

**Two-Eyed Land-Based Play &
Co-Learning in
Post-Secondary Education**

**Humber College, Early Childhood Education,
Faculty of Health Sciences and Wellness**

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**George Brown Summer Institute
May 31, 2022**






Acknowledging and Honouring the Land

Humber College is located within the traditional and treaty Lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit, known as **Adoobiigok**, the “Place of the Alders” in the Michi Saagiig language.

The region is uniquely situated along **Gaabikanang Ziibi** - the place of the flat rocks in Anishinaabemowin or the Humber River and Humber River watershed, which historically provided an integral connection for Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples between the Ontario Lakeshore and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions.





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**TWO-EYED LAND-BASED PLAY
AND CO-LEARNING**



Two-Eyed Land-Based Play and Co-Learning



Acknowledges the Land as teacher
– the energy, medicines, languages and stories of the Land and Water and **All Our Relations**



Respectful, relevant, reciprocal and responsible relationships with All Our Relations



Wholistic and Circular: engages the spirit, heart, mind, and body together and in balance



Dependent upon local ecosystems in all seasons with all the elements



Infuses the **inter-generational** teachings of local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders in a co-learning journey

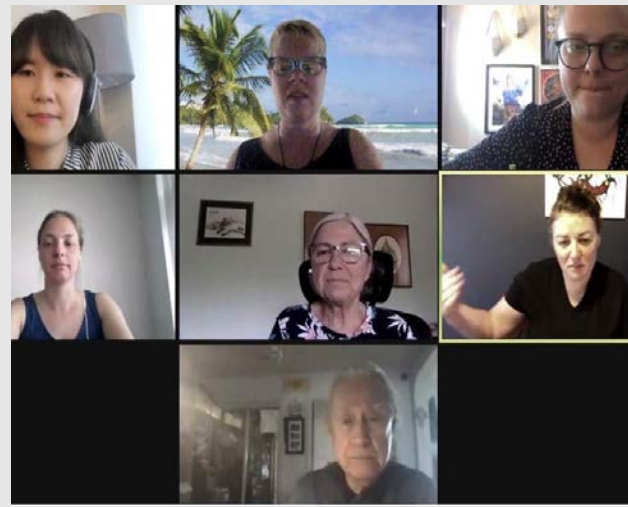


Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall, LLD
Community of Eskasoni in Unama'ki,
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, in the Traditional
Territory of the Mi'kma'KI

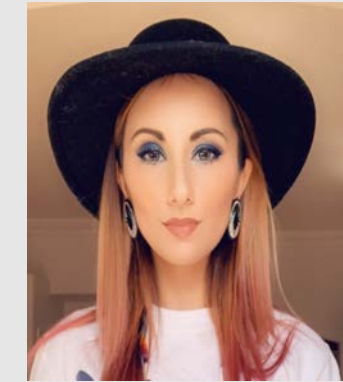
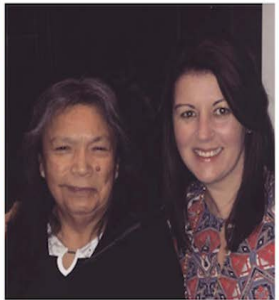
“Through (re) learning our connection to Land, we learn to see with one eye the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye the strengths of non-Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing brought together for the benefit of all and Mother Earth.

An on-going journey of co-learning is both required and essential in order to develop the profound collaborative understandings and capabilities that Two-Eyed Seeing encourages.”

~ Elder Albert Marshall



At Humber College, aligned with Indigenous strategic and education plans, we engage in cultural safety training and co-learn with and from local and regional Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders, Community Members and Storytellers.



