

# CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF LAND RELATIONSHIP PLANNING



Traditional Knowledge Circle Members  
 Left to right: Carl Sidney, Colleen James, Gary Darbyshire, Shirlee Frost, Franklin Patterson Jr., Hammond Dick, Roland Peter. Regrets: Angie-Joseph Rear.

## Protect Sacred and Cultural Sites and Habitat

Plant and animal habitats, trails, places of ceremony, hunting, gathering and prayer must be honoured. These are not just locations — they are living parts of the community.

## Traditional Knowledge Must Guide Decisions

Elders carry wisdom passed down through generations. This knowledge must guide land decisions. So, it needs to be a key part of the decision-making process.

## Listen to the Land and the People

The land communicates vital information, speaking through seasons, animals and stories. We must listen and learn from those who live close to it. Their voices are part of the land's voice.

## Use Traditional Place Names

Names given by ancestors carry meaning, history and spirit. They should be used and remembered.

## Respect the Seasons

Decisions must follow the rhythms of nature — like migration, freeze-up and berry time — not just calendars. Animals shouldn't be taken certain times of year.

## Balance Two Ways of Knowing

Western science and Indigenous knowledge work together. Both have value. Listen to each other.

## Share Stories and Teach on the Land

Learning happens best through experience. Camps, walks and storytelling help people understand their role and responsibility.

## Follow Indigenous Laws and Teachings

They are rooted in respect, responsibility and balance. They may not be written, but are deeply known and practiced. Sharing stories and teaching on the land are some of the ways this can be done.

## Support Healing Through Land Connection

Time on the land helps people heal. It reconnects spirit, body and mind.

## Care for the Land Don't Own it

The land is not a possession — it is a relative. Stewardship means caring for it as you would a family member. We are borrowing it from future generations.



On the land photos by Micheal Jim