

# Gathering 2014

**Le compte-rendu en français va suivre**.....here is a short report from the gathering, if you weren't able to make it this week- end but wish to be added to the participants email list and be kept inform of all future activities we lit the sacred fire at 8h on Saturday morning and lit the chanupas, 35 persons plus 5 children attended the gathering; we had the people from the long-house in Kanawake the Mohawk nation, Cree from Waswanapi, Innu from Quebec city, Micmac, Anishanabe, Wendat, Ojibway, Metis and non-native.

Opening thanksgiving address was said and reports from last year's gathering were given. Presentation from permaculture Ottawa took place in the lodge because of the rain, bannock, lots of good homemade jam, tea and coffee were served. Grandfather sun paid us a little visit and we resumed our day outside.

We learned about seed balls from Fruits2roots and we had fun making these little clay balls. A presentation on global warming was presented and the importance of water and damage caused by plastic was at the core of the presentation. In the afternoon we created 4 circles the questions were: who are our partners, who can we team up with? What can we do as individuals? What are the challenges we have to overcome? What projects could we bring to raise more awareness? reports from the circle will be sent by email once received.....

We had a wonderful feast, then sat around the fire, one person per circle read their reports, we sang to grandmother moon, drum some more and sang some more, learned new songs from different nations, it was a great evening 13 drums were out in the circle that night.... the water ceremony with women from all 4 directions opened the day on Sunday followed by the awakening of 4 drums.. presentation of the ERA project Ecological Response-Ability, more to come about that..... teachings of the moon and the two row wampum in the afternoon.... we closed with a sharing circle, more songs, words from our elders and closing address. It was a fantastic week-end, expecting mothers, babies, children, young men and young women, grandmothers and grandfathers and the elders much to be grateful about and so many people to thank for all their help which I will do in private messages.

## **Report from the knowledge group:**

### **Climate change wisdom:**

#### **1. PHYSICALLY**

- Eat seasonally
- Treat your body as a sacred temple
- Quit eating beef
- Community garden
- Eat local products
- Buy important needy items only
- Review/renew daily habits

- Limit water usage
- Ancestors
- Buying used objects, articles/recycle
- Water truck at gathering and have own feast kit

## **2. MENTAL**

- Education of non-use of water bottles
- Revealing truth
- Self-education
- Request leaders to pray for Mother Earth
- Education of the 4 elements
- Natural water education
- Religious conflict

## **3. EMOTIONAL**

- Valued true intentions
- Grieving for Mother Earth
- Loving/caring attitude
- Grateful
- Be sensitive with our actions/words
- Be truthful on your feeling (how are you?)
- Create links taking care of people
- Forgiveness
- Emotional management

## **4. SPIRITUAL**

- Power of tobacco
- Pray as our ancestors did/specific requests , intentions
- Connection with nature
- Teach the children
- Thankfulness/offerings
- Learn ceremonies
- Believe in power of our prayers
- Meditation
- Creator will not allow man to destroy creation
- Sharing, caring
- Everything is sacred
- Choices/open hearth
- Being open to other's beliefs
- Continuing ancestors' teachings
- Keeping mother earth clean after gatherings/ceremonies

## **Report from the challenge group:**

### **Global Climate Change: Challenges**

- Education for all
- Money for support
- How do we get into school systems to education youth?
- How do we prevent injunctions that prevent us from accessing our own right to land, water, trees
- Challenge of conquering our fears? People feel alone, fear commitment and fear responsibility put on their shoulders, fear putting their opinion and themselves out there, fear for safety of themselves & family, , Fear of job loss & livelihood & jail, fear of expressing opinion & fighting against mining, lumbering, fracking, etc
- Fear of change and losing convenience of today's way of life.
- Our voices aren't heard & Information overload keeps us quiet and submissive and memory of inaction and fear of what has happened to others who have stepped forward –happening to us- being imprisoned or shut up.
- How to replant native species after decimation of mountains, trees etc.. and correct the erosion. How do we make them replant with replacement trees of the correct species?
- Challenge: The thinking behind: Big Business & government: if they aren't making money from it or off it, they crush any other ideas (i.e.: solar, wind, etc.)
- Challenge of being heard by people & gov't who can make the changes & Finding the language to express our wants needs and the ability to take action that is taken seriously and heard & respected: sacredness of land, trees, plant and animal life, human life, all on earth
- How do we get an audience with the correct people and taken seriously
- Big trash & plastic islands in the oceans.
- Side effects that show years later:
- Challenge to Learn how to live. Turn a pessimist attitude to an optimist attitude.
- We are a throwaway society and want instant gratification = a loss of quality integrity and traditional values and ways.
- Challenge to live more communally & celebrate life, vehicle & tool sharing, consuming less, conserving water, electricity etc...instead of being dictated to go to school, church, work 9-5.
- The government has taken away our choices, ability to live on the land, without being hooked into the grid, controlling our drinking water, land, food, GMO etc...
- Too many people talking at the same time and no one offering real solutions for healthy world and communities.

