

# MISKO-AKI: CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES

## Official Opening of Indigenous Museum

August 12, 2023 Muskoka Discovery Centre





Do you know where your fish comes from?

Steno World

Early Peoples

## Time Immemorial

### The Clans

Importance of Place  
Clustering of the Clans

Anishinabek Clans: Who are you?  
In pre-contact times...

Anishinabek Clans: Shared Responsibility  
In the Anishinabek creation story...







Do you know where your fish comes from?

Fishing via spear and net

What fish should I eat?

The fish of the Huron-Wendat

The fish of the Huron-Wendat

Huron-Wendat

Early Peoples

### Time Immemorial

#### The Clans

Importance of Place

Collecting the Clans

Huron-Wendat Clans  
Who are you?

In pre-contact times, the Huron-Wendat were a confederacy of several nations. They were known for their skills in agriculture, hunting, and fishing. They lived in longhouses and were known for their intricate beadwork and pottery.

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**The Mijlharving fish weirs** are indigenous people for thousands of years. They have caught fish sustainably and with little impact on the environment. Can you say the name of the fish that you eat? Or you know where that fish came from, how it was caught, or even what kind of fish it was? Knowing where your food comes from helps you to make environmentally sustainable choices, address climate change, and support local jobs.

**Fish Weir Museum**

The Mijlharving fish weirs are a traditional way of catching fish. They are made of wood and are built in the water. The fish are caught in a net that is attached to the weir. The fish are then brought to the shore and sold at the market.



**Do you know where your fish comes from?**

**Fishing via spear and weir**

Over the last century, fish catches in the UK have fallen as a result of overfishing and that means we are losing out on the benefits of eating fish. Mijlharving tells the story of how fish has been caught for thousands of years, provided you do so sustainably. It helps you to know where your food comes from and what was harvested was not wasted.

**What fish should I eat?**





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Arrival of the  
Wabata Wabata

Wabata Wabata

Wabata Wabata

Wabata Wabata

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Wabata Wabata



*"As the dish with one spoon was proposed, the words that came with that wampum were that all resources should be shared, that we all need access to those resources to sustain ourselves, our families, our communities and our nations."*

- Brian Charles,  
Chippewas of Georgina  
Island First Nation



*"We express thanks to creation for the rivers and streams, for the thunders that bring rain, and for the creatures that live on the land, in the sky, and in the water. We are thankful for the great lights above, our elder brother the sun and our grandmother the moon. All of these elements are recognized in an address we call the Oher:ton Karihwatehlowen (that which comes before all other matters), our Thanksgiving Greeting."*

- Karihwatehlowen  
Tim Thompson,  
Wabata Mohawk  
Territory



*"Indigenous or non-Indigenous, we all have to acknowledge the fact that everything is alive, the air that we breathe, the rocks, the trees. Everything happens in concert."*

- Vice Chieftain,  
Wabata Mohawk  
Territory



Legacy of  
Wabata Mohawk  
Territory





Vend



**Navigating Ancestral Landscapes**

While the rugged terrain of the Miskito region is often perceived as a barrier, it has also served as a natural corridor for trade and cultural exchange. The region's diverse landscapes, from dense rainforests to open savannas, have shaped the lives of the people who inhabit it. The Miskito people have developed a deep understanding of their environment, utilizing its resources for sustenance and survival. Their knowledge of the land is passed down through generations, ensuring their connection to their ancestral home.

**FIRST LANDING**

**Early Peoples**

**The First Peoples of Misko-Aki**



The Miskito people are the first inhabitants of the Miskito region, with a rich history and culture that has shaped the area. They are known for their traditional crafts, including pottery and weaving, and their deep connection to the land. The Miskito people have a long history of trade and cultural exchange with neighboring groups, and their influence is still felt today. The Miskito people are a proud and resilient people, and their story is an important part of the region's history.



**Misko-Aki: As We Knew It**

2000 years ago



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## FIFTH LANDING

# Métis Connections

**Seeds and Roots of the Métis**  
 The Métis are recognized as the children of two worlds: the "European" world of Europe, the continent that was the ancestral land of their ancestors and the "Indigenous" world of the First Nations, the continent that was the ancestral land of their ancestors.

**Listen to Our Stories**  
 Two audio stations with headphones for visitors to listen to Métis stories.

**A civilian community**  
 The Métis were a civilian community, not a nation or a tribe. They were a people who lived in communities and worked the land. They were a people who were proud of their heritage and their culture.

**Métis Arts: Flowers, Songs, and Dance**  
 Métis artistic traditions include beadwork, quilting, and dance. These traditions are a reflection of the Métis people's unique identity and their connection to their ancestors.

**Children of the Fur Trade**  
 The fur trade was the foundation of the Métis people. It was a time of great hardship and struggle, but it was also a time of great achievement and success. The Métis people were instrumental in the development of the fur trade and the growth of the West.

