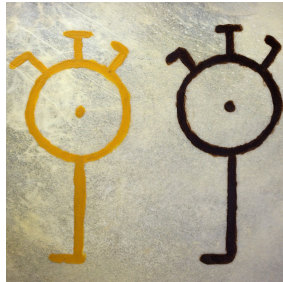


Wapanakí Two-Spirit Alliance



Mawíta' jǐj Puoínaq: A Gathering of 2-Spirited
People! A Gathering of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual and
Transgendered L'nuk aq Wolastoqíyík! A Gathering
of Spiritually Powerful People!

Overall Report

Due to the lack of education, prevention, awareness and intervention geared at Indigenous Two-Spirited suicides in Atlantic Canada, a committee was formed to help address the current issues and bring forth upgrades to the existing suicide prevention programs. This committee was called the Wapanaki Two-Spirit Alliance. Through many meetings and electronic media, the committee discussed, planned and put forth an agenda for a regional gathering here in Atlantic Canada. A proposal was written and funding was granted.

The objectives that support the goals of the Alliance:

- To strengthen the identity, dignity, integrity and wellness of Two-Spirited (Indigenous gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered) people.
- To provide opportunities for Two-Spirited people to learn about their cultures, heritage, ceremonies, healing practices and inherent rights.
- To educate Indigenous people about the traditional roles that Two-Spirited people held.
- To bridge the gap between services providers and Two-Spirited people.
- To build a network of a supportive environment that offers strength in numbers.
- To consult with the Alliance members in order to develop and prioritize a research agenda that can be used by both the Two-Spirit and research communities.
- To develop an approach towards Two-Spirited people with regards to suicide intervention and prevention.
- To identify research needs and begin the process of developing a Two-Spirited suicide prevention and intervention module that other organizations, health centers or crisis counsellors can use when working with Two-Spirited people.
- To invite and welcome Two-Spirited people across Atlantic Canada to a location where social networking can occur.
- To host a gathering of Two-Spirited people focused on healing, ceremony, culture revitalization and social strengthening.

- To identify other areas of concern for future discussion and gatherings.
- To form a formalized network to offer an ongoing role in creating more supportive communities that are welcoming of Two-Spirited people and assisting in the restoration of the traditional role of Two-Spirited people.
- To promote awareness of indigenous and contemporary laws which prohibit discriminations based on gender identity, sexual orientation and perceived race.
- To explore mentoring opportunities and peer guidance among the participants.

Indigenous people today are working hard to reclaim the important elements of their culture, history and healing technologies which have become lost, forgotten, hidden or forcibly removed during the past 500 years of contact with outside culture. Two-Spirited people are included in this circle that was damaged by the Canadian Indian Residential school system and the loss of trying to live according to our inherent rights. The impact of this intergenerational assault on indigenous views of sexuality and gender norms can be seen in the growth of gangs of alienated youth, high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, early school drop outs and lack of cultural awareness.

The Wapanaki Two-Spirited Alliance decided upon a location that would be both beneficial and offer a sense of serenity to its participants. Liscombe Lodge, located in Liscombe Mills, N.S. has a picturesque riverside setting nestled in a forest of evergreens. For many generations the site of Liscombe Lodge was known as Lone Cloud's cabin and this cabin was purported to located near the marina. A long abandoned goldmine in the area, which dates back more than a century, was also named for the legendary Mi'kmaq. The lodge is an ideal location for group retreats, team building and outdoor adventure.

The Mawiomí was set for August 31 to September 4, 2011. We planned to have one representative from each Indigenous community in Atlantic Canada present. The

Wapanaki Two-Spirited Alliance would cover the cost of travel, meals and accommodations for the participant. Gathered for the Mawiomí was close to 50 participants including presenters and Elders. From an indigenous perspective, invited guests from various communities bring with them the good medicine of their ancestors, sacred lands, ceremonies and spiritual guides and entities. Their presence, gifts and offerings will then be merged in the sharing circles. The agenda for the Mawiomí took into account the four realms of Aboriginals: the physical, the emotional, the mental and the spiritual. Proposed presentations, learning circles, activities and sessions will focus on these four areas with an emphasis on suicide, education, intervention and prevention in relation to Two-Spirited people. The gathering was guided by an alcohol and drug-free philosophy. Two-Spirited people are vulnerable to homophobia, transphobia, violence and racism; some are at risk of exploitation and addictions (using alcohol and drugs to cope.)

