions and memories. The value of language and hearing language in these spaces. The magic of contrasting stories born in many different decades.

- ❖ Thank you Ma'kilit and Abigail for sharing your stories and skills. As always the stories brought me to the interconnectedness of communities and to keep connecting with others to discuss and share the gifts passed down to us, and those we carry.
- ❖ The conversations have taken me back to my childhood and back before my birth and to my teens and adulthood. So many memories of baskets and their role in the communities I grew up in. Like the "buggy whip", the local basket used to be all pervasive, but it persisted long after the buggies had all but vanished.
- ❖ Healing through artisanship. Ancestors working through us.
- ❖ Today's talk has spark me to not take the small moments for granted. They might be what my children remember and cherish. That doing things I love is important. That "important" task might not be what I want to pass on to them (doing dishes ...)
- ❖ Thinking about the anger that a history of racism, inequity and cruelty invokes, and how do I process that to be able to find a more positive and constructive way towards hope and reclaiming culture.
- ❖ How to tell province or region-wide stories that deepen togetherness, ability to see and respond. How to circulate and scale up.
- ❖ It's calling me to reconnect with my Japanese ancestors to learn where they came from before the 1800s when they came to Canada
- ❖ A question rose in me: Who of my ancestors is inside me when I am doing my stuff and I don't know how I am doing that?
- ❖ Deep gratitude for our ancestors who intuitively held families and cultures together despite great adversity. Inspired to honour that effort through continuing to learn, share and create.
- ❖ Tapadh le Ma'Iklit agus Abi | Thank you Ma'Iklit and Abi!
- ❖ What I think about is the appreciation of the gifts we have received from our people, and the obligation to pass on the gifts we have ourselves received.
- ❖ It has also confirmed that there is an essential place in our world for celebrating and practicing the simple things in life - the skills and tools of our bodies through which we can channel love and tradition and customs that help to ground us and give us perspective.
- ❖ wela'lin/merci/thank you for sharing
- ❖ Also found that I appreciated the fact that my Welsh (oldest gaelic language) heritage has benefited from the revitalization of the language that has occurred in my lifetime. Almost none of my family spoke Welsh even during my early twenties, but nowadays the language is taught as a compulsory subject in all schools and is on all media and all signage.

- ❖ Who is with us on our journey...whose talents, skills, cultural heritage are we carrying forward/manifesting in our daily language and/or cultural heritage interactions/activities?
- ❖ Wela'lioq - Thank you - Merci
- ❖ Join in the singing ... even though we're on mute ... we can sing together apart!
- ❖ Wela'lioq | Tapadh leibh | Thank you!
- ❖ Yahh!!!!!!!Lovely!!
- ❖ Eireachdail!!
- ❖ thank you all so much !!!
- ❖ much love ❤️
- ❖ Thanks all
- ❖ Sin thu, Lileag!!