

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 8)

Episode 8: Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and Politics

Overview: Larry McDermott (Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation and ED of Plenty Canada) and Dr. Dan Longboat (Turtle Clan member of the Mohawk Nation and Associate Professor at Trent University) discuss lessons for sustainability inherent in Indigenous knowledges as well as Indigenous interpretations of the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and other early treaties.

Key Takeaways

- Indigenous knowledge is intergenerational, building understandings of the world through oral teachings, language and history.
- Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe environmental knowledge recognizes a good life takes into account the responsibilities for people, non-human beings, and the generations that came before us as well as those that will come after us.
- “To be an Indigenous person ... means that you exude all of those principles and those original instructions that we were given at the time of creation of human beings” (Dr. Longboat, 8:18-9:39).

Discussion Questions

1. How is your own eco-worldview similar or different from the Indigenous perspectives offered in this episode, and why do you think that is?
2. What do you think is the legacy of the Treaty process between Indigenous peoples and the Crown in shaping environmental politics in Canada today ?
3. What is your response to the idea that “value change”, as articulated by Dan Longboat, is key to addressing the climate crisis?

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Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Dan Longboat

- <https://www.trentu.ca/indigenous/faculty-research/full-time/dan-longboat>

Larry McDermott

- <https://www.plentycanada.com/executive-director.html>

Select articles and videos

- The IEJ Protect. “Indigenous Environmental Justice Symposium: **Dan Longboat.**” August 28, 2017. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDFdqCanwU0>
- Six Nations Polytechnic. “Hodinohso:ni Ecological Knowledge & the Dish with One Spoon Conversation in Cultural Fluency #2” Youtube. April 5 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5szQHeQ9FM>
- Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership. “Demystifying the Doctrine of Discovery.” Youtube. October 28 2020. www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMilOvNHyou
- Kulnieks, Andrejs., **Dan Roronhiakewen Longboat**, and Kelly. Young. *Contemporary Studies in Environmental and Indigenous Pedagogies a Curricula of Stories and Place*. 1st ed. 2013. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2013.
- Latchmore, Tessa, C J Schuster-Wallace, **Dan Roronhiakewen Longboat**, Sarah E Dickson-Anderson, and Anna Majury. “Critical Elements for Local Indigenous Water Security in Canada: a Narrative Review.” *Journal of water and health* 16, no. 6 (2018): 893–903.

Explore resources mentioned in this episode

- Brundtland, Gro Harlem. “Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future.” *UN Sustainable Development*. 1987. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>
- Mueller, Martin Lee. *Being Salmon, Being Human: Encountering the Wild in Us and Us in the Wild*. Chelsea Green Publishing. 2017.
- Simpson, Leanne. 2008. “Looking after Gdoo-naaganinaa: Precolonial Nishnaabeg Diplomatic and Treaty Relationships.” *Wicazo Sa Review* 23 (2)2: 29-42.

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Resources Recommended by Larry McDermott

- One with Nature. *A Renewed Approach to Land and Freshwater Conservation in Canada: A Report of Canada's Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Departments Responsible for Parks, Protected Areas, Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity*. 2019. PDF. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57e007452e69cf9a7af0a033/t/5c9cd18671c10bc304619547/1553781159734/Pathway-Report-Final-EN.pdf>
- National Advisory Panel. *Canada's Conservation Vision: a Report of the National Advisory Panel*. March 23 2018. PDF. https://environment.metisportals.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NAP_REPORT_EN_June5_ACC.pdf
- The Indigenous Circle of Experts. *We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of Reconciliation*. PDF. March 2018. <https://www.changingtheconversation.ca/sites/all/images/Biodiversity%20Library/WeRiseTogetherReport.pdf>
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *What We Have Learned: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation*. 2015. PDF. <http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Principles%20of%20Truth%20and%20Reconciliation.pdf>
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. 2015. PDF. http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- United Nations. *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. March 2008. PDF. https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

Learn more about Settler-Colonialism & Indigenous Environmental Knowledge:

- Taylor, Drew Hayden. "Cottagers & Indians' Fight Over Wild Rice and Water Rights." Available on Youtube via CBC Docs. July 9 2020. www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9k42UkDvxc
- McGregor, Deborah. 2019. "All Our Relations: Indigenous Perspectives on Environmental Issues in Canada." In Gina Starblanket and David Long (eds.). *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples in Canada*. Oxford University Press (5th edition).
- Princeton University C-PREE. "Deborah McGregor: 'Indigenous Environmental Justice, Knowledge and Law'" Youtube. April 28 2021. www.youtube.com/watch?v=epVIBdRbml0