One of the primary objectives of the gathering is to provide an opportunity for the Two-Spirited community to learn about their history and culture. Traditional teachings and ceremonies like the sunrise ceremony, sweat lodge, pipe ceremony, smudging ceremony and pow-wow were woven into the day-to-day rhythm of the Mawiomí. Elders were called upon to share the knowledge and gifts they had learned and earned from their mentors and their home territories.

Day 1: Physical

Introduction and Welcome: John R. Sylliboy

What services are available to Two-Spirited people. Topics: education, participation, gathering, medicine, ceremonies, social, healing, strengthening and formalizing the Alliance. Hopefully we will be all good friends. Go back to communities, enthuse other people and be proud. Gatherings have a life of their own, the same as circles. People get passionate and more knowledge comes out.

Balancing Water and Fire Ceremony: Tuma Young

The water and fire both symbolize the male and female aspects of our body, mind and spirit and it is important to keep both in balance not allowing one to overpower the other while recognizing and respecting the distinction between each.

What are our Contemporary Roles? : John R. Sylliboy

Puoín- a person with power, a person with natural healing powers. A person who was traditionally respected and revered in L'nu and Wulastook communities. They are a people who possess the sacred gifts of the duality of spirits and who exist in harmony with both of them. We actually need more revolution, not evolution. It is important to remember that history growing up and it is what will enable you to survive.

Gathering Power: Identifying and collecting Medicines: Tuma Young

Identifying and gathering traditional medicines that will help keep our spiritual, physical, emotional and mental realms in balance.

Day 2: Emotional

The Closet: Where our Emotions are Hidden: Andrea Currie and Gabe Saulnier

“Coming out” is nonlinear and isn’t just done once. We pay a price for staying in the closet. It takes a lot of energy to stay in the closet. It’s like a backpack full of rocks: it takes energy that could be used in other important aspects of our lives. Coming out is a long process. When you come out to your family, you’re actually coming out to your community at the same time. Family extends way beyond your immediate family.

Suicide Prevention: Fyre Jean Graveline

So many of our stories of coming out are tied to stories of self-harm. Suicide is like a monster, raging through the communities, eating up people. We should give gratitude to all the little things in life that make it special and meaningful. Often self-harm is to stop the confusion. Tears are healing. We need to be more pro-active and have more knowledgeable resources available to us as Two-Spirited people.

Day 3: Mental

Decolonizing Ourselves: John R. Sylliboy

Decolonization interrupted the way that Two-Spirited people live. It has affected our leadership and roles in Indigenous societies. We need to decolonize and get back to our traditional roles and roots. We need have togetherness and be able to share openly and honestly. As the circle grows, we have to realize the meaning and propose of being in

such a circle. We all have different paths and different struggles. Our common struggle is to understand what it means to be Two-Spirited. The seed to healing is connecting to your roots. Know about your spirituality, your values and your teachings and be willing to take action.

HIV/AIDS: Pam Paul and Gabe Sauliner

The World Health Organization estimates that more than 25 million people worldwide have died from this infection since the start of the epidemic. In 2008, there were approximately 33.4 million people around the world living with HIV/AIDS, including 2.1 million children under the age of 15. Some ways to prevent AIDS is to practice safe sex (always wear a condom), never share needles and to avoid contact with another person's blood. The circle centered on trials and tribulations and stories of the early days of HIV in the 1980's and how frontier organizations were formed to educate, prevent and understand the spread of the disease in Indigenous communities.

Day 4: Spiritual

Priorities for Research for the Two-Spirited in the Atlantic: John R. Sylliboy

Some priorities for research include developing a research team for research on Two-Spirited topics of interest, develop partnerships with academic and non-academic research institutions/organizations that would further research through the Wapanaki Alliance, examine alcohol and drug usage, Two-Spirited woman's issues, HIV/AIDS issues, healthy sexuality, workshops to help create a nurturing and learning environment

(singing, arts and crafts, drumming, drama, etc.) and a list of cultural resources and roles of Two-Spirited people in Atlantic Canada. The development of a research agenda will provide crucial guidance to researchers on how to begin doing research with and in cooperation with the Two-Spirited community in a respectful and mutual beneficial manner.

Developing Allies: Strengthening and using the Wapanakí Two-Spirited Alliance: Tuma Young

The Wapanakí Two-Spirited Alliance sees the Mawíomí as a major tool to the development, establishing and a strengthening of a supportive and mentoring alliance for Two-Spirited communities in Atlantic Canada. Our ongoing goal will be to restore and reclaim the respected and revered role the Two-Spirited people once held in all of our communities.

