

Partnership Tenets

As a Mi'kmaw organization, we value insights from Western science and we also value our own ways of knowing and being.

There are limits and challenges to how Two-Eyed Seeing unfolds due to our different ways of viewing the world and how we operate within our respective worldviews. The impact of a colonial education system in how Indigenous people and their knowledge systems are viewed, valued, and treated needs to be considered.

Given the interest in Two-Eyed Seeing, reconciliation, and need for many projects to collaborate and partner with Indigenous peoples, we would like to provide guidance on how this can be achieved with UINR.



The foundation of Two-Eyed Seeing rests on principles of collaboration, co-learning, and the co-production of knowledge.

Building on the foundation of Mi'kmaq values of equality, equity, and Netukulimk, and the principles of Two-Eyed Seeing, the following Partnership Tenets are meant to help provide guidance on how to collaborate effectively:

- 1 Engage early. Co-development of the project is expected.
- 2 Relevance of the project is key to our participation. The project outcomes must benefit UINR or the Mi'kmaq community interests.
- 3 Partnerships must be based on equality. This is expressed as shared decision-making. How the project is developed, implemented and communicated must be through a partnership arrangement integrated within the project.
- 4 The preferred project governance arrangement is a steering committee. In this forum, all partners have an equal voice in project implementation and co-development of research questions, research methods and methodologies, products, and communications. The expectation is that a terms of reference will be co-developed, with an emphasis on shared decision-making, roles and responsibilities clearly identified, address how data is to be used and shared, and incorporation of a conflict resolution process.
- 5 Be aware that some projects may involve a local ethics review, and this takes time.
- 6 Budgets must be co-developed and incorporate the added expense of collaborative governance within the project.
- 7 Research must have minimal impacts to the environment, including to the species studied, community involvement, and the environment, as examples. We encourage potential partners to work with us to integrate ways we can minimize harm yet meet the research criteria to ensure a successful project.
- 8 Resources to hire a community liaison have been successful in past projects and is recommended to ensure the project is supported by the resources necessary for its success.
- 9 Co-authorship is expected on primary publications, project reports, and grey literature.
- 10 Any project-related communication products (website, social media, brochure, posters, etc.) must be co-developed.

The gift of multiple perspectives is treasured by many aboriginal peoples and explains that it 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 to using both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

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References

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