

Public Lecture

Paulina R Johnson
PhD Candidate, Anthropology
Western University

E-KAWÔTINIKET 1876: RECLAIMING NÊHIYAW GOVERNANCE IN THE TERRITORY OF MASKWACÎS THROUGH WÂHKÔTOWIN (KINSHIP)



Abstract

Forwarding the collective memory of the Nêhiyawak through their cultural knowledge, this study reveals their worldview, and follows the journey of Nipisihkopahk as they embark on a new era of governance through the implementation of their own laws rooted in the idea that we are all related, and this extends not only to the human world. Kisê-manitow, Creator, gave the Nêhiyaw wiyasiwêwina, laws, of how to conduct oneself morally and ethically, revealing further the mindset of the people. Insights into the Creation story allows this study to delve deeper into the philosophical and spiritual values aligned within ceremony. Through this understanding of what it means to be Nêhiyaw, the study will also reveal how Treaty was more than a diplomatic process but one that encapsulated wâhkôtowin through adoption of the settlers. Concepts of miyo-pimâtisiwin, the good life, and pimâcihowin, livelihood, allows for the ability to understand how the Nêhiyawak connect to land, culture, and family.

April 24th, 2017 11:00am
5220 Social Science Centre

Paulina Johnson, sîpihkokîsikowiskwew, is a citizen of Nipisihkopahk, known as Samson Cree Nation. Samson Cree Nation is part of the Maskwacîs reserve located 70km south of the city of Edmonton in Alberta. The Nêhiyawak (Four-Body People) have been known as the Plains Cree.

The Elders in the photos are those who made this project possible and I am grateful to have been able to have them with me during this initiative. Top: April 2016, supporting Treaty rights to fishing at Wetaskiwin Court House. Bottom: May 2016 Visit to Treaty 6 Governance Elders in Onion Lake, SK.