Recommendations and Actions:

- There be an annual/bi-annual Two-Spirited conference in Atlantic Canada.
- This conference be the beginning of the Atlantic Two-Spirited Alliance (A2SA)
- We begin research that is designed of our needs, interests and objectives.
- The A2SA provides a voice for Atlantic Two-Spirited people.
- The A2SA develop a resolution that would be brought to our respective regional/provincial/territorial organizations.
- We establish an ongoing committee that would be composed of cultural/gender representation to the best of our ability.
- We develop a module for Two-Spirited friendly Suicide Prevention that would be delivered to our regional front line workers through our Alliance.
- We continue the efforts of developing a communication strategy that is pro-active, continuous and inclusive of all members.

- Embrace and encourage continuous growth of our membership in the Alliance as a means of building important human, cultural, logistics, educational and “Love” resources for future generations.
- “Pass on the Crown” (meaning pass along the traditional information about the roles of the Two-Spirited People in our communities and to be open and proud of who you are. Step up and take your rightful role in the communities and make sure to meet your responsibilities as a Two-Spirit person).

Research Agenda: Thinking About Research on Two Spirit Themes

The MAWITA'JIK PUOINAQ: *A Gathering of Two-Spirited People in Atlantic Canada* was held over the Labour Day weekend from August 31- Sept. 4 at the Liscombe Lodge in Nova Scotia. A total of 50 participants took part in the Gathering where various topics, including the need for research were addressed. One of the key objectives for the Gathering was to consult with the participants about topics of interest for research, specific to Atlantic Canada. In the development of the proposal for the Gathering, it was outlined that research is scarce in the area of Two Spirit themes, especially in Atlantic Indigenous communities. It was also noted that there are legitimate concerns regarding recent suicides among young people being addressed in the media, which sparked national and international campaigns, such as "It Get's Better Videos" on YouTube and in other media. This and the recent suicides of two young Two Spirit women in one of our Atlantic communities reveals the need for immediate action to create supports and bring about awareness of Two Spirit needs in our communities. Research on alcohol and drug use among Two Spirit people on Indigenous communities is an immediate need and priority for the Wapanaki Two Spirit Alliance (W2SA).

According to many of the participants, suicidal thoughts were often brought on by their lack of positive experiences with self-identity, or self-acceptance as being Two Spirit. In relation to alcohol and drug use, the study would also identify underlying reasons why youth face such tremendous challenges living in their Indigenous communities and being Two Spirit. The participants expressed their concerns with respect to coming to terms with being Two Spirit in their home communities, such as: the lack of family/community supports, the non-existence of positive role models for young people, and the lack of awareness around Two Spirit issues on Reserves. Youth are victims of constant abuses, mockery, bullying and social out casting. Therefore, alcohol and drug dependency became a way of escape and coping with their realities. Hence the cycle began that way for many, which had often tweaked suicidal thoughts, or much more drastic results – successful suicide. That was the case for two young women in one community, which is also the reason why the Gathering was planned to begin with.

Alcohol and drug abuse are definite causes in youth suffering from imbalances in their mental health and wellness. The addictions, mental health and wellness issues, and social problems are all interrelated and overlapping problems that young people face on Reserve.

The challenge to address anything related to Two Spirit in the Atlantic is the lack of research. The proposal referred to research that has been conducted in a wider context at a national and international scale, however, it is clear from the W2SA's literature review, that there is almost no material to build from in the region. The proposal referred to "*Addressing Homophobia in relation to HIV/AIDS in Indigenous Communities,*"¹ and the "*Indigenous Two-Spirit and LBBTQ Migration, Mobility, and Health Research Project,*"² where content is related, but not specific enough. Research is essential to represent the Atlantic focus of research interests, its target audience, and more importantly, to voice the needs of Atlantic two spirit people.

The Gathering provided a great opportunity to present and gain support on research needs for the Atlantic region among the participants. John R. Sylliboy, W2SA Committee Member, facilitated the discussion, ***What are the Priorities for Research for the Two-Spirited in the Atlantic?*** The priorities for research include developing a research team to study Two-Spirited topics of interest, develop partnerships with academic and non-academic research institutions/organizations and the W2SA, and to work collaboratively with Atlantic Indigenous communities in coordination with Two Spirit Alliance members.

