

# Seeing Insects in a Whole New Light

Our Relationship with Insects and the Plants  
they Pollinate





# Path of Our Learning Today

- How do we see Insects
- How do we see plants?
- How can we support pollinators?
- Telling this story from the Indigenous perspective

# Indigenous People?

Indigenous people of Turtle  
Island (North America)



# Indigenous?



# Indigenous?

One Mother

Shared Cultural and Ancestral Origin

Two separate Individuals

Two Separate Communities



# Something Beautiful

- Something truly beautiful is what binds us together as Indigenous people is also differentiates us
- The land we live on

**What  
Binds us  
Together?**

**What Makes us  
Special and  
Unique from  
each other?**



**Major Classes of Indigenous People**

# Indigenous Past, Present, and Future

- We say that we have been living here since time immemorial. What does this mean?
- Indigenous people have always been here, and we will always be here
- We are not a people of the past, we are a **people with a past** in North America, are present here today, and will continue to fight for our Mother and our rights into the future



# The Indigenous Perspective

- The Indigenous perspective has always been informed, influenced, and impacted by the land that we live on (**and not own**)
- And the beings that we share the land with
  - The beings that are here to nurture us, support us, and teach us





# The Perspectives I will be Sharing

Turtle Island



Northeastern  
Woodlands



# About Me!

Aanii Kina Wiya Brad Howie nindizhinikaaz  
Hello Everyone I'm Brad Howie

Nbissing ndbendaagoz  
Nipissing First Nation is my community



# Anishinaabe

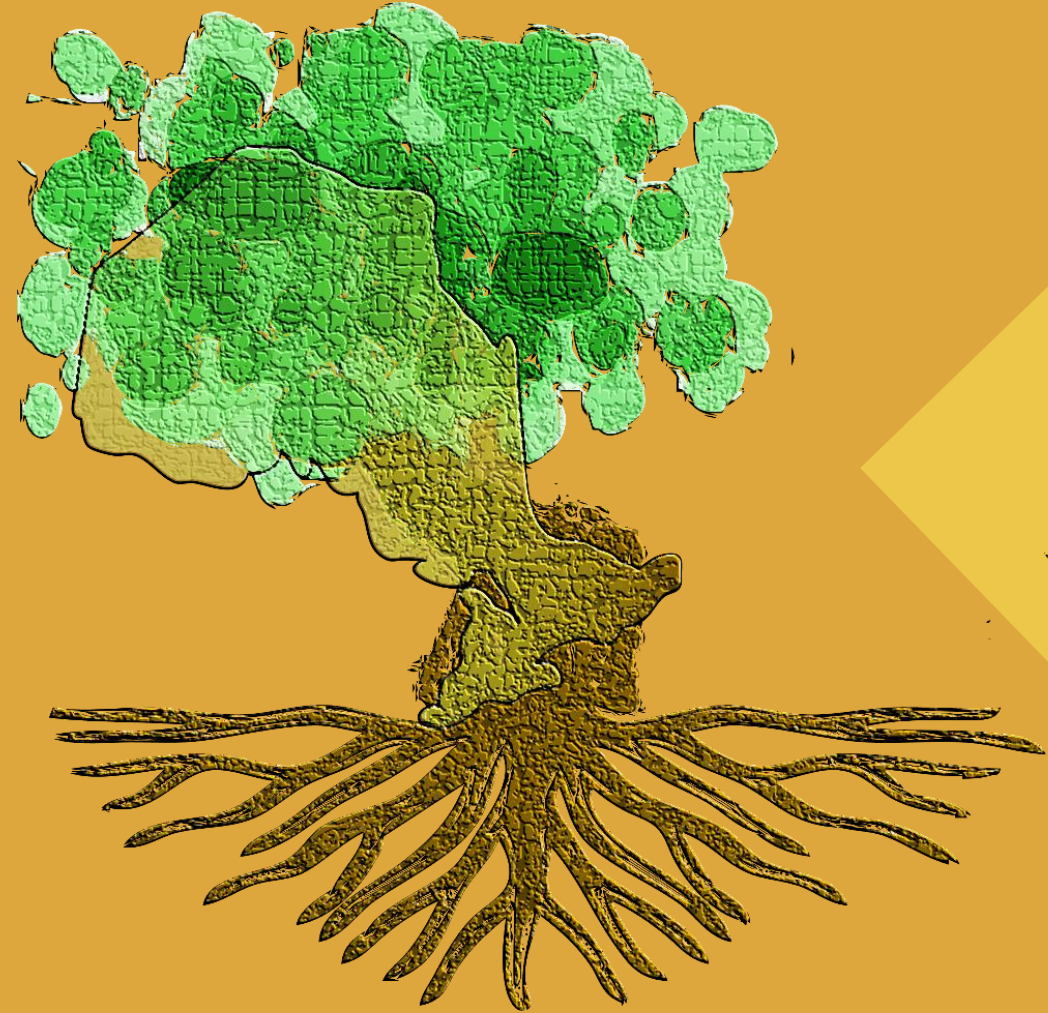
- The Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-in-ah-be) are a large group of related First Nations people living around the Great Lakes Region. They include the:
  - Ottawa
  - Potawatomi
  - Ojibway
  - Mississauga
  - Nipissing
  - Algonquin
- All of these Nations share a similar culture and language called Anishinaabemowin




