

*Carolinian Canada* 

# Activating Big Picture Opportunities In Ethical Space

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# We live on Traditional Territories



*We live on the traditional territories of many nations including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Lunaapeewak, the Wendat and the Mississauga.*

*We **undertake** to reconcile, learn more and create safe spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives to meet and discuss the issues that matter to everyone.*

*We **acknowledge the impact of colonization** from genocidal policies to ongoing systemic racism to the relentless eradication of native habitat. In solidarity with Indigenous people, we are accountable.*

*We **prioritize relationships** with First Nations communities and organizations, listen and integrate Indigenous leadership into our organizational structures and work together in the true practice of reconciliation to create a just and equitable future for all living beings of this land.*

# Shifting Our Strategic Direction

**2018 - 2028**

## **Centre Indigenous Knowledge and Leadership in everything we do**

- Create Ethical space across the Coalition to strengthen relationships, trust and support self determination
- Build capacity for Indigenous leadership within Carolinian Canada and its network through expanding and supporting CCC's Indigenous Leadership Pillar
- Support Indigenous Leadership for healthy ecosystems across Traditional Territories by actively networking and supporting Indigenous leaders, youth and grassroots groups doing the work
- Advance Two-eyed Seeing across the Coalition to guide collective action and accountability for healthy landscapes
- Work with Indigenous partners to co-create an ethical ecosystem economy



# Braiding in Indigenous Knowledge

- Draws on Natural Law, Place making, Indigenous governance and protocols
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Humility and Compassion
- Beyond the human dimension – metaphysical world
- Beyond Human Agency

~ Dr. Deborah McGregor





# What is Ethical Space?

**It can be defined as:** an intentional space dedicated to diverse collaboration rooted in the values of respect, empathy, trust and desire to co-create mutual reciprocal outcomes between two or more partners.

At Carolinian Canada we recognize that it must mean intentional and evolving practice and that it must be co-created with responsibility and accountability and lastly that ***Ethical space is the foundation of Two-Eyed Seeing***

~ Sam Whiteye

# Evolving Ethical Space into Two-eyed Seeing

Two-Eyed Seeing can be defined as:

*Learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western ways of knowing and using both of these eyes together*

- Bartlett, Marshall, & Marshall

# Our Journey To Integrate Two- Eyed Seeing in Practice



# Internal Work First - CCC's Intentional Reflection

**01**

## **LOOKING AT THE SECTOR FOR EXAMPLES**

What were the good examples out there where we felt safe to show up and share?  
What were the meetings/conferences/events where it didn't feel great? Why?

**02**

## **LOOKING AT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERS**

Which partners did we have close relationships to? Why? How did we get there with them?  
Which Indigenous partners were we close to? Why?

**03**

## **LEARNING FROM INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGIES**

By listening, creating space and giving Indigenous leadership autonomy could Carolinian Canada learn to understand Indigenous best practices to Ethical Space

**04**

## **CREATING POLICY AND PROTOCOLS**

Carolinian Canada made intentional time every month to talk about safe and ethical space.  
Non-Indigenous team led the work with advisement from ILP

# Shaping Spaces and Intentional Practices

## What we learned:

- Bridging worldviews and values requires some common goals for collaboration
- Understanding that co-creation was needed among all partners
- Understanding and validating diverse ways of knowing and being in relation to each other and the land
- Navigating the challenges and/or pushback from the traditional conservation sector
- Debriefing after every external meeting and event to look at successes and opportunities for growth **AND ADAPTING**

**Most of all we learned that Ethical Space is a very intentional and continuous practice**



# Indigenous Leadership Pillar

Carolinian Canada formally launched the Indigenous Leadership Pillar in November 2023 led by Sam Whiteye.

The Indigenous Leadership Pillar (ILP) integrates Indigenous Knowledge through a community-based approach grounded in trust, mutual understanding, and reciprocity, ensuring that Indigenous voices and perspectives are central to decision-making processes. The ILP provides guidance and leadership to CCC that advances their efforts in putting Reconciliation into practice, embedding its principles into actionable and measurable outcomes. Additionally, the ILP advocates for and creates opportunities that empowers Indigenous youth and young professionals to actively participate in the environmental sector, fostering pathways for leadership and long-term engagement.



# CIB– Co-Creation Evaluation Framework and Governance

## Connecting Our Bodies

70 Healthy Landscape Projects



## Connecting Healthy Habitat

**Pay for Success Outcome: 284 hectares**  
**Healthy landscapes for species at risk, pollinators & Canadians**

By protection, stewardship, restoration of high-quality habitat and native plants

## Connecting Our Hearts and Minds

1,609 people engaged high-quality learning about the land, 350 engaged in community traditions & traditional stewardship practices



## Connecting Knowledge

24 learning products including research, story maps, plus, 76 learning spaces, including: intergenerational, intercultural, land-based learning, events



## Connecting Opportunities

96 opportunities: Intercultural and cross-sectoral collaboration, economic opportunities (e.g. Indigenous, municipalities, farmers) including 54 jobs with 9 jobs for youth.