The discussion was invigorating and participants felt enthused at the idea of taking part in developing research and providing their input where necessary. One of the key ideas presented at the Gathering was to develop a 'Coming Out' anthology as a means to gather experiences of Two Spirit individuals to share with other people that

¹ "Addressing Homophobia in Relation to HIV/AIDS in Indigenous Communities: Final Report of the Environmental Scan 2004-05. Canadian Indigenous AIDS Network ("Addressing")

² Ristock, J., Zoccole, A., and Passante, L. (2010). Indigenous Two-Spirit and LGBTQ Migration, Mobility and Health Research Project: Winnipeg, Final Report, November 2010 ("Ristock")

may be struggling with their own coming out issues within their communities. Although, this is not a quantitative study on health issues, its ethnographic approach will give voice to Two Spirit Aboriginals in the region.

Quantitative studies can be directed toward the following other areas for future research: Two Spirit women's issues, HIV/AIDS issues, healthy sexuality, and other mental health and addictions related themes, depression, self-esteem, and loneliness among Two Spirit people. The development of a research agenda will provide crucial guidance to researchers on how to begin doing research with and in cooperation with the Two-Spirited community in a respectful and beneficial manner.

Research is important for policy and research development. The Mi'kmaq Health Research Group from Dalhousie University shared their latest statistic found in the Regional Health Survey, which states that 3% of the people self-identified as being Two Spirit in the province of Nova Scotia. (footnote required) This is the only important data that the Alliance has as a statistic. This needs to change and we need to begin to "beat the bushes" in our communities to develop formal studies and gather information regarding our Two Spirit population. We cannot lobby for services and health supports to our leadership and stewardships, if we have no knowledge of what we need to lobby for.

The Wapanaki Two Spirit Alliance would like to submit a proposal to the Atlantic Indigenous Health Research Program to develop a study on examining the causes of alcohol and drug usage among Two Spirit aboriginals in the Atlantic region. There seems to be a correlation between excessive alcohol and drug use and suicide among Two Spirit people. The participants at the Gathering shared their "coming out" stories and hardships associated in coming to terms with being Two Spirit in their communities and families. Many had alluded to masking their inner pains and suffering with alcohol or drugs, or just to cope with living with being Two Spirit on the reserves. In order for Two Spirit people to gain support for their cry for help, there needs to be further evidence to underscore concerns only research can provide.

EVALUATION

| Themes | Key Words | # of mentions + (neg.) vs - (pos.) | Observations/Recommendations |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gathering Logistics Satisfactory: 8.3% (2) Good: 0.0% (0) Very Good: 37.5% (9) Excellent: 54.2% (13) Average: 3.38 Responses: 24 | Location/Hotel/Staff | 7+ 2- | "...perfect paradise location and private for people who have not come out yet or are uncomfortable in public surroundings." |
| | Food | 4+ | "superb" |
| | Organization/Organized Organizers | 4+ | "The activities were well planned." |
| | Facilitation | 10+ 1- | Opinions expressed throughout the survey: "...facilitation was shared and the transitions from one another seemed to flow easily." |
| Sharing ~ Networking & Group Dynamics Satisfactory: 4.2% (1) Good: 0.0% (0) Very Good: 37.5% (9) Excellent: 58.3% (14) Average: 3.50 Responses: 24 | Sharing | 5+ | "Met lots of folks who now are my family. Shared stories, lessons, tears and laughter." |
| | Downtime/extra-curricular activities | 2+ 1- | "I really enjoyed the activities where members worked together – basket weaving/walks/building the sweat lodge/kayaking. I myself am a very shy person, but the bonding/spiritual aspect helped make me feel more comfortable with the others and as a result made this event a very positive learning experience for me." |