- Repeating the same errors over and over and afraid to make changes (and still expecting different results)
- The myth that spending money gets results.
- The myth that my idea is best for everyone, when we all know it's not, and you have no opinion.
- Challenge of the thousands of years of women being repressed and oppressed, needing them
- To step up and challenge the patriarchy.
- How to eliminate and reverse the brainwashing of "I Need & I Want" & "it's mine" to get back to gratitude, sacredness, appreciation
- Challenge for people to use Oral traditions and old ways they would rather jump on board to the tech / disposable/convenient world.
- Children are so into technology they don't know how to live, grow food, hunt, and fish, find food and medicines- walking or biking instead of jumping in a car to drive a block.
- Social aspect of keeping up with those who have the best: effects a child's emotional growth if they don't have the designer jeans, the most current cell phones, pack a lunch=get bullied-feel inferior
- Challenge to teach kids to Conserve & Consume less and that they don't have to live up to the fast society's consumerism & technology.
- Loss of elders (the living libraries) and making little effort to get teachings from them.
- Challenge of repercussions of religion & residential school effects on our society  
Loss of earth teachings & traditional ways & treating our elders and throw away people and shoving them in old folks homes.
- How do we shut down and change the system of abuse?
- Challenge to move away from hyper politics & stop feeling helpless, to stop destruction, polluting land & water
- Challenge to get back to ceremony, spirituality, prayer, thanksgiving.
- Challenge to be patient
- Challenge to find the venue to share experiences with others who have faced similar challenges.
- Challenge to get the right kind of media exposure
- How can we know we are doing wrong and do nothing to change it?
- Democracy
- Finding common ground,
- Less selfish and more selfless
- Educating the sheep people and bring them to understanding and change
- Move from the world of convenience to a world of sustainability
- Women's wisdom is the right kind of governance "politics" that are spiritually balanced and gives the responsibility to the right individuals.
- EGO or patriarchies are those who feel they have the power over people and resources.

## En français :

Voici un bref rapport du rassemblement de la fin de semaine, si vous un empêchement mais vous désirez être ajouté à la liste de courriel des participants et être tenu informé de toutes les activités futures, veuillez communiquer avec moi. Nous avons allumé le feu sacré à 8h le samedi matin et les chanupa, 35 personnes plus 5 enfants ont participé à la fin de semaine. Nous avions les gens de la maison Longue de Kanawake de la nation Mohawk, cri de Waswanapi, Innu de Québec, Micmac, Anishanabe, Wendat, Ojibway, Métis et des personnes non premières nations.

Adresse de gratitude fut dites pour l'ouverture et le compte-rendu du rassemblement de l'an dernier ont été présenté. Présentation de permaculture Ottawa a eu lieu dans la loge à cause de la pluie, bannock, de bonnes confitures maison, thé et café ont été servis.

Grand-père soleil nous rendu visite et nous avons repris notre journée à l'extérieur. Nous avons eu du plaisir à faire des boules de graines avec de l'argile avec les enseignements de Fruits2roots. Un exposé sur le réchauffement climatique a été présenté et l'importance de l'eau et les dommages causés par le plastique a été au cœur de la présentation.

Dans l'après-midi, nous avons créé 4 cercles, les questions étaient : qui sont nos partenaires, avec qui pouvons nous faire équipe? Que pouvons-nous faire en tant qu'individus? Quels sont les défis que nous devons surmonter ? Quels projets pourrions-nous apporter afin de sensibiliser la population ?

Rapports des cercle seront envoyés par courriel une fois reçu... nous avons eu un beau et très bon festin, puis nous nous sommes réuni autour du feu, une personne représentant chacun des cercles fit la lecture des rapports des participants, nous avons chanté à grand-mère Lune, joué du tambour et chanté quelques chansons, appris de nouveaux chant de différentes nations, c'était une super belle soirée 13 tambours étaient dans le cercle ce soir-là... la cérémonie de l'eau avec des femmes venant des 4 directions a ouvert la journée dimanche, suivi par le réveil de 4 tambours... présentation du projet ERA, plus à venir à ce sujet... les enseignements de la lune et le wampum à deux voies dans l'après-midi... nous avons clos avec un cercle de parole, l'adresse de fermeture, chants et les paroles de nos aînés.

C'était un week-end fantastique, il y avait des futures mamans, des bébés, des enfants, des jeunes hommes et jeunes femmes, grands-mères et grands-pères et les aînés, je suis très reconnaissante et il y a beaucoup de personnes à remercier, ce que je vais faire en message privés.