

## ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 10)

### [Episode 10: Treaty Relations and Environmental Politics in Canada](#)

*Overview: Reflecting on the history and relationships that underpin two documentary films they made together, Dr. Sherry Pictou and Dr. Martha Stiegman discuss how the Mi'kmaq work to assert treaty rights over their land and fisheries in the face of colonialism and neoliberalism.*

#### Key Takeaways

- Colonialism is often “thought about historically,” yet Indigenous scholarship demonstrates how colonization continues to shape institutions and the agency of Indigenous communities today (Dr. Pictou, 10:59-12:44).
- Community-based research takes commitment and work to foster authentic relationships built on trust. This work may be part of a path forward to reconciliation between settlers and indigenous communities.
- Treaties are often understood through the British legal context, at the same time the indigenous legal context includes the ‘web of relations’ that articulates responsibilities for settlers living within Canada.

#### Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the similarities and differences between the Peace and Friendship Treaties, articulated by Dr. Pictou, and other treaties within Canada?
2. What opportunities do you have to become what Dr. Steigman calls a “good treaty partner” through your own education and experiences?
3. Dr. Steigman and Dr. Pictou note there is a relationship between neoliberalism and neo-colonialism; how do you see this relationship express itself in other places both globally and within Canada?

## Episode 10: Treaty Relations and Environmental Politics in Canada

### Learn more about our Guests

#### Dr. Sherry Pictou

- <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/faculty-staff/our-faculty/sherry-pictou.html>

#### Select articles and videos

- **Pictou, Sherry.** (2020). “Decolonizing Decolonization: An Indigenous Feminist Perspective on the Recognition and Rights Framework.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 1 April 2020; 119 (2): 371–391. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00382876-8177809>
- von der Porten, Suzanne, Yoshi Ota, Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor, and **Sherry Pictou** (2019) “The Role of Indigenous Resurgence in Marine Conservation” *Coastal Management*. 47:6, 527-547.
- **Pictou, Sherry.** (2019). “What is Decolonization? Mi’kmaq Ancestral Relational Understandings and Anthropological Perspectives on Treaty Relations.” In *Transcontinental Dialogues. Activist Research and Alliances from and with Indigenous Peoples of Canada, Mexico and Australia*. Rosalva Aída Hernández Castillo, Suzie Hutchings & Brian Noble (Eds.). Tucson: University of Arizona Press (pp. 37-64).

#### Dr. Martha Stiegman

- <https://euc.yorku.ca/faculty-profile/stiegman-martha-l/>

#### Select articles and videos

- **Stiegman, Martha.** & **Pictou, Sherry.** (2016) “Resource Privatization, Treaty Rights Recognition, and Community Resistance in Maritime Canada.” In *Aboriginal History: A Reader*. 2nd Edition. Burnett, K. & Read, G. (Eds.) Oxford University Press.
- Sandberg, A., **Stiegman, M.**, Thistle, J. “But Where am I?’ Reflections on digital activism promoting Indigenous Peoples’ presence in a Canadian heritage village.” In *Methodological Challenges in Nature-Culture and Environmental History Research*. Thorpe, J., Rutherford, S. & Sandberg, A. (Eds.) Routledge.

### Explore resources mentioned in this episode:

- Johnson, Harold. *Two Families: Treaties and Government*. Vancouver: UBC Press. 2007.
- To read more on the ‘Marshall Decision’ visit: R. v. Marshall, [1999] 3 S.C.R. 456. <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/1739/index.do>

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### Learn more about L'sitkuk (Bear River First Nation)

- Stiegman, M. & Pictou, S. (Co-producers), Stiegman, M. (Director) (2016) *We Story the Land*. [Documentary Video] 29min. Available at: <http://westorytheland.ca>
- Stiegman, M. & Pictou, S; Dir. Martha Stiegman. (2007). *In Defense of our Treaties* Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeIOZMtcolo>

### Learn more about the continued colonial practices in Canada's fisheries

- Forester, Brett. "DFO's take it or leave it' approach to fishing rights needs to change say Mi'kmaw leaders." APTN. November 3 2020.  
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/dfo-take-it-or-leave-it-approach-to-fishing-rights-needs-to-change-say-mikmaw-leaders/>
- Forester, Brett. "DFO, RCMP knew violence was coming but did nothing to protect Mi'kmaw lobster harvesters: Documents." APTN. February 10 2021.  
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/dfo-rcmp-knew-violence-was-coming-but-did-nothing-to-protect-mikmaw-lobster-harvesters-documents/>
- Moore, Angel. "Mi'kmaw community says it will launch treaty fishery without federal licenses." APTN. April 22 2021.  
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/mikmaw-community-says-it-will-launch-treaty-fishery-without-federal-licenses/>
- Fennario, Tom and Angel Moore. "Ottawa reneged on 2019 commercial licence for Listuguj over electoral and industry concerns: court records." APTN. June 1 2021.  
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/listuguj-dfo-food-social-ceremonial-fishery-commercial-fishery/>