**HONESTY**  
 "Honesty is the best policy"





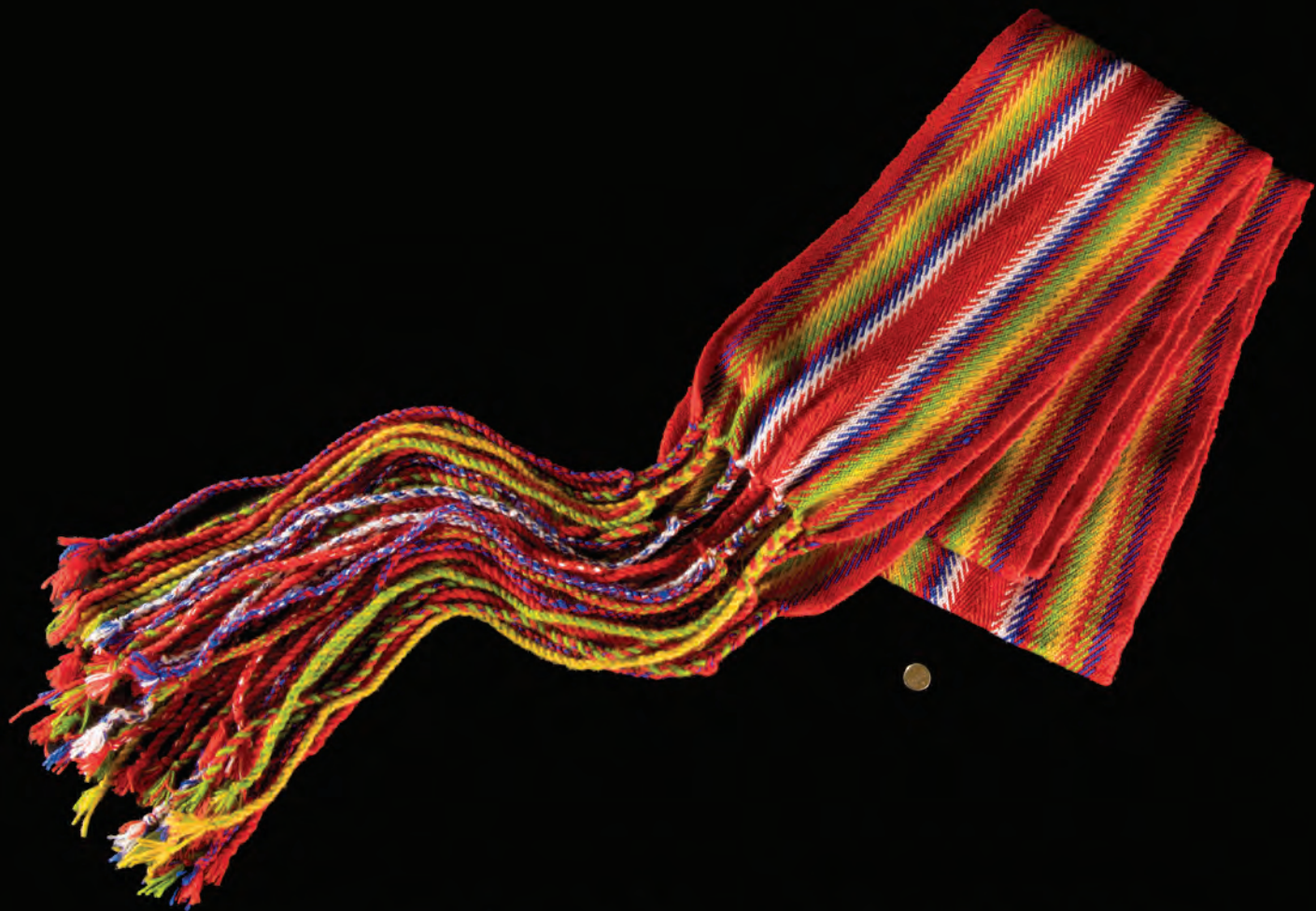
### Red Berries That Float on Water




Text describing the story of red berries that float on water.




Interactive display area featuring a red quilted vest and a fur hat in a glass case.



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**Goodbye**  
**Awvashk**  
**Chewsh**  
**Wahwa kwanqamish**  
**Chewsh kashk**  
**Chewshkashk**

"We're still here, and we're still surviving. There's just been attempts to deny [the fact that we are still here] and we will continue to survive."  
 -Nahgwan  
 A Wampanoag poet, storyteller, and historian.

**SIXTH LANDING**

## Arrival of the Wampanoag

**Religion, Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions**

Wampanoag people have a rich history of oral tradition, including legends, songs, and stories. These traditions are passed down from generation to generation, preserving their identity and values.

**Listen to the Stories**

Learning the stories of the Wampanoag people is essential to understanding their culture and history.

**Wampanoag People in Plymouth**

The Wampanoag people played a crucial role in the survival of the Pilgrims in Plymouth. They shared their knowledge of the land and helped the Pilgrims adapt to the new environment.

**Broken Promises**

The Wampanoag people were promised land and resources in exchange for their help. However, these promises were often broken, leading to hardship and displacement.

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