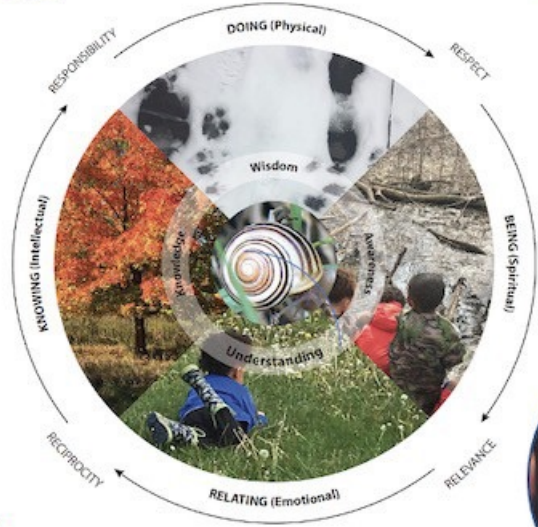
Two-Eyed Land-Based Play and Co-Learning, Humber College



All Our Relations



Knowledge Collective, Research Centres



Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders/Carriers/Mentors/Helpers

Children, Families, ECEs, College of ECE, MoE, PD Orgs



ECE Students, External Placements



Faculty, Admin/Leadership, Sustainability, Media

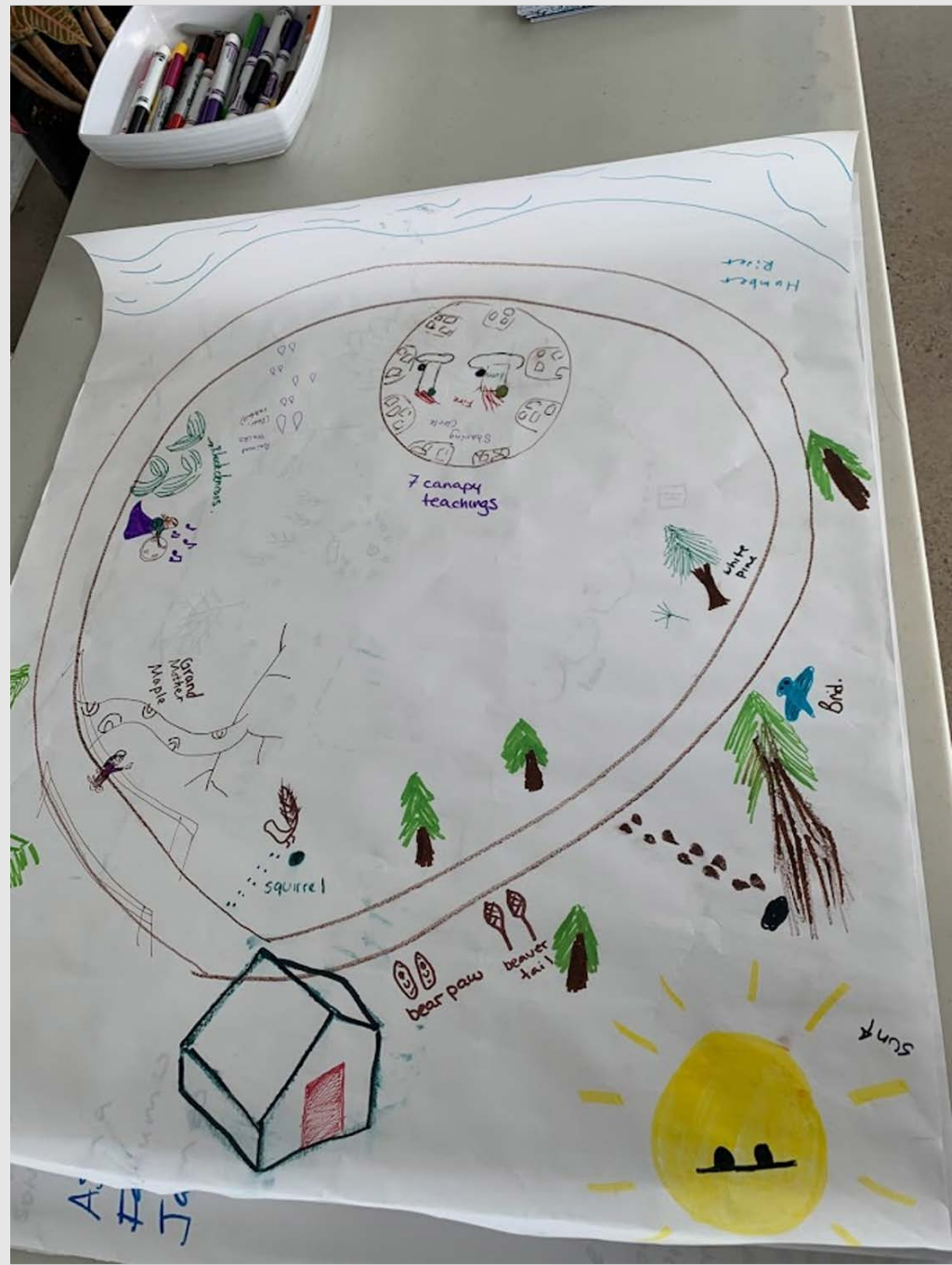
ECE 234 - Two-Eyed Land-Based Play and Co-Learning course launched Fall 2021!

