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Climate change and the  
*Early years*



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Beb(a)ski - for the Land  
Bushkids

*Where do you begin telling someone,  
their world is not the only one?*

-Lee Maracle

# Indigenous Knowledge

There is growing interest in Indigenous knowledge for sustainability. This makes good sense, as Indigenous peoples have been taking care of the Land (well!) since time immemorial.

- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss
- Environmentalism

Knowledge itself, is the tip of an iceberg.



Indigenous wisdom cannot work without Indigenous process.

- Balance
- Circular
- Holistic
- Connected
- Relationship-based
- Adaptable
- Oral
- Generalist



# Indigenous worldviews

Indigenous processes and worldviews come from this Land. That is why they works so well here.

# Climate change is a symptom...



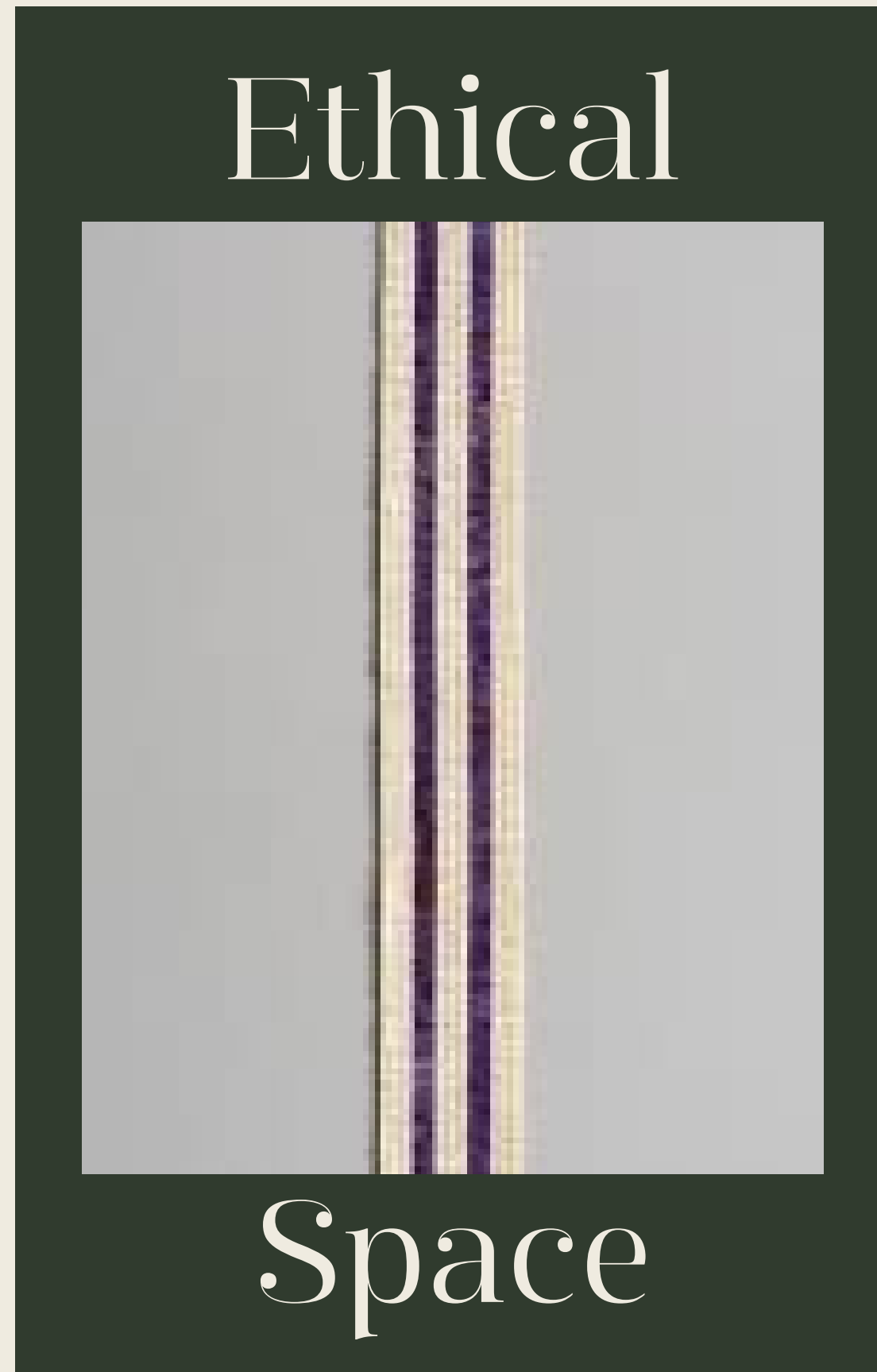
NOT a primary problem.

*Western thinking looks at climate change as the defining problem of our time. Through my Indigenous lens, I see climate change as an inevitable problem that has occurred through lack of relationships with Land and community.*

*If we found a solution to remove carbon from the atmosphere today, the problem would still not go away. This is why we are seeing collapse on so many levels.*

# Indigenous worldviews

- Originated here on this Land
- Created in relationship with all other species
- Intentionally suppressed in Canadian society
- Circular, connected, adaptable, and subjective.
- Focus on flux and processes.



# Western worldviews

- Originated in Europe
- Mainstream in Canada today because of colonization
- Mostly unquestioned
- Linear, singular, static, and objective.
- Focus on goals and products.

# *Resources!!*

- **The Ethical Space of Engagement** - Dr. Willie Ermine
- **Enacting and Operationalizing Ethical Spaces in IPCAs and Crown Protected and Conserved Areas** - Danika Littlechild and Colin Sutherland
- **Creating Ethical Spaces - Opportunities to Connect with Land for Life and Learning in the NWT** - Chloe Dragon Smith
- **Balancing Worldviews - Climate Change Solutions in Canada's North** - Chloe Dragon Smith, Tina Piulia DeCouto, Ashley Carvill
- **Jagged Worldviews Colliding** - Leroy Littlebear

# Early years

Start building healthy relationships with Land in early years - this makes sense to both Indigenous and western worldviews.

Connecting with Nature is extensively proven to support well-being of children, and support learning and development.





# Ethical Spaces in early childhood



To build relationships with Land, we teach and learn outside - BUT, be careful.

There is lots of 'outdoor education, environmental education' etc that is not in ethical space.

*(L)and means:*

*Peoples*

*Languages*

*Cultures*

*Knowledge systems*

*Children are Land. Community is*

*Land. You are Land.*

# Bushkids

Letting the Land lead learning



[www.bushkids.ca](http://www.bushkids.ca)

There is no

*Right Answer*

# Set your process up for success

Ethical space in:

- Physical space
- Balanced community



Let what you DO - your content, curriculum, day to day, flow from this. Let the Land lead the learning for everyone.