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| | Networking (actual word not used but understood to be what is meant) | 3+ 2- | "Facebook was a great networking tool in getting the word out for this event and also keeping people in touch afterwards." |
| | Unity/support | 9+ | "Help youth and older gays to find resources to come to terms with their sexuality." |
| Discussions and Knowledge of Two – Spirit themes Satisfactory: 4.3% (1) Good: 4.3% (1) Very Good: 39.1% (9) Excellent: 52.2% (12) Average: 3.39 Responses: 23 | Cultural Reflections | 11+ | "Just by learning what Two-Spirited meant I know what I am now." |
| | Learning Opportunities | 9+ | "I learned the most from hearing from all the other participants." |
| | Useful (understood to be Significant/Meaningful) | 6+ | This correlates with the sense of pride that was expressed throughout the surveys as well. |
| Topics and Workshops | Talking Circles/Sessions | 8+ 1- | "I enjoyed all the learning circles. It is great hearing stories from other Two Spirited people and a great opportunity to have their voice heard." |
| | Facilitators/Presenters | 3+ | "skill and style of facilitators contributed to the relaxed atmosphere" |
| Future Suggested Topics for Gathering | Resource Tools to support/help Two Spirit People (suicide prevention/intervention) | 4+ 1- | "I would do suicide prevention again, but give ASIST training or something we can walk away with, the signs, and how to help |

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| | | | <p>someone.”</p> <p>“I would like more topics on how to deal or actually see if someone is in need of help. After all, if we are able to reach out early, we can make a bigger impact on their lives before they self-destruct.”</p> |
| | <p>Lesbian specific topics: Violence and women, sexual violence, domestic violence</p> | 3 | |
| | <p>Youth Specific themes: coming out issues (in communities), tools for coming out</p> | 7 | <p>“...youth empowerment.”</p> <p>“Issues of coming out on your communities and how maybe we could be resource for them.”</p> <p>“The coming out stories. I was very moved and would like to see a book on this.”</p> <p>“Community, and how we fit into helping others out with coming out or just being there for support.”</p> |
| | <p>Sexual Health/Sexuality & Religion, HIV/AIDS</p> | 4 | <p>“To be yourself, accept people for who they are. I am still in the learning process and have a way to go.”</p> |
| | <p>Healthy Relationships/Celebrati</p> | 4 | <p>“...I never ever felt like my relationships were somehow as</p> |

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| | ng Stable relationships/Dealing with loneliness | | relevant, or as valid as straight relationships...” |
| | Pride/Self-esteem Building, Empowerment | 8 | This item overlapped with many personal expressions found throughout the document. |
| | Building Supports: Family & Community Awareness | | “...I was always an outsider...” |
| | Dealing with loneliness, a sense of being alone, etc. | | “Coming out stories really open eyes and a clear understanding to Two Spirited people living in communities, this gives them confidence that is ok to be YOU, cause you’re not alone and that support system is out there for you. |
| | Human Rights Issues, such as housing, employment, access opportunities to health and education | 2 | “The Atlantic has many resource people that could provide many different resources that our committee could pool together and provide for the communities.” |
| | Transgendered issues | 1 | “...understanding transgendered issues would be helpful and how transgendered fits into the two spirited concept.” |
| | Men’s/Women’s specific issues | 1 | “A men’s and women’s only discussion.” |

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| | Advocacy, Positive Communication about GLBT, Homophobia | 2 | "How to promote acceptance of gays. Creating a more positive image of gays compared to the negative stereotype." |
| Expressed Feelings | Feeling safe | 7+ | "It was actually the first time I went to a workshop that I fell in love with all the participants and never felt uncomfortable, judged or set aside." |
| | Pride & Self identity | 10+ | "Helped me to feel more proud of who I am as a Two Spirit person." |
| | Outright positive expressions | | "I think it was all amazing." "Loved it" "Made many lasting connections." "Yes." "I felt being at this Gathering I became alive!!! Thank you for that." |
| | Negative Feelings | 0 | There were recommendations that are just that, but there was no expressions of outright negative feelings throughout the document besides the ones that are identified under specific headings already mentioned. |
| Totals (estimates only because there is overlapping, which is why this is not representative of true numbers) This is to demonstrate the overall positive | | Positive = 103 Negative = 8 | |

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| sentiment for the Gathering. | | | |
| Recommendations | Organization/Logistics | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snacks throughout the day - More central location - Separate activities for Drag show and No talent show - Longer conference – week long |
| | Sessions | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not sharing circles all day - Break out sessions for smaller group discussions - Keep the facilitation/presenters from the Alliance – no headliners. |
| | Networking | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication strategy is needed. - More active and wider networking needed. - Louder messages need to be made: brighter posters |
| | Planning/Process | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More women involved during the process. - More regional representation required (youth, Elder, male – female – transgender – others) for more inclusivity - Fundraising for the event - Diversity representation required for all Indigenous groups and regions/provinces - Working groups for specific themes |

Survey Summary

The survey results are divided thematically which made grouping and summarizing comments into categories much easier. The online survey was conducted a week after the Gathering and was left open for two weeks from the date it was sent out. The Alliance Committee sent out requests via email and a Facebook website to the Gathering participants. A total of 23 to 24 of 50 total participants responded by the established deadline, or just a little over 50%. Provided are three quantitative results in percentage form for the first three evaluative questions, which demonstrate favourable sentiments for the areas of logistics, usefulness of the topics and workshop deliveries. The remaining three questions do not have quantitative results, nevertheless show that the responses found in the summary to be favourable as well. The summary is not to represent a complete analysis of percentages or exact numbers for the Survey results, but it is only to help support the global sentiment that was demonstrated by the 'Gathering' participants.