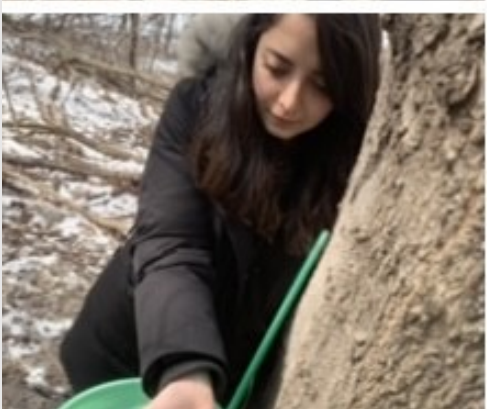
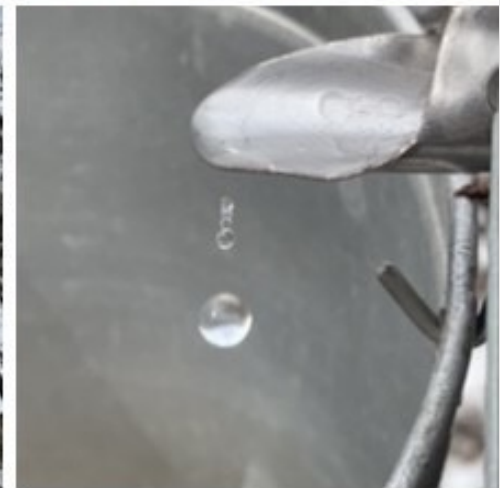





- **Land-based classes in the Humber Arboretum – circle pedagogies**
- **Co-taught with Indigenous Faculty, Elders, Knowledge Holders, Mentors**
- **Co-learning with students and the Land through spirit, heart, mind and body**
- **Honouring the strengths of diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews**