The Thunderbird is a symbol of the Anishinabek Nation

# The Perspectives I will be Sharing

- Lived experience
  - As an Anishinaabe
  - As a trained Western scientist
  - As an educator
  - As a person rooted in Ontario





# Path of Our Learning Today

- How do we see Insects
- How do we see plants?
- How can we support pollinators?
- Telling this story from the Indigenous Anishinaabe perspective, from my perspective

extreme weather

diseases  
pests

invasive species

honey bees

pesticides



Our Relationships?



# **Our Relationship with Insects**



# How do you see Insects?





**Insects**

**Manidoosh**

**‘Little Spirit’**



**Aanii**

**'Hello'**

A bright, multi-colored starburst light effect is centered on a black background. The light is primarily blue and white, with some rainbow-like colors visible in the upper left quadrant. The rays of light radiate outwards, creating a sense of depth and brilliance.

**'I see your light'**

















The background is a solid yellow color. It features four large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a white inverted triangle at the top center, a dark brown triangle on the left side pointing right, a light yellow triangle on the right side pointing left, and a red triangle at the bottom center pointing up.

**Insects see our light, but do we see theirs?**

How do you see Insects?



# Perception of Insects

A close-up photograph of a moth with a black body and a bright orange collar around its neck. The moth has long, feathery antennae and is perched on a white flower with prominent stamens. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