PROPOSED 2-SPIRIT SUICIDE PREVENTATION/INTERVENTION MODULE

“Balancing Fire and Water” – Who are we as Two-Spirited people?

[Pick the date]

8:30 – 4:00 pm

6:00 am – Sunrise Ceremony

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|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 9:00 am | Opening Prayer - Welcoming address and review of theme for day Introduction of facilitators and objectives Review Agenda – Rules/Expectations of training module Pre-training questionnaire “Puoín” – Explanation of Two- Spirited |
| 9:00 – 10:15 am | “Coming Out” – Celebration of One’s identity Track 1 – Two-Spirited Break out session – sharing of own experiences coming out and debriefing Track 2 – Non Two-Spirited breakout session with a facilitator/guest presentation of own coming out story and/or |
| 10:15 – 10:30 am | sharing stories from Two- |

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| 10:30 – 10:45 am | Spirited Gathering Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 pm | Presentation on Wapanaki Two-Spirit Alliance Membership and Role of Alliance in Atlantic Region |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Colonization and Impact on Two Spirited People Effects still ongoing in the present Lunch |
| 1:00 – 1:15 pm | Welcome – questions from this morning, review agenda for afternoon |
| 1:15 – 2:15 pm | Present Video – “Two Spirits” |
| 2:15 – 2:30 pm | Break |
| 2:30 – 3:45 pm | Discussion of Film – Impact of Violence on Two-Spirited Community – Sharing Circle |
| 3:45 – 4:00 pm | |
| 5:00 – 6:00 pm | Wrap up – Evaluation of day Supper |
| 6:00 – 9:00 pm | <i>Sweat Lodge Ceremonies – Talking Circles</i> |

“Keeping Your Spirit Open” – Supporting Two-Spirited People

[Pick the date]

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

6:00 am – Sunrise Ceremony

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 9:00 am | Welcoming – Review Agenda – Expectations and Roles Explanation of theme for day |
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | What is suicide? – Talking about it – |
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | What do we know? Or think we know? |
| 10:15 – 11:00 am | Break |
| 11:00 – 12:00 pm | Sharing Circle – Guest Presenter on own experience with suicide |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Discussion on impact of suicide in communities Discuss tools of dealing with suicide (flip chart ideas) Lunch |

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00 – 1:15 pm | Welcome – after lunch Review of Agenda for afternoon |
| 1:15 – 2:15 pm | Suicide Intervention vs. Prevention Discussion- the differences in |

| | |
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| 2:15 – 2:30 | regards to offering support |
| 2:30 – 4:00 pm | Break |
| | Building Support Networks – 2-3 groups |
| 4:00 – 4:30 pm | Brainstorm Session |
| | Present back to Group findings from discussions |
| | Wrap up – Evaluation and Closing statements |

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:00 – 6:00 pm | Supper |
| 6:00 – 10:00 pm | Cultural Exhibition – Mini Powwow/Social Drag Show – No Talent Show Sweat Lodge Ceremonies |

“To Dance in both Worlds”

Day 3 – Supplement if needed

8:30 – 12:00 pm

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 8:30 – 8:45 am | Welcome – Opening prayer Agenda review | [Rainier Room] |
| 8:45 – 9:45 am | Traditional and Ceremonial Roles of Two-Spirited people of North America | |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | Break | |
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Contemporary Roles of Two-Spirited Peoples Caregivers, healers, pipe carriers, basket makers, hunters, | |
| 11:30 – 12:00 pm | teachers, singers, artwork, beadwork etc. | |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Closing remarks – Evaluations | |
| | LUNCH | |

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| 1:00 – 1:30 pm | “It Gets Better” Hope for Future Explanation of theme for afternoon | [Snoqualmie Room] [Rainier Room] |
| 1:30 – 2:15 pm | Present video Presentation | |
| 2:15 – 2:30 pm | What do we mean by “It gets better”? Incorporating hope in our own | |