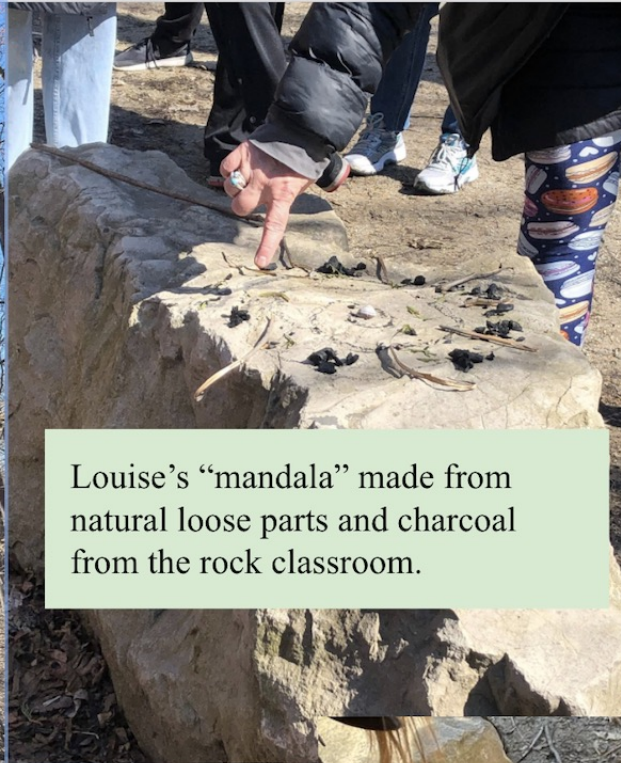




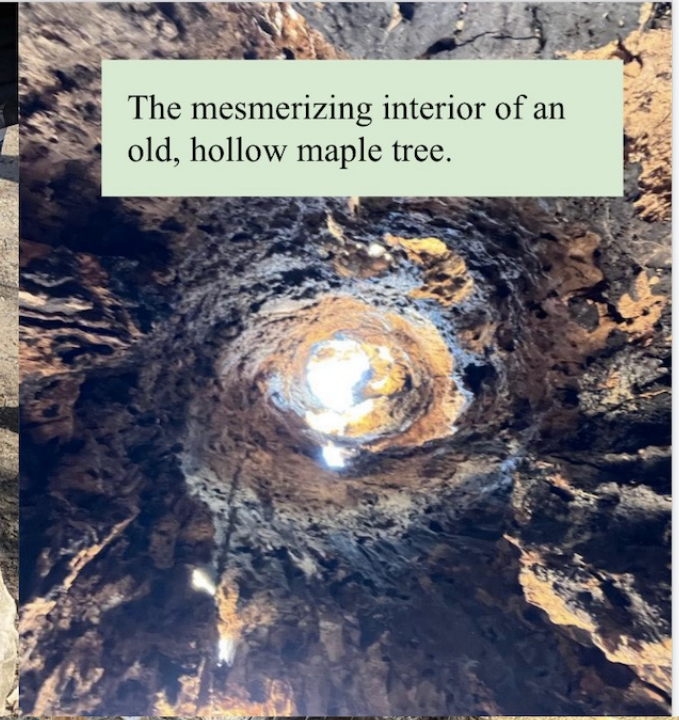




Fresh moss newly grown onto the side of a rock as a new sign of spring.



Louise's "mandala" made from natural loose parts and charcoal from the rock classroom.



The mesmerizing interior of an old, hollow maple tree.



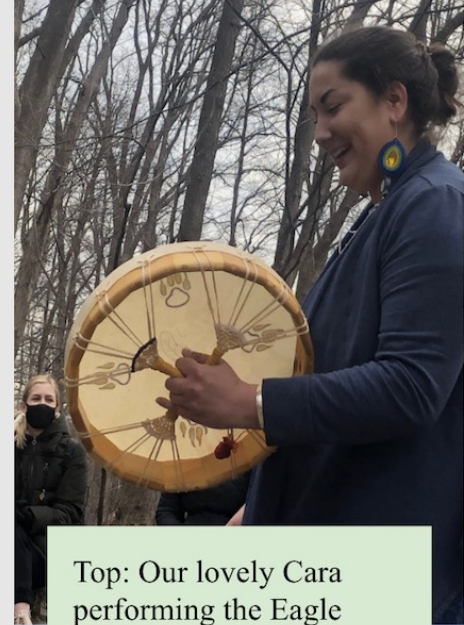
Finding a container in the woods with a key and a notepad inside. Our co-learning group wrote our names, the year, and drew a picture in the pad before returning it.



We thought this tree nut had an uncanny resemblance to a rose!



I felt that these images wonderfully represented our natural curiosity towards the Land: how we marvelled at its wonders, made many inquiries and comparisons, and applied our overall knowledge on how to respectfully interact with nature and its elements.