I wonder if it is more of a cultural perception of how we see insects



**Our Relationship with the  
Plants that Insects  
Pollinate**

**If you like Insects you're going to have  
to learn about Plants**



**Milkweed Beetle**





**MilkWEED**

# Milkweed and the Monarch



# Deep Relationship between Insects and Plants



**Reciprocal**

# What does OUR Relationship have to do with it?



# What does OUR Relationship have to do with it?



# Perception of Weeds



I wonder if it is more of a cultural perception of how we see plants



**How do you see weeds?**





**How We as Indigenous\*\*\* People See Plants?**

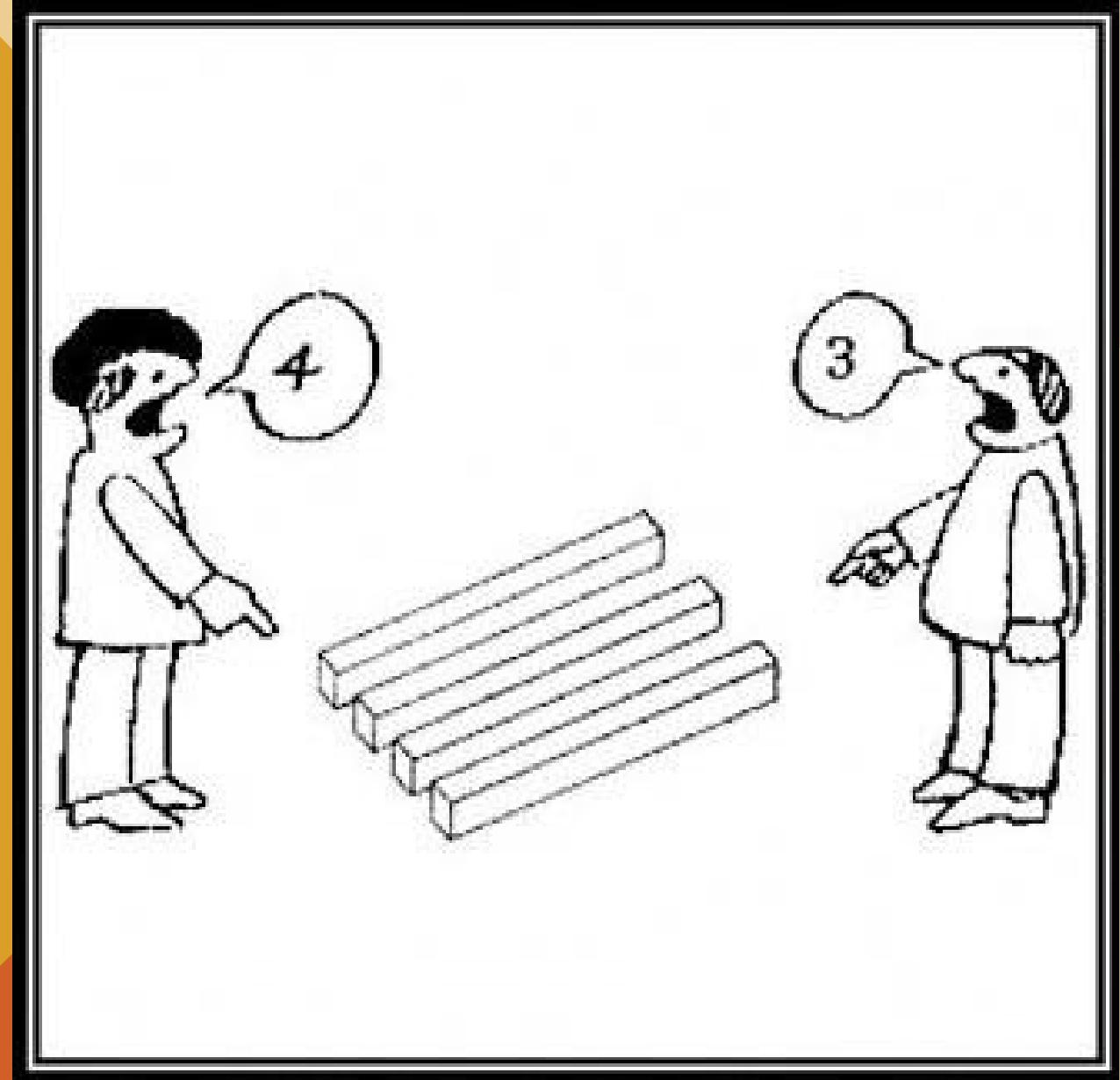


# Our First Treaty

# Perception

When we reframe our perspective  
our relationship changes

So much of our interactions with  
the environment has to do with  
our relationships and our  
perspectives of beings in the  
environment



# How you can I Help Pollinators?

- How can I/we help pollinators?





# **Beeing Friendly and Building CommUNITY Gardens**

# What is a 'Community' Garden?



- A Nursery for Diversity
  - A home for all beings
- Mimics Creators Gitigan
  - 'Hacking' into the local flora and fauna
  - Interconnected, strong community=strong relationships



**Relationships!**



# Reciprocity

- Reciprocity is another common thread between many Indigenous Nations
- We see reciprocity everywhere in nature, this on-going gift exchange between organisms
  - This is also the thoughts behind our first treaty



**Reciprocal**



**Introducing....**

**Our Community Partners!!!**





# Community Partner 1: Plants



Copyright Chris Helzer/The Nature Conservancy

Giiziso-Mashkikii  
Canada goldenrod  
(*Solidago canadensis*)



Mooshkowaawis  
Bee balm  
(*Monarda didyma*)



(*Echinacea purpurea* or  
*Echinacea pallida*)





- I'm coming more from that Ontario perspective
  - But this information can be applied to wherever you live, its all inspired and informed by the land and the beings on **IT**

# The Benefits of Using 'Native' Plants



- What does a 'native' species really mean?



