



# Rooted in Relationship

Research and Co-Creation of Knowledge  
Katirvik Cultural Center  
Kawerak, Inc.

# Understanding

Indigenous Peoples are *of* that place for thousands of years  
Respect for parallel Knowledges, Ways of Life and Values  
Acknowledge difficult history  
Acknowledge power imbalances  
Awareness of ethical engagement

OLANNA WHALE HARPOON  
FOUND ON SHORES OF SHISHMAREF IN 2017  
EST. 2200 YEARS OLD



# SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

INTRICATE, DETAILED



HONOR AND RESPECT



# MULTIDIMENSIONAL CONNECTION

## HARMONY AND BALANCE

“OUR ANCESTORS TOOK GREAT CARE OF EVERYTHING AROUND THEM AS THEY LIVED THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT EVERYTHING HAD AWARENESS. THEY KNEW THAT EVEN FISH BONES WERE CONSCIOUS AND PERCEPTIVE.” DR. PAUL JOHN

## AWARENESS AND SPIRIT

“EVERYTHING AND EVERY LIFEFORM HAS AWARENESS. ANIMALS, PLANTS, WIND, LAND AND WATER CAN HEAR YOU. EVERYTHING HAS SPIRIT, EVEN THE ROCKS. IT IS THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT.” – VINCENT PIKONGANNA

# RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY

“YUPIK LAW IS TO LIVE IN PEACE  
AND HARMONY, BECAUSE YOU  
BELONG TO SOMETHING  
GREATER THAN YOURSELF.”

DR. OSCAR KAWAGLEY

“THE ANIMALS THAT ALLOWED  
THEMSELVES TO BE HARVESTED  
WERE HONORED GUESTS. THEIR  
SPIRITS WERE THANKED  
THROUGH EXPRESSIONS OF  
THANKS AND PROTOCOL.”

DR. THERESA JOHN

“THE ANIMALS VIEW  
COMPASSIONATE AND  
RESTRAINED HUMANS AS  
DESIRABLE EVEN PITIABLE.”

ELDER THERESA MOSES

# Some Important Questions

Who is proposing the research?

What is the purpose of the research?

Is the research relevant to the Indigenous community?

What is the research trying to prove?

What are the unstated assumptions in the research?

Who will the research benefit?

Will the data be detrimental to the Indigenous community?

What are the local laws about sharing knowledge?

How can we be respectful regarding sacred knowledges that cannot be shared freely?

Is there community consensus for the project?

# Relationship Approach

You are establishing new and lasting relationships. Talk with the Tribal Council (written, zoom, email, telephonic, in person) about your project.

Take the time to introduce yourself properly, and hear the introductions of those you are speaking with. Express gratitude.

Formally present your idea, ask permission (before seeking funding for project). Ask about any customary laws related to the project that should be respected. Allow the community time to consider your request.

# Meaningful Collaboration

Collaboration –Design it together, create it together, implement it together, share ownership, share in the benefits (friendship, employment, training, compensation, scholarships, co-authorship, copyrights) –establish meaningful lasting partnerships for future collaboration.

*Quyaana, Igamsiqanaghalek, Quyaana Caknek,  
Taikkuu, Iliganamiik, Thank You*

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