

ANCESTRAL SCIENCE PODCAST

SEASON 2: Episode 12 ([audio](#)/video)

with **MICHELLE ROBINSON**

“Reconnecting the human in Science, Law, Health, & Society”

The Ancestral Science podcast fam ALL got to chat with Sahtu Dene mother, wife, activist, political organizer, and podcast host Michelle Robinson (they/them) about the game and everyday application of mathematics, how nature talks back to us, the silence of snow as a teaching, dogs as ancestors, natural law vs. colonial law, colonization, addictions and uranium, and how the future and sustainability of the earth lies with the teachings of reciprocity, respect, and circle of life of Indigenous Peoples.

Michelle generously donated her honoraria to www.skippingstone.ca, and organization that empowers trans folks here in Treaty 7.

Remember, you can support the pod and rock some unique Indigenous Science merch at www.relationalsciencecircle.com/shop, all proceeds go towards Knowledge Keeper honoraria, following protocols, and keeping the pod going.

SHOWNOTES:

What is Science to you?:

- (Michelle) -bigger than what I can comprehend
 - A rabbit hole of life
 - always asking “why?”
- (Emil) -about inquiring minds
 - the universe and its questions

Language of Snow and Nature:

- (Michelle) -nature talks back, ancestral science and language
 - “[Indigenous Song Keepers-ecological knowledge in music](#)”
 - [Nitohta: Listen to Earthsounds](#)
 - A Teacher Resource Guide on Listening and Creating
- (Emil) -there is a silence within the snow
 - when it’s snowing, its peaceful
 - natural diffusion
 - [Snow Science](#)

Snow Dogs:

- (Michelle) -Canada just apologized for mass killing of sled dogs in Nunavik
 - over 1000 sled dogs were killed by RCMP without consideration for the dogs role in community survival (hunting, navigating ect). [CBC article](#), [APTN](#), [video](#)
 - dogs were/are our connection to the land

Maslow's Pyramid:

(Michelle) -Maslow's' Hierarchy of Needs- originally connected to Indigenous communities, stolen and appropriated.
[Before Maslow: whitewashing of Indigenous Knowledge Wiki](#) (colonial version)

First Nations Governance:

(Michelle) -First Nations Principles of [OCAP](#) (ownership, control, access, possession) over data collection processes
-this is how we can protect traditional knowledge, how to keep it connected to land and community *in a good way*.

Disabilities as Gifts:

(Michelle) -Hal Eagletail (Tsuut'ina) speaks of anxiety, ADHD, depression, disabilities, are all gifts from Creator. These are ways of perceiving, understanding, navigating the world that are unique and should be seen as gifts, even a superpower.
-ADHD- translated as "person who does many things"

Indigenous/Natural Law:

(Michelle) -Natural Law is different than colonial law
-natural law is about balance, the circle, reciprocity, and relationships.
-colonial law is about power, hierarchy of humans over the land, hierarchy of white/European humans over BIPOC humans.
-how to reconnect the human with science and society
-subjective human cannot be disconnected from objective global science.
-there cannot be a work/life balance, that disconnect is harmful

Midwifery:

(Michelle) -a lot of racism and dehumanization on current hospitals.
-disconnect of birth from human, community, spirit, and land
[National Council of Indigenous Midwives](#)
[Indigenous Midwifery in Alberta](#)
[Māori Midwives Aotearoa](#)

Indigenous Sign Language:

[Article](#)
[Plains Sign Language](#)

Drug Crisis and Indigenous Peoples:

(Michelle) -we all have a Treaty Right to Health

- this right includes sharing and having access to medicines
- shelters and prisons are not safe
- we are demonizing folks with addiction, but its not their fault, it is what has been done TO them (see the Indian Act, residential schools, 60s scoop, ect)
- need culturally appropriate mental health

[Reconciliation & Overdose Crisis](#)

[BC Indigenous people hit harder by Drug Crisis](#)

[Opioid Crisis and Indigenous Communities](#)

Sustainability:

- (Michelle) -20% of the Land hosts 80% biodiversity (often these lands have Indigenous caretakers)
- Seeds (movie, 2018): [trailer](#)
- [California's Beaver Bill](#)- bringing the beaver back to California

Uranium and Dene People:

[Canada's Uranium Highway: Victims & Perpetrators](#)

["Silenced" history of Dene Uranium Carriers](#)

[Echoes of the Atomic Age](#)

Important Reconciliation Resources:

[Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)

8th Fire, Wab Kinew [article](#), [video](#)

Reconciliation Action Group

FB- Reconciliation Action Group

IG @reconciliation_action_group

X @ReconiliACTgr

<https://www.nativecalgarian.com>

[The Indian Act](#)

[National Indigenous Economic Strategy](#)

[UNDRIP](#)

[Pam Palmater: Idol no More](#)

[Treaty Right to Health, UBC Treaty Rights to Health](#)

[Richard Van Camp](#)

[American Indian Codetalkers of WWII](#)

General Links:

<https://www.nativecalgarian.com>

www.skippingstone.ca

<https://usay.ca> (Urban Society of Aboriginal Youth)

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