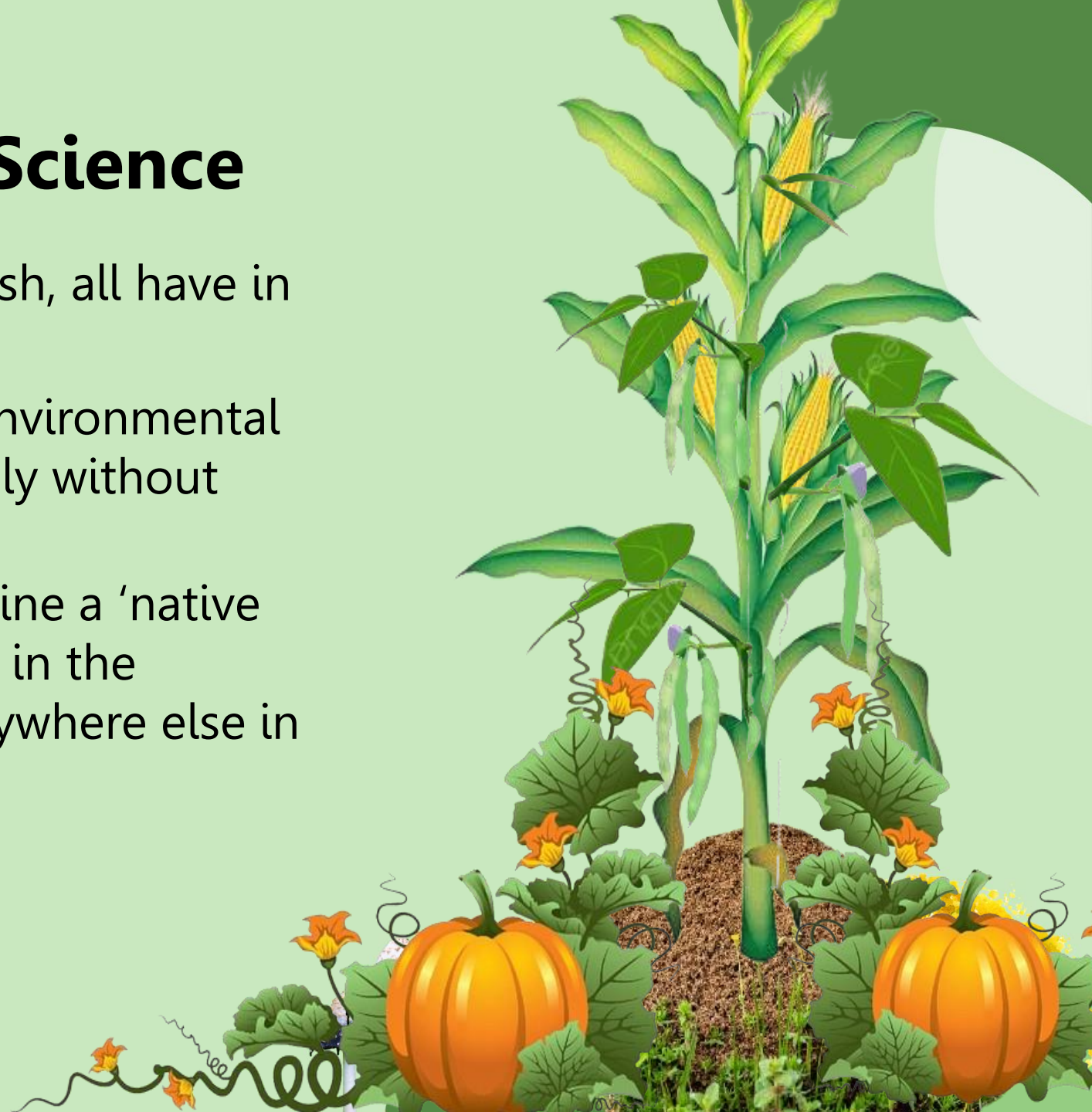
Ninwanzh  
Common Milkweed  
(*Asclepias syriaca*)



# A Note on Native Really a Note on Science



- What do corn, beans, and squash, all have in common?
  - They are all enigmas to environmental scientists, albeit most likely without realization.
- It all has to do with how we define a 'native species', an Indigenous species, in the Northeastern Woodlands or anywhere else in North America.



# A Note on Native Really a Note on Science



- In the new world they are defined as “those species that were growing prior to colonization or contact by Europeans”.
- But then by definition this means that corn, beans, and squash, are all species native to the Northeastern Woodlands; yet none of these species originated here.



# A Note on Native, Really a Note on Science



- What about this awesome little guy?



# The Benefits of Using 'Native' Plants

- Throughout the Pollinator Partnership program you will be learning all about the benefits of native plants
- But from that perspective we are sharing today, plants (and native plants especially) are that start of CommUNITY gardens
  - They are the common thread and the base of reciprocity in our ecosystems and our community gardens



Ninwanzh  
Common Milkweed  
(*Asclepias syriaca*)



# Brad's Favorite Herbaceous Flowers To Support Pollinators



Giiziso-Mashkikii  
Canada goldenrod  
(*Solidago canadensis*)



(*Echinacea purpurea* or  
*Echinacea pallida*)



Mooshkowaawis  
Bee balm  
(*Monarda didyma*)



Ninwanzh  
Common Milkweed  
(*Asclepias syriaca*)