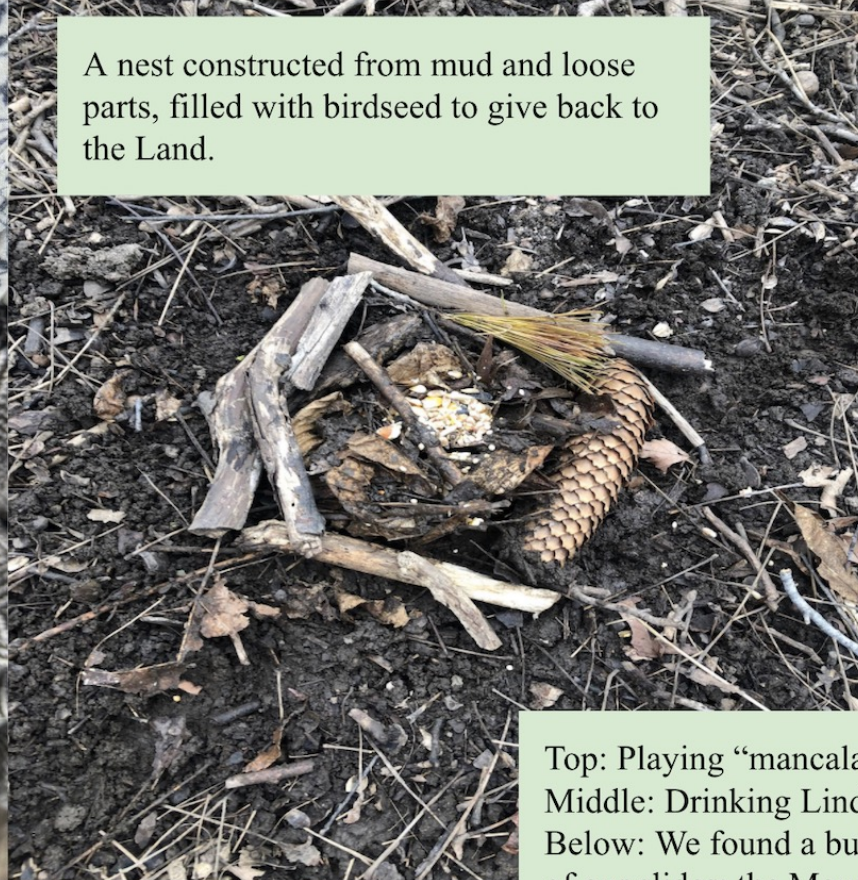
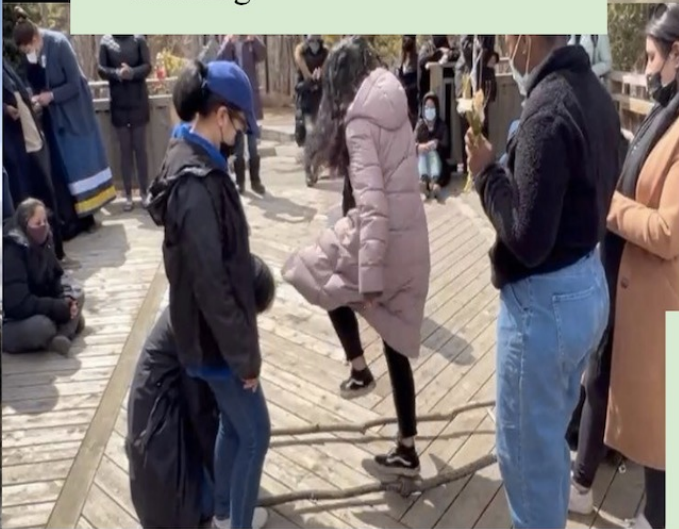
Top: Our lovely Cara performing the Eagle Honour Song with our tobacco tie offering attached to the back of her drum.

Below: James reciting his poem about Nibi (water) beside the pond at the Humber Arboretum.



Top: Corn soup made with corn, squash, beans and dill. So delicious.

Below: traditional Filipino dance - "tinikling"

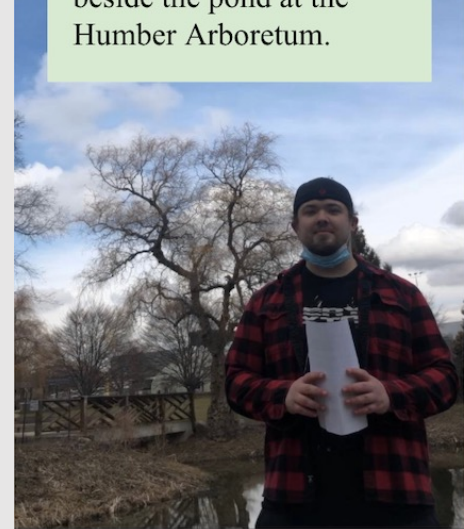


A nest constructed from mud and loose parts, filled with birdseed to give back to the Land.