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| 2:30 – 4:00 pm | life |
| | Break |
| 4:00 – 4:30 pm | Making “It Gets better” videos – Presentation on how to make own videos Set up for videotaping by participants of the training |
| | Wrap up – Evaluation and Closing statements |

“The Power to Heal”

Half Day Supplement 8:30 – 12:00 pm

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| 8:30 – 9:00 am | Welcoming – Opening Prayer Red Ribbon Sweetgrass Pins Moment of Silence – in memoriam | [Rainier Room] |
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | AIDS 101 – Presentation by Healing Our Nations Myths and Facts about | |
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | HIV/AIDS | |
| 10:15 – 11:45 am | Break | |
| 11:45 – 12:00 pm | HIV/AIDS impact on Early years of Two-Spirited Community – Guest Presenter | |
| | Evaluation – Closing Remarks | |

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Mawita'jik Puoinaq

Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Education for Two-Spirited People

A Gathering of Two-Spirited People!

A Gathering of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered L'nuk aq Wolastoqiyik!

A Gathering of Spiritually Powerful People!

Thursday, **1 September** to Sunday, **4 September**, 2011
Liscombe Lodge, Liscombe Mills, NS

Registration is limited.

All travel, meals and accommodations
provided by the Wapanaki 2-Spirit Alliance.



Information:

The Wapanaki Two-Spirit Alliance

Phone: 902.492.4255 or 1.800.565.4255 Toll-free

Email: w2salliance@live.ca

Facebook: Mawita'jik Puoinaq



Mawita'jik Puoinaq

Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Education for Two-Spirited People

A **Gathering** of Two-Spirited People!
A **Gathering** of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgendered L'nuk aq Wolastoqiyik!
A **Gathering** of Spiritually Powerful People!

Thursday
1 September to
Sunday
4 September
2011



Liscombe Lodge
Liscombe Mills
Nova Scotia

Mawita'jik Puoinaq

Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Education for Two-Spirited People

Two-Spirited people
from the traditional
Wapanaki communities in
Atlantic Canada are invited to
four days of discussion on
suicide prevention,
intervention and education
for Two-Spirited people .

Traditional Ceremonies:

Sweatlodge
Water & Fire Ceremony
Koju'wa' Dancing
Waltzes Competition
Sharing & Learning Circles
Powwow
Mawo'tuk Puwowinuti
(Gathering of Medicines)
Pipe Ceremonies
Storytelling
Traditional Songs
Smudging

Entertainment:

Indian Princess Pageant
No Talent Show

All travel, meals and
accommodations will be
provided by Wapanaki
Two-Spirit Alliance.
Registration is limited.
Registration closes
the first week of August
so early registration is
encouraged.

Information:

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Two-Spirit Alliance

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Facebook:

Mawita'jik Puoinaq

Healing Our Nations

15 Alderney Dr. Suite 3
Dartmouth
NS B24 2N2



Mawita' jijk Puoinaq

C/O Healing Our Nations
15 Alderney Dr. Suite #3
Dartmouth, NS
B2Y2N2

Thursday September 1st to Sunday September 4th 2011
Liscombe Lodge, Nova Scotia

A Gathering of Two-Spirited Peoples;
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered L'nuk
A Gathering of Spiritually Powerful People!

An event for Two-Spirited Peoples; to discuss Suicide
Prevention, Intervention, and Education.

Some traditional ceremonies that will be
done at the Gathering:

Sweat Lodges

Balancing Water & Fire Ceremony

Koju'wa'otimk "Traditional Dancing"

Waltesta'timk "Waltzes Competition"

Sharing & Learning Circles

Pow Wow

Mawo'tu'k Puwowinuti "Gathering Medicines"

Pipe Ceremonies

A'tukkwa'timk "Story Telling"

Traditional Songs

Smudging

For Entertainment:

Indian Princess Pageant

The "No Talent" Show

-Registration is Limited-

Toll Free Number 1-800-565-4255

Phone Number 1-902-492-4255

Fax Number 1-902-492-0500

Email w2salliance@live.ca

The Winners of the "No-Talent" Show and "Indian Prince and Princess" Contest.



On behalf of the Wapanaki Two-Spirit Alliance,

Wela'li'ek/Woliwon!

Mawita'jij Puoínaq Organizing Committee