# Shifting Worldviews in the Southern Ontario Seed Strategy

How we incorporated Two-Eyed Seeing in a regional Seed Strategy:

- Built protocols and expectations around Ethical Space
- Always acknowledged the autonomy of First Nations, Indigenous Leaders, Experts, Growers and practitioners to participant and share how they felt was best
- Recognized that the land and plants also had autonomy and that we as stewards, had responsibilities for ethical restoration and to build reciprocal relationships to the plants, seeds and land
- Incorporated culturally significant species
- Co-creation was the key to collaboration, recognizing everyone has expertise to share

# GUARDIANS OF THE LAND SYMPOSIUM

**March 4 & 5, 2025**

*The Gathering Place, Six Nations of the Grand River*



- Brought together 8 First Nations, Indigenous leaders, elders, youth, and industry experts
- Opportunity for relationship building through networking and knowledge-sharing through panel of speakers
- Focused round-tables on restoration, the seed supply chain and needs
- Participants identified gaps and barriers in the native seed sector and steps to advance Indigenous leadership

# Activating Big Picture Ecological Corridors



Canada  Program supported  
by Parks Canada

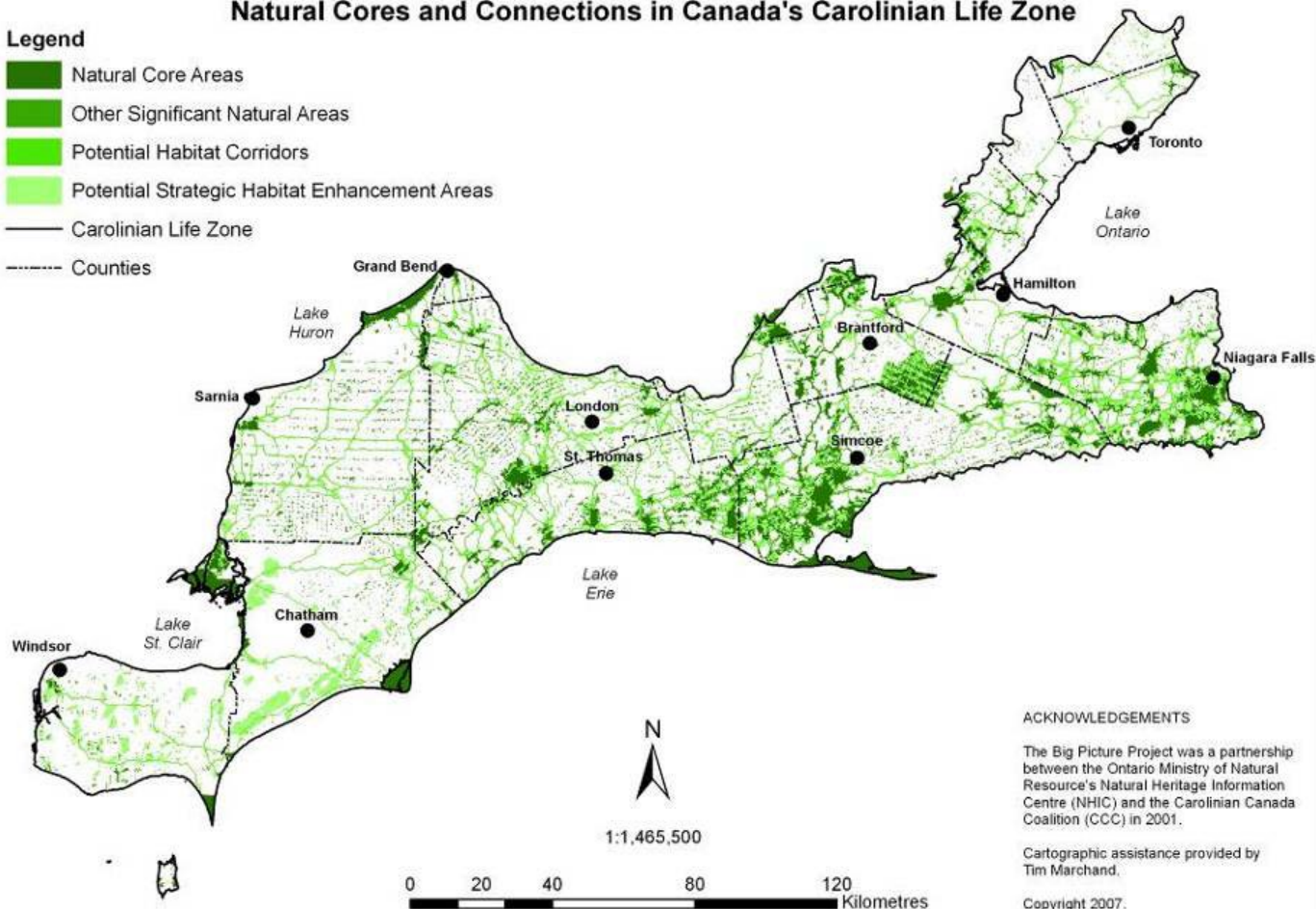


# The Big Picture 2001

## Natural Cores and Connections in Canada's Carolinian Life Zone

### Legend

-  Natural Core Areas
-  Other Significant Natural Areas
-  Potential Habitat Corridors
-  Potential Strategic Habitat Enhancement Areas
-  Carolinian Life Zone
-  Counties



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Cartographic assistance provided by Tim Marchand.

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# Opportunity Mapping

Big Picture Opportunities Map: will identify high-impact sites and immediate and long-term opportunities.

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## Potential Map Layers

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Indigenous leadership

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Corridor modelling

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Native plant seed strategy

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Landowner leaders

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Natural climate solutions

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Water stewardship

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## BIG QUESTION:

How can this work be designed so it supports Indigenous-led objectives and activities, no matter who is looking at it?

# Draft Principles for Working Together



# Convening in Ethical Space

- Establish and maintain safe space
- Terms Of Reference
- Data sensitivity and OCAP® Principles embedded into agreements
- Integrate 2ES throughout the process
- Parallel Process





## Next steps

- More and more engagement
- Influence partnerships through OCAP® and data agreements

## Potential outcomes

- Mapping products specifically for Indigenous partner use
- Opportunities Map to move the sector towards Two-Eyed Seeing impacts
- Continued opportunities to create Ethical Space

Miigwech, Anushiik,  
Yaw^ko, Nya:wen,  
Thank you

Questions?

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