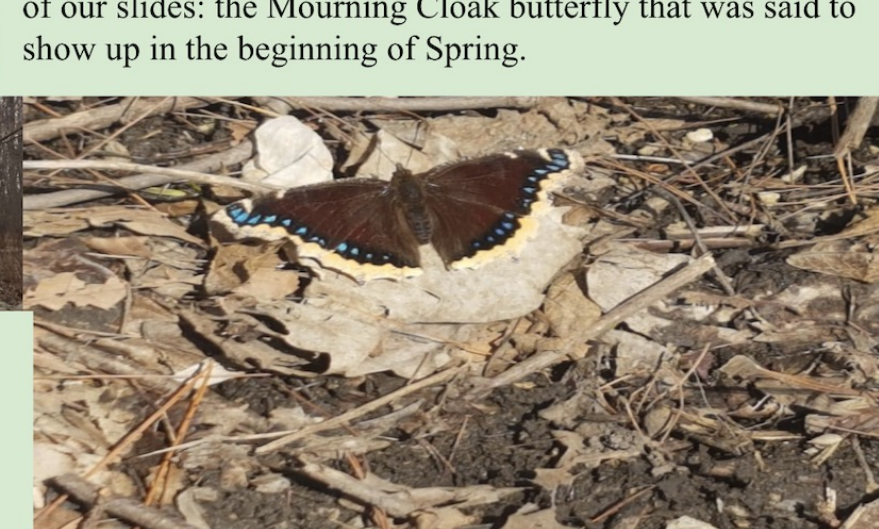


Top: Playing "mancala" or "jacks" with stones and shells.

Middle: Drinking Linden tea.
Below: We found a butterfly that looked familiar from one of our slides: the Mourning Cloak butterfly that was said to show up in the beginning of Spring.



I was feeling sentimental and snapped a back photo of our professors. Thank you for everything you've taught us.





Maamaawisiwin Education Research Centre

With the support of Humber's Applied Research and Innovation, Lawson Foundation Outdoor Play Strategy 2.0 and MERC, evaluation and research is exploring how the new course, Two-Eyed Land-Based Play and Co-Learning:

1) engages the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical realities of learners and faculty in post-secondary education and;

2) helps learners action their personal and collective responsibilities to all beings related to seven generations of sustainability.

- Pre and post-course surveys – qualitative and quantitative questions
- Sharing Circles/Focus groups – student and faculty/mentor
- 8 course sections of students from Fall 2021, Winter 2022 (N=250)
- 7 sections for Fall 2022 courses (N=300)

An essential part of Two-Eyed Seeing is the focus on action and what happens after knowledge is shared.

Through the Two-Eyed Seeing approach, knowledge transforms the person who receives it; learners become responsible to **act** on the knowledge they have gained. The focus is on bringing together people, regardless of background, and using collective understanding to create a better future. Humans have an inherent responsibility to protect the earth - responsibility has to come from each and every one of us.

Nature has rights, we have responsibilities.

Elder Albert Marshall

How do we reciprocate the gifts of the Earth?

With gratitude, with ceremony, by paying attention, acts of practical reverence and land stewardship, in fierce defense of the places we love, in art, in science, in song, in gardens, in healing, in children, in ballots, in stories of the past and imagination for the future, in creative resistance, in how we spend our money and our precious lives, by raising our voices and raising a ruckus, by refusing to be complicit with the forces of ecological destruction.

Robin Wall Kimmerer

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Instead of taking notes, students in a new Humber College class focus on feel and connection

[humber.ca](https://www.humber.ca) • 6 min read

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Thank you