# An Example of the Community in the CommUNITY Garden



Copyright Chris Helzer/The Nature Conservancy

Giiziso-Mashkikii  
Canada goldenrod  
(*Solidago canadensis*)





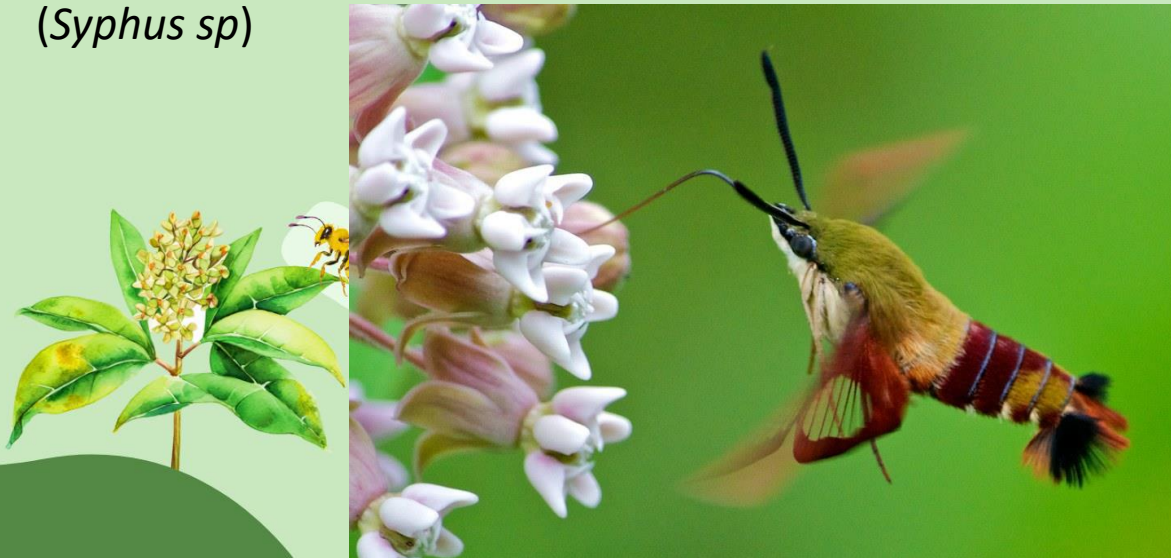
# Community Partner 2: Insects



Oojii  
Hover fly species  
(*Syrphus sp*)



Memengwaa  
Monarch  
(*Danaus plexippus*)



Hummingbird Clearwing  
(*Hemaris thysbe*)



# How you can I Help Pollinators?



- Plant plant species that have been in your area for a very long time
  - Tap into those ancient relationships
  - Tap into those reciprocal relationships
  - Tap into that familiarity



# Mishkiki

- In Anishinaabemowin our word for medicine is mishkiki.
- But when you translate this correctly it quite literally means strength of the earth
- And that's what medicine is to us, medicine is anything that comes from the Earth and is healing



# How you can I Help Pollinators?



- Reconsider 'weeds'
- Add some clover to your lawn
  - No, its not native but neither is your grass...
  - Flowers provide nectar
  - Stays green in droughts
  - Tolerates foot traffic (just watch for honeybees)



White Clover  
(*Trifolium repens*)



# Alternatives to Grass (Some other 'Weeds')



- Plants in the family Fabaceae have a special relationship with nitrogen fixing bacteria, fertilizing the soil!
- We even have CommUNITY with bacteria!



White Clover  
(*Trifolium repens*)



Birdsfoot Trefoil  
(*Lotus corniculatus*)







# Ending Off for Now



- Reflect on what your relationship is with many of these non-human beings and ask yourself if this affects how you interact or treat these beings



Introducing...





# 7 Seeds of Understanding

## 7 Grandfather Teachings

### 7 Steps of Growth



# Course Reflections

Along with the live or recorded online sessions for each session there will be some light course reflection work to be done at home.

You can complete this work as you go along or at the end of the course



# 1 Certificate



**MANOOMIN**  
**Learning**

## MANOOMIN LEARNING PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THE WORK  
OF

\_\_\_\_\_

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE

## SEVEN SEEDS INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION COURSE



AWARDED ON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

# Seven Seeds Winter Cohort

Sessions are running bi-weekly from Feb 11<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>

The first live session has already passed but you can catch up easily by watching the recording

I will be running this course again in the future



**Questions?**  